

KESWICK's WATER-POWERED MILLS and MANUFACTORIES

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Keswick did not exist in 1220 AD -it was not on the Pipe Rolls naming all the places in the district

1. THE MILL SITES

There are a total of 27 mills, all water-powered, to be found strung out along the banks of the River Greta, from Greta Bridge near to Derwent Water upstream to Briery, the eastern-most hamlet lying within the town's boundary.

There are several 'mill-districts':-

Greta Bridge - 2 mills and two workshops.

Greta Hamlet - the Southey Hill complex.

Greta Mills - a complex of 8 mills stretching from the foot bridge over to Fitz Park, up to Station Road.

Greta Forge - all on the left (West) bank of the river.

Shooley Crow - (correctly Shorley Croft), 4- mills up as far as the railway bridge.

Brigham Forge - a complex of 7 mills and possibly 1 workshop, or t'Forge

Briery, or Low Briery - a complex of 5 mills, a tannery and possibly some workshops.

In the text, all these mills have been numbered from 1 - 27 from lowest downstream to highest upstream. The Workshops included several Manufactories in the Town itself, but since most of them have gone with improvement schemes, they have not been described.

B. The outlying hamlets (all part of the original and large Keswick Township), include:

Applethwaite, Braithwaite, Thornthwaite, Undermillbeck, Stair, Millbeck, Mireside and Ormathwaite. Of these, the first six were considerable complexes, all with large woollen carding mills, supporting-mills and other sites. They are not included in this report.

The Workforce involved in the mills amounted to a minimum of 500 adults and there could have been as many as 5,000 outworkers, suppliers, carters and the like to keep the mills going.

The Railway, coming in 1864, boosted some lines (particularly Bobbins and Pencils), but unwittingly caused the gradual downfall and closure of the large wool-carding mills (9 in Town and 8 out of Town).

All the Town's woollen carding mills but one, had closed by 1876, and all but one of those had changed over to the more lucrative trades of Pencil or Bobbin manufacture. The textile mills had made threads of many types for the haberdashery trade, sending out tons of ribbons, tapes, plaids, shawls, linings, braces,'comfortables', moleskins, jeans, waistcoatings, Nun's Lace, cuffs, cap-springs, braid, caps, girdles, worsteds, buckrams, cloakings, bedding, gimps, shirtings, hair nets, neck ties, busks, aprons, sagathies, Orleans, gingham, linens, McIntoshes, Cambrics, tassels, boot laces, dammy cotton; also hooks, eyelets, bodkins, needles, round cane, whalebones, belts, lutestrings - and a host more! Some mills specialized in blankets, duffels and other warm woollen cloths; some sent their threads to large firms in the Paisley, Yorkshire or Lancashire districts.

In the early years(as far as sources of information permit),19 of the 27 waterpowered mills were engaged in the textile trade -10 Woollen,1 Cotton, 3 Flax, 4 Fulling and 1 Dye-mill. By the late 19th century, 21 of the mills were involved in the timber-trades - 11 Pencil mills, 7 Bobbin (but only two firms), 2 Sawmills, and one Cedarwood mill.

Of the 27 water powered mills, all had converted to electric power (water turbine) except 1(Briery Bobbin mills) by the end of World War II. Only one mill still works today (1987) - the Southey Hill/Cumberland Pencil Company's mill, but 11 were still at work in 1961 and 14 in 1939).

This all makes for dry reading, but it is the breakdown of weeks of detailed cross-research into who worked at what mill. It took a long time to sort out the difference between Greta Forge and 'Forge' and between the Greta Mills and 'mills on the Greta'. Almost every site was referred to

in its time as Greta Pencil Mill, or Greta Woollen Mill, etc, with, occasionally, the manufacturer's name added. Townsfolk knew which mill was which since the bulk of the working population was at work in them. Parish registers are very helpful after about 1811. Before that date, back to about 1720, hardly a trade is mentioned for baptisms, marriages or burials. The Census records from 1831 at 10-year intervals give much data, especially where the family was not Anglican (ie, not recorded in the parish registers). Much of the material has been gleaned from weekly newspapers, especially the Westmorland Gazette (WG), Westmorland Advertiser (WA) and Kendal Mercury (KM).

Another major source has been the older folk who live 'on site', with their memories, photographs, paintings, memorabilia; their deeds of sale and, occasionally, documents. Landowners have also been consulted and this rich source of material has yet to be completely searched.

Site Surveying has yielded a lot more data. Industrial buildings were constructed to an unswerving functional architectural pattern, all over England, from the earliest years until the 20th century. Manufacturing techniques were fairly standard too, and it is possible to recognize a mill's function from the number of floors in the building, its layout and appearance. The proportion of wall-lengths, slope of roofs and size of waterwheel pits can date a building to within 15 years. Parish register data will usually confirm this. Debris, such as broken grindstones, burnt bricks and slags will usually indicate types of edge tool forges, date of same and the metal being produced in a furnace, plus type and date of furnace. This searching is nowadays called Industrial Archeology. Two 16th century smelting sites have been located in this way within Keswick's modern township boundary, recently.

The specific purpose for which this Survey was called into being, was the need to show the links between the Railway and the Town of Keswick. Thus the author has kept off the subject of the German Miners and Smelters around Keswick in the late medieval period, but it should be pointed out that it can be quite clearly proven now, that the forces of Oliver Cromwell did NOT halt the business of mining and smelting around Keswick. Indeed, they continued to finance and run all the establishments, except one - and that had closed of its own choosing just prior to the start of the civil war. The carry-over may still be seen, however, at mills 16 and 17 in Brigham, and in the many German or Austrian surnames that are today accepted as being 'traditional Lakelanders' family names. Such surnames as Banks, Dixon, Hodgson, Jenkinson, Parker, Senogles and Tullie are but a few of over 146 shown in the documents of the time. Certainly it is without doubt that these foreigners could teach the local lads a thing or two when it came to the application of waterpower to some of the tedious work-processes of the district. Camden, circa 1586 stated that -

" Keswick is at this day much inhabited by minerall men, who have heere their smelting house by Derwentside, which with his forcible streame, and their ingenious inventions serveth them in notable steede for easie bellowes workes, hammer workes, forge workes, and sawing of boords, not without admiration of such as behold it."

THE GRETA BRIDGE MILLS. NO 1 & 2.

Two on the left bank of the river immediately below the road bridge. The tallest building in the group is the woollen carding mill, rebuilt in 1800, owned by Mayson and Grave. Mayson had married into the wealthy manufacturing family of the Dovers at Underskiddaw, Forge and Caldbeck. His firm was at work there (No.1) before 1797. The last Mayson died in 1824 and the mill was sold. The long-lived Elleray family at the adjacent mill (no.2, had bought it from Jonathan Otley, owner, who later wrote the famous 'Guide'). The Ellerays had worked up a considerable trade in dyeing cloths for both Keswick and Cockermouth, and were advertising and expanding their business. By 1853, Mr. William Elleray had made quite a name for himself by going into flood waters on his stretch of the river and rescuing, over a matter of about 15 years, 12 people, of whom 11 survived. They were, in order, a small boy, a man, an innkeeper, a boy, 2 girls, 2 boys, a nurseryman, a groceress, a boy and an apprentice. The latter drowned. A lengthy account in the Westmorland Gazette (1853, July 30th p6,col.5) states "that he follows the unromantic occupation of a dyer and fuller in Keswick and is "A hero in civil life."

The newspapers tell of floods that carried away cloths left out to bleach, of a near disaster when an adult got caught inside a waterwheel put back in motion (much useful technical data here - W.G.1857 Oct 31) and of the new tenant (Elleray owned the mills), a Robert Wilson, who won a gold medal for Pencils at the London International Exhibition in 1862.

GRETA MILLS 1861

(Date of O.S. Twenty Five Inch Maps)

4 Greta Edge Tool Forge

5 & 6 Gibson's (Banks & Co) Pencil Mills

7 Low Corn Mill

8 Bobbin and Saw Mills

9 Bobbin Mill

10 Pencil Mill

← Eventual Position of Station Road.

Greta River

11
Tannery and Yards
YHA here, 1987.
Peter Crosthwaite's

Headrace

Houses

Position of later
Gas Works,
removed in mid-1980's.

Position of Modern Road and
Car Parking.

Gates and Coupland. Pencil Manufacturers, here from 1828 till 1847.

By 1857, Banks, Son & Co. had workshops here until 1860 and Hogarth and Hayes moved in after them. They in turn (about 1883) moved to the bigger mill at Southey Hill and Ann Banks, daughter of Joseph Banks, who had died in 1860, took over both mills (1) and (2) in 1883 and ran her pencil works very successfully until about 1901 when she retired. The eventual Cumberland Pencil Co. then ran their hydraulic graphite presses here until 1968. (The author has seen these in situ and put the Plans into the Carlisle Record Office.) Finally, a Pencil Museum was removed to Southey Hill in 1970. The whole complex of buildings still stands in 1987 and 2004.

