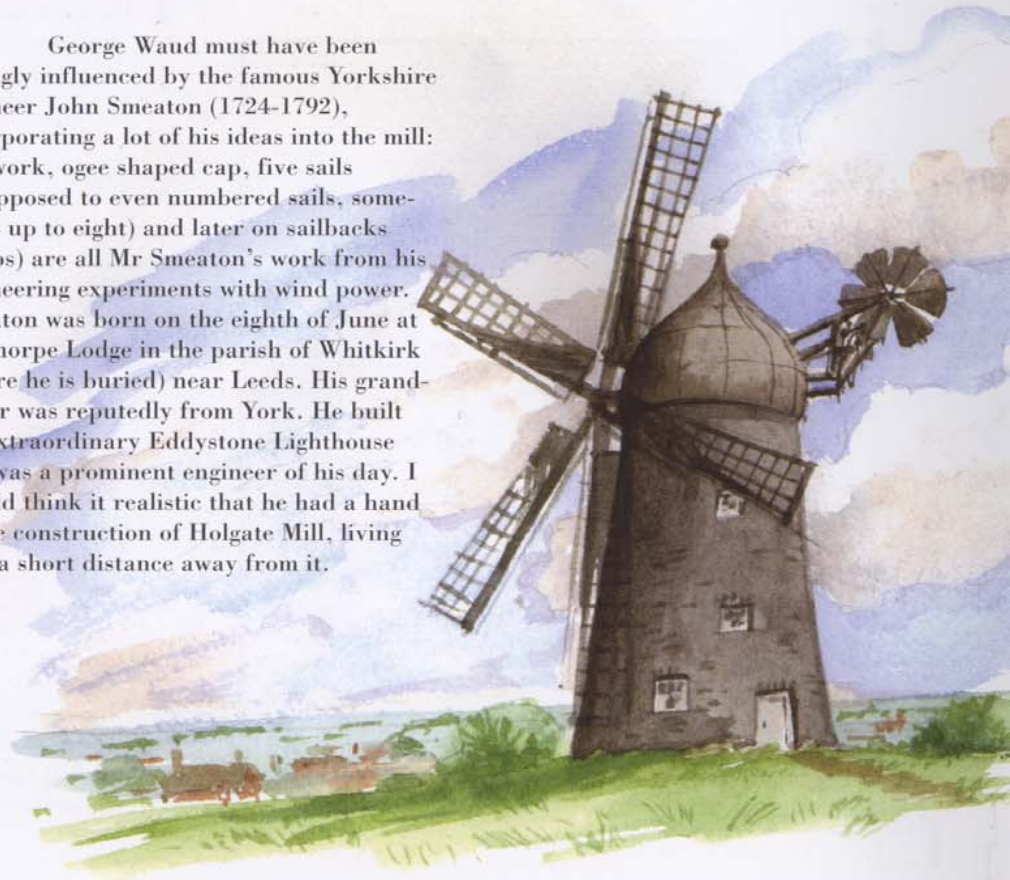


MR WAUD'S NEW MILL

And so to the new mill at Holdgate in the year of 1770. The proud miller, builder and owner being Mr George Waud. The mill as we see it today would have looked different then. It was lower and not waisted, the five sails (making use of Captain Stephen Hooper's Roller Reefing design similar to roller blinds), passing dangerously within a foot of the ground; hence the two diagonally opposed doorways. Adorned impressively by the Fantail (invented by Edmund Lee in 1745) making the cap and sails face into the wind, releasing the miller from the very real threat of the sails being 'back winded', possibly destroying the mill or needing extensive costly repairs.

The whole mill would have been black! The tower made from two and three-quarter inch hand made bricks and then tarred, the sails, cap and fantail black lead painted to present an overall dark and mysterious structure very different from today's fashion of black tower, white sails, cap and fantail.

George Waud must have been strongly influenced by the famous Yorkshire engineer John Smeaton (1724-1792), incorporating a lot of his ideas into the mill: ironwork, ogee shaped cap, five sails (as opposed to even numbered sails, sometimes up to eight) and later on sailbacks (whips) are all Mr Smeaton's work from his engineering experiments with wind power. Smeaton was born on the eighth of June at Austhorpe Lodge in the parish of Whitkirk (where he is buried) near Leeds. His grandfather was reputedly from York. He built the extraordinary Eddystone Lighthouse and was a prominent engineer of his day. I should think it realistic that he had a hand in the construction of Holgate Mill, living only a short distance away from it.



JOURNEY THROUGH THE WORKING MILL

As we walk up the stone steps to the mill we begin to realise the impressive nature of the building, pleasing to the eye, beckoning you to it, the sounds and smells welcoming you through the door.

THE GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor (bagging floor) has much machinery moving effortlessly with a reassuring rumble and a proud miller eager to show you this magnificent mill. On your right is the automatic tentering (the adjustment of the gap between the stones depending on the speed of the sails), the governor's weights raising and lowering making minute, almost imperceptible changes via a leverage/pivot system. Above you is a small crushing/roller mill driven from a lay shaft and quite rare.

Further into the mill is another rare find; a fireplace uncovered by a council workman in recent times. Because flour, in certain circumstances, can become combustible, and the very nature of the

mill fittings being mostly wood, such fireplaces are not in common use. Towards the opposite door is a desk, the business end of a miller's life, twine for fastening and the repair of sacks and general usage. A set of scales and their weights, and flour sacks ready for despatch with the Holgate Windmill emblem upon them. A sack truck, stiff brush, scoop, electric motor and four iron support pillars complete the equipment on this floor.

THE STONE FLOOR

A set of wooden stairs lead up to the first floor (the stone floor). Dominating this floor are the four pairs of stones (three French Burr and one Peak) surrounded by wooden vats or tuns, horses, hoppers, shoes or slippers. The grain comes into the hopper through a chute from above into a shoe and into the eye of the stones to be ground into flour and down a chute for bagging. Here also are the tools to dress the stones: mill bills, thrifts, a tri-laminate proof wood, a proof steel in its box and a stiff brush. There are ropes, pulleys to

raise the stones for dressing and various wedges including a manyheight.

The drive to the stones comes from the great spur wheel via stone nuts (small gear wheels) and quants. A lay shaft takes power elsewhere and the essential 'hours run stone dressing reminder board' hangs on the wall.

Below - Millstones in constant use would need to be dressed regularly. This photograph, probably taken in the 1930s, shows a French Burr Millstone being dressed with a bill, the traditional tool used for such work.

