

## Note on Seedy Mill, near Lichfield, Staffs

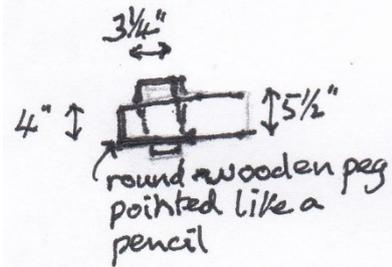
Grid Ref: SK 1014 1326      Bourne Brook, trib of R.Trent

1. I visited this mill on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1967 and made notes on a bit of paper which I transferred the next day to an SPAB watermill survey questionnaire form. I visited the mill a second time on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1968, and made further notes on the same SPAB form. The mill had not been used for about fifty years, but a lot of machinery remained.
2. The information on the SPAB form being rather difficult to read, I set it out below (with clarifications in square brackets) –
  - Location: Down a track by the side of Roundabout Garage. In farmyard of Seedymill Farm.
  - Description: quite small, 3 floors [including ground floor] , unglazed [=non-shiny] red brick, tile roof. Apparently no millpool.
  - Owner: South Staffordshire Waterworks.
  - Mill not working. A farm hand at Seedymill tells me that the mill has not worked for about 50 or 60 years but that the present farmer's father, who now lives in Herefordshire, can remember it working.
  - The waterwheel has been removed. The farmhand tells me that the sluiceways fell out of repair, causing the waterwheel to revolve continually; the noise it made kept the people around awake at night, and so it was removed. The wheelshaft remains, badly rotted away. There is a peep hole [from inside the mill] into the wheelhouse, as at Cannock Mill.
  - Waterwheel: one [gone], in a wheelhouse, breast wheel, 11ft dm x 6ft 6in wide (measured from wheelpit, allowing 2 to 3 inches clearance). The water feed for the wheel appears beyond reasonable doubt to have come in at wheelshaft level i.e 5 to 6 ft head of water was used [plus any banked up behind the sluiceway]. Wheelpit: brick-lined with stone foundations, originally closely fitting at headrace side.
  - Shaft of waterwheel. Wood, 1ft 5in across the flats, octagonal [but] square for 1ft 6in or so at each end.

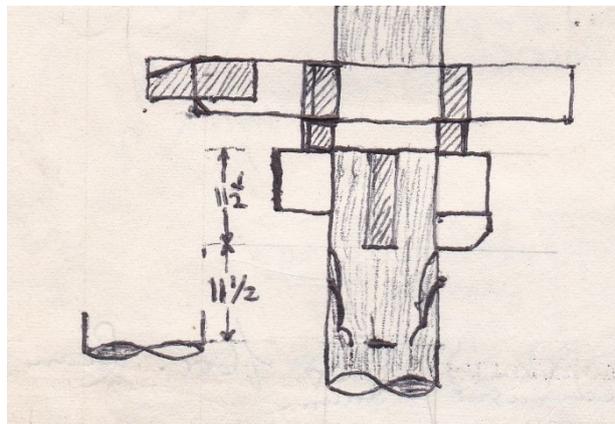
- Gear wheels. *Pit wheel* – Cast iron, 8, T-section radial arms, single casting, usual slight bevel, about 88 solid teeth, 7ft 0in overall dm. *Wallower* – cast iron, one casting, wedged on square on upright shaft, 3ft 0 in across pitch circle, about 3ft 2in overall, 42 teeth, cast solid, four I- shaped radial arms from corners  of square, thus-

*Spur wheel* -Wooden, 62in dm, 60 across pc, combined wood and iron rim, 4 clasp arms (wood), iron teeth cast solid with iron part of the rim, [see colour photo: in effect, the iron part is just a ring of teeth, no doubt replacing wooden cogs]. *Stone nuts* - all cast iron with 14 wooden cogs, 15½in or 16in dm (about 13½in across pitch circle).

*Crown wheel [on first floor]*- All wood, 4ft 9in dm, 4 clasp arms, 60 upturned wooden teeth [cogs], [fixed like so >]; geared metal ring on top of arms as well with about 55 teeth. Three-quarter inch gap between arms of crown wheel and shaft for wedging. Below,



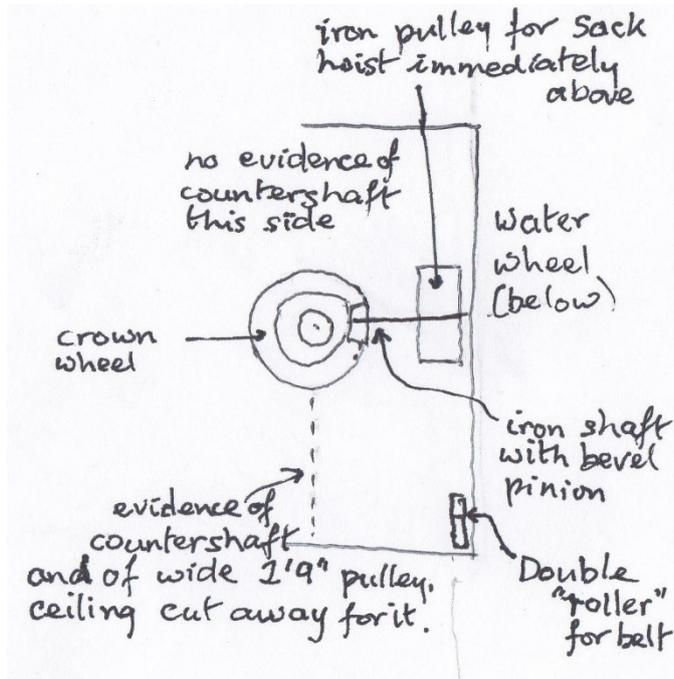
sketch elevation of crown wheel and the sawn-off compass arms of another wheel drawn evening after 1968 visit based on rough



sketch made at mill.

*Counter pinion off crown wheel* – iron.

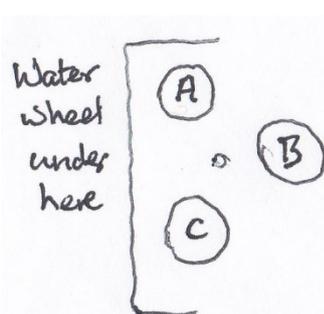
- Drives from crown wheel. See diagram below.



< nb. The bevel pinion should be drawn nearer the centre of the crown wheel. It was driven off the

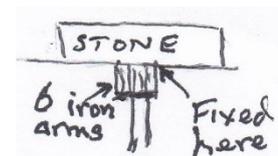
geared ring, not the original cogs, which had become redundant.

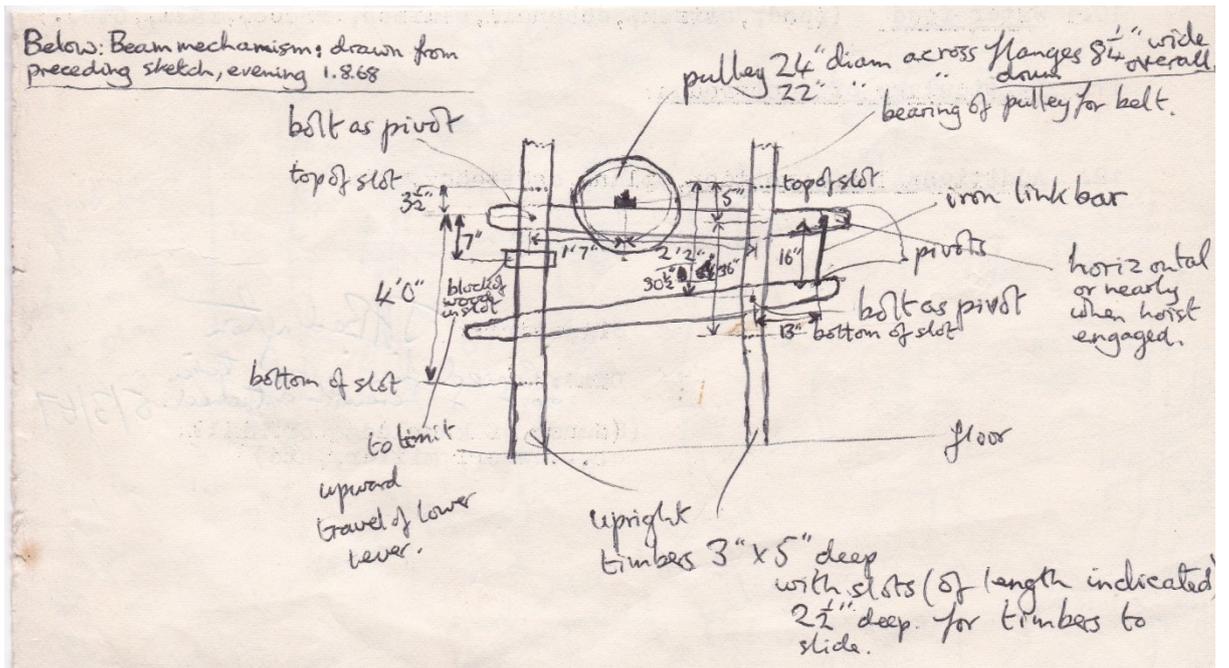
- Upright shaft. Wood, 10in dm, round, square where crown wheel fits (10in across flats). Not quite height of two storeys. Bottom bearing pintle in bridging box.
- Millstones. 3 pairs in situ, middle floor. Referring to diagram below – A, Apparently burr stones, 4ft dm. Hopper horse and vat gone.



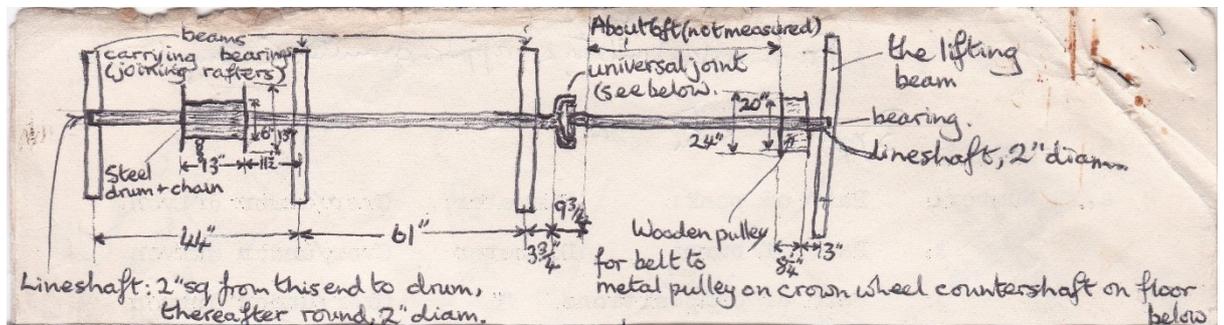
B, Buried under hay, but appear from below to be burr stones. Hopper and horse gone. C, Peak stones, 4ft 0in dm, hopper, horse and vat gone. All stone spindles wrought iron, rectangular [cross-section]. Underneath each bedstone a wrought-

iron device so [presumably for hackle screws for adjusting neck bearing]> On all stones hoop & screw disengagement and wooden bridge trees with screw and handwheel [tentering]. Fragment of millstone, apparently granite, in farmyard.

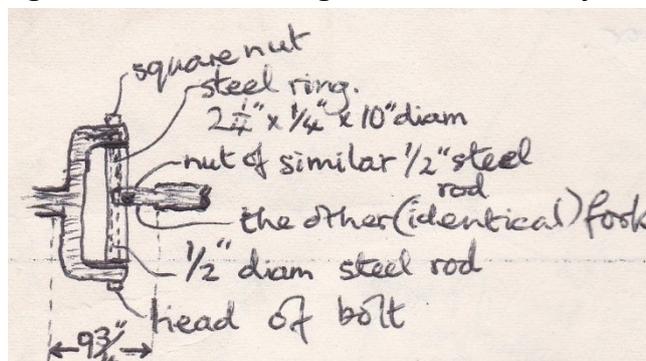




- Sack hoist. On top floor, [driven from countershaft on] middle floor. Beam and catch type, but no catch apparent. Universal joint between top pulley and beam mechanism [on the one side] and the drum [on the other]. [see sketches above and below that I

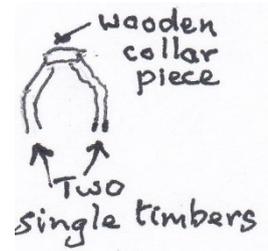


made when I got home on 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1968, based on jottings made at



the mill]

- On top floor, i.e, attic – a walkway and copious grain bins. Interesting cruck-like timbers [one pair, intermediate roof truss] in the roof, like so



6. It appears that mill building still exists, as part of the Seedy Mill Golf Club. An item on the internet shows the mill was made a listed building in 1988 and mention of some machinery is made in the listing description.

7. Some items mentioned in the online catalogue of Staffs Record Office may relate to this mill.

John Bedington, 2020.

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 My photos accompanying this note:

*B/W photos:* Taken 4<sup>th</sup> March 1967 – ST47a, mill and associated buildings, seen down track; ST47b, front of mill and associated buildings, wheelhouse on rt; ST47c, front of mill seen along stream; ST 47d, back of mill and associated buildings; ST47e, mill and associated buildings from the side; ST47f, view through wheelhouse. Taken 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 1968 – ST47g, universal joint in sack hoist drive; ST47h Crown wheel

*Colour slides:* Taken 4<sup>th</sup> March 1967 – ST01, front of mill, seen along tailrace. Taken 1<sup>st</sup> August 1968 – ST02 front (tail) of mill, waterwheel end; ST03, the main gears; ST04, universal joint in the sack hoist drive.