

The object I have chosen to put into 'People's Collection Wales' is :-



Fig. No.1.

This cup, saucer and side plate are part of a tea set that belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth Williams. Her daughter Mrs. Gwyneth Beer told me that the work-men liked coming to the farm at harvest time, because Mrs. Williams always used the best china and treated them with respect.

Mrs. Williams was also a very good cook, but with no regulator on the oven, she would put her hand into the oven and when she could hold it there for a slow count of ten, it was ready to bake the bread.

Many of Mrs. Williams' neighbours wondered how she brewed 'Small Beer' that had such a beautiful

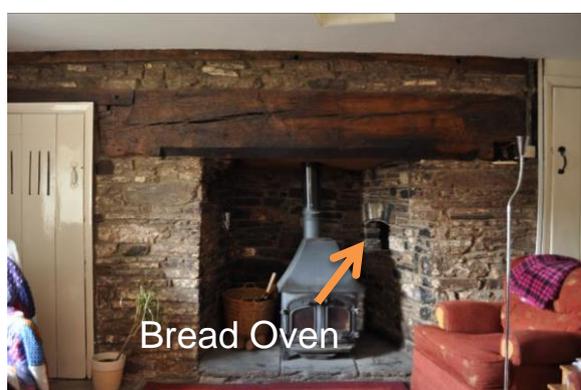


Fig. No. 2. Present day view of Ingle-nook fire place and bread oven at Penpentre Farm, Tretower, Powys

golden colour, but she would never tell them her secret, which was that she would heat a small amount of sugar on a teaspoon and add it to the mixture.

Mrs. William's Grandson Derrick says that she made 'Small Beer' because if her Husband Thomas drank Cider he tended to get a bit obstreperous.

One story Derrick tells is when Thomas and his Son Owen took the pony and trap to collect coal for the farm from Brynmawr. This was a little out of their comfort zone, since Brynmawr at the head of the valley was thought, by the Usk Valley farming community, to be a rather rough area¹.

Having purchased the coal and other provisions Thomas and his son decided to stop for some refreshment at the Navigation Hotel in Gilwern. Evidently this took a little longer than anticipated, because the pony, whose name incidentally was 'Madam,' decided she had, had enough of waiting around in the cold and started for home and her warm stable, on her own, Thomas and Owen caught up with her half way down the Crickhowell road.

Madam must have been quite a character, because when she died instead of sending the body off to the 'Glue factory' she was buried on the farm.

¹ Another of Mrs. William's Daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth "Bessie" Evans, remembers that at Christmas time her Mother would travel with her geese and chickens, from Crickhowell to Abergavenny, Brecon or even Talgath, if she heard the price for poultry, was higher in these market towns, but she would never go to Brynmawr no-matter how good the price.

Many thanks to the people who gