

# EYNSFORD PAPER MILL

Eynsford Paper Mill was founded by Huguenots in 1648 and continued until 1952.

Many mill workers joined the armed forces in the First World War, but the workforce was boosted when staff from a closed paper mill in Wales were employed.



Bank note paper had been made since the 1880s and was used for foreign or Empire notes.

In 1915 another mould machine to make paper for currency notes was installed, probably used for currency notes issued by the Treasury from 1914 to 1926.

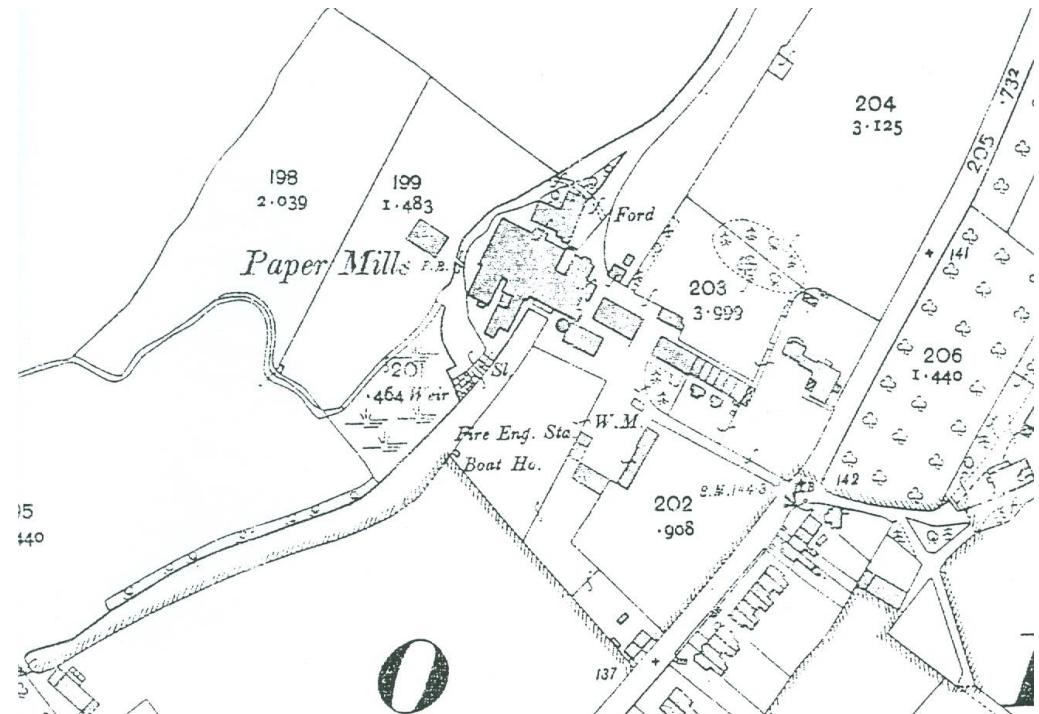
There was high security at the mill with a civil servant overseeing production.

Elaborate watermarks were inserted in some paper, of which there are examples below.

The originals on very large paper are now kept in specialist conditions at Maidstone Museum.



