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Telephone: 01793 846222

Email: smlwroughton@sciencemuseum.ac.uk

HMW

The Wilson windmill collection

HMW

This collection, largely of photographic and postcard exterior views of windmills, mostly in Kent and Sussex, was donated to the Science Museum Library by Mrs Helen M. Wilson. Mrs Wilson (1914-1998?) was the niece of the last owner/operator of Union Mill, Cranbrook, John Russell. [It was Russell to whom Rex Wailes dedicated his book The English Windmill (1954).]

Union Mill had been in the hands of the Russell family from 1832 until 1958 when, on the death of John Russell, it was given in trust to Kent County Council. Mrs Wilson herself grew up at Union Mill and her mother, Gwendolen Russell, sister of John Russell, began the collection.

We are most grateful to Mr J S P Buckland for identifying many photos in this collection.

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2/25/1-
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2/26
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2/27/1-
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2/28
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2/29/1-
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2/30
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2/31
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2/33
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3/1
         Stanley Mill, Trearddur Bay, Anglesey
3/2
         Thurleigh, Beds.
         Post mill at Brill, Bucks. [dated Jun 1939]
3/3
3/4
         Hillesden, Bucks. [dated Jun 1936]
         Bourne Mill, Cambs.
3/5
3/6
         Downfield Mill, Soham, Cambs. [see 6/47/1]
3/7
         Eye Green smock mill, Peterborough, Cambs. [from
         sketch by T. B. Hennell]
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3/8 Fordham, Cambs. 3/9 North Burwell, Cambs. [dated Sept 1934] 3/10 The Mill, Sark, Channel Islands 3/11 Bidston tower mill, Wirral, Cheshire [from charcoal sketch by F. J.1 3/12 The Old Mill, East Stoke, Dorset [from painting] 3/13 The Mill, Witchampton, Dorset Windmill scene, Co. Durham? 3/14 3/15 Abbess Roding (White Roding), near Chelmsford, Essex [dated 1933] 3/16 Old Mill, Billericay, Essex 3/17 Boxford Mill, near Nayland, Suffolk: pen & ink copy of drawing in Tractions & Transmission (May-Aug 1903) based on picture from photo in The Miller Jun 1882] 3/18 Broxted, Essex 3/19 Mountnessing, Essex [dated Aug 1932] 3/20 The old windmill, Thaxted, Essex 3/21 Ye old mill, Tiptree, Essex 3/22 Hemingford Grey, Hunts. 3/23 Spaldwick, Hunts. 3/24/1-Bembridge, Isle of Wight 2 3/25 The Windmill, Lytham St. Anne's, Lancs.: card, postmarked 31 Jan 1917, from Allen Clarke, writer on windmills, to John Russell, East Cowes, I o W 3/26 Tower mill above the Mersey, near Liverpool, Lancs. [from etching of 1897 by A. H. Fisher] 3/27 Narborough water mill, Norfolk 3/28/1- Burgh le Marsh, Lincs. [5 sails. Oncard dated

2 1928] 3/29 Coleby Heath, Lincs. 3/30 Cowbit, Lincs. [dated Jun 1933] Gainsborough, Lincs. [dated 1928] 3/31 3/32 Hackthorn, Lincs. 3/33 Heckington, Lincs. [dated Jun 1935] 3/34 Holbeach, Lincs. [8 sails. Dated 1928] 3/35 Huttoft, Lincs. [dated 1924] 3/36 Old windmill, Lincoln 3/37 Misson, near Epworth, Lincs. [dated 1936] 3/38 New Bolingbroke, Lincs. Penny Hill, Holbeach, Lincs. 3/39 3/40 Sneath's Mill, Roman Bank, Lutton Gowts, Long Sutton, Lincs. [from watercolour? By Thomas Hennell1 3/41 Trader Mill, Sibsey, Lincs. [from sketch by Vincent Lines] 3/42 London: windmill believed to have stood at Millwall [from watercolour of c.1830 by H. J. J. West1 London: hollow post mill, Wimbledon, built 1817 3/43/1-[from an etching. One col., one b&w] 3/44 Ingham, Norfolk [dated Sept 1934] 3/45 Thurne, Norfolk [dated Sept 1934] 3/46 A mill on the Norfolk Broads: Ludham Bridge (South Mill) Windmill Avenue, Hucknall, Notts. 3/47 Iffley Mill near Oxford 3/48 3/49 Bungay, Suffolk: The Old Thatched House Inn with windmill beyond

