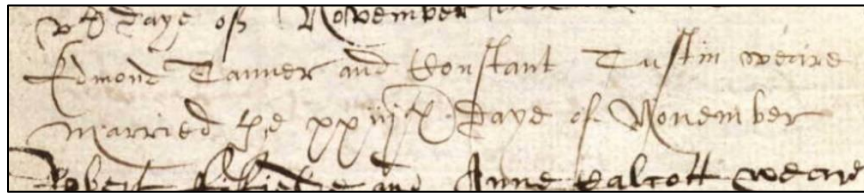


## FAMILY GROUP RECORD OF EDMOND TANNER AND CONSTANCE TUSTIN

Edmond Tanner was born in about 1560 of Cropredy. He worked as a mercer, or fabric merchant. Edmond married Isabel Lamprie 2 July 1584 in Cropredy. They had no children. Isabel died and was buried 25 August 1615 in Cropredy.

In *The Town of Cropredy*, Edmond's next marriage is discussed, "*Edmund Tanner's first wife Isabell Lamprie bore him no children over thirty-one years, then exactly three months after Isabell was buried, this mercer, now in his mid-fifties, married Constance Tustin. Edmund must have been proud of their three daughters, though one died but what joy when two sons followed. Edmund junior was born in 1622 after seven years of marriage. The length of time his wife was able to feed them increased from eleven to fourteen months and then nearly two years. In 1630 after fifteen years he died in his early seventies leaving her with five children who were soon to gain a stepfather. Sadly their mother was not long for this world.*" (*The Town of Cropredy 1570-1640*)

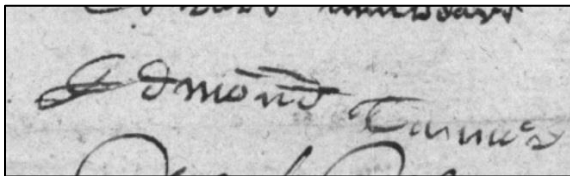
Edmond married Constance Tustin 23 November 1615 in Cropredy. She is sometimes shown as Constant. She was the daughter of Richard Tusten and Joyse Goolde of Bloxham.



*Marriage record for Edmond Tanner and Constance Tustin in Cropredy:  
"Edmond Tanner and Constant Tustin weare married the xxijth daye of November"*

Edmond was not born in Cropredy, as shown in *The Town of Cropredy*: "*Going back in inventories in the last part of the sixteenth century, one of the strangers who came into the town already able to write was Edmond Tanner, the mercer. He kept in touch with Clarsons of Horley. Edmond Tanner may never have written a will, but did witness three and acted as overseer when asked, one of whom was the widow Robins. Tanner could do "accompts" and was invaluable at inventories and was called out to at least fourteen, not only to farms around him and down Creampot, but also to craftsmen.*" *The Town of Cropredy*

