

Burton Mill.

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

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



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 across³ 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.....⁴

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 21st September, and the 38th year of the reign of Edward II being 25th January 1364 to 24th January 1365, this Court was held on the Tuesday after 21st September 1364. In 1364 21st September was a Saturday⁵ and therefore this Court was held on Tuesday 24th September 1364.

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

¹ See my separate Paper "Windmill at Burton".

² 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.

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

⁴ HRO CF58/-.

⁵ 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]⁶. 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.*⁷

Another transcript of this part of the Court Rolls, also prepared for Mrs E.E.Clowes⁸ 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"⁹and then on February 6th, 15 Henry 7 (1500 a.d.) a 'Recognition of the Tenants' recorded that Hugh Crosse held¹⁰ a mill and 6 acres in Burton paying 27s/2d¹¹.

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"¹²; 1527, when "John Blount of Bytterley, esquire, and Humphrey Cotes of Sheffeld were seised of the manor of Burton, and of one water mill"¹³; and in 1626 the wording is "...the manor of Burton in Co. Hereford, with one water-mill..."¹⁴.

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

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."¹⁶

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.

⁶ HRO CF58/-.

⁷ 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?

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

⁹ Ibid. [Transcripts, pages 185/186].

¹⁰ Customary tenure.

¹¹ HRO CF/58/-.

¹² Duncumb Mss. Circa 1804.

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

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

¹⁵ HRO AJ32/58.

¹⁶ 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].

.....*FINIS*.....