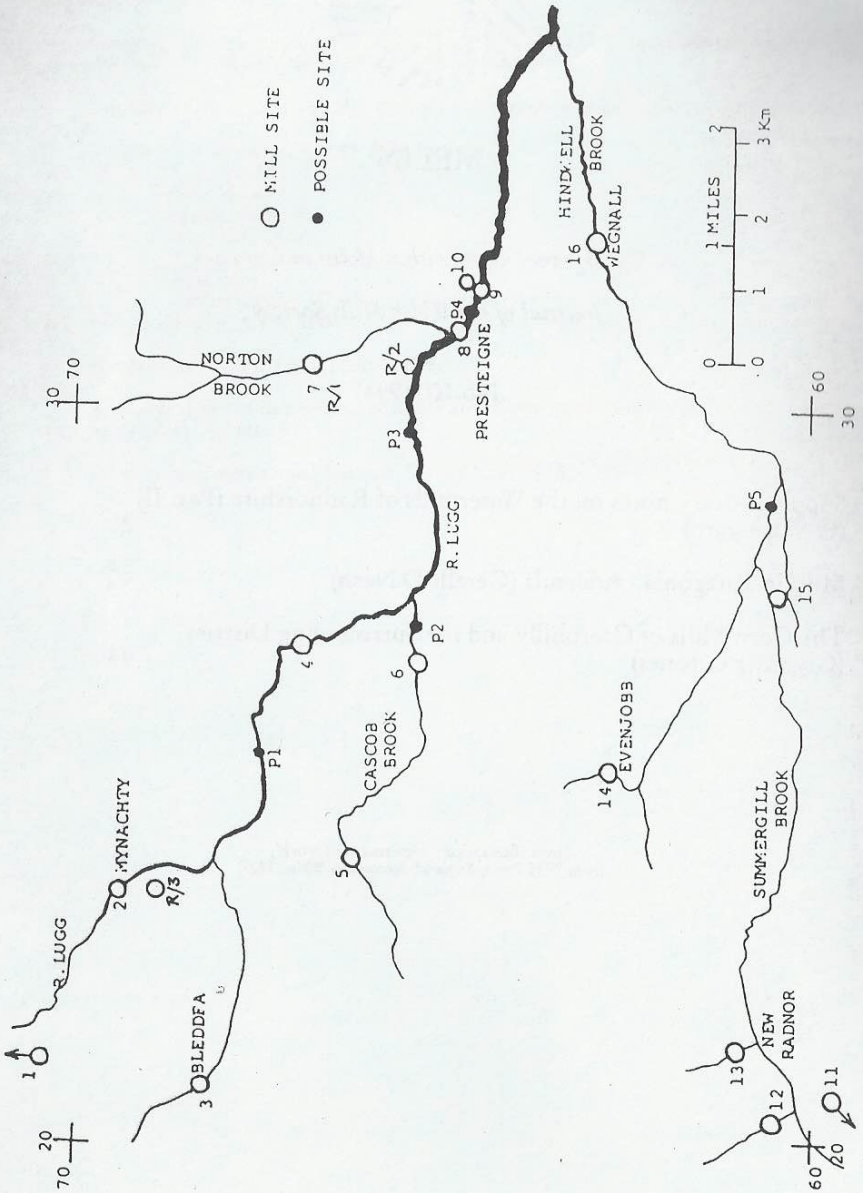


SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE WATERMILLS OF RADNORSHIRE - PART II

G W Ridyard

With this set of notes on Radnorshire mills I have been able to widen the sources used in a number of cases. Once again I am indebted to those people who have been helpful in so many ways.

The *Hereford Journal* has again provided some useful information from sales notices of the early 1800's. Also the Powys County Archives Office has produced some very useful extra pieces of material for dating evidence. Unfortunately that office was either not in existence or not open to the public when Gordon Tucker was doing his research. As I continue with the work I appreciate the time and effort he put into his survey of Radnorshire mills and his work makes a very valuable contribution to the local history of the county. I can add to his work and no doubt someone will add to mine in the future. While Gordon Tucker had a number of 'possible' mills I have a number which were very positively in existence but at present cannot be located and thereby cannot be included for publication yet.

I was lucky to be able to establish the Davies family connection between Bettws Mill (B/7), Hundred House Mill (B/6) and Little Mill (B/12), all three in different parishes. A bonus was finding that Mr Geoff Worts had a photograph of Hundred House Mill in c.1900 plus two photographs of the leat cleaning party in about 1932.

Again, as last year I use Gordon Tucker's numbering system for his *Melin* 1 and *Melin* 5 areas and my own additional mills use the pre-fix letter 'R' as in 'A.R/2' and 'A.R/3'. Where I have positive evidence of the existence of any of Tucker's possible mills I have retained his numbers as in 'A/P3' and C/P12'.

Serendipity has played a part at times with putting together the material this year but I must acknowledge the help I have had from some people and organisations in particular:

Bryan Lawrence - Powys County Library Service.
Gordon Reid)
Alun Edwards) Powys County Archives Office.
Elaine Matheson)

The un-named staff of the Hereford City Library.

Tony Parkinson and Brian Malaws - editors of *Melin*.
G (Geoff) M Worts - Llansantffraed-in-Elwell.
G J (Jim) Frude - Llanfaredd.
Emlyn Pugh - Llanddewi Ystradenni.
Mr & Mrs H Robinson - Howey, Llandrindod Wells.
Mr & Mrs Robert H Lewis - Llanbadarn Fynydd.
Brian Osborne - Llangunllo.
W K (Keith) Parker - Presteigne. (local historian).
C Hughes - Llananno.
Mr & Mrs Douglas Blain - Bleddfa.
Algwyn Thomas - Bleddfa.

MELIN 1
Lugg 2. **Monaughty Mill**, parish of Llangunllo (SO 234 694).

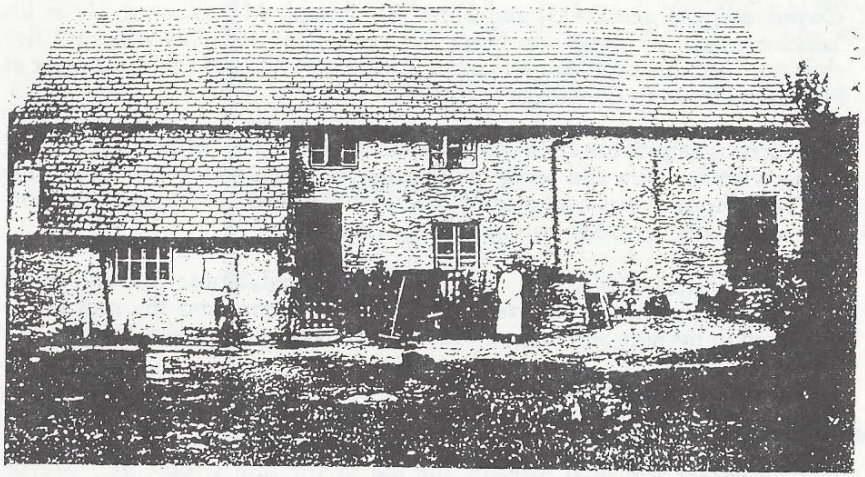
I quote Tucker as follows:

> *'Now converted to a residence and no machinery remains apart from two very worn grit millstones and a piece of 12-in. diameter wooden axle lying outside. A stone-walled head race remains, and the wheel-pit is recognisable. The wheel was probably overshot. Tithe Awards (Llangunllo 1842) show this mill as Bailey Mill, owner Richard Price, occupier Richard Evans. 6" O.S. (1891) shows BAILEY MILL (CORN) with a 700-yard leat from the Lugg, but 6" O.S. (1953) shows it as MONAUGHTY MILL. A sale catalogue of the Norton Estate (1891) includes Monaughty Mill, described as a 'two-storey Water Corn Mill with two pairs of stones' let to Mr Thos Evans on a yearly Lady-Day Tenancy at £45'. An O.S. 2" sketch map (c1817) names it as 'Lovver Mill' and the O.S. 1" 1st edition calls it Mynachty Mill'.*

Although Tucker spells the name 'Mynachty' in his heading for the above report it appears right through on the Census returns from 1841 to 1891 as 'Monaughty' and never as 'Bailey Mill'. The Richard Evans of the Tithe Award was aged 55 and 1841 Census and he was still there in 1851 assisted by Thomas Evans (20) Miller and William Barden (22) Mill Servant. Thomas Evans was running the mill in 1861 with Bryan Hargest (14) as 'Loader' and Henry Edwards (32) as a 'Carter'.

Evans continued through to the 1891 Census as the miller when the return shows him with James Ruff as his 'Mill Servant'. He is shown as the miller in Kellys's *Directory* for 1895 but is not listed in the 1905 edition. So the mill may have stopped working between those dates.

In 1910 a John Worthing was the occupant and the '*House and Mill, Monaughty*'(Pl.1), was owned by William Weyman of Stonecote,



Pl.1: Monaughty Mill (early 20th C)

Presteigne. [1]

Stedman Davies, writing in 1940, reported that the mill had been '*turned into a cottage*' by then.[2] The present owner, Mr Brian Osborne, kindly let me view the house. Inside there is plenty of old timber, some of which is re-used. The timbers supporting the ceiling downstairs are clearly re-used. They are slotted to act as the head and foot for the studding which would have supported a wooden screen. There is a massive timber lintel over a big old fireplace and one can wonder whether this mill could have been the mill for the 'Mynachty' grange site about 600m N.W. up the valley. The site was one of the granges of the Cistercian abbey of Cwmhir, about 22 km. to the West, which was dissolved in 1539. This is pure speculation of course.

Lugg 3. **Bleddfa Mill**, parish of Bleddfa (SO 202 683); on a small brook flowing into the R. Lugg.

I can now add information on Bleddfa Mill which was not available to me when I wrote the note for *Melin* 9 (p34).

As Tucker stated in his account in *Melin* 1, John Evans (22) in 1841 was the miller at the time of the compilation of the Tithe Award. By 1851 Evan

Hope (34) was the miller [ten years earlier he had been the 'grinder' working under another John Evans at the Gwynllyn Mill, Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr - see D/13] and Hope had Joseph Morris, aged 14, as his 'servant loader'. Hope was there ten years later with his wife and five children. At this time Anne Hamer, a widow of 70, was the inn keeper at Hundred House in the village of Bleddfa.

The Census return for 1871 shows William Goodall as 'Miller and farmer' living with his wife and seven children at the Hundred House inn, while the 'Mill [house]' was occupied by Elizabeth Thomas, a 73 year old widow and 'annuitant' with her two middle-aged daughters.

By 1881 Thomas Mills was running the Hundred House inn and is described as a '*Farmer of 11 acres, Miller and Inn keeper*' and the mill house was lived in by Jane Stephens, a widow and charwoman.

Finally, the 1891 Census shows Charles Mills (24) as the miller living at Hundred House inn and Jane Stephens still living at the mill house. As I said in *Melin* 9 the mill is not listed in Kelly's *Directory* for 1895 or for 1906; however the final date for the use of the mill is obscure. Maybe Charles Mills decided to concentrate his efforts on running the Hundred House inn and closed the mill down.

Lugg R/3. **Monaughty Farm Mill**, parish of Bleddfa. (SO 237 685): on the River Lugg.

Monaughty is a large Elizabethan house - the largest in the county - and it was built c.1565 by James Price who was an important local land owner. James' father, John, after lending money to the Abbot of Cwmhir, was given in 1529 a lease for 80 years on the grange which lay about 1½ km. to the north-west of the present house. Monaughty was most probably built on grange land.