An interesting note is that Ann Banks is the first listed here of many womenfolk who made their business way very successfully in Keswick, set against the usual background of a 'men only' scene. This is not the small millinery shop, but the large team of workmen and lads in a factory system, with the book-keeping, buying, selling, wages, machinery, marketing, carriers, discipline and the spirit of the firm to maintain. The women of Keswick can read of these pioneers with pride.

SOUTHEY HILL MILL, NO.(3)

The area around the mill is known as Low Goat and High Goat. This name derives from the ancient term for a headrace - a goyt, thus signifying an ancient millsite. It was certainly a fulling mill in medieval times and would then graduate into a large woollen manufactory about 1740. The Fisher family owned and worked this mill through several generations, but finished when Daniel died in 1853. He and his brother James had sub-let part of the mill to Gates and Coupland, who were Fancy Waistcoat manufacturers in 1829. (John Gates probably foresaw the end of this trade, for he turned to Pencil making, splitting away into mill(2) when Wm. Elleray vacated that fulling mill for the larger carding mill with its better waterwheel,(1), in 1828. By 1830, Gates was a Manufacturer and he was joined by Coupland in 1832}

A very complete advertisement in the Kendal Mercury lists the machinery on sale in Daniel Fisher's mill on 23 April 1853. It is clear that they were making blankets. They also had (and this was typical of almost all the woollen manufacturers) ,large Weaving Shops, Wool Rooms and a Counting House in the Town somewhere close to Main Street. There had been fulling stocks in the mill and a raise machine for fluffing the finished cloths.

The next occupiers rented the mill for £70-00 per annum(Stair Mill MSS, Folder 9a)-Joseph Gatey, John Dodgson and John Hudson, making Pencils. By 1857, Michael Falcon and Henry Dodgson, Pencil Makers, had shared the large mill premises with Abraham Wren, a major Black Lead Pencil manufacturer who moved here from Brigham Forge, probably for the better waterpower. The mill had, at this time a very large water wheel, about 30 ft. in diameter, which took almost all the water in the Greta, via a weir just below the footbridge over to Fitz Park.

In 1879, Falcon and Henry Dodgson sold the mill to John Dodgson, who continued making pencils in part of the buildings. Abraham Wren was still in full production in 1883, when he was joined by a third Pencil making firm, Hogarth and Hayes, who moved from Greta Bridge mill(1), (Their mill was bought by Ann Banks in 1886.) All three firms were listed here in 1884 as Pencil Manufacturers. In 1886 Abraham Wren retired after 56 years in the business. He was bought out by Richard Hogarth and Robert Hayes. 1901(Bulmer) the firm of George Hogarth and Hayes are Pencil Manufacturers, continuing through 1910, 1912 to 1919 as Thomas Richard Hayes.

In that year, he sold the whole property to H.T. Pape and Charles Greenwood.(They had bought out mills 1 and 2 in 1908-1910) Pape and Greenwood sold off some of the old tenters land to J.Martin & Sons, Sawmillers, who moved there from Brigham.(Martin MSS). A new pencil Works constructed in 1932, with additions in 1947. Now The Cumberland Pencil Co has passed from the Reeves to the Twinlock group, making 4-million items/week.

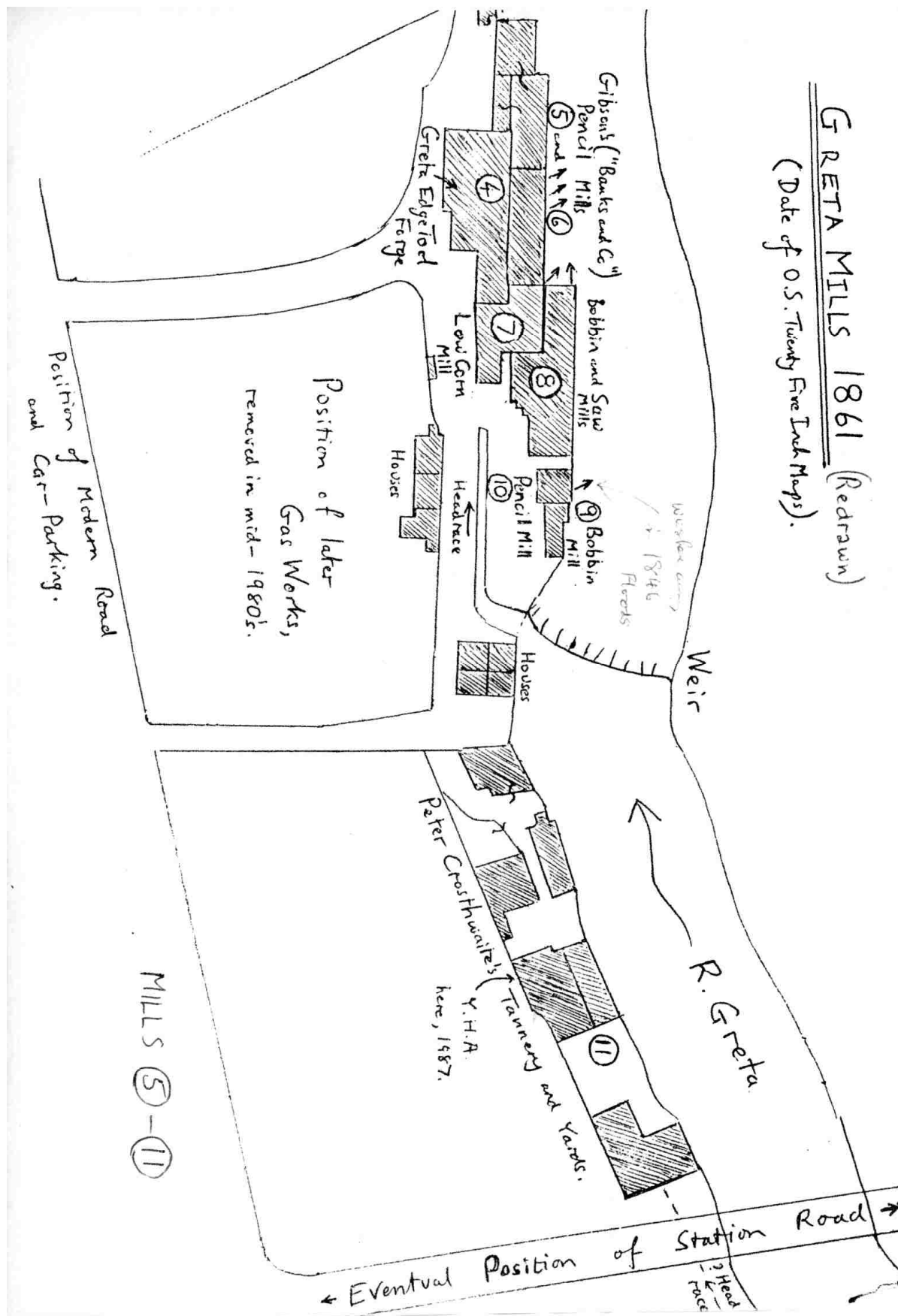
THE GRETA MILLS COMPLEX

GRETA FORGE NO. 4

This mill site shared with the corn mill the landward side of the big headrace coming off the river at Fitz Park. This fact alone confirms the antiquity of both mills, certainly back to the 16th century and probably much older still.

The original smelting forge of the Germans was IN Keswick. (It was quite normal for people referring to a site a mere quarter of a mile

G RETA MILLS 1861 (Redrawn) (Date of O.S. Twenty Five Inch Maps).



away, as being 'just outside' or 'near to' the town or hamlet.) Thus the only known smelting site at the present, within the present town of Keswick, is on the north bank of the Greta almost exactly where the railway line crossed the river. This was well outside the built-up environs of the 1561 town and therefore NOT the smelter referred to in 1561 - "copper smeltworks erected at Keswick." Camden's description in 1556 shows they had here a smelter, a forge and a sawmill. It is likely that initially, the smeltworks were gladly welcomed, but after the Augsburg Company had withdrawn, as the town grew, so would its opposition to the poisonous fumes from the smelter. Certainly, this smelter in Keswick had closed 2 years before the Civil War(Camden). In the same century, this site was worked as a Tool Forge by one of the original smelter-

families of German origin, the Shuran/Shyron/Skyrons. Richard Shuran, of Forge, died there in 1717. His daughter died there in 1758. George Waters ran the forge until 1770, then for the next century or so, a whole series of spade and edge-tool makers occupied the site (See 6A) - 'Ritsons, Swinburns, John Dover, William Nixon, I. Sealby (who went bankrupt in 1842), Peter Atkinson, Edward Burns, William Raven, Moses Eales, and from 1854 for several years, William Bowes, Edge Tool Manufacturer. The last known reference is in the Post Office Register for Cumberland and Westmorland for 1858. However, the building which stood in 1969 when MDS photographed it, was clearly a purpose-built edge-tool forge, single-storeyed, with high roof and tall chimney stacks, the whole in mellow brick. It was demolished c.1980 for the new riverside flats and time-share apartments. The site is now a carpark for these flats but with some 3ft-4ft diameter ancient French Burr stone grinding wheels let into the walls. These wheels, still choked with the graphite that they crushed, were found in the ruins of mill no. 6 and are therefore slightly out of locational context.

