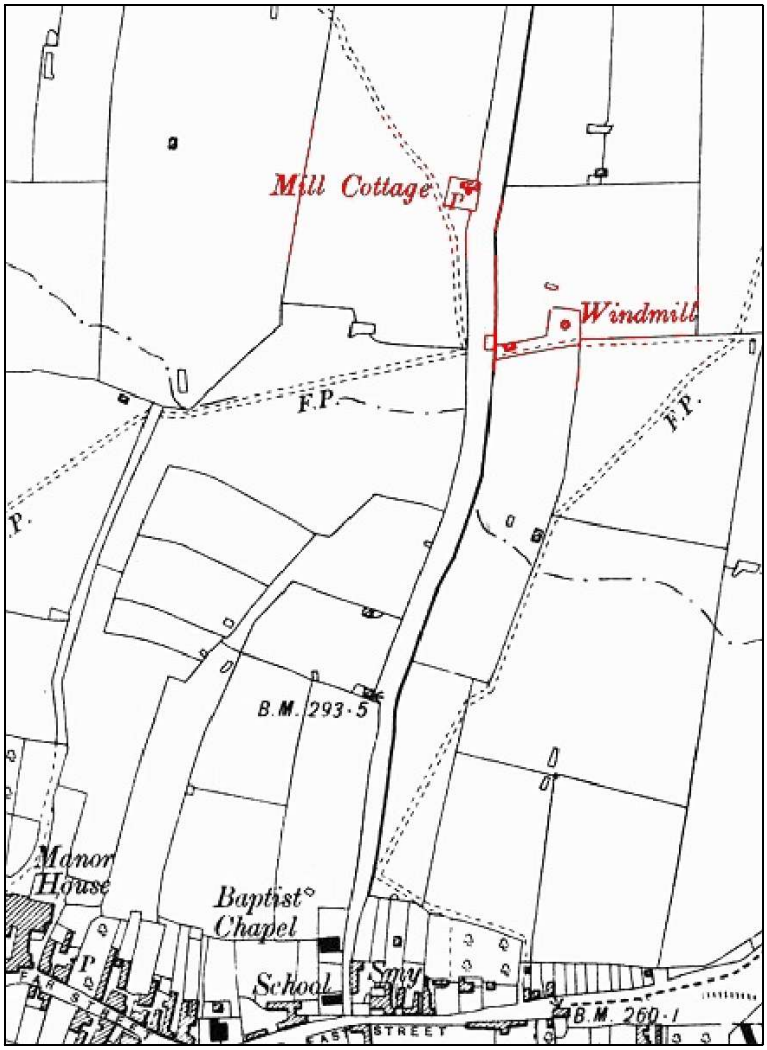
The wind mill belonging to Mssrs Allsop and Davies which 'formerly stood' on the west of Wysall Lane, Wymewold

In the deeds of Mill Cottage on Wysall Lane, Wymeswold, is a clear reference to the windmill shown on OS maps from the 1880s onwards. Indeed maps from the 1750s onwards show this mill. We know from personal recollections that this mill was demolished in the 1950s. Modern LIDAR surveys show the mill mound still extant.

We believe we know what the mill looked like from a photograph taken in the early twentieth century by Phillip Brown (see page 4). Assuming the photograph is of this mill and not another one further away.