The home farm, adjacent to the house, had a corn mill, but how early this was set up is at present unknown to me. Mr. Douglas Blain, the present owner of the house, has told me that he has a copy of an indenture, dated 19th December, 1722 which refers to the corn mill and he believes that he has had sight of a document mentioning the mill as early as 1651. There is an advertisement for the tenancy of the house and farm at the end of the 18th century which reads as follows:

> '*To be let and entered upon Lady Day, 1796, Monaughty Farm, in the parish of Blethvaugh and county of Radnor, three miles distant from Knighton, four from Presteign and six from Kington; consisting of extensive and convenient Buildings of all kinds (all tiled), a Corn Mill with French Stones; two Hundred statute Acres of Meadow and Feed*

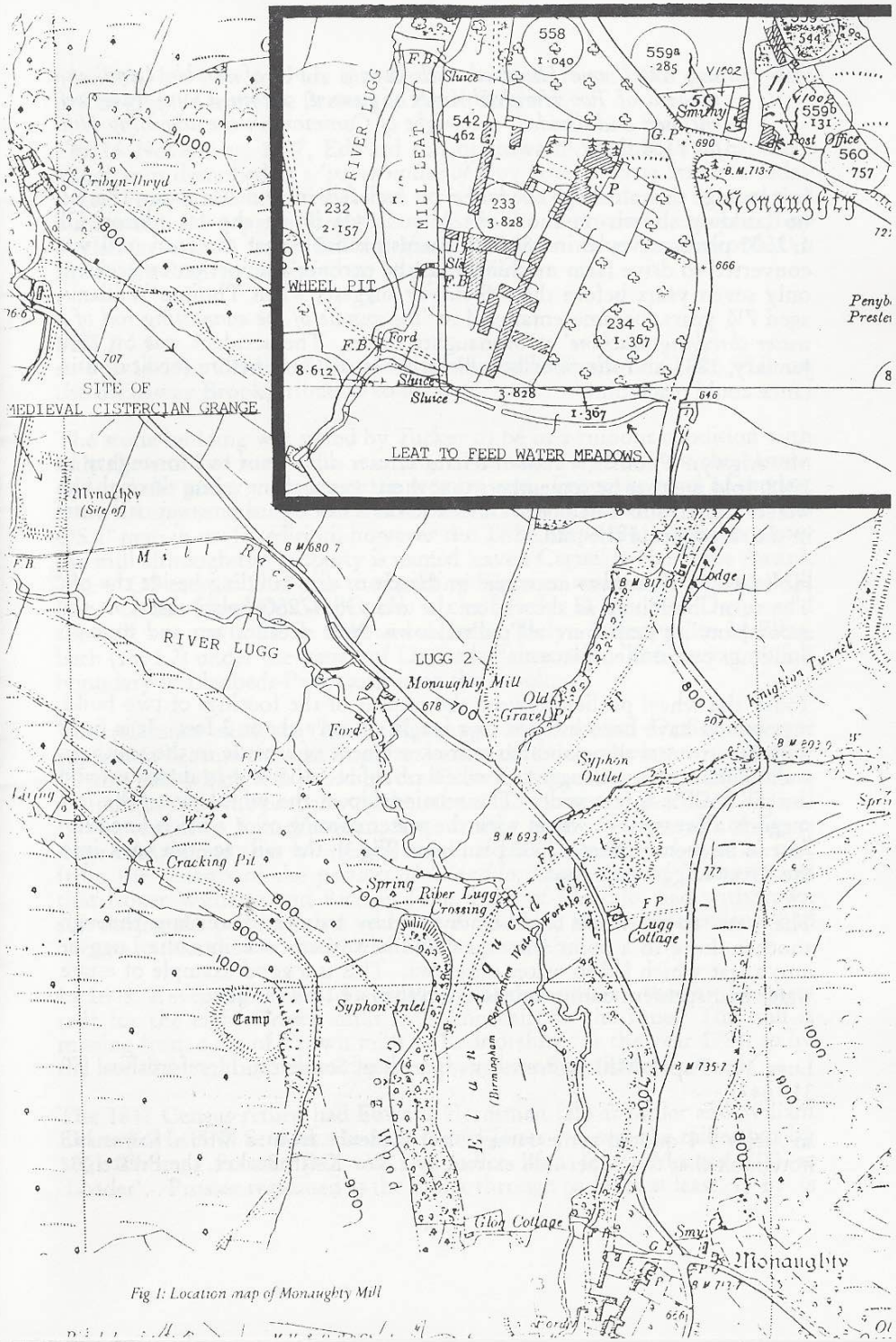


Fig 1: Location map of Monaughty Mill

ing Land, one Hundred and Twenty Acres of Arable Land and upward of Two Hundred Acres of Pasture, within a ring fence well enclosed and divided, with right of Common on the adjoining Hills for 1500 sheep'.[3]

It is strange that although the wheel pit is clearly in evidence today, there is no building shown on the Tithe Map (1841) or on the 1st edition OS 1/2500 plan, surveyed in 1888. It seems probable that the corn mill was converted to drive farm machinery, as the coroner's report on an accident only seven years before the OS survey suggests when Thomas Williams, aged 7½ years, became entangled in '*the spindle of the connecting rod of a water threshing machine*' at Monaughty Farm. The accident was on 29th January, 1881 and the poor boy died two hours later before medical assistance could reach him.[4]

Mr. Algwyn Thomas, a retired tenant farmer who went to Monaughty in 1948, told me that he remembers that there was shafting going through the wall of a barn and it had been carried across a stock yard on stout oak posts in the direction of the mill.

He said that there was no wheel in the pit or any building beside the pit. The farm buildings as shown on the old OS 1/2500 plan inset on the accompanying map were all pulled down three decades ago and modern buildings put in their place.

Today the wheel pit lies between the returns of the footings of two buildings which have been levelled to a height of only about 2 feet. It is lined with dry stone walling and has a brick segment of a circle in the southern wall. This curvature suggests a wheel of about 14-15 feet in diameter, and the pit itself is 6 feet wide. The relationship of the wheel pit to the leat suggests a breast shot wheel with the water coming over a brick lined lip. As can be seen on the 1/2500 plan inset (Fig.1), the tail race ran back into the River Lugg near a ford.

The water to the wheel could be diverted by a sluice to continue through another sluice to a point where it could be turned back into the Lugg or into a leat which led to water meadows. This is a good example of estate water management dating at least from the late 18th century.

Lugg 10. **Paper Mill** at Presteigne, parish of Stapleton, Herefordshire (SO 317 647).

In *Melin* 9 I quoted some rather brief evidence from a W.H. Howse MS notebook that the paper mill existed by 1776. Keith Parker, the Presteigne

historian, has now told me that further evidence for an 18th century date can be gleaned from the Presteigne Parish Register.

On 16 November, 1727, Edward son of Edward Vaughan was baptised. Vaughan is described as a '*paper miller of Frog Street*'. Frog Street is today called Ford Street and is the road on which Grove House is located and with which the paper mill was associated in the 1846 sale notice quoted by Tucker in *Melin* 1. Later, Edward Vaughan, 'paper maker', was recorded in the Parish Register as buried on 16 April, 1761 .

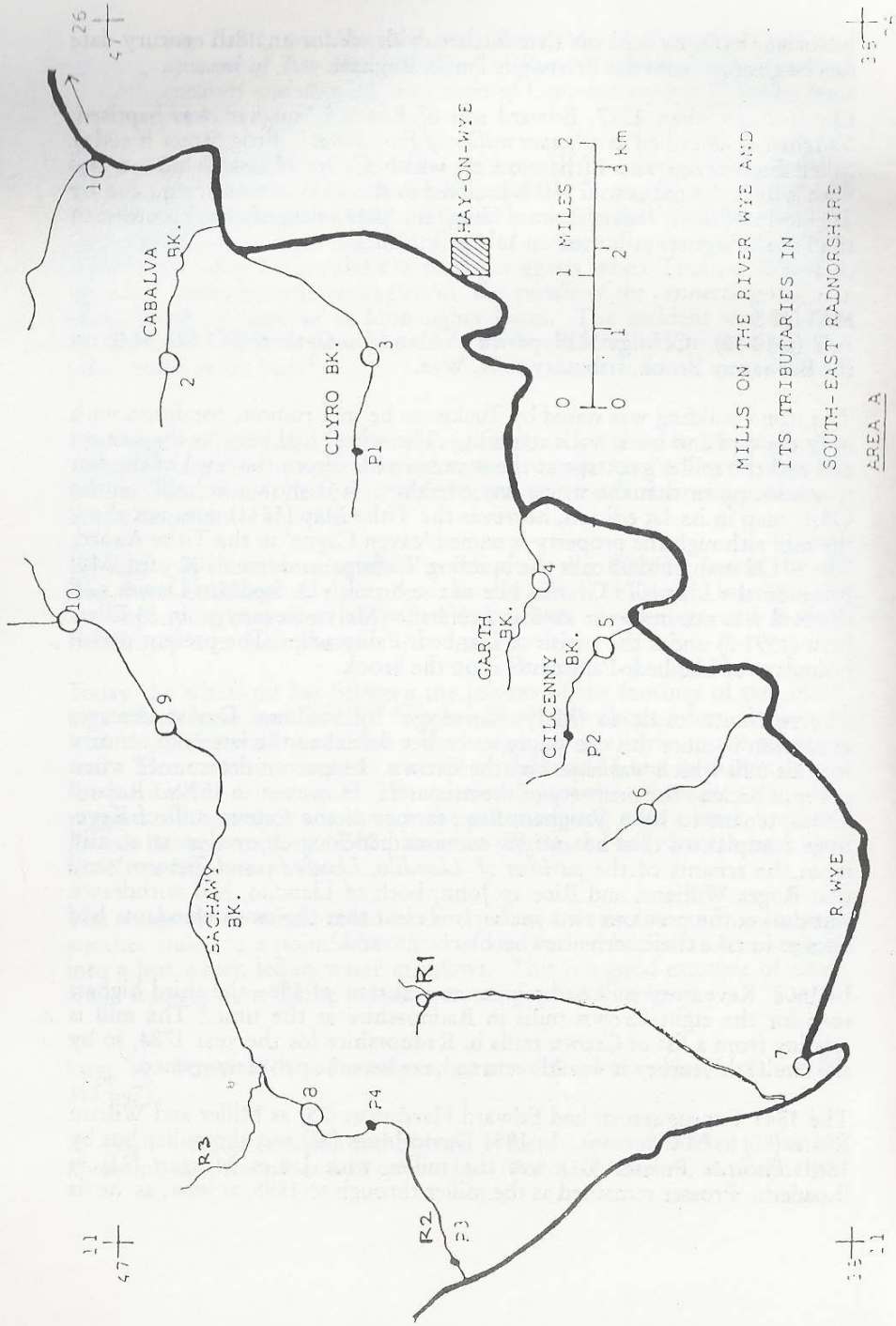
MELIN 5
A/8 (p.14-15). **Cefnige Mill**, parish of Llandeilo Graban (SO 126 447): on the Bachaway Brook, tributary to R. Wye.

The stone building was stated by Tucker to be in a ruinous condition with only the end and back walls standing. The wheel had been at the eastern end and the miller's cottage at the western end. From the level of the leat it would appear that the wheel was overshot. It is shown as 'mill' on the OS.1" map in its 1st edition, however the Tithe Map (1841) does not show the mill although the property is named 'caven Cague' in the Tithe Award. The 6" OS map of 1905 calls the building 'Cefnige' and has a 200 yard 'Mill Race' on the Llandeilo Graban side of the brook. D. Stedman Davies said the mill was not in use in 1940 and refers to 'Melyn-Kevenyge' in 34 Elizabeth (1591-2) under the parish of Llanbedr-Painscastle. The present parish boundary of Llanbedr-Painscastle is on the brook.

The reference made to 'Melyn-Kevenyge' by Stedman Davies deserves expansion because this can imply an earlier date than the late 16th century for this mill which was leased by the Crown. I have not determined when the mill became the property of the monarch. However, in 1592/3 Roland Lewis, tenant to John Vaughan, Esq., farmer of the Crown mill of Kevenyge complained that he *and his ancestors* had long enjoyed suits of mill from the tenants of the *parishes of 'Llandilo, Llanbedr, and Trewern'* and that Roger Williams and Rice ap John, both of Llandilo, had withdrawn suit during the previous two years. It is clear that the two defendants had chosen to take their corn elsewhere to be ground.[5]

In 1608 'Kevenneg' mill had a gross annual rent of 15s - the third highest rent for the eight Crown mills in Radnorshire at the time.[6] The mill is missing from a list of Crown mills in Radnorshire for the year 1784, so by the late 18th century it would seem to have become privately owned.[7]

The 1841 Census return had Edward Herdsman (25) as Miller and Wiliam Evans (50) as Mill Servant. In 1851 David Jones (43) was the miller but by 1861 Thomas Prosser (31) was the miller with James Morgan (22) as 'Loader'. Prosser remained as the miller through to 1895, at least, as he is



listed as the miller in Kelly's *Directory* for that year. However, the mill does not appear in Kelly's 1905 *Directory* and may have ceased to work by then.

During the period of the published Census returns there is a great variation in the orthography of the mill name - 'Cefnige' (1841), 'Cefneg' (1851), 'Cevenige' (1861), 'Cefneig' (1871), 'Cefnig' (1881), and 'Cefnhyg' (1891).

A/P3 (p.16). **Screens Mill**, parish of Llandeilo Graban (SO 107 428): on the Bachawy Brook, tributary to R. Wye.