THE OLD PENCIL MILL NO. 6

Built 1566 AD on Millbanks Close. This mill was built only 5 years after the German smelt mill, but on the river side of the big headrace. In 1958, W.R. Mitchell, then Editor of the CUMBRIA magazine, interviewed the owner, H. J. Billinge (See February 1958 issue). He was shown the original Latin deeds of 1566, highly coloured. Most of the front wall of this most ancient mill has been swallowed up and hidden by the newly-built timeshare flats. Two of the exit arches for waterwheels once within the building may still be seen across the river from Fitz Park. The mill was known affectionately by Keswickians from an early time as 'The Big Mill' - which indeed it was, standing four storeys high at a time when no mill was built taller than three storeys anywhere else in northwest England.

Until those deeds come to light, we have no knowledge of owners, occupants or products for the years 1566 - 1819, apart from three brief clues: 1. In 1614 Henry Banks and John Shepard owned the bulk of the wadd mines. Sir John Banks was working both Mine and Mill in 1622. 2. From 1710-1759, a Banks and a Shepherd worked the mine. 3. By 1796, another Henry Banks shared the mine with Sir Joseph Banks, who also had this pencil mill until he died in 1819, aged 75 (ie born c.1744). His younger brother John, also of the mill, died in 1822, aged 69, leaving a 9-year old, Joseph (see below). When John Banks died, the Tenants of this mill were Foster, Gaskarth & Co. In 1828, the Pencil Company at the mill was Banks, Foster & Co, and in that year a daughter was born to William Foster, Pencil Maker there from before 1828 until 1851, when he moved to run his own mill (No.9).

Sometime prior to 1832, the mill was owned by a Mrs. Jane Richardson. She gave the mill to her son (? by a previous marriage) Robert R. Banks in that year, but the mill was being worked by Thomas R. Banks, Joseph Banks, William Foster & Co., Pencil Mfrs. Thomas Tate was the Foreman in their factory in 1834, and a Pencil Mfr in his own right by 1838. The Factory was visited by Queen Adelaide in 1840, but in 1841, R. Banks had gone bankrupt! The whole Greta Hall Estate, including the mill was sold to Robert Gibson (owner of the Tool Forge) in 1842, as confirmed by the Tithe map of the following year. However, he retained the Trade name 'Banks', for one of the previous partners, Joseph, proved to be a very able man, showing round the King of Saxony in 1844. William Foster's daughter, born in 1828, was married at the age of 21 in 1849. In spite of Foster's move in 1851, the firm was still 'Banks, Foster & Co' in 1854. In the following year Joseph Banks Junior, was married, possibly for the second time, came into the firm as a Pencil Mfr and the firm was then re-named Banks, Son & Co., and the mills were known as the 'Greta & Royal Saxony Mills'.

A fine tombstone in the parish churchyard, of 1860, affirms that Joseph the elder was a Pencil Manufacturer. Two years previously, the firm had acquired mill No. 5 as well. The firm was awarded a Gold Medal at the International Exhibition in London in 1872. The framed citation was still in the old mill building in 1969 and was photographed by the author.

In 1876, Robert Gibson, Owner, conveyed the mill he had owned for 4 years to his daughter Miss Margaret Gibson, her manager was Mr Henry Birkbeck. They continued to trade under the name of 'Banks and Co.' By 1884, Miss Gibson had separate managers in the two mills 5 and 6, no. 5 mill manager being Thomas Keenlside. In 1894, Henry Birkbeck was the sole manager and by 1906 (presumably Miss Gibson had died), he bought the whole enterprise. He retired in 1910, leaving his son Simon as the new

Owner. His new manager in 1919 was H.J.Billinge, from Cheshire. Simon sold the mills to Mr Billinge in 1921.

The disastrous fire of December 1940 left no. 6 a gutted ruin with three old parallel waterwheels burnt out in the ground floor. All had been mid-breast wheels, two of them of cast-iron frames. The section was eventually sold and converted into a repair garage in 1969, and in 1984 into timeshare flats. The only real problem to future industrial historians is that the owners, in their wisdom, have quite wrongly entitled the block as Low Mill. (Number 7 mill had been Kirkland or Low Corn Mill, but its site is now part of the driveway access to the timeshare flats and is no longer a building.) Why the owners did not perpetuate the time-honoured title of "Old Pencil Mill" is odd, to say the least.

GRETA CARDING MILL. NO.5

It is possible and probable that this ancient, narrow three-storeyed building, typical of woollen mills of early industrial revolution times, was rebuilt on the site of the structure set up by Sir John Banckes, Chief Justice of Common Pleas, in 1638. He left £30 in his will, "to set up a manufacture of 'course cottons' (coarse woollens) in the town of Keswick."

The very narrowness of the building helps to date it to sometime before 1760 AD. The first known occupant was John Ladyman, in 1792, a Woollens Manufacturer (Martin MSS). He was still in Woollens in 1805, but by 1813, when an 18-month old son died, he was a Pencil Maker. In the following year he was a Manufacturer and remained so until at least 1821 (christening of his child). In 1827, a son Joseph, was a Pencil Mfr. until at least 1839, although it is recorded that in 1829, the Owner of the mill was Jacob Banks, who had had his own Pencil Mill at Braithwaite since 1816. By 1843, the mill was being run by Samuel Ladyman. He must have been quite popular, for he got 128 votes for the Health Board at Keswick in 1853. By 1860, Samuel had retired from the business, for the Banks family were by then running both mills 5 and 6 as a joint pencil mill. The ensuing mill history is as for mill 6, excepting that it was not burned down in 1940. It was kept complete with background of gears, machinery and benches, to a thriving antique furniture business until put on sale in 1968. It was then that the author took photos internally. The mill became private flats in 1969.

LOW CORN MILL (?KIRKLAND MILL)NO.7

This may be a very old mill indeed. In 1805, J.O.Curwen was making a report from the 'Sir John Colpay's Report of the Greenwich Hospital Estates', to the effect that the G.H.E. were letting the mill to William Wallace at a rent of £74 per annum. Also, that the mill had a machine for making oatmeal and another for shelling barley. (North Country Life in the Eighteenth Century, p225 E. Hushes).

The point of this is that the Greenwich Hospital acquired all the properties that had been forfeited to the Crown in 1715, when the Ratcliffe family (the Earls of Derwentwater) were on the losing side of the Jacobite rebellion. Probably this was therefore the manorial mill.

Thus this mill goes back to 1715 for certain. So we have:

1790 21 shillings rent for the year from Allanson, probably corn miller.

1805 William Wallace, tenant.

1823 Jan 20th, Jonathan Fawcett, Miller, died aged 60.

Benjamin Richardson in the late '20's and the '30's.

Daniel Jopson and Thomas Adamson, joint Millers until 1851 when both had died. On August 1st 1846, there was an almighty flood, which washed away all Mr. Adamson's pigsties.

This is almost certain proof that the mill was manorial, for the custom from medieval days was that the miller paid his rent to the lord of the Manor in kind, in the form of pigmeat, the pigs being fed on a percentage of meal abstracted by the miller from customers' orders, and known as multure.

The Tithe map of 1843 showed that Daniel Jopson was Miller at both this Low

mill and at High Mill (No.11) as well. Millers came and went. For instance, John Adamson was miller at Low Mill in 1862 but had been at High Mill in 1858.

John Adamson is recorded in most unusual fashion in 1870, as one of a host of Keswick worthies painted by Joseph Brown junior, in a small oil entitled "Keswick Citizens". This painting is on show at the Keswick Museum on Station Road. By 1883, the Adamson family were well established in their Low Corn and Saw Mill, as John Adamson and Son (Bulmer), also as Corn and Corn Seed millers. By 1920, they were listed in the Post Office register for Cumb. & Westmorland as 'John Adamson and Son, Millers, at Low and High Mill, Keswick' (See High Mill (13)).

The mill building was taken over soon after as part of the Gas Works and was demolished c.1980 to make way for the timeshare flats.

FITZ BECKSIDE, OR GRETA HAMLET MILL. NO.8

The island formed by the big headrace, was named on the Tithe Map of 1843 as "Bleach Green". The name denotes an area of grass upon which linen cloths are laid in order to bleach them" to as white as possible in the sun and rain.

There are conflicting claims of occupancy for this mill. The simplest explanation would be that there were two textile mills side by side, one producing linen thread, the other woollen thread, and both owned by the Crosthwaite family for a long time. Both mills would put out the threads made to outworkers in the district, to be made up into cloth on domestic looms, as was the custom throughout Europe until the invention of reliable machine looms in the 1850's. After that date, steam mills in the West Riding of Yorkshire and the coming of railways, effectively caused the closure of all but the most successful of companies. The commonest cloth was linsey-wolsey, with linen warp and woollen weft, a warm yet hard-wearing material. The woollen mill may have worked from 1727 or even earlier, under John Crosthwaite's hands, then Joseph Crosthwaite, together with the Linen manufacturing Twentyman family until the early 1800's. Joseph died in 1810, at the age of 80. His son Thomas continued the woollen side. In 1823, John Twentyman (senior and junior) moved to their own Large mill at Stair (Newlands). It may have been too big for them, for they went bankrupt only three years later. Back at Greta, the Jackson family took over the woollen side of things, so the Crosthwaites made the linen thread. The Jacksons moved up river to the 'Fancy Mill' at Briery in 1837 and it seems that William Banks of Cockermouth took over as Woollens Manufacturer. He died in 1860 at the age of 80 (tombstone in Crosthwaite Churchyard). There are slight hints that this mill finished just before, in about 1855 and was taken up by Richard Hogarth and Robert Hayes, as a Pencil Mill. They in turn moved out to Greta Bridge Mill(no.1)c.1861, and were replaced by Thomas G. Newby, who ran the Cedar Mills there. His son J.Newby closed the mill in about 1983 and shortly afterwards the whole block of buildings were converted into timeshare flats.

