

## PAPER - MILLS IN HAMPSHIRE.

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**A**LMOST all the paper-mills which have been at work at one time or another in Hampshire were established before 1800. The well-known antiquity of the industry at Laverstoke and near Southampton prompted an inquiry into the origins of other paper-mills, and evidence has now been found of paper-making in six localities in the county before 1700. No doubt the powerful, clear streams were one factor attracting early paper-makers to various parts of the county, and by 1750 the industry was well scattered.

Unfortunately, evidence concerning the early paper-makers and paper-mills in the British Isles is extremely dispersed up to 1816, when the Excise authorities,<sup>1</sup> who had managed the duty on paper since 1712, issued what is apparently the first of a series of General Letters and Orders giving the names of paper-makers and the names and numbers of paper-mills in England. From these it is possible to reconstruct something of the history of many paper-mills between 1816 and 1852.

Most of the Hampshire paper-mills ceased work long ago, this process being part of the general contraction of the paper-making industry geographically from about 1830 to the present time. During this long period, hundreds of paper-mills, especially the smaller and more remote mills, went out of production, the adverse factors including increasing and effective competition from better-situated and better-equipped mills, changes in transport and raw materials, the paper duties and so on. As several Hampshire mills played an early and important part in the English paper industry, this article attempts to put on record an outline of the story of each mill based on all the available evidence.

### 1. Frog Mill (Curdridge).

My thanks are due to the Rev. F. H. Sargeant, Rector of Bishop's Waltham, for kindly searching all the records of that parish and for sending me extracts from the Rate Books, in which the paper-mill is first listed in 1663, at a rate of two shillings. Further entries appear up to 1668, then there is no mention of the paper-mill until 1679, the name "Cornelius" appearing in its stead. The paper-mill reappears from 1680 to 1693.

1. I am indebted to the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for permission to read in their library and to quote from their records.

In 1738,<sup>2</sup> William Mears was apprenticed to Henry Ball of Bishop's Waltham, paper-maker, who insured his goods and stock, etc., there in 1739.<sup>3</sup> William Meers of Bishop's Waltham, paper-maker, was married in 1744.<sup>4</sup> From 1759 to 1764 the paper-mill was assessed for rates<sup>5</sup> in the name of John Houghton. No other relevant information has been found up to 1805, when Joseph Jellyman of Bishop's Waltham, paper-maker, was married.<sup>6</sup>

Frog Mill is listed in the first Excise Letter of 1816<sup>7</sup> as Paper-mill No. 157, in the Isle of Wight Collection of Excise and worked by John Gater. Other Excise Letters show that it was held by him up to 1835 at least and that it ceased work in 1841.

## 2. Bentley.

I am indebted to Mr. W. Hugh Curtis for drawing my attention to the fact that this paper-mill is marked on Ogilby's Road Map, 1675. Although it is sometimes referred to as Bentley Paper-mill, there are no references to the paper-making industry in the parish records of Bentley,<sup>8</sup> and in fact the mill was formerly in the parish of Binsted. The burials of Abraham Cawood, paper-maker, and of Elizabeth, wife of Abraham Cawood, paper-maker, of Binsted, are recorded in the Parish Register of Shalford<sup>9</sup> (Surrey) in 1721 and 1712 respectively.

Two early newspaper advertisements<sup>10</sup> state that this paper-mill was to be let in 1712 and 1713. In the first it is described as "Bentley Paper-mills near Farnham, standing on a Fair Streame, and lately fitted up to make fine White Paper"; the second states that it was "to be Lett good Pennyworth, the Tenant being lately dead." It is marked on a map of 1759<sup>11</sup> as "Corn Mill olim Paper Mill," and its position is noted in two Travelling-books of that period.<sup>12</sup> The paper-mill is listed in the Binsted Parish Rate Book<sup>13</sup> at various dates between 1743 and 1775.

2. *The Apprentices of Great Britain, 1710-62* (typescript); extracted from the Inland Revenue Books at the Public Record Office for the Society of Genealogists, 1921-8. Book 15, fol. 193.

3. *Sun Fire Insurance Policy*, No. 80592, April 24th, 1739. I am indebted to the Sun Insurance Office Ltd. for permission to search their old Policy Registers and to quote from these.

