

## Burton Mill.

There is a good possibility that there was once also a windmill at Burton, although this can not be proved.<sup>1</sup>

The existence of a watermill at Burton is not in doubt; it still exists:<sup>2</sup>



*Burton Mill circa 1976*

This is the mill dealt with in this Paper. If discussion of whether a reference is to a watermill or to a windmill is appropriate, such discussion will be included in the windmill Paper. In short it can be said that I am assuming that all references are to Burton (water) Mill unless otherwise clearly evident.

The earliest reference I have come across<sup>3</sup> to a mill at Burton is:

*Court of Burton Great and little, held the same day Tuesday next after the Feast of St. Matthew. Year 38.*

*.....Presented that Richd: Fraunce takes up the Lady's mill.....<sup>4</sup>*

The second court before this one and the next following it are dated by reference to the reign of Edward III. Therefore, the Feast of St Matthew being 21<sup>st</sup> September, and the 38<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Edward II being 25<sup>th</sup> January 1364 to 24<sup>th</sup> January 1365, this Court was held on the Tuesday after 21<sup>st</sup> September 1364. In 1364 21<sup>st</sup> September was a Saturday<sup>5</sup> and therefore this Court was held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 1364.

The next reference to a Mill at Burton, again in the Court Rolls, is about ten

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<sup>1</sup> See my separate Paper "Windmill at Burton".

<sup>2</sup> It was recently expertly described in : James D. "Lower Burton Eardisland Herefordshire. An Investigation of Eight Buildings within the Settlement." For Eardisland Oral History Group. June 2008.

<sup>3</sup> I have made no specific effort to research Burton Mill. References have accumulated in the course of other research.

<sup>4</sup> HRO CF58/-.

<sup>5</sup> [www.datearchive.com](http://www.datearchive.com)

years later, on which occasion the dating information is incomplete in the transcript. All that could be interpreted was that the regnal date was 49 Edward III [1375-1376]<sup>6</sup>. At that Court the jury presented that:

*Walter the Miller ground two quarters of corn belonging to William le Bacor of Welbeleye and did not put the toll, viz. 2 "colhopes" worth 8d. into the chest, but withdrew them. Therefore he is amerced 8d. Surety: Hugh son of Simon Schepehurd.*<sup>7</sup>

Another transcript of this part of the Court Rolls, also prepared for Mrs E.E.Clowes<sup>8</sup> covers the same circumstances but in a much shorter wording. A further variation is that it is preceded by another short passage relating to a mill, which was not included in the extract which I have just quoted.

This other transcript records:

*Walter Miller is at law against the Lady of Morton [sic] for not having removed a vat from the mill. Pledge Hugh de Middle. Jurors present that Walter Miller ground 2 quarters of corn for Willm: le Bacot of Welbekege and cannot continue the toll etc. pledge Hugh son of Simon Schepherd...*

The next reference comes in 21 Henry VI [1442-1443] "John Mollesley paid 40/- rental for the Mill"<sup>9</sup> .....and then on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 15 Henry 7 (1500 a.d.) a 'Recognition of the Tenants' recorded that Hugh Crosse held<sup>10</sup> a mill and 6 acres in Burton paying 27s/2d<sup>11</sup>.

Further mentions are found in 1513, when "Humphrey Cotes...settled on his son John.....and Eleanor his wife the manor of Burton with its Mill"<sup>12</sup>; 1527, when "John Blount of Bytterley, esquire, and Humphrey Cotes of Sheffeld were seised of the manor of Burton, and of one water mill"<sup>13</sup>; and in 1626 the wording is "...the manor of Burton in Co. Hereford, with one water-mill..."<sup>14</sup>.

Then in 1711..."Fra: Stephens" served as Overseer and Churchwarden for the parish of Eardisland..."for the House next unto Burtons Mill".<sup>15</sup>

A Glebe Terrier of circa 1730-1750 provides an interesting comparison of the value to the Vicar of the operations of the mills in the parish: "Item there has been accustomed to be paid to the said vicar for mills at or about Easter annually as follows viz: for Burtons Mill now in the possession of Mr Lamb 2s 8d for Mr Doyes Mill 6s 8d for Mr Dolphins Mill 3s 4d his now mill uncompounded for."<sup>16</sup>

Other than the Tithe Map schedule, which I have already mentioned herein, all my remaining information is the names of the millers at Burton at various dates.

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<sup>6</sup> HRO CF58/-.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. Surely if he withdrew 8d. from the chest rather than putting in 8d., he should have been fined 8d. twice = 1s 4d, to put things straight; before any penalty for the misdemeanour?

<sup>8</sup> Also at HRO CF58/-. [Transcripts page number 56].

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. [Transcripts, pages 185/186].

<sup>10</sup> Customary tenure.

<sup>11</sup> HRO CF/58/-.

<sup>12</sup> Duncumb Mss. Circa 1804.

<sup>13</sup> Inquisition Post Mortem John Cotes via HRO CF58/-.

<sup>14</sup> Inquisition Post Mortem John Cotes via HRO CF58/-.

<sup>15</sup> HRO AJ32/58.

<sup>16</sup> HRO HD2/3/13.

For the sake of completeness I will list these, placing the source of my information in [.....], after each name:

- 1830 c. 1830 William Bennett. [HRO AJ32/110].
- 1858 William Parry.[Portrait of a Village page 15].
- 1865 Edward Edwards. [Portrait of a Village page 15].
- 1876 George Went. [Portrait of a Village page 15].
- 1881 The George family.[1881 Census].
- 1895 James Russell. [Kelly's Directory, 1895].
- 1900 "From 1900 until the mill ceased operations in the early 1940s, there were only four millers; George Symmonds, William Price, Edward Harris, and the last was Mr Hatton,..." [Portrait of a Village p.15].
- 1910 "He [William Price] also appears to have been the miller at Burton Mill between about 1910-30." [Portrait of a Village page 49].
- 1956 "...Wilfrid, [Symonds] who lives at Burton Mill;" [WI Book p.31].

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