

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

## **Paper Mills in Gloucestershire**

by A. H. Shorter  
1952, Vol. 71, 145-161

© The Society and the Author(s)

## PAPER MILLS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

by ALFRED H. SHORTER

THE possibility that some of the old mills in Gloucestershire may have been among the really early establishments in the paper-making industry in England led me to inquire first into the origins of those mills still working. The resultant research has shown that many more mills formerly existed and that during the geographical expansion of the paper-making industry in England in the 18th and 19th centuries some 29 mills were at work at one time or another, and were characteristically scattered about the county. There may have been more paper mills, of which no record has yet been found. There must certainly have been one at or near Stanway, where the name Paper Mill Farm still survives. I have found no information about paper making there, however.

In the early days of the industry, paper makers sought mill-sites where there was an ample supply of water for power and of pure, clear water for the paper-making process. As many of the early mills were very small as compared with paper mills to-day, we find that quite small streams sometimes sufficed, whereas a very big and rather muddy river might not be suitable for such mills, both on account of the danger of flooding and the absence of clean water. Thus in Gloucestershire no attempt seems to have been made to site a paper mill actually on the River Severn; at Gloucester in 1915, when 'The Gloucester Paper Mills Ltd.' proposed to erect a two-machine mill for the manufacture of greaseproof paper, the site offered was on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal.<sup>1</sup>

Three parts of Gloucestershire were particularly well represented in the geographical distribution of the industry:—the Forest of Dean, the Cotswolds, and the Bristol area. When

<sup>1</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 11 September 1915.

considering these we should add that two localities in Monmouthshire (Whitebrook and the Moun-ton Brook) formerly had several paper mills each, that there were others in the vicinity of Burford (West Oxfordshire), and that although on the Gloucestershire side there appear to have been only one or two early paper mills near Bristol, there were in fact several others on the Somersetshire side (near Bristol, around the Mendips and along the Avon valley), also along the By Brook in north-west Wiltshire. There can be little doubt that in the Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds several mills were converted to paper making from iron- and fulling-mills respectively, and the availability of such mills may have been an added attraction to paper makers seeking new sites in those areas.

Gloucestershire is still represented in the paper-making industry by the Postlip, Bristol and Golden Valley Mills, and in the board industry by Bristol, Cam and Nailsworth. There were formerly several board mills in and around Bristol, two in the Forest of Dean (Clanna and Soudley Mills) and one at Stonehouse (Meadow Mills). The board industry is outside our purview but as with the paper-making industry the general tendency since the 1830's has been a great reduction in the number of mills at work. Many of the small West of England paper mills, operating one or two vats or small machines, have gone out of existence in the last 120 years or so. Monmouthshire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Cornwall have lost all their paper mills; in Gloucestershire and all the other neighbouring counties there has been a great decrease in the number of paper mills at work. The elimination of many of the small mills was almost inevitable in the face of effective competition from bigger and better-situated mills, the coming of the paper-making machine, the duties on paper, changes in transport and in the types and sources of raw materials.

Significant facts concerning early English paper mills can be discovered only by a search of many local, regional and general sources. In 1816 the Excise authorities,<sup>1</sup> who had

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for permission to read in their library and to quote from their records.

managed the duty on paper since 1712, issued the first of a series of General Letters or Orders which gave lists, and additions and amendments to lists, of paper mills and paper makers in the United Kingdom. The relevant details are the names and Excise numbers of the mills, the names of the paper makers in occupation and the Collection of Excise in which the mills were situated. The letters ceased in 1852, but from that time onwards various county and trade directories give a general guide to the course of the industry.

Having regard to the facts that the story of paper making in Gloucestershire certainly extends over the last 225 years or so, and that the paper mills were formerly so widely scattered about the county, it seems of interest to put on record my information concerning each mill, without giving all the same details as those already provided in *V.C.H. Gloucestershire*<sup>1</sup> and Miss Eleanor Adlard's recent work on the Postlip Mills.<sup>2</sup>

#### I, 2, 3, 4 AND 5, BRISTOL

A Bristol newspaper of 1755<sup>3</sup> reports an accident to a labouring man at the paper mills. The earliest reference I have found to paper makers in Bristol, however, occurs in 1739,<sup>4</sup> when Henry Cotten, parish of St. Nicholas, and John Rayner, junior, parish of St. Thomas, are recorded. The former may well have been the same Henry Cotton who was apprenticed to Ben Davis, paper maker of Overbury, Worcestershire, in 1729.<sup>5</sup> It seems probable that he had a paper mill in Bristol; he certainly had a paper business at the Golden Lion on Bristol Bridge from about 1740 to 1761.<sup>6</sup> After his death, his son opened a paper and stationery warehouse in Wine Street

<sup>1</sup> II, 1907, pp. 208-9.