I quote Tucker in full - '*The Tithe Map of 1841 and Schedules of 1838 have parcel 244 here entered as 'Garden Mill Screens'. This is not understood, but there seems a possibility that there was a mill here at one time*'.

I agree that I did not understand this entry at first, and matters did not become clear until I found that on the 31 March, 1666 an indenture was drawn up by Thomas Williams to make provision for his daughters. His agreement with James Baskerville of Aberedw and William Bridges of Ley in Herefordshire covered two messuages called '*Tir Ynys greene*' and '*Tuy*' and '*Tir y Kilie*' and one water grist mill and a ferry across the Wye, called '*Melin Ynys greene*' and '*Cavan Dum bach*', respectively, all in the parish of Llandeilo Graban.[8] In a later indenture dated 1st November, 1747 to do with property of the Williams family the first of the messuages referred to above is called '*Tyr Ynys y Skreen*'.[9] So it is clear that in about a century '*Ynys greene*' had become corrupted into '*Skreen*' and the '*Mellin Ynys greene*' was the Skreen Mill.

The Tithe Schedule has Ynys Greene as 'Skreen' - a house which was still important and had over 129 acres of land. It was at that time owned by John Williams, undoubtedly related to Mrs. Elizabeth Williams who owned a 200 acres farm composed of the lands of 'Killia' or 'Kilie (Cilliau today) and 'Garth'. The small plot covered by parcel 244 was part of Mrs. Williams' farm. Her tenant was Thomas Lloyd and it may be that he had under-tenants at the mill and they were not mentioned, therefore, in the Schedule.

Be that as it may, the Census return for 1841 shows James Duggan (50) with his wife and five children at 'Skreens Mill'. Unusually, it does not give Duggan an occupation but he may have been a miller as Duggan is a name connected with milling in Radnorshire in the 19th century. In 1851 'Screens Mill' had a David Jones (43) as the Miller and in 1861 Rees Lewis (67) was the Miller with James Morgan (22) as his 'Loader'.

From 1871 the mill does not appear in the Census returns and it must have ceased working. Its site is only a few metres from the bridge over the

Bachawy Brook (Backgwye on the Tithe Map) which carried the Mid-Wales Railway line built in the early 1860's and later to be called the Cambrian Railway. It may be that the railway company bought the land on which the mill stood and allowed it to fall into decay.

Today there are some footings with returns and a deep space between, which may be all that remains of the wheel pit - one return of the mill and the other of a cottage or kiln house. Across a footbridge on the opposite side of the stream are further poor, remains of a cottage a little upstream. About 150 metres upstream is a natural rock shelf in the stream bed over which the Bachawy Brook drops c 1½ metres. At this point it is very likely that, with a little appropriate damming and a sluice, water could have been diverted into the shallow remains of a leat with stone lined sides which are now moss covered. The leat is a metre or so wide and continues dry for 50 or 60 metres but disappears before the mill footings are reached. Alongside is a quarry face probably made by the Mid-Wales Railway engineers.

There can be no doubt at all that there was a mill in this spot and the wall remains are all that is left of it. The 'brook' is powerful in its flow and the leat was probably adequate for the wheel as there was no room for a mill pond on the narrow valley floor. The wheel was probably breast shot.

A./R2. **Fulling Mill**, parish of Llandeilo Graban (approx. SO 219 428), on the Bachawy Brook, tributary to the R. Wye.

An indenture of 1 November, 1747, between John Williams of the Skreen and Thomas Williams, his eldest son and heir, among various properties including Skreens Mill [A/P3] refers to a fulling mill belonging to 'Tyr y Killye' (Cilliau).[10]

Another indenture dated 29 July, 1779, being a lease for a year from Thomas Williams of Velin newydd, Llandefalle, Brecnockshire, to Hugh Bold, gent., of Brecon of various properties in the parish of Llandeilo Graban, included the Skreens Mill and '*one fulling or turking* (sic) *mill*' at Tyr y Killye.[11]

Cilliau farm is on a piece of high ground above the west bank of the Bachawy Brook and the place name 'Tyr y Killye' means 'the land of Cilliau'. To say the mill was at Tyr y Killye does not mean it was at the farm but on land belonging to the farm.

The only place the mill could have been was down in the deep, narrow valley of the Bachawy Brook. I spent an afternoon hunting for traces of this mill. The east side of the Bachawy Brook is too precipitous, and is in the next parish in any event. Along the west side of the stream there are

three fairly narrow flat areas on which a building could be placed within half a mile upstream of Skreens Mill site but none of these had any positive trace of a building. The largest of these flat areas has an unnatural hollow roughly 3m long by 1½m wide and about 3-4m deep, which could be all that remains of a wheel pit. No traces of footings or of a leat could be seen, however, and the whole search was completely inconclusive. That there was an 18th century 'pandy' here there can be no doubt but its location remains a mystery at present. I do not think there would be room for it to be adjacent to Skreens Mill.

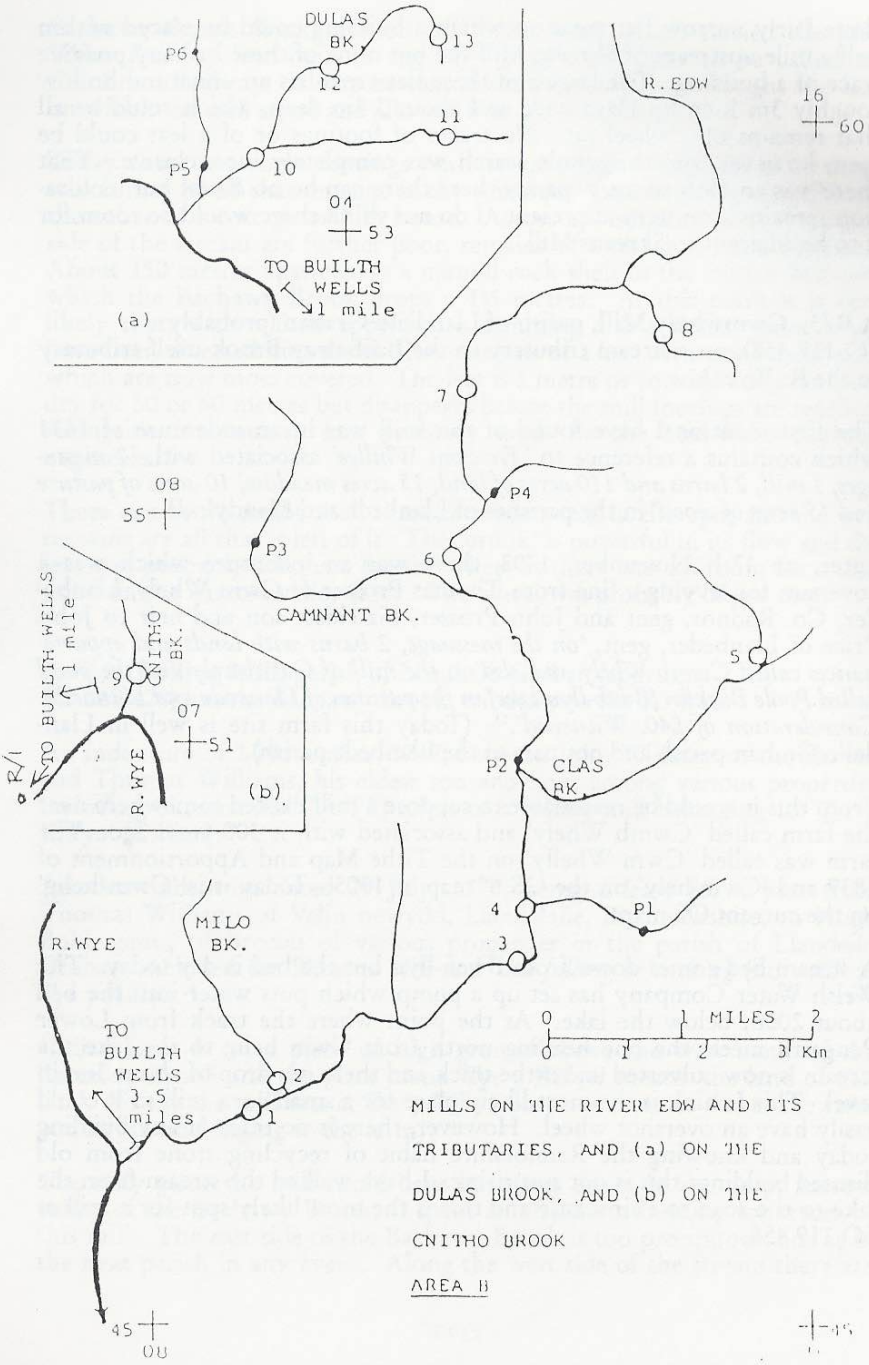
A.R/3. **Cwmwhely Mill**, parish of Llandeilo Graban (probably SO 119 458), on a stream tributary to the Bachaway Brook itself tributary to the R. Wye.

The first mention I have found of this mill was in an indenture of 1631 which contains a reference to '*Tyr cwm Whillee*' associated with '*2 messuages, 1 mill, 2 barns and 110 acres of land, 15 acres meadow, 10 acres of pasture and 15 acres of wood*' in the parishes of Llanbedr and Llandylo.[12]

Later, on 17th November, 1702, there was an indenture which was a covenant for levying a fine from Thomas Prosser of Cwm Whely, Llanbeder, Co. Radnor, gent and John Prosser, his eldest son and heir to John Price of Llanbeder, gent, '*on the messuage, 2 barns with lands and appurtenances called Cwmb Whely and also on the mill of Cwmbwely and the pond called Poole Bucklin [Bwch-llyn lake] in the parishes of Llanbedr and Llandeilo. Consideration of £40. Witnessed*'.[13] (Today this farm site is well in Llandeilo Graban parish and not part of the Llanbedr parish).

From this it would be reasonable to suppose a mill existed somewhere near the farm called 'Cwmb Whely' and associated with it 300 years ago. The farm was called 'Cwm Whelly' on the Tithe Map and Apportionment of 1839 and 'Cwm-hely' on the OS 6" map of 1905. Today it is 'Cwm helig' on the current OS maps.

A stream bed comes down from Bwch-llyn but the bed is dry today. The Welsh Water Company has set up a pump which puts water into the bed about 200m below the lake. At the point where the track from Lower Pengarth meets the one heading north from Cwm helig to the lake the stream is now culverted under the track and there is a drop of about 3m. in level. This I think is the most likely place for a small corn mill so it could easily have an overshot wheel. However, there is no trace of any building today and knowing the Radnorshire habit of recycling stone from old disused buildings this is not surprising. I have walked the stream from the lake to the road to Painscastle and this is the most likely spot for a mill at SO 119 458.



MILLS ON THE RIVER EDW AND ITS TRIBUTARIES, AND (a) ON THE DULAS BROOK, AND (b) ON THE CNITHO BROOK

AREA B

As a point of interest Cwmwhely, had declined from a farm of 150 acres in 1633 to a small-holding of less than 6 acres by the time of the 1839 Tithe Map. Unfortunately none of the fields in the Tithe Apportionment, is named, other than those of one particular farm, so we have no suggestive names for fields to help with confirming the site of this mill.

B/5 (p.19) **Glascwm or Yatt Mill**, parish of Glascwm (SO 153 531); on a tributary to Clas Brook, itself tributary to R. Edw, in turn tributary to R. Wye.

Tucker reported that some fragments of the mill remain and that it had measured about 40ft. by 20ft. with the long axis from west to east and the wheel at the west end, where the wheel-pit survives for an overshot wheel about 4ft wide and about 14ft in diameter. The very short leat of c.30 yards which appears on the 1840 Tithe Map has been destroyed by reconstruction of the adjacent road. The Clas Brook runs only a few years from the mill. The Tithe Apportionment names the site as the Yatt Mill. A monolithic, conglomerate runner stone still lies, moss covered, within the remains of the walls of the mill.

The 1841 Census has Joseph Jones (45) as the 'Milner' while in 1851 Edward Brown (31) was the miller. The 1861 Census return records the mill as 'Uninhabited' but this must have been only a temporary situation as Richard James (73) was the miller in 1871. There is proof that at this time that the mill had a grain drying kiln as an article about life in Glascwm village in the 1860's, written in 1930, refers to the lads of the village rehearsing their songs on cold winter nights in the room '*under the kiln in front of a lovely fire*'.[14] These songs were to be sung when the young men went from house to house with their 'Grey Lady' or 'Mari Lwyd' horse figure.

