

ALLITHWAITE MILL

(AS A BOBBIN MILL FROM 1839-1845)

Allithwaite mill was in continuous use for centuries. The first date mentioned was 1637 as a water corn mill but no doubt it was in use before that date. We know that it continued in use as a corn mill until 1800 and maybe longer but in 1838 it was leased from Mrs Barrow and William Edward Barrow for 14 years to Charles Horrax, a bobbin maker.¹ Charles, aged 30 years when he came to Allithwaite Mill, was born in Sheffield, his wife in Witherslack and he was in Allithwaite for 6 years with his family of 4 children. He employed 4 turners together with an apprentice.² He provided thread bobbins and dye blocks to firms in Manchester, Salford, Preston, Blackburn and Huddersfield at the height of the cotton industry. Some examples of orders:³



35 doz, dye blocks were sent to George Wright in Manchester for £28

15 doz dye blocks were sent to George Nelson in Oldham for £9.15s.

120 thread bobbins of different sizes were sent to The British Thread Company in Huddersfield.



Where did the wood come from and did Charles use the port at Cark?

In November 1839, 342 pieces of ash were shipped on board the New France, was this the wood coming to the mill and from where? More research needs to be done.

Charles also did jobs for local people making clogg soles, wheelbarrow shafts, table legs and net stakes. He also made window pulleys, frames and board ends.

Examples of work done for Miss Lambert in 1839

4 drawers fret turning	1s.6d
6 pillows turning	6s.0d
In 1840 sundry work was done for her kitchen	2s.0d

¹ Kendal Record Office BDL/P2/69

² 1841 Census

³ Kendal Record Office WDB 3/2/1/1 or WDB 3/F1

A quantity of net stakes were made for John Paisley of Allithwaite	3s 6d
Wheelbarrow shaft turning for John Matchell of Allithwaite	0s 4d
2 ½ dozen clogg soles were made for a Parker of Cartmel	5s 3d
4 balls of twine were sold to John Law of Cartmel	4s 0d
2 bunch of screws and nutts to Jackson Thompson, of Ambleside	5s 0d

Charles also had a second business at the mill and this was hat manufacturing. He made hat boxes, cloth caps and plate hats.

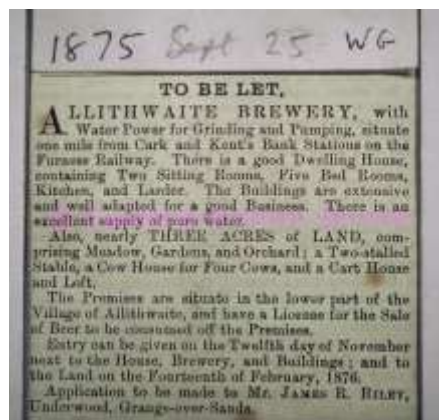
Examples of hat sales are:

1 cloth cap for self	4s 0d
1 pair of stockings	1s 6d
1 hat and box	12s 6d
1 hat 7 ¾	11s 6d

The hats tended to be made for people living in the Lakes area, that is Hawkeshead, Staveley, Ambleside, Coniston, Rusland, Bouth and Patterdale.

In 1845 after 6 years in Allithwaite, cutting short his 14 year lease, he moved to Ambleside and Stock Ghyll bobbin mill. He was very successful there, employing 50 to 60 people and the business was estimated as being worth £1000 to £2000 in January 1865 when a fire burned the mill down. 200 people helped with buckets of water, Charles suffered burnt hands and was not insured.⁴ With local fundraising and support a 'new and commodious' mill was built and was ready for operations in September 1865.⁵

Allithwaite mill was later known as the Old Brewery and it is not sure when it became a brewery but in 1875 it was advertised to be let as Allithwaite Brewery. It had a stable, cow house, carthouse, and loft with a 5 bed roomed house.⁶ 'The buildings are extensive and well adapted for a good business. There is an excellent supply of pure water. Also nearly 3 acres of land, comprising meadow, gardens and orchard; a 2-stalled stable, a cow house for 4 cows and a cart house and loft. The premises are situate in the lower part of the village of Allithwaite and have a licence for the sale of beer to

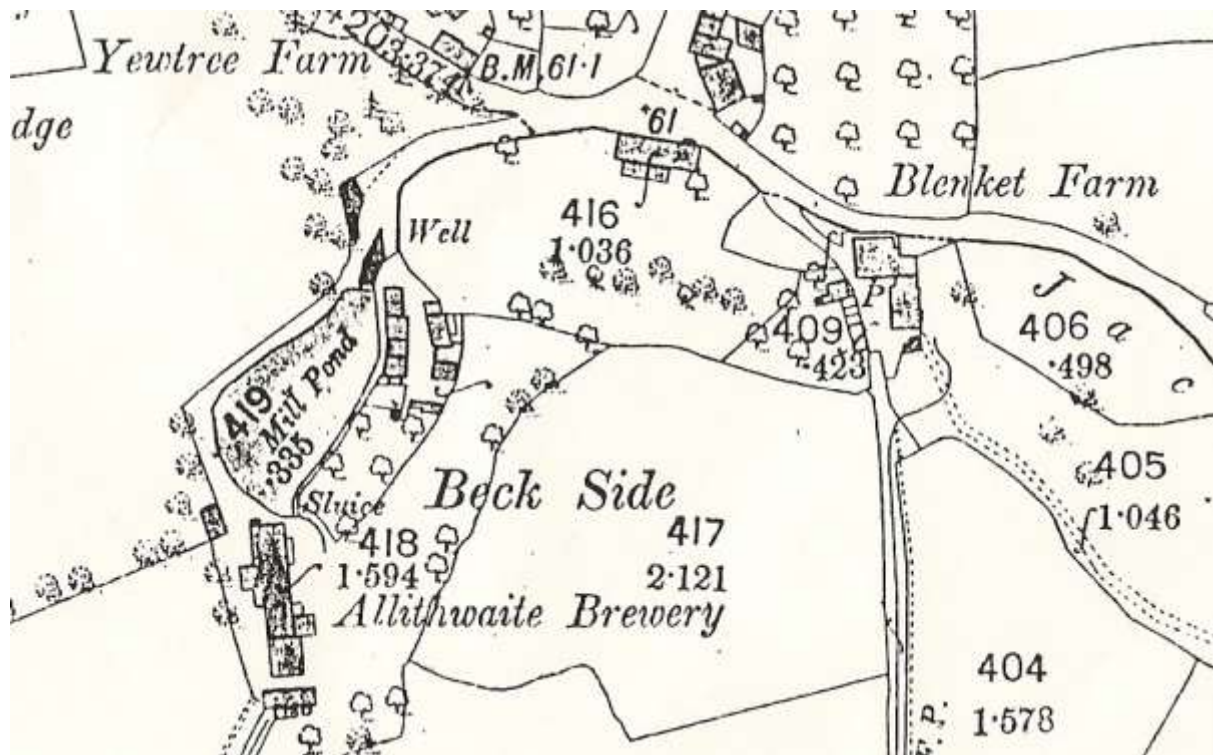


⁴ Westmorland Gazette 20 January 1865

⁵ Westmorland Gazette 30 September 1865

⁶ Westmorland Gazette 25 September 1875

be consumed off the premises.' At some stage the mill became a slaughterhouse and in the 1980s was converted into cottages. The wheel had gone by the 1930s.



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