

## The History of Carbeile/Carbeal Mill



Mill c1950

Carbele was possibly part of lands assigned by the late Sir John Dawney to his widow Sibella as a dower in 1357 and then passed through several families to the Roberts.

In 1819 Richard Toll, millwright, of Plymouth agreed to build a mill on Trevol Lake. The embankment to start above the Quay at Carbeal and to extend below the Quay at Trevol. £10 per year was to be paid to Reginald Pole Carew, of Antony Estate, for permission to build the Dam, the Mill and use the water that was enclosed. He also agreed to make a lock with two pairs of gates so that barges and boats could pass easily to and from the Quay above the Dam, and that he and his servants would open and shut the gates.

William Hayman, probably from the Totnes area in Devon, became the miller at Carbeal around 1825, his 3<sup>rd</sup> son William was born in Torpoint in 1825, whereas his first two sons had been born in Totnes.

For some reason William decided to move to Stonehouse, in Plymouth, around 1832.

However the grass was obviously not greener on the other side of the Tamar because by 1840 William was back at Carbeal Mill, with 2 more sons. Their only daughter was baptised in Torpoint in 1840.

By about 1855 John Gent had become the miller at Carbeile. He was born in Pennycross, Plymouth and his wife Philippa was from Walkhampton, Devon. Previously he had been a miller at Roborough Mill and Kings Mill in Plymouth.

By 1869 John and Philippa Gent, had moved to Trevol as corn merchant and farmer and John's oldest son William, born in Bickleigh, Devon, with wife Mary Emma, born in Tavistock, Devon, were at the mill.

## The History of Carbeile/Carbeal Mill

---

William and Mary Emma had 12 children, all born in Torpoint.

Unfortunately Mary Emma died, aged 39 yrs., only 3 weeks after their 12<sup>th</sup> child was baptised in 1881.

A new era now began for the mill when William J. Reynolds took over, but not as a miller. He was born in Torquay, Devon, but had lived in Torpoint from around 1863.

In 1891 he was recorded as a Contractor and farmer, and in 1901 as a Government Contractor. There were no millers resident at the mill on either date and no millers listed in Directories for Torpoint, so it looks as though somewhere between 1881 and 1891 Carbeile ceased to be a working mill.

The mill buildings became the engineering base for the family business and the land was farmed. The farm produced fresh vegetables which were sold to the Navy.

From the 1880s and for many years Shire and Clydesdale heavy horses, in full harness, were seen being led daily from the Mill Farm onto the Torpoint ferry heading for the Dockyard and back each evening.



Lane to Mill and Farm

## The History of Carbeile/Carbeal Mill

---

The Reynolds family business flourished. Repair of tugs, barges and other craft was carried out on the partly filled pond. There was a permanent staff of blacksmith, coppersmith, fitters, welders, wheelwright, shipwrights and apprentices. The company also employed farm hands, horsemen and men to work in the slaughterhouse.

The Mill House became a listed building in 1986.

Currently it is used for boat storage and marine services.

This article is abridged from the research by Margery Payne