

Sent: 08 January 2019 15:42

Hi, I was very interested to see photographs you have of Chipnal Lees Mill, near Market Drayton. I was just wondering if you know when these were taken. I have Palmer ancestors living and working at this mill from about 1871 to the 1880's but had moved out by 1891 . I presume the photo would be after this time.

Regards

Steve

From: Elizabeth Trout

Sent: Wed, 9 Jan 2019 12:37

Subject: RE: Date of images of Chipnal Lees Mill, Market Drayton.

Dear Mr Palmer

Thank you for getting in touch with the Mills Archive. If you click on the image, the catalogue record is revealed. They are two lantern slides created c1890-1920 by a photographer Albert Dovey Chambers (1865-1949). There are 93 lantern slides in his collection. Here is an online biography of Albert Dovey Chambers that I found online http://www.albertchambers.com/Albert_Chambers/Title.html.

Please tell us more about your Palmer ancestors who were at the mill. We only have William Palmer recorded at the mill c1850-1884 on the Mill People Database https://millsarchive.org/explore/people/entry/48965/palmer_william#.XDXpjIX7Spo, though the evidence may be inaccurate as the source is from the notes of one of the contributors. It would be great to have evidential sources of your family's occupation.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Trout

Information Manager

From: Stephen Palmer

Sent: 09 January 2019 20:04

To: Elizabeth Trout

Subject: Re: Date of images of Chipnal Lees Mill, Market Drayton.

Hi Elizabeth,

thanks for the reply. I believe William was the only miller at Chipnall from the Palmer family but other family members also lived there .

William Palmer was born 1835 . The family had a farm which is close to where Chipnall Mill stood which is now Heatherdale Farm where they had farmed from at least the beginning of the 1800's. The family had been in the Cheswardine/Lipley area since about 1700 as farmers.

William married a neighbour, Hannah Harvey, in 1859. In 1861 William is still living with his parents at the farm.

By 1869 William was living and working at Chipnall Mill and the family left the old farm. The 1871 census shows William with his wife Hannah, his 4 children, father, brother and sister at the Mill.

The 1891 census has William still working as a miller at Chipnall Mill.

He moved to farm at Longford, nr Market Drayton, Shropshire not long after this and died after a short illness in 1898. The 1901 census shows his widowed wife Hannah as a farmer at Longford with some of the children.

He is buried at St Swithins Churchyard, Cheswardine .

One miller I noticed before William Palmer were George Bond till about 1864.

Many thanks for the link to Albert Dovey Chambers, fascinating images. In one of the Chipnall Mill images there was a chap looking down from the mill so just wondered if that could be William, but guess these would have been taken after William had left the mill.

