

I realize that the Diagram of Union Mills is as it is now (1992) for visitors - But I feel it would be a good idea to have it marked as it used to be in my lifetime 'at' Union Mills - before Uncle took Mr Lewis as a partner - I was nearly 3 yrs old when mother brought me home to Cranbrook in Oct 1916 - my father having died, our home was Missouri - St Louis City, U.S.A. I lived & grew up at The Mill from Oct 1916 - my mother was a Partner & I was a partner too ^{for some years} until 1969ish. Mother died in 1968. We lived at Mill Fields, which Uncle John had built on his fields - from 1950 until just after 1960.

Anyway to Revert to Names of different floors ** & when I talk to visitors I revert to these names & try to put them in the picture of the working Mill as I knew it. It was not until Mr Lewis came as a partner in 1950s (early) that
1951 or 1952

drastic alterations were made - little Vertical
 Electrically driven stones were put in on the
 1st store floor - now called the Weighing
 floor - it did then become the Weighing (Exhibition)
 floor - it never was the weighing floor in
 purely Russell days!

So Prior to those alterations,

1 Semi-Basement
 2 Ground/Reception was

1 was always Basement.
 2 The Weighing Floor this
 was -
 all goods were loaded
 from here. There were
 bins each side of the
 Cog Pit (Roughly were shops
 now) ← meat from the
 3 pairs of stones on 1st
 Store floor came down
 (Exhibition floor now)
 into Bins each side.
 The Weighing machine
 (page 7 of Booklet) ~~was~~
 by the window Right
 opposite Main door.

2
Grain / Reception
Continued.

(See page 38 of
Rex Wailes - The
English Windmill)

To confirm name -
"weighing floor"
~~3rd floor~~

Incidentally -
pg. 1 knew Rex Wailes
very well - he often
stayed with us at
Union Mills - in fact
most ~~of~~ all of what he
says about The Mill was
information given him
by Uncle John. And
Rex acknowledged
this by dedicating his
Book to Uncle John.
My copy is signed by
Rex. 15-X-1954 with
Suttable dedication to Uncle

3.

All business of sales, loading
was done of this floor,
including making of Self
Raising Flour. - they had
Bins along the wall to right of
door containing grain, shell
grit etc - customers could buy
small amounts for chicken etc.
Dog Biscuits also ^{Rabbit's} were stored here,
at one time.

Incidentally - it follows that
The loading chute from
1st store floor (now 1st

Exhibition Room) was never
there until the Lewis
alterations - it was not
required - so there was just
the platform over main door.)
It would have been

non-sensical to have the
Grain meal come into Bins
on our (Russell) weighing floor
& then haul it up again on
the hoist to send down the
loading chute!

3. 1st/ Exhibition Floor

3. This was the FIRST STONE Floor. Had 3 pairs of stones, driven by The Gas Engine in my time - But the stones had always been driven by auxillary means on this floor from g/gr grand-father, John Russell's time. Pity the old gas Engine building was destroyed & the other buildings - Forge - stables etc.

Note I always tell visitors about this & I do think this makes the Mill a 'living place' - This floor was - with the weighing floor - one of the Main Business Spots - Never a dull moment. In the evenings, as a child, I used to help my uncles mix up the various feeds - a space was swept on the floor to clean it & there then the various ingredients needed were (having been weighed & assembled) mixed with these large wooden shovels by hand & bagged in

3/1st Exhibition floor:

4. 2nd Machinery Floor.

5. 3rd / Meal Floor.

5 3 continued.
Hessian sacks. a laborious & time consuming job.
One of Uncle Paul's (Chookie) jobs was to mend Hessian sacks - he ~~was~~ worked most evenings clanning ^{the holes}

4 This was The Main Lower Storage Room - there was a large Bin just at top of stairs which held grain to be sent down to the stones below, through the various chutes in floor of Bin.

It also housed the Bolter where the stone Ground Floor was made. of course no winnower. Grain came in "Cleaned at the Farm".

5 Never!! This was The Stage Floor - time it received the Ground Meal from the Top Stone Floor - ~~but~~ But Stage Floor was its name!!

It also housed the oat Crusher. Again Rex gives a good description

5 continued

6
5 continued
of this floor.

The oat Crusher stood under the (Bakers Xend) window & it was mainly Uncle Paul's job (Chookie) to work this & the oat dust used to irritate his face dreadfully - he was glad to have the skip door open to alleviate the dust!

6 W/F/Stone Floor

6 The Top Stone Floor -

Wind driven stones
Could only be used when
Wind Power available.

Sack Hoist was used when
Auxillary power in action -
So there must have been
some way this was done - some
"Drive". As Auxillary
Power used continually, S
Sack hoist needed
continually.

eg to take grain to
Storage Floor
Storage Floor.

7 Bin floor

8) Durr floor
+ Cap

O.K.

NOT Scots - But

Sweeps (Kentish) I always try to explain
the difference

Yone or Uncle John's
last talks to me when I told him of Chris
Brenner & about the new steel sweeps was

"It will never be a Kentish Smock Mill
again" - Kentish Sweeps in 2 Buis-

Main Stock & Sweeps Bolted on to
same - I find people very interested

in looking at the photo where this is
clearly seen (Exhibition / 1st stone Floor Floor)

John & George Russell in 1832 Bought
Union Mills - they at sometime acquired

Ship Mill & Furnace Mill at Hawkhurst.

They owned Ship Mill, I am not sure about

ownership of furnace Mill.
Think it belonged to Russells

(18)

On page 46 of Rex's Book he gives
the various Russell generations.
Caleb was my grandfather - he was
Hugh's older brother - not Hugh's son.
Caleb owned Swanton Water Mill at
Mersham from about 1883. He also
worked (I believe leased) Hanover
Water Mill at Mersham; & leased
Shorncliffe Water Mill from The Horton
family of Hythe. Caleb had to
leave his beloved Water Mills in East
Kent and take over the family business at
Chamberok in 1902. The Swanton Mill
was owned by The Russells until 1919 when
Uncle John sold it to The Hancock family
who had leased it for years. (I believe
it was 1919 it was finally sold)

1811/92

24 Rectory Fields
Cranbrook

NR

I realize this guide is for Present Day Consumption - but I do feel a ~~bit~~ bit of its past glory makes for interest & I find visitors very interested in hearing what it was like prior to the 1950s. When it was a totally working Mill with all its outbuildings. - gas Engine - flourishing.

When I was a child we had Cart Horses - 2 ~~flat~~ tilt covered wagons which did weekly rounds around the local Villages and a pony and a small pony Cart for delivery down game keeper tracks where difficult for large wagons. There was a store at Cranbrook Stn where seed potatoes, middlings etc. were delivered by rail

Uncle John also made hay from the fields behind the Mill & leased the fields behind Dr Joyce's (Shepherds) for Hay - and I ~~could go on - but enough~~

We had chaff cutters for cutting Hay for
the sheep & Bullock feeds - too.

Hope you can read my scrawl.

Will this do for A Start!

Helen.

I remember the Canvas covered sweep frames well.

By way of interest, I remember

The 2 Brothers - Warrens of
Hawthurst well. They always come
in for meals - ^{when working at the mill.} They used to walk
from 'Snowing Car' i.e. Sawyers Arms
down Ship Mill Lane - up to Tubbs
Lake then across the Swatfielden Gill
paths, via freight lane to Mill -
work all day & walk back at night.
Mighty "little" men.

I remember afterwards Mill repairs
to gearings were caused out by
Mr Neeve of Heathfield.