

SELLING

The mill which stood at Selling, known as Shottenden Mill or Perry Wood Mill, was of great antiquity. It is possible to list only those millers whose names appear in nineteenth-century directories, but milling took place here for many centuries.

Millers of Selling from old directories:

Kelly's Directory (1845)

John Sutton

Stephan's Directory (1862)

Freck, Name

16. Shottenden Mill (Perry Wood Mill)

Had it survived, the windmill that stood at the summit of Shottenden Hill would have pre-dated the earliest surviving English mill (Pitstone Mill, Bucks - 1527). It was certainly one of the oldest mills in the country, appearing on Symonson's map of 1596 with 38 other Kent mills. It is difficult to say how old the mill was at the time of the issue of this map, but it lacked the early lines of a medieval mill while clearly retaining features of the early existing post mills. From this the best date of construction that can be given is some time during the sixteenth century.

Shottenden Mill was a post mill of the open trebble type, having the usual cross-truss supported on brick pillars and being winded by a tail pole. The stairway at the rear of the buck was not as wide or as steep as many but had twenty rungs, wide enough to support two people each side of the protruding tail pole.

Above the door was a somewhat unusual porch, weatherboarded and extending the whole width of the mill. This must have necessitated a considerable extension to the sack hoist which was housed in a hatch near the apex of the buck immediately above the porch. Also unusual was a raised housing which protruded from the left side of the buck, near the top end close to the breast. Presumably this was added to the mill late in its life to house a wire machine or other flour grader which was otherwise too large for the space available.

The mill obviously had common sails fitted originally, but, towards the end of the last century, a pair of spring sails were acquired and it continued to work with this mixture of two of each. This was a fairly common occurrence - Danzey Green Post Mill, now preserved in an open air museum at Bromsgrove, can be seen in this configuration. The sails drove machinery which powered two pairs of stones; one pair of 3'8" wheat stones and a pair of 4'2" stones for barley.

The earliest recorded named miller was John Sutton who is named in the 1845 Kelly's Directory; he was miller of Shottenden until 1873 when George Harris took over for the five years before 1878 when