MILLS 9,10.

1843 Tithe Map (mapped in 1840) showed no mills here then.

By 1844, two mills were built on this site, a Pencil and a Bobbin mill on Bleach Green.

1845. Joseph Satterthwaite Bobbin Turner, wed on 23rd June.

1846. August 1st, a flood at Keswick (cloudburst in St John's-in-the-Vale), washed away part of the Pencil works, including the furnace and much gear, of Messrs Crosthwaite, Lancaster & Co.(WG). Thereafter, a series of weddings of the 'new men' to the district, all bobbin turners: Isaac Cartmell, Henry Wren, George Atkinson. By the 1851 Census, Jonathan Stables, Bobbin Manufacturer, has just moved in here from Low Briery Mill upstream. The Census also listed another 7 turners with him.

By 1851, May 17th, Wm. Foster had moved into No.9 mill, to run his own venture, breaking away from the Gibson-owned 'Banks' pencil mill: "Messrs W.Foster & Son of the Keswick Pencil Works have just completed the fitting up of their new Premises with entirely new machinery."

1854 Oct 17th, Wm Foster, Pencil Manufacturer.

At present I have no further data on this mill, except that it appears to have become part of Newby's mill in later years. This building too, was swept into the Timeshare group by 1984.

CROSTHWAITE'S TANNERY NO. 11

This mill (or manufactory) will be better-known to Keswickians as the Palladium and the Youth Hostel, but it stretched downstream from the Station Rd. bridge to the weir for the Greta Forge mill-group. This works is part of a large complex that stretched upstream towards the High Corn mill. The tannery continued to work for long enough to need to have waterpower in order to compete with other tanneries in the late 19th century. The weir for the so-called workshops (Mills 12), almost certainly led water down onto Crosthwaite's tannery, under the present Station Road. There is quite a good fall of water along this stretch of the river.

The Crosthwaite family were renowned woollen manufacturers in the late 18th and early 19th century. Why they turned over to tanning is a mystery at present. However, John Crosthwaite was a tanner here in 1826. Jonathan and Robert ran a company of Tanners and Skinners from at least 1828-1858. In 1851, Robert died, aged 60. Peter died on 7th April 1867, but George continued through until at least 1901 (Bulmer), with his residence in Lake Rd.

'SHOOLEY CROW' NO. 12

More correctly Shorley Croft, that part of the present Penrith road now bordered by set piece gardens along the river bank. Until recently, I was not aware that there had been a weir for this mill for it was demolished many years ago. However, the workshops were water powered and there were two establishments, a Pencil works and a Tannery, although the latter may not have enjoyed waterpower. The buildings still show quite clearly on Ordnance Survey maps of 1962, so it is likely that photographs exist that show them.

KESWICK MILL OR HIGH CORN MILL. NO.13

This mill stood on the Penrith road where the present-day Shell petrol station stands. In fact one needs only to lean over the riverside railings to see below them most of the original foundations of the mill here, still intact. Part of the complex tailrace can be seen at the end nearest Town centre. One would like to think nowadays in our pollution-conscious society, that a corn mill could not have been in existence here with, of all things, a poisonous-fumed lead - smelt mill less than 50 yards away, but it was so!

The corn mill may have been only recently built when the lead smelter was in its decline. One would hope so for the general health of the bread-eaters of Keswick pre 1809.

The mill had a Smeaton mid-low breastshot waterwheel installed in 1779, 16ft diameter by 3ft wide on an 8ft fall. As was usual with corn mills, tenders were made every seven or twenty-one years to the owner, sealed. The winner might have to pay the cost of completely refurnishing the interior machinery of the mill, but the owner paid for the waterwheel, gears and pairs of stones. Tenants sometimes paid in labour or cash towards the upkeep of the building, the water-races and the roadway. Millers from the early 19th century included the Gibsons, Tordiffs, Akitt, Jopson, Hewetson, and by the 1870's the widely-known Hayhurst family. Finally, the Adamson family, who had run Keswick Low Mill for so long, also enjoyed this mill into the 1920's.

In 1870, Mr. William Hayhurst, Miller, bought a secondhand reconditioned waterwheel from Gilkes' millwrighting firm in Kendal. It was 13ft diameter, and 3ft. 11 inches wide, of pitchpine, with 30 wooden buckets and cast iron shrouds. It replaced the 1779 waterwheel which had been larger but narrower.

BECKSIDE MILL OR WREN'S LEAD SMELTER. NO. 14.

This is an ancient site that may go back before 1727. In 1779 it was known as "Derwentwater Smelt Mill" but was in ruins in 1809. At that time, Wm. Green the artist, had done '78 Studies in Nature'. Sketches no.68 & 69 showed a view down this stretch of the River Greta. Green's notes state that 'the corn mill is beyond the building in ruins.' No mills are shown on the 1840 Tithe Map, but by 1857 a Mr. Wm. Guy has a Pencil Mill here, on the Penrith Road. In 1863, 1st April, a 12-year old boy drowned in the millrace near Mr. Guy's Pencil Works at Beckside, Keswick.

In 1867 there is a brief reference to Wren's lead Smelt mill here, but no data after that.

THE BRIGHAM FORGE MILL COMPLEX.

This area is always referred to as being "outside Keswick". Here there is a narrow shelf of land on the south bank that is about 20ft above the river level, and therefore a great attraction to industrialists looking for waterpower. Its upper end is now spanned by the modern Keswick by-pass road, from which there is an excellent view of this secret hamlet. 'Brigholm' had a bridge here in the 13th century (I am indebted to Dr. Landon for much data here), and the area was in Fountains Abbey hands until Dissolution. It then went to Henry VIII's jurisdiction. In 1541, John Williamson took over the rents of the area. Today, the Speddings are gradually selling off parts to the occupiers here.

SOYA FACTORY NO.15.

This is squeezed between the tailrace of the original main millsite and the road, but is quite a modern building, being built of red brick. It is probably no older than 1860 and may be much less than that. It was used as a Soya Flour factory during world war II, by an industrialist bombed out of his Midlands works. Before that it had been a Laundry for some years, (Scotts and Dixon's?) and after the War it was a Sea Cadet Ho until converted to two flats in 1973. It was never a Forge nor a Water powered mill.

BRIGHAM FORGE THEN COTTON MILL NO. 16

The earliest reference to works on the Brigham site is in the Cumberland

Lay Subsidies for 1333 AD, when there was a Commill (Thomas Molendarius)

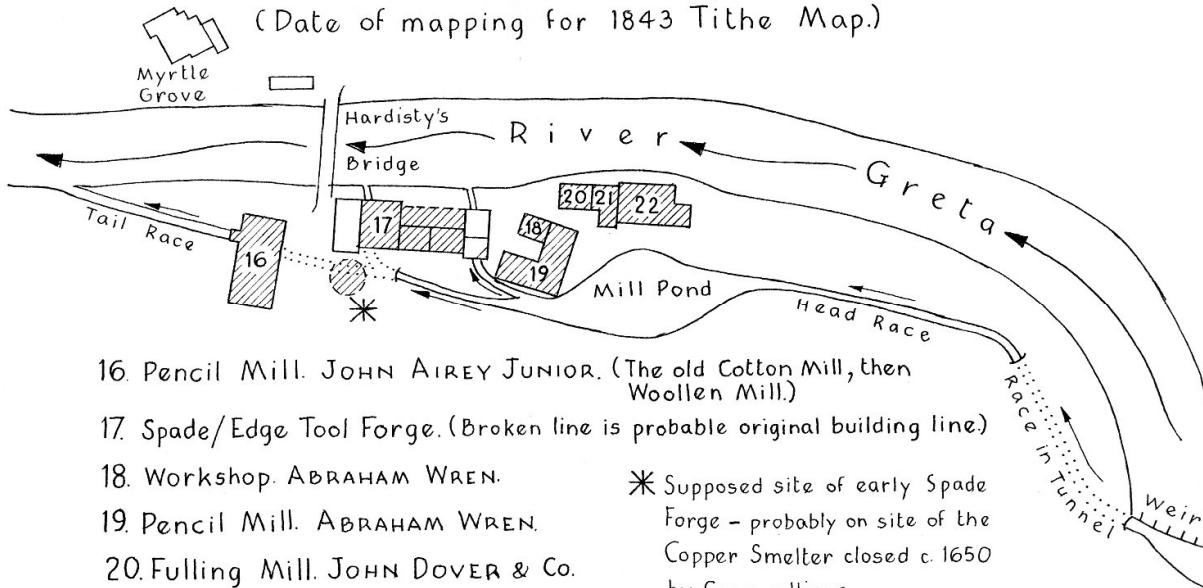
and a Tannery (John Berecarius) here. There were mines in Borrowdale in 1230 AD.

