

## Notes on Quorn Mills

A steam powered flour mill was built beside the River Lin about 100 yards above its confluence with the River Soar but was demolished to make way for the construction of Wrights Elasticated webbing mill in the 1870s. Although this later mill straddles the River Lin, it appears unlikely that the River Lin was ever used as a source of power in this location. The original water driven Corn mill in Quorn was located a half mile upstream of the confluence with the River Soar. This mill dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and ceased



working in 1894 when Swithland Reservoir<sup>1</sup> further upstream intercepted the water. However, the water would have also been severely reduced when Cropston or Bradgate Reservoir was impounded in 1871. The mill house still stands although there is no machinery, sluice or weir in existence any longer. There used to be an old millstone being used as a garden ornament and two bridges over the overflow sluices still exist.

First mention of a mill is given in 1281 when Hugh le Despenser granted to Robert Farnham for life, a water mill in Quorndon, called 'le Middlemulne'. The bailiff's account for the Beaumanor<sup>2</sup> estate show the Quorndon mill still working in 1406 but there were signs of gathering depression and the willows<sup>3</sup> from the mill lacked a market. By 1413, the mill was in decay. In 1531, Robert Farnham ordered repairs to the mill at Quorndon.

Between 1621 and 1651, Thomas Farnham was at law with the Earl of Huntingdon, Lord of the Manor of Loughborough, for sending carts into Loughborough and fetching corn to be ground at his mill at Quorndon. The verdict was in favour of the Earl.

In 1693 an indenture refers to a mill situated in Carr Close near Over Hall (now Quorn House). I can't find any reference to Carr Close but Quorn House is located a few hundred yards downstream of the present mill house. It seems likely that this has always been



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<sup>1</sup> Swithland Reservoir itself flooded Swithland Mill.

<sup>2</sup> Beaumanor was owned by the Hericke family and not the Farnhams so I am unsure why there is a connection

<sup>3</sup> What reference to willows means, I don't know.

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the location of the Corn Mill in Quorndon. I also note that coins from both the Roman period and the time of Elizabeth 1 have been found near this mill. In 1725 there is reference to a mill on Buddon Brooke but this is just another name for the River Lin as it passes Buddon Hill.

There are recent records of two millers at Quorn:

Richard Hives born at Ashfordby in about 1841 was the miller in 1832, 1841 and 1851. In 1861, he was living elsewhere in Quorn and calling himself a farmer (of 16

acres). Richard Hives died in 1884. There is no record of a miller at Quorn in 1861 and there were two women living at the mill one of whom was called Mary Earp.

John Baldock Camm born in Quorn in about 1843 was the miller in 1871, 1881 and 1891 and also a farmer of 39 acres. However, it is noted that in 1874, the Mill was up for sale with the owner being Mr Earp (Corn Merchant).

There is also reference to a Mr William Sarson of Quorn Mill in 1853 and although he lived at 57 Wood Street, the Mill was Number 58. His father Thomas was a farmer with some 250 acres.

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