

MILLING PLANT

It seems of possible interest to give three documents which happen to record the movable "utensils" belonging to a windmill and watermill respectively, in the early seventeenth and middle eighteenth centuries.

The first is at Doddershall (printed here by kind permission of Lady Pigott-Brown), and is a lease from the widow of Sir Christopher Pigott, who had died a year before it was granted, of a windmill at Grendon Underwood. A windmill at this place was mentioned in 1234,¹ and it is referred to again as late as 1735,² but none is shown either on Jefferys's or Bryant's maps.

Although the mill has unfortunately disappeared, its site is not in doubt; there is a ridge of land north-east of the Church, the northern end of which is called Spring Hill and the southern end Mill Hill. The Ordnance map marks it as 317 feet above sea level, or nearly 100 feet above the road near to the Church.

The lease was granted in 1614 to run for 81 years at a rental of £7 a year, but it must have been surrendered because the Grendon rent-roll of 1678 shows that the tenant of the mill at that time was William Wallis, and that he paid £9 a year; he was still in occupation in 1695, but no later mention of Grendon Mill has yet been found in the Doddershall papers. The lease is defective in places, but luckily in the parts devoted to legal verbiage; the very interesting conditions and obligations are for the most part legible and are given below, and the endorsement is also perfect. The description of the mill site is quite a vivid piece of writing; one can almost see the small farmer tie up his horse, laden with a sack of corn.

This Indenture made the sixte day of November
in the yeres of the raigne of our soveraigne Lorde

¹ *Victoria County History*, vol. iv., p. 53, citing the Close Rolls.

² *Ibid.* quoting the Recovery Rolls.

James, kinge of Englande &c. the twelveth, and of Scotland the fortyeth, Betweene Dorothee, Ladye Pigott, wyddow (late wyfe of S^r Christopher Pygott &c.) of the one partye, and Justinian Heynes, of Edgcott, myller, of the other partye, Wytnesseth that the sayd Dorothee, Ladye Pigott, by theis presents doeth demyse, sett, and to farme lett unto the sayd Justinian wyndmill with th'appertennances scituate, standinge, and beinge in the parrish of Grendon Underwoode comonlie called Grendon Wyndmill And that Cyrcuyte of ground whereon the sayd myll standeth and ys turned, And all usuall and accustomed wayes and passages to and from the sayd myll for all sutors and customers thither cominge or resortinge on horsebacke or on foote And suche Libertye as well to laye, hew, sawe, and frame any woode or tymber for the use of the sayd myll upon the lyttle plott of ground which lyeth westwards from the sayd myll and adioyneth to the mill mount or bancke, as also to tye horses (to stand onelye and not feede) at the postes syde of the sayd myll mounte or bancke without danger of the sayles, as the tennants or occupyers usuallie heretofore had or taken, To have and to holde &c. &c. untill the ende and terme of fower score yeres and one now nexte ensuinge payinge therefore yerelye seaven poundes the seconde daye of februarye, the firste daye of Maye, the first day of [August and November] by equall portions, that is to saye xxxv^s at everye of the sayd dayes without anye longer delaye.

[There follows a long passage for the payment of rent due if "Dorothee Ladye Pigott happinge to dye within the sayd terme of fower score yeres and one;" in this not improbable event the rent accrued since last quarter-day should be paid to "S^r Richard Ingoldesbye, knight, at his mansion house scituate in Lentborowe" by "weekelye apportionments unto ii^s viij^d q, a weeke, or there

aboute." Then follow the tenant's obligations, he shall:]

well and sufficientlie repayre, uphold, maynetayne, and keepe the sayd wyndmyll, and the house and frame thereof, the mylstones, cog whele, spindle, cogge, goinge geares, brasses, gudgin shaft, and hoopes, all tymber worke thereof, the sayles, sayle cloathes, and all and everie thinge and thinges else whatsoever to the sayd myll belonginge, fittinge, or in anie wyse appertayninge, in and with all manner of reparacions, supplementes, and amende-mentes necessarie when and as often as neede shall require.

The remainder of the document is in the usual formal phraseology. The endorsements are two:

Memorandum that the within named Dorothee Ladye Pigott at the sealyng and deliverye of theis presents doeth gyve and alow unto the sayd Justinian Heynes everie yere duryng her lyfe out of her woodes of Grendon Underwoode one indifferente loade of bushes to be drawen with a cart and fower horses, And doeth grante that the tennants of Grendon Underwoode shall bringe to the said myll all tymber which the said Justinian shall provide for the reparaçon thereof soe farre forth as oute of their loves toward her they woulde, or of duetye ought to have done for shee her selfe yf shee had kept the sayd myll in her owne handes [?still] and not letten yt to anye bodye.