When the German miners came in the early 14th century they chose this as the second smelting site to be built in the Keswick area. No, the above date is not a printing error. There is plenty of detailed evidence on the early mines and activities around Keswick, as it was first known and named in the 13th century. (I do not like the 'cheesetown' idea, as that would mean Saxons in this area - and they never were until the Victorian era. However, the Old Norse Kis-vik, pronounced Keezvik, means PYRITES-TOWN, surely a much better name, for many of the minerals of north Lakeland are metal sulphides, including pyrites.) There are clear suggestions of smelting near Keswick in the 14th century, proof in the 15th century and details in the 16th century. The first smelter was at Keswick No.4 mill or Greta Forge) in 1561. By 1565, five more furnaces had been built around Keswick: Brigham, Briery, Derwent Isle, Stoneycroft and Grange. Shortage of charcoal forced the smelters to build a new peat-furnace at Brigham in 1569 and a third was added in 1571, so that Brigham probably became the most important centre for the smelting of ores mined in the Keswick district.

Five years after the Civil War broke out, lead mining was continuing in the Keswick area and would mean the ores had to be smelted somewhere. In 1649, we know that one of the Roundheads was in charge of all the mines etc. of Derwentfells, on a 10-year lease. Two years after the war ceased, mines at Thomthwaite were at work and new smelters were erected at Stoneycroft. At the same time the copper smelters around Keswick had already been restarted, so it is certain that Brigham would be hard at work

BRIGHAM FORGE AREA 1840

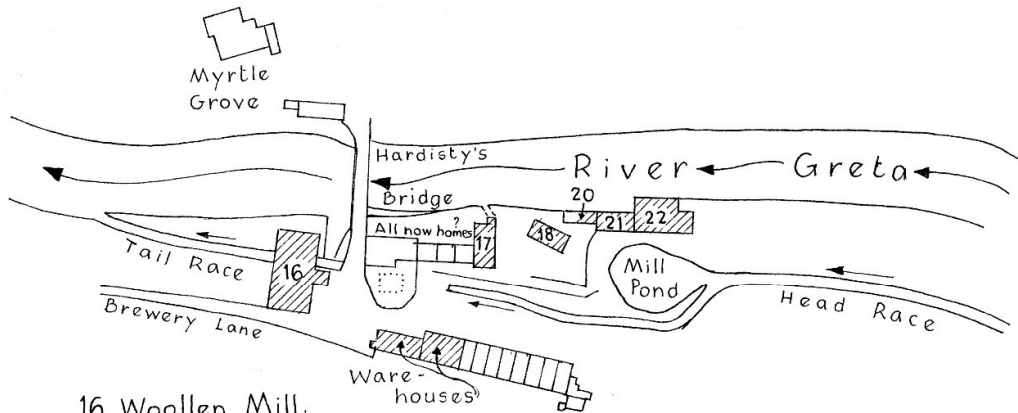
(Date of mapping for 1843 Tithe Map.)



- 16. Pencil Mill. JOHN AIREY JUNIOR. (The old Cotton Mill, then Woollen Mill.)
 - 17. Spade/Edge Tool Forge. (Broken line is probable original building line.)
 - 18. Workshop. ABRAHAM WREN.
 - 19. Pencil Mill. ABRAHAM WREN.
 - 20. Fulling Mill. JOHN DOVER & Co.
 - 21. Dye Works.
 - 22. Woollen Carding Mill. CLARK, HODGSON & Co. (With Yard, etc.)
- * Supposed site of early Spade Forge - probably on site of the Copper Smelter closed c. 1650 by Cromwellians.

BRIGHAM FORGE AREA 1861

(Date of mapping of the Ordnance Survey's 25" maps)



- 16 Woollen Mill.
- 17 Spade Forge.
- 18 Millwrighting "Workshop".
- 20 Fulling Mill.
- 21 Dye Works.
- 22 Woollen Carding Mill.

again. They appear to have given over, though, by about 1730, but iron-smelting was carried on at Brigham as well, in the 17th and 18th centuries (slag-types as found there in August 1987, by author).

The main 'forge' site lay idle for possibly as little as 30 years before new people moved in and built a Cotton Mill, c.1765. It was an imposing edifice, being 4 floors high plus a garret over, in white stone with red sandstone quoins, and a typical bell-tower atop the roof. Each floor had twelve windows on the long side. There was also the typical stair-tower on one long side.

The first occupants were Stoddart & Temple, who also had a similar early mill at Cockermouth. They were still 'manufacturers of

Keswick' in 1824 (which means that they had moved to a township near the present-day Keswick but were not at Keswick itself). Then we have to read the wording of reports of the time very carefully. From much perusal of documents on mills in Cumbria, one can say with reasonable certainty that when Hutchinson, in his 1794 History of Cumberland, refers to "there is a Cotton mill lately erected on the River Greta", he means that it was not built last year (just built), or the last 5-15 years (newly built), but within 15-30 years (Lately built). This puts the mill at between 1765-1779, which accords very nicely with the Stoddart MSS at Cockermouth.

In 1801, Dorothy Wordsworth, who was returning at dusk from Keswick to Grasmere, states in her 'Journal' (p360), "Cotton Mills lighted up". This would be by gaslight. Many mills had their own private supply long before public gasworks were set up. One notes that Housman (1800) also referred to the fact that 'A Cotton Factory has lately been established.'

A reference to Jonas Blakey Hardisty, Cotton Manufacturer, already living at Gretabank, 1805, strongly suggests that the bridge was already there and it was merely rebuilt in 1817. There are many references to J.B.H. and his cotton mill in the early years. One sad note is that his wife died in 1818 at the age of 36 (Born 1782). She was the daughter of William and Deborah Dover, a long-established and prosperous woollens manufacturing family in and just north of Keswick, at Millbeck. From 1816 to 1828, there are several references to a new partner to J.B.H., ie Wilson Lightfoot, Cotton Mfr. under the trade title of 'Lightfoot & Hardisty'. However, the company began to produce woollens instead of cotton goods, for on 19th April 1823, the Cumberland Pacquet reported that:-

'Last Saturday evening, some person or persons unknown, broke 10 large panes of glass in a window of the woollen manufactory belonging to Mr. William Blakey, of Forge, near Keswick. (Note the "near", meaning not in Keswick). Another point here is that a woollen mill only required three floors and so had two to spare.

From 1828 to 1861, there are references to TWO businesses in the 'old cotton mill'. On the one hand, the woollen works continued via Wn. Blakey Hardisty until his death c.1842, making Worsteds, Wools and Flocks; then from 1844 May 5th with David Senogles, Woollen Spinner. By 1861 and 1867, he was David 'Snoggles', Woollen Manufacturer (see 1861 Census). On the other hand, in the two 'spare' floors, from 1828, (Pigott), John Airey, Pencil Mfr. was at work until 1836. By the Tithe map date of 1843, it was John Airey Junior, Pencil Manufacturer. By the 1861 Census, pencil making had ceased here but this works was making bobbins. It is sad that such an imposing building should have been swept away, but its sheer age was partly its literal downfall, for it was too narrow internally to accommodate more modern machinery. The little that can still be seen is the peripheral wall for an elevated watergarden-cum-rockery, belonging to the bungalow extension to the soya factory. The cotton mill foundation walls have the pattern of length:width and thickness which clearly proves that the mill was built before 1770, but was extended in length later on.

The large millrace to the mill has been retained to provide waterflow through the garden, running along the front of the old houses, etc upstream of the cotton mill site. The tailrace, a massive 16ft-wide gully, was mostly filled in when the bungalow and flats were made, as there was some risk of river water back-flooding their foundations.

In 1888, the old cotton mill was purchased by the "Keswick Electric Light Company"(Manager C.R.Chaplin). A large Victor turbine was instituted there of 50 Hp, on the 20ft fall. Eventually, the site lit most of the Keswick district until c.1939, when the National Grid reached Keswick. Photographs of the Electric Works, and field measurements taken recently, prove that the old mill was demolished down to first floor level in part and the turbine, generator, etc mounted in the basement.

BRIGHAM SPADE FORGE NO. 17

Fieldwork by MD-S has proved that the area, from the centre to the upstream end of the housing block by the bridge, was the 17th century Bloomsmithy. Many large and typical slag 'hambones' are in the ground and bank of the river there. Such heavy pieces never migrate more than about 20 yards even after some three or four centuries. The slags in these hambones are technically quite different from other iron slags on the site which indicate a tool forge at some time. These specimens also prove waterpower on the site.

