

A short History of Loders Mill (as we know it) Paul and Rachael Coggins 2021

Loders Mill is situated West of Loders, between Bradpole and Loders. The Mill being adjacent to Loders court. The Mill operated on the Mill stream from the River Asker when in full production. The River Asker is a small river. It rises on the chalk slopes of Eggardon Hill, approximately five miles East of Bridport. It flows West-Northwest through the villages of Askerswell to which it gives its name, and Uploders, where many cottages have gardens backing onto the river, and also at Loders.

The Miller, Hamilton Knight Barnes, ran the Mill up until his death on the 9th January 1972, aged 73. his wife Hilda May, died on the 19th March 1979 aged 73. The Mill was taken over and run by Hamilton after James Reader's death on 25th March 1920. All the above mentioned are resting in Loders Church Yard. The Mill was owned by Col Sir Edward LeBreton 21/06/1883-16/12/1961.

The Mill was a typical Mill of that era. Corn & Barley was brought to the mill by local farmers. The Corn was ground on the mill stone driven by the water wheel, and ground into flour, also Barley was ground into Barley Meal. The produce of the Mill was mainly sold locally.

The miller employed two men at the mill Bill and Stan. The Mill house was a typical Dorset Long House with a thatched roof, where the miller and his family lived. When visiting the mill to purchase coal etc, you would be greeted by Geese and Hens.

Besides being a miller, Hamilton was a coal merchant. There were several great heaps of coal in the grounds of the Mill. As coal was the primary fuel of the 1960's Hamilton had two lorries which completed three delivery coal rounds locally. Bradpole, and Burton Bradstock were two of these delivery rounds. The coal lorries were Commer Karrier Bantam flatbed lorries, both lorries were painted green with yellow sign writing saying "H K Barnes & Son Coal Merchants Loders Mill". Young children from Bradpole were often seen walking up and down Loders lane on a cold Winters afternoon with prams loaded with coal, for their families' fires. The Mill and coal merchant ceased trading and closed in 1972. The Dorset Long House is now a private residence. There was another Mill, in New Street Lane Loders, which was a Hemp Mill.

Hamilton and Hilda had 5 children, Doreen, Margaret, Janet, Christine and Derek. Hamilton bought Burton Bradstock Mill in 1958.

Derek his only son, and great nephew of James Reader ran Burton Bradstock Mill with his wife Theresa, doing very similar to Loders Mill, but not keeping or delivering coal. Derek had to drive to Avonmouth docks most days taking flour to be sold. Derek ran the Mill from 1958-1961 when he prematurely died at the age of 30. His wife, Theresa carried on running the Mill at Burton Bradstock until 1967. Theresa would have to operate the sluice gates by hand, especially when the river Bride was in flood condition. There were two known employees at Burton Bradstock Mill, Mr

Northover and a Mr Hallet. Derek had three daughters Michel, Rachael and Jeanette. The Mill at Burton Bradstock never ran as a Mill again from 1967. The Mill at Burton Bradstock was sold to a Peter De Savoury who developed the Mill building into 4 flats.

The mill at Burton Bradstock has a stone engraving on the wall saying:-
"This flax Fwingling Mill the first introduced into the West of England was created by Richard Roberts 1803"

The mill stream was situated on the River Bride which rises in Little Bredy, near Bridehead, which is the mansion house at the centre of the village estate. The river flows through Litton Cheney, onto Burton Bradstock then flows out to sea at Burton Freshwater.

Paul Coggins

Recollections Chuck Willmott. When I kept pigs in the 1960s I used to buy barley meal in large sacks from Hamil Barnes. I never heard his full name being used. I remember the axle for the original waterwheel lying against the house when it was replaced with a turbine in a vertical shaft about 1m diameter.

The Old Mill at New Street Lane was a hemp bolling mill, although the OS map of about 1888 classes it as a corn mill.

The Mills Archive Trust

This has information and photos of both Loders mills. They refer to "Barnes Mill" merely because he was the last miller. It is normally referred to as "The Mill, Loders"

[Barnes Mill, Loders – The Mills Archive](#) DT6 3RX

[Images and documents \(millsarchive.org\)](#) Old Loders Mill, New Street Lane, DT6 4NN

Bridport Museum flickr [Loders | Flickr](#) This site shows 37 photos of Loders Mill after 1972, before the milling equipment was removed

Burton Bradstock Mill [117, Page 5 \(hampshiremills.org\)](#) *Hampshire Mills Group - Dorset Flax and Hemp Industry by Ruth Andrews* including Burton Bradstock Mill. There is a picture of a water turbine, which is likely to be identical the one installed at Loders Mill.