4. *Allegations for Marriage Licences in Hampshire, 1689-1837*, II. *Publications of the Harleian Society*, XXXVI, p. 27.

5. The series of rate books is imperfect.

6. *Allegations for Marriage Licences in Hampshire*, I, XXXV, p. 425.

7. General Letter of October 8th, 1816, in General Letter Book, No. 4, of the Ellesmere Division, Chester Collection.

8. Searched by kind permission of the Rector, Canon G. L. Cole.

9. Society of Genealogists' transcript from a microfilm copy by Major Y. Burges.

10. *The Post Boy*, September 2nd, 1712, and April 18th, 1713.

11. I. Taylor's Map of Hampshire.

12. *A New and Accurate Description of the Present Great Roads and the Principal Cross Roads of England and Wales, 1755*; and *Kitchener's Post Chaise Companion, 1767*.

13. Searched by kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. A. Mackay.

### 3. Bedhampton.

I have found no absolute confirmation of a paper-mill here, but the existence of one seems more than possible in view of two early relevant references. In 1676<sup>14</sup> the will of Richard Roades was proved, and in 1700<sup>15</sup> Thomas Roades was married; both are described as paper-makers of Bedhampton.

### 4. Up Mill (West End, South Stoneham).

In 1686<sup>16</sup> this paper-mill belonged to the Company of White Paper Makers and was one of the very few mills in England making white paper at that time. Samuel Willey, paper-maker, Covenant Servant to the Company, "left their Service" and went from their mill near Southampton called "Upp Mill" in July 1693.<sup>17</sup> Several French and probably also Dutch paper-makers were employed there. In the South Stoneham Registers<sup>18</sup> are recorded a Frenchman (daughter christened, 1687), Peter and Esther Jacques "belonging to the Paper Mills" (daughter christened, 1701), Nicholas Nowell "a Dutch Man at the Paper Mills" (daughter christened, 1702), "a frinch child at the paper mill" (christened, 1704), "a Frinch man at the paper mill" (children baptised, 1708), and Anne Roche of the Paper Mills (married, 1709/10). Richard Batt, of South Stoneham, paper-maker, was married in 1701.<sup>19</sup> Other people of the paper-mill mentioned in the early Registers are Beal (daughter buried, 1701) and John Robinson, paper-maker (married, 1731).

Daniel, son of Mr. Daniel Rousillon, was christened in 1699. On the death of the elder (who had been churchwarden at South Stoneham), the "great Paper Mills, Flock Mills and Corn Mill called Up Mills, with a new Brick dwelling-House, all in good repair . . . within three miles of Southampton and nine of Winchester," late in his possession, were advertised in 1720<sup>20</sup> to be let or sold. His son seems to have carried on the business, however, as Mr. Roussillon was rated for the mills as late as 1756. From 1758 to 1766 the assessment was on Mr. (Harry) Ball who, when married in 1769<sup>21</sup> was described as a paper-maker of South Stoneham.

14. *Index of Wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury*, X, *The Index Library*, British Record Society, 71, 1948, fol. 94.

15. *Calendar of Sussex Marriage Licences, Archdeaconry of Chichester, 1575 - 1730*, Sussex Record Society, LX, 1909, p. 138.

16. *V.C.H., Hants*, III, 1908, pp. 479-480.

17. *London Gazette*, September 25th, 1693.

18. The Parish Registers and Rate Books were searched by kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. C. R. Macbeth.

19. *Allegations for Marriage Licences in Hampshire*, I, XXXV, p. 36.

20. *The Daily Courant*, January 22nd, 1720, and *London Gazette*, March 26th, 1720.

21. *Allegations for Marriage Licences in Hampshire*, loc. cit.

In 1771<sup>22</sup> an advertisement referring to West-end Mills appeared in the following terms : " Wanted, a sober man at West-end Mills, that is capable of carrying on the Business of Paper-making." Applications were to be made to John Gater of Swaythling, Southampton.

The mill was known to the Excise authorities as No. 158, West End, in the Isle of Wight Collection, with John and Edward Gater, paper-makers, in charge. In 1851<sup>23</sup> there was only one beating-engine at work, and my last reference is in 1860,<sup>24</sup> when John Gater and Company were said to be producing Writing Papers hand- and machine-made.

