



# The Windmills of Long Island Part 2

by Nathanael Hodge, Mills Archive trust

From an article by Rex Wailes, February 1935

Hay Ground Mill stands north of the Montauk Highway between Water Mill and Bridgehampton; it was built in 1801 and was last worked in 1919. Although the sails and fan blades were blown off in a storm in 1932, they have been repaired. And the mill, still containing much of its original machinery, is used as a tea-room.

Montauk Point Mill was built in 1763 at Southampton where it stood close to the Mill Hill Mill. It was moved to Wain Scott, where it served as a public library, and from there to its present site, where it is joined to a house.

Shelter Island Mill was built in 1810 at Southold by Nathaniel Dominy Junr and others for Moses Cleaveland, using some parts of a previous mill, at a cost for labor of US\$111.00. It was moved from Southold to Shelter Island and last worked during the [First] World War.

At Southampton the Good Ground Mill was brought from Shelter Island in the '60's and removed to Southampton and re-erected as part of a cottage in 1890. The Mill Hill Mill was in existence in 1713 and it may be the same mill to which reference is made as standing on the Parsonage Land in 1697.

At one time the Montauk Point mill stood beside it, but in 1889 it was moved to Shinnecock Hills where it is now without sails, fantail or machinery, part of a summerhouse, the whole very dilapidated and neglected.

Photographs of the mill in working order show it with a stone base extending to second floor level and a 4-bladed fantail. There is mention of four other mills at Southampton, one on the Parsonage Land, in 1708, two west of Windmill Lane, and one on the lot where a house now stands. There is also reference to a Windmill Hill, near Scuttle Hole.

The Windmill at Water-Mill was built in about 1800 on North Haven Neck and moved to its present site in 1813. It has not worked since 1887 and is held by the Town Board of Southampton for the community of Water Mill. It has been repaired, reshingled, a new tailpole has been fixed and it is to be used as a community museum.

In addition to the mills already mentioned, two others are referred to in 'The Southampton Magazine' of 1912.

"At Amagansett was a derelict mill with a damaged four-vaned fantail and a boat shaped cap used as a place for storage, while the second reference runs beside the grist mills there were also a few old sawmills in this section driven by wind.

"The last to disappear stood at Seven Ponds until within twenty-five years. Instead of the top revolving, the whole mill pivoted upon the top of a great upright post set in the ground and was moved around bodily to face the wind, after which its four corner posts were blocked up and wedged in position.

"The interior mechanism was simply the shaft to which the arms were fastened terminated in a heavy crank, which drove an immense rip saw, which ate its way along a log at each stroke with astonishing rapidity."