There is a tradition that a bloomsmithy remained in work at Keswick into the 19th century, as well as one at Stake in Langstrath near Stonethwaite in Borrowdale. This would suggest that such late working of ancient techniques would accord with its immediate take-over as an Edge Tool Forge in the early 19th century. Certainly, by 1813, Thomas Richardson is well-established as Edge Tool Maker at the Spade Manufactory of Brigham. There followed baptisms of eight of his children until 1829! The trade directories of 1828 and 1829

list him as a Scythe and Edge Tool Manufacturer, although he must have died in 1829, for his widow Jane is given as the Spade & Shovel Mfr. there in the same year. Henry Hodgson was singled out as her main worker in the early 1840's, but by 1844 one of the offspring had completed his apprenticeship and was working there as a fully-fledged Spade Maker. In that year he wed Sarah Raven, whose father was a Pencil maker working at Airey's nearby. Son Thomas Richardson must then have moved away, for Henry Hodgson took over the works as manager. The odd thing is that the works are not shown on the 1843 Tithe Map, so it must have been in the process of being taken down and enlarged at that time. It may well be that the earlier Forge was on the site shown on the map as being on the main cotton mill headrace and was being demolished while the other was building. Certainly, by 1847, Bird & Hodgson are the proprietors of the Edge Tool and Spade Manufactory(Mannex). In 1857, William Raven was the Spade Maker. (His name suggests further intermarriage of local families). It is reputed to have been demolished in the 1890's, but it is interesting that its foundations and tailrace can be seen through the bridge arch of the Watercolour painting of the large cotton mill at Brigham, painted 'some time' in the late 19th century. Where it stood is now the rear garden of a much smaller cottage that has been standing for many years, but faint traces of the foundations and tailrace are still visible along the river bank.

BRIGHAMFORGEWOOLLENMILL, THENWORKSHOP(MILLWRIGHTING),NO.18

Known probably as Scott's mill, it was difficult to sort out, several of Keswick's mills having borne this name at some time. There are still a few gaps to fill. This data comes from the Martin MSS. Miss Martin was the last local representative of the Scott family who ran several woollen mills in the Keswick area in the 13th-20th centuries. Their largest mill was a manufactory that still stood until December 1973, opposite the Bus Station in the north centre of the town. It was four floors high and part of a complex including weaving shops where the Co-op now stands, together with dyehouses and drying yards. Along the riverside at Brighan was one of their enterprises, where they ran a small Woollen Mill. 1802 Jonathan Scott, Woollen Manufacturer married Jane Birkett both 'of Forges'. This a very tactical move, as John Birkett had the large Woollen mill at no.19, next door. They appear to have had three children, then Jane died and Jonathan remarried (Ann) and had four more children by 1823.

1812 Joseph Scott, Woollen Manufacturer, 'of Brighams'. 1819, Joseph Scott's infant son died. J.S. moved to no.25 mill at Briery some time before 1825, Jonathan Scott started the engineering machine shops from some time before 1825, until c.1871. John Scott was a brilliant millwright, whose skills included mechanic, joiner, millwright, and machine maker. In 1843, William Dale, Engineer, joined him. They maintained most of Keswick's mills and their machinery and made much more for other firms around Cumberland. They built a large waterwheel for the Caldbeck mine at Driggeth on Carrock Fell, about 1855. The mine closed before the wheel could be installed, so it was offered for sale and bought (after this notice) by the well-known Bobbin Mill at Hawk in Caldbeck, where it was used for a short time before being replaced in turn by the waterwheel known familiarly to many as the Auld Red Rover. (The latter wheel was made at Wigton by the millwright Mr Harrison Clark):

Carlisle Journal 25th July 1856.

Caldbeck, Wigton, Cumberland.

WATER WHEEL FOR SALE, in Cumberland, now laying convenient for Rail or Water transit. This magnificent Wheel was constructed by SCOTT, the eminent wheelwright, Keswick, for the Carrock Mines. Its graceful movement alone was tested; it was never used.

It is 40 feet diameter, 3 ft. breast, has Brass movements, Oast Iron Axle, shroudings, etc, etc.; Arms and Buckets Memel timber; other appendages Wrought Iron. It will be sold a bargain. Thomas Wilson, the present owner, will treat for sale.

BRIGHAM WOOLLEN AND PENCIL MILL.NO 19.

Almost no trace now remains of this large mill, driven by waterpower taken from the cotton mill's headrace-and-millpond. As a typical local woollen mill it would have stood three storeys high, although part of the ground floor was set below the high walls for the millrace, so that, from a distance it would have appeared little taller than the houses nearby and much smaller than the cotton mill. It was probably built around 1750 and may have been one of the earlier flax mills about which so little is known.

1759 John Birkett I. at 'Forges', Woollen Manufacturer.

1818 John Birkett II at Forge, child baptised. This is a very long run for a family where so little is known. However, the

Birketts seem to have left by 1820, for Joseph Foster Jagger, Woollen Manufacturer was there a short time before 1822. His ever-growing family worked this mill until c.1848, when they moved to Low Briery (mill no.24), which probably had a better water supply for the new, larger machines than at work.

In 1832, Abraham Wren had moved into part of Brigham Mill, from a section of the large mill at Stair, in Newlands, which had rather limited waterpower. At Brigham, he continued as a Black Lead pencil manufacturer and was very successful. In 1841 he married Elisabeth Ladyman, the daughter of another pencil manufacturer in Keswick.

The 1841 'Tithe Map shows this large mill very clearly and labels it as 'Abraham Wren's Pencil Mill'. In 1857 April 4th, Abraham Wren moved to the mill at Southey Hill(mill no.3). His mill still stands as small buildings behind the large factory erected in 1979 to house The Cumberland Pencil Co., the present modern mill whose output has replaced (and more) that of all these smaller mills combined.

1861, Ordnance Survey Map shows that mill no.19 had been demolished.(note, the Tithe Map shows that this mill had mill no.18 built onto it.

BRIGHAM BECKSIDE FULLING MILL, NO 20

The layout as marked on various O.S. and other maps, also the fieldwork measurements taken by MD-S show that Mill 22 was built first, in 1745 or earlier. Mill 21 was built up against it, probably about 1790, and mill 20 was built up against Mill 21, probably about 1800-1810. Hence:

1813, John Edmundson, Fuller, was probably the first Tenant. Baptisms show he occupied this mill, finishing woollen cloths ready for marketing, until sometime in the 1820's. By 1832, one of his sons, or a younger brother, also worked there (Edward), with his children being baptised from 1834-38.

1841 Tithe Map marks the mill as "John Dover and Co, Fulling and Dyeing". Clearly, he owned the mill but Edmondsons were still there as his workforce. Most dye-cloth colours were kept very secret and 'in-the-family' and it is clear that the Edmondsons did just that!

1842, Alfred, son of John Edmondson, was married.

1845. Edward Edmondson had moved away to work at the large woollen mill at Hillbeck, Underskiddaw, also owned by the Dover family.

By 1847 the Fulling work was finished and the mill was apparently being worked by Christopher Harrington and Thomas Jefferson, Pencil Manufacturers. (Note, a manufacturer works on a larger scale than a mere 'maker'). 1861 O.S. map. Mill marked as being used. Purpose unknown.

1894 John Martin at Backside Saw mills, Brewery Lane(Bulmer).

1901 John Martin, Greta Saw Mills. (The Martin family were the descendants of the Scott family).

1921 John Martin moved his sawmills away to a larger site behind the Southey Hill millsite.

By 1987, the western third of the mill had long been demolished and the remainder had been co-opted into the Dyeworks site next door. The waterwheel had been on the eastern (upstream) end of the building, and its tailrace into the river was still clearly visible in the river wall foundations.

BRIGHAM BECKSIDE DYE WORKS.NO 21.

1793, John Dover, Dyer, who had worked at Caldbeck with his brother, moved to this new mill when his brother James died in Caldbeck. The Dover family worked this mill until at least 1855, aided by John Musgrave, who was there before 1814 and until 1847 when he retired from the business.

In 1814, some specified goods were stolen from the Dyeworks and £30 Reward was offered, a huge sum in those days. They caught the culprit a few days later. He had not realised that each piece of cloth was marked by the dyer in a specific and minute manner!

By 1984, this mill had long ceased dyework and had been joined to the fulling mill to make the sawmill. MD-S saw this building just

prior to the interior being clad in modern insulation and was able to see that it had been a three storied structure originally.

BRIGHAM BECKSIDE MILL, OR GRETA MILL AT BRIGHAM FORGE NO 22.

This mill was nearly overlooked until MD-S realised that an Ordnance Survey map can be relied upon for accuracy, especially in the larger scales. By carefully measuring the riverside lengths of the buildings now standing, and comparing these with the large-scaled 1861 O.S. map, it is clear that the large mill standing well into the river on that map, has now disappeared. It had projected 17 ft into the river beyond the front of the Dyeworks and lay immediately upstream of that mill. The present-day house there, that lies almost underneath the Keswick by-pass flyover, occupies part of mill 22 site. In plan it was originally nearly as large as the cotton mill, but more square and again, had been a large woollen mill at a very early date:-

1745 John Dunglinson, Woollen Manufacturer. 1756, 1770 and 1786, when J.D. died.

1787, William Dunglinson, Woollen Manufacturer. There was a local reference to W. D's large woollen manufactory at Beckside, Brigham in 1733.

