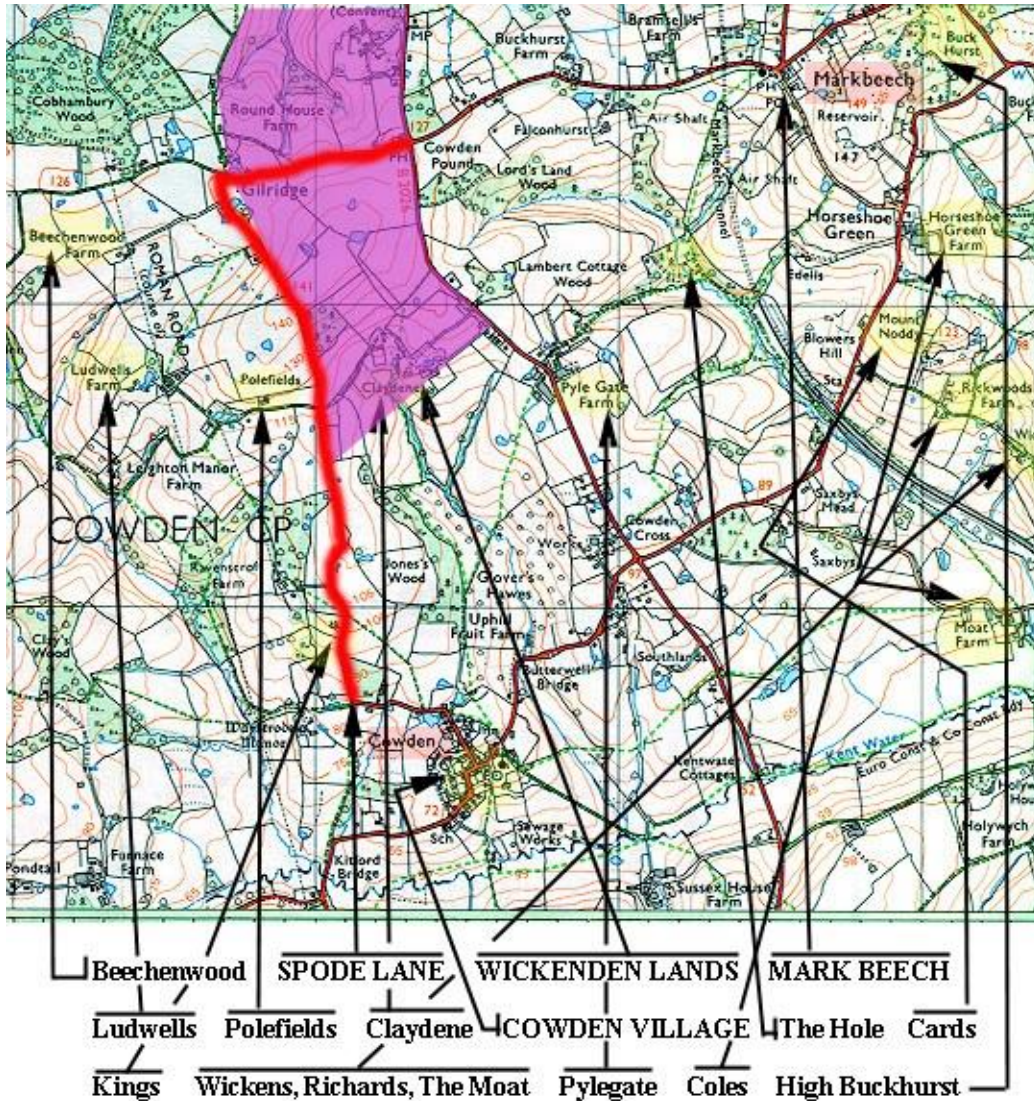


# PHOTOS OF COWDEN WITH CAPTIONS

By  
Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** The ancient lands of Wickenden and some of the historic homesteads, farms, and streets associated with Wickendens

WICKENDEN--K. P. Witney speculates that dens with "folk" names such as Wickenden were established between the end of the sixth century and the beginning of the ninth [p. 73]. The first reference to "Wingindene" is in a royal Charter dated 1044. Witney identifies the den with Wickenden, "which lay around Claydene" [p. 221]. Ewing, in his book on the history of Cowden, places the lands of Wickenden to the east of Spode Lane. In unpublished notes, Ewing conjectures that Wickenden was "perhaps roughly coterminous with Eden Hall and Claydene (2nd purchase) |Eastlands" [Author's edition].

The Wickenden family prospered and expanded, with sons and daughter building or moving out to other, neighboring homesteads and farms across the parish of Cowden. While the original Wickenden lands and many sites of the farms and homes can still be found today, the site of the original Wickenden homestead on these lands has been "lost" since 1663. However, while the location of Wickenden is a mystery, some clues exist as to its whereabouts .

Date Taken: January 2001

Place Taken: Ordnance Survey, Pathfinder 1228 (TQ 44/54)

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II

Thomas Wykenden of Cowden  
Grants  
Walter Durkynghall  
John Hamond  
& Richard Saxpayse  
a piece of land Elveland in Cowden,  
to the highway Cowden Cross to Edenbridge E,  
to land of road of Rd. Saxpayse, land of  
the Prior of Mechilham W, land of Thomas  
Wykenden called CLENDEN N. 3s 5d rent  
Which sd. Rd. Saxpayse, the tenant of  
WIKENDEN annually paid for lands called  
REDENE, BLOWERSHILL, MARKEBECHE & COWKESCROFT  
in Cowden  
Witnessed [large number of witnesses]  
Dated at Cowden 29 Sept. 39 Henry VI [1461] <sup>21</sup>

**Description:** This document shows that by 1461 the Wickendens were renting out Wickenden and that Thomas Wykenden was living in Clayden. It also provides a clue as to how the original site of Wickenden was "lost." The process is described in the following extract from "The Mystery of Wickenden

### **How was Wickenden Lost?**

As the Wickenden family expanded, sons and daughters moved to other homes and took the Wickenden name with them. At some point, the parents living in Wickenden may have passed away without anyone from the next generation of Wickendens wishing to live in the home. We know from a document dated 1471 that even by that time the Wickenden homestead was being rented out by a Thomas Wickenden who was living in Claydene. The tenant, Richard Saxby, may either have lived in the home or may have farmed the Wickenden fields or both. Since tenants such as Saxbys often rented and owned many properties, it seems likely that over time, the Wickenden fields were farmed while the associated buildings were abandoned and eventually collapsed or were torn down.

The site might then have simply grown over and may now be in one of the patches of woods that border Spode Lane. Alternatively, it might have been plowed over and may now lie somewhere in the fields that stretch from Claydene on the south to Eden Hall to the north. Finally, if a new home was constructed on the original site, the new owner must have felt free to give it a new name, since the original building may not have been standing, since the Wickendens may not have been the sellers of the property and since, in any case, the Wickendens living in Cowden would have been living at the time in other homes, such as Claydene or Polefields.