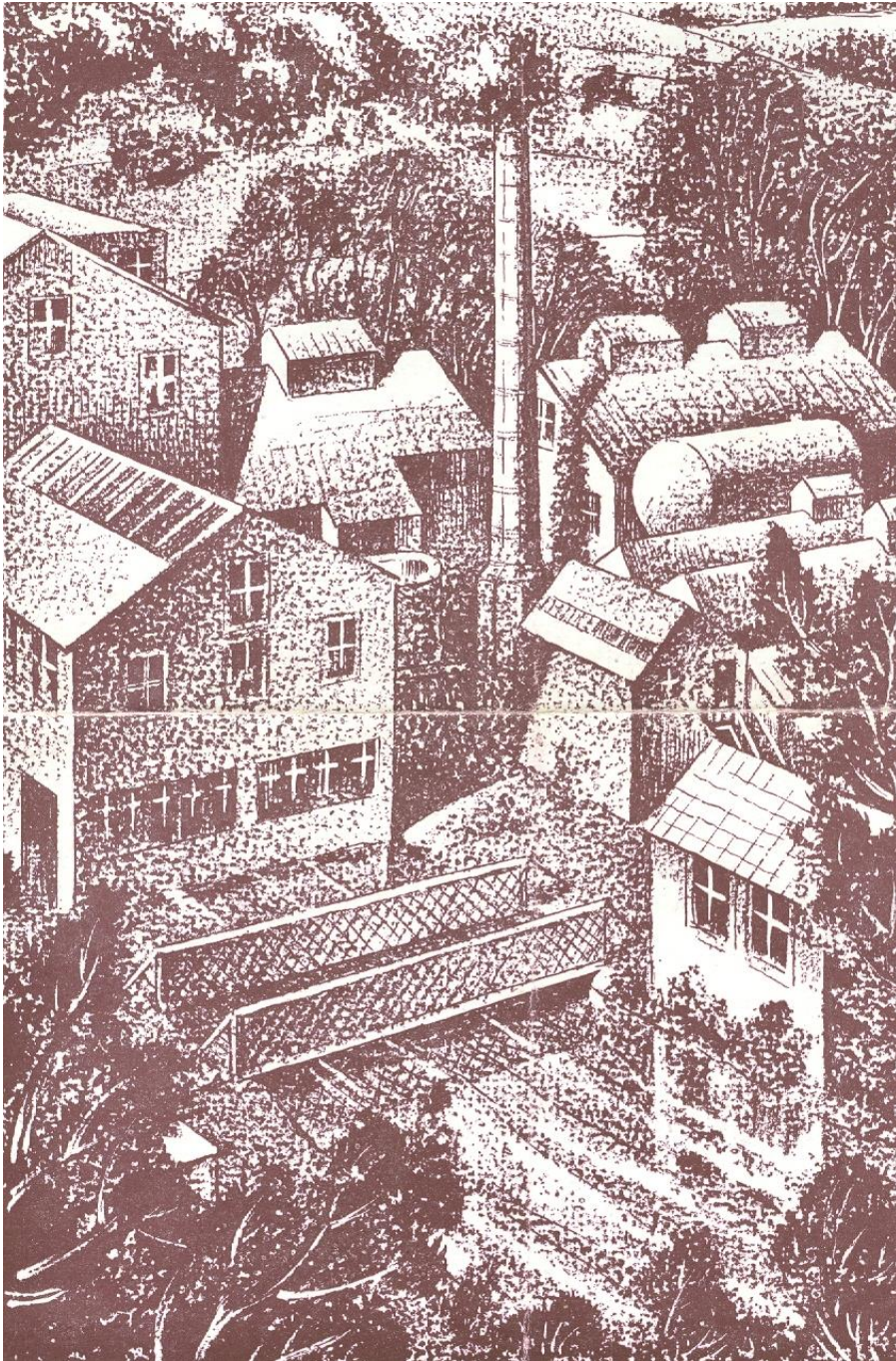
## EYNSFORD PAPER MILL



(above) The paper mill site from 1909 Ordnance Survey map.

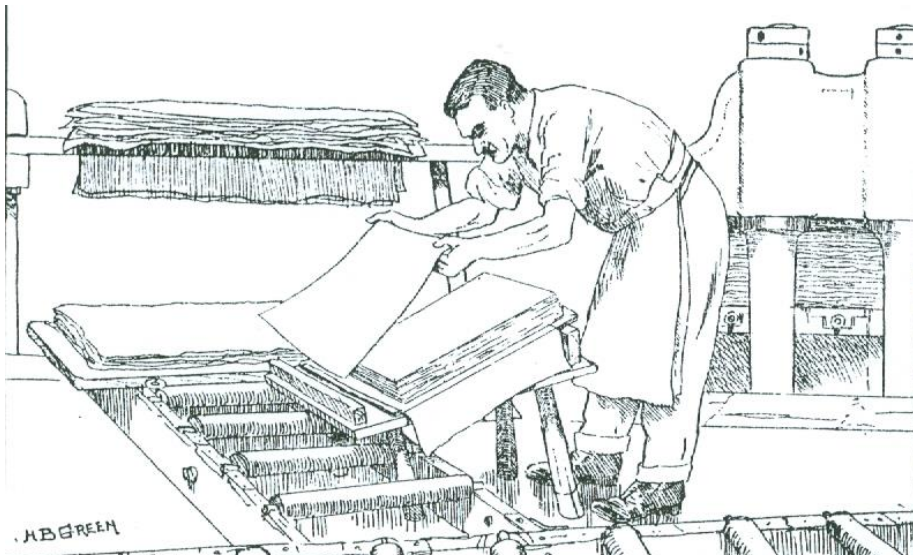
(left) Front cover 'Three Hundred Years of Paper Making', May 1950

See FELHS publication no. 31 'Eynsford Paper Mill' by W.G. Duncombe





# EXHIBITS FROM EYNSFORD PAPER MILL **MINUTES, 1 AUGUST 1919, OF THE ORIGINAL SOCIETY OF PAPERMAKERS**



This was a Trade Union set up illegally in 1800, when Trade Unions were banned. It operated legally from 1824-1948.

In 1919 it represented 10 paper mills producing hand made paper (though some machinery was used).

The 'coucher' lays the sheet into a pile, which is then pressed to extract water. The wet paper tears very easily so laying must be done with great care. (The Story of Hand Made Paper, 1924)

1919 Minutes outline wage negotiations with the Paper Makers' Association of Employers of Card Labour

T.U.: Application for 5 shillings a day.

Bosses: Offer of 2/6d per day for more skilled and 1/9d for less skilled.

T.U.: Demand for 2/6d per day for all.

Agreement:

2/6d per day to skilled and all day workers.  
Graduated scale for apprentices.  
Overtime for over 6 days work.

## EXHIBITS FROM EYNSFORD PAPER MILL

### ORIGINAL PAPER AND WATERMARKS

- Sample bank note paper – watermarked Bank Note Paper – Pasparre's Patent with coat of arms
- Banco de Portugal 50 note paper
- Frances diagonally across, 10 marks, pessos, lire – perhaps sample with features to adapt as necessary
- Sheet of cream paper with 3 soldiers watermark c. Great War + print of watermark
- Sheet of blue paper with watermark of Admiral Jellicoe (1st Sea Lord in Great War) + print of watermark
- Sheet of blue paper with watermark of General Kitchener 'Your Country Needs You' + print of watermark

Photographs – large sheet with 3 Great War heroes - top left Admiral Jellicoe, 1st Sea Lord; lower left ? Field Marshall Douglas Haig, Commander of the British Expeditionary Force; right ? Georges Clemenceau, Prime Minister of France.