<sup>2</sup> *A Short History of the Postlip Mill, Winchcombe*, 1949.

<sup>3</sup> *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 6 November 1756.

<sup>4</sup> *The Bristol Poll Book*, 1739.

<sup>5</sup> *The Apprentices of Great Britain, 1710-62* (typescript); extracted from the Inland Revenue Books at the Public Record Office for the Society of Genealogists, 1921-8, book 49, fol. 86.

<sup>6</sup> *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 25 July 1761.

in 1773<sup>1</sup> and also traded in rags and paper stuff. On the other hand, Cotton may have dealt in Bristol only with paper made at mills elsewhere in Gloucestershire or Somerset. An advertisement by John Stock in 1744<sup>2</sup> states that *he* kept the original Paper Warehouse, next door to the Back Hall in Baldwin Street and that he '*maketh* all Sorts of Writing, Printing and Shop Paper, and sells at the lowest Prices. Merchants may be supplied with any quantity for Exportation, and *as there is no other Maker in this City*, consequently can sell on the best Terms.' Another advertisement<sup>3</sup> states that Stock had removed from Baldwin Street to the late Alderman Taylor's warehouse, opposite to the Bridgwater Slip on the Back 'where he continues to make and sell all Sorts of Writing, Printing and Shop Papers.'

In 1749<sup>4</sup> there appeared an advertisement of many types of paper for sale at Thomas Houlding's Paper Warehouse at the Sign of the Cardiff-Boat, on the Back, Bristol. In 1756<sup>5</sup> a dwelling house in Tucker Street, then occupied by James Marchant, paper man, was to let, also three large warehouses lately occupied by Henry Cotton, paper maker. Kingsmill Grove (late apprentice to Henry Cotton) opened a Paper House opposite Dolphin lane in Wine Street in 1767,<sup>6</sup> and by 1771<sup>7</sup> Thomas Mullett had succeeded to the trade of the late John Stock. All these entries suggest the localization of the paper trade in one main area of Bristol.

Further Bristol Poll Books of the 18th century, however, contain the names of the following paper makers:—1754, Henry Cotton, St. Thomas; John Browning, Bedminster; 1774, Charles Montague, St. John; John Colmer, Henry Cotton and Kingsmill Grove, St. Thomas; 1781, the same, with the omission of Henry Cotton; 1784, Kingsmill Grove omitted, and Hugh

<sup>1</sup> *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 28 August 1773.

<sup>2</sup> *The Bristol Oracle and Country Advertiser*, 1 December 1744. *My italics*.

<sup>3</sup> *Bath Journal*, 10 February 1745-6.

<sup>4</sup> *The Bristol Oracle*, 5 August 1749.

<sup>5</sup> *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 3 July 1756.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 8 August 1767.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 23 February 1771.

Foskett Evans (St. Nicholas) and James Ablart (St. Philip Out Parish) added.

In 1792<sup>1</sup> the partnership was dissolved between Hugh Foskett Evans, Sam. Allen and Fra. Harris, paper makers and stationers, Bristol, under the firm of Evans, Allen and Co. Other partnerships were dissolved as follows:—1796,<sup>2</sup> Kingsmill Grove, John Pountney and Henry Ford Richardson of Bristol, paper makers and stationers; 1803,<sup>3</sup> William Cowley and John Richardson, Bristol, paper makers and stationers; 1808,<sup>4</sup> Joseph Pountney and John Smith Pountney, paper makers, bookbinders and stationers, Bristol.

