

## BEMBRIDGE WINDMILL AND ITS MILLERS

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### Abstract

*Bembridge Windmill has been ignored by windmill historians, but deserves much more attention as a survivor when so many of its contemporaries have disappeared. Recent research has brought to light many interesting documents about its history, and revealed its ownership for most of its active life. The names of many of those involved in working the mill have also been uncovered.*

Bembridge is still a small community away from the major routes of the Isle of Wight. A large number of retired people have good local services and holiday makers swell the population in the summer. They come to camp and sail, and enjoy the local crabs and lobster. Two hundred and fifty years ago Bembridge was a much smaller community, fishing, smuggling and piloting vessels into Portsmouth and out of the Solent. There were about twenty farms, and the richest farmer was Henry Dennett of Forelands Farm.<sup>1</sup> Most of Bembridge was owned by Sir Richard Worsley, but by the 1770s there was one small area owned by his rich tenant, Henry Dennett. This was the land on which the windmill was already built. Dennett renewed his tenancy of Foreland Farm for 99 years in 1744-5.

There is uncertainty about when the mill was built. The earliest reference to a tower mill in England goes back to 1294<sup>2</sup>, the earliest that has survived with its machinery within was built in 1632, probably to the design of Sir Edward Peyto.<sup>3</sup> Like Bembridge, this has two pairs of stones driven off the spur wheel. Before 1700 the stone tower mills appear to have been considered expensive and few were built, these mainly through royal patronage.<sup>4</sup> Smock mills (tower mills constructed in wood) were being built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the one at Lacey Green in Buckinghamshire survives with its massive wooden machinery.<sup>5</sup> This mill was moved to its present site in about 1814. One book claims that Bembridge mill was built around 1700 and was originally thatched, but the author has not revealed the source of this information.<sup>6</sup> The present mill does not look as if it was once thatched as was claimed, and the layout of the machinery appears to be similar to that of other mid-century tower mills. The earliest evidence of the date of the mill comes from a rung of an old ladder that was removed during the restoration of 1959-1961, and on the underside was found the inscription E BEKER 1746 AC<sup>7</sup>. The name Baker is of a well-known local family, and the connection with the mill can only be guessed at. The 1740s would have been a good time to build a mill, with wars against France forcing grain prices up and

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<sup>1</sup> See IWCRO/OG/II/2,4 for evidence that Henry Dennett was able to lend money in the 1730s and could afford to build a windmill. The only other wealthy farmer I have found is Robert Mackett, see IWCRO/OG/WA/31/92. There is no evidence of Worsley involvement in the windmill.

<sup>2</sup> Watts 2000 p.27. At Dover Castle.

<sup>3</sup> Watts 2000 p.45

<sup>4</sup> Watts 2000 p.48

<sup>5</sup> Vince, *Discovering Windmills*, 1981 edition p.26

<sup>6</sup> Anthony Triggs, *The Windmills of Hampshire* (1982) Mr Trigg told Ken Kirsopp that R.J. Brown's book *Windmills of England* was the source. See too the National Trust handbook.

<sup>7</sup> After Christ

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providing the opportunity to sell flour to Britain's navy.<sup>8</sup> 1746 is the year of the battle of Culloden, when Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces were defeated by the Hanoverian monarch's troops under the Duke of Cumberland.

In 1756 the windmill appears on the Taylor survey of the island and in 1762 on Bowen's map. The Worsley estate map of 1773<sup>9</sup> does not mark the windmill, but indicates that the Worsleys did not own the land on which it was built. This must presumably have been sold by them at some time, although there is no record of this. The land is owned by Henry Dennett, and he and his descendants continued to own the mill for almost all its working life. In 1734 Henry Dennett, although only a tenant of the Worsleys, is described as a 'yeoman', and used a legacy to invest in a mortgage in the Westbrook mansion house. This money became available again in 1737.<sup>10</sup> This suggests that Henry Dennett had the money to build the mill.

The local uniqueness of this mill is shown by the absence of any other known tower mills in Hampshire until around 1780<sup>11</sup>, when further wars against France encouraged government sponsored mill construction. From 1770-1775 the mill and the house were tenanted by Mr Weight<sup>12</sup>.

