

Some notes on the millers who crop up in the Censuses.

1. In Rushden 1841 Census [HO107/802 En/D 5] there is a mention of Achurch's windmill which stood at SP951668. The Achurch household then were Amos(20) miller, Henry(20) miller, and Louisa(25) housekeeper; with Frances Aris(60) independant, Thomas Moore(25) farmer, and Sophia Moore(15) dressmaker. There are, of course, no actual origins recorded. The other windmill stood just inside the Northamptonshire boundary out on the Wymington road, and was known as Green's windmill. In ibid En/D 6 fol.28 appear Edward Green(60) miller, his wife Mary(60), their children Joseph(33), Hannah(28) and George(26) plus Hannah's daughter Jane(8).

By 1851 there had been considerable changes, recorded in HO107/1743 En/D 7b fo.308. Edward Green was now dead [1848 SEP Wellingbro'15/264] so Joseph(43) is now Head of Household and his birthplace is shown as Gamlingay, Cambs where a mill still stands. His wife Mary(40) and son Benjamin(1), both Rushden-born, are accompanied by his widowed mother Mary(72), sister Hannah and niece Jane (18). Mother came from Kimbolton and her daughter was born at Brampton, Hunts. Their home is named N°5 Lodge, seemingly out by the windmill. George has his own home back in Rushden High Street, though his occupation is miller like his brother's. He was born when his parents were at Huntingdon while his three daughters Elizabeth(6), Mary Ann(3) and Amelia(1) were born at Wellingborough, Wymington and Rushden respectively. Their mother had seemingly died in childbirth, so Maria Childs(36), a widow from Wymington, was acting as housekeeper. Whether this means he had been working as a journeyman around the district whilst his elder brother Joseph ran their father's mill is impossible to say: but looks possible.

For the Achurches, see separate monograph.

In 1861, the unmarried miller George Green(49) from Yelling, Hunts at dwelling #119 lives in the High Street [RG9/952 fo.63 p.17]. Green's Mill houses Joseph (53), Mary(50) and their four children Benjamin(11), Thomas(9), Frederick(8) and Deborah(6). Moore's Windmill is home to Thomas Moore(46) whose occupation is given as 'Miller & Farmer of 7 acres' and birthplace as Great Staughton in Hunts. His wife Louisa and three children are Rushden-born, but his nephew Alfred Achurch(20) miller works for him; there is also Alfred's sister Ann on a visit and both come from Buckingham. It is now possible to look back to the 1851 Census of Buckingham, and there we find them on fol.165 as the children of Robert(42) and Ann(38) Achurch. He is a millwright from Rushden; Alfred's birthplace - along with his brother Edward's - is actually Hollowell not far away from Long Buckby where their mother Ann came from: so the enumerator's notes in Rushden got a bit muddled again. How they and the Moore's are linked isn't clear, since the 1841 records weren't allowed to pry into such personal details. It also turns out, however, that Henry Achurch(30), born in Rushden, is now an organ builder and living in Buckingham with his wife Sarah(24), son Charles Henry(10m), and trainee cabinet-maker Benjamin Jelly(19). Henry is from Rushden, his wife and son from Bedford, whilst their lodger gives St. Paul's parish, Bedford as his birthplace. Clearly Henry's brother Amos was left to run the Rushden windmill whilst Henry went off on a different tack.

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In the 1841 Census of Houghton Conquest [HO107/6 En/D7 fo.4 p.3] shows George Cheshire and family at Houghton Mill: he was aged 35+: and Bedfordshire-born.

Beds Hist Rec Soc publications Vol.71 Beds Muster Lists 1539-1831 (1992) pp.141-166
"National Defence Lists 1803. Transport Teams, Millers & Bakers"

p.146 Stodden Hundred - Bolnhurst

Wm Green 1 cart 3 horses 1 driver
 No more Greens. Covers Barford, Stodden & Willey Hundreds.
ibid Vol.1 A Survey of Ancient Buildings (1931) Photos and brief notes
 Bolnhurst postmill, demolished 1920 Figure 3
 Keysoe postmill internal & external views Figures 15-17
 Wymington smockmill with portable engine Figure 33
 Taken c.1920 (in Trevor Stainwright's book, where says pre-War).
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Kathy Beverly sent me a cutting Simon found in the *Bedfordshire Times* "Times Past" section, quoting from November 7, 1947.

"Having weathered the wind for centuries, Riseley Windmill fell victim to a November thunderstorm on Monday afternoon. A vivid streak of lightning forked out of the clouds and ran down the great oaken centre-post, splitting it to the bottom and setting alight the lower supporting cross-beams. There was a resounding "crack!" and the body of the mill tilted over at a dangerous angle. The old timbers still held, but as it was considered dangerous, the whole structure was pulled down by the men of the village, and the fire put out. Now it lies on the blur [sic] to the east of the village, a jumbled mass of timbers and iron. Another old Bedfordshire landmark has gone."

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21/11/97

Looking at the Riseley cards, all there was on mills were WG 1622-42 covering affairs 1707 to 1877 but no obvious signs of either Greens or Roothams. I was told by Nigel Lutt, the archivist on duty, that "The last Lord St.John went mad and either tore up his papers or gave them to American servicemen! The cards were prepared in the 1930s by our first archivist and there's no guarantee that what he found is still here." [Seemingly St.John recalled his loans.]. So I didn't try going through the ST. calendars to seek Simmons' source about the windmill being a St.John property: since the Wade-Gerys are a separate family from Bushmead.

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The 1891 census produced the following. Riseley and Keysoe are the first two En/Ds. So I've assumed that in my numbering and forgot to check it out on the films.

RG12/1244	En/D.1	Riseley = folios 2 - 20		
		fol.8, p.8	Gold Street	h/hold #45
Beni[amin]	Rootham	Hd M20	Miller & carpenter	Beds Riseley
Laura N.	do.	Wf M20		do. Bletsoe
		fol.9, p.10	Gold St [past the Red Lion]	h/hold #59
Daniel	Rootham	Hd M 59	Farmer, miller & carpenter	Beds Riseley
Jessie M.	do.	Wf M53	General dealer	Cumb Carlisle
Dan	do.	Son 16		Beds Riseley
Horace	do.	do. 14	Farmer's son	do. do.
John Whitbread		Stepson 12	Scholar	do. do.
		fol.18, p.28	High Street	h/hold #177
Isaac Dickens		Hd M43	Bricklayer	Beds Riseley
Arthur do.		Son S 21	Miller's clerk	do. do.
		fol.19, p.29	High Street	h/hold #184
William	Rootham	Hd M 63	Farmer	Beds Riseley
Susannah	do.	Wf M52		do. do.
		fol.19, p.30	High Street	h/holds #188 & 189 [!]

Daniel	do.	Hd S 50	Agricultural laborer	Beds	Riseley
John	do.	Ldg S 68	do.	do.	do.

There were NO Greens in the parish at all.

RG12/1244	En/D.2	Keysoe	folios 21 to 35
	fol.35, p.23	Mill Way, The Mill	h/hold #168 {and last !}
Francis	Green Hd M26	Miller & farmer	Beds Keysoe
Jane	do. Wf M24		Hunts Staughton Moor
Charles	do. Bro S 23	Miller's assistant & farmer	Beds Keysoe

So it may be that, after Frank's death, Jane ran the mill with Charles' help. Unless the 1901 Census shows he'd already gone off.