It is more than probable that several of these paper makers were connected with mills outside Bristol. Kingsmill Grove, for example, was one owner of the Whitebrook Paper Mills in Monmouthshire,<sup>5</sup> which certainly existed by the 1780's, and Joseph Pountney was a paper maker at Cheddar in Somerset up to 1809.<sup>6</sup> It would be dangerous, therefore, to assume the existence in Bristol of more than one paper mill in the 18th century, especially as only one reference actually to the paper mill has been found.

No Bristol paper mill appears in the Excise Letter of 1816.<sup>7</sup> In later Excise Letters, however, the following paper mills are listed, in addition to several scaleboard and pasteboard mills in various parts of Bristol:—1839, Mill No. 56, Thomas Wescott, St. Philip's Marsh; 1841, Mill No. 26, Eliz. Manley, Castle Green; 1847, Mill No. 50, Robert Mullet and Samuel Rogers, Tower Hill. Wescott is described as a paper manufacturer of Marsh Mills, St. Philip's Marsh, in 1834-8<sup>8</sup>; together with J. P. Austin, he was bankrupt in 1840.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *London Gazette*, 11 September 1792.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 21 May 1796.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 8 January 1803.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 2 August 1808.

<sup>5</sup> *Torrington Diaries*, I, 1787, p. 270.

<sup>6</sup> His bankruptcy is recorded in *London Gazette*, 31 October 1809.

<sup>7</sup> General Letter of 8 October 1816, in General Letter Book No. 4 of the Ellesmere Division, Chester Collection.

<sup>8</sup> Robson's *Directory*.

<sup>9</sup> *The Devonshire Chronicle and Exeter News*, 23 June 1840.

Bristol is not represented in a return of all paper mills in the United Kingdom ordered by the House of Commons in 1851.<sup>1</sup> It thus appears that the three paper mills mentioned above were quite short-lived during the period 1834-47. Our next definite reference to the industry in Bristol occurs in 1876,<sup>2</sup> when John Sellick, at Avonside Paper Mills, St. Philip's, was making Browns and Skips on one machine 60 inches in width. He was followed by the firm of John Mardon, manufacturing Browns, Middles, Shops and Wrappers on one machine 78 inches in width, in 1885.<sup>3</sup> By 1910 Messrs Smith, Stone and Knight had taken over the mills, and the machinery and range of papers have been greatly increased since then.

#### 6 AND 7, BITTON AND GOLDEN VALLEY

According to the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe<sup>4</sup> 'there used to be a small Paper Mill on the Boyd in Golden Valley, which was transferred to the village of Bitton, on the site of the mills belonging to the Brass and Copper Company. This mill was burnt down in 1849; the premises were purchased by Messrs Sommerville of Edinburgh, who in the same year erected very extensive machinery . . . .'

The existence of the first Bitton mill is confirmed by an advertisement in 1787,<sup>5</sup> stating that a 'very compleat paper mill' was to be sold. It was situated in the parish of Bitton, within half a mile of the upper road between Bath and Bristol, and it was then 'in full work.' This is apparently the mill which, having been a boring mill and a leather mill, was converted from paper making to cotton spinning, and re-converted to paper making about 1812.<sup>6</sup> It was known to the Excise authorities as No. 6, Bitton Mill, in the Bath Collection of

<sup>1</sup> *House of Commons Papers*, 1852, vol. LI, no. 128.

<sup>2</sup> *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1876.

<sup>3</sup> *The Directory of Paper Makers*, 1885.

<sup>4</sup> *History of the Parish of Bitton*, 1881, p. 232.

<sup>5</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 24 December 1787.

<sup>6</sup> Gloucestershire Records Office, D. 184 (Sherwood MSS.). I am indebted to Mr Irvine E. Gray for this information.

Excise; in 1816 it was occupied by Thomas Bevan, who about 1824 was temporarily partnered by George Swayne. Mill No. 6 appears in Excise Letters up to 1832, but the same sources record another Bitton paper mill, No. 563, in the names of Bevan and Swayne in 1824; from 1831 to 1846 the paper-maker recorded was William Bevan, followed by Richard William MacDonnell in 1848. This was apparently the mill which was burnt down, and in the following year Mill No. 148 was built by W. Sommerville. In 1851<sup>1</sup> the Golden Valley Mill had two beating engines at work and one silent, and about 1876<sup>2</sup> the firm of W. W. and J. Sommerville was making writings and envelope papers, tub-sized, on two machines of 68 and 78 inches in width. The firm of Golden Valley Paper Mills Ltd. now occupies the mill and produces T.S. and Air Dried Ledger, Loose Leaf, Writing, Typewriting, Envelope and Speciality Papers, E.S. Account Book, Bond, Writing, Pasting and Tinted Papers, Rag Printings, T.S. and E.S. Cartridges, Base Papers, Telegraph Parchments, Special Finishes, Special Watermarked Papers.<sup>3</sup>

