

Mills Archive Trust :
– W Minchinton Collection.

Contents Listing by David Plunkett, 2010.

Britain – England (part) & Wales

Counties of Northumberland to Norfolk. – (buff file)

Listed by marked open folder contents: Copy inserted into each completed box.

Northumberland. – (buff folder – five counties below)

Correspondence with Northumberland County Record Office and others.

To the effect that there are/were no tidesmills in Northumberland - recorded in 1970's.

Durham.

Small package marked Durham – largely concerning South Shields Tide Mill.

Earliest reference thought to be 1376 and at NX 359668.

Includes two good historical maps of South Shields.

Yorkshire. –

Small package of marked Yorkshire – containing correspondence mainly with Michael Lewis at University of Hull.

This includes and an extensive series of letter to WM from ML in 1973-4.

These letters contain substantial historical tidesmill information with more to follow to the public in later years.

Three page Extract from 'A History of Grimsby by Edward Gillett, pages 19, 51-52.

Also from same source – an extract from p.324 of two maps of old Grimsby (medieval and of 1625).

Lincolnshire.

Two letters in reply to WM enquiry – to best of their knowledge – no tide mills in Lincolnshire.

Michael Lewis believes otherwise but no references in this section.

Norfolk.

Small package of correspondence with largely Norfolk Record Office and with Dorothy Owen (historian), in early 1990.

Good information and references from DO, (hand written).

Small package of extracts on Fakenham Mill and correspondence with County – result Fakenham not tidal.

Need to follow up on DO references around Norwich in my view.

Suffolk. - (buff folder)

Brief Correspondence with Suffolk Records Office in 1990. Refers to Holts book on The Mills of Medieval England.

An attempt to confirm a Walton Mill with no success but may be a smock mill.

Package of Peter Dolman, updating data, ' Still more on Tidesmills', from Suffolk Mills Group, (c.1990).

Pages 13 -16 plus Hodkinson's Map of Suffolk (c.1783).

Small package of, mixed extracts and notes, including a letter from Geoffrey Day.

Package marked Ipswich:

Copy extracts provided by Suffolk Record Office 1990. Including extensive printed notes by H.E.Wilton in 1957.

Part Orwell River map marked with Stoke & Tovell's Mills.

Hand written letter from Peter Dolman dated 1st Dec (no year). With sketch map of water feed to Stoke Mill and potted history of mill. Mill moved on rollers a little westward and then called Eastern Union Mills as a steam mill.

Also states early Stutton (*not Stratton*) Mill, on the Stour, as tidal at TM 132331.

Package marked Woodbridge: Numerous notes, letters, extracts and maps.

Title deeds and plans of mill (1691 – 1910), at Ipswich (County Hall) Record Office.

The Tide Mill Woodbridge, booklet and leaflet, 1973. Plus other leaflets and photographs.

J. Kenneth Major, published set of plans as – GB-62/001-Woodbridge Tidesmill, 1961.

Somerset and Gloucestershire. – (buff folder).

Somerset:

Small package marked Kingston Seymour: Containing letter, (Feb 1983) from Wood spring Museum, at Weston-super-Mare, with photograph and sketch of ancient framing timber recovered from the old sea wall.
Plus WM notes to above.

Extract from, 'Bristol & Avon Archaeology' No.2, pages 40 – 44. 'Discovery of a possible tide mill at Kingston Seymour' by Jane Evans.

Package marked, Portishead & Sea Mills: Containing various extracts and historical notes, largely on Portishead and Gordano

Letters from University of Bath and Somerset County Council, (Victoria History).- 1974 and 1976. And a letter from both Somerset County Librarian and County Archivist, dated 1973.

Reply letters from both Bristol Archives Office and Bath University, (1973-4), regarding 'Sea Mills'.

Gloucestershire: -buff folder.

Package marked Framilode Mill: Various letters, notes and extracts as follows.

Framilode Mill – East side of Upper Framilode Church. Belonging to Gloucester Abbey from 1126. Two mills prior to 1556. Corn and iron-slitting mills by mid 1700's. On an island at mouth of the Frome River, which was empty waste in 1841. Grid ref: 751103. A steam mill survived just east of the Inn which remained in use until W.W. II.

Package marked Severn Mill: Various letters, notes and extracts as follows.

County Record Office – correspondence and extracts, including OS. 25", 1st Ed. (1880) of Severn Mill at mouth of the Westbury Brook.

Correspondence with Canon R.J. Mansfield, of Newham – c.1976 – 77 and a previous owner of site.

Extract from VCH, Vol. X, Westbury Hundred, page 95 only. South of Westbury village where the Westbury Brook flows into the Severn, recorded as Garne Mill in 1255. In the late 17th century as Garden Mill and from mid 19th C. as Severn Mill. Good references given.

This seem a positive tidal site to me but the pond outline is not known – perhaps it backed up, only in the brook

Copy of stapled copy of "Mill Sites on the Longhope – Flaxley – Westbury Streams by B.V.Cave, - (G.S.I.A.) 40 pages. Severn Mill, marked as (32) on page 20. Had a turbine drive at end of 19th C. definitely tidal operation with tides up to 20 ft. Later house converted but at spring tides often flooded the ground floor. See photo.

A very thorough survey of mills with plans, sketches and photographs.