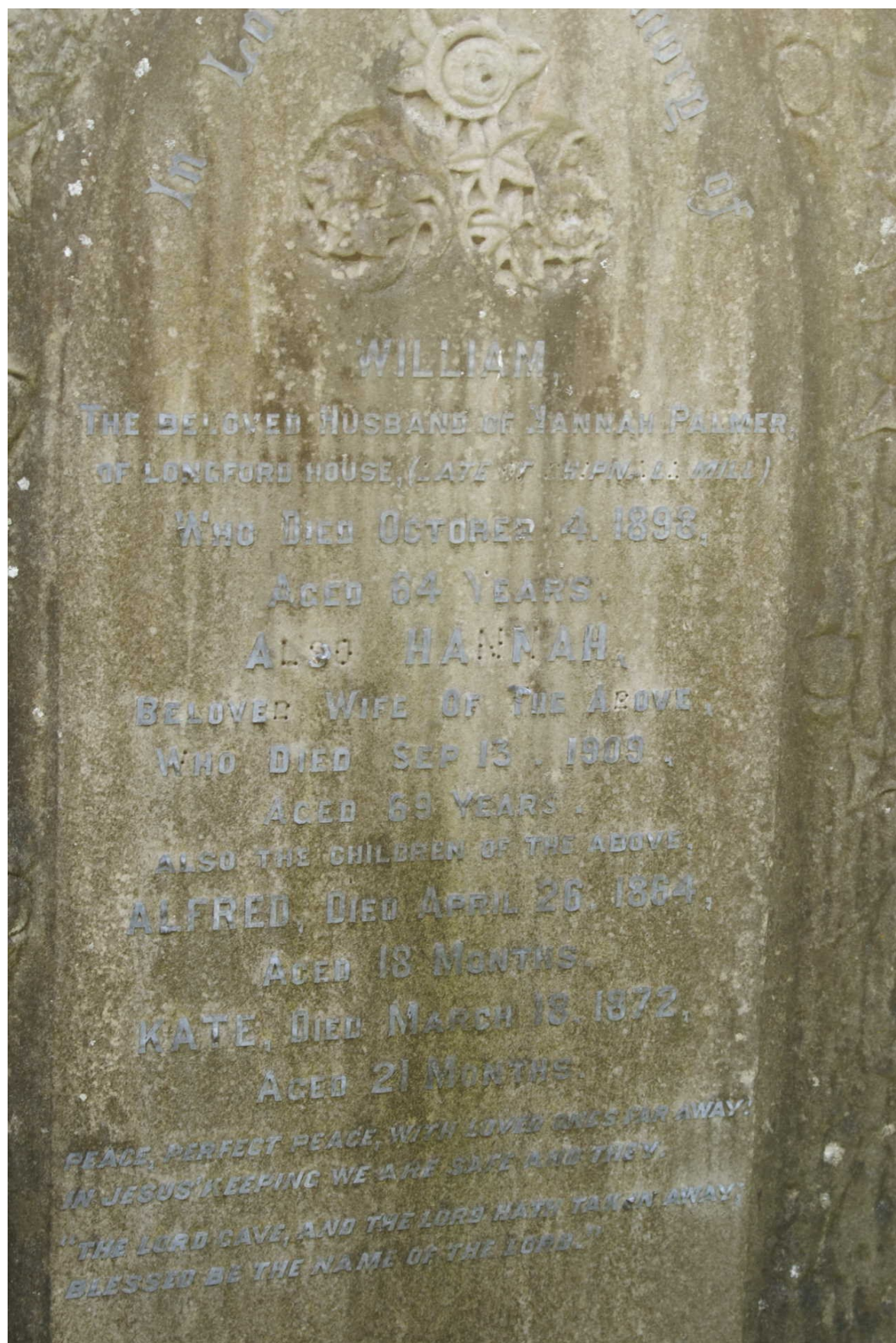
An earlier rather sad tale about the mill involves a murder in 1838, where a mother and her lover murdered her young daughter at the mill pool. This was when Joseph Butter was miller.

"MURDER MOST FOUL" - <https://sites.google.com/site/cheswardinemanor/home>

(further details in the newspapers of the time https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/search/results/1800-01-01/1849-12-31?basicsearch=%22ann%20wycherley%22&phrasessearch=ann%20wycherley&retrievecountrycount_s=false&sortorder=score)

Kind regards,

Steve Palmer



WILLIAM,

THE BELOVED HUSBAND OF HANNAH PALMER,
OF LONGFORD HOUSE, (LATE OF CHIPNALL MILL)

WHO DIED OCTOBER 4, 1898,

AGED 64 YEARS.

ALSO HANNAH,

BELOVED WIFE OF THE ABOVE,

WHO DIED SEP 13, 1909,

AGED 69 YEARS.

ALSO THE CHILDREN OF THE ABOVE,

ALFRED, DIED APRIL 26, 1864,

AGED 18 MONTHS.

KATE, DIED MARCH 18, 1872,

AGED 21 MONTHS.

PEACE, PERFECT PEACE, WITH LOVED ONES FAR AWAY!
IN JESUS' KEEPING WE ARE SAFE AND THEY.
"THE LORD GAVE, AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY;
BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD."

William Palmer formerly of Chipnall Mill

From: Stephen Palmer
Sent: 09 January 2019 20:18
To: Elizabeth Trout
Subject:

Hi Elizabeth

Forgot to add other previous millers at Chipnall Mill from the census and newspapers are
William Butter around 1831
Joseph Butter around 1841
Matthew Plant around 1851
then George Bond around 1861 and William Palmer following this.

Regards
Steve

From: Elizabeth Trout
To: Stephen Palmer
Sent: Thu, 10 Jan 2019 16:17
Subject: RE: Date of images of Chipnal Lees Mill, Market Drayton.

Dear Stephen

Thank you for the names of the other millers and the potted history of your family. It would be difficult to say who the person is peeking out in the photograph! It could be William Boyden's son, William – they took over mill and ran it as a farm up after William Palmer.

Kind regards
Elizabeth

From: Stephen Palmer
Sent: 10 January 2019 20:16
To: Elizabeth Trout
Subject: Re: Date of images of Chipnal Lees Mill, Market Drayton.

Hi Elizabeth,

just a last thought. I had previously wondered if William Palmer was possibly the last miller at Chipnall Mill. I noticed William Boyden on the 1911 census with the address Chipnal Mill. However I had thought that may have been Chipnal Mill Farm rather than the mill below this.