#### 8, WICK AND ABSON

I have no final proof that there was a paper mill at or near Wick in this parish. Bigland's reference<sup>4</sup> (under Wick and Abson) to a paper mill near the cliffs adjoining the River Boyd seems to concern the old Bitton Mill. However, in 1810,<sup>5</sup> William Pook the younger, late of the parish of Wick and Abson, paper maker, dealer and chapman, was recorded as bankrupt.

#### 9, WICK

The above could not possibly refer to another Gloucestershire Wick, in the parish of Berkeley. There was a paper mill

<sup>1</sup> *House of Commons Papers*, loc. cit.

<sup>2</sup> *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1876.

<sup>3</sup> *Directory of Paper Makers*, 1948.

<sup>4</sup> R. Bigland's *Collections relative to the County of Gloucester*, 1786, II, p. 6.

<sup>5</sup> *London Gazette*, 8 May 1810.

in that parish in the 18th century. In 1739,<sup>1</sup> Edmund Smith, paperman of Berkeley, is recorded, and in 1764<sup>2</sup> a grist mill, late a paper mill, in the tithing of Alvington (? Alkington) near Stone in the parish of Berkeley, was to be sold. I. Taylor's Map of Gloucestershire, 1777, shows Wyck Mill near Berkeley.

Rudge<sup>3</sup> refers to the manufacture of coarser sorts of paper at Wick, but no other information about the types of paper made there has been found. The only Excise reference to Wick Mill is in the Letter of 1816, which records it as No. 98, occupied by Eli Gazard. This mill was in the Gloucester Collection of Excise, and this suggests that it was the Wick in Berkeley parish rather than a mill in Wick and Abson.

#### 10, HACK (WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE)

The partnership of Thomas Reeve and James Ablart of Wotton-under-Edge, paper makers, was dissolved in 1773.<sup>4</sup> The newspaper notice states that all sorts of best press papers for clothiers, also fine Sugar Loaf Blue and Brown Papers were available. The paper manufacturing business 'in all its branches' was to be carried on by James Ablart separately, but he went bankrupt in 1774.<sup>5</sup> The paper mill was then for sale,<sup>6</sup> being described as a very complete and new-erected paper mill, in a good situation for vending great quantities of paper. There were two glazing engines for making press paper.<sup>7</sup>

The mill was still for sale in 1776 and 1777,<sup>8</sup> the business meanwhile being carried on by Mr Bence, stationer in Wotton-under-Edge. By the 1790's, Thomas Palser had set up as a paper maker, and advertised for a journeyman press paper

<sup>1</sup> *The Bristol Poll Book*, 1739.

<sup>2</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 25 June 1764.

<sup>3</sup> T. Rudge, *General View of the Agriculture of Gloucestershire*, 1807.

<sup>4</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 19 July 1773.

<sup>5</sup> *London Gazette*, 17 September 1774.

<sup>6</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 14 March 1774.

<sup>7</sup> *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 4 November 1775.

<sup>8</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 2 September 1776, and 17 February 1777.

maker.<sup>1</sup> In 1798,<sup>2</sup> Hack paper mill was advertised to let, applications being invited by Thomas Palser, the proprietor. It is stated that there was every accommodation for manufacturing writing papers and glazed press papers for which the mill had been employed for more than the past seven years. There was a fine spring of water rising a few yards above the mill, remarkable for softness, which supplied the engine with water for washing, etc.

The Excise Letters refer to Hack Mill as No. 99, in the Gloucester Collection. A Thomas Palser was the occupier in 1816, followed by Joseph Palser about 1838, and Henry Cogswell about 1847, the date of my last reference to the mill. Members of the Palser family were engaged in making paper cards in Wotton-under-Edge between 1822 and 1844.<sup>3</sup>

## II, WHITMINSTER

My first reference to this paper mill is in a newspaper advertisement of 1764,<sup>4</sup> when a foreman for a paper mill was wanted, applications being invited to Thomas Evans at Whitminster. The paper mill is marked on I. Taylor's Map of Gloucestershire, 1777.