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3/50
         Drinkstone post mill, near Stowmarket, Suffolk
3/51/1-
         Pin Mill, Ipswich, Suffolk [one from a painting]
3/52
         Saxted Green Mill, Suffolk [from drawing by
         Vincent Linesl
3/53
         Stanton Chair, Suffolk
3/54
         Thornham Magna, Suffolk
3/55
         Capel Mill, Surrey
         Gomshall Mill, Surrey
3/56
3/57
         Ockley, Surrey [dated Jun 1934]
3/58/1-
         Outwood Mills, Surrey: /3 card postmarked London
         21 Mar 1935, from SPAB to John Russell,
         Cranbrook - 'will bring windmill certificate
         Sunday afternoon'
3/59
         Snuff mills on the walls of Devizes Castle,
         Wilts. [From trade card in the collection of Sir
         Ambrose Heal]
3/60
         Easington, Yorks.
         ---- untitled ----
3/61/1-
         [/2 = Headcorn Black Mill; /4 = Warehorne mill,
         nr. Ashford, Kent]
         See also 2/6 (actually in Essex)
         East Runton, Norfolk [see 1/55]
         Kent photographs [44]
         Barham [Mr Manwaring's mill, subsequently burned
4/1/1-6
         down; dated 1954?]
4/2
4/3
        Bethersden
4/4
         Boughton-under-Blean (Miles' mill)
4/5
         Buckland Mill, Dover [demolition of water wheel
         c.1900]
4/6/1-2 Chillenden [dated 1936, Apr 1946]
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         c.1845-8 [from an engraving of Apr 1844]
4/8/1-3
         Frittenden [/2-3 not Frittenden]
4/9
         Sandhurst
4/10
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         Herne. [See 6/47/16]
4/11
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         Iden, White (post) mill, Sussex
4/12
4/13/1-
         Kingsdown. [See 6/47/11]
         Knockholt, near Sevenoaks [from an 18th century
4/14
         etchingl
4/15
         Leigh Green, Tenterden
4/16
         Lyminge White mill
4/17
         Milton Regis, Sittingbourne
4/18
         Newchurch Mill
4/19/1-
         North Street post mill
2
4/20
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4/22
         Ruckinge
4/23
         Sandhurst [see also 4/9]
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4/25/1-
2
4/26/1-
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4/27
         Springfield [Sussex]. Sandy Cross post mill,
         Heathfield
4/28
         Stanford Mill
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4/29
         Stelling Minnis
4/30
         Westwell water mill
4/31
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4/32
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5
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         Argos Hill, Mayfield
5/2
         Littlehampton tower mill, in working order
5/3
         Arundel Mill
5/4
         Baldslow Mill
5/5
         Barnham Mill [dated Sept 1938]
5/6/1
         Telham post mill nr. Battle [see also 5/46]
         Battle smock mill, in working order
5/6/2
5/7
         Old post mill, Beacon Hill, Crowborough [dated
         19341
5/8/1-2
         Blackboys Mill
5/9
         Boreham Mill
         Burwash Common [see 5/35]
5/10
         Chailey Mill [Chailey north common mill]
5/11
         Cherry Clack Mill, Punnett's Town [i.e. corn
         mill]
5/12
         Clayton "Jill"
5/13
         Climping (derelict)
5/14
         Cowbeech Mill, Hurstmonceux
         Cross-in-Hand: /1 4 sails, pre-1914; /2 2 sails,
5/15/1-
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5/16
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5/17
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5/18/1-
         Earnley smock mill (interior views)
5/18/6
         Earnley
5/19
         Fairlight Mill, Hastings
5/20
         Friston Mill
5/21
         Halnaker, Boxgrove [dated Sept 1934]
5/22
         Harebeating Mill, Hailsham
5/23
         Heathfield [See also 2/20]
5/24
         Hog Hill Mill, Icklesham
5/25
         Hunston
5/26
         Icklesham, Broad Street / Telegraph smock mill
         Iden [see 4/12]
         Littlehampton [see 5/2]
5/27
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5/28
         Mayfield post mill [not Argos Hill]
         Nutley Mill
5/29/1-
5/30
         Nyetimber Mill c.1916
         Ocklynge [see 5/36/3]
5/31
         Peasmarsh
5/32
         Playden Mill, Rye
5/33
         Polegate Mill, Willingdon
5/34
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5/35/1-
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5/36/1-
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         mill, Eastbournel
5/37/1- Rustington Mill
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5/38
         Rye Mill
5/39
         Saw Mill, Punnett's Town
5/40
         Seaford Waterworks Mill / East Blatchington
         pumping tower mill
         Shelly's Mill / Prison mill, Lewes [neg. within
5/41
         9/10]
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         Sidlesham tide mill
5/43
         Sidley Mill near Bexhill [neg. within 9/10]
5/44
         Silver Hill Mill, St Leonards
         Springfield [see 4/27]
5/45/1-
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5/47/1-
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6/2
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6/3
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         Eye, Cambs. [one dated 1937] [See also 6/47/10 &
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6/5
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6/6
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6/7/1-2
         Warboys / beyond Warboys
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- 6/8 Mountnessing, Essex
- 6/9/1-2 Bembridge Mill, Isle of Wight
- 6/10 Thornton Mill, Lancs.
- 6/11 Weeton Mill, Lancs.
- 6/12 Post mill at Saltby, Leics. [dated 1942]
- 6/13 Waltham-on-the-Wolds, Leics. [Sails removed in 1941 and worked by oil engine]
- 6/14 Alford, Lincs.
- 6/15 Maud Foster Mill, Boston, Lincs.
- 6/16 Boston, Lincs.
- 6/17 Burgh le Marsh, Lincs.
- 6/18 Cowbit, near Spalding, Lincs. [dated 1933]
- 6/19 Friskney Tofts, Lincs.
- 6/20 Gedney Dyke tower mill, Lincs. at work in 1932
- 6/21 Heckington, Lincs., 8 sails, at work
- 6/22 Little London, Spalding, Lincs., in working order [pulled down 1945]
- 6/23 Croft Mill, Wainfleet, Lincs.
- 6/24 West Butterwick, Lincs.
- 6/25 Acle Mill and River Yare, Norfolk
- 6/26 Berney Arms Mill, Reedham, Norfolk [dated Sept 1945]
- 6/27 Caston, Norfolk (as 6/47/8)
- 6/28/1- Fritton Marshes, Norfolk [dated Sept 1945].
- 2 Patent sails and fantail
- 6/29 Ingleborough, Norfolk, cap roof interior
- 6/30 Ringstead tower mill, Norfolk, solid wood wallower