Wales: - red folder.

Three pages of notes and Mill Listings up to 2000. And reference to Welsh Mills Group, Melin No. 16, for David Mertyn's, 'Tidal Mills on Anglesey'.

Large package marked Carew: Consisting of lots of b&w photographs, reports, letters and notes.

This package has incorporated Pembroke but some photographs not titled and some letters contain both.

Includes a wealth of information mainly centred on Carew.

Package marked Pembroke: This package consisting of b&w photographs, extracts and notes- some transferred from Carew above when not of mixed content.

Small package marked – Port Dinorwic:

Two letters from County Archivist at Caernarvon (1973) with extract from Vaenol Estate map of 1777.

Mill marked as Melin Heli

Two letters from Flint County Council – stating no information on any tidemills.

Anglesey package largely of correspondence with various people and of extracts by Lucy Williams.

Includes a letter extract by Stephen Buckland about a 'Tide Mill at Conway' - .from a published history of Aberconwy, Denbigh of 1835.

Anglesey and Holyhead package, with further extracts from Lucy Williams with typed notes on sites by WM.

It would seem to me that WM had not visited the Holyhead area, or he would have been able to explain better the mill sites information provided.

North West England. – buff folder.

Cheshire:

First page listing as: Bidston, Birkenhead, Bromborough, Shotwick and Ellesmere Port.

Extracts taken from 'Old Flour Mills of the Wirral', in Historical Society of Lanc's & Cheshire, Transactions – Vol.55-56, 1903 – 04.

Extract from: 'Water Powered Corn Mills', (undated) – pages 39 & 62 & 69.

Has a chapter on 'Tide Mills' – including the 'famous iron slitting mills at Wallasey'.

Package of various letters, notes and extracts – most of which seems to centre on Bidston on the Wallasey Pond.

It was well established by the mid-seventeenth century. The corn mill having four 18 ft diam wheels with a head of over 10 ft. Output was 250 quarters of wheat and 200 quarters of oats per week. The buildings were 36 yards long and four storeys high. The slitting mill was worked by the same pool by two 18 ft diam wheels. It had rolling mills, two furnaces and capacity of 18 tons per week. Also the rasping of logs for dyeing trade and for cutting of tobacco stems into Spanish. Ceased working and pulled down in early 1800's.

Package marked Bromborough: Letters and extracts – the important item being.

'Bromorough Water Mill', by G.E. Connah, printed in 21st Annual Report of Bromborough Society, 1953 – 54., 8 pages, complete with detail map.

May be a Domesday site but certainly in existence by 1313 up to 1940

Single page extract marked Shotwick Mill – just north of Shotwick Castle. – one of the finest dams on the peninsula.

May be, part of original Castle defences?

Single page extract marked Stanney Mill. – two miles SW of Ellesmere Port. – just north of Little Stanney village.

Lancashire:

Package of letters and correspondence with some extracts. Many letters reply in negative to any tide mills.

Single package marked Aldingham. As extract from Cumberland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society, transactions, Vol. XXI, p.92 –

The Cowpers of Aldingham by H.S. Cowper. Quotes from – Exchequer Bill, Lancaster, 26 Eliz, No. 43.

... 'one water corne myll called sea myll in mytchland in ffurness to your orator Will'm Curwen . . .'

Package marked Freckleton: extensive correspondence and varied extracts as follows.

'Freckleton Corn Mill by R. Walker, pages 94 – 109. In Trans. Historic Society of Lancashire & Cheshire, Vol.96. 1942.

Ashmore, IA of Lanc. (Dec. 1969) – Two small extracts only.

Also single page extract from 'Appendices to the History of Freckleton. Freckleton Water Mill', from 'A short History of Freckleton, Lancashire'. Building dates of 1427 and 1615-16 mentioned.

Other extracts with old b&w photographs.

This mill site may go back to 1199.

Package marked Liverpool: Various letters, notes and extracts of this rather late mill of short duration.

Letter and extract of early 19th century map of Mill & reservoir's, from Lancashire Records Office.

Extract from The Miller, June 5. 1899 – Jackson's Tide Mill in township of Harrington.

See also Bennet & Elton 'History of Corn Milling, 1899, Vol. II, pages 220-222.

Also – extract from J.A. Picton, 'Memorials of Liverpool, Vol. II, Topographical, 1873. Pages 462-463 & 541-542.

Isle of Man:

Correspondence with The Manx Museum (1976-77) and with David Jones, on Dog Mill or Seaview Mill and the Castle Rushen tide mill which has a 15th century reference.

Also extract from IA of the Isle of Man, of part p.154 and 191 only. Mention of Castle Rushen and Town Mills, Castletown.

Not very clear proof of evidence so far here?

Cumberland:

Single header sheet with five tide mills listed only: -

Anthorn Mill, Dubmill, Holmes Mill, Newbiggin Sea Mill & St Bee's..

Package of six letter replies to WM enquiries in this county (Westmorland and Cumberland):.

Most say no tide mills known.

Mike Daviies-Shiel only gives two – a) St Bee's and b) Newbiggin.

Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, quote Dub Mill near Allonby; Anthorn Mill and Holmes Mill – may have been tidal!

The only other data found is in historical extracts (journals and newspapers etc) on St Bee's – copies enclosed.

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