Date Taken: 1999

Place Taken: Mark Beech, p. 32

Owner: Timothy Boyle



**Description:** The mystery surrounding the location of Wickenden is captured in this shot of Willsfield seen at dusk through the ancient oaks of the Weald.

### **Where was Wickenden?**

Given the expense of developing a site for a home from scratch and the lack of new agricultural or residential development in the area, it is likely that since the Wickenden homestead had been occupied for a millennium, the site would be preserved as the location for a current structure. If this was the case, the question, then, is which of the current homes might have been the site of Wickenden?

Since, as Guy Ewing has observed in his book on the History of Cowden, the homestead of Polefields replaced Wickenden in the list of Church Marks dated 1623, it is possible that Polefields was constructed on the site of Wickenden and given a new name. For this reason, Ewing writes that "Wickenden, though the name disappeared as a place-name after 1542, can be identified with Polefields, long occupied by the Wickenden family" [Ewing, p. 19]. This is unlikely, however, since it is clear from other documents that Wickendens were some of the first occupants of Polefields. They most likely owned Polefields and may well have constructed it on land that they owned. In addition, the land itself may have had the name Polefields prior to being the site of a dwelling, since the name clearly refers to the pools of water that can be seen in the fields to the south and to the west of the homestead. The same line of reasoning applies to Claydene, which we know was occupied by a Wickenden as early as 1471.

### **Could This Have Been Wickenden?**

My personal theory is that the location of the Wickenden homestead was at or near to the home now known as Willsfield. (For more details, see the other photographs in this MYSTERY album and the article on "The Mystery of Wickenden" in the History section of this homepage.) There are a variety of clues which support this conjecture. The first set of clues has to do with the name of the home. According to the daughter of the current owner, the home was originally called "Wellsfield" after the well that is located somewhere on the grounds. A subsequent owner changed the name to reflect his own name, "Will." The fact that there is a well near the home is the first

clue, for it is likely that an ancient homestead like Wickenden was located near a well. It also appears that Willsfield (or Wellsfield) was not mentioned in historical documents of the same currency as those that refer to Wickenden, Polefields or Claydene, and therefore it is not likely to have been the original home for which the well was dug. In any case, it would not be likely that a home would be named for its own well.

A third clue, however minor, is the fact that at least two names for this home have begun with "W." The use of alliteration in choosing the second name for the home suggests that the first of the two names may also have been chosen with alliteration, and that the original name for the site may have also begun with a "W," such as Wickenden.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II





**Description:** Willsfield on Spode Lane

This photo shows how close Willsfield is to the Lane. This suggests the age of the site and therefore the possibility that Willsfield may once have been the site of Wickenden. (More information can be found in the other photographs in the Wickenden MYSTERY album and in the following excerpt from "The Mystery of Wickenden" article in the History section of this webpage.)

Another set of clues have to do with the location of Willsfield. Notice from this picture how close the home is to the Lane. It even appears that the Lane, which continues on to the south, has to turn at this point and circle around the home. There is no other home situated on or near Spode Lane that is located this close to the public thoroughfare. Only a site that was one of the very first homesteads constructed near an ancient way would be located so close to that path or road. As population in the area grew and traffic increased, other homesteads would be located at some distance from the Lane itself. This and other pictures in the MYSTERY album show how close the house is to the Lane and how the current owners have put up a split rail fence to provide a boundary between the Lane and the house. The orientation of the home, however, shows that it was originally laid out to face the Lane.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** This photograph shows how close Willsfield is to Spode Lane and how the current owners have put up a split rail fence to provide a boundary between the Lane and the house. The orientation of the home, however, shows that it was originally laid out to face the Lane. This suggests that Willsfield may be located on the site of an ancient homestead such as Wickenden. (See the other photographs in this MYSTERY album and the article on "The Mystery of Wickenden" in the History section of this webpage for more information.)

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** WILLSFIELD FROM THE EAST

This picture, taken from the drive directly to the south of Polefields, shows that Willsfield is only 100 yards from Polefields.

The picture indirectly provides another clue suggesting that Willsfield may be on the site of the original Wickenden. The path on the left of the picture circles around to the south and then to the east to join Spode Lane again about a quarter of a mile to the south. Off of the path are entrances to Polefields, Ludwells and Leighton Manor. This picture is taken from a position that is approximately at the front of Polefields, which is located up a hill further to the left of the path. This shows that Polefields was constructed approximately 100 yards to the west of Willsfield. The other home with which Wickendens are associated in the mid-15th century was Claydene, which is located approximately 200 yards to the east of Willsfield. It is possible that the Wickenden family may have owned these lands and constructed additional homes on these locations as the family grew. (For more information, see the other photographs in this MYSTERY album and the article on "The Mystery of Wickenden" in the History section of this webpage.)

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II





**Description:** CORNER OF COWDEN AND CHURCH STREETS

A shot of Cowden Village taken from the drive to the Rectory. The old forge is on the left, Mrs. Beth Wickenden and the church (hidden) are on the right. Wickendens lived on "The Streate" since before the 16th century. (See the following, the article on "Historic Homesteads of the Wickendens" and other photographs in this HOMESTEADS and the COWDEN albums for more information.

COWDEN STREETE--Amongst Joan Wickenden's bequests [in her will of 1524] are "To John my son a litill house called Kyngs next to Chaunterells in Cowden," also to Willm. my sonne have a house called Cardes all the lands belonging thereto. Also I gif to Anthony my sonne my house yt I dwelle in in Cowden Street with a garden and a barne." "Residue of lands in Kent and Sussex to my iii sonnes Thomas, William and Antonye, they having the same strength and power that I had in their fathers Will whom I make my executors." We do not seem to have their father's Will. The residue is left to the sons "for my Soul and for their father's soul." The Witnesses included John Wydenden [Ewing, p. 45].

The Wickendens may have lived continuously on the village high street through to the middle of the 16th century, for Ewing [p. 63] notes that the Rolls of the Court Baron of Lewisham Manor for 1558 reveal two Wickendens tenants of the Manor, one of them Wickenden de Ludwells, the other "Thomas Wykinden de Cowden Streate," that is of the village. It is possible that this Thomas was a son of Antonye, son of Joan.

Date Taken: October 2000

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** Polefields, seen from Spode Lane, has a magnificent view out over the rolling hills of Cowden.

Date Taken: November 2000

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** Polefields from the drive, before the winter entrance was removed in 2000. Wickendens may have constructed this homestead.

Documents indicate that Wickendens lived at the site from the mid-15th century until at least the early 17th. The following excerpt from Historic Homesteads of the Wickendens provides more detail.



POLEFIELDS--Another homestead that may have been established by Wickendens and that has long been associated with the Wickenden family is Polefields. Polefields as a placename dates from the 13th century. Witney includes Polefields in his list of "ancient 'field' names in the Kentish Weald (in the high weald), with a reference to "Polledefeld," 1283, in Cowden parish [p. 187. The Court-Rolls of the Manor of Cowden-Leighton indicate that the participation in 1476 of a Richard Wickenden of Polefields in a court-baron of the Manor. This may be the earliest mention of a Wickenden living at Polefields. A later one, recorded by the Historical Research Center was of "Ould mother Wickended of Powlfields," buried in 1626.