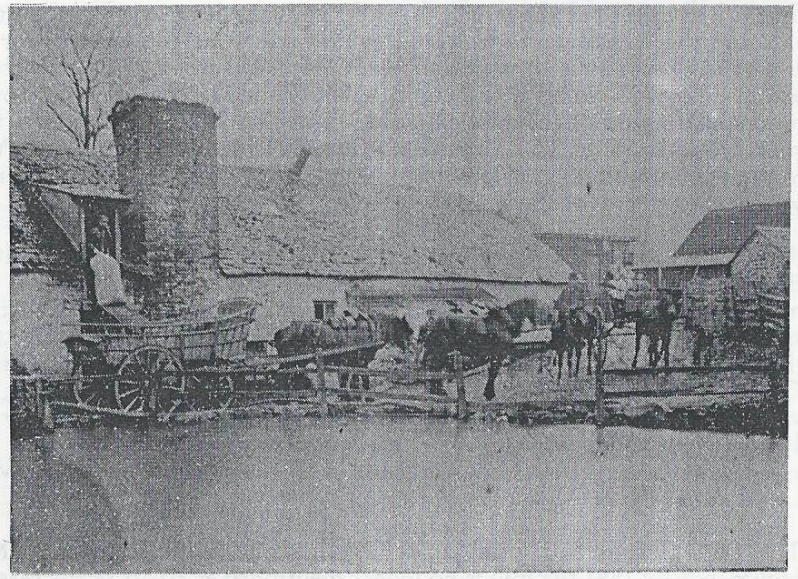
The 1881 Census had John James (29), a stone mason, living at 'Mill House' but by 1891 the mill is no longer mentioned at all. It seems reasonable to suppose the mill stopped working between 1871 and 1881, becoming ruinous by 1891 and no longer worthy of mention by the Census enumerator. The OS 6" map of 1905 describes the mill as 'Clas Mill - Disused'. Actually the mill is shown on this map as an open rectangle which suggests it was already a roofless ruin at the time of the 1902 field revision by the OS.

While the date of the mill ceasing to work can be fixed within a few years there would seem to be nothing I can find to suggest an early date for the mill or a predecessor.

Glascwm parish was an episcopal manor of St.David's but there is no mention of a mill, or service to a mill, in the entries for Glascwm in the

Black Book of St.David's of 1326.[15]

There is a reference to a mill in Glascwm parish which I have been unable to identify and I will therefore mention it as it may refer to this particular mill. It comes from the Star Chamber Proceedings of the time of James I (1603-25), unfortunately not dated exactly. Stephen Lloyd, a gentleman, complained of Walter Harries of Llangwm, Monmouthshire, another gentleman, that he and Ieuan ap Rees et Sibluxor, William John, James Powell, '*et al*', had broken a mill sluice at Glascwm, assaulted the miller, felled trees and effected a rescue from arrest. Exciting times in Glascwm![16]



Pl.2: Hundred House mill: the pond

B/6 (p.20) **Hundred House Mill**, parish of Llansantffraed-in-Elvel (SO 114 546): on R. Edw, tributary to R. Wye.

Tucker stated that the mill was the end part of a linear range of buildings (which included the miller's cottage). It is complete with its machinery. The wheel is in a covered wheel-house being over-shot and about 10 ft in diameter by 4 ft. 4 in. wide. The main gears appear to be of iron with wooden teeth on the pit wheel and great spur. The upright shaft and the crown wheel are of wood; the latter has an iron gear ring bolted to its

upper surface while an iron bevel wheel engages with it to drive a square-section iron horizontal shaft carrying wooden pulleys. Two sets of wooden furniture for the stones are present but only one pair of French burrs by Kay & Hilton of Fleet Street, Liverpool, dated 1871, survive, with circular holes for balance units. All the machinery is confined to the eastern 10 ft. next to the water wheel. The building is of two storeys but has no loft of useful size. The cottage section is about 30 ft. by 20 ft.; the leat is dry with a small terminal pond (Pl.1).

The mill is called 'Caedogan Mill' in the Land Tax Return for 1817, when 3s.4d. was paid by H. Vaughan Esq., as 'owner/occupier'. In the 1841 Census return James Jones (55) was the Miller and he was still there in 1851 described as 'Miller and Farmer of 30 acres', at that time he employed George White (19) as a Miller and he had 3 'Labourers' working for him. by 1861, James Lewis (26), 'Farmer of 10 acres and Miller' had taken over and had Richard Powell (17) working as 'Miller' with him. At that time it was named as 'Cadugan Mill'.

However, in 1871 Thomas Duggan (28) was the 'Miller' with William Jones (19) as his 'Assistant Miller'. Duggan continued at least until 1891, by which time he was 48 years old and described himself as 'Miller and Corn Dealer'. He and his wife, Frances (46), had 11 children ranging in age from 22 years down to 3 years. The three eldest - Ann (22), Thomas (21), and William (17) - are all entered in the Census as 'Miller's assistant'. Duggan called the mill, 'New Mill' in 1871, 'Hundred House Mill' in 1881, and 'Cadwgan Mill in 1891. The name continued to vary when it was run by the Davies family [see also B/7, Bettws Mill and B/12, Little Mill]. William Davies ran it as 'Hundred House Mill' in 1906 (Kelly's *Directory*) but called it 'New Mill' in the 1909 County Electors' Register. The name had reverted to 'Hundred House Mill' under William Davies and Son in Kelly's for 1926 and so it has remained since.

After World War I Edward Worts married Gladys May Davies, daughter of William Davies referred to above, and trained as a miller at Hundred House Mill before he moved to Little Mill at Disserth [B/12] in 1925 and Hundred House Mill and run by William, son of William Davies. Later, Edward Wort's son, Geoff, became the last miller, starting in 1946.

It was the custom to hold a cleaning of the leat, which is about half a mile long. This event took place on the first Saturday in June when many friends, relatives and local farmers came to the mill to do the job. When the task was completed a big open air meal was set out in the mill yard. Mr Geoff Worts, the current owner, has two photographs taken about 1932 which are a unique record of this communal effort (Pls.3-4).

W.H. Howse, the 20th century historian of Radnorshire, visited the mill on 20 August, 1953, when he recorded that it was working only one pair of

Pl.3: Hundred House mill: the leat-cleaning party

Pl.4: Hundred House mill: the meal after the leat-cleaning

stones. It was milling '*chicken grist from oatmeal and barley*' brought to the mill by farmers.[17] Mr Worts told him that the mill worked most days but the Edw river did not give a good enough supply of water for full working at that time. Wheat was no longer milled as the dressing was no longer possible. Mr Worts found the lack of millwrights a considerable handicap.

Geoff Worts, to whom I am indebted for some of the information above, has told me that he struggled on until 1957 before the mill had to close finally - the last to work in Radnorshire. He confirms that Howse's 1953 comments are correct. This mill was visited by the Welsh Mills Society on 24 October 1992 after Mr Worts had spoken to the members during their morning session at Llandrindod Wells; Mrs Worts acted as a guide during the afternoon visit and received the Society very kindly.

B/7 (p.20). **Bettws Mill**, parish of Glascwm, (SO 116 566): on R. Edw, tributary to R. Wye.

Tucker reported that this mill and its cottage had been converted into an attractive residence. The buildings on a N-S long axis had the mill at the N. end and it was about 20ft. by 20ft. in plan with two storeys and an attic making it taller than the adjacent cottage. Stedman Davies said the mill was not in use in 1940. He also said that it was known as '*Melin Busnant*'[18] which is incorrect: Busnant is about 5 km. SSE on the Clas Brook while Bettws Mill is on the Edw.

An early reference to the mill has Edward Haworth there c.1691 according to the Great Session Papers, 1691-9.[19] The mill is shown on an OS 2" sketch map of 1817 in the possession of the National Library of Wales.

The 1841 Census return has John Evans (25) there with his occupation as 'Farmer' (of 17 acres) and Miller'. By 1861 his widow, Mary, was in charge of the mill. In 1871, James Hughes (29) was the 'Miller & Farmer' with John Harris (56) his 'Miller Servant'.

Later, by 1881, the mill was in the hands of William Davies (23) who was there also in 1891 but subsequently moved to Hundred House Mill [B/6] in the next parish. David Davies, a cousin, was living at the mill in 1909, as shown by the County Electoral Register, but it is thought that the mill had ceased to work before then - perhaps, even before 1900.

Bettws Mill was sold during World War II and although the machinery was still there in 1946 no one tried to get it to work again. The house conversion was carried out in the late 1970's.[20]

B.8 (p.21). **Fedw Mill**, parish of Glascwm (SO 141 574): on a brook tributary to R. Edw, itself tributary to R. Wye.

Tucker wrote that little remained on site to show the past existence of the mill - just broken slates and a pile of old timber. The leat had also disappeared. The OS 1", 1st edition, map shows it as 'Felin-fedw'.

The mill is shown as 'Felin-fedw' on an OS 2" Sketch Map (1817) in the possession of the National Library of Wales and c.300m to the North is a building named as 'Felindre'. Among schedules of deeds relating to New House farm in the parish of Llanbedr Painscastle, Schedule 3 includes the capital messuage of Vedw (a farm c.500 metres to the South of the mill site) and Velindre, '... *now called the Vedow with corn grist mill and 2 large pieces of pasture* ...'.[21] This schedule is dated 5 April, 1811, so it is pretty safe to assume the mill is at least 18th century in date. Today the rough outline of the collapsed walls of the mill can still be seen.

From the 1841 Census onward there is no mention of a miller at the mill which is called 'Vedows Mill (1841), 'Veddow Mill' (1851 and 1871) and Vedw Mill (1881 and 1891). It is always listed with poor inhabitants - workmen, labourers or paupers - and in 1871 it housed two families. At this time there were a 24 year old carpenter, his wife and child and also a tailor aged 78 years with his wife and a son and daughter who were both middle aged. It seems reasonable to suppose the mill ceased working between 1811 and 1841.

Felindre is perhaps worth considering. 'Vedw' is listed among 'Houses of Note' in Edward Lhywd's *Parochialia* (c.1697) in his notes on Glascwm parish and 'Velindre' is named with other houses.[22] This may suggest that the cottages were the remaining part of a more ancient and substantial house. The house name alone suggests a mill was here in the late 17th century. Perhaps in the 18th century the millbecame associated with Fedw farm rather than with 'Velindre' as the latter declined in importance.

In one of his notebooks W.H. Howse has an undated reference that a Mr. T. Kinsley had told him that there had been two cottages which had 'gone down' as well as the mill.[23]

In 1871, 'Velindra' (*sic*) housed Anne Rees, a widow of 73. By 1881 it was recorded as 'uninhabited' and is not mentioned at all in the 1891 Census return. Today no trace can be seen on the ground. This is not unusual in Radnorshire where stone from redundant buildings is often totally recycled.

B.9 (p.21). **Cnitho Mill**, parish of Llanfaredd, (SO 063 518): on Cnithio Brook, tributary to R. Wye.

Tucker reported that the building still stands, with the mill and attached

cottage now made into a residence. The mill was in the southern part but it retains none of the machinery. The mill was of two storeys with a full height attic. The pond was at the back as was the entrance to the stone floor. The wheel remained in an internal wheel compartment which was open at the external wall. The wheel was overshot and 14ft. in diameter by 3ft. wide and was little decayed. The corn mill was converted into a water-powered saw mill which Tucker said worked until c.1935 and employed seven men. Later the wheel worked an electricity generator until 1956. The Tithe Map of 1843, or later, shows 'Clitho Mill' with a 16-chain leat on the west side of the brook and a terminal pond 6 chains in length. The owners told Tucker they spelt the name 'Cnitho' but 'Cnithio' is the spelling used by the OS on the 1/25000 map of 1951.

This was yet another mill associated with farm property; Cnitho Mill was advertised as follows in 1778: '*To be let and entered upon at Candlemas next, a Farm called Noyadd Llwid with the water corn grist mill called Knivow Mill, situate in the parish of Llanvareth* ...'.[24] Noyaddllwyd exists today c.400 metres S.E. of the mill.

Williams, writing about 1820, said that this mill was then working as a corn mill and that it belonged to Lewis Lewis of Builth Wells.[25]

The 1841 Census return has Richard Bluck (25) as the 'Milner', but the 1851 Census shows Thomas Jones (58) there and in 1861 he was joined by John Earl (65) another 'Miller'. However, by 1871, William Prothero, a wheelwright and carpenter, had converted the mill into a saw mill and he was assisted by William Vale - a Carpenter and Workman'. A small note-book belonging to Prothero survives and has these entries in 1874 which are indications of contemporary costs:

> *'Contract for Cart Bed with dashboards - shafts - including most of the wood - £24. 14s.*
> *Ringing 1 wheel and banding - 12s.*
> *12 felloes @ 1/- each.*
> *21 spokes @ 6d each.*
> *1 axel [sic] tree - 5/-'*

The mill continued with the Prothero family for many decades. It is called variously 'Knitho Mill' (1871), 'Caenitho Mill' (1881), and Canithou Mill' (1891) -as good a set of variations in Welsh orthography as I have seen, when you include the ones quoted already. There is reason to suppose that the name was derived from the Carneddau range of hills close by.