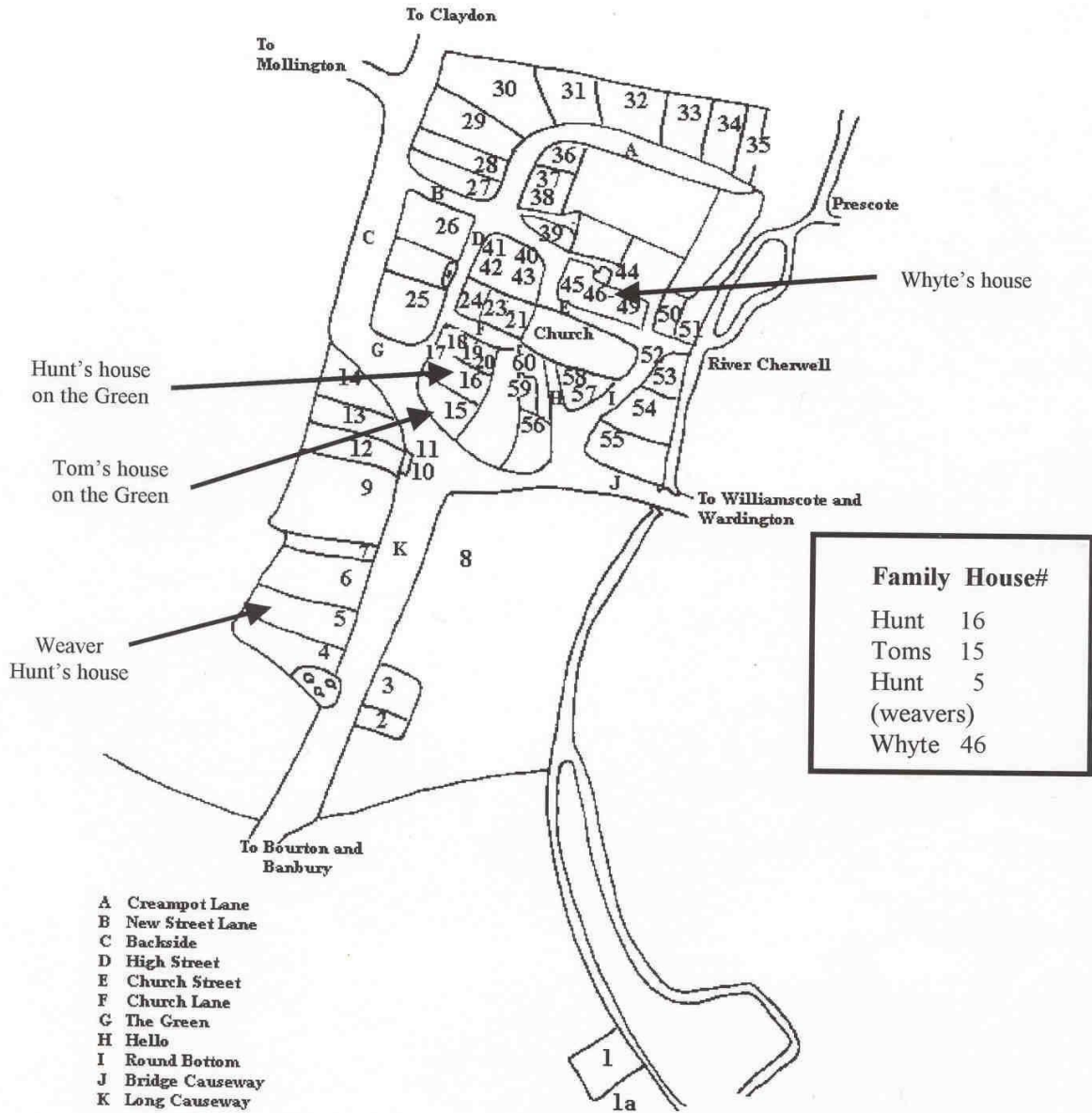
Edmond signed the inventory for the widow Anne Watts in 1622.



*Signature of Edmond Tanner of Cropredy, 1622*

The Tanners lived at #39 in Cropredy.

### The Town of Cropredy



Map taken from "The Town of Cropredy", Pamela Keegan

Edmond's house is described in *The Town of Cropredy*: "Due to the extensive alterations and the loss of part of the western end it cannot be positively stated that Tanner's was definitely a long house type, but it was still built as a smallholding and the business side of the property was taken from the barn end. If this had three bays then the mercer's shop was next to the entry and the middle bay made into the first recorded brewhouse for Cropredy, while the third bay vanished for an entrance into the yard. The property was built facing south and had more farm land belonging to it than Huxeleys or Eldersons. The plot was also taken off the same A manor demesne close.

Edmund arrived in 1584, the same year Elderson was married and ten years after the Huxeleys. Did he replace an earlier shop or was this a new business? Tanners brew house was a great advantage when the rest of the town were still using the hall, or the rarer kitchen chimney. Had they decided to brew for the smaller cottages for they had nine barrels in the buttery? One of his most important buildings was the kill [kiln] house where the barley could be malted. It would also be another means of increasing his revenues by malting barley for others." (*The Town of Cropredy*)

Edmond's career is also discussed in *The Town of Cropredy*: "It was a different kind of situation when your whole business ran on credit. Edmond Tanner who had the mercer's shop only favoured short term credit. The vicar had to advance the money against his parish clerk's next quarterly wage and also his curate Mr. Man of Mollington, to satisfy the mercer's demands. The debts due by the Tanner's "Shopp booke" in 1630 were slight compared to others "Due from severall persons for wares as appeth by the shoppbook" £1-8s-4d." (*The Town of Cropredy 1570-1640*)

"How far did the mercer's trade extend to? He bought on credit, but having to pay this off to purchase more he would not wish to extend too much to his own customers. This was confirmed by his lack of trade debts, showing he did indeed supply very little credit in his shop. He asked the vicar to pay off Mr Man's (a curate) debts and those incurred by Wam Reade the parish clerk. The Revd Thomas Holloway wrote:

"Item payde to edmond tanner for the debtes of mr man the vth of october to b[e] repayd uppō. his wages at saynt Thomas day xs."

