

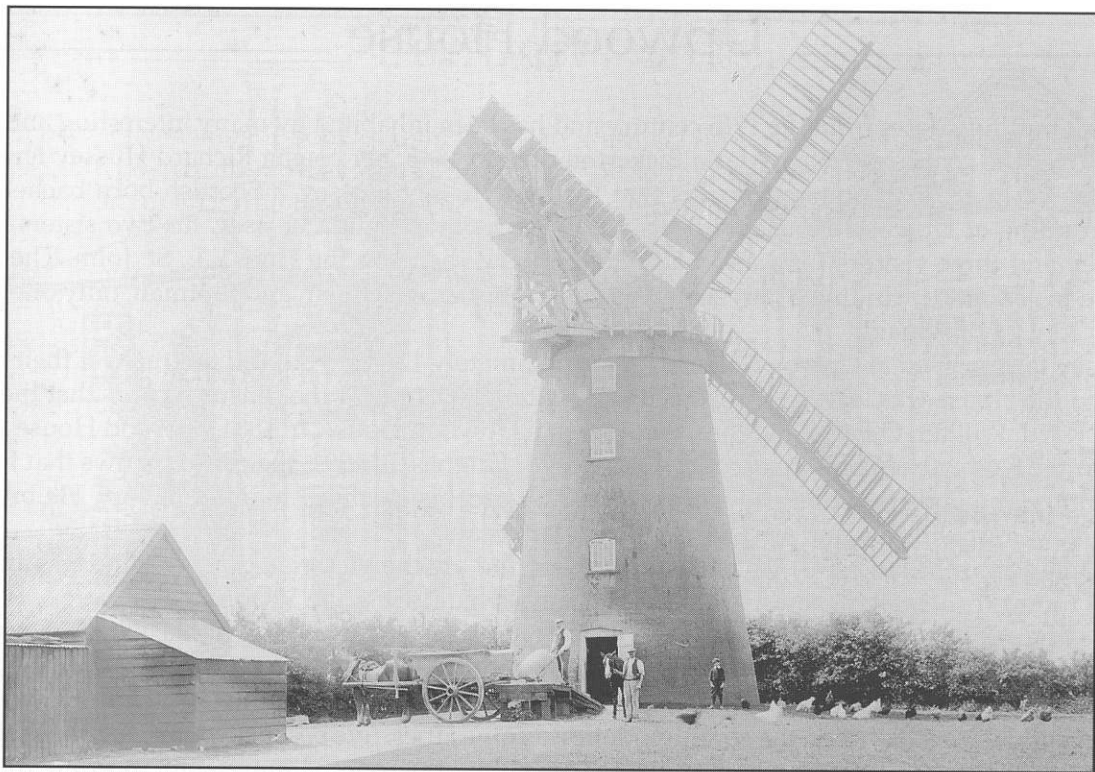
The Windmill

A record of 1815 shows that a Corn Mill standing on Mill Hill, Upwood together with surrounding land, was sold to Thomas Setchell for the sum of £700. Maps and surveys from the early 1700s clearly show a mill on this site. The tower mill was undoubtedly well placed on high ground directly in the path of the strong south-westerly winds.

The mill was an imposing brick-built structure of several floors topped with a domed cap which housed the essential through shaft which bore the four massive latticed sails, the tips of which soared to an overall height of 60 feet above ground. The fan-tail, which instantly reacted to the change in wind direction, was geared to the main through shaft and automatically manoeuvred the main sails to face the wind. In its prime, the sail arms were eight feet wide with a series of adjustable slats and measured 30 feet from the axis to the tip with a six foot clearance from the ground when rotating. When not in use, weights and chains were put on to keep the sails stationary.

Embedded into the blackening red brick above the heavy wooden door is an engraved stone 'SETCHELL 1832'. Inside the heavy floor timbers resting on massive oak beams were reached by the well-worn foot holds of a stepladder. The square cut-outs in the centre of each floor gave access for the main vertical shaft which would have provided power for ancillary operations such as hoists for lifting sacks and vibrating equipment for sifting flour. Mrs. Axbey recalls 'it was very noisy but I thought it was a lovely smell. There was dust everywhere. Uncle Bill Deighton used to help the miller, Lewis Fordham, and sometimes they were milling all night long. They had two cats to keep down the rats and mice'.

Ownership of the Mill rested with successive members of the Setchell family who had moved into Upwood from Warboys. It was then sold in 1876 to William Key who was both farmer and carrier. In 1910, Lewis Fordham, the last man to run the mill, became the new owner, and in the 1920s the Mill was sold to the Gaunt family of the Royal Oak public house. The mill appears to have ceased working soon after 1910 and is now derelict, parts of the gearing being taken to renovate another mill.



Upwood Mill — located on Huntingdon Road on the outskirts of Upwood, ideally placed on a ridge of high land between the two villages. This mill would have served farmers from both Raveley and Upwood and was used not only for milling wheat but also beans.

Upwood House

The present building dates from the 17th century and has been inhabited by many interesting and illustrious families over the centuries. When Maria Bickerton died in 1845, her cousin Richard Hussey Hussey inherited the property. In 1851, the census records that Richard Hussey Hussey, a Scottish born bachelor aged 35 years, was residing at Upwood House with his widowed mother, Emma Hussey, his two sisters Emma and Laura Hussey and three visitors Lord and Lady St. John and their son the Hon. E.L. St. John. The household had nine live-in servants including a lady's maid, a cook, a butler, coachman and footman; only one was a local girl — Mary Key a housemaid.

The Hussey family lived at Upwood House for approximately 12 years but did not make it their permanent residence and the House was leased to various tenants after 1865. In 1871 the census records that the then vicar of Upwood, Revd. William O'Farrel Hughes, was living at Upwood House. In 1881 Upwood House was empty, the new vicarage having been built to accommodate Revd. Hughes. In 1891, the census shows that John Evison had moved into Upwood House from Ramsey where he had his chemical manure factory. He brought with him his wife and four children and two Ramsey girls as servants.

The few architectural changes which date from this period are the Victorian dormer windows and the creation of more rooms for the larger number of servants employed during the Victorian era.

On the death of Richard Hussey Hussey in 1899, the House passed to the son of his cousin, Colonel Arthur Moubray who was descended from an ancient Scottish family. Trade directories show that John Evison remained as tenant of Upwood House until around 1910 when the Moubray family moved to Upwood.

The 1910 Land Survey described the accommodation as nine attics, five best bedrooms, four bachelors rooms, a bathroom with hot and cold water, a hall, smoking room, drawing room, dining room, morning room, offices, butler's pantry, servants hall, kitchen, two larders and a scullery. Outside were a greenhouse, an old brick and tile potting shed, dairy, laundry, gashouse, a derelict barn, two store houses and stabling, harness room and eight acres of garden. The House had a bad roof. The whole was valued at £5,770.



Upwood House was built on the site of an earlier hunting lodge of Duke Ailwyn in the reign of King Edgar. The History of Ramsey Abbey mentions that in c.969 Duke Ailwyn gave to Ramsey Abbey the estate at Upwood, which had come to him as a gift from King Edgar.