### 5. Bramshott.

My thanks are due to Mr. A. H. Salisbury for kindly sending me the results of his search of the early records of Bramshott parish. The early Registers contain the following relevant details : George West " from ye Paper Mill " was buried in 1698/9 ; John Salter " ye paper man " was buried in 1711 ; John, son of John Smith, Paper-man, was baptised in 1714. In 1709 John Porter was listed " for the paper-mill," but within a short time the mill seems to have passed to John Woods, of Bramshott, merchant, who in 1719<sup>25</sup> insured his goods and merchandise in his paper-mills and warehouses adjoining in Bramshott. The possibility that the port of Chichester was the outlet for some of the paper made at Bramshott is suggested by the fact that Woods also insured<sup>26</sup> his goods and merchandise in his warehouse on Dell Key near the city of Chichester.

Shortly after this, however, the owner was Mary Streater of Bramshott, widow, who in 1725<sup>27</sup> insured her paper-mills only in the parish of Bramshott, including the wheels, hammers, engines and other utensils in the said mills, then in the occupation of John Graveat. Later in the 18th century the mill was occupied by Richard Pim. As a paper-maker of Bramshott, he took apprentices<sup>28</sup> in 1747, 1754 and 1757. In 1761<sup>29</sup> " the warehouse and workshop belonging to Mr. Pim's paper-mill at Bramshott were wilfully set on fire by one of his apprentices. There being a great quantity of pitched rope and rags in the warehouses, they were burnt to the ground in a few minutes, and the mill was with great difficulty

22. *Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette*, September 2nd, 1771.

23. *House of Commons Papers*, 1852, Vol. 51, No. 128.

24. *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1860.

25. *Sun Fire Insurance Policy*, No. 12971, January 1st, 1719.

26. *Ibid.*, No. 24500, December 21st, 1721 ; but he also insured his Corn Mills at Nutbourn, near Chichester (Policy No. 24499, December 21st, 1721), and the corn trade may have been the link with the port.

27. *Ibid.*, No. 38051, February 28th, 1725.

28. *The Apprentices of Great Britain*, Book/Fol. 18/31, 19/199 and 21/30.

29. *Capes, Rural Life in Hampshire*. Information from Mr. A. H. Salisbury.

saved." The damage was computed at £600. In 1763,<sup>30</sup> 1786<sup>31</sup> and the 1790's<sup>32</sup> the paper-maker there was Henry Pim.

The Bramshott mill was known to the Excise authorities as No. 119, in the Hampshire Collection. In 1816 it was worked by John Elstone, and by 1832 William Warren. The firm of William Warren and Sons, followed by Warren Brothers, ran the mill for the remainder of the 19th century. In 1885 and 1890<sup>33</sup> the following products were advertised as made by this firm at Bramshott and Standford Mills: Cartridges, White and Coloured Royal Hands, Small Hands, Middles, Browns and Paper Bags. These were made on two machines 54 inches in width. Later Directories, up to 1920, state that Bank of England papers were made at Bramshott by Messrs. Portal on a machine 72 inches in width. The mill last appears in the 1924 edition of these Directories.

### 6. Clatterford (Isle of Wight).

Roscoe's reference<sup>34</sup> to this paper-mill is the only one I have found. He states "About the commencement of last century, an enterprising foreigner, an emigrant, erected a paper-mill near Clatterford; but the undertaking did not succeed, and was eventually abandoned. Vestiges of the mill and pond are still seen, and the house is known at this time by the name of the Paper Mill." A paper-maker named Isaac Tipps, of Carisbrooke, was married in 1711.<sup>35</sup>

### 7. Bere Mill.

Shortly after 1711 Henri Portal, who had been trained as a paper-maker at the South Stoneham Mill, took a lease of Bere Mill, near Whitchurch.<sup>36</sup> He insured his goods and his merchandise in his dwelling house there in 1717.<sup>37</sup> This paper-mill is marked on I. Taylor's and T. Milne's Maps of Hampshire, 1759 and c. 1791.

### 8, 9 and 10. Romsey.

The earliest reference I have found to a paper-maker here concerns Math. son of Math. Plyer of Romsey *infra*, paper-maker, who was apprenticed to Robert Newlands of the same place, cloth-worker, in 1715.<sup>38</sup> There are several references to John Hockley,

\*30. Rate Assessments.