"Item payd to wam Reade for his debts the 3 of october wch he must repay me at saynt Thomas day next \_\_\_\_\_ vs."

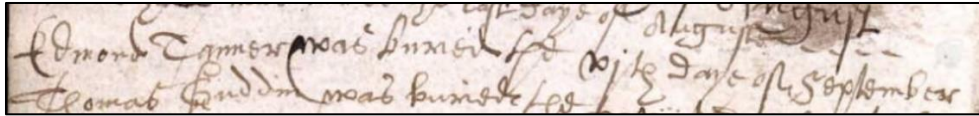
The debts due in Tanners shop book in 1630 were slight compared to others. "Due from severall persons for wares as appeth by the shoppe book" £1-8s-4d. Edmund died with £23 of ready money in his purse which was not a high amount in the 1630's. It was natural for a testator who lay dangerously ill to call in his bonds to pay off the debts. Margaret King had a grocers shop, but she was not able to control the credit as carefully as Tanner had. When she died in 1683 there were £40-9s8d of desperate debts and £30 of good debts owing. This was again a period when there was an acute shortage of "good English money" and the landlord's letters complain bitterly of arrears.

The first shops often used window boards as counters. Bakers, butchers and shoemakers opened only on the days they were not selling their wares at Banbury market. Tanner had a shop door and an inside counter. Mercers were principally sellers of silk and textiles, but in Cropredy his customers may have only brought more serviceable materials. Possibly bolts of material which Watt's and Hunt's woollen looms could not supply. On his counter he sold spills, candles, starch, sopetar, pitch and all other mercery wares. The goods he had in stock were worth £9.

*Many mercers began life as licenced pedlars or roundsmen. Pedlars needed to be strong young men able to carry a heavy pack. Many would purchase their stock in London and once an area had been developed they could afford a packhorse and perhaps later a second horse. Setting up house in a town and putting up a stall at the local market showed they were prospering. They took nonperishable goods out to their customers - pins, needles and thread being essential to the housewife. In the pack were trimmings of lace, leather laces, strong leather points, and various colourful garnishes. Clothes without buttons required tapes with points and these were essential items from the labourer to the vicar, especially when a gross of braid silk buttons were worth seven shillings at a mercers shop in Banbury belonging to John Vivers [MS.Will Pec.53/5/6: 1637]. Silk for the gentlemen and holland, cambrics and lawns for the women to sew. Ribbons for the girls, gloves, stomachers and girding for the men. Jewellery in the form of bracelets and brooches. A few if they were also chapmen would add the cheaper bibles and chapbooks. The last being too low in value to be found in the inventories. Had Edmund Tanner started out as a pedlar to earn his shop? Even though he sold tapes there was still a pedlar visiting Cropredy, because Thomas Holloway mentions both Edmund and a pedlar. It is not always clear from whom Thomas made the purchase. Did the pedlar sell wholesale to Tanner; or had Tanner to go and collect goods himself? If Tanner no longer went out to customers did he employ someone like James Ladd to work as his pedlar?" (The Town of Cropredy)*