In the Salisbury Journal of 11<sup>th</sup> October 1779 the following advertisement appeared:

*"MILLS. To be SOLD by AUCTION, on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> day of October instant, at the house of George Granger the sign of the Row Boat on Bembridge Point, in the parish of Brading, in the Isle of Wight. All that well-known WIND-MILL with two pair of stones advantageously situated in Bembridge, with a dwelling-house, stable and about one acre of exceedingly good land. The above premises are held by exceedingly good life aged thirty-seven years:- N.B. the sale to begin at two o'clock."*

The dwelling house continued in use into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but has now disappeared. Ideally it would not be built near the mill as this would affect the wind. This attempt to sell was probably prompted by the construction of the tide mill at St Helens (1780). It confirms that at this early date the mill already possessed two stones. The sale seems to have been a failure, as the Dennetts continued as owners. A further advertisement appeared in 1783:

Salisbury Journal 7<sup>th</sup> April 1783: *"ISLE OF WIGHT, To be LETT, and entered on immediately, a large Stone-built WIND-MILL; consisting of two pair of stones and two dressing-mills, with a good house and garden, and a paddock of land, situate at Bembridge, in the Parish of Brading, near St Helen's harbour, very convenient for shipping off flour, &c. For particulars apply to Henry Dennett, of Foreland."*

This advertisement is really valuable for us. It confirms the ownership of the mill is in the Dennetts' hands (this Henry is the son of the Henry Dennett (died in 1761) who probably paid for

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<sup>8</sup> See the advertisement for the mill in 1783.

<sup>9</sup> IWCRO/JER/WA/33/49 Commissioned in 1773, produced 1774.

<sup>10</sup> IWCRO/OG/1/4

<sup>11</sup> See A brief illustrated Gazetteer of Hampshire's Windpowered Grain Mills, c. 1750 to the present

<sup>12</sup> IWCRO/BRA/APR/1A/1, and IWCRO/BRA/APR/2A/1

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its construction). Millers frequently travelled around from mill to mill, looking to improve their income. John Kent seems to have been the miller who took up this opportunity, and a John Kent is still paying the rent in 1813. However, Henry Dennett's account book of 1782<sup>13</sup> shows that Kent was the miller before this advertisement was placed. Why the mill was being advertised is therefore something of a puzzle. Perhaps Kent wanted to get away from the island but was persuaded to change his mind. He had other farming interests in Bembridge, as we shall see. In Scotland, Andrew Meikle took out a patent on a dressing machine in 1768, but further south John Milne took out patents for flour dressing machinery in 1765 and 1771. It is unlikely that the present 'wire machines' in the mill go back as far as this, but it is significant that the flour is being cleaned before sale by mechanical means as early as 1783. The auxiliary drive shaft has metal cogs, so is later than the original building.

In the Island Record office there is an important record of Henry Dennett's accounts from 1782 to 1795. The items relating to the mill and its working have been abstracted. The order of events in the original has been retained, so the list is not strictly chronological.

### Henry Dennett's account book<sup>14</sup> 1782

#### Paid

Paid for repairing the Mill Mr Boards Bill	59- 2- 4
John Newnham carrying	5- 5- 0
Mr Tinnolas Deal Timber	3- 0- 0
Three Tun of oak	7-10- 0
Wm Perkins for carrying	2- 2- 0
For Elm Timber	1-10- 6
Mr Wilkinsons Bill	22- 6- 6
Mr Bob Millers Bill	19-16- 0
Mr Wm Clarke for a Round Beam for the Mill	4- 6- 0

#### Received

26 Jan 1782 Mr John Way Kent	2- 2- 0
Nine loads of wheat at 12-10	22-10- 0
12 Jan 1784 John Kent for the Mill and field due 21 Dec 1784	21- 0- 0
14 March 1788; 12 March 1787; Feb 20 1788 John Kent for the Mill	21- 0- 0
And Orchard	1-11- 6
2 March 1789 John Kent Rent for the Mill	
Due St Thos Day Last	21-10- 0
Ditto for new Mill Stones	1-16- 0
Ditto for a years rent for the Orchard	
Due M aforesaid	2- 2- 0
12 April 1790 a years rent	