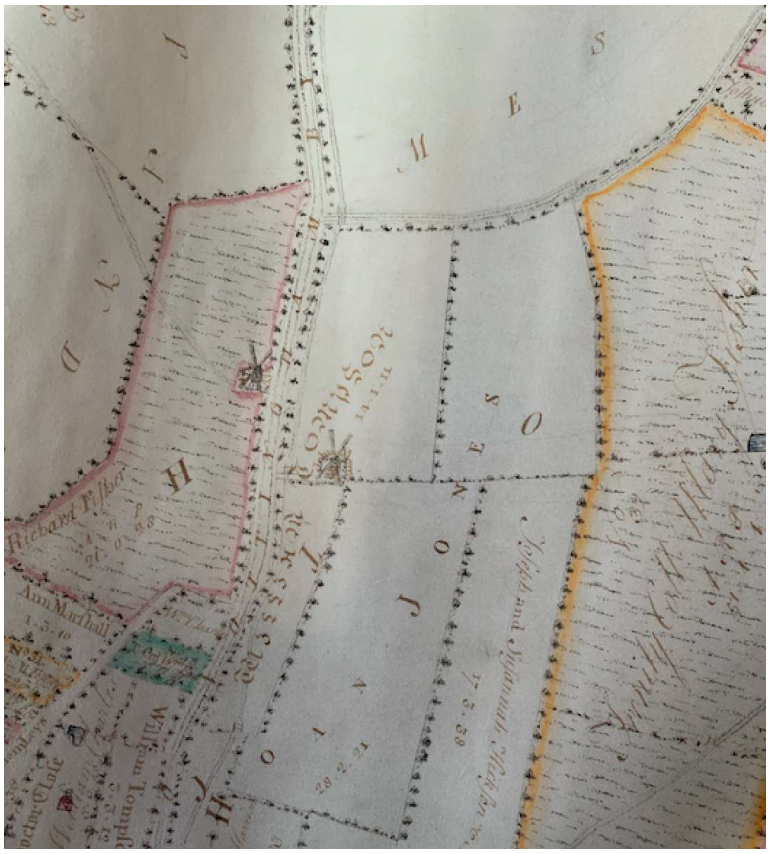
But it seems there was once a second windmill on the land where Mill Cottage now stands. In a conveyance dated 23 May 1894 the following passages appear. Firstly there is a description of the well-attested mill to the east of Wysall Lane:

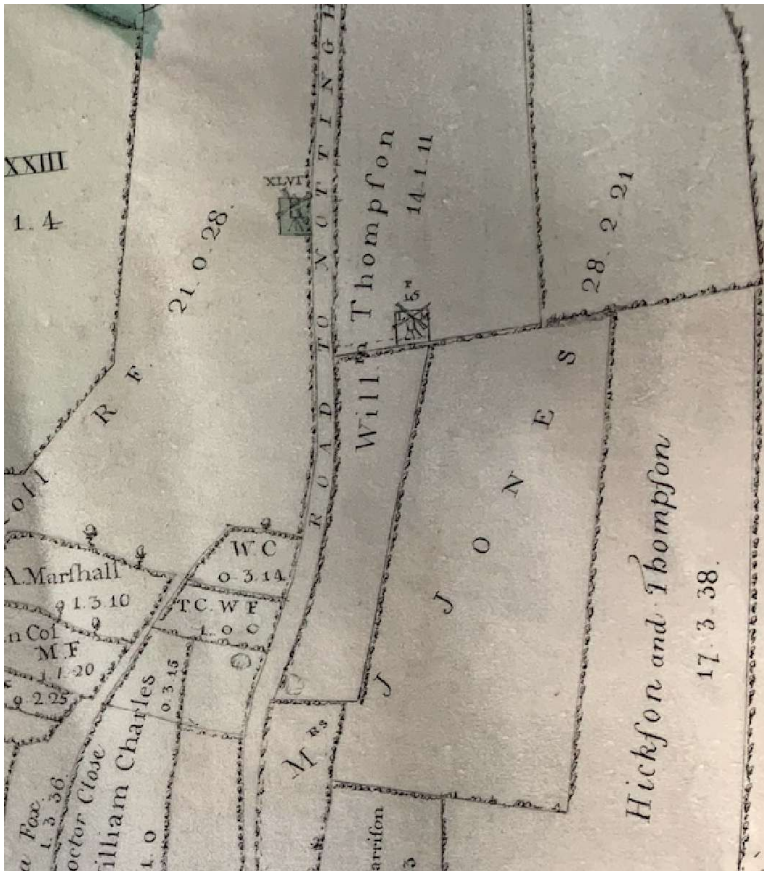
> Land in Thorpe Field breadth 27 yards or thereabouts and length 26 yards or thereabouts with the Post Wind Mill stable, cartshed and other buildings standing thereon and the mill, stones, sails, sail cloths, gearing and all other implements, apparatus and machinery to the same belonging or appertaining…



Top right: *The Ordnance Survey map of 1888 showing Wysall Lane. Mill Cottage and the later windmill 'highlighted' in red.*

Right: *A recent LIDAR survey showing the site of the same mill. The north-south 'grooves' are the remains of ridge and furrow.*





Details from two maps in the archive of Trinity College, Cambridge.