There is a house called 'Glannant' which stands today near the mill and in the same 1909 Electoral Register James Prothero lived there while William Prothero, who lived at the mill house called it 'Glannant Mill'. It would seem that 'Glannant' was an alternative name to 'Cnitho' for the mill early

this century.

When Jim Frude joined James Prothero in his wheelwright and carpentry business in 1936, he was the only employee with Prothero and Mr Frude thinks that Tucker's 'seven' men must be a transcription error. The business was in general woodworking and wheel making though they also made coffins and gambos. Gambos were made for local farmers up to about 1950 and in order to make them they needed a 19ft. table to handle 18ft. lengths of timber - '*10ft. for the gambo body and 8ft. for the horse*'.

The use of water power finished about 1947 or 1948 as the water supply was rather unpredictable. A petrol engine was installed then to drive the two circular saw blades - one of 48" and one of 30" diameter.

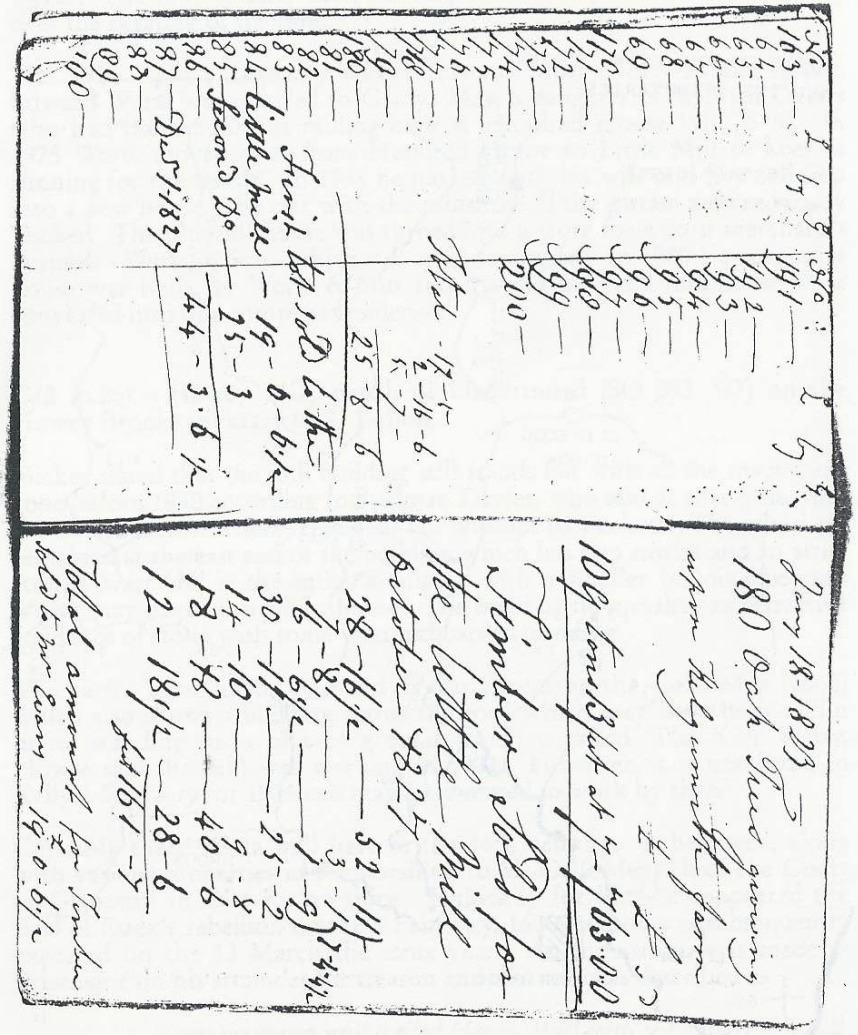
The generator referred to by Tucker was only used to provide low voltage lighting for the house adjacent to the workshop/saw mill. The business was continued, after James Prothero retired c.1950, by Jim Frude who rented the petrol engine driven saw mill until c.1972 when he moved his workshop alongside his bungalow which is close by. I am grateful for this useful verbal account from Mr G J Frude, now in his mid-seventies. He showed me the rough notebook from which I quoted and which is all that survives of Prothero records today.

B/12 (p.22). **Little Mill**, parish of Disserth and Trecoed, (SO 038 550): on Dulas Brook, tributary to R. Wye.

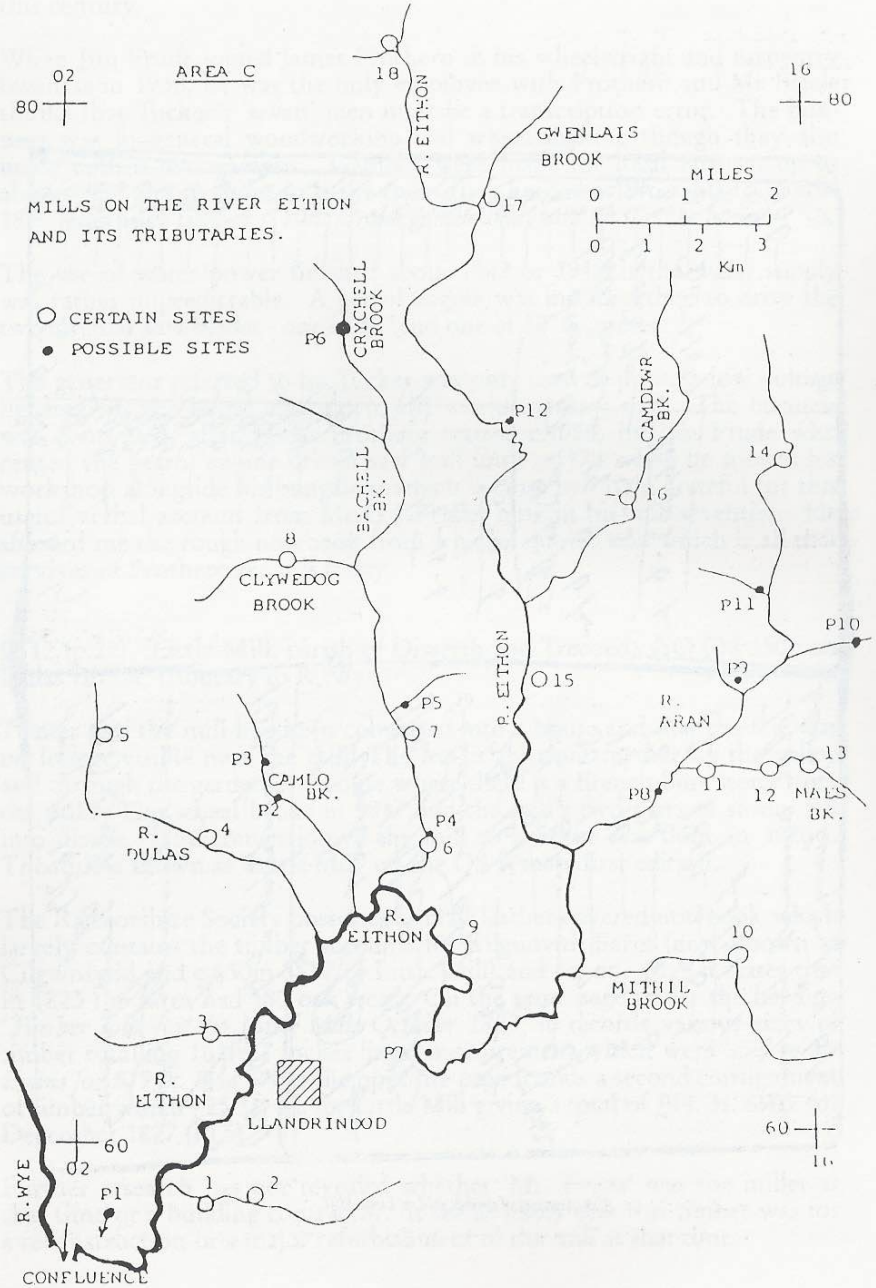
Tucker said the mill had been converted into a house and that the leat was no longer visible near the mill. The leat is apparent further up the valley and through the garden of a house where there is a French burr stone from the mill. The wheel broke in 1947 and the mill's two pairs of stones fell into disuse. The conversion of the mill to a house was done in 1980-1. The mill is shown as 'Little Mill' on the OS 1" map, first edition.

The Radnorshire Society possesses a small leather-covered notebook which largely contains the timber accounts for Kilgunvith Farm (now known as Cilgwnfydd and c.650m SSW of Little Mill) and on one page it states that in 1823 the farm had 180 oak trees. On the same page under the heading '*Timber sold for the Little Mill, October 1827*' it records various sizes of timber totalling 161ft. 7 inches lineal measurement which were '*sold to Mr Evans for £19 0s. 6½d*'. On the opposite page it adds a second consignment of timber worth £25 3s. 0d. for Little Mill giving a total of £44. 3s. 6½d. for December 1827 (Pl.5).

Further research has not revealed whether 'Mr. Evans' was the miller at that time or a building contractor. It seems likely that this timber was for a reconstruction or a major refurbishment of the mill at that time.



Pl.5: Account of timber sold to Little Mill



The mill was run by William Davies (38) at the time of the 1841 Census return and continued in the hands of the Davies family right through the 1891 Census and beyond. In 1891, another William Davies (61) was the miller there with his wife and six children ranging in age from 12 down to 1 year. The 1909 County Electoral Register shows Price Davies had taken over the running of the mill.

The 1926 Kelly's *Directory* shows Edward Miles Worts as the miller. Edward Worts was married to Gladys May, a daughter of William Davies who had trained him in milling over at Hundred House Mill [B/6]. In 1925 Worts moved over from Hundred House to Little Mill to keep it running for the family. In 1938 he moved, with his wife and five children into a new house - the one with the millstone in the garden referred to by Tucker. The old mill house was turned into a store for a corn merchant's business - Worts & Son - which still continues today. In 1980-1 a new store house was built for Worts & Son and the old mill and mill-house were converted into one complete residence.

C/2 (p.26). **Howey Mill**, parish of Llandrindod (SO 053 587) on the Howey Brook, tributary to R. Eithon.

Tucker stated that the mill building still stands but with all the machinery gone before 1940 according to Stedman Davies, who said at that time, that the overshot iron wheel remained, but without its buckets. The wheel pit remained at the east end of the building which has two stories and an attic. At the west end is the miller's cottage with a smaller building beyond which may have been a kiln house. The building now makes an attractive residence of stone with some weatherboarded cladding.

The partly stone lined pond and its leat appear on the Tithe Map (1840) which also shows a building across the road which may have been a kiln house standing on a plot of ground which is called 'The Kiln' today. Howse said the mill was working in 1901. However, it is not listed in Kelly's *Directory* for 1906 and may have ceased to work by then.

Certainly there was a mill here in the 16th century. It belonged, along with various properties in Radnorshire, to Sir Gelli Meyrick of the Court of Gladestry in East Radnorshire. Unluckily for him he supported the Earl of Essex's rebellion on the 8 February, 1600, and he was subsequently executed on the 13 March the same year. An inquisition was made at Presteigne on his attainder for treason and this mill was described as

> ' ... *a certain water mill (called Havoy Mill) with the appurt's, situate and lying in Dissart [*Disserth - it is on the very border of Disserth] *in the county aforesaid of the gift of our said Lady the Queen, and that*

the aforesaid mill, with appurt's, are of the yearly value (beyond reprises) of 10 shillings [gross annual rental]'.[26]

It is not listed among the Crown mills in 1784 and it may have become privately owned again by then.[27]

An entry dated 20 July 1792, in the account book of the artist Thomas Jones of Pencerrig in Disserth parish refers to corn drying at Howey Mill by Rees, the miller at that time.

In 1841 the Census return has the miller as Moses Bound (50), followed ten years later by David Evans (54). Thomas Ashton (61) was the 'Milner with 7 acres' with his son Evan Ashton (21), 'Milner' helping him in 1861. At the same time Elizabeth Aubrey (46), a 'Staymaker' was in 'Mill Cottage' and she was still there in 1871 calling herself a 'Seamstress'. Selina Phillips (52), another 'Seamstress', was at the 'Mill House and she had the miller, Alfred Handley (22), as her lodger. By 1881, Handley, his wife and five children lived in the village while old Thomas Ashton, the former miller and by then a pauper, lived in the Mill Cottage, which in 1891 was occupied by John Davies (45), the next miller.