Mr Joseph Smith senior, paper maker of Whitminster, died in 1791<sup>5</sup> and Mrs E. Smith carried on the business about 1797<sup>6</sup> (when one of her apprentices eloped), probably making the coarser sorts of paper.<sup>7</sup> In the Excise Letter of 1816 the mill is designated No. 101, in the Gloucester Collection. The paper maker then was Thomas Smith, followed by Hester Smith up to 1834, the date of the last reference in the Excise Letters.

<sup>1</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 20 February 1792.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 10 December 1798.

<sup>3</sup> *Pigot's Directories*.

<sup>4</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 2 April 1764.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 28 February 1791.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 20 February 1797.

<sup>7</sup> T. Rudge, *op. cit.*

## 12, DURSLEY

'An excellent and extensive paper manufactory' had been established close to the town of Dursley by the 1790's.<sup>1</sup> Joseph Smith was the paper maker responsible, and it thus appears that families of Smiths were connected with three paper mills—Wick, Whitminster and Dursley—at all of which, according to Rudge, the coarser sorts of paper were produced. In 1816, the Excise authorities numbered this mill 97, in the Gloucester Collection; Sally Smith was then the paper maker. She was followed by C. Dealy, who went bankrupt in 1826.<sup>2</sup> In 1827-8 Joseph White was in occupation, and the mill was then described as 'Rivers Mill'<sup>3</sup> by the Excise authorities.

## 13, NAILSWORTH

Mr L. E. Chamberlain kindly informs me that his family history (1896) states that Charles Ward made paper at Dunkirk Mills in 1767. This is possibly the mill referred to in the Excise Letter of 1816 as No. 100, Nailsworth, in the Gloucester Collection, the paper maker then being Thomas French. Mill No. 100 left off work in 1839.

## 14, ST. MARY'S (CHALFORD)

In 1813<sup>4</sup> a clothing mill of this name at Chalford was for sale. This mill was probably later converted for paper making, appearing as No. 96 in an Excise Letter of 1846,<sup>5</sup> when it was occupied by Samuel W. Wright and Robert Alexander Cochrane. In 1847 another Letter gives the names of paper and pasteboard makers here as Frederick Wiggins, R. A. Cochrane, Edward Arthur Cochrane, Charles Jackson, William Green and John Burrill.

<sup>1</sup> *Universal British Directory of Trade and Commerce*, II, p. 854.

<sup>2</sup> *Alfred*, 28 March 1826.

<sup>3</sup> Letter of 2 May 1827, in General Letters Book No. 13 of Tarporley 1st Ride.

<sup>4</sup> *Bristol Gazette*, 3 June 1813.

<sup>5</sup> Letter of 23 January 1846, in General Letter Book No. 19 of Tarporley 1st Ride.

## 15, VATCH OR HERMITAGE (STROUD)

William Ward, paper maker, late of Vatch Mills, is mentioned in a newspaper of 1794.<sup>1</sup> In that year Francis and John Ward were at Vatch Mills and the latter's name is recorded in the Excise Letter of 1816 at Mill No. 102, Hermitage, in the Gloucester Collection. Vatch Mill is shown on Greenwood's Map of Gloucestershire, 1824. Mr L. E. Chamberlain informs me that John Ward, 'one of the oldest paper makers in this county,' died at Hermitage Mills in 1826.

## 16, 17, 18 AND 19, WINCHCOMBE

The Postlip Mills of Messrs Evans, Adlard and Co. Ltd., celebrated their two-hundredth anniversary in 1949. The earliest paper makers here seem to have been the Durham family; perhaps one of them was the Mr Derham who in 1728<sup>2</sup> produced to the Royal Society some 'very good brown and whited brown paper, made of nettles and other weeds.' At any rate, the death of Mr James Durham, an eminent paper maker, at Postlip is recorded in 1760.<sup>3</sup> An interesting link with the industry at Winchcombe is that in 1756<sup>4</sup> William Clark, a millwright and engineer from there had settled in Gloucester and was making paper mills.