Polefields is located on a private road off of Spode Lane. The drives to Ludwell's farm and Leighton Manor are located off the same road. Polefields has been purchased by a new owner, who has been fixing it up. The winter entrance in the front has now been removed. The setting of Polefields overlooking the beautiful rolling hills of Cowden can best be appreciated by viewing the homestead from the north, up Spode Lane.

Date Taken: March, 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** Ludwell's farm taken from the entrance, which swings around to the right. The farm was bequeathed to Thomas Wygenden in 1456.

LUDWELL'S FARM--In the will of Robert Ludwell, dated 30 Dec., 1456, he arranges "to make an Estate to Thomas Wygenden his heirs and assigns of the moiety of the messuage of the said Robert with its appurtenances in Cowden, formerly Richard Wales, and also a life interest to Sara, wife of the said Robert, of a moiety of the said messuage and landes, with remainder to the said Thomas Wygenden. ... Whether Robert Ludwell was the actual god-father of the farm, we cannot say, but there seems to be some ground for the suggestion in the reference in the Will to his messuage "late Richard Wales." From the fact that Ludwells adjoins Crippenden, which as we know was bought by Godfrey de Waleys in 1311, it may be possible to surmise that it formed part of the Estate, and was sold to Ludwell or one of his predecessors, and that the farm was called by the name of its new owner. It was, like Crippenden, a tenement of Cowden Leighton Manor, and we may assume that the Thomas Wickenden who was one of the Homage of a Court Baron of that manor in 1479 was the person for whom an estate was to be formed under the will of Robert Ludwell. Ludwell seems to have been childless, and it is possible that Sara, his wife, was a Wickenden [Ewing, p. 26-27]. The farm stayed in the Wickenden family at least through the middle of the next century, since in 1558 the Rolls of a Court Baron reveal, according to Ewing [p. 63] that there seem to have been two Wickendens tenants of the manor, one of them [William] Wickenden de Ludwells.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description: HOLE FARM COTTAGE**

Hole Farm was torn down in the 1800's, but part of the old dairy has been converted into a cottage. The farm was occupied by Wickendens throughout the 16th century. (See the following, the article on "Historic Homesteads of the Wickendens" in the History section of this webpage, and other photos in this HOMESTEADS album for more information.)

THE HOLE/HOLE FARM--William Tornar (Turner) died in 1512, leaving "2 nobles the highway betwixt Henry Wydenden and Bryde broke." Bryde Brood may possibly have been Brook or Godman's Farm which stood nearly opposite Cowden Station cottages, but as we cannot identify the tenement of Henry Wickenden, it is not possible to speak with certainty, but we do know that the Wickendens were Tenants of the Manor of Lewisham, at the Hole, for a long period. Somers Cocks in "Edenbridge" speaks of a Bridebroke, apparently a manor... If Wickenden as at the hole, and Bryde Broke was Brook Farm, the Highway would be the Old Lane between these places (both now destroyed), which is represented by the footpath below the railway from the Station Cottages to the bottom of Birchin-Oak Lane, continuing to Lord's Land where Falconhurst now stands [Ewing, p. 41].

The finding of the Homage [attending a Court Baron] in 1589 was, that Thomas Wickenden de la hole (of the Hole) had encroached upon the land of the Lady now in the occupation of Thomas Wicken, farmer, in a place called Cocklands (Coxes Land) of a piece of ground of which the length and breadth are left blank in the report [Ewing, p.



64]. Colonel Woodhouse destroyed the Hole, of which only the orchard and a cottage, said to have been the dairy of the farm, remain.

The property was sold to Mr. Talbot in 1848.

George Bailey in his book "Poems" has a stanza about the destruction of Hole Farm:

*But where is the homestead, the once happy spot?  
Shall its memory perish, and all be forget? A  
warrior possess'd it and level'd it down, In a  
desolate heap of ruins around.*

It [the Hole] first appeared in Cowden records in 1589, but was probably built about a century earlier. It was almost certainly an impressive timber-framed house, but Woodhouse destroyed two-thirds of it, probably because it was in a bad state of repair, to create the Hole Cottage which can still be seen today, although that was further damaged on 7 March 1943 by a German bomb. The Hole had once been in the occupation of the Wickendens, possibly since about 1500, and one of them had even been called Wickenden de la Hole [Boyle, p. 46].

Hole Cottage: Vies with Old Buckhurst as the oldest house in Mark Beech. Timber-framed, with later brick and tilehanging. Probably built c. 1480. Originally part of a house at least three times bigger. Most of it pulled down in 1830s. Suffered war damage in 1943. Part of the Faconhurst estate, but tenanted by the Landmark Trust as a holiday cottage. Down in woods, near Cowden station, below Pule Gate. Listed. (Known to the author's children as the 'Witch's Cottage' or 'Rumpelstiltskin's Cottage.') [Boyle, p. 117].

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** Seen from Spode Lane, Beechenwood Farm lies to the north of Ludwells, off the road to Crippenden. In 1571 a Thomas Wickenden de Bechinwoode took his name from this farmstead. More details are provided in the following extract from "The Historic Homesteads of Wickenden."

BEECHENWOOD FARM--Beechenwood Farm can be seen from Spode Lane in the distance across the fields. It seems the farm was in the Wickenden family during the mid-to-late 16th century, for in 1571, Thomas Wickenden "de Bechinwoode" attended a Court [Baron for Lewisham Manor] [Ewing, p. 63].

Date Taken: October 2000

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** Half of the 57 listed buildings in the parish date from the XVth and XVIth Centuries and over a quarter from the XVIIth. Twenty-two still bear names appearing in the Manorial records whilst others, particularly in the main street, which have numbers but no names are certainly some of those catalogued as Peshurst Halemete tenements. [Village Assessment, p. 77].

At one time the village included the church, a school, two pubs, a post office, a number of shops--including a blacksmiths, a cycle shop, a coal merchant, two general stores, a haberdashers/drapers and cobblers, garage, slaughter house, butcher shop, undertakers, tannery/glove makers and the train station. Many of these buildings can be seen today, although some have been torn down and others have been converted to private residences. Presently village residents travel to Edenbridge or East Grinstead for most of these services. (See the photographs of the Maps of Cowden and of the High Street for more information).