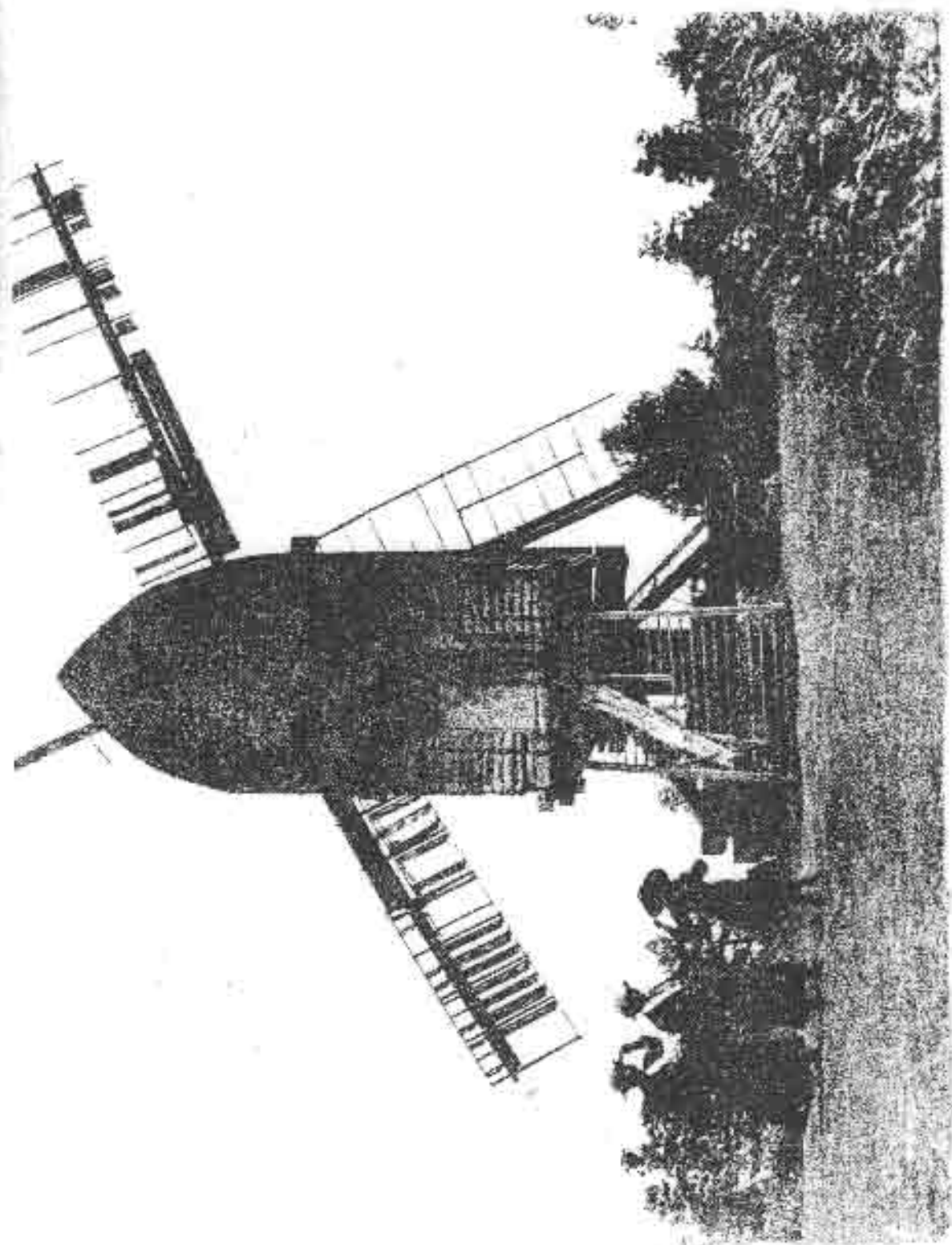


Plate 16: Shottenden Mill (c 1910) - a favourite place for cheqabano cutings prior to 1920 when it was demolished.



Plate 17: Shottenden Mill when still a working mill. The miller
press on the steps.

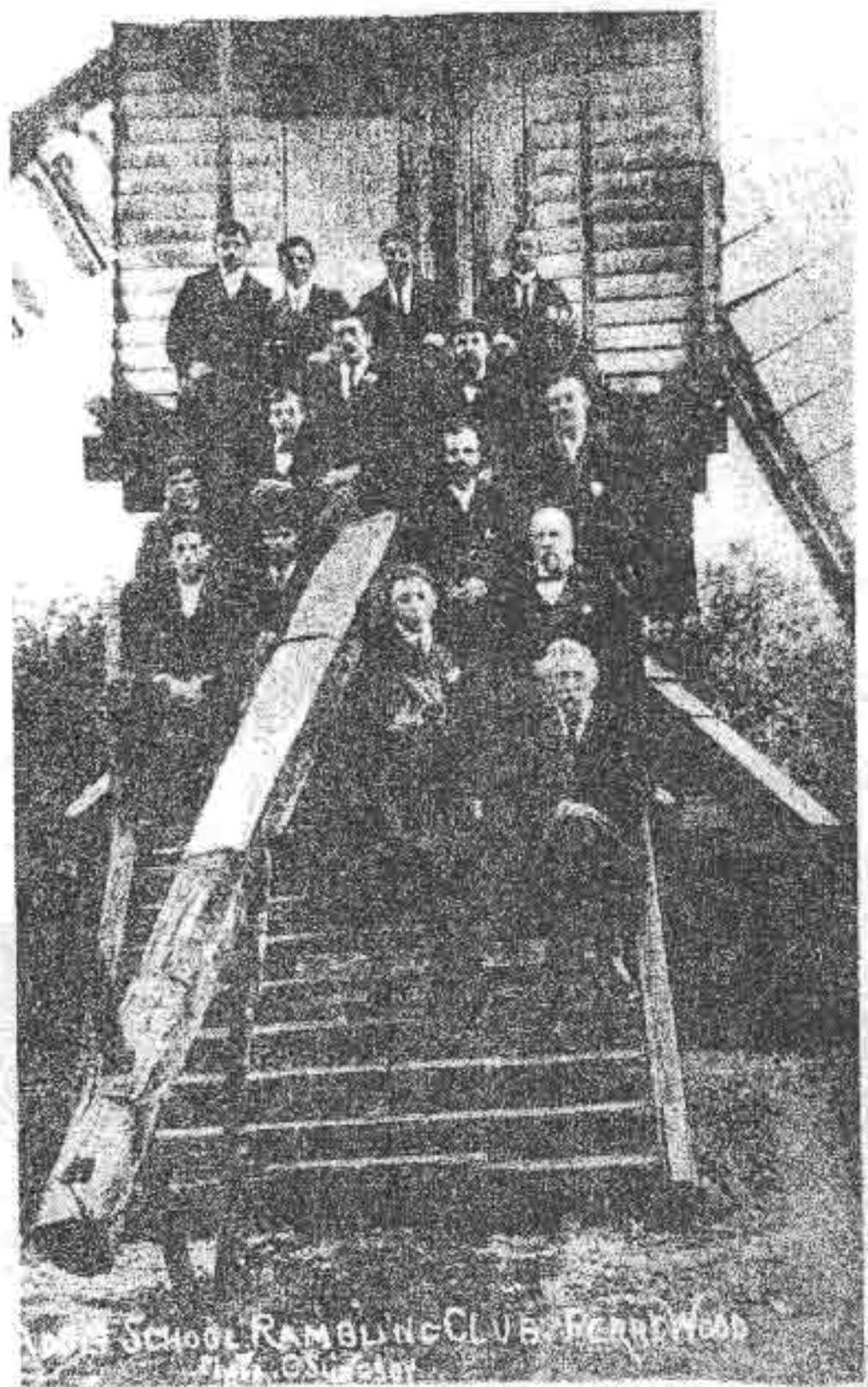


Plate 18: Ferry Wood, Faversham's 'Hampstead Heath' - the Adult School Rambling Club on the steps of Shattenden Mill, c 1905.



Plate 19 4 Shottenden Mill when derelict, c 1911.

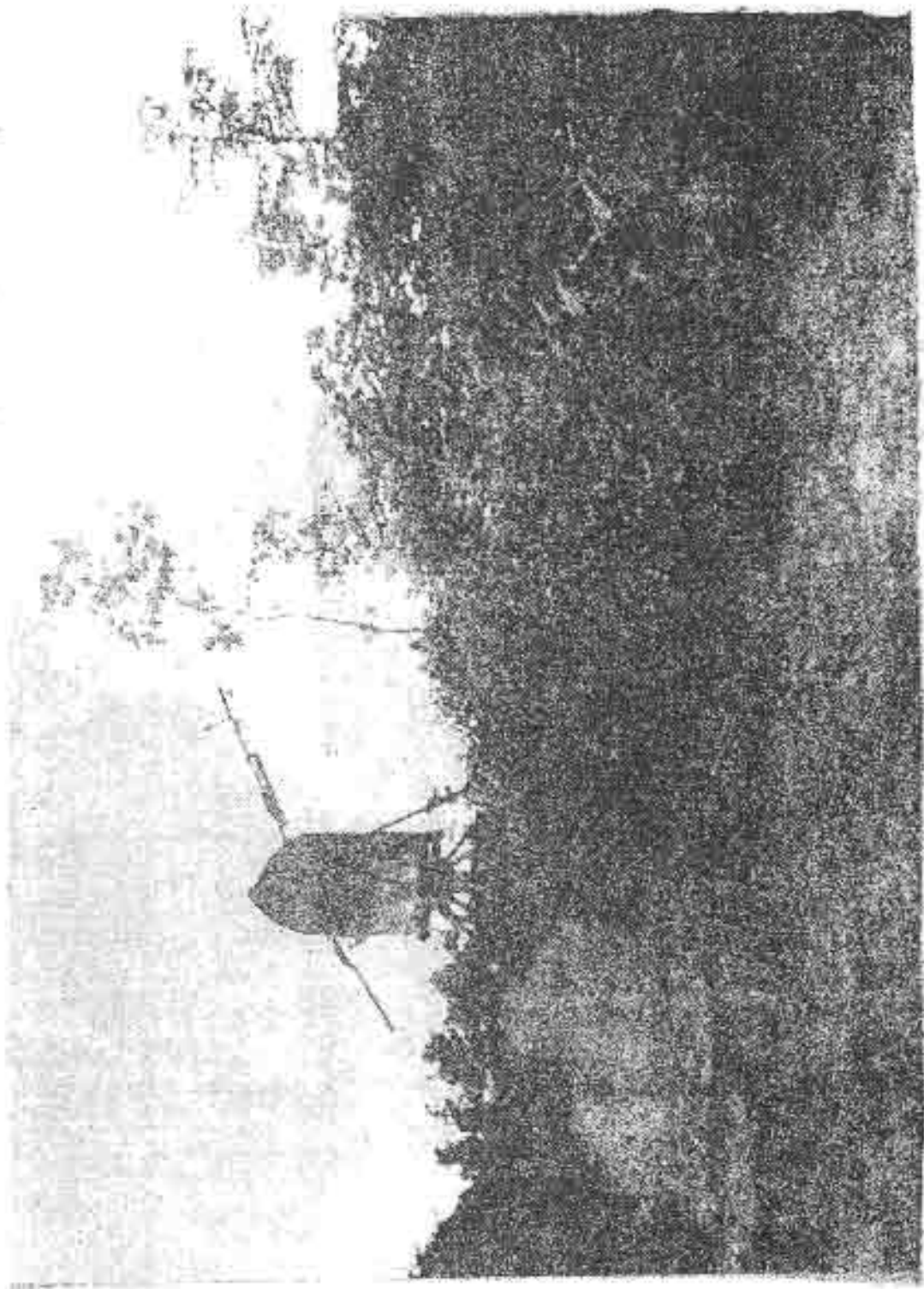


Plate 2D : Shottanden Mill in decay, c 1912.



Plate 21 : A nice place for a visit : Shottenden Mill © 1905.

George Atkins took over. In 1881 the mill was worked by Frederick Neame and a Mr. Pearson. The mill stood on the estate of Lord Sondes who was the owner. Messrs. Neame and Pearson, upon assuming responsibility for the mill had the original wooden windshaft replaced by an iron one. This work was carried out by the Canterbury millwright, Tom Holman of Holman Bros., at a cost of £58.10s.0d.

Shottenden Mill's long working life ended in 1910; by 1913 the common sails had fallen off and the spring sails were little more than rotting frames. The structure deteriorated to the point of being dangerous and was pulled down in 1920, when Colles-Finch visited the site in 1932/3, all that remained were the excavations from which the masonry pillars had been removed: "like four unfilled graves". Today they too are overgrown and indistinguishable.

The mill in Perry Wood, as well as leading an active working life, also brought pleasure to the many people who rambled to the woods and climbed the steep hill to the mill at the summit before wending their way down to the "Rose and Crown" at the border of four parishes below the hill. The mill was also a landmark for mariners who could see it on a clear day from the Thames estuary. It was because of the many picnickers and visiting charabanc parties that there were fears that the decaying mill was a danger and therefore the very people who derived such pleasure from visiting the mill were those indirectly responsible for its destruction.

Although the mill is long gone, some of its timbers are included in the structure of Granary House, Canterbury Road, Whitstable. This neo-tudor house, now the women's convalescent home of the Kent Branch, C. and I. Union, was under construction at the time of the demolition of Shottenden Mill. The house used ships' timbers and old brick to add authenticity to its design. Presumably some of the mill's timbers were suitable and were therefore purchased by Mr. George Reeves, the builder. Mr. Reeves also purchased the main post and brake wheel. The brake wheel has disappeared, but the main post can still be seen in the garden of Granary House. It has been mounted at the centre of a small paved area and is encircled by iron trellis work which, together with the post, was once intended to provide a garden decoration, hung with clematis. The post is very badly rotted, but the iron band just below the pintle is still in situ, although the pivot has rotted away. Halfway down the post are the mortises into which fitted the quarterbars of the trestle and, at the bottom of the post, are the mortises for the cross-trees.

O.S. Map reference: TR D42554

SHELDWICH

15. Sheldwich Mill

By 1801 this mill had disappeared and even Colles-Finch's detective work could only locate a reference to it on the map compiled for George III by John Andrews et al. in 1759. According to this it stood approximately five furlongs west of the church. No evidence of the site remains today which seems to indicate that it was a post mill, snock and tower mills usually leaving some permanent signs of their presence.

O.S. Map reference: approx. TQ 999554



1899

THE MILL, PERRY WOODS.