

A Good Price for Fareham - updates

Paul Gover

April 2023

Published by the Society of Old Priceans

© Copyright 2023 The William Price Charitable Trust

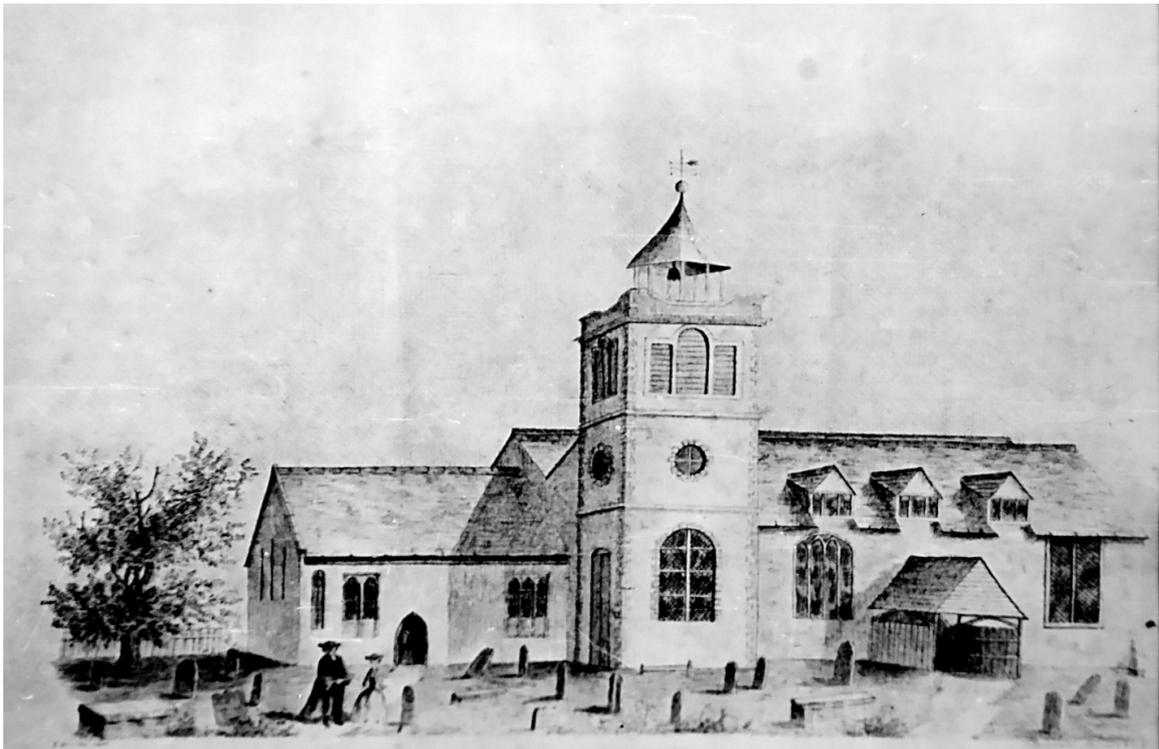


Figure 1: St Peter and St Paul's Fareham, about 1707; [HRO 65M89/Z90/7]

Introduction

I created a second edition of *A New Price for Fareham* following further research at the Hampshire Record Office at the end of 2022. The most important information comes from transcribing the estate inventory taken following William Price senior's death in 1665, which sheds a different light on the Price family's situation at the time, and together with other changes increases the size to 136 pages. The second edition comes as both paperback and hardcover books:

	UK price	ISBN	UK web address
Hardcover	£9.99	979-8825986234	https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0BZFG4Y3F
Paperback	£5.99	979-8390148068	https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0C1JGLYRQ

For the benefit of purchasers of the first edition, this document covers all the changes by chapter or section, apart from minor typographical or editorial improvements and corrections.

Preface

The new edition of the book is set in digital versions of typefaces collected by Dr John Fell 1625-1686, Bishop of Oxford and Dean of Christ Church for use by the Oxford University Press. William Price may well have read books printed using them.

The Price family in Fareham

This section now includes a contemporary picture of St Peter and St Paul's church from the Hampshire Record Office, shown on this page.

The fate of the cooperage

The estate inventory shows, contrary to my claim in the first edition, that their cottage included a cooper's shop, tools and materials. This means that William senior was a self-employed master cooper, which raises the question of why William junior did not inherit the business. Unfortunately, I have found no answers to this.