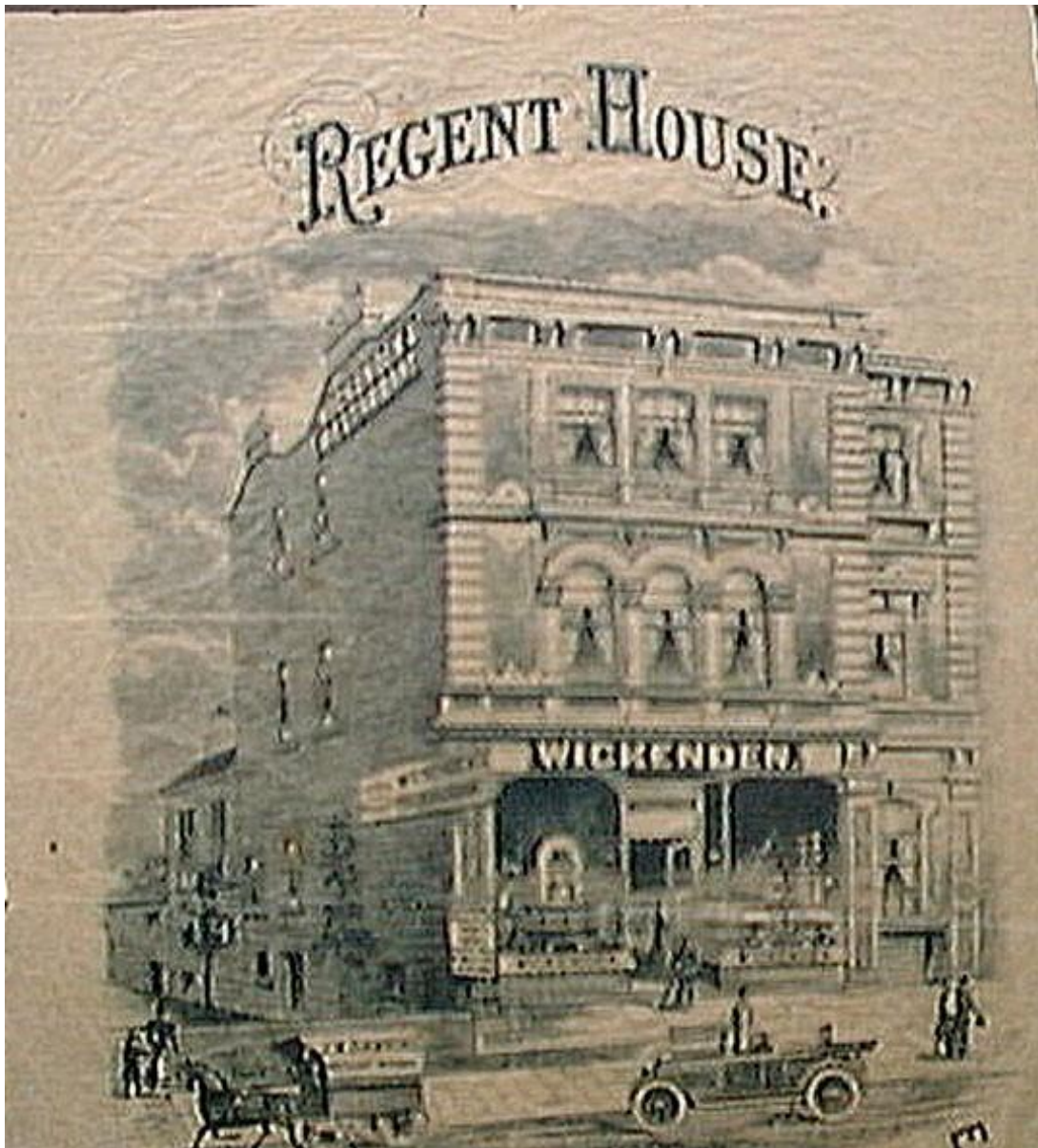
Wickendens may have lived on the street before the 16th century, but there are at least three Wickendens mentioned as living on the street in the 1500's: Joan, her son Anthony, and later, a Thomas. Amongst Joan Wickenden s bequests in 1524 were "To John my son a litill house called Kyngs next to Chaunterells in Cowden," also to Willm. my sonne have a house called Cardes all the lands belonging thereto. Also I gif to Anthony my sonne my house yt I dwelle in in Cowden Streate with a garden and a barne." In 1558, Manorial records mention a Thomas Wykinden de Cowden Streate.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden





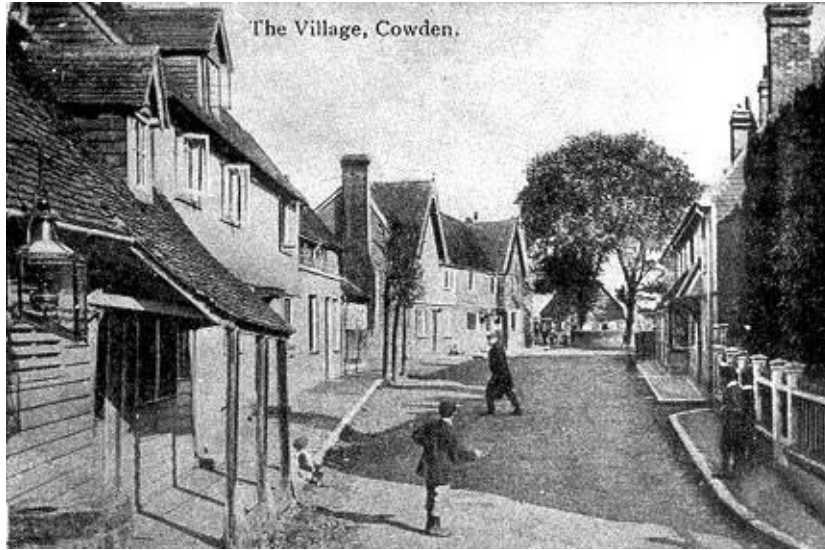
**Description:** This is a photo of a paper bag from Alfred Wickenden's confectionery and bakery in Clevedon 1882-1920? Regent House today is "The Regent" a pub, and it looks very much the same. Pictures of Wickenden's hang in the pub today.

Date Taken: April 2001

Place Taken: Clevedon

Owner: G Wickenden





**Description:** COWDEN: Street I.

The earliest reference to the existence of a church, and therefore a village, for the Lords of the Manor were expected to build churches as necessary for their tenants, is, according to Hasted (1797), in the Textus Roffensis, which is the record of Rochester Cathedral compiled by Bishop Ernulf between 1115 and 1125. Therein, it is called cudena a Latin form to be expected in ecclesiastical records. The church may have been recently built then, for about that time Richard de Clare, Earl of Hertford, found the Priory of Tonbridge which was also dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene.