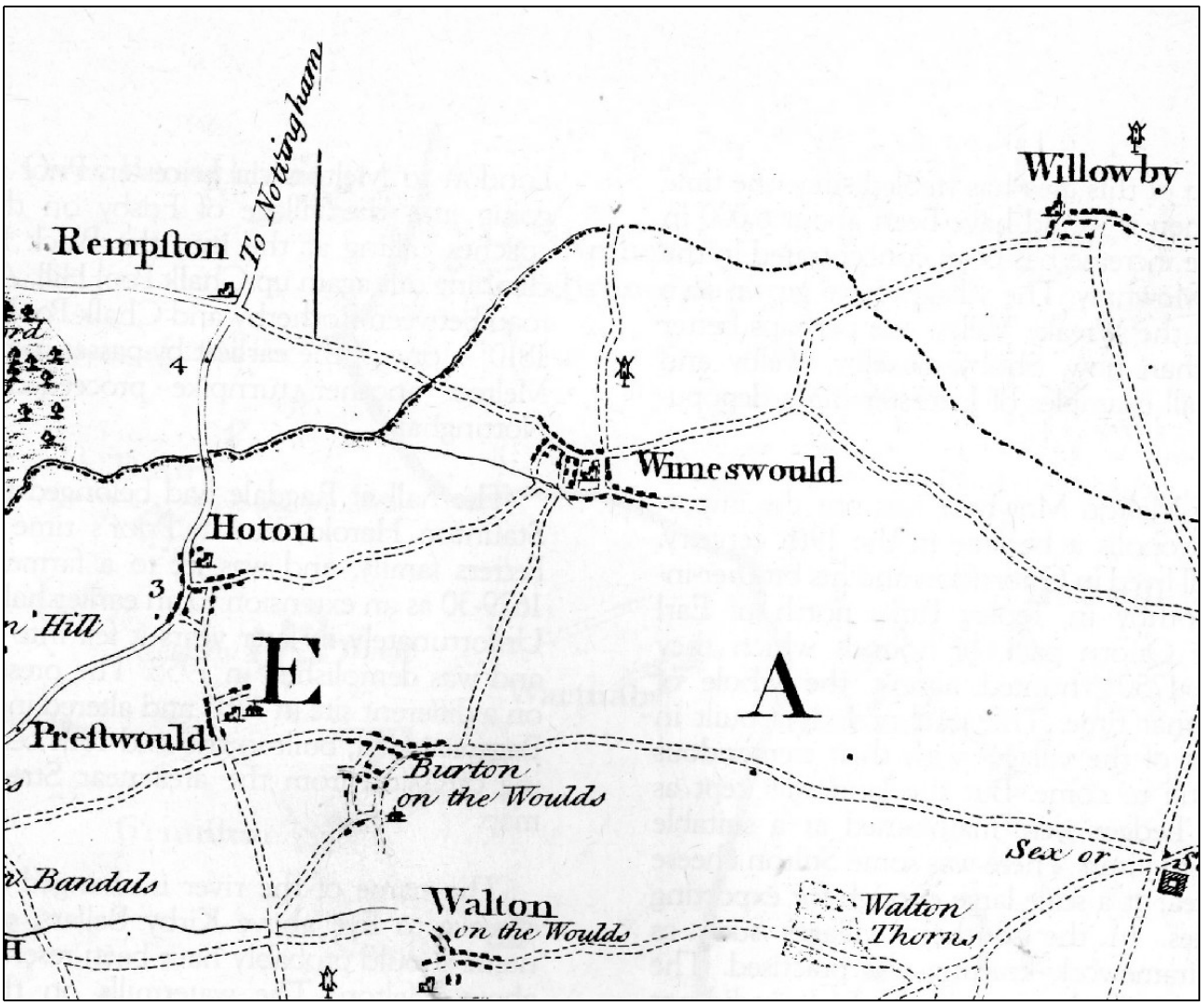
Top: *A map prepared in 1758 for the Enclosure Award.*

Below: *A map prepared for in 1759 for the Lords of the Manor, Allsop and Davy [sic].*

Both show two windmills co-existing. These maps are the oldest evidence so far discovered for either windmill

The owner of the eastern windmill in 1759 is stated to be John Morris. He seems not to have owned any other land at the time.

Grateful thanks to Richard Ellison for visiting Trinity College archives and scanning.



A windmill is shown on John Prior's map of 1777. But to the east of Wysall Lane. The first Ordnance Survey map also shows a mill to the east side but none to the west. Which means the Allsopp and Davies windmill had gone by 1777.