One possible though unlikely resolution is that William senior's widow Ann Price was born Ann Cortnell, who appears later in the story as marrying John Price senior in 1670, described in the section on *John, son of John Price, and the Fareham cooper's shop*. This would mean that John Price junior, baptised in April 1674, would inherit the coopering business, and we know he was a cooper.

The Oxfords of Alverstoke

This section has been simplified to clarify the family relationships (the family tree is unchanged). It now reads:

William sen. must have had contacts in the timber trade to provide his oak for barrels, perhaps with William Oxford (or Noxon or Hoxon) of Alverstoke, a shipwright and timber merchant. An article in *Gosport Records No.12*, "Weevil : Before the Royal Clarence Yard" G.H. Williams (1976) describes a brewery supplying the Royal Navy, run by a John Player. This was in an area known as Weevil or Weovil, just across the inlet from what became Priddy's Hard in Elson (land that William would later own), and contained a brew-house and notably a cooperage.

In 1673, John Player and William Oxford were partners in a contract to supply the Navy with the timber from 470 oak trees at a price of about £1,200 [TNA SP 46/137/799]. Player died in 1685, and left all his property to his kinsman Henry Player. The Players made a lot of money from the Navy, and later Henry built a large mansion, "Weevil House" on the site.

William Oxford had two sons, John and Thomas, in the same trades. Thomas had several contracts with both Portsmouth and Plymouth Navy dockyards for timber from Southwick Park. William Price jun. left a legacy to "William the son of John Oxford", so he must have been a friend or associate (See *William son of John Oxford* for more details).

Here we have a cooperage, timber merchant and shipwright supplying the Navy, run by a family known to William and adjacent to land that he would later buy. While not proof that this is where he spent his apprenticeship, it strongly suggests it.

William Price junior's house



This section now includes a picture of the *Society of Old Priceans* plaque on the NatWest bank in West Street, on the site of William's house (which became the first charity school).

Deacon William Price of Portsea

Kevin Price, a descendant of John son of John Price, contacted me with details of the marriage of William Price 1731?-1788 and Ann Jowles or Fowles, which proved the missing link in Deacon William Price's family tree.

A William Price marries Ann Jowles or Fowles in Fareham in 1759. His will records three children, Samuel, William and Ann. The updated family tree appears on the next page.

John Price junior's relationship to William Price junior

As described in *The fate of the cooperage* there is a small possibility that the Anne Cortnell who married John Price senior was William Price's senior's widow. That would be a marriage between a widow and her step-nephew, which was prohibited by the 29th entry "A Woman may not marry with her Husband's brother's son" in the "Table of Affinity" in the *Book of Common Prayer* (1662). This could explain why she married under her maiden name and in a different parish, Titchfield rather than Fareham. This is purely conjecture, but it would mean that John's son (*John son of John Price*) would inherit William senior's cooperage business though Ann, in turn explaining the antipathy between William junior and John junior later on.

Land in the wills

This contains a new subsection as follows:

Land purchased from Robert Swan

William junior's will also mentions land "*purchased of Robert Swan scituate within the Tything of North Fareham*" which he leaves to Peter son of Peter Price. This appears to be a field of 7½ acres just north-west of Roche Court and adjacent to William's Crockerhill estate, now just to the north side of the M27 motorway.

The chain of ownership in the fine book indexes starting from William to Peter continues with members of the Ivimey family mentioned in *Deacon William Price of Portsea*. It is therefore possible Peter was on good terms with John son of John Price, and perhaps Peter was also a Baptist.