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<sup>13</sup> see below

<sup>14</sup> IWCRO/82/168

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for the mill due St Thos	22-16-10
Ditto for the Orchard due Michaelmas last	1-11- 6
12 April 1790 John Keats Bill	5-19- 6
Ditto for Timber for Repairing the Mill	3-13- 6
15 April 1791 John Kent a years Rent	
For the Mill & Orchard	25- 0- 0
29 July 1795 John Kent for mill	25- 0- 0
and Orchard	1-11- 6
12 Jun 1793 John Kent Bill for grinding	
Grist & Timber for the Mill	8- 6-10
Paid	
June 23 1787 Mr Board for Millstones	18- 0 - 0

These records show the high cost of maintaining and operating a windmill. Despite these repairs a painting shows the mill operating in 1795 on only two sails, with a third lying on the ground in urgent need of repair or replacement. Most of the mill machinery today is made of oak, so the use of elm and deal is interesting. The cost and the volume of the oak is impressive. The cost of the mill stones in 1789 is ridiculously cheap. Good quality stones from France could cost over £40 elsewhere, so even after including the £18 for 1787 they seem cheap. As stones could last up to 40 years, it seems likely that both payments refer to the same set of stones. It would be nice to think that one of these is the stone later used to fill a muddy patch by the main entrance to the mill and still there today.

Bembridge is extremely fortunate to have a painting of the mill dating back to 1795.<sup>15</sup> In that year J.M.W. Turner was making a sketching tour of the Isle of Wight. Other artists visiting that year did not visit the eastern half of the island, preferring to concentrate on the more spectacular western end.<sup>16</sup> Turner spent most of his time in the west, and turned one sketch of Freshwater Bay into a full painting. Fortunately he then turned east and walked along the downs. His view from the windmill towards Brading contains some artistic licence, but the details of the construction of the cap show that its design stayed much the same throughout the life of the mill. The chain hangs down from a large wheel, so when the miller pulled on the chain the worm behind was turned to exert maximum pressure to ensure that the heavy cap moved so that the sails would be facing the wind. The windows are in the same position as in today's mill. The view looks over the harbour, which in Turner's day was still filled twice each day by the tide<sup>17</sup>, with Brading seen in the distance. The common sails are damaged, with one lying on the ground. The sail opposite appears to have been removed so that the mill could operate on the other pair (the lower sail appears to have canvas on it).

Another visitor to Bembridge in 1795 was a mad dog from Wootton Bridge Mill (sic) according to a paper in the Dennett collection. The dog 'bit Six Cows and three Hogs at Bembridge Farm, one Hog of James Jackman, Labourer to Mr Mackett...and 'Three Hogs and

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<sup>15</sup> Tate Britain, sketchbook D00458. Also viewable on the Tate website. A copy is kept at the National Trust shop.

<sup>16</sup> Rowlandson and friends, recently acquired by the Isle of Wight Council.

<sup>17</sup> Until 1879-1882 when the present embankment was built between St Helens and Bembridge.

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two Cows of Miller Kent'. The dog seems to have continued to the attacks until May. The animals then went mad, sometimes two or three weeks later. The interesting point here is that this event shows that Kent kept pigs, and the fat would have been invaluable for greasing the cogs and also the curb on which the cap rests.

From 1803 to 1820 one of Henry Dennett's younger sons, John Dennett, is described as the miller<sup>18</sup>, although he seems to have plenty of help. John Kent is recorded as the miller in 1810. His son Frederick took over in 1811 and is busy receiving wheat from John Dennett in 1813<sup>19</sup>. Also in 1811 the Hampshire Chronicle of 14<sup>th</sup> January records that "*Mr Cook, miller of Bembridge (was) found frozen to death by his own mill Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January*". Sadly we know no more about this sad event, except that his burial is recorded, aged 33.<sup>20</sup>