After that there is a description of the land where Mill Cottage is situated to the west of Wysall Lane:

> … and also all that other piece or parcel of land situate … in the said place called Thorpe Field where a **wind mill belonging to Messrs Allsopp and Davies formerly stood** bounded by land allotted to the Master Fellows and Scholars of Trinity College Cambridge on the west north and south sides and by the road leading from Wymeswold to Wysall **on the east side** containing thirty-three perches or thereabouts… And also all that messuage or tenement sometime since erected on the said piece or parcel of land…

The description of 'the said place called Thorpe Field' is anachronistic in 1894 as Thorpe Field was the name of the great field which predated the Enclosure Award of 1757–9.

This implies that the wording of the deed is copied from a document originally drafted before the Enclosure, with the words 'formerly stood' inserted subsequently. Such copying, with minor amendments, is entirely consistent with legal practices.

Right: *Part of a field name map prepared by Richard Ellison showing the relevant part of Thorpe Field before enclosure. Parts of West Field and Hardacre Field are also shown.*

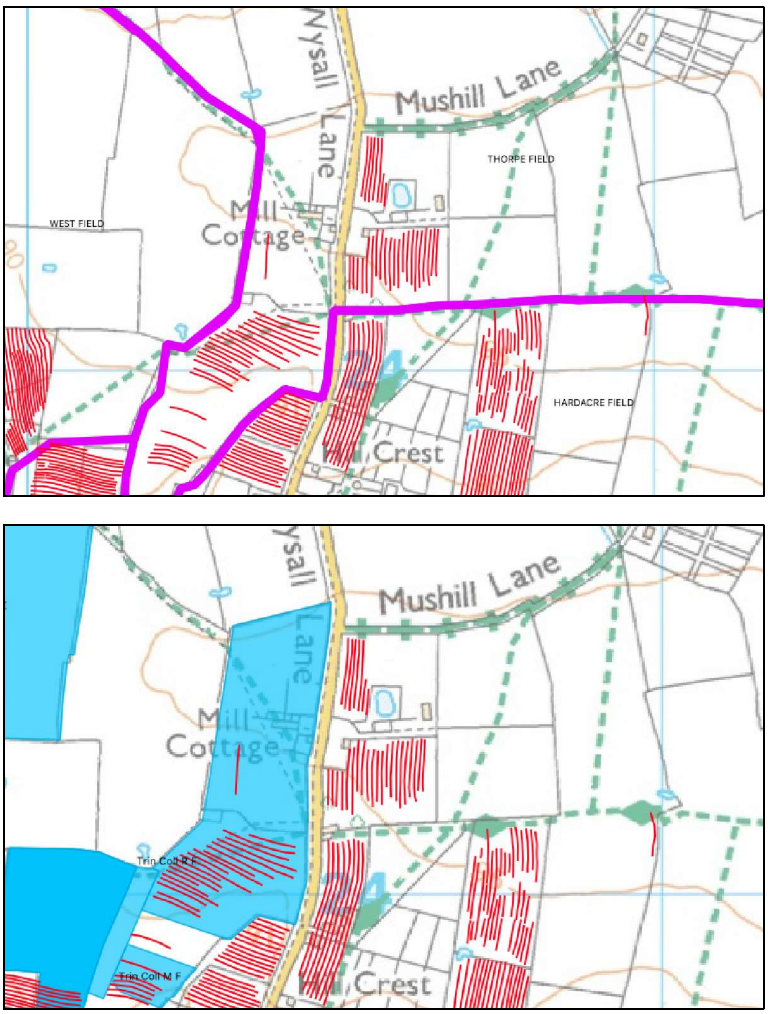
We know that Allsop and Davies did not own the land on which their mill was built as this remained in the ownership of Trinity College, Cambridge until the 1950s.

The implication that the Allsop and Davies windmill was erected before Enclosure is consistent with a terrier dated 5th October 1674 (1/D/41/2/767) which mentions Allsop and Davies. Other references to Mr Davies have yet to be discovered. The oldest direct evidence for both windmills are the maps prepared 1758–9 as part of the Enclosure Award (reproduced on page 2).

The index of documents in the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland suggest a Thomas Allsop had links with Wymeswold from about 1714 onwards (DE6021; 9D43/196/1-33). The National Archives have a reference to a Thomas Allsop in 1739. These documents have yet to be viewed. Whether there was more than one Thomas Allsop (e.g. father and son) has yet to be established. Eighteenth century church registers reveal a Marmaduke Alsop in 1744, a Richard Alsop in 1783 and a William Alsop in 1810. The Allsops were Lords of the Manor for Wymeswold until 1846 when the title passed by marriage to William Fisher Ella.

