



Historical notes  
and Genealogical Records  
of  
NEWNHAM family Isle of Wight  
& Portsmouth.

The Newnham's of the I of W were undoubtedly of importance at one time as witness the papers anent the Island now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford and which are worth studying. They were considerably strong in shipbuilding and were really the "builders" of Cowes during it's development. They were employed by the government as to wrecks and owned many vessels. One Newnham grew rich and was one of the first to obtain permission to build on the waste land west of the castle there. His son succeeded him in the business which extended to other parts of the Island. The Lord Mayor of London 1787 was of the third generation, he was Nathaniel Newnham and much can be read of him as to his work in that city and various positions held.

The state papers give much information on the Newnham's and these papers may be consulted at the British Museum, there are also a lot in M.S. at the Bodleian, Oxford.

Worley's I of W dated 1781 says- "Manors and their possessors from the conquest down to 1781 were;- Forde; De Molandine; Beauchamps; NEWNHAM; and now (1781) Worsley of Gatcombe."

Whitwell;- FitzStur; Lisle; Bremshot; Pole.

Newnham;- Now (1781) Worsley of Appeldurcombe.

Naseley with Combley, Quarr and Newnham.

In the court book of Charles 1st, one of the eighteen judges mentioned is Thomas NEWNHAM.

White's gazetteer 1878 says- The Abbey of Quarr built on the Manor of NEWNHAM 1291 on abbey lands. No land at Quarr mentioned, whilst land at NEWNHAM heads the list of the Abbey's possessions in the Isle of Wight. The manor therefore belonged probably to the abbey since 1151, it's foundation. The site of the abbey and grange of NEWNHAM leased in 1537 for 21 years to John Mill of Southampton.

Manor of NEWNHAM in 1878 belonged to John.E.A. Fleming.

The northern part of manor of Quarr sold in 1858 to Admiral Sir. T. Cochrane; sold again in 1907 to the Benedictines community from Solesmes.

NEWNHAM farm is 17th century but added to in the 18th. Initialled dates in the brickwork over the east door refer to the family of Young the then tenants in 1774.

Hants Field Club gives;- North Stonner (North Stoneham) 15 July Edward VI (1551) "Re the bells hanging, and selling of pyxes of silver to Sir Thomas Newnham per me-- Thomas NEWNHAM & others (Churchwardens).

Re Whitwell;- The NEWNHAM'S, NEWMAN'S, or NEWNHAMS etc etc though owning large and valuable properties in the neighbourhood have not left any mementoes of their residence here. The earliest name in the burial registers is that of Elizabeth wife of Thomas NEWNHAM probably owner of Whitwell estates at that time. The earliest reference occurs in