John Dennett was married in 1798 and seems to have handed over the mill to others to work, concentrating on his farming. One of the labourers at the mill was James Jacobs, recorded marrying Miss Anna Cole, of Bobbington Farm in 1820.<sup>21</sup> Other labourers at this time included Frederick Kent and H. Foord. The Land Tax records<sup>22</sup> make it clear that while Henry Dennett was alive, he remained the proprietor. John probably took on the mill because he was the younger son and would not inherit the bulk of the estate. The Churchwarden's Account book<sup>23</sup> lists Mr Weight 'for his house and mill' between 1770 and 1775. John Dennett is given as occupier from 1806 to 1809, then John Kent in 1810, following by Frederick Kent (1811 to 1817) and H. Foord in 1818-1819. James Jacob is the occupier from 1820 to 1827, followed by Luke Langley from 1827-8, who was then succeeded by William Fowles from 1828-1830. From 1832 John Tull takes over.

In 1831 during difficult times of poor harvests and political unrest William Fowles, 'late of Bembridge in the Isle of Wight, Miller' went bankrupt. He had not been at Bembridge long, because in the 1820s he was working in Ryde. George Mundell, writing in 1915, said William Fowles went to America.

The Dennetts were doing well. The elder Henry Dennett had a daughter who met Nash Grose in 1776 at Newport Market and despite the opposition of his mother they eventually married.<sup>24</sup> Grose went on to become a Royal Justice of the King's Bench and was knighted. The Dennetts were able to take over tenancies of other farms in Bembridge, including Knowles, the farm next to the windmill, known today as Mill Farm. They seem to have been the main suppliers of corn to the mill. Even Nicholas Smith, who rented Yaverland Farm around 1800, sent his grain to Gosport to be ground, rather than cart it to Bembridge mill.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> HRO Q22/1/469

<sup>19</sup> John Dennett's pocket book discovered in 2003, to be placed in the Record office. Extracts given relate to the mill only.

<sup>20</sup> IWCRO/BRA/1811 burial

<sup>21</sup> Hampshire Chronicle, 26<sup>th</sup> June

<sup>22</sup> HRO Q22/1/469

<sup>23</sup> IWCRO /BRA/APR/2A/1 and IWCRO/ BRA/APR/3

<sup>24</sup> 1200 years in St Helens, David Low and Sheila White, 1977 p.43 In Lord Mountbatten Library, Newport.

<sup>25</sup> Diary of Nicholas Smith 1786-1829 (IWCRO BRS/397).

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John Dennett left behind two of his notebooks which tell us more of the story of the mill.

July 1817 paid Mr Urry to buy timber for the Windmill	£7		
September paid Mr Cave for a Wheel for the Mill	£2	10	
September paid Mr Cave for sawing timber for the mill	£2	10	
February 24 <sup>th</sup> 1818 paid Mr Kingswell for a Sail that was put over the top of the mill August 1817	£7		
October 21 1819 paid Jenkins for repairing the windows at Windmill House	£3		
December 22 Paid for bricks and lime for the windmill House	£0	17	
Dec.23 paid Jenkins in part for cutting a doorway to the Windmill	£0	18	
Feb. 1820 paid Jenkins for ditto	£0	9	
July 26 <sup>th</sup> paid Jenkins for repairing Mill House	£3	0	
August 8 <sup>th</sup> paid for four new sails for the windmill	£12	5	11
October 11 <sup>th</sup> Mr Long repairing Mill House	£1	12	
Paid for lime and hair	£1	4	6
Paid for tile(s)	£0	9	
Paid Mr Beer for repairing Iron Work of the Mill	£0	9	
Nov. 15 1820 paid Mr Cave for Repairing the Mill House	£27	19	2
Nov. 21 paid for Rope to span the Shafts of the Mill	£1	4	9
March 28 <sup>th</sup> 1821 paid Mr Beer Repairing Iron Work of the Mill	£0	9	
1822 May 6 Paid Mr Cave for timber and repairing the quay at Brading	£8	15	11/2
1824 Paid Mr Bear for Iron Work to the new Veans ( <i>vanes?</i> ) of the Mill		18	
1825 July Paid Mr Cave for repairing the store house at Braiding Quay, etc.(sic)	£7	5	10
1829 March Mr Bear for Iron work for the Mill			
July 30 <sup>th</sup> Paid for Lime and building a wall in the front of Windmill House	£4	15	
May 29 <sup>th</sup> 1828 Paid for Mrs Dennett Newport to Mr Cave for new Shutters for the Mill House and Timber for making a pair of B...( <i>illegible</i> ) dores at Mill Bar	£6	19	9

There is an account of “Barley sent to the Mill in the year 1818 for the fattening of hogs”. The navy bought meat from this part of the island, although hogs were often kept for personal consumption.