From the wording of the deeds and the time when Thomas Allsop seems to have been active then this windmill seems most likely to have been constructed before the 1750s but probably no earlier than the 1670s.

The Allsop and Davies mill seems to have gone by 1777 (see John Prior's map on previous page).



Above: *Part of a map prepared by Richard Ellison showing land owned by Trinity College, Cambridge (shaded blue).*

Mill Cottage – 'that messuage or tenement sometime since erected' – was not recent in 1894. There seems to have been deeds previously drawn up in July 1866, although these seem not to be extant. Plausibly the erection of Mill Cottage was around 1866 as the cottage seems to be from the nineteenth rather than eighteenth century.

The Wymeswold sections of two editions of *Kelly's Directory* shed a little light. In 1846 seemingly there was only one miller, William Ford 'miller and victualler'. He is stated to live in Brook Street so presumably at the Windmill Inn which we know was bought by a previous owner of the windmill on Wysall Lane – hence the name of the inn.

In the 1863 *Directory* two corn millers are named: E. Barnett (resident in 'East Street', now East Road) and W.W. Ford who was also running the Windmill Inn. Whether this was the same Mr Ford in both 1846 and 1863 or whether father and son shared the same initials is as yet unknown. W.W. Ford was a talented chap. Not only was he a miller and publican but also listed under 'Joiners and Builders'.

Lantern slide taken and hand-coloured by Phillip Brown between about 1890 and 1920.

Most probably the windmill to the east of Wysall Lane.

The information in the 1863 *Directory* suggests two mills were operating in the early 1860s. But bear in mind another windmill once existed to the south of the parish, off Burton Lane roughly opposite the entrance to Wymeswold industrial estate.

Allsop and Davies seem to have been active from at least 1674. So this mill might have been erected around then, or maybe a few decades later. At some time – seemingly between 1759 and 1777 – the Allsop and Davies mill was demolished or removed. By then it would have been around a hundred years old, so presumably in rather poor condition.

Kelly's *Directory* for 1881 does not mention a miller. And, although lots of other pubs are names, the Windmill is absent from the list. This suggests a hiatus in ownership around 1880.

Although further details need to be ascertained, my understanding is that by the 1860s traditional wind and water mills were beginning to lose trade as imported grain (processed in factory-scale steam-powered mills then transported by rail) was making inroads into traditional 'locally subsistent' practices. In any event the two water mills at Cotes and another at Zouch must have been significant rivals for any windmill operator in this area.

Acknowledgements

This article was compiled by Bob Trubshaw from information mostly supplied by others. This research would not have been possible without the generous assistance of Joan Hubbard and Paul Howitt. Richard Ellison kindly shared various maps while Joan Shaw did the serious historical delving. Grateful thanks to all involved.

Thanks to Russell Jones for informing me that the photograph on this page had initially been reproduced wrongly.

6 Alsop Richard, jobber
Basford Thomas, wood dealer
2 Brown Benj. Webster, surgeon
1 Charles Mr George & Miss Ann
3 Codling Jno. Chas. *National School*
Dawkins Captain Charles, R.N.
3 Ella Misses Ann and Mary
6 Fox Jno. rate colr. || 3 Fox Mr Jas.
Gutteridge John, parish clerk
3 Holwell Thomas, lace agent
3 Lacey Mrs Ann || 1 Gee William
Lacey Eliz. & Mary, *Infant School*
3 Potter Thomas R. gentleman
7 Sheppard John, cattle dealer
2 Sheppard Mr J. || 3 Sheppard Mr W.
Shipman John, plumber, &c.
3 Staples Rev. George, (Baptist)
6 Tylers John, confectioner
Walker Rev. Robert, M.A. *Vicarage*
Wibberley William, highway surveyor
Wild Mrs, school || 7 Robinson Mrs
3 Wye Edward, hosiery manufacturer

INNS AND TAVERNS.

3 Bull's Head, John Marriott
1 Fox, Mary Wootton
3 Three Crowns, John Bakewell
1 Windmill, William Wilson Ford

BAKERS.

3 Ferriman Fanny
2 Ferriman John
Sawbridge James
Wood Joseph, jun.

BEERHOUSES.

6 Bampton Joseph
Dexter John
6 Goddard Debrh.
Higgitt John

BLACKSMITHS.

