

SUMMARY

Water mills in Papilė region

/PAPILĖ II, III

Julius Vainorius

Šiauliai University

In 19th c. and first decades of the 20th c. there were six water mills in Papilė region, and one mill was driven by fuel oil motor. All these gristmills were built on the Venta River, at every 5–7 km. They were wooden, and only in 1932, when the Augustaičiai mill burnt down, a new modern stone mill was built in its place.

The gristmills used cemented millstones, but the new Augustaičiai mill already had Swedish mill rolls. To transport the grain sacks to the third floor of the mills, special lifts (a vertical wheel with a horizontal shaft) rotated by hand were used, while the mills of Augustaičiai and Rudikiai had elevators driven by the transmission.

Only three mill buildings survived by now. Augustaičiai mill is still operating. There were many reasons of their decline: fires, wear, political and economic changes in 1940s, as well as land draining measures.