This material adds considerably to our knowledge. When Turner painted the mill there was only one entrance. The second doorway was built 1819-20 by Jenkins. The Mill House cost considerable sums to maintain. If the sails had been repaired in the late 1790s following Turner’s visit, it did not take long for a new set of sails to be needed. The cost of the four sails seems low and it may be that the August 8<sup>th</sup> payment does not include the cost of the timber. It is unclear what the Sail was (costing £7) that was put over the top of the mill in 1817.

The names of most of the millers and some of their assistants can be given. The Census records suggest that two men usually worked the mill, although it will be seen that there was a woman in charge for a number of years.

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- 1746 E Beker (name on ladder rung - might be a builder)
- 1770-1775: Mr Weight
- c.1782-1795: John Kent (and probably after this date)
- 1803-1820: John Dennett (the owner after 1813 when his father Henry had died)<sup>26</sup>
- ?1795-c.1818: John Kent (to provide experienced assistance to Dennett?)
- 1811: Mr Cook – found frozen to death.
- 1811-1817: Frederick Kent (presumably an assistant)
- 1818-1819: H. Foord
- 1820-1827: James Jacob On 16<sup>th</sup> June 1820 the register at Godshill church records that James married Hannah Coles (Anna Cole in the Hampshire Chronicle) and ‘went to work’ at Bembridge mill.
- 1827-28: Luke Langley
- 1828-1831: William Fowles He had been employed at Ryde windmill by John Cooper but by 1831 he had gone bankrupt. George Mundell writing in 1915 said he went to America in 1833<sup>27</sup>. In 1831 Fowles had great difficulty in paying his rates of 1 shilling.
- 1832-1839: John Tull (died intestate leaving less than £300<sup>28</sup>) In 1838 he was living in Knowles (Mill Farm today)<sup>29</sup>
- 1839-1852: Mrs Frances Tull (recorded in the directories and census, so she was presumably the chief tenant). John Tull’s second wife. The rateable value of the mill was £15. However Knowles Farm was worth £55.
- 1841: Frederick Kent (with Mrs Tull) returned - to provide expertise? Aged 57. Described as a miller journeyman in census
- 1841-1851: George Knight (with Mrs Tull) An apprentice in 1841.
- 1855-1861: Benjamin Jolliffe Also a baker, and a bricklayer back in 1831, is given as miller in Post Office Directory of 1855. Living with John Lilleywhite, who is described as head miller in the 1861 census Henry Jeffery lived in Mill Cottage. In 1857 Jeffery is recorded as living at Knowles, in 1862 with John Lilleywhite
- 1861-3: John Lilleywhite Aged 35, living at Wolverton Farm, the head miller. He came from Emsworth. Benjamin Jolliffe is living with him. Ewan Lilleywhite is briefly the miller in October 1863-4. Henry Jeffery is still living at Knowles and may have been working the mill.<sup>30</sup> John Lilleywhite went on to manage other local mills at St Helens and Alverstone.
- 1865-1880: James Hunt, miller, corn, hay and straw merchant and farmer, aged 41 in 1871, from Mundham in Sussex; farming 64 acres of Swain’s and Knowles Farms,

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<sup>26</sup> HRO Q22/1/1/468 and 469 Land tax records Also IWCRO PRO/PR/3 Churchwarden’s Account Books for Brading 1806-1833 The notebooks make it clear that John Dennett was not just a miller, more a gentleman farmer who owned a mill.

<sup>27</sup> Information from Mr Roy Brinton

<sup>28</sup> HRO 1839AD/79

<sup>29</sup> Most of the information about the millers is taken from various directories, supplemented by the census returns.

