

## Moody Janverin - Hamble's Naval Shipbuilder

Moody Janverin was born in 1708 and baptised in Hamble Church. Nothing is known of his childhood but in 1725 he was taken on by Bursledon shipbuilder, Philemon Ewer, as a registered apprentice. In 1734 he married Martha Hardy who came from Southampton and they settled in Hamble. Here he set up as a master shipwright making a living building and repairing local craft.

Similar to other successful local shipbuilders he had other business interests such as supplying timber and treenails to Portsmouth Dockyard. At times of potential war, the naval dockyards could not build all the ships that they required so placed contracts with merchant yards such as operated by Moody Janverin. In the early 1740s Moody Janverin had the necessary capital, labour and premises to obtain such contracts.

In fact, by 1740 he had enough capital to build a large house known as Hamble House in which he lived (as have other prominent Hamble families in the following centuries until it was demolished in 1960).

Moody Janverin received a contract from the Admiralty to build 14-gun ships, the *Badger* and *Hinchinbroke*, the former he launched at Hamble and the latter at Bursledon in 1745. He next obtained a contract to build a larger 50-gun vessel the *Greenwich* but as the building sites he used at Hamble, Bursledon and Cowes were occupied, he decided to build her on Lepe beach. This shows the temporary nature of shipyards in those days as his men managed to erect a launch way, moulding lofts, saw pits, blacksmiths' shops, store houses and other facilities on an open beach and then launched the *Greenwich* by 1748.

The following year he launched another naval vessel the 28-gun *Fowey* at Lepe and completed the 44-gun *Woolwich* for the navy at Bucklers Hard, as the original builder had gone bankrupt.

With war with France imminent on the 20th May 1755 he received a contract to build the *Lively* a 20-gun ship of the Lyme Class at Hamble. She was launched at Hamble in July 1756 to have an active career with the navy during the 'Seven Years War' particularly in the Caribbean. The last ship he built for the navy was the 28-gun *Griffin*, launched at Bursledon in 1758.

Moody Janverin died in the 1760s but there is some uncertainty when as the church register records his burial as 16th February 1763 but the date on the tomb states 1766. His large rectangular box tomb is to the right of Hamble Church's door. At his death he was a successful man financially and socially, unlike a few of his fellow shipbuilders who had gone bankrupt while building for the Admiralty. It appears no son survived to continue the business after his death but he did leave a number of daughters and one of these married Edward Taylor of the Inner Temple.