31. *B.M. Add. MSS.*, 15054, fol. 14.

32. *Universal British Directory of Trade and Commerce*, 3, p. 92, wherein Henry Pim is described as a paper-maker, maltster and miller.

33. *Directory of Paper Makers*, 1885 and 1890.

34. T. Roscoe, *Summer Tour to the Isle of Wight*, 1843, p. 8.

35. *Allegations for Marriage Licences in Hampshire*, II, p. 279.

36. *V.C.H., Hants*, V, 1912, pp. 489-490.

37. *Sun Fire Insurance Policy*, No. 8679, July 8th, 1717.

38. *The Apprentices of Great Britain*, Book 4, fol. 85.

paper-maker of Romsey, who was married in 1733.<sup>39</sup> His name appears in the Romsey Poor Law Assessments<sup>40</sup> from 1745 to 1762, during which period he was rated for the paper-mill near the Abbey. Another paper-mill was apparently rebuilt in 1759 and was then also assessed in Hockley's name. In that year<sup>41</sup> he took an apprentice named John Edwards. One of the chief paper-makers later in the 18th century was probably the William Sharp of Romsey, whose partnership with Joseph Everett of London, Stationer, was dissolved in 1783<sup>42</sup>; the pasteboard and message-card manufactory was in future to be carried on by William Sharp in Worship Street, Upper Moorfields, on his own account. It is probable that a third paper-mill had been added by the 1790's,<sup>43</sup> when John Dusautoy, W. Godfrey, James Skeats and William Sharp are listed as paper-makers at Romsey, and the third mill may have been the "newly erected paper-mill" in the occupation of Messrs. Godfrey and Skeats, advertised for sale in 1800.<sup>44</sup> Another paper-maker, Benjamin Mitchell of Romsey, was married in 1812.<sup>45</sup>

The Excise Letter of 1816 records three paper-mills at Romsey, in the Salisbury Collection. Nos. 340, 341 and 342 were occupied respectively by Stephen Sharp, John Skeats and Company, and Edward Jones. By 1818 William Brookman had replaced the second firm at Mill No. 341 (Test Mill). By 1850, Thomas Westcott was at No. 342 (Abbey Mill), and only one mill is recorded in 1851.<sup>46</sup> In 1860 William Brookman was making Printing Papers at Mill No. 341 and by 1866 this mill had passed to William Harvey, who was still there in 1876,<sup>47</sup> making Royal Hands, Small Hands and Browns on one machine 60 inches in width.

In 1885<sup>48</sup> William Harvey at Test Mill, No. 341, was making Thin Caps, Crowns, Royals, Thick and Thin Browns. By 1930 a mill of the same number was called Drayton Mill, making Browns, Specialities and Toilet Papers. Paper-making ceased at Drayton Mill in 1939.

In 1885 Randall and Company were making Browns, patent Compressed Leather and Leather Boards on two machines 60 inches in width and two vats, at Abbey Mills. In 1910 the products were Leather Boards, Glazed Boards, Shank Boards and Stiffeners, and in 1948 Trunk and Suitcase Boards, Shoe Boards, etc.

39. *Allegations for Marriage Licences in Hampshire*, I, p. 386.

40. I am indebted to Sir Richard Luce for information from the Romsey Rate Books (imperfect series).

41. *The Apprentices of Great Britain*, Book 22, fol. 27.

42. *London Gazette*, May 13th, 1783.

43. *Universal British Directory of Trade and Commerce*, IV, pp. 352-4.

44. *Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette*, May 5th, 1800.

45. *Allegations for Marriage Licences in Hampshire*, II, p. 38.

46. *House of Commons Papers*, loc. cit.

47. *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1860, 1866 and 1876.

48. *Directory of Paper Makers*, 1885, 1930, 1910, 1948.