<sup>30</sup> Brading rate books

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- employing two labourers; with John Jeffery between 1871-1881, labourer, Henry's son, aged 34 in 1881. The mill was still owned by the Dennett family, in the person of Louise Dennett. Hunt lived in Knowles Farm<sup>31</sup> (although the census lists him at Bembridge Lodge), Jeffery in Cross Road.
- 1885-1895: Robert Luther Tuffley A farmer from Tortworth, Gloucestershire, described as a General Dealer (draper) in 1881, aged 55 with a wife and daughter also described as Drapers. In 1891 described as a miller and farmer. Almost certainly he purchased the mill from the Dennett estate 1889-1890, from the executors of Louise Dennett. He then moved into Knowles Farm. In 1892 the Brading Rate Books call it Mill Farm for the first time.
- 1895-1913: Alfred Morris A farmer living at Mill Farm, but also mentioned at Stanwell Farm.<sup>32</sup> The last person to operate the mill was Ernest Arthur Orchard. His son remembered that he considered the mill dangerous by 1913, but the obituary in the County Press says the misgivings were those of Alfred Morris, Orchard's brother in law.. *'He would recall that a miller was not always a man to be envied. If, after a calm day, the wind sprang up at night, then the miller had to rise and set to work.'*<sup>33</sup> Miss Woodford also recalls Tommy Arnold working the mill in 1913.<sup>34</sup>

Who used the mill? The evidence we have is partly negative: Nicholas Smith's diaries record that in the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century he sent his grain to Gosport to be ground, when he was the tenant of the farm at Yaverland. This suggests that as the Dennetts bought up the farms in Bembridge so their grain was directed to the mill. The notebooks are full of transactions.

The Dennetts had relations in Essex, and when Jeremiah Dennett died<sup>35</sup> his widow moved over to Essex. After her death the mill was used by Tuffley presumably in conjunction with his bakery, but the demand for stone ground flour was vanishing as the railway (opened to Bembridge in 1882) could bring in white flour from the steam mills in Wootton and Southampton. From 1895 when Morris bought the mill it only opened in the autumn. Young boys ('nippers') were paid 1d for climbing the sails and fastening the canvas to them.<sup>36</sup> The County Press said much later in 1952, that 'Farmer Morris was "a little bit scared" of the mill and had no wish for its working. Mr Orchard however influenced him and used to come over from Wootton to superintend matters, although he could never persuade the owner to remain in the building while the mills was running'.<sup>37</sup> When the First World War broke out the loss of manpower and the state

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<sup>31</sup> Brading rate books 1870-1881

<sup>32</sup> Directory

<sup>33</sup> Information from John Woodford, obituary in Bembridge Parish magazine, and Isle of Wight County Press 25.10.1952

<sup>34</sup> Isle of Wight County Press 7.7.1973

<sup>35</sup> See memorial in Bembridge Parish Church

<sup>36</sup> Information from John Woodford, whose father was a nipper in the 1890s.

<sup>37</sup> Isle of Wight County Press, Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> 1952. This article also says he ground about 15 to 20 sacks of wheat at a time. The usual understanding is that this did not happen after 1895,

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of the mill meant that it was no longer worth opening just for grinding animal feed. The stones were removed and the mill allowed to deteriorate, until in 1933-5 the SPAB undertook some repairs. It was then used as a cowshed. During the Second World War the Home Guard made it their base, and then in 1959 Mr Morris's niece and heir, Mrs E. Smith offered the mill to the National Trust. The island raised the money for restoration and from 1962 the Trust has opened the mill to visitors each year.<sup>38</sup>