The mill was '*out of repair by 1932*'.[28] In 1933 the property was acquired by Radnorshire County Council with 6.1 acres of land for £375. The remains of the iron wheel were taken away for scrap metal in World War II. The county council used the property partly as a road repair depot and one of the road workers lived in the mill house.[29]

In 1984 the Powys C.C. sold the place to Harry and Louise Robinson, who have restored the building into a very pleasant house which has taken in the old mill - there was no machinery to preserve. The Mill Cottage - a 'one-up and one-down' building adjoining - is used as Mrs. Robinson's studio on the first floor and as a store-room on the ground floor. The adjoining building is now converted to being Mrs. Robinson's commercial art gallery. It is uncertain what purpose this building served. Mr Robinson found doors on both sides of the first floor which he has now converted to windows. It may have served as a storehouse. There were no signs of jibs for hoisting sacks.
It is pure speculation on my part but it occurs to me that with both doors open a through draught would be created and it is possible that the first floor room could have been used for threshing with flails. Beyond this building another adjoins which with a double door at the front may have served as a cart shed.

A partly squared-off monolithic mill stone of coarse grit, has in the past, been built into a short flight of external steps to the old mill.

C/14 (p.31-2). **Cantell Mill**, parish of Llanbister (SO 156 730): on the R. Aran. tributary to R. Eithon.

Tucker stated that the machinery had all gone except for two wooden pulleys, one wooden gear-wheel, and a French burr bedstone, *in situ* on the gallery-type stone floor. The mill had two pairs of stones originally. The plan of the building is about 32 ft. by 22ft. - the wheel and all the machinery was at the north-east end. The south-west end may have served as the miller's cottage. Stedman Davies said that the mill was out of use by 1940. The building - of two storeys plus a small attic - was built with brick and given a slated roof.

It is clear from the Census return that this was a mill associated with a farm. In 1841 Richard Bywater was the farmer at 'Great Cantle' farm and Thomas Morgan (28) was his miller. In 1851 David Davies had become the 'Miller (Servant)' and he was still there in 1861. By 1871 'Great Cantal' farm, of 500 acres, had changed hands and Thomas Williams (67) was the farmer and Thomas Lucas (57) was his 'miller servant'. In 1881, Thomas Williams' widow, Anne, (77) was running the farm which was by then reduced to 177 acres and Thomas Lucas was still the miller with his age given as 76! The 1891 Census shows the farmer as Abraham Hamer (46), who was also a registrar of births and deaths, and Richard Price (42) was a 'journeyman miller' working for him.

The mill is recorded as 'Cantell Mill' in Kelly's *Directory* under the name of Thomas Hamer in 1906 and again in 1926. It would seem that the mill ceased working between 1926 and 1940.

C/15. (p.32) Llanddewi - **Corn Mill** (SO 107 686) & **Saw Mill** (SO 108 687), parish of Llanddewi Ystradenni; on R.Ithon

Tucker stated that the corn mill still stands, but is now converted into a house. Stedman Davies said that it was working as late as 1939 and had three stories, iron wheels and two sets of stones. The three-quarter mile leat is still to be found, but the millpond is dry and is the site of a bungalow called 'Millfield'. Tucker thought that the wheel was probably undershot.

The corn mill went with the farm of Llanddewi Hall, which is at least sixteenth century in date. The mill must have been eighteenth century in origin, or earlier, as was proved by the following advertisement:

> *'To be Let and Entered upon at Lady Day, 1800. All that Capital Messuage, Farm and Lands called Llandewy Hall with the Water Corn Grist Mill thereunto belonging, containing 482 Acres of Arable, Meadow, Pasture and Wood Land with a good right of Common thereunto belonging ... now in the holding of Mr John Jones'.*[30]

In the 1851 Census return for 'Llandewey Hall' (558 acres), Thomas Davies (22) is listed as 'Miller Servant' - a member of the household together with other farm servants. This confirms that the mill was part of the farm and not run independently.

In 1845 Sir John Benn Walsh (later Lord Ormathwaite) owned nearly 2,000 acres in the parish of Llanddewi Ystradenni, and at this time bought a further thousand acres including Llanddewi Hall Farm. [31]

It would seem that there were two semi-detached 'Mill Cottages'. Evan Morris (36) was the miller in 1861, but in 1871 the No.1 Mill Cottage was occupied by a tailor with his family, while No.2 was the home of John Powell (32), a wheelwright. There is no mention in the Census return of a miller in the village - perhaps he was away that day. However, in 1881 and 1891 Thomas Morgan (31 in 1891) was the miller and lived in No.1 cottage with his family, and No 2. cottage was still occupied by John Powell, 'carpenter and wheelwright'. It is probable that Powell ran the saw mill.

Mr Emlyn Pugh, whose father bought the Llanddewi Hall farm when the Ormathwaite Estate (some 11,000 acres) was auctioned late in 1945, has provided a lot of information, and his memory goes back before World War II when his father was the tenant of the farm. The words 'house conversion' suggest that much of the mill building was saved. Mr Pugh says that when the work was done in 1973, so little of the mill was structurally sound that only a few remains could be incorporated, and one is looking today at a modern structure. The drying kiln, on the west side of the overflow leat from the pond, was in a roofless and ruinous state before World War II, and it was demolished when the new house was built. The wheel, which Mr Pugh says was overshot, went for scrap metal. The mill ceased working about 1936 - not as late as Stedman Davies suggested.

In the catalogue for the sale of the Ormathwaite Estate in 1945, the description of Llanddewi Hall says;

> *'Included also is the Estate Yard with the old Carpenter's shop, store and saw-shed, which are in Hand. The water wheel is included, but rights to take water from Lot 20* (Aber-Camddwr Farm) *or other adjacent lots are not included with this lot.'*

Sir John Walsh had announced his intention in April 1860 to build a wheelwright's shed at Llanddewi, and by October that year he had the saw mill completed.[32]

The accompanying plan of Llanddewi Ystradenni (Fig.2) shows it as it was at the begining of this century. Apart from the old church (which was entirely rebuilt in 1890), the mill and Llanddewi Hall, this small nucleated

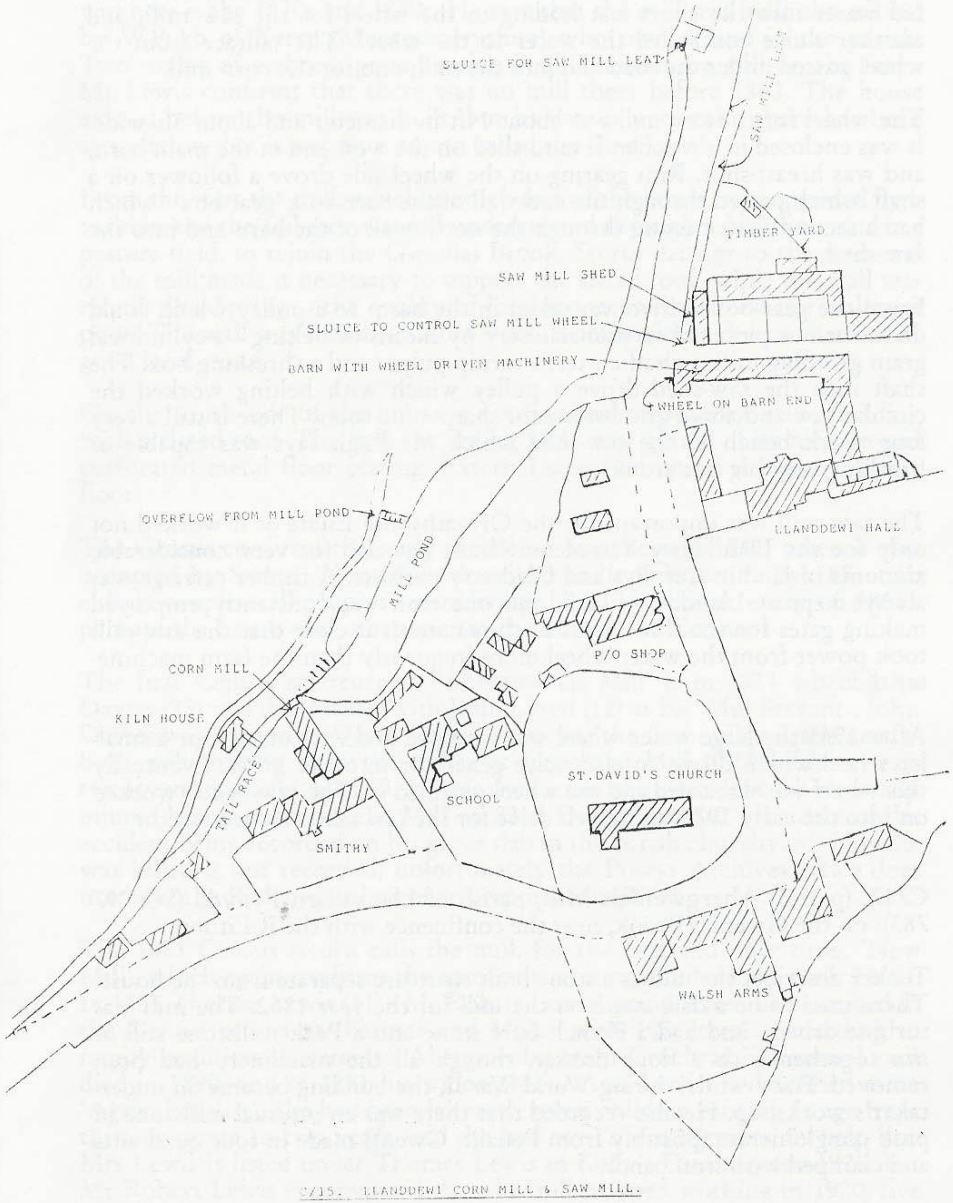


Fig.2: Llanddewi Ystradenny village (after OS 25" map)

village is essentially a Victorian creation. It will be seen that a sluice diverted water into the short leat leading to the wheel for the saw mill, and another sluice controlled the water to the wheel. The tailrace from the wheel passed under the road and into the millpond for the corn mill.

The wheel for the saw mill was about 14ft in diameter and about 3ft wide. It was enclosed in a wooden lean-to shed on the west end of the main barn, and was breast-shot. Rim gearing on the wheel side drove a follower on a shaft which passed through the end wall of the barn to a 'gear-box' which had a second shaft passing through the north wall of the barn and into the saw-shed.

From the gear-box a drive was taken in the barn to a pulley which could drive various pieces of farm machinery by means of belting - a cylindrical grain grinding mill, a chaff cutter, a turnip pulper and a threshing box. The shaft into the saw-shed drove a pulley which with belting worked the circular saw and also a grind-stone for sharpening tools. There is still a very long work bench in the saw-shed which Mr Pugh says was capable of handling very big tree trunks.

The saw mill was important for the Ormathwaite Estate as it worked not only for the Llanddewy Ystradenni lands, but also for very considerable amounts of land in Cefnllys and Gladestry parishes. A timber carriage was always kept at Llanddewy Hall, and one man was constantly employed making gates for the three areas of the estate. It is clear that the saw mill took power from the water wheel more frequently than the farm machinetry did.

After 1945 the large water wheel was scrapped and exchanged fopr a smaller wheel which drove an electricity generator into the 1950s. Eventually this wheel was discarded and the wheel pit filled in. The saw bench worked on into the early 1970s using belt drive for the saw taken from a tractor.

C/17. (p.32-3) **Abergwenlais Mill**, parish of Llanbadarn Fynydd (SO 097 783): on the Gwenlas Brook, near the confluence with the R.Eithon.

Tucker describes the mill as a stone-built structure separate from the house. There used to be a date-stone on the mill for the year 1862. The mill was turbine driven, and had a French burr stone and a Peak millstone still *in situ* together with a flour dresser, though all the machinery had been removed. For a while, during World War II, the building became an undertaker's workshop. He also recorded that there was an unusual millstone in pink conglomerate (possibly from Penallt, Gwent) made in four quadrants and clamped with iron bands.

The current owner, Mr Robert H. Lewis, is the grandson of the miller who

was here is the 1870s and 1880s. He says that the mill was built about 1863 by W.Pugh of Kerry (Montgomeryshire) who owned land in the parish. Two stones of a cheese press bearing Pugh's initials are still on the farm. Mr Lewis confirms that there was no mill there before 1863. The house existed before the mill was built, but its date is uncertain; there has been speculation that it was once an inn called the 'Red Lion'.

