

I lived at Cot Mill (the miller's cottage) from 1956 to 1967 and it was my father, Roy Hooley, who then owned the whole property (upper and lower Bosavern Mills, and the miller's cottage), and who donated the machinery seen here [in EMGC-04-18-08] to Helston Museum.

I can confirm that this (wooden) machinery is from Lower Bosavern Mill, which even then was said to be ~400 years old.

Here [attached] are a couple of pictures of Roy Hooley (right) in ~1957 with someone from the Museum (I understand). I photographed the photos when visiting the lower mill ~10 years ago – they were hanging on the wall in a bathroom!





By contrast, Upper Bosavern Mill (which was situated above Lower Bosavern Mill, on Cot Valley's south side, was then said to be maybe "only" ~200 years old, and it had metal machinery – quite distinct from this seen here in the photo. I understand the gear teeth were made of apple-wood – something to do with being somewhat self-lubricating I think, though I was only ~9 years old in 1959!

The external water wheel was missing on the lower mill when we arrived in late 1956.

The upper mill however, had a huge cast iron wheel with wooden slats making up the buckets. This and the metal machinery within, were dismantled and I believe sold for scrap. Several of the original mill-stones are still to be found around the outside of the mills and can be seen from the public footpath that runs across the valley next to the mills, from St Just to (eventually) Sennen Cove, via Nanquidno.