Date Taken: c. 1900

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Cowden Village Appraisal Committee

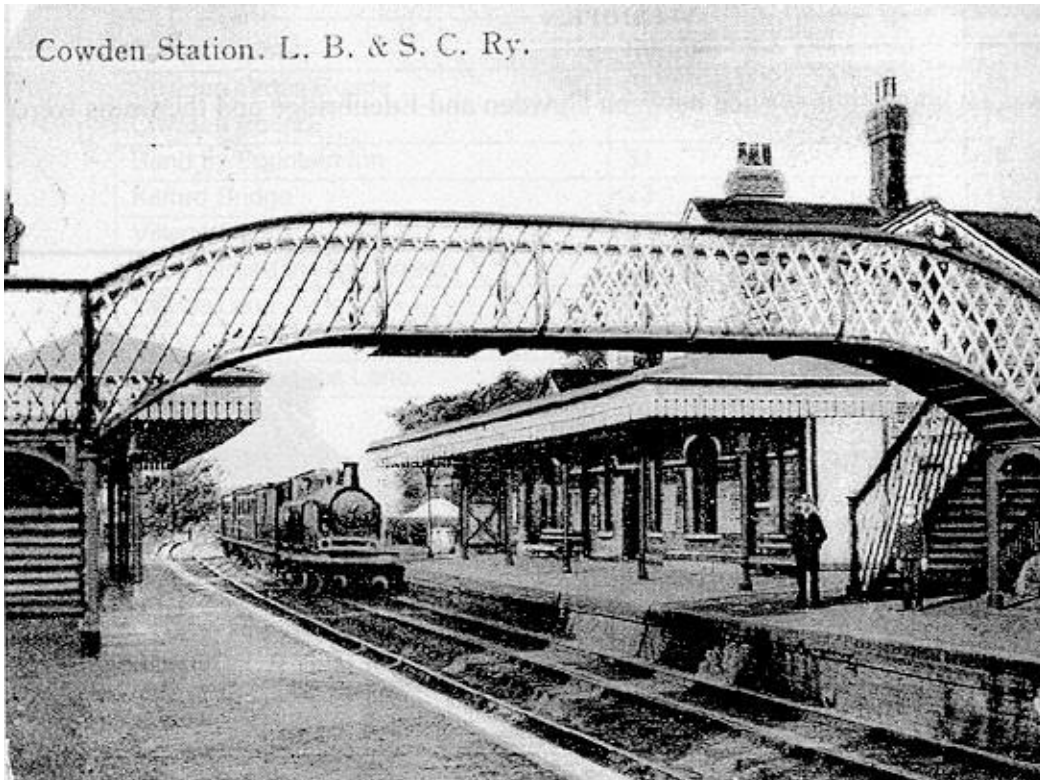


**Description:** THE COWDEN STORES at North and High Streets, this store was advertised as a high class grocery and provisions, offering fresh and frozen fruit and vegetable, frozen fish, Wall s ice cream, cold meats and sausages, cakes, sweets, cigarettes and tobacco, pet foods, chemist s sundries and stationary. (See the current photograph in the Cowden Village album.)

Date Taken: c. 1950

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Cowden Village Appraisal Committee



**Description:** COWDEN STATION The London Brighton & South Coast Railway Company (LBSC) opened the line from Lewes to Uckfield in 1858. The line from Oxted to Tunbridge Wells, via Hurst Green, Edenbridge Town, Hever, Cowden, Ashurst and Groombridge was added in 1894. For many people in England, Cowden will be remembered for the tragic event of October 15, 1994, when the 0800 from Uckfield collided with the 0804 from Oxted. On this foggy morning, the two trains met head on just south of Cowden with the loss of five lives both drivers, one guard and two passengers. The train no longer stops at Cowden ( Cowden and its Railway by A. J. Portway, Village Appraisal, p. 57).

Date Taken: c. 1900

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Cowden Village Appraisal Committee



**Description:** THE POST OFFICE Located across from the corner of North and High Streets. One postman also ran a milk delivery business, bringing milk to the villagers in a can with a pint and half-pint measure. Milk was measured out into the customers own jugs ( Memories from Stella Goodwin (nee Dale) from Village Appraisal, p. 64).

Date Taken: c. 1900

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Cowden Village Appraisal Committee



**Description:** POST OFFICE--There is no post office in Cowden today. The village residents are served by a post box outside the building that once housed the post office.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden





**Description:** THE OLD FORGE Located on the corner of Church and High Streets, the building that housed the forge still looks much as it did a century or more ago. In the early 1900 s it was run by G. E. Hadlow, R.S.S., farrier and general smith. The Forge provided repairs to agricultural machinery and stationary engines, ornamental ironwork, hot shoeing at your stables, and electrical, heating and domestic installations. A bicycle shop was located next door (See the Village Appraisal and the Cowden photograph album for more details.)

Date Taken: 1906

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Cowden Village Appraisal Committee

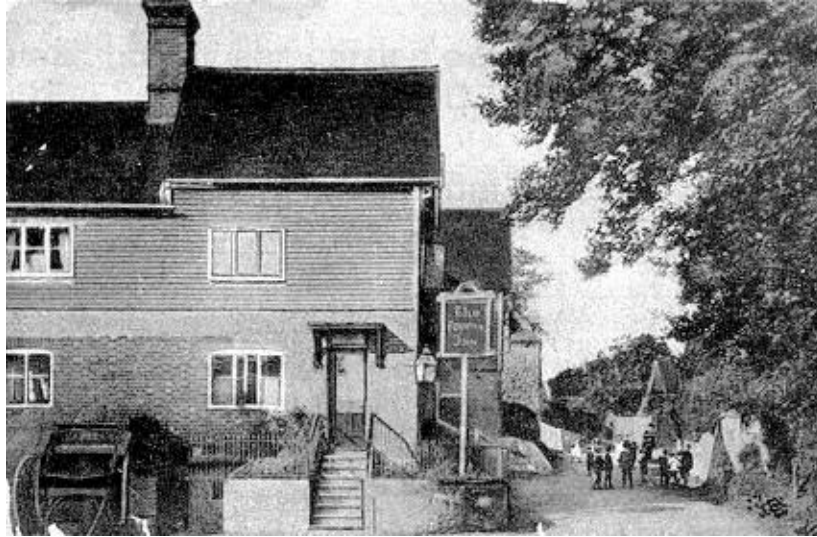


**Description:** Looking south down North Street to Cowden Street.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden



**Description:** In 1906 the Fountain Inn was one of two pubs in Cowden Village. 100 years later, the Fountain Inn is still in operation and little changed.

Date Taken: 1906

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Cowden Village Appraisal Committee



**Description:** Located on the opposite side of the village from the church, the Fountain Inn is still in operation and offers fine ales and an excellent menu.

Date Taken: March, 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden





**Description:** Half of the 57 listed buildings in the parish date from the XVth and XVIth Centuries and over a quarter from the XVIIth. Twenty-two still bear names appearing in the Manorial records whilst others, particularly in the main street, which have numbers but no names are certainly some of those catalogued as Peshurst Halemote tenements. [Village Assessment, p. 77].

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Wickendens may have lived on the street before the 16th century, but there are at least three Wickendens mentioned as living on the street in the 1500's: Joan, her son Anthony, and later, a Thomas. Amongst Joan Wickenden's bequests in 1524 were "To John my son a litill house called Kyngs next to Chaunterells in Cowden," also to Willm. my sonne have a house called Cardes all the lands belonging thereto. Also I gif to Anthony my sonne my house yt I dwelle in in Cowden Streate with a garden and a barne." In 1558, Manorial records mention a Thomas Wykinden de Cowden Streate.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden





**Description:** THE COWDEN STORES      North and High Streets, this store was once advertised as a high class grocery and provisions, offering fresh and frozen fruit and vegetable, frozen fish, Wall s ice cream, cold meats and sausages, cakes, sweets, cigarettes and tobacco, pet foods, chemist s sundries and stationary. (See the "Then" photograph in the Cowden Village album.)

