

# The Rex Wailes Collection

## Rex makes front page news

by Mildred Cookson, The Mills Archive Trust, UK

When Rex started as the Technical Adviser to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) in 1929, he needed to gather information on the state of British windmills. Concern about their fate had been highlighted in the national press, particularly The Daily Mail, but most of the detailed accounts were published in local newspapers. Not surprisingly, he created a library of press cuttings.

These cuttings were carefully selected for their relevance to the state of British mills and were pasted into a series of large scrapbooks, which are now cared for by The Mills Archive. Until the start of Second World War, they show how many mills had been left to decay, while others were maintained by a dedicated volunteer or owner. They underline the impact of the series of surveys and appeals launched with Rex's help during that decade.

On Rex's visits to mills he is often caught on camera, not his own, but by the local newspaper reporter who was always looking for an unusual story to write up. They could feature Rex presenting a certificate to a miller who has looked after and maintained his mill with great care. One such was John Bryant, whose family had owned Pakenham Windmill in Suffolk since 1885.

Rex's international influence is well-recorded. In Virginia, USA, he is captured in an article in "The Virginia Gazette" on May 5th, 1957, where he oversaw the planning and construction of the Robertson's windmill at Colonial Williamsburg, based on the UK post mill at Bourn in Cambridgeshire. This mill was chosen as a model as it was one of the oldest in the UK, and closest in design to a mill that could have been built in Virginia when the early settlers arrived.

Rex's pre-war work in Finland continued to be recognised many years later, as evidenced by the 1974 front page coverage by Vasabladet, a Swedish language regional daily newspaper in Ostrobothnia, Finland.

Work is still continuing at the Archive on Rex's collection even during the 'lockdown' with Nathanael, our Archivist, working from home on the digital files.



Rex presenting a windmill certificate to John Bryant of Pakenham windmill



Rex at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia

# VASABLADET

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## I UTBILDNINGEN

ervice  
olmål

utbildningen av läkare, täre bör utbyggas så att i behoven, understryker ände om hur högskolvä på 1970-talet. Utbils- orsagen till undervis- lio.

bilds svenobegränsade personer för dessa knaster för tillfreds- ställer man motat dessa krav, som baserar sig på grundlagen stadganden om språklig jämli- ka. De står sedan

n skatt  
tugor  
ubblan"

HELSINGFORS (Vb) på fritidstugor är rena trestyrelsens generalidien på torsdagen. Han k är oroliga för höjda är det pressen som his- torier. Är det för att arna, undrade Laakso- tt skattehöjningen för l rör sig om 71 mark.

a systemer. Skattetryskan s läte börja utvärdera lagarna på. Läkarna har till och med över- ska. Laaksoinen frägnade regere- de. Skatte- och lönelagstiftningen stigt inmar. De står sedan



Palme  
Stat  
par

-Fråga förmlutar en avspj på det, m ter Olof' elaldemc

Palme såg för område där där föregripas. Men mer inom förslås som innebär att fi en skaffar sig u da till att bransle Palme förklarade par är sedan har- men efter den andra ringvärdium men nu har avslutats.

En område i skilda öka till e energi sektora, Al- minskades. Är i ständigt framtida kan tillfälligt av 30-dimmar arbet förväntade.

Palme förklara programförslaget da 1960-års prog det innebär en hö på den ekonomiska Lika som tidiga demokratin är i- tes över produkt- förhöjande läge, händer i sin sig

"Vi be  
upplag  
svåra

Rex on the front page of the Vasabladet, August 23rd, 1974