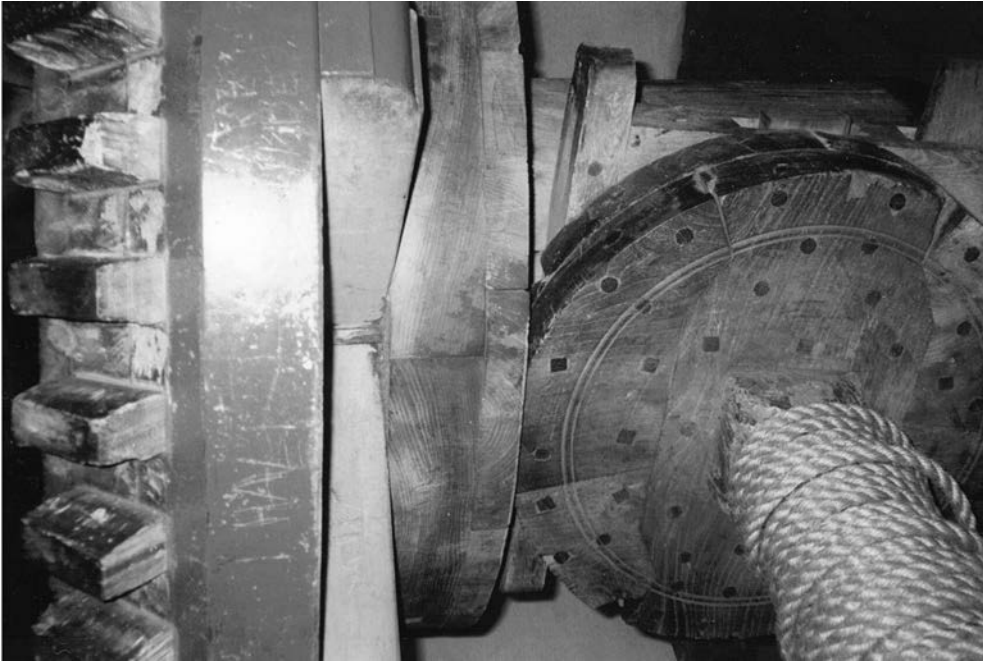
Auxiliary Drive Shaft

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so it would be interesting to know when he did this. This probably refers to the time when Tuffley owned the mill.

<sup>38</sup> I have not covered information on the machinery in this article. The National Trust Guide is helpful here, and much work still needs to be done to ascertain when the machinery was put into the mill. The metal sections are clearly not original, and even the sack hoist would not have been there in its present form in the 1740s. The present mill does not have the outrigger and bracers to be seen in Turner's painting and in P. Brannon's print of May 1840

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Sack Hoist

### **Acknowledgements.**

Thanks must be given to the National Trust and its supporters for their work in preserving the mill over the last forty years. Much work had to be done after the great storm of 1987, for example. I learnt much from Terry Blunden and Sue Lyttle about the mill, and at the local level from John Woodford. John's father told him that as a boy in the 1890s he was paid 1d for climbing the sails and attaching the canvas. The earliest notebook of the Dennetts was already in the Record Office in Newport, and the others will follow. My thanks to Molly Pewsey for allowing me to make use of them. The hardest spadework has however been done by Ken and Shirley Kirsopp who went through the newspapers and other sources searching for information about the island's windmills, and kindly made their findings available to me.

### **References**

Watts 2000: Watts, M. 2000: *Water and Wind Power*. Shire

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### **Printed Sources.**

The most easily available printed sources today are the books by Martin Watts: *The Archaeology of Mills and Milling* (Tempus, 2002), *Water and Wind Power* (Shire, 2000) and *Corn Milling* (Shire, 1998). Enid Gauldie in *The Scottish Country Miller* (John Donald, 1999) often contrasts millers north of the border with those further south. This article is however not a technical account but a look at the new information now available about the people who worked the mill.

The National Trust Guide (Rev 1981 : T.R. Parsons) is reliable on the technical side, but is inaccurate on other matters, for example the information in the first paragraph on p. 4 is taken from an inaccurate article in the County Press of 7 July 1973: the railway opened to Bembridge in 1882, not 1894-7. *Mills of the Isle of Wight*, K. Major, (Charles Stilton 1970), was a pioneering work. Rex Wailes: *The English Windmill* (London 1967) has a photograph of the mill before restoration but no information on the mill itself. There are photographs of the windmill in the Bembridge Heritage Society Exhibition. In 2006 The National Trust brought out a new, simpler illustrated guide. This is an excellent introduction to the Mill.

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