From the start the mill, which is north-east of the house, was operated by a turbine and the tail-race was led underground through a pipe-line, under a pasture field, to rejoin the Gwenlas Brook. Storm damage to the west end of the mill made it necessary to support the slated roof while the wall was rebuilt this Spring - the quality of local stone used to build the wall was poor. The wall was rebuilt in blockwork, a compromise due to the lack of good local stone.

On the south side of the house is a substantial two-storey stone building with a slated roof. This was the drying kiln, now gutted of its furnace and perforated metal floor plating. External steps led up to the grain drying floor.

The Census confirms that only the house was there in 1841, when it was occupied by Samuel Hunt (60), described as 'Independent'. By 1851 two elderly couples - all paupers - were living there. There is no entry on 1861 - perhaps the house was unoccupied at the time of the Census.

The first Census reference to 'Abergwenlas Mill' is in 1871 when John Davies (25) was the 'Miller' with John Lloyd (12) as his 'Mill Servant'. John Davies was the son of David Davies, who was the first miller at the newly-built mill, having been the miller at Crochran Mill (C/18) for at least twenty years. Sadly, aged 73, he was the victim of an accident which fatally injured him at Abergwenlas Mill on 22nd December 1867 - the date of the accident being recorded on his grave slab in the parish churchyard. How he was killed is not recorded; unfortunately the Powys Archives office does not have the Radnorshire coroner's reports for 1867-8.

The 1881 Census return calls the mill, for the first and only time, 'New Mill', which again confirms the account that it was built in the early 1860s. In 1881 Thomas Lewis (31) - Mr Robert Lewis' grandfather - is described in the Census return as 'Farmer and Miller with 100 acres'. According to family tradition he came to Abergwenlas from Crochran. Thomas Lewis died in 1890, and in 1891 his widow, Mary Ann Lewis, is described as an 'Agriculturalist'. She had been left with seven children ranging in age from thirteen down to two years, and she had two 'Farm Servants' to help her. Mrs Lewis is listed under Thomas Lewis in Kelly's *Directory* for 1926, but Mr Robert Lewis is convinced that the mill stopped working in 1920, five years before he was born. Since that time Abergwenlas has been a farm only.

C/18.(p.33) **Crochran Mill**, parish of Llanbadarn Fynydd (SO 081 811): on the Berllwyd Brook, tributary to the R.Eithon.

As Tucker reported, the mill is only represented by some footings. A leat, some two-thirds of a mile long, brought water from the Eithon. He was as puzzled as I am as to why someone went to so much trouble and expense to construct this leat and the millpond when one would think that damming the Berllwyd Brook would have sufficed. The tail water ran from the mill into the brook.

Close to the site of the mill remains a much worn monolithic millstone runner sitting on top of a bedstone. As Tucker remarked, an old stone shed stands by the dry millpond, and seen from the road it gives the impression that the mill still stands.

Among properties covered by deeds and related papers of the Abbeycwmhir Estate, a 'water corn mill' is with 'Crochren' (*sic*), presumably the small farm on the opposite side of the brook named as 'Crochran-isaf' on the 1903 OS 25" plan; this reference takes the mill back to 31st August 1769.[33] Williams, writing about 1820, stated that ' *There is only one corn mill* [in the parish] *viz. that of Crochrhiw* (sic)'. [34]

The 1841 Census return had David Davies as the miller at 'Chrochren Mill'. Ten years later at 'Chrochran Mill' he is described as 'Farmer of 16 acres and Miller with 1 labourer'. Andrew Booth (51) was his 'Mill Servant'. He was still there in 1861, aged 67, but now with 20 acres, and by then his wife Margaret had given him three sons (from twenty-one down to eight years of age) and a fifteen-year-old daughter. When the new Abergwenlas Mill opened in the village (C/17 above), he became the first miller, only to be killed in an accident in 1867.

The 1871 Census has no entry for Crochran Mill and it may have stood empty at the time. However it appears again the 1881 return, but with David Davies (42) entered as 'Workman and Agricultural Labourer'. The 1891 Census does not list the mill.

It seems reasonable to suppose that the mill ceased to work between 1861 and 1871, most probably when David Davies moved to Abergwenlas Mill in about 1863.

C/P6 (p.35). **Flock Mill**, parish of Llananno (SO 069 755): on Crychell Brook, tributary to Bachell Brook, which is tributary to Clywedog Brook, tributary to R.Eithon.

I quote Tucker: *'It is thought that this mill has entirely disappeared. It was shown as 'Flock Mill' on the Tithe Map of 1843, and as 'Walk Mill' on the 2nd. ed. 6" map of 1904.'*

This building was at the southern extremity of the hamlet of New Well, or Ffynnon Newydd as it was called in the eighteenth century. A hundred years or so ago there were about a dozen houses and another half-dozen small holdings of which 'Walk Mill' was one.

The 1841 Census return shows Richard Davies (30), an agricultural labourer, living there with his wife and two children. In 1851 Davies and his family were still there, but he described himself as a 'Weaver'. In 1861 the place was ocupied by Richard Pugh (24), described as a 'Farmer and Ag.Lab.', and Pugh and his family are associated with the place until at least 1911. In 1881 he was not at home on Census day, but his wife Elizabeth was there with six children and a grandchild. She is described as a 'Farmer, with 3½ acres'. The Board of Inland Revenue's Land Valuation Register for 1910-11 shows Pugh as the occupant and a tenant of the Castle Vale Estate, Llananno, with 3 acres, 3 roods of land.

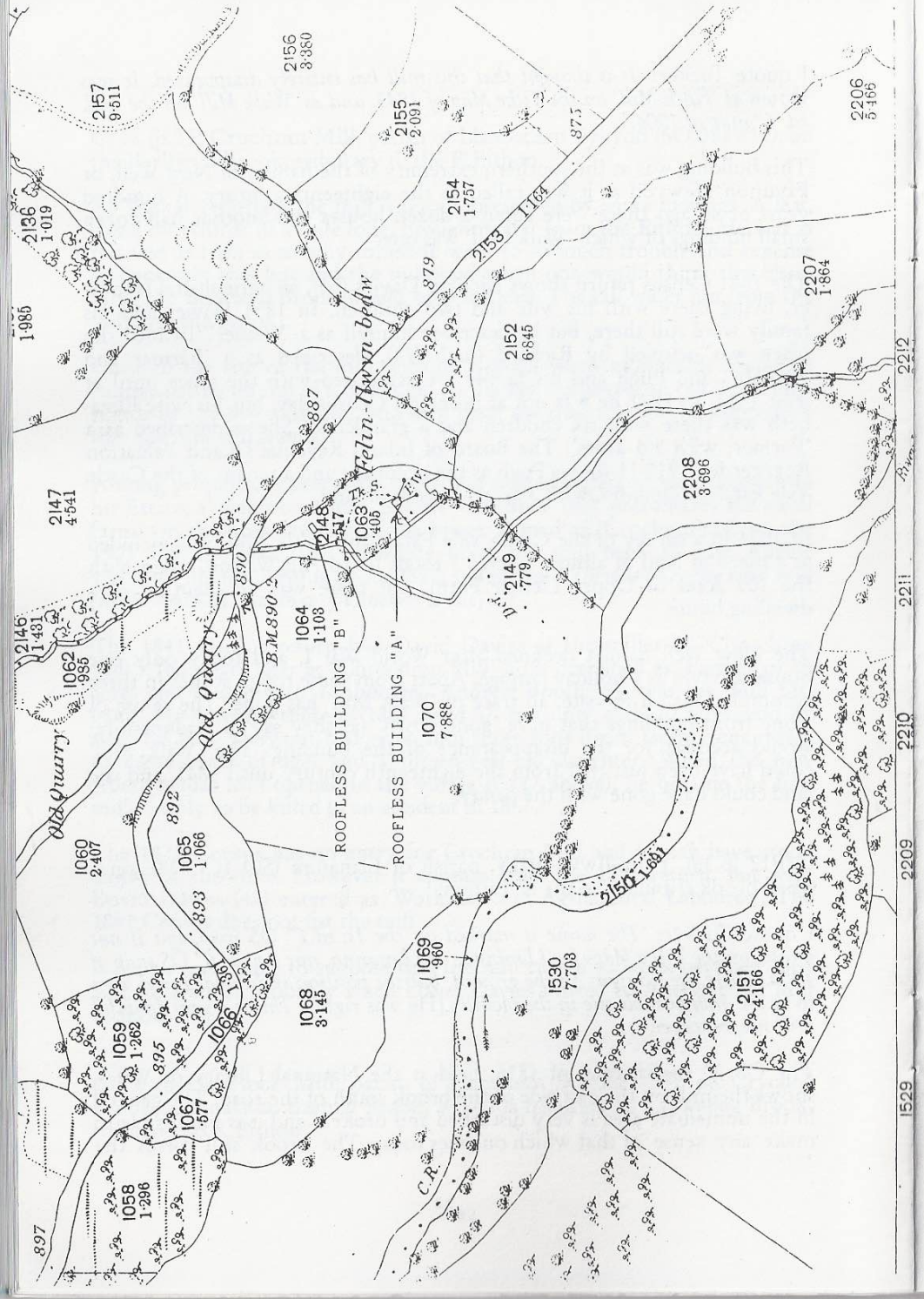
In 1924 in a survey of the Castle Vale Estate the 'Walk Mill' was included as a piece of land of almost 3 acres 3 roods let to A.E.Watson, to go with the 109 acres of Upper Llether Farm, but there was no mention of a dwelling house.

The New Well hamlet declined after World War I, and today only one house survives as a holiday cottage. Apart from some rough stones in three accumulations on the site, all trace of 'Walk Mill' has gone. The re-use of stone from buildings that have 'gone down' (as they say in Radnorshire) would account for the disappearance of the building. The 'Walk Mill' could have been just that from the eighteenth century until 1841, and the land could have gone with the *pandy*.

C/P12 (p.36). **Felin-llwyn-bedw**, parish of Llananno (SO 103 738): on a small brook tributary to the R. Eithon.

I quote Tucker: '*The name is marked on the 1st.ed.1" OS map, but is not shown on the Tithe Maps for Llanbister or Llananno, nor on the 6" OS map of 1904. There are no signs on the ground, but the position indicated would seem to be the only possible site in the vicinity.*[He was right'] *This is a very doubtful mill site, however.*

The OS 2" sketch map of 1816, held at the National Library of Wales, shows the mill on the east side of the brook south of the road. The ground in the immediate area is very disturbed and broken, and it is impossible to make any sense of that which one sees today. The brook still forms the



boundary between the parishes of Llanbister and Llananno as it did at the time of the 1st edition OS 25" plan published in 1889.

This plan shows an interesting diversion of the boundary from the brook. It suddenly diverges from the stream and follows a pecked line marked 'Tk.S.',which in 'OS-speak' means 'Track of Stream'. It then swings sharply to the south-west at a point marked 'F.W', which means 'Face of Wall'. I think that the 'Face of Wall' was the end wall of a roofless building (marked A on Fig.3)) which shows quite clearly and scales to about 20ft. by 15ft. on plan. The 'Track of Stream' may well have been a short leat leading from the brook to an undershot wheel on the end of the building.There is also a further roofless building (B), which scales to about 20ft. by 10ft. on plan.

Building A is, I think, probably the ruined mill. By 1904 the 2nd edition of the 25" plan does not show these particular features, although the boundary follows the same course across the ground. The site is on the Llananno side of the boundary, not in Llanbister.