Afterword

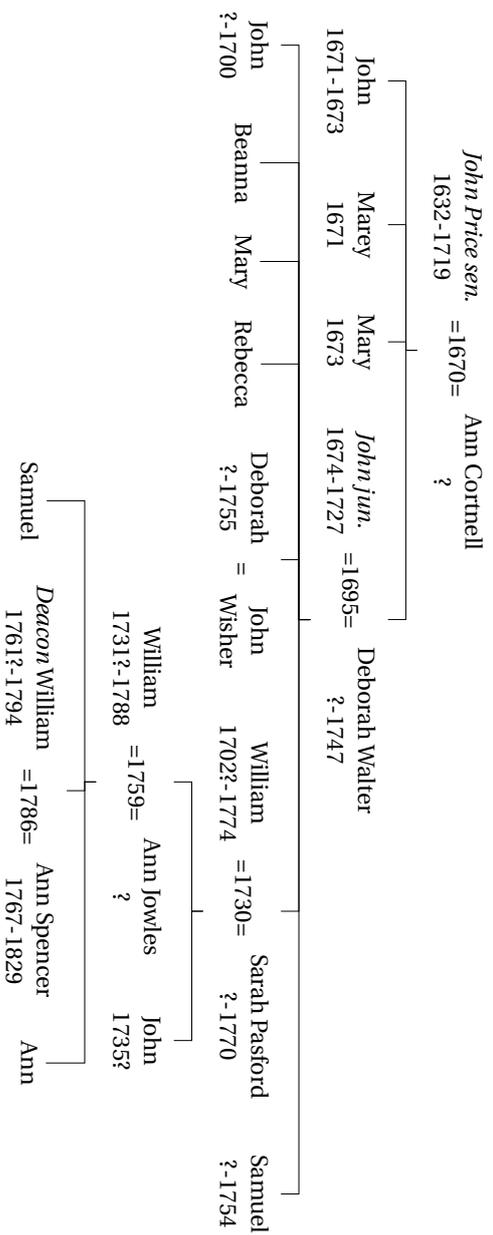
There is a new subsection trying to resolve why William Price's will left his estate to Christ's Hospital School if the executors failed to set up his charity school, as follows:

William Price and Christ's Hospital School

And in Default of performance of the severall direccions above mentioned according to the true intent and meaning of this my will, Then I give and bequeath all my Estate herein before devised for the maintainance of the said Schoole To Christ Church Hospital in London — the will

William was clearly very well aware of Christ Church Hospital's school (founded in 1552, nowadays called Christ's Hospital School, and moved from Newgate, London to Horsham) – the original bluecoat charity school. His will leaves the money to it if his executors fail to set up the school in Fareham. Yet there are no records linking anyone in his story to the school. Records show that Christ's took over 100 pupils from Hampshire before 1700, but none of the families in William's story seem to have had children there at the right time.

Table 1: John Price and Deacon William Price



A rather different possible connection is the redoubtable Samuel Pepys. Pepys was clerk to the Navy Board 1660-73, then secretary to the Admiralty 1673-79 and again 1684-89. He visited Portsmouth dockyard frequently, for a time had a house there, and in 1662 he was granted the freedom of the City.

Pepys was involved in raising funds for the foundation of the Royal Mathematical School at Christ's Hospital in 1673, and was later a governor there. Separate from the bluecoat school, it was intended to train 40 boys in navigation for the benefit of the Navy. Perhaps he made a public address on the subject while at the dockyard, inspiring William to consider the need for a charity school in Fareham.

The Price wills

There is a new and important subsection covering William Price senior's estate as determined by the inventory taken after his death. It is shown starting on the following page.

Index

There is now a short index of surnames, places, Price family members and events at the back of the book.

Estate inventory of William Price senior

Fareham

An inventory of the Goods and Chattels of William Price
late of Fareham in the County of Southampton deceased,
taken the first day of July 1655
by Edward Whittinge the elder and Ralph Hoult
as follows:

All his wearing apparel, linen and woollens	£2-0-0
In the Chamber over the Hall	
An iron chest and a small table, a desk and coffer	£0-15-0
One basket chair and other chairs	£0-6-0
One carpet and a small basket	£0-3-4
In the Loft over the Kitchen	
An old saw, a small bed and a small chair and other linen box	£0-5-0
In the Hall	
A joint cupboard, a small iron table, two chairs, 4 cushions and a pair of augers	£1-0-0
Five pieces of pewter, two pewter candlesticks and two of brass, 3 salts, one pint pot and a candlepot of pewter, a lantern, an aconite bottle, 3 small earthenware dishes, 2 dozen trenchers and small glasses	£0-2-0
In the Chamber within the Hall	
One half-headed bedstead, mat and cord, one feather bed, a feather bolster and three pillows of feathers and a flock bed	£3-0-0
One coverlet, a pair of blankets and a pair of sheets	£0-16-0
A flock bed, a flock bolster, two flock pillows, a pare? blanket and coverlet	£0-15-6
Two warming pans, a feather pillow and a small chest	£0-13-0
4 pairs of sheets and one; 8 table glasses, 8 napkins, 6 pillow ties and other small linen	£1-13-4
In the Inner Buttery	
Fourteen pewter dishes, 4 porringers of pewter, two chamber pots, one salt and 3 saucers, 8 spoons	£1-0-0
In the Outer Buttery	
3 firkins, 2 half-firkins, 2 stanes?, 3 coffers, two forks, a frying pan and other lumber	£0-13-4
In the Kitchen	
One table and frame, a small table and form, 4 chairs	£0-13-0
One brass pot, 2 kettles, two skillets, a skewer and ladle of brass, one mortar	£1-0-0
Two firing? pots, a fire pan and tongs, one cotterell?, a pair of small dogs, one spit, two pair of pothooks	£0-11-0
A furnace and a pair of bellows	£0-10-0
One tobe [tub?], a bucket, a half bushel, a brush, a range? with other lumber	£0-5-6
In the Shop	
All his working tools, 5 dozen of hoops and a parcel of small timber	£1-10-0
In the Loft over the Shop	
4 dozen of hoops, a small parcel of timber	£0-6-0
In the Work House and Backside	
Two hundredweight and some odd boards of hogshead	£1-0-0
3 hundredweight and a half of shingles	£1-4-0