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** THE CROWN INN Located across High Street from the Church, the old inn is now a private residence. The gentrification of Kent is both a boon and a bane. Villagers were upset that an historic inn was converted to a private residence. (See "Now" photograph in the Cowden album.)

Date Taken: 1907

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Cowden Village Appraisal Committee



**Description:** THE CROWN INN Located across High Street from the Church, the old inn is now a private residence, leaving only one pub in operation on the high street. (See "Then" photograph in the Cowden album.)

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** THE COWS OF COWDEN--It is reasonable to suppose that Cowden village had its origins in Saxon times in one of the dens or clearings where domestic animals were grazed, and it has been propounded by learned authorities that cow den is synonymous with cove. However, the village, though situated in a gently and fairly open valley as is apparent when approaching from the Pound, can scarcely be considered to be in a small hollow or recess. A more likely derivation would seem to be from Old English (i.e. pre-1150) word Cu or cow, which was commonly used for the female of any domestic animal, especially cattle. The phonetics of the Latin form cudena would also accord with this interpretation. Cows can be seen to this day at Pilegate Farm and Piper s Barn at the top of North Street, where these animals are grazing.

Kent is famous for its heavy, wet, clay fields, and the soil seen here is quite typical. The fields are good for grazing cows, sheep and pigs and have been cultivated for centuries, especially for hops. Special barns for drying and storing hops, called oast houses, can still be seen, although most have been converted to residences. Most of the farms and homesteads surrounding Cowden Village are mentioned in historical documents. (See other articles in the History section of this family page and photographs in the Cowden Village, Wickenden Homesteads and Mystery albums.)

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden





**Description:** THE OLD FORGE Located on the corner of Church and High Streets, the building that housed the forge is now a residence, but it still looks much as it did a century or more ago. In the early 1900 s it was run by G. E. Hadlow, R.S.S., farrier and general smith. The Forge provided repairs to agricultural machinery and stationary engines, ornamental ironwork, hot shoeing at your stables, and electrical, heating and domestic installations. A bicycle shop was located next door (See the Village Appraisal and the "Then" photo in the Cowden album for more details.)

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden

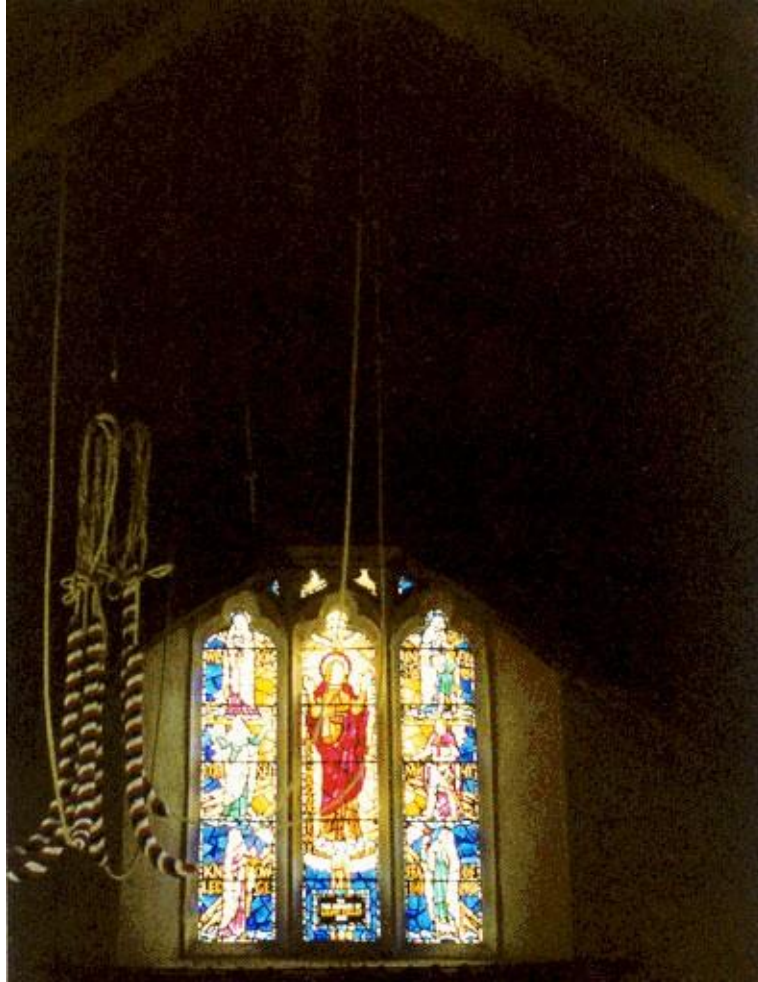


**Description:** BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, WHEELWRIGHT & UNDERTAKER In the early 1900 s, Frederick E. Williams and then H. F. Turner ran a multi-purpose business at 1 & 4 The Square (at the corner of Church and High Streets).

Date Taken: c. 1900

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Cowden Village Appraisal Committee



Description: BELFRY WITH BELL ROPES

There are six bells in the Belfry of St. Mary Magdalene. The bells were declared unsafe to be rung, due to the condition of the timbers of the bell tower, which were infested by deathwatch beetles. The belfry has since been retimbered and the bells have been returned and rehung in time to ring in the new Millennium. The Parish is in need of contributions to pay off loans needed for the restoration.

According to the Parish Pamphlet (pp. 16-19) the present peal of six bells is constituted as follows:

No. 1 Treble. Diameter 26 ins. Weight 3 cwt. 3 qur. 14 lbs. Inscribed Cast by John Warner and Sons, London, 1911. In Memoriam Edward VII Anno Domini MCMXL.

No. 2 Diameter 27 ½ ins. Weight 4 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs. Inscribed Recast by John Warner and Sons, London, 1911.

No. 3 Diameter 28 ins. Approximate weight 4 cwts. 3 qrs. Inscribed Thos. Mears of London fecit 1791.

No. 4 Diameter 30 ½ ins. Approximate weight 5 cwts. 2 qrs. Inscribed Johannes est nomen ejus. Thd old No. 3 circa 1400, ... turned before 1910, 1/8 turned when rehung.

No. 5 Diameter 32 ½ ins. Approximate weight 6 cwts. 2 qrs. Inscribed Anno dm 1584. The old No. 4 1/8 turned when rehung.

No. 6 Tenor. Diameter 36 % ins. Weight 8 cwt. 2 qrs. Inscribed Recast by John Warner and Sons, London, 1911.