Possible evidence for this is a newspaper article 1907 shows William Boyden at Chipnall Mill Farm. Also looking through the 1911 census there's no other mention of Chipnal Mill or Chipnal Mill farm which made me wonder if the mill itself may have been uninhabited. Both the farm and mill are noted on previous census records.

Unfortunately if this is correct the person in the photograph could still be anyone...but just possibly this might just be William Palmer ;)

Thanks again for taking the time to reply and much appreciation for the photographs on the website.

Kind regards

Steve

From: Stephen Palmer

Sent: 12 January 2019 13:41

To: Elizabeth Trout

Subject: correction Chipnall Mill and Farm

Hi Elizabeth,

apologies for yet another email but just to clarify my mistake with the census. Checking back there aren't separate references to the Mill and Chipnall Mill Farm on the census.

They appear to be held together by the same tenants going back at least to the tithe map record around 1840. For example 1851 Matthew Plant holds 40 acres and 1871 census for William Palmer I think 43 acres.

So William presumably lived and farmed at Chipnall Mill Farm and also ran the mill as did his predecessors. Really helpful to have spoken to you and understood this a bit more clearly.

I have a poem written by another Palmer ancestor which states the Palmers left the Cheswardine estate on the 2nd May 1892. This would refer to William as he was the last Palmer to leave so likely this is the date he left the mill.

Thanks again and best wishes

Steve Palmer

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The Pool At Chipnall Lees (1890)

Today I wandered past
The pool at Chipnall Lees,
'Twas covered o'er with grass
With rubbish and with weeds.
And when I was a boy,
I looked upon its waves,
A joy it was to me.

A desolated spot,
To owners a disgrace,
Although in seasons past,
It was a lovely place.
O cleanse it out once more,
And let its waters be
A pleasure to the passers-by,
As once it was to me.

The coot and water hen
Were floating daily here,
Within the waters cool,
The fish had room to spare.
Surround it with a walk,
Place here and there, a seat
Where friends may sit and talk,
Around its cool retreat.

The wild duck made her nest
Upon its lovely isle,
And when I found it there
Boy like, it made me smile.
Near to the side take care,
The water may be deep,
Lest mothers in despair
For children have to weep.

But as I looked around,
A viper I could see,
Which caused me after this
To go more cautiously.
And if my children dear,
Shall walk those paths with care,
They'll have no need to fear
For I once wandered there.

For near two hundred years,
My fathers wandered past.
But they from earth are gone,
Their seasons could not last.
Then clean the pool once more,
And let its waters be
A pleasure to the world,
Especially to me.

On May 2nd 1892 the Palmers left the Cheswardine or Hill Hall Estate, after a tenancy of 100 years. They claim by good authority to have done more improvements on their holding without compensation than anyone else in that time. So with reluctance they left the house of their fore-fathers. Till like the tribes of Israel by God's divine command, some will return again to dwell on their old favoured land.

Wed 16/01/2019 15:19

According to the "Discovering Shropshire's History" website the Mill was closed circa 1894 and found to be demolished by 1985. It's possible that William was the last miller, or next to last, at Chipnall as he left 1891/92. The metal waterwheel was removed for scrap during the second world war.

I hope to go and have a look at what's left later this year, though I heard there was just a small amount of rubble and possibly some millstones.

The poem previously sent was written by John Palmer (1844-1925) younger brother of William Palmer. Have attached a newspaper photo of John.

John left when in his mid teens to become a joiners apprentice at nearby Fair Oak where he went on to become a Methodist preacher and co founder of Fair Oak Chapel, Staffordshire.

Good luck with the project

Kind regards,
Steve

ps There was another poem, but I don't think this would be of interest, about William Palmers great grandfather (John Palmer 1727-1812) who lived nearby.

My Grandfather Laboured at Cheswardine Hall, In the days of his pride and his youth.

Attentive to Jervis' service and call And Accustomed to speaking the truth.

But a beautiful lass lived a few miles away Who had Sixty bright acres of land.

With a garden ,and orchard, and house of her own, and a portion of wealth at command.

So Elizabeth Crump very quickly became John Palmers industrious wife, and they laboured together upon the old farm But they passed through a changeable life.

For he kept a fine horse and he followed the hounds For many and many a day And neglected his home and his beautiful land, Until it was hunted away.

*So he sold his old farm in a curious way as hundreds have done as a rule,
and left it, and dwelt in a cottage they say, Adjoining the Broadwater Pool.*

The Cottage was thatched, with a tower attached Where his daughter, Ann, kept a day school.