### 11 and 12. Laverstoke.

Henri Portal acquired the lease of this paper-mill in 1718<sup>49</sup> and the contract for Bank of England paper in 1724. He insured his dwelling-house, paper-mill and outhouses adjoining at Laverstoke for £300 in 1719<sup>50</sup> and the early expansion of his concern is suggested by the facts that in 1727 he insured his buildings and stock at his paper-mill at Laverstoke for £1200, and in 1742 he also insured "one other little paper-mill situated in the same yard."<sup>51</sup>

In 1765<sup>52</sup> Jos. Portal was a signatory to a petition concerning the Excise duty on paper. By the 1790's<sup>53</sup> the firm had become Portal and Bridges, whose names appear at Mill No. 337, in the Salisbury Collection, in the Excise Letter of 1816. About this time<sup>54</sup> two vats were constantly employed all the year round. In 1832 the paper-maker was John Portal and in 1849 Wyndham Spencer Portal. In 1851<sup>55</sup> one engine was at work and two were silent. By 1876<sup>56</sup> six vats were being employed, and by 1885 nine vats. By 1890 a machine of 54 inches in width had been added and by 1910 the number of vats had risen to fifteen. This famous mill is, of course, still at work.

### 13. Warnford.

A paper-mill here is mentioned in an addition, dated January 2nd, 1619, at the end of the Will of John Knight of Chawton dated August 15th, 1617.<sup>57</sup> John Grivatt, paper-maker of Warnford, insured his houses in Hambledon in 1722 and 1724, and Francis Filer, paper-maker of Warnford, was a party to the insurance of the Faulcon Inn in Warnford in 1730.<sup>58</sup> I am indebted to the Rev. Charles A. Millen for the information that there is still a building in Warnford known as "Paper Mill," and that in the earliest Rate List of Warnford, 1732, francis fflyer was rated 8d. for the mill and 2/6 "ffor the milles."

### 14. Down Mill.

In 1729, 1730, 1732 and 1739<sup>59</sup> policies were taken out to insure "Down Husband Mills" near Whitchurch. The first three contain the name of Tobias Butler, paper-maker, and the fourth

49. *V.C.H., Hants*, V, 1912, pp. 489-490.

50. *Sun Fire Insurance Policy*, No. 15682, November 6th, 1719.

51. *Ibid.*, Policies No. 41551, April 24th, 1727, and No. 92086, July 26th, 1742.

52. *Excise and Treasury Correspondence*, May 24th, 1765.

53. *Universal British Directory of Trade and Commerce*, IV, p. 937.

54. C. Vancouver, *General View of the Agriculture of Hampshire*, pp. 403-4.

55. *House of Commons Papers*, loc. cit.

56. *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1876, and *Directory of Paper Makers*, 1885, 1890, 1910.

57. *P.C.C. Dals* 17. I am indebted to the Rev. Charles A. Millen, Rector of Warnford, for this information.

58. *Sun Fire Insurance Policies*, Nos. 21764, August 3rd, 1722; 31015, May 7th, 1724; 51312, August 17th, 1730.

59. *Ibid.*, Nos. 48331, August 1st, 1729; 52002, October 20th, 1730; 59812, January 17th, 1732; 80813, May 22nd, 1739.

Lawrence Turton, paper-maker, who is, however, described in the policy of 1729 as a shalloon-maker of Whitchurch, insuring his mills. Henry French, paper-maker, late of the parish of Downe Husband, was in debt in 1743.<sup>60</sup> The paper-mill, as also Laverstoke and Bere paper-mills, is shewn on several maps of Hampshire of the 18th and early 19th centuries, including I. Taylor's (1759), T. Milne's (c. 1791), Mudge's (1817) and Greenwood's (1826).

Down Mill was numbered 335 by the Excise authorities and was in the Salisbury Collection. From the 1790's<sup>61</sup> to the 1820's William Allee was the paper-maker and he was followed by Thomas and William Slade in the 1830's and Charles Fuller in the 1840's. Fire consumed the mill in 1846.<sup>62</sup> It appears to have been rebuilt and the Rev. F. B. Allen, Vicar of Hurstbourne Priors, kindly tells me that the Parish Registers contain the name of Thomas Batt, paper-maker, married in 1850.

The rebuilt mill seems to have been given the number 338 and to have been called the Falcon Mill. In 1851<sup>63</sup> one beating-engine was at work and two were silent. In 1866 it was not at work, nor in 1876,<sup>64</sup> when its advertised product was printing paper, made on a machine 60 inches in width.

