

NOTES ON HUGILL INDUSTRIES IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

by Mary Atkin, 1992

The map shows industries and trades in Hugill in the period round 1830. The main sources for this map were:-

The Kendal Corn Rent (KCR) map and schedule for Hugill. 1834. CRO/K WQR/C 7.

W. Parson and W. White (1829) A History. Directory and Gazetteer of Cumberland and Westmorland (Republished in Beckermat 1967).

Mannex and Co. (1851) History Topography and Directory of Westmorland and North Lonsdale (Republished in Beckermat, 1978)

Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" map, surveyed in 1858/9.

1. Industries on or near the River Gowan.

a. HIGH MILL/BROADGATE MILL.

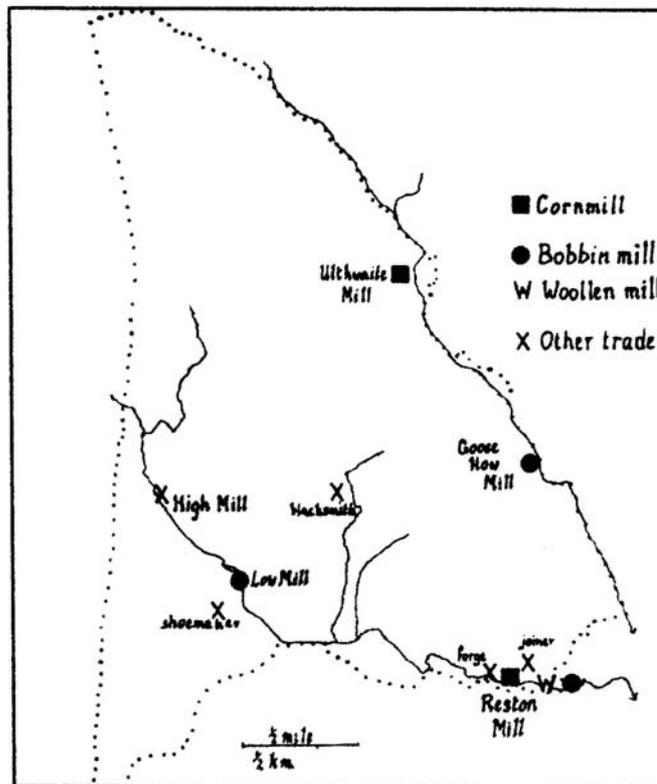
The mill is shown on the KCR map of 1834 as High Mill, but described in the schedule as Broadgate Mill, tenanted by James & William Betham (*sic*). At that time the mill was owned, along with Broadgate Farm by Daniel Weaver. There is no mention of either High Mill or Broadgate Mill in 1829 or in the later Directory of 1851, and it seems likely that it was no longer in business.

b. LOW MILL also known as INGS MILL.

This mill was marked on the KCR map as Low Mill and listed as 'Mills, Yards, etc.' in the KCR schedule as being held by William Betham (*sic*), who farmed at nearby Grass Garth. (query - the same person as in James & William Betham above?)¹. In 1829 the mill was listed under the name of Christopher Wharton, (tenant of a cottage at Ings in KCR, 1834) bobbin manufacturer at Ings Mill, and William Bethom was a farmer at Grass Garth. In 1851 the Directory lists under Ings, Christopher and Michael Bethom, bobbin makers. William Bethom was farming at 'Grasgarth'. Discounting the variable spellings of each name it seems likely that the Bethom family, owners of both Grass Garth farm and the mill, had let the mill to Christopher Wharton in the earlier period but eventually ran both enterprises. By 1851 there was also a Richard Bethom, joiner and wheelwright at Grass Garth.

c. HILL COTTAGE.

Close to the northern side of the present main road



from Staveley to Windermere is a cottage which was called Hill Cottage in 1829 and occupied by Thomas Armer, SHOEMAKER. This seems likely to be the same man as the Thomas Hamer of KCR who rented a cottage from the farmer at Hill (farm) just adjacent, and the same as Thomas Armer, boot and shoemaker (no address) of 1851. The cottage in 1829 stood on the southern side of the (very narrow) road, which can be discerned today as a low bank below the curving wall of the field next to the now-straightened and greatly widened A591.

d. RESTON MILL and (MALT) KILN.

Further east, where the road into Staveley leaves the modern Staveley by-pass, was a collection of industries closely associated with agriculture. Reston Mill, recorded as Rispeton or Respeton Mill in the Middle Ages frequently from 1274 onwards, (in W. Farrer (1923) Records of the Barony of Kendale I. 318 et al.) was marked on the KCR map as Reston Mill, and described in the schedule as 'Mill, garden etc.', owned and occupied by John Cowherd². John Coward was a yeoman farmer and corn miller of Reston in 1829, but he was not so listed in 1851 when a Robert

Jackson was ‘corn miller at Reston Mill’. (See below.)

