

JOHN "BROOKSEND" FRIEND

There are three deeds in the collection - a lease and a release of property & land for 1809, and an indenture for the same property and land for 1824. The description in the deeds states:-

** "a small messuage or tenement, Buildings, Yard, Garden and one piece or parcel of land containing by estimation one acre more or less being in the said parish of Birchington."

The 1824 deed says that the property and land is "described herein", but there is no mention of exactly *where* the house or land stood. The fact that the buyer was a miller might possibly make a connection with one of our windmill sites. The land on which Griggs' Mill stood comes within the land belonging to Quex Park, which was bought by John Powell in 1809. We know that there was a small cottage on this site and the mill was no longer in use. The Seed Mill was owned by the Neame family for many years, so was not up for sale in 1824. James Hudson did not buy the Birchington Mill till 1840, so this one is just possible, but the mill was there then. There is no mention of a *mill* in the deeds and all three were standing in 1809.

On 6th January 1809 the holding described at ** was sold by Robert Abbot to John Friend of Birchington. This was the member of the Friend family who owned Brooksend Farm. John had four sons, one of whom was James. James later had one son called John Bankes Friend. When John "Brooksend" Friend died, the quarter of his estate that went to his son James included the holding mentioned in the 1809 sale. By then James had left Birchington and gone to live in Fieldgate Street, Whitechapel, where he traded as a sugar refiner. He died intestate around 1823-4. His son John Bankes Friend, of the same address, was only 15 years old at this time, so his affairs were being dealt with by others.

In the 1809 Lease and Release, Robert Abbot stipulated that he would still hold some claims on the land and messuage during his lifetime. By 1824 he had died, so John Bankes Friend was released from that part of the deed and could therefore sell on the holding.

The sale of the property and land on 6th January 1824 states it was between John Bankes Friend of Whitechapel and James Southee of Woodnesborough, a miller. Anthony May, also a miller, but from Birchington, appears to have acted as mortgagor for James Southee.