1801, 'Wm. Dunglinson died, aged 35.

1801, Mr. Daniel Dunglinson, Woollen Manufacturer is at Backside Mills.

1814, Oct 30th. W.G. and 1818 Nov 7th W.G. - two almost identical reports of thieves breaking into the mill and stealing about 8 stones of wool of different qualities (probably to work up at home).

In 1814, the firm is Messrs 'Dunglinson & Co., and in 1818, it is Dunglinson, Hodgson & Co (This was John Hodgson, a son of Isaac, who had been a woollens manufacturer at High mill in 1791). Sometime in the 1820's, Daniel Dunglinson died, but he was not buried at Keswick. A report in a book entitled 'Recollections of the Keswick Post Office (undated), stated that "Mrs D.Dunglinson, widow of the Woollen Mfr, who died young, carried on the business with some success." She later was married to the Postmaster who admired her pluck greatly.

1828 Another widow, Ann Hodgson, ran the woollen mill after Mrs. D.D. had remarried, as Ann Hodgson & Son.

1841 Tithe Map shows Wilson Clark, John Hodgson & Co. with extensive Woollen mill, Dye Works and Yards. This mill ceased wool trading before 1846.

1846 "Floods in Keswick ... a very large quantity of Bobbin wood was washed away from Mr. Robert Coupland's woodyard at Brigham Forge."

1850 Mar 30, K.M. Francis Capstick, Bobbin Manufacturer, Bankrupt, much of the machinery to be sold. 14 kilns (sic) newly fitted up, circular saws and 7 other saws, larger circular saw 34 inches diameter. Vices, drums etc. Also about 1000ft of very best bobbin wood on premises of Mr Copstick under a power of sale. All to be sold at Brigham Forge

1850 Mr. Robert McGlasson took over the Bobbin Mill.

1853 May 7th K.M.

"A Shocking accident at the bobbin-mill of Mr. Robert McGlasson of Forge, near Keswick: a 16-year old son of Mr. Jonathan Richardson, was at work when a belt attached to a portion of the machinery broke. He proceeded to repair it, helped by a son of the owner. Somehow the belt got wrapped round his hand and the machine was making 60rpm. Richardson was dragged round several times with great rapidity. His right hand **was** torn off at the wrist, the left arm torn off just below the elbow and both thighs fractured. His arm was immediately amputated at the shoulder by Messrs Irving and Stoddart. **He may recover?**"

1855 May 26th This Bobbin Manufactory TO BE SOLD, Workrooms, Drying Kiln, etc.

1857 Jan 15th it was bought by Banks, Son & Go. of Briery mills.

1861. Shown on the O.S. map.

About 1888, the site was bought for a house for the Manager of the Keswick Electricity Light Company's Works. The mill was entirely demolished.

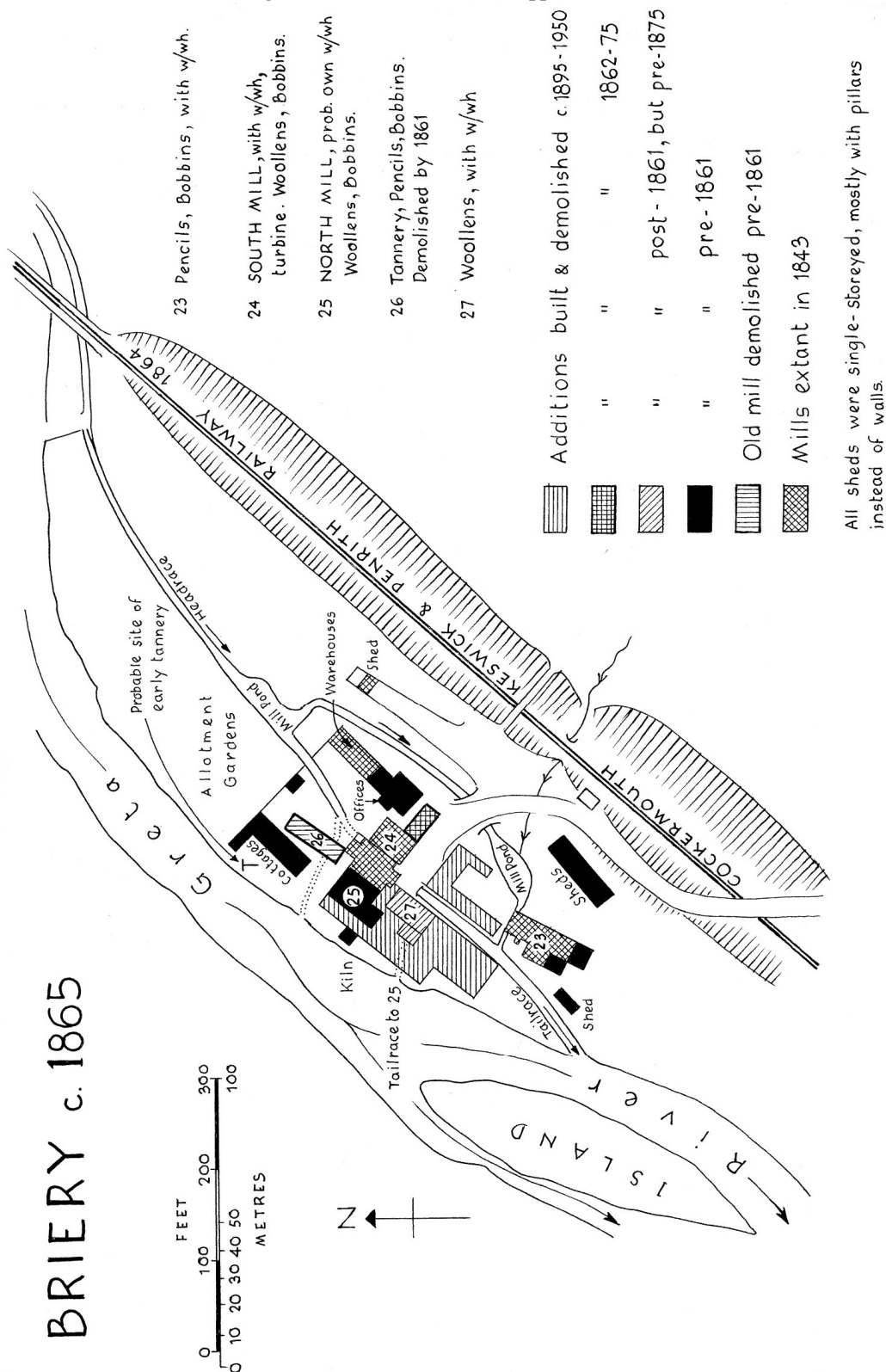
1960, the millpond was filled in, since young children lived close by, but the headrace down to the cotton mill was kept open.

THE BRIERY MILLS SITE

This was another large and complex site and has been much more difficult to unravel since it is now largely demolished and occupied by private caravans and chalets.

The earliest industrial reference to the site is in the Cumberland Lay subsidies of 1333 AD, which lists for Casteling (Briery), or Brigham, Adam fullo, Fulling miller; Thomas faber, Smith at Forge; Thomas berecarius, Tanner; Henry molendinarius, Corn miller.

Site fieldwork has located the 'forge' and this was converted to copper



smelting in the 16th century, when Briery became one of the new Germans' works in 1565. All these working sites were confiscated by Henry VIII in 1558, since the Briery properties were on Fountains Abbey's lists. In 1541, the king sold them all to one John Williamson (a local lad) who gathered in the rents therefrom. Then we lose sight of ownership until the present times, when the Spedding family of Mirehouse would appear to have been the last overall owners, now superseded by the Holiday Centre there.

The map shows the extreme complexity of the mill buildings, as ascertained from photographs, maps, plans and site fieldwork. There are still some gaps though. The coming of the railway altered the line of the original main headrace and may have destroyed part of the original copper smeltworks site. The long and large flat piece of ground that is crossed by the headrace surely holds some secrets - probably the rows of tanks or pits associated with all tanning works, to the tune of 50- 100 pits, each at least 4ft square.

THE OLD BOBBIN MILL. NO 23

In architectural style, this is a typical woollen mill. However, in the year 1789, John Rookin, Pencil maker was here.

1819 George Rookin 1, Pencil Manufacturer, died.

1828 (Pigott) George II Rookin, Pencil Manufacturer, is at "George Rookin's" mill.

In the same year, 1828, William Robinson, Pencil Maker, came here.

1841 Tithe Map gives George Rookin at his mill, which is this one.

1842 William Robinson, Pencil Manufacturer, also 1846 and 48(children born) but W.R. died in 1848. The firm must have closed then for in 1845, Oct 16th, Mr Apps, Black Lead Pencil

Manufacturer, got married, "His predecessor was Mr, Rooking". He obviously only held the lease of this mill -1848 Dec 9th (WG)."SALE of Rookin, Robinson and Stables, due to the deaths of Rookin and Robinson, and Stables being still indisposed. The business had been carried on for a great number of years." The mill was bought by William Robinson,(see below). In 1848, the mill was converted to Bobbin making. 1852 Mar 30 (WG). At Messrs Robinson, Rookin & Co, a Shocking accident to an apprentice named Bustow. He was oiling some machinery and was struck on the head by a crank. His cheekbone was smashed in. He may recover but will be disfigured. He has already lost two brothers in the same mill due to two separate accidents."