6 Corner John
4 Dexter John
1 Whyman John

BRICKLAYERS.

1 Harris William
6 Screaton Thos.

BUTCHERS.

3 Fox William
1 Glover Joseph
3 James John

CORN MILLERS.

7 Barnett Edward
Ford William W.

DRAPERS.

1 Bass Thomas
6 Collington & Son

DRUGGISTS.

Astlett William
7 Brown Marshall

FARMERS & GRZRS.

7 Barnett Edward
6 Burrows Edwd.
3 Burrows John
6 Charles Reuben
3 Fletcher Samuel
3 Freeston Wm.
3 Goddard Debrh.
1 Hallam William
1 Hardy William
1 Hoe Thomas
Keightley Ed. Ts. *Manor House*
Mann Robert
1 Monk James
1 Roworth John
1 Simpson Benj.
1 Sowter John
6 Wildbore Saml.
1 Wootton Edwd.

GROCERS, &c.

1 Bass Thomas
7 Brown Marshall
6 Collington Jph. and Son
Frearson Thomas
Gill William
6 Miller Joseph Freeston

JOINRS. & BUILDRS.

1 Ford William W.
2 Freeston John
3 Hickling Wm.
1 Wadkin William

SADDLERS.

7 Bradwell Thos.
Pepper Thomas

SHOEMAKERS.

1 Braisby John
3 Charles Edward
1 Giles John
1 Lamb Robert
6 Paget George
5 Radford Charles
3 Wood Joseph

SHOPKEEPERS.

6 Fox William
5 Goodburn Jem.
5 Holwell Wm.
6 Page Ann
1 Wood Joseph

TAILORS.

6 Abell Thomas
3 Collington Jph.
5 Holwell William
3 Mee Thomas
3 Mills Thomas
1 Shepherd John

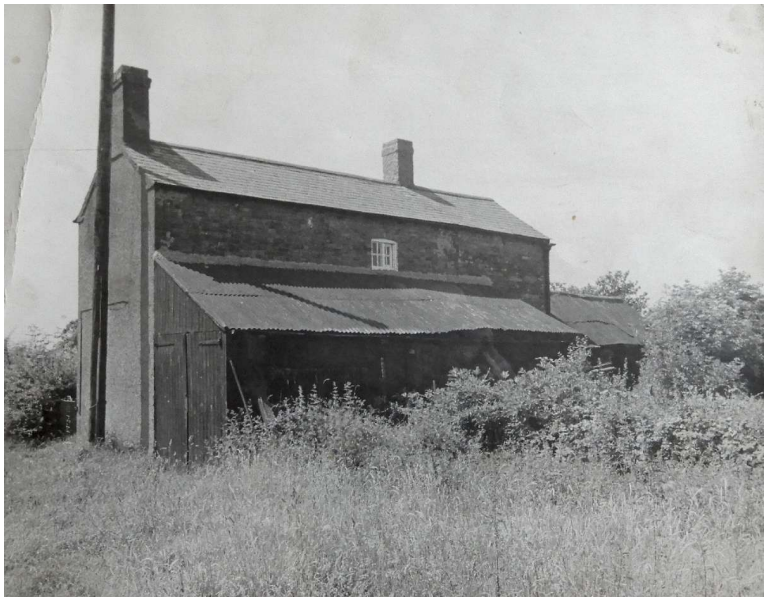
WHEELWRIGHTS.

1 Lamb John
4 Tyers John

CARRIERS.

To Loughborough,
Crookes Eno. daily
Dewick Jas. do.
Mills John, Thurs.
Smith John, do.
Utting Rd. daily
To Nottingham,
Miles Jno., W. & S.
Smith John, do.
(& to Melton, Tu.)

The relevant page of the 1863 edition of Kelly's Directory. *Relevant names 'highlighted' in red.*



Two photographs of Mill Cottage taken before 1979. The cottage was restored and extended in the early 1980s.

Occupants of Mill Cottage named in successive legal documents are (inc chronological order):

John Morris

William Goodacre

W.W. Ford

John Ford

Mrs Miller

John Collington.

Further work is needed but possibly Joh Morris's occupation preceded 1866. John Collington was in occupation in 1909. The Goodacre family owned Cotes Mill in the mid-twentieth century.

When the windmill to the east of Wysall Lane was demolished in the 1950s one of the millstones was used to cap a well. Thanks to Paul Howitt for the photograph (taken March 2022) and to the landowner for permission to include on this web site.