Date Taken: October 2000

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent





**Description:** FAR JILL, THE TENOR BELL

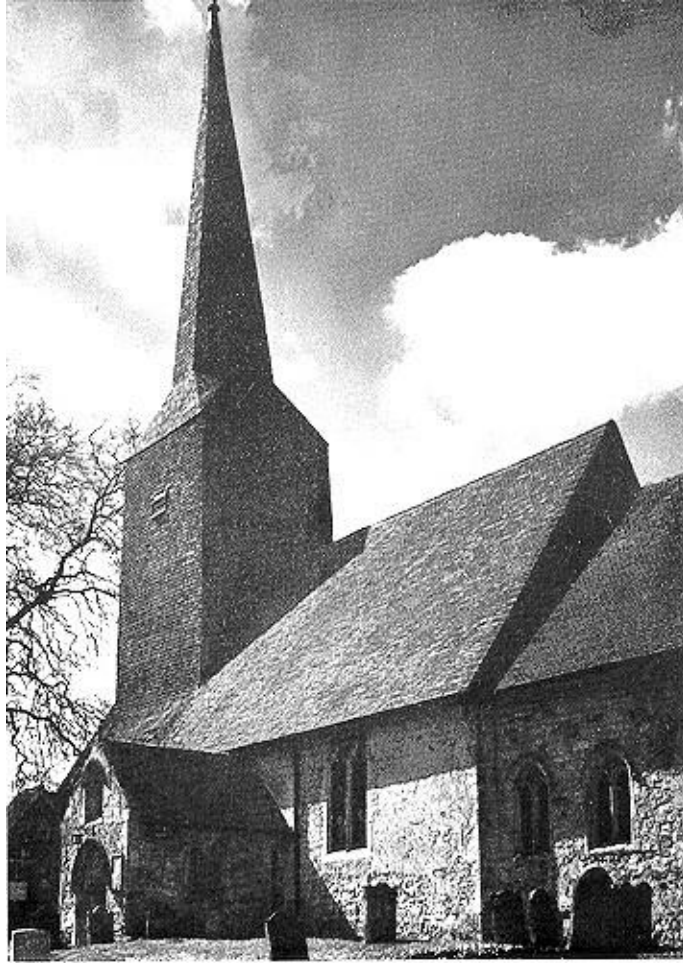
This picture is of Far Jill, the large tenor bell. The identity of the two women is not known, except that one may be Mrs. Dione Corbett, the churchwarden and Bells Person. To celebrate during the Millennium year the birth of Christ 2000 years before and to continue to do so, it became the ambition of the parishioners in 1996 to lower the bells in order to restore traditional full-circle ringing. For this the structure of the tower had to be sound. This was found not to be the case. A lot of work was done to repair it and to reshingle the spire at a cost of 227,000 lbs. Gifts and loans allowed the work to be completed, but some 22,765 pounds remain to be repaid.

The Wickendens might wish to consider contributing as a group to help defray the cost of rehangng the bells, in remembrance of the significance of the Church and the parishoners in the life of the first Wickendens.

Date Taken: Unknown

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Dione Corbett



## ST. MARY MAGDALENE

COWDEN

### **Description:** ST MARY MAGDALENE

This picture is from the cover of St. Mary Magdalen, Cowden, a pamphlet on the parish church. This pamphlet is available in the Church itself. The pamphlet covers the Fabric, the Furniture and Glass, Plate, Bible and Registers, Bells and Clock, Churchyard and Rectors and Patrons of the church.

In the Textus Roffensis, the record of Rochester Cathedral under Bishop Ernulf, 1115-25, the church of Cudena is registered as paying a fee of 9 denarii (pence) for chrism, olive oil mixed with balm, blessed by the Bishop on Maundy Thursday and used in the baptism of heathen children.

The Summary of the history of St. Mary Magdalene in the parish pamphlet reads as follows:

First record of church, early 12th century. S. E. quoin of nave possibly Norman; but oldest parts of walls probably 13th century. Inner arch of W. window, lancets in base of tower, circular window in W. gable, Early English, c.

1300. Chancel roof (rare moulded woodwork with bosses), slightly later nave roof (unusual double wall-plate), timber-framed tower (notably early), spire, first quarter 14th century; unique use of shingling on W. part of roof. Pair of windows in sanctuary, piscinae in chancel, S. window in nave, W. doorway, Decorated, first quarter 14th century. W. window, S. porch and doorway, central window in N. aisle, twin S. windows in chancel, piscina in sanctuary, Perpendicular, 15th century. N. aisle, vestry, 19th century, Glass, 19th and 20th centuries. Peal of six bells, oldest c. 1400. Clock, 1751. Font possibly mediaeval. Pulpit Jacobean, 1628. Royal Arms, 1742. Two sets of silver chalice and paten cover, 1637 and 1672. Pair of pewter flagons and dish, 1663. Parish Bible, 1617. Registers from 1566. List of rectors from early 14th century (Parish Pamphlet, p. 2).

Date Taken: unknown

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Cowden Parish



**Description:** CHURCH WALLS AND ENTRANCE

Of the first church, dating from the Norman period (1066-1189), it is questionable whether anything remains. The oldest parts of the existing church may be the walls, which date from the 13th century, the Early English period (1189-1307). Up to the last century, they were plastered outside as well as inside (Parish Pamphlet, p. 3).

There is mention of several Wickendens in the parish pamphlet, two Joan Wickendens, Richard Wiggenden the elder and Thomas Wickenden, each of which is quite interesting.

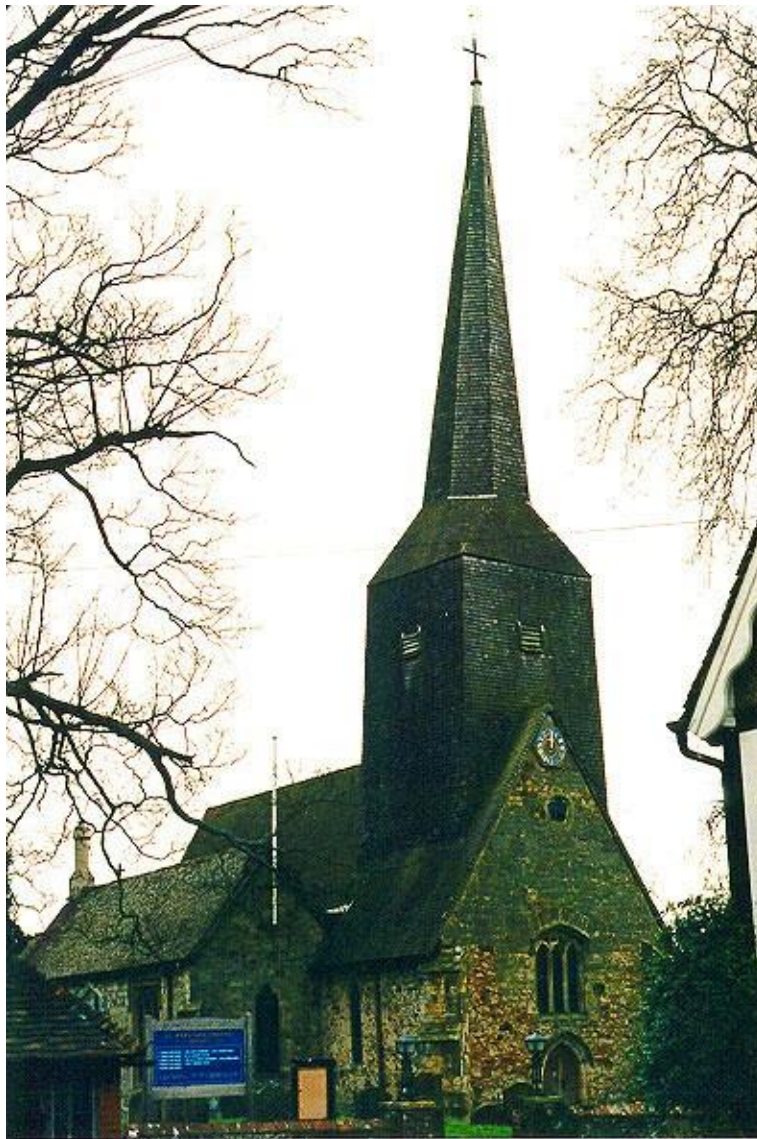
For more information see the other photographs in this COWDEN album and the article on "Cowden Village" in the History section of this family page.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II