1854 reference to 'Old Willie Robinson' of this mill - hive of bees swarmed very early in May.

1862. death of Mr. Stables, father of the Manager of Briery Hill Bobbin Works.

1863. Mr William Robinson, Pencil Maker, died aged 47. Note change of occupation, The mill was sold in 1863 to Miles Coward, who installed Robert Philipson, Bobbin Manufacturer there.

By 1883, Bulmer reports that this mill is part of the very large Company of Coward, Philipson & Co's Bobbin Works at Low Briery.

This mill continued in work until 8th November 1958, when this huge company closed. At the present time the reason is not known.

FANCY BOTTOMS OR SOUTH BRIERY WOOLLEN MILL. NO 24

This building was the earlier part of what was to become a very large mill. A photograph now on display at the caravan site, of c. 1880, shows a long 4-storey building straddling the headrace, and with ancillary warehouses, offices and so forth arranged on a square pattern facing the headrace. The present semi-ruined structure occupying this (no.24) site is of very poor construction and has to be of later work. The map shows that the large mill of the photograph was, in fact, a common exterior finish **over** 4 contiguous mills.

1802, William Banks, Woollen Manufacturer, here. There is the hint that this mill may well be much older and based on the fulling mill that was somewhere here in 1541.

C1810-1838, Mr Joseph Banks, Woollen Manufacturer here, with other Banks's. 1827 Dec 22 (WG). "We are glad to hear that Mr. Thomas Banks' new factory at Dreary Hill(!) near Keswick is getting rapidly forward."

1828 (Pigott) establishment for making some woollen goods of finer textures has been recently opened by Mr. Thomas Banks. They include Swansdowns, Toilenets and Valencias".

1829 Parson & White, Thomas Banks of Briery - Fancy Waistcoats.

1833 Reference to "Fancy Bottoms" mill, making the fancy edgings to waistcoats,

1837 May 6th. (WG),"Thomas Banks, Valentia Manufacturer, BANKRUPT - Official

Notice.(Author thought that he had probably overstretched himself in the cost of getting his very large mill built - the usual cash-flow crisis.)

This mill was bought the same year by J. Jackson, Manufacturer.

1841 Tithe Map, Joseph Jackson & Pearson, Woollen Manufacturers at Fancy Mill.

1845 April 5th (WG) "Three children of Mr Jackson of Briery Hill, Woollen Mfir. were pitched into the river when their horse shied."

1848 Feb 27, Joseph Jagger is the Spinner at Briery.

1851 Census, Joseph Jackson, 49 years old and Joseph Jagger, 63 years old, Woollen Manufacturers at Briery.

1853 Aug 20 (WG), Mr Joseph Foster Jagger died at 'Brigholme' aged 65

About 1875, Joseph Jackson moved to a new mill(no.27) in a site swap. There is good reason to think that Miles Coward wanted all his bobbin workers under one roof and if J.J. could be persuaded to move to a brand-new premises, that would be to their joint advantages. Certainly, after 1875, this was part of the large bobbin mill complex, until closure in 1961.

In about 1870, the Bobbin Company got the Railway Company, the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith line, to build and open a Halt here, so that workers could easily reach the site from the region roundabout.

1961, closure and demolition of this fine old mill to first floor level. MD-S took some photographs of the large gears etc here, c.1963.

1987 The building remains empty at this time awaiting a new holidaying boom.

NORTH BRIERY WOOLLEN MILL. NO 25

By 1825, this was either already in the Banks' family hands, or was in the process of being constructed as part of the new Fancy Mill. The former would be the more likely, since Joseph Scott, Woollen Manufacturer moved there from mill 18 at Brigham by 1825. In 1828 he was joined by his brother, Jonathan, but Jonathan died almost immediately, on 12th July 1828 (WG), aged 47, 1850 Joseph Scott, Manufacturer of Briery Hill - his daughter married a merchant's son.

1854 Aug 15th. An accident at the mill refers to Mr Jonathan Scott II, Woollen Manufacturer being here.

1861 Census. Joseph Scott,(cousin to the brothers Joseph and Jonathan), Wool Manufacturer of Briery Hill, is 52 years old.

1873 Feb 24th. Brother Joseph died and Jonathan decided to put the mill on the market. The advertisements did not go in until 1875 June 12, when the very terse statement merely gave that "Mr.J.Scott,Manufacturer, is retiring through age and will treat personally." No details of machinery etc, very annoying. **The mill, as one would have expected, was promptly bought** by Miles Coward and became part of the bobbin empire there. Mr. Jonathan Scott died in 1876, three years to the day after his brother died.

1961, closure and demolition down to the first floor level.

BRIERY TANNERY. NO 26

This was almost certainly the original tannery of 1333, but nothing is known of it until 1808, October 7th, when John Banks, Tanner, is there. It will have been noted that three of the Briery sites were in the hands of the Banks family in the early 19th century. They may well have purchased the whole site using the profits from their black lead mines at Seathwaite in Borrowdale. There was a large Shares sale in 1796, a date that accords with the data here.

1811 Census: John Banks, Tanner, at the New Mill, Briery. Location uncertain. 1813 Jan 1st, a child of John Banks Tanner, baptised.

1815 Ownership and occupation changed - Jacob Banks, Pencil Maker at Briery. By 1821, Jacob has had several children and is a Pencil Manufacturer and Wholesale Stationer.

1824, Jacob is joined by John Scatchard, a very able Pencil Maker, who was here until 1834, together with a John Harrison.

1836. For once, an impending bankruptee managed to put his mill onto the Sale market before the official notice. However, Jacob

Banks did not sell the mill before the receivers moved in on 17th September 1836, but had already gone: "Jacob Banks, late of Keswick, Blacklead Pencil Mfr., Dealer and Chapman was declared a BANKRUPT and had to surrender himself to the Commission."

In 1837 the mill was sold to a Mr. Miles Coward, Manufacturer of Pencils and Bobbins, who may have come from the wealthy Coward family in the Hawkshead and Skelwith Bridge area- One of his employees was Isaac Hard.

In 1838, the new Tenant was Robert Philipson, a Bobbin Turner from Selside, Kendal.

1841 Census: Robert Philipson, Bobbin Turner and 7 other bobbin turners.

1851 Census: Robert Philipson, Bobbin Turner and 12 other bobbin turners. Prior to 1861 (O.S map) the mill had been demolished and three new cottages built on its site.

BRIERY NEW WOOLLEN MILL. NO 27

As stated previously, Miles Coward was obviously looking at the site as a long-term proposition. This mill was constructed in the style of a woollen mill. In 1860 it was stated that it was so built in order to accommodate a larger workforce with better machinery, the tenant to be Robert Phillipson, Manufacturer. Whellan, same year, stated that here was a Bobbin mill with 30 hands - Robert Philipson, Manufacturer. Late in 1874 or early in 1875, Miles Coward died, but not before he and Robert had seen that a building swap with Joseph Jackson would make a lot of sense to both business men.

1875 April 12th (WG), Robert Philipson put this mill on the market, when he already had mills 23 and 26. Note that within three months, he was also able to buy mill 25, and so had the whole site for his firm. Photographs show huge log piles stacked and seasoning for his mills.

"Greta Mill at Briery Hill to be Sold. It has been a very successful mill for a number of years in the Manufacture of Bobbins, and is fitted up with Drums, shafting and a powerful waterwheel and has an abundant supply of water. Also 2 cottages, cowhouse, hayloft, potato house, Drying Kilns and a large Timber Yard and two valuable fields of 2½ acres. It was the property of the late Mr. Miles Coward."

Note: Hobert Philipson had offered the old Tannery site, with the cottages and the field stretching upstream alongside the headrace, as a very useful Tenterfield for a woollen mill. The ploy succeeded:

1875, Mr. Joseph Jackson bought the mill and continued his trade there long after most locals thought he would have finished, for, in Kelly's Directory of

1894 "Joseph Jackson, Woollen Manufacturer, is still producing general woollen goods." (Note the 'still').

Sometime later, the mill was bought up by Philipson's, probably by 1900, for Mr. Jackson would have been 84 years old by then and not likely to be able to continue for much longer. The mill was demolished some time before 1950, almost certainly when the waterwheel in the large mill was removed and replaced by a turbine. This mill would have lost its source of power then due to the mechanics of installing a turbine to gain its greatest effect.

On the whole site, the office block, the Old Bobbin mill and the base of the original main mill all still stand, together with the bases for several of the cranes needed to unload timber off railtrucks or waggons that came by road. The skew access bridge onto the site is still there and the (now very dilapidated) footbridge that went to a row of cottages on the main Penrith road, and known as High Briery, the cottages being demolished to make way for the new Keswick by-pass built in recent years.

Very little remains of the halt platform on the line of the railway track. It is near the platform that the charcoal-impregnated copper smelt-slag of the 16th century German miners can still be found.