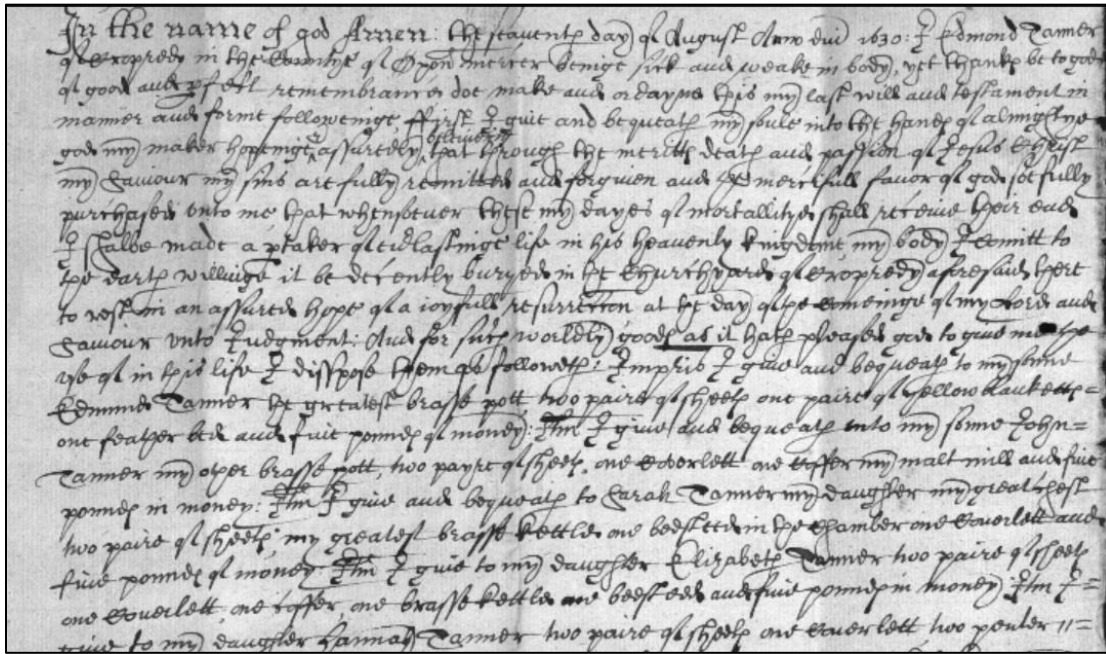
*Edward was an educated man: "Edward Tanner had received some education. He was called out to help with at least three wills, fourteen inventories and asked six times to be an overseer including once for Suttons and twice for the Robins. His first wife had no surviving children and she died after a long marriage of thirty-one years. How had they coped with this lack of children? Isabell was a Lamprey some of whom were also mercers...Edmond was in his fifties when he decided after only three months as a widower to marry Constance Tustin in November 1615. At last he was able to have children for six arrive over the next twelve years. Three daughters and two sons survived, but the Tanners like the Huxeleys and Eldersons do not remain in the town registers into the next century. Edmund Tanner left £5 to each of his five children. He had no freehold land and had apparently not entered any survivors onto the copyhold. His goods were shared amongst them. Constance would have the seven years left of the lease. These legacies were to be paid over to the overseers if his widow remarried. He expected the two boys to be bound apprentices. They could inherit at twenty-one, but the girls at eighteen or marriage. The girls had the eighteen napkins to share and all five had two pairs of sheets and a coverlet or blanket; the eldest boy having a pair of yellow blankets. The feather bed went to Edmond, and the other two beds (mattresses) to two daughters. Having then run out of mattresses, John had one coffer and the malt mill and Hannah two pewter platters and a porringer. This left the greatest brass pot and another pot to the boys, and the greatest brass kettle and two others to the girls. "My great chest" must go to the eldest daughter. As executrix the wife had the rest which included the main bedstead. John Clarson, clerk, and Edmund's brother-in-law John Goodwyn both of Horley, were appointed as overseers. They had been married for fifteen years and Edmond must have been around seventy when he died. His youngest girl was buried two years later. Constance remained a widow for four years and then married Nehemiah Gardner who was only twenty-nine years old. Their marriage lasted for two years then Constance died leaving the children aged eleven, fourteen, sixteen, and twenty. Nehemiah lived on and married again, a marriage which lasted for thirty years and produced Samuel in 1645." (The Town of Cropredy)*

Edmond died and was buried 6 September 1630 in Cropredy.



Burial record for Edmond Tanner in Cropredy: "Edmond Tanner was buried the vith daye of September"

He left a will dated 7 August 1630:



Will of Edmond Tanner, 1630

In the name of God Amen: the seaventh day of August Anno Die 1630: I **Edmond Tanner of Cropredy** in the Countye of Oxon, mercer, beinge sick and weake in body, yet thanks be to God, of good and pfect remembrance doe make and ordayne this my last will and testament in manner and forme following, ffirst I give and bequeath my soule into the hands of Almightye God my maker hopeinge assuredly, believing that through the meritts, death and passion of Jesus Christ my Saviour my sins are fully remitted and forgiven and the mercifull favor of God soe fully purchased unto me that whensoever these my days of mortality shall receive their out I shalbe made a ptaker of everlasting life in his heavenly kingdom my body I commit to the earth willing it be decently buryed in the churchyard of Cropredy aforesaid there to rest in an assured hope of a joyfull resurrection at the day at the comeinge of my Lord and Saviour unto judgment: And for such worldly goods as it has pleased God to give me the use of in this life I dispose them as following: Impris, I give and bequeath to **my sonne Edmund Tanner** the greatest brasse pott, two paire of sheets, one paire of yellow blankets, one feather bed and five pounds of money. Item I give and bequeath unto **my sonne John Tanner** my other brasse pott, two payre of sheets, one coverlet and coffer, my malt mill and five pounds in money. Item I give and bequeath to **Sarah Tanner my daughter** my greatest two paire of sheets, my greatest brasse kettle and bedsted in the chamber, one coverlet and five pounds of money. Item I give to **my daughter Elizabeth Tanner** two paire of sheets, one coverlet, one coffer, one brasse kettle, one bedsted and five pounds in money. Item I give to **my daughter Hannah Tanner** two paire of sheets, one coverlet, two pewter platters, one porringer, one brasse kettle and five

pounds in money. Item I give to my said daughters one dozen and a half of napkin to be equally divided amongst them. And my will is that all the legacies herein above given and bequeathed unto my said five children shalbe paid them in manner followeing, (that is to say) to my two sonnes when they shall accomplish the age of one and twenty yeares be bound to prentice or be married which shall first happen, and to my daughters when they shall accomplish the age of eighteen yeares or be married which shall first happen. But if it happen that **Constance my nowe wife** doe marry agayne then my will and meaning is that all the legacies herein before given to my said children shalbe paid by my executors hereafter named unto the overseers at this my last & testament within three monethes next after next after my said wife shalbe married and to be by my said overseers putt forth and imployed to the best use, benefit and profit they can for the good of my said children until they shall accomplish the severall ages aforesaid, be bounde to prentices or be married which shall first happen. And if any of my said children happen to dye before his her or their portens be paid them then my will is that his her or their persons soe dyinge shalbe equally divided amongst them which shalbe then liveinge. All the rest of my goods, cattles and chattles unbequeathed, my debts and legacy Expenses discharged I give and bequeath to **Constance my nowe wife** whom I make and ordayne sole executrix of this my last will and testament truly and honestly to pforme the same and for the better pformance thereof I will and desire John Clarson of Horley, clarke and **my brother in lawe John Goodwyn of Horton** aforesaid to be the the overseers of this my last will and testament to see it honestly and truly pformed according to my true will and meaning herein sett downe & declared. And I doe hereby revoke all former wills by me made. In witness whereof I have to this my last will & testament sett my hand and seale the day and year first above

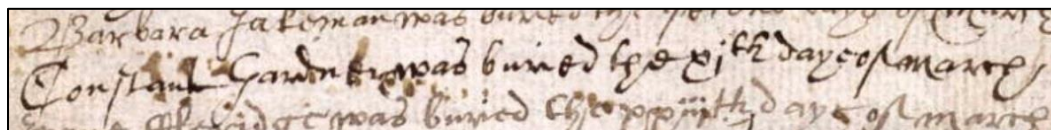
*Edmond Tanner*

*Sealed, subscribed and published in the presence of us: Robert Robbines, Charles Hall*

Edmond's death left his widow with five children to care for, from age two to age fourteen. Edmond and Constance's youngest daughter Hanna died and was buried at the age of four, after her father's death.

Constance married Nehemiah Gardner four years later, on 20 April 1634 in Cropredy. Her oldest daughter Sara married just four months later at the age of 18.

Constance died and was buried just about one year later on 11 March 1635/6 in Cropredy.



*Burial record for Constance Gardner in Cropredy:  
"Constant Gardner was buried the xith daye of March"*

Edmond and Constance had the following children:

- \*1. **Sarah**, christened 8 December 1616 in Cropredy; married John Wyatt 24 August 1634.
2. **Hanna**, christened 16 August 1618 in Cropredy; may have died young.
3. **Elizabeth**, christened 20 September 1620 in Cropredy.

4. **Edmond**, christened 26 October 1622 in Cropredy.

5. **John**, christened 16 August 1625 in Cropredy; married Elizabeth Johnson 14 August 1645 in Farnborough, Warwickshire; buried 21 September 1645 in Cropredy.

6. **Hannah**, christened 8 March 1627/8 in Cropredy; buried 25 February 1631/2 in Cropredy.

*SOURCES: Cropredy parish register; The Town of Cropredy 1570-1640, Pamela Keegan.*