### 15. Standford.

I am indebted to Mrs. J. M. E. Stevens for sending me a complete list of the paper-makers mentioned in the records of Headley Parish; some of the entries can be connected with Bramshott, Barford and Standford paper-mills, but others cannot be separately linked with any one of these. The first relevant entry, William Eade, paper-maker (daughter buried in 1739), may be connected with Standford, as may other entries of paper-makers in the 18th century: Richard Beck (daughter baptised, 1761), Sarah Wills, a paper-maker's daughter from Whitchurch (buried, 1762), John Gosling (examined, 1763). Standford paper-mill may be that shewn on I. Taylor's map, 1759, and it is probably that shewn on T. Milne's map, 1791. The Excise authorities numbered it Mill No. 120, in the Hampshire Collection, with paper-makers in occupation as follows: 1816, James Edds; 1832, James West; 1836, Robert Long; 1842, William Warren.

The Headley Parish Registers record the following paper-makers at Standford: 1813, Richard Smith; 1828, James Tilbury and Richard Curtis (1828-31); 1830, Robert Puttick; 1832-6, Thomas Tilbury; 1832, James Stubble; 1836-41, James West;

60. *London Gazette*, August 20th, 1743.

61. *Universal British Directory of Trade and Commerce*, IV, p. 938.

62. *The Devonshire Chronicle and Exeter News*, August 11th, 1846.

63. *House of Commons Papers*, loc. cit.

64. *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1876.

1849-57, George Elstone ; 1859, Edwin Eggar ; 1874, William Suter, senior, foreman in Messrs. Warren's Mill, Standford. My last reference is in 1890 (see Bramshott above).

### 16 and 17. Upper and Lower Barford.

Both these paper-mills are marked on J. Rocque's Map of Surrey, 1775. As stated under Standford, however, some of the early entries of paper-makers in the Headley Parish Registers may be linked with these mills. Allen Mills, of Barford, paper-maker, was bankrupt in 1777,<sup>65</sup> and one of the Barford paper-mills ("well adapted for making printing papers") was to be let or sold in 1778.<sup>66</sup> A partnership between Abraham Harding senior and junior of Barford Mill, paper-makers, was dissolved in 1790.<sup>67</sup> Samuel Hale, paper-maker of Headley, is mentioned in the Parish Registers in 1814 ; a notice to his creditors appeared in 1816.<sup>68</sup>

The Barford paper-mills were known to the Excise authorities as Nos. 121 (Upper) and 122 (Lower), in the Hampshire Collection. In 1816 they were respectively occupied by Francis and Timothy Bryant ; the latter, however, is recorded in the Parish Registers as a paper-manufacturer of Barford Upper Mill in 1814, 1822 and 1825. The Upper Mill seems to have ceased work in the 1830's, my last reference, in an Excise Letter of 1829, being to James Harman there.

The Parish Registers contain other references to paper-makers at or of Barford as follows : 1816, William Eads ; 1821, William Boxall ; 1822, Thomas Thistle ; 1823, Richard Waller ; 1827, Henry Hobday (Barford Lower Mill) ; 1840 and 1842, Thomas Tilbury ; 1838, Thomas Puttick (Barford Mill) ; 1849, William Tilbury (Barford Mill) ; 1873, Henry Cropper (machinist, Barford Mill).

### 18. Hook.

This paper-mill, which was situated on the White Water at Wolson Bridge, is shewn on several old maps of Hampshire : I. Taylor's (1759), T. Milne's (c. 1791), Mudge's (1817) and Greenwood's (1826) ; it also appears on J. Andrews and Andrew Dury's Map of the Country 65 miles around London (1809 edition, probably compiled 1777). My first reference to a paper-maker (Thomas Andrews) is in 1749,<sup>69</sup> and the name of Edward Chamberlin appears in the Excise Letter of 1816, in which the paper-mill is numbered 338 in the Salisbury Collection. This is my last reference to it.

65. *London Gazette*, March 18th, 1777.

66. *Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette*, April 6th, 1778.

67. *London Gazette*, July 13th, 1790.

68. *Ibid.*, December 21st, 1816.

69. *Sun Fire Insurance Policy*, No. 118494, October 27th, 1749.