About this time there was a paper mill 'very near the town' of Winchcombe,<sup>5</sup> and I. Taylor's Map of Gloucestershire, 1777, shows three paper mills between Winchcombe and Postlip. Paper moulds as well as paper were made at Winchcombe, for in the 1790's<sup>6</sup> the following are recorded there:—William Durham and Samuel Timbrell, paper makers; Joseph Hughes, paper mould maker. This branch of the industry seems to have been continued in the same family for many years, for in 1834 and 1844 there is mention of Alfred Hughes, paper mould

<sup>1</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 7 July 1794.

<sup>2</sup> *Farley's Bristol Newspaper*, 5 July 1728.

<sup>3</sup> *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 9 February 1760.

<sup>4</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 27 January 1756.

<sup>5</sup> *The Travels Through England of Dr Richard Pococke* (1757), II, p. 274.

<sup>6</sup> *Universal British Directory of Trade and Commerce*, 4, p. 770.

maker of Winchcombe, and in 1852-3,<sup>1</sup> Hughes and Tovey, paper mould makers there.

Rudder<sup>2</sup> states that Mr William Durham was one of the most considerable paper makers in the kingdom; this was probably the Mr Durham, senior, an 'eminent paper maker,' who died at Postlip in 1803.<sup>3</sup> The first Excise Letter of 1816 and another of 1832 record Nathaniel Lloyd and Co. at Mill No. 103, Postlip, in the Gloucester Collection. A paper mill of this number left off work in 1842, although it is still recorded (in the occupation of W. Townsend) in the *Paper Mills Directory* of 1860. Meanwhile Mill No. 633 (the number still borne by the Postlip Mills to-day) had appeared in the Excise Letters. From 1828 to 1835 it was occupied by paper makers named Tregent, in 1837 by William Searle Evans, in 1847 by Orwell Lloyd Evans and in 1851, when five beating engines were at work,<sup>4</sup> by James Robert Evans, William Gates Adlard and William Gilling. In 1860<sup>5</sup> the firm of Evans and Adlard was producing coloured and blotting papers, and in 1876<sup>6</sup> blottings, coloured papers and filterings, using one machine 60 inches in width.

The fact that only two Excise Numbers were allotted to Mills at Postlip suggests that two of the mills were operated as one. There is, however, the complication that a paper mill existed at Sudeley, close by. This is not named in any of the Excise Letters available, but proof of its existence is in the watermarks of paper made there, an example being 'Lloyd James, Sudeley Mill, 1841.'<sup>7</sup> This mill probably ceased work in the 1840's.

<sup>1</sup> Robson's, Pigot's and Slater's *Directory*.

<sup>2</sup> S. Rudder, *New History of Gloucestershire*, 1779, p. 828.

<sup>3</sup> *Salopian Journal*, 23 February 1803. Information from Mr L. C. Lloyd.

<sup>4</sup> *House of Commons Papers*, loc. cit.

<sup>5</sup> *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1860.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 1876.

<sup>7</sup> This watermark occurs on one of the papers from the Solicitors' Office of the late Mr George Potts, of Brozeley, now in the possession of Mr L. C. Lloyd.

## 20, BROMSBERROW

I. Taylor's Map of Gloucestershire, 1777, shows a paper mill on a stream to the north-west of Bromsberrow. The Rev. C. V. Colman, Rector of Bromsberrow, kindly tells me that there is a 'Pepper Mill' on the site (apparently the same as that which is named thus on I. Taylor's Map of Herefordshire, 1786), but neither he nor I has found any other reference.

## 21, HALL

Hall Farm, about a mile west-south-west of Awre, appears to be on the site of the paper mill shown on Greenwood's Map of Gloucestershire, 1824. In the Excise Letter of 1816 this is designated Mill No. 142, Hall, in the Hereford Collection. Joseph Lloyd was the paper maker then and also in 1829, followed by Thomas Newell in 1832 and Benjamin Small in 1834, the date of the last Excise reference.