A bill of the utencels or necessarie ymplements now in the mill

Imprimis an Iron scroe

A boxing chissell

A hachet

A sledge hammer

Sixteene mylbilles

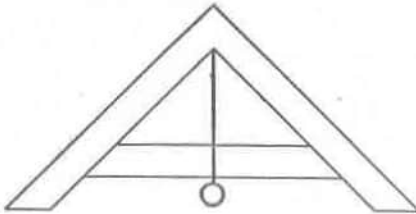
A gable³
 A sacke roape
 An ould tub
 A troufe
 A bushell
 A toule dyshe

This inventory is signed "Justinian Henes," on the lease itself he signs "Heines," and the spelling in the document is generally, but not always, Heynes.

Our later mill is a water-mill at Amersham, and being called the "Lower Mill" is presumably that at the east end of the town, Bury End; on Bryant's map of 1825 this is marked as a Silk mill. The documents which follow both relate to the same mill and are at Shardeloes; they are here printed by kind permission of Capt. T. Tyrwhitt-Drake.

AN ACCOUNT of Severall Working Utensils, Goods and Chattels, of Robert Eeles the younger, that is to say, Three Pair of Stones with the feeding rings, Spindels and Brasses and Iron Boxes that the Brasses go into, Three Flower mills with Ropes to drive them, Sack Tackle, Ropes, and all the Iron Work belonging to it, And all the Gudgeons and Brasses and Iron hoops that belong to the Dressing Gears, two Pair of Scales, and all the Weights in the Mill, two iron Crows, two pair of French stones and one Pair of Cullins, half the Boards which make the Flower Binn next the House, and the other half Mr. Drake found, two

³ This was the triangle of wood, with plumb-bob hanging from the apex, which preceded spirit-levels, and was necessary to ensure the level of the stones. The aptness of the name (precisely that for its architectural use), will be seen from the following sketch kindly given, through Mr. Wailes, by Mr. Thompson, of Alford:



screens, three hand carts to drive the wheat and flower about the Mill. Whereas I do hereby acknowledge that the severall Working Utensils, Goods and Chattels above mentioned, and which are standing, lying and being in or about the Mill called the Lower Mill in the Parish of Amersham in the County of Bucks and now in the Occupation of the said Robert Eeles the younger, are the property of him the said Robert Eeles, As witness my hand this thirty first day of October for the year of our Lord 1755.

EDWD. EDWARDS.

Witness John Bigg.

Beneath this, and in another hand-writing which is presumably that of Robert Eeles, is the following note:—

1771 The Meal Trough on that side from the House I bought since I bought a Circular Curb for the swimming weel to run in on y^e same side, cost 7^s 8^d. The Stones above mentioned is now two pare of French, one Ditto & a Cullin, having bought another French Stone and laid one of the French Stones under the Cullin.

The word "cullin" is very interesting; it is not in the *Dialect Dictionary*, but is explained⁴ as derived from Cologne, whence they were exported. None of the Amersham stones therefore seem to have been of native origin.

Then, in 1778, we have a still more elaborate inventory; in which the spelling is decidedly more orthodox according to our standard:—

⁴ by the kindness of Mr. Titley, of Four Oaks, and the courtesy of Mr. Wailes, who has also been good enough to obtain from Mr. Russell, of Cranbrook, an extract from a corn merchant's ready reckoner which gives particulars as follows:—"Rhein and Cologne, or Cullen, millstones, on board at Amsterdam.

Best	5ft. 3ins. high,	17ins. thick,	each	£16.
Middle	Do.	do.		£14."

7th August 1778

An Account of several Working utensils and other Things in or about the Water Corn Mill called the Lower Mill in the Parish of Amersham in the County of Bucks which Robert Eeles, Mealman, rents of William Drake Esq. as follows, viz^t. Two pair of French Stones with all the Brasses and Iron work belonging thereto, another pair of Stones are French & one Cullin with the Brasses and Iron work to the same belonging. Two old French stones not in use. A machine for Dressing Flour with the Spindle, Brasses, shaking Screens, Pulleys Case, Rope, Sharp Hopper Shoe and Ironwork belonging thereto. One Flour Mill, Pulleys, Brasses, Spindle, Ironwork and Rope belonging to it, A Pair of Scales and all the Weights in the Mill, Two Wheat Screens, Sack tackle, Ropes, Ironwork and Brasses belonging to each. Three Sack Carts, all the Shovels, Sieves, Brushes, Flour Cloths, Two Iron Croes, and all the Mill bills, All which working utensils and other Things above mentioned are hereby acknowledged to be the Property of the said Robert Eeles.

JOHN EVERED
for William Drake Esq.

Witness John Fipkins jun^r.