## 19. Alton.

I am indebted to Mr. W. Hugh Curtis for his kind attempts to find information about this paper-mill in the 18th century or earlier. However, we have discovered no paper-maker here earlier than the 1770's, when William Barrett went bankrupt.<sup>70</sup> He seems to have been followed by Robert Myears who, described as a paper-maker of Alton, is named in a notice of 1778<sup>71</sup> referring to Barford Mill. Alton Mills were to be let in 1780,<sup>72</sup> when they were in his occupation. The advertisement states that he was ill and could not attend to the business; he died later that year.<sup>73</sup> At that time the premises consisted of a two-vat paper-mill and a water grist-mill under one roof. The paper-mill was considered to be particularly capable of making fine goods, "from the purity of the water supplying the engine."

The next tenant was probably William King, who apparently gave his name to the paper-mill, and was there until 1796,<sup>74</sup> when the "very commodious and convenient paper-mill" at Alton, lately in his occupation, was to be let. The excise number of this mill was 339, in the Salisbury Collection. The letter of 1816 states that the paper-maker then was Thomas Easton. He was followed by John Edward Spicer (1826), with Cornelius Paulton (about 1842-4). The mill appears to have been idle for a short period from 1848, and a new number, 159, was assigned to it. The mill was known by this number until the firm of Spicers removed to Eynsford, Kent, in 1909, when it closed down. For many years the firm of H. and W. R. Spicer and Company produced hand-made writing and account book papers, drawing and parchment papers, bank notes, etc., using eight vats.<sup>75</sup>

## 20. Clatford.

My earliest reference to this paper-mill is in the Excise Letter of 1816, wherein it is numbered 336, in the Salisbury Collection. In 1816 and 1817 the paper-makers were John Titcombe, and Thomas and William Slade, whose mill was insured in 1817 for £1000 and in 1826 for £2000.<sup>76</sup> They were followed by John Bune about 1831. The only other early references to paper-makers at Upper Clatford occur in the Parish Registers, 1819, when children of Budd and Baker were baptised.<sup>77</sup>

70. *London Gazette*, November 23rd, 1773. William Barret took an apprentice in 1770. (*P.R.O. Apprenticeship Registers, I.R.I.*, Book 26, fol. 148.)

71. *Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette*, April 6th, 1778.

72. *Ibid.*, January 17th, 1780.

73. *Ibid.*, March 27th, 1780.

74. *Ibid.*, June 27th, 1796.

75. *Directory of Paper Makers*, 1885 and 1890.

76. I am indebted to Mr. R. Baker for this information.

77. The Rev. R. Bridle, Priest-in-Charge, Upper Clatford, kindly sent me this information.

John Bune was succeeded by William Bune, then by James Bune, who was still at this mill about 1851,<sup>78</sup> when one beating-engine was at work and one was silent.<sup>79</sup> From 1860 to 1885 Francis G. Giles at Clatford is recorded in trade directories. The chief products were hand- or machine-made air-dried writing-papers made on one vat and one machine 40 inches in width.

### 21. Botley.

Botley paper-mill is recorded in an Excise Letter of 1832<sup>80</sup> as No. 79, in the Hampshire Collection, worked by William and James Clark. It ceased work in 1848.

### 22. Overton.

Directories from 1924<sup>81</sup> onwards record Messrs. Portals at Overton Mills, making Treasury Notes, Security Papers and Loans.

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During the period of the geographical expansion of the paper-making industry in England, several other Hampshire mills were advertised as suitable for paper-making. The chief advantage of the sites thus advertised was the availability of fine, clear water from ponds and streams. These mills included Steep Mill near Petersfield,<sup>82</sup> Grewell Mill,<sup>83</sup> and Longparish Mill.<sup>84</sup> I have no evidence that any of these was taken up by paper-makers.

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78. Slater's *Directory*, Hampshire, 1852, p. 10.

79. *House of Commons Papers*, loc. cit.

80. General Letter of November 28th, 1832, in General Letter Book No. 15 of the Tarporeley  
1st Ride.

81. *Directory of Paper Makers*.

82. *Oxford Gazette and Reading Mercury*, May 18th, 1767.

83. *Ibid.*, June 19th, 1769.

84. *Reading Mercury and Oxford Gazette*, April 1st, 1800.