

GRIGGS' MILL :

Griggs' windmill stood to the east side of Quex Park. It is clearly marked on estate maps of 1774 and 1799 and is mentioned in several items printed in the Kentish Gazette.

24 Nov. 1786 'About two years since, died at Birchington, Mr William Griggs ...' (See full quote of this below)

18 June 1799 'All persons whom the late William Griggs, late of Birchington, miller, stood indebted to at the time of his decease, to send an account of the same to Ann Griggs, his widow, that the same may be discharged ...'

26 Sept. 1806 'Wanted at Michaelmas next, a steady, single man, to work in a windmill. Apply to John Griggs, Birchington Mill, Isle of Thanet.'

In an entry in the Ipswich Journal of December **2nd 1786**, the following item was noted by Len Gray in his privately printed book about the Hudson Family of Millers, 'From wind to Power':

'About two years since, died at Birchington, in the Isle of Thanet, Mr William Griggs, many years master of a windmill at that place. On his deathbed he informed his son, who is now master of the said mill, that he had buried a quantity of money in the house where he then lived in at Birchington. The son, after his father's decease, searched after the money but could not discover where it was. The house was let to another person, who has lived in it ever since, till within this quarter of a year, when he quitted it.

'The house now being empty, the son of the said miller determined on a second search, when, under the pavement in the kitchen, he found a crock containing a bag with 735 guineas. The son has given half this sum to his sister's children, who are left without father or mother, their parents being dead some time.'

There are a few references to a mill between 1815 and 1820, by then owned by Anthony May, which may have been Griggs' Mill. But the descriptions could also belong to Hudson's mill at the end of Mill Row, so they will be included in this section.

In the Kentish Chronicle of 1 Feb. 1820, there is an advertisement:

'To be sold by private contract, a substantial post windmill with one pair of stones and machine complete, stands well for the wind, 3 miles from Margate.'

This would appear to be Griggs' mill, rather than either of the others, because the seed mill and the Mill row windmills were nearer to 4 miles from Margate. We also know that Griggs' mill ceased to trade from about this time.