A parcel of old timber newly bought at Portsmouth	£1-5-0
A parcel of broken timber and 7 dozen and a half of hoops	£0-7-8
A small grinding stone	£0-4-0
Timber in the Street	£1-2-0
Field 3 acres of barley	£3-0-0
Sum total	£27-2-8

Edward Whittinge *his mark*
Ralph Holt

Notes

The preceding table is translated into modern terminology, apart from words marked with a “?” for which I have been unable to discover a meaning or am otherwise unsure of.

This inventory makes very difficult reading – see the extract on the current page. It is written in “secretary hand” and suffers not only from the usual lack of standard spelling in the 17th century, but also from the main author, Edward Whittinge, being semi-literate – he makes his mark on the inventory, rather than signing it. It contains many spelling mistakes and inconsistencies, and of course uses terms no longer in use.

in the woorke house and backside
 1 to cwt and som od boardes of hogesheed. i-0-0
 3 cwt. and a haffe of shengells i-4-0
 a pasell of owlld timber newly
 bought at porchmauth } i-5-0
 Ite a pasell of broken timber and
 7 dusen and a haffe of hoops } 0-7-8
 21

Figure 2: Part of the inventory; [HRO 1665B 24/2]

in the woorke house and backside	
Itm. to cwt and som od boardes of hogesheed	i-0-0
3 cwt. and a haffe of shengells	i-4-0
a pasell of owlld timber newly	
bought at porchmauth	} i-5-0
Itm. a pasell of broken timber and	
7 dusen and a haffe of hoops	} 0-7-8

The following list of terms may be of use:

Coffer a wooden storage box, usually standing on the floor.

Joint cupboard is joinery, i.e all wooden.

Auger a wood drill that seems to have escaped from the workshop.

A salt is a box containing the condiment.

Aconite from the monkshood alias wolfsbane plant was used as a medicine. These days it is considered a very powerful and dangerous poison.

Trencher a wooden plate used for everyday meals.

Bedstead listed in the inventory as a “bedsteadall”, a contraction of “bed steadall”, a bed frame – nowadays further contracted to “bedstead”.

Cords across bed frames suspended the mattress; other forms of beds used planks for support.

Flock i.e. wool or cloth scraps, a cheaper and coarser filling than feathers. Richer people had feather mattresses over flock or straw filled ones.

Porringer a bowl suitable for porridge or soup.

Buttery the room where you kept your butts – that is, bottles of drink and barrels of beer, the latter taking the place of today’s tea or coffee as refreshment.

Chamber pots used in the days before the outside privy and mains drainage, and kept in the house as a convenience.

Firkin a 9-gallon storage barrel, not just a measure of beer, and we can be sure a cooper’s house would have a ready supply of them for foodstuffs such as flour. Alternatively, this could just be some stock escaped from the shop.

A range in the kitchen implies they were well-off trendsetters; ranges only became common a century or so later.

Backside presumably the part of William’s land behind the house, shop and workhouse.

Hoops William’s stock included 16 dozen hoops, enough for about 32 barrels, as each requires 6 hoops.

The inventory is consistent with William sen. being a well-off artisan living in a comfortably-furnished small two-roomed (kitchen plus hall) cottage with an upper storey. Normally the “chamber over the hall” would be a bedroom, rather than what seems to be an office. Having beds within the hall was not unusual in earlier times; perhaps William was a traditionalist.

Edward Whittinge was one of the witnesses to William’s will; it is a surprise to find him performing the inventory, which is the responsibility of the executor. The will named William’s wife Ann as executor.