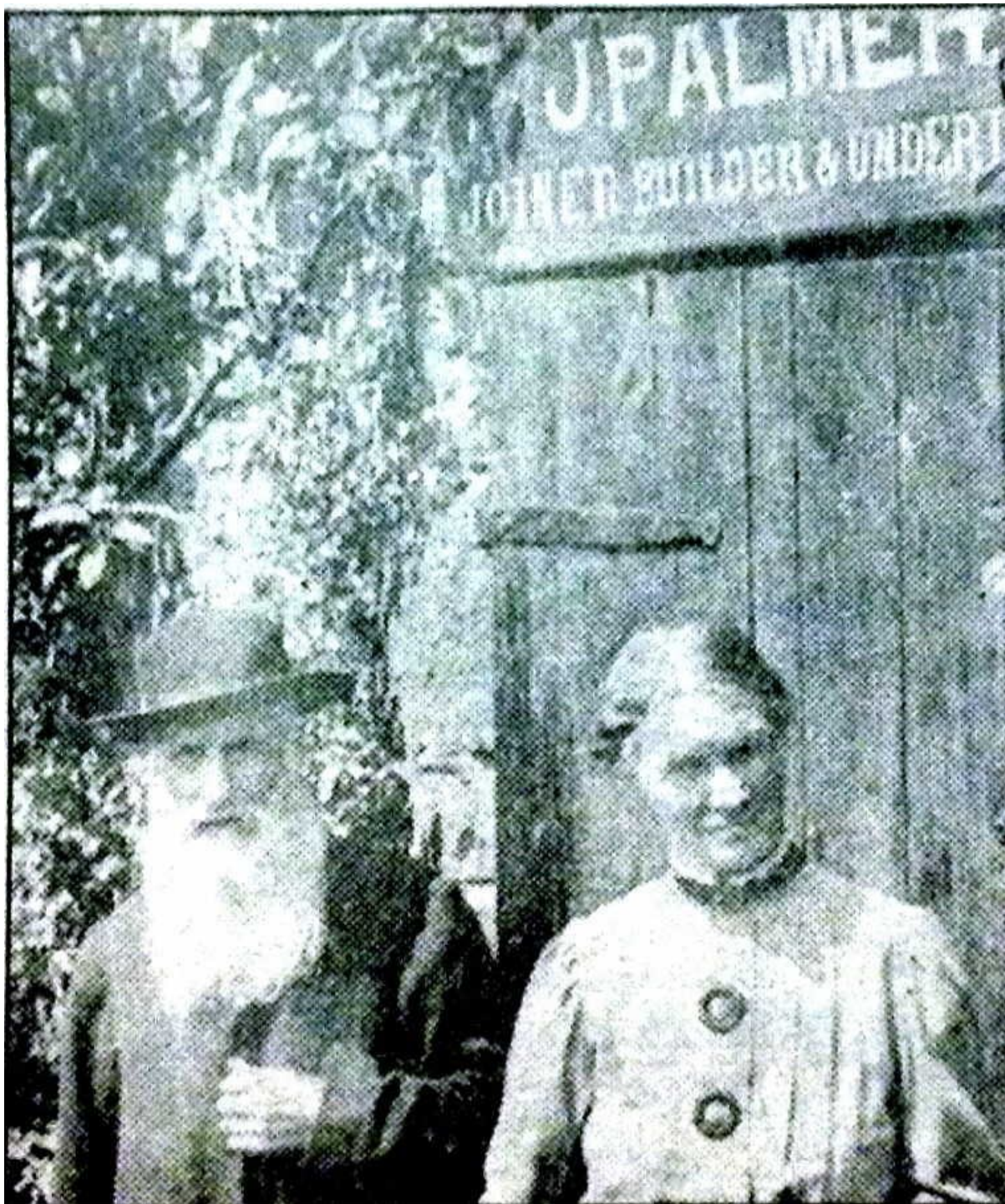
He could muse by the fire at his own heart's desire In his home at the Broadwater Pool.

*So I do not like hunting, though sport it may be, That most people love as a rule.
For my grandfather hunted his income away, And died at the Broadwater Pool.*

Edwardian era phot of the cottage with tower attached. Now a holiday let after being renovated "The Shooting Folly" Cheswardine

<https://www.hideaways.co.uk/cottage/Peak-District-North-Wales-Snowdonia-Lipley/The-Shooting-Folly-988985.html>





John Palmer and wife Hannah