On the opposite side of the road from Reston Mill in 1834 was a building marked on the map as Malt Kiln. It was owned by John ‘Cowherd’, but let to William Atkinson, and described as a Joiner’s shop. In 1829 William Atkinson was ‘wheelwright, kiln’. Neither Atkinson nor kiln appear in the 1851 directory although a building is still shown there on the 1858/9 OS map.

e. SEED HOWE, opposite Reston Mill, was farmed by Richard Jackson in 1829 and 1834. He was also a sickle-maker, and in 1834 is recorded as owning a Mill, Forge and Yard immediately adjacent to Reston Mill. It is tempting to speculate whether it was a member of his family, Robert Jackson, who was the corn miller at Reston Mill in 1851.

f. RAWES MILL (= HUGILL MILL?)

Richard Rawes was a woollen manufacturer at Hugill Mill in 1829, and in KCR, a Richard Rose/Rawes owned the Mill, Yard and Dam (called on the later OS map Rawes Mill). This may be a woollen mill of great antiquity, since there is a deed of 1340 which mentions a fulling mill, apparently in Hugill. (W. Farrer, *op. cit.*, 1. 323 and 324.) There is no reference to either Rawes or the mill in the 1851 Directory, but later in the century Rawes and Gatefoot mills were both part of Staveley Bobbin Co. Ltd.

g. GATEFOOT MILL(S) (which included UGATE?)

In 1829 Geo. Suart senior, and Geo. Suart, were both listed as bobbin manufacturers, the former at UGATE, the latter at GATEFOOT MILL and apparently also a fanner in Grass Garth. By 1834 (KCR) Geo. Sewart (sic) owned the ‘Mill, Yard, etc.’ at Gatefoot, and the 1851 Directory lists Gatefoot under Over Staveley as ‘Geo. Suart and Bros., Scroggs mill and Gatefoot’. By 1885 Bulmer’s Directory lists both Rawes Mill and Gatefoot Mill as part of Staveley Bobbin Co. Ltd.

h. At HUGILL HALL, on a series of tracks (pack-horse or drove routes) across the higher parts of Hugill township, John Hurdson, senior, was described in 1829 as a blacksmith, and John Hurdson, junior, as farmer. In 1834 (KCR) the name was spelt as Herdson and only one John Herdson is mentioned, and neither figure in the 1851 Directory.

2. Industries on or near the River Kent

a. ULTHWAITE MILL.

This too is an ancient mill site, mentioned in 1272 (W. Farrer (1923) *op. cit.*, 1 317.) when Richard

de Gilpin was granted ‘his manor and demesne of Ulventhwait and the vivary or water of Kent with liberty to erect a mill.’ When a later descendant, George Gilpin esq. of Kentmere Hall, died in 1617 he was said to have owned ‘a water grain mill and a fulling mill at Ulthwaite’, but only the water corn mill is mentioned ten years later. (Ibid. 1.312 & 315).

In 1829 a —? Barrow was corn miller at Ulthwaite, but in 1834 KCR records the owner as John Martindale, and the Mill was held by John Phillipson; an Ed. and Jno. Phillipson held it in 1851. The mill is not listed in Bulmer’s Directory of 1885.

b. GOOSEHOW/FELLFOOT MILL

In 1829 James Thompson was a bobbin manufacturer at Goosehow Mill, and in 1834 (KCR) he still owned the mill, but the ‘Mill and sheds’ were let to J. Wood and Jno. Atkinson. It was marked on the KCR map as Goose How Mill, but on the OS map of 1858/9 as Fellfoot Mill, and it was as Fell Foot Mill that it was listed in both the 1851 and 1885 directories as held by William Phil(l)ipson bobbin maker.

Notes

1. The spelling of personal names in some KCR schedules is idiosyncratic – one Brime Bownes in Nether Staveley, for example, appears to be the Brian Bowness, stonemason of that township in the 1829 Directory. This is more likely to be the fault of his informant(s) than of the writer of the schedule, but those researching family history, should bear in mind the possibility of alternative spellings, especially where this may involve a different initial letter such as the Hamer/Armer surname above.

2. Mr. and Mrs. C. Coward of 34A, Bramley Lane, Lightcliffe, Halifax, HX3 8SR have given me permission to publicise the following information about Mr. Coward’s ancestors, the Coward family of Reston Mill, Hugill:- The Coward family had been involved in milling for several generations before the John Coward of the KCR map and schedule (1834). They have traced their family history back to George Coward, son of William Coward and his mother Jennet - nee Garner/Garnett). George was born at Mansriggs Mill, near Ulverston, and after his father’s death in April 1740 he took over Mansriggs, married Ann Brittain of Kitcragg, Cartmel Fell, in 1741, and nine children were born there.

George and his family moved to Reston Mill, and he died there in 1784. Reston Mill passed to his eldest son John, who married Mary Kelty in November 1784. His brother James (Mr. G. Coward’s ancestor) also became a miller at Underbarrow Mill, marrying late in life in 1791. John Coward died at Reston in 1815, and his son, another John (the John Cowherd of KCR) inherited Reston, married Betty -? and nine children were born to them at Reston. John’s death however took place at Ulthwaite Mill in March 1857.