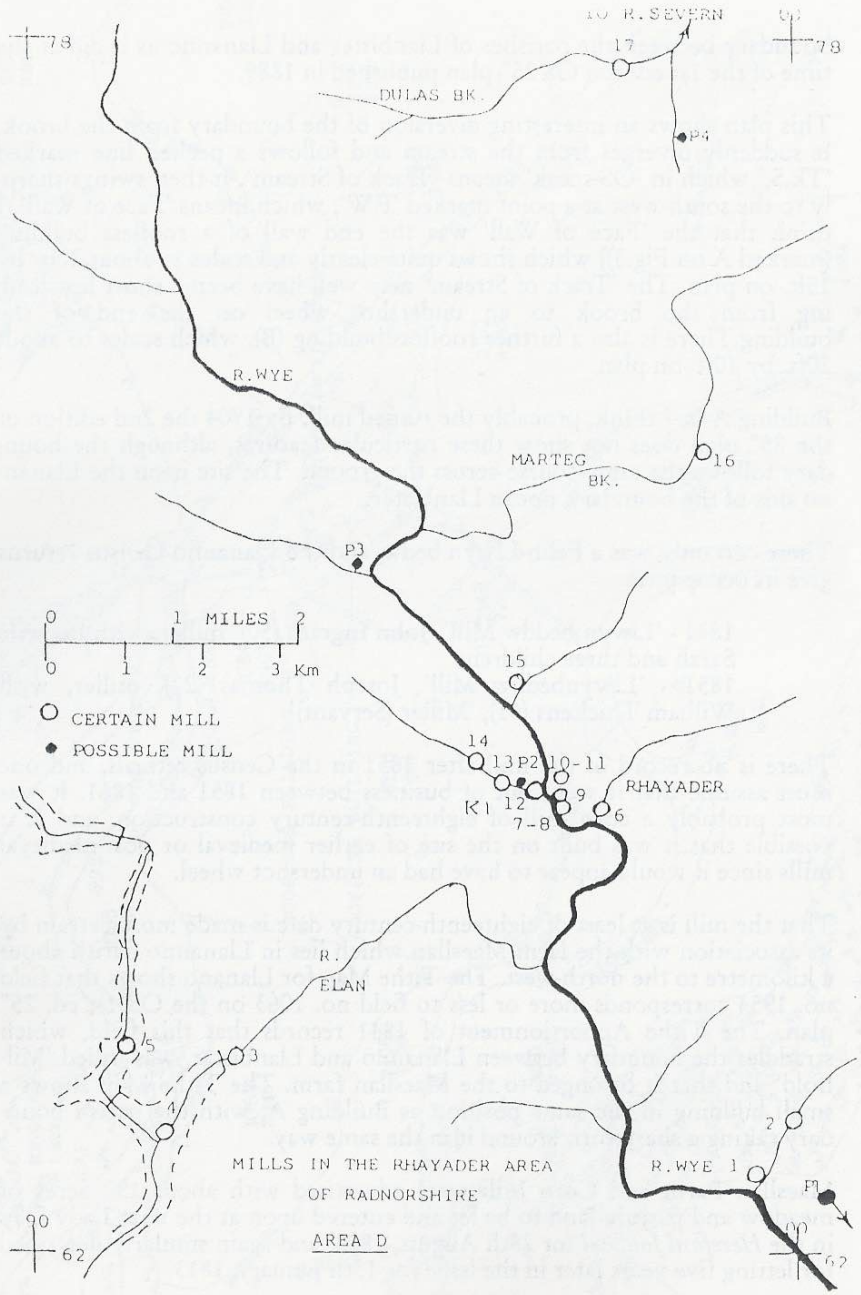
There certainly was a Felin-Llwyn-bedw, and the Llananno Census returns give its occupants:

> 1841 - 'Llwyn beddw Mill', John Ingram (50), miller, with his wife Sarah and three children;
> 1851 - 'Llwynbedow Mill', Joseph Thomas (22), miller, with William Thickens (61), 'Miller (Servant)'.

There is no record of the mill after 1851 in the Census returns, and one must assume that it went out of business between 1851 and 1861. It was most probably a corn mill of eighteenth-century construction, and it is possible that it was built on the site of earlier medieval or post-medieval mills since it would appear to have had an undershot wheel.

That the mill is at least of eighteenth-century date is made more certain by its association with the farm Maesllan which lies in Llananno parish about a kilometre to the north-west. The Tithe Map for Llanano shows that field no. 1954 corresponds more or less to field no. 1063 on the OS 1st ed. 25" plan. The Tithe Apportionment of 1841 records that this field, which straddles the boundary between Llananno and Llanbister, was called 'Millfold' and that it belonged to the Maesllan farm. The Tithe Map shows a small building in the same position as Building A, with the parish boundary taking a sharp turn around it in the same way.

Maesllan Farm and Corn Mill were advertised with about 150 acres of meadow and pasture land to be let and entered upon at the next Lady Day in the *Hereford Journal* for 28th August, 1808, and again similarly described for letting five years later in the issue for 13th January, 1813.



Mr G.Hughes, who has farmed locally all his life, told me that he had been told that if one dug into a bank by the western edge of the 'Millfold' field, the ashes from a drying kiln could still be found.

Edmund Mortimer had a water mill at 'Thlananno' in 1304. [35] Later, in the account of the Mortimer estates for 1356/7, it was recorded that the mill house at 'Lanhannow' was newly made using the lord's timber, and roofed with task work for 18s, and one grindstone was bought for 16s. 8d. [36] The 'farm' (lease) of Llananno Mill was let to David Lloid and David ap Cadwgan and was worth £4 in 1392/3. [37] While I am not saying that this was indeed the the site of the medieval mill in Llananno, it is by the main river for the area. Furthermore the A483 road which passes by it is an old north-south through road; so the connection is not impossible.

D/4 (p.39). **Groe Mill**, parish of Llansantffraed-Cwmdeuddwr (SN 916 638): on R.Elan, tributary to R.Wye.

As Tucker states, the site of this mill is now under the Caban-coch reservoir. The Tithe Map (1838) shows 'Groe Mill' here. Although it is shown on the 1st edition OS 1" map (1833), it is not named. The OS 6" map (c.1890) shows 'Gro Mill' about 100 yards below the church.

From an account of the area in Victorian times by Hetty Price, it is clear that this was an estate mill working for the Nant Gwyllt Estate. She states that the mill was used to saw all the timber for the estate as well as grinding oats and barley *'for oatmeal and flummery stuff'* and meal for pigs. She also recorded that there was a kiln for drying grain. [38]

'Gro Mill' is referred to in a copy of an indenture dated 14th January, 1806. [39] When Thomas Lloyd of Nant Gwyllt was away for four months in 1843 with his family in Boulogne, he left John Davies of Gwardolau to look after the estate. Davies chose as water bailiff William Lloyd, the nineteen-year-old son of Thomas Lloyd of Groe Mill who was also a gamekeeper. [40] The Census returns show the Lloyd family at Groe Mill right through from 1841 to 1891. William Lloyd is named as a carpenter in 1851 and 1861 (aged 56). In 1871 he is described as 'Miller and Joiner', reflecting the dual function of the mill, and he is still working there in 1881 with his age given as 74. The latest Census entry is for a John Lloyd, carpenter, aged 61 in 1891. Within a year or so the mill was drowned by the rising waters of the reservoir.

D/13 (p.42). **Gwynllyn Mill or Upper Mill**, parish of Llansantffraed-Cwmdeuddwr (SN 962 681): on Nant Gwynllyn, tributary to R.Wye from west.

Tucker thought that the large house on the mill site today could possibly incorporate a drying kiln, but that none of the old three-storey mill remains. The mill appears in a photograph of 1889 to be of timber construction. Bryan Lawrence (Powys Library Service) advised Tucker that a lease of 1795 is among the deeds of the Nant Gwyllt Estate. The OS 1st edition 1" map shows the mill as 'Felin Gwynllyn'.

The earliest reference would appear to be in the will of Howell Powell of Nantgwyllt, dated 11th May 1670, in which he refers to the '*water corn mill Melin Gwnllyn*'. [41] There is an agreement of 10th November 1785 between Mrs Margaret Lewis Lloyd of Nantwyllt (*sic*) and David Thomas of Rhayader, carpenter, to let the messuage or mill etc., and a dwelling house at Gwnllin Mills for six years at £20 rent. [42]
'Gwyvellin (*sic*) Mill' in 1841 had John Evans as the 'Miller' with Evan Hope as his 'Grinder' (the same Evan Hope who was the miller at Bleddfa [Lugg 3] in 1851) and John Lewis, aged 15, as the 'Mill Servant'. By 1851 Mary Evans (35), widow of John Evans, was the miller and Thomas Evans (12) was her 'miller's boy'. The 18712 Census has Edward Lewis recorded as 'Mill[er] and Farmer of 27 acres' at 'Upper Mill'. Thomas Edwards (46) was the miller in 1881; John Edwards is recorded by the 1891 Census only as a 'Farmer'. Thomas Edwards is named as the miller in the 1895 Kelly's *Directory*, but the mill is not included in the 1906 *Directory*. It is possible that the mill went out of business about 1900. 'Glanllyn (*sic*) Mill' is described only as a house in the Board of Inland Revenue Land Valuation Register of 1910/11 and this would seem to confirm the above supposition.

D.R/1. **Medieval Fulling Mill**, parish of Llansantffraed-Cwmdeuddwr (unlocated): probably on the Gwynllyn brook.

An *inquisition post mortem* on the possessions of Edmund Mortimer in Maelienydd, dated 1332, stated that he had a moiety of a fulling mill at 'Comot Duder' (Cwmdeuddwr), just across the river Wye from Rhayader which was also held by the Mortimers, the great Marcher lords of that time. [43] Presumably Mortimer had a business arrangement with some unknown entrepreneur to share the costs and profits of the *pandy*.

Professor Jack gives a *pandy* his reference number '121', and puts it at NGR SN 967 678 (approx.), which is roughly the centre of the village of Cwmdeuddwr. He refers to an account that the fulling mill at Cwmdeuddwr gave no profit in 1502.[44] While there can be no certainty that these two fulling mills were on the same site, let alone the same mill, in this rather remote part of Radnorshire there is unlikely to have been a

need for more than one *pandy* in operation in the area.

REFERENCES

1. Board of Inland Revenue Land Valuation Register 1910-11.
2. Rev. D.S. Davies, *T.Rads.Soc.* Vol. X, (1940), p. 56.
3. *Hereford Journal*, 4th November, 1795.
4. Powys County Archives Office CR95 - Coroner's Report.
5. Emyr Gwynne Jones *Exchequer Proceedings (Equity) Concerning Wales - Henry VIII-Elizabeth*, Board of Celtic Studies (1939), p.31.
6. Edward Owen (ed.), *A Catalogue of the Manuscripts Relating to Wales in the British Museum*, Vol. I, (1900), Hon. Soc. Cymmrodorion, p.78.
7. Rev. Jonathan Williams, *A General History of the County of Radnorshire*, (1905 edition), p.150.
8. National Library of Wales, *A Calendar of Skreen & Velin Newydd Deeds*, (1948), no.478, p.75.
9. ibid, no.631, p.149
10. ibid. no.631, p.149.
11. ibid. no.273, p.162a.
12. ibid. no. 158, p.58.
13. ibid. no.425, p117.
14. *Shrewsbury News*, 27 December, 1930.
15. *The Black Book of St.David's*, Cymmrodorion Record Series No. 5, The Hon. Soc. Cymmrodorion (1902), pp.291-3.
16. *A Catalogue of Star Chamber Proceedings Relating to Wales*, Ifan A.B. Owen Edwards (ed), (Cardiff), (1929) p.216.
17. W.H. Howse, MS Notebook 'W', p24.
18. Rev. D.S. Davies, *T.Rads.Soc.* Vol. X, (1940), p53.
19. Evan D. Jones, *T.Rads.Soc.* XIII, (1943), p.13.
20. Verbal information from Mr G M Worts of Hundred House.
21. Powys County Archives R/D/JGW/37/106.
22. *Arch. Camb.* Supplement 1910, p.34
23. W.H. Howse, MS Notebook W. p24.
24. *The British Chronicle or Pugh's Hereford Journal*, 5 Nov. 1778.
25. Rev. Jonathan Williams, op.cit note 7, p.328.
26. Richard W. Banks, *Arch. Camb.*, Vol. X, 3rd Series, (Vol. XIX), (1864), p.25.
27. Rev. Jonathan Williams, op.cit. note 7, p.150.
28. David Jones, *T.Rads.Soc.* Vol. II (1932), p.29.
29. Powys County Council Estates Dept.
30. *Hereford Journal*, 5th February, 1800
31. Ruth Bidgood, *T.Rads.Soc.* Vol.L (1980), p.56
32. R.Bidgood, ibid, p.57
33. Powys County Archives R/D/BRA/1862/1
34. Rev. Jonathan Williams, op cit note 7, p.226
35. E.J.L.Cole, *T.Rads.Soc.* XVI (1946), p.9
36. E.J.L.Cole, *T.Rads.Soc.*, XXXIV (1964), p.36
37. A.D.Powell, *T.Rads.Soc.*, XLVIII (1978) p.72
38. Hetty Price, *T.Rads.Soc.* XVIII (1948), p.47
39. Powys County Archives R/.D/LEW/2/96
40. R.C.B.Oliver, *T.Rads.Soc.* LXII (1992), p.37
41. Powys County Archives R/D/LEW/1/59
42. Powys County Archives R/D/LEW/2/167
43. E.J.L.Cole, *T.Rads.Soc.* XVI (1946), p.13
44. R.Ian Jack, *Arch.Camb* CXXX (1981) p 11, referring to E.A.Lewis, *Trans. Royal Historical Soc.*, new ser. 17 (1903), p.158 n.6.