6/31 St Olaves, Norfolk 6/32 Near Thetford, Norfolk 6/33 Thurne Mill, Norfolk [dated 1951] 6/34 Walpole Highway, Norfolk, in working order [dated 1946] Bozeat, near Wellingborough, Northants. 6/35 6/36 Hucknall, Notts. 6/37 Drinkstone post mill, Suffolk Haverhill, Suffolk 6/38/1-6/39 Herringfleet, Suffolk [dated Sept 1945] 6/40 Saxtead Green, near Framlingham, Suffolk [dated 19421 6/41/1-Syleham, Suffolk [dated 1946] 6/42 Thorpness, Suffolk 6/43 Woolpit Mill, near Beyton, Suffolk 6/44 Fowler's horizontal air mill, Battersea, Surrey [from engraved advertisement] Outwood smock mill, Surrey. In working order, 6/45 with 4 sails 6/46 Reigate, Surrey 6/47/1-[Photos recently (6/03) identified by Mr Buckland] 18 6/47/1 Downfield tower mill, Soham, Cambs. [See also 3/61 6/47/2-Cross-in-Hand post mill, Sussex [late 1930s] [See also 5/15 & /52 and 6/47/15] 6/47/5 Warboys, Hunts. Ramsey Road mill 6/47/6 Probably corn tower mill, Ravenstein, N. Brabant, Netherlands 6/47/7 Leigh Stocks Green, Hildenborough, Kent

- 6/47/8 Caston tower mill, Norfolk (as 6/27), in working order (i.e. pre-1946)
- 6/47/9 Bluntisham tower mill, Hunts. [now Cambs.] or, more probably, Mill Green mill, Warboys, Cambs.
- 6/47/10 [as /13]
- 6/47/11 Kingsdown smock mill, Kent
- 6/47/12 Riseden post mill, Sussex
- 6/47/13 Eye mill, Peterborough, Hunts. [now Cambs.; see 6/4/1-2]
- 6/47/14 -
- 6/47/15 Cross-in-Hand post mill, Sussex, 4 sails, 1955 [see 5/15 & /52 and 6/47/2-4]
- 6/47/16 Herne smock mill, Kent
- 6/47/17 Wittersham old post mill, Kent
- 6/47/18 East Anglian post mill, 1958
- 6/48 Large copy photo of unnamed watermill

7 Foreign [9]

- 7/1 France: Moulin de Buysschere, Nord [dated 1944] [From watercolour by Thomas Hennell]
- 7/2 France: Environs of Saint-Omer, Pas-de-Calais, drainage mills on the marshes of Clairmarais
- 7/3/1-2 India: horizontal water mill on the Harwan road, Shalimar, Kashmir
- 7/4 Ireland: Tacumshane Windmill, Co. Wexford [from sketch by Thomas Hennell]
- 7/5 Netherlands: Pieterzijl
- 7/6 Netherlands: Zaandam mustard mill
- 7/7 Spain: Windmills at Campo de Criptana, La Mancha [dated May 1930]
- 7/8 U.S.A.: Pantigo mill at East Hampton, Long

Island

8 Union Mill, Cranbrook, Kent / The Russells photographs

Union Mill was bought in 1832 by brothers George and John Russell, the latter being the great great grandfather of Helen M. Wilson (HMW). In 1840 Medhurst of Lewes erected four patent double sails and a new wind shaft and George Warren of Hawkhurst erected a fantail. Ebenezer, great grandfather of HMW, succeeded, followed by her great uncle Hugh, her grandfather Caleb [from 1902-18] and her uncle John.

The fantail and shutters had been removed in 1912 so John ran the mill with four common sails and no fantail. In 1920 he brought four common sails from Sarre mill and fitted one pair as spring sweeps and in 1922 fitted the other pair converting all to patent sweeps. The new fantail, made by William and Frank Warren of Hawkhurst, was fitted by John in 1921. In 1937 he made and fitted a new sail and in 1946 rebuilt an old one.

1950 saw the end of wind-working as one stock had decayed. In 1952 [with Mr Lewis as partner] an electric motor was installed. John Russell died in 1958 just three days after the Bremers began their repairs.

- Repairs carried out by the Dutch firm of Bremers of Groningen in 1958-59
 - /1 Putting up new middlings of steel to replace old pitch pine ones
 - /2 Jacob Bremer in cap
 - /3 Cap interior being repaired by Christian and Jacob Bremer
 - /4 Old Kentish sweeps
 - /5 Fitting steel stocks
 - /6 Putting back sweep
 - /7 Final work on new Dutch-type sweeps

- 8/2/1-2 The Mill without fantail [i.e. pre-1921]
- 8/3 The Mill; view from Stone St. [dated 1945]
- 8/4 The Mill with old wooden stage and original fan
- 8/5 The Mill floodlit at night
- 8/6/1-6 Views of the Mill. [Photocopy of a 1910 photographic view, clearly showing that the original 9' fantail (replaced by a 6' one in 1921), has been added]
- 8/7/1-2 Screws used to re-align the sweeps with gearing in Cap; presented by John Russell to Science Museum c.1950
- 8/8 Stones 'up' for dressing
- 3/9 John Russell oiling fantail [dated 1954 Jul]
- 8/10 View of old Kentish stocks
- 8/11/1- Strips, of three views each, of John Russell et 5 al fitting new sweeps
- 8/12/1- Putting up new sweeps [dated 1946]

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- 8/13/1- View of the sweeps [with postcard of Sarre Mill]
 2 [all bear notes on the Mill's history]
- 8/14 William Warren of Hawkhurst [who helped John Russell fit new fantail in 1921]
- John Russell and Sidney Ashdown of Cross-in-Hand Mill, Sussex, 15 Sept 1956. [Former received SPAB Windmill Section's first certificate (see 3/58/3), latter's father (Jack?) received the second; S. Ashdown at one time worked the watermill at Bateman's, Burwash, Sussex]
- 8/16/1- Postcards of Hanover Mill, Mersham and Swanton
 2 Mill, Mersham. [Latter owned by Caleb Russell;
 he leased the former, situated by the Farriers
 Arms and ran the two in conjunction]
- 8/17 Albert Batt and John Russell at Hythe watermill [dated 1931]
- 8/18 Old wheat stone in Mr Horton's garden, Market St, Hythe; it came from the old block post mill at St Leonard's Rd, demolished in 1835. [Horton

family owned Horn St Mill, near Shorncliffe, Folkestone which Caleb Russell at one time leased. With ms. note (by HMW) re Horton family (1 slip)]

9 Miscellaneous

- 9/1 Photo: exterior of large mill building [delivery lorry bears name of S. R. Anscombe, East Halling Flour Mills]
- 9/2 Etching: On Oulton Broads by Horace Schroder from *Pall Mall Magazine*
- 9/3 Paul Sharpe's post mill, Biddenden: pencil sketch by Philip Russell [uncle of HMW] perhaps from photo. [Dated 1916]
- 9/4 Pamphlet of SPAB Windmill Section advertising a meeting to preserve England's oldest windmill [Outwood, Surrey]
- 9/5 Cash price list of H. G. Harrison, miller & corn merchant, Sprowston Mills, Norwich
- 9/6 Photo: George Harmer, millwright [died c.1930]
- 9/7/1-5 Photos: (2) of Mr Tarrant with his windmill models; (3) of one of his models. [He built the model of Union Mill, Cranbrook for the Science Museum]
- 9/8 Advertisement for Marshalls' Preparations of Wheat made by James & Thos. Marshall, Glasgow & London
- 9/9 Negatives (16) of Dutch mills [dated 1938 Sept]. Include: Ravenstein tower mill, N. Brabant
- 9/10 Negatives (12), untitled. Include: Westwell water mill, Kent (see 4/30), and 5 unidentified family photos, one with Cranbrook mill as background; Lenham Heath smock mill; Long Sutton, Brunswick mill, Lincs.; Rolvenden post mill, Kent; Lewes prison mill / Shelly's mill (see 5/41); Lyminge white smock mill (see 4/16); Sidley, Sussex (removed 1928 to Leigh, Stocks Green, Kent see 5/43)
- 9/11 Newspaper cuttings (2): review of *The English Windmill* by Rex Wailes [1954]; article on Watts

Cross Windmill, Hildenborough, Kent

- 9/12 Bill for sum owing to W. Kuijpers, Rotterdam [dated 1837 Feb]
- 9/13 Illustrated catalogue of the Buffalo [New York]
 Mill Furnishing Establishment. John T. Noye &
 Son, manufacturers of Burr Mill Stones and Mill
 Machinery, 128p. [1876?]

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