**Description:** THE BELL TOWER AND STEEPLE

For a small church, the bell tower and steeple are notably large. The bells have been recently returned and rehung.

There is mention of several Wickendens in the parish pamphlet, two Joan Wickendens, Richard Wiggenden the elder and Thomas Wickenden, each of which is quite interesting.

In 1510, Richard Wiggenden the elder bequeathed tapers to burn before the images of some 11 saints. It is clear that the pre-Reformation church must have contained a large number of painted images before which burned candles given by parishioners such as Richard.

For additional information see the other photographs in this COWDEN album and the article on Cowden Village in the History section of this family page.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



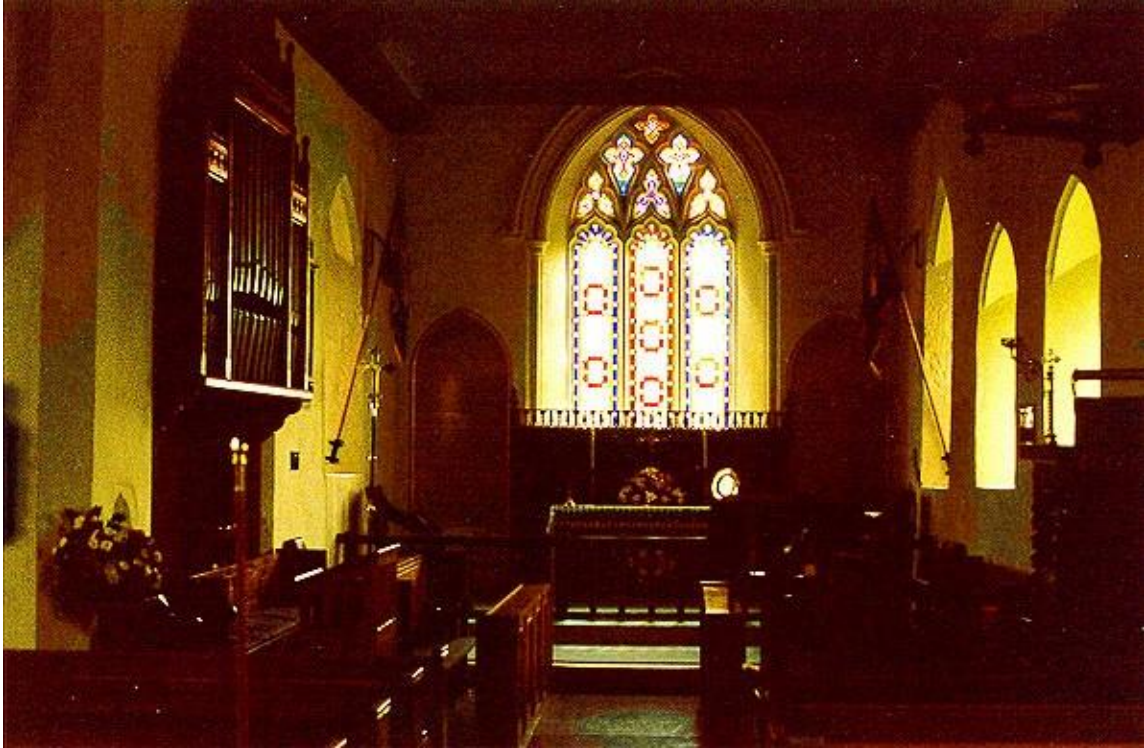
**Description:** PAINTED TABLET ABOUT JOAN WICKENDEN

In the belfry of the church hang three painted tablets. The second notes that This church was ceiled and repaired in the year 1742 with the money found in the custody of Joan Wickenden who was relieved and maintained by this Parish near 40 years. The Parish Pamphlet provides more detail from the parish records. In 1741 died Joan Wickenden. For nearly 40 years she had been maintained by the parish as a pauper; yet at her death she was found to have amassed 250 pounds. This money was appropriated by the parish and spent on the church. In 1742 the timber roofs of the chancel and nave were ceiled over with plaster and other works were carried out. In view of the funds available these could have been extensive and probably included some of all of the features subsequently referred to in the records (Parish Pamphlet, p. 6). In Ewing's History of Cowden it is recorded that a note of later date in the Registry tells us that she was burned to death, and that the sum found in her possession was said to have been 250 pounds (Ewing, p. 45).

Date Taken: October 2000

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II



**Description:** CHURCH INTERIOR

There are two other Wickendens mentioned in the parish pamphlet.

In 1524 Joan Wickynden bequeathed candles to burn before the trynyte, and to bie an imaage of Saynt Uncumber to stand in Cowden Church of Alebaster iijjs. The worship of this uncommon saint, whose proper name was Wylgeforte, is introduced only shortly before the Reformation. It is said that she was very beautiful and had many suitors; but she wished to devote her life to God and so she prayed that she might grow a beard which duly relieved her of her suitors. Wives tired of their husbands hoped she might liberate them in return for an offering of oats (Parish Pamphlet, p. 9). Joan had outlived her husband and in her will she left a number of properties and land to her three sons. It is not known whether this bequest indicates an earlier problem with her own marriage (possibly to Richard Wiggenden the elder), with those of her daughter-in-laws, or with others in the village.

A final note in the Parish Pamphlet points out that the accounts for 1787 record New Pewing the Church; the new pews were allotted in 1789, a shilling being paid to Thomas Wickenden for Wrighten the Names on the Seeats and a guinea to James Linn for painting the letters on the Pews.

Date Taken: October 2000

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II





Description: THE GRAVEYARD

The gravestones in the churchyard are mostly of soft local stone and so are much worn and their inscriptions undecipherable. The graveyard records of whom was buried where and when were lost sometime in the past.

For more information see the other photos in this COWDEN album and the article on "Cowden Village" in the History section of this family page.

Date Taken: March 1999

Place Taken: Cowden, Kent

Owner: Thomas H. Wickenden II