## 22, 23 AND 24, GUNS

Bigland<sup>1</sup> states that Gun's Mill was converted into a paper mill from an iron furnace. This must have occurred before 1743,<sup>2</sup> when 'any Paper Man who is capable of undertaking a White Vat' might have heard of a master by applying to Joseph Lloyd at Gun's Mills where he would 'meet with all suitable encouragement.' Joseph, a son of Joseph Lloyd of Gun's Mills, is recorded in 1739, in the Parish Register of Flaxley.<sup>3</sup>

In 1746,<sup>4</sup> Joseph Lloyd of Abenhall, paper maker, took an apprentice named William Bayham of Newland. On the death of this Mr Lloyd in 1761<sup>5</sup> the paper making at Gun's Mill was to be carried on by the widow and son (Hannah and Joseph Lloyd). Further fragments of information<sup>6</sup> show that the

<sup>1</sup> *op. cit.*, I, p. I.

<sup>2</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 19 July 1743.

<sup>3</sup> I am indebted to Brigadier L. S. Lloyd for this information.

<sup>4</sup> *The Apprentices of Great Britain* . . . Book 50.

<sup>5</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 24 February and 22 December 1761.

<sup>6</sup> e.g. Rudder, *op. cit.*, p. 209.

industry was carried on there throughout the second half of the 18th century.

In 1762 and 1766<sup>1</sup> apprentices eloped from Hannah and Joseph Lloyd respectively, paper makers at Gun's Mills. Mr Lloyd was married in 1771<sup>2</sup> to Miss Robinson of Little Deane, 'an amiable young lady with a genteel fortune.' The partnership between Joseph Lloyd the elder and the younger, paper manufacturers of Gun's Mills, was dissolved in 1816.<sup>3</sup>

The Excise Letter of 1816 records Joseph Lloyd at three mills, Nos. 143 (Guns), 144 (Middle Mill), and 145 (Upper Mill). Greenwood's Map of Gloucestershire, 1824, shows three mill symbols at Gun's Mills, and the Tithe Map and Apportionment of Abenhall parish, 1840, refer to the paper mill as the lowest of a group of mills there, some of the others upstream being 'washing mills'; both these and the paper mill, however, were then in the occupation of Joseph Lloyd. Thus it seems fair to assume that Gun's, Middle and Upper Mills were close together on this site. I have no reference to the Upper and Middle Mills, Nos. 145 and 144, after 1832, but board mills No. 144 are recorded as Clanna Mill, Lydney, and Soudley Mill, near Newnham, in 1885 and 1890 respectively.<sup>4</sup>

By 1847 Mill No. 143 had passed to George Lunnon, by 1860<sup>5</sup> to Aaron Goold, making printing papers, by 1866<sup>6</sup> to the Gun's Mills Paper Company, producing coloured papers and cartridges, and by 1876<sup>7</sup> to Henry Affleck, the products then being brown papers, made on one machine 53 inches in width. No later reference has been found.

## 25, RODMORE

This paper mill, in the parish of St. Briavel's, was advertised to let in 1774.<sup>8</sup> The newspaper states that there was 'a Constant

<sup>1</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 23 March 1762, and 1 September 1766.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 5 August 1771.

<sup>3</sup> *London Gazette*, 2 November 1816.

<sup>4</sup> *Directory of Paper Makers*, 1885 and 1890.

<sup>5</sup> *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1860.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 1866.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 1876.

<sup>8</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 12 December 1774.

Supply of fine Spring Water to serve the Engine and great Plenty of Water to work the Mill.' It was again advertised in 1789,<sup>1</sup> when it was described as 'on a modern construction' and adapted for the making of white or brown paper. I am indebted to the Rev. H. F. Heal, Vicar of St. Briavel's, for the information that William, a son of William Stevens, paper maker, was baptised in 1815. In the Excise Letter of 1816, the mill is numbered 140, in the Hereford Collection and in the occupation of William Stevens; in 1832 the paper maker was James Stevens. Elizabeth Stephens of Rodmore Paper Mills, aged 86, was buried in 1841. I have no later reference.

#### 26, ROWLEY

It seems likely that Rowley Iron Forge (advertised for sale in 1797)<sup>2</sup> was converted to a paper mill. In 1809<sup>3</sup> the partnership between Joseph and Thomas Morris of Chepstow, paper makers at Rowley Forge, Gloucestershire, and Pandy Mill, Monmouthshire, was dissolved. The Excise Letter of 1816 designates Rowley Mill as No. 141 in the Hereford Collection, in the occupation of Thomas Morris. In 1820 the paper maker was Joseph Morris, to whose name that of Richard Morris is added in Excise Letters of 1829 and 1832; in 1841, John Lavender was the occupier. One beating engine was at work at Rowley in 1851.<sup>4</sup> By 1876<sup>5</sup> this had become a board mill. It closed down about 1930.

#### 27, CONE

Richard Barrow, paper maker of Woolaston, is recorded in 1774.<sup>6</sup> He died in 1777, and Cone Paper Mill, lately in his possession, was advertised to be let.<sup>7</sup> It is described as a large

<sup>1</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 15 June 1789.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 26 June 1797.

<sup>3</sup> *London Gazette*, 6 May 1809.

<sup>4</sup> *House of Commons Papers*, loc. cit.

<sup>5</sup> *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1876.

<sup>6</sup> *The Bristol Poll Book*, 1774.

<sup>7</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 26 May 1777.

commodious paper mill, with convenient drying houses. Mr Barrow had for some years past employed the mill in manufacturing different sorts of writing and other papers.

The next paper maker here was probably the John Ward of 'Woollastone' who went bankrupt in 1793.<sup>1</sup> The mill appears to have been out of action for some years, as it does not appear in the Excise Letters until 1820, hence its high number, 519. It was then occupied by John Reece. The firm of Reece and Sandford (who also had paper mills in Monmouthshire) worked this mill up to the 1860's. In 1851<sup>2</sup> six beating engines were at work, and in 1876<sup>3</sup> news, printing and coloured printing papers were made on a machine 48 inches in width.

My last references to this paper mill appear in 1885 and 1890,<sup>4</sup> when the firm of T. P. Gillespie was making Printings, News, E.S. Writings, Envelope Papers, square and angular, and Tinted Papers on a machine 80 inches in width.

#### 28, LONGHOPE

My only reference to this paper mill is in an Excise Letter of 1821,<sup>5</sup> when Benjamin Constance was the paper maker at Mill No. 244, in the Gloucester Collection.

#### 29, QUENINGTON

In 1743<sup>6</sup> Thomas Clarke was apprenticed to Jos. Carby of Ludington, Gloucestershire, paper maker, who was possibly the Mr Joshua Carby who, at the age of 84, died in 1791,<sup>7</sup> described as an 'eminent paper maker and an honest man.' He was at Quenington, where a paper mill is marked on

<sup>1</sup> *London Gazette*, 30 March 1793.

<sup>2</sup> *House of Commons Papers*, loc. cit.

<sup>3</sup> *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1876.

<sup>4</sup> *Directory of Paper Makers*, 1885 and 1890.

<sup>5</sup> Excise General Orders, Printed, I, 1819-23. General Letter of 1st September 1821.

<sup>6</sup> *The Apprentices of Great Britain* . . . Book 50, fol. 217.

<sup>7</sup> *Gloucester Journal*, 14 February 1791.

I. Taylor's Map of Gloucestershire, 1777. Rudder<sup>1</sup> states that writing paper was made there and that this furnished employment for a few hands.

This paper mill was known to the Excise authorities as No. 229, in the Marlborough (and later the Oxford) Collection. In 1816 and up to 1833 the paper maker was Joshua C. Radway, and in 1841 Joseph Bence Palser. Four beating engines were at work there in 1851.<sup>2</sup> By 1860,<sup>3</sup> William A. West was making Straw Printings and News at Quenington, and the same firm was there in 1876,<sup>4</sup> the date of my last reference.

### 30, LITTLE BARRINGTON

According to the Excise Letters, this paper mill (No. 228, in the Marlborough Collection of Excise) appears to have been worked by George Ward from 1816 to 1842, and then by Henry Ward until it was discontinued in 1846.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to acknowledgments made in the above paper, I wish to express my gratitude to all who have helped me in this study and to the Council of the University College of the South West of England, Exeter, for a grant in aid of the research.

<sup>1</sup> *op. cit.*, p. 617.

<sup>2</sup> *House of Commons Papers*, loc. cit.

<sup>3</sup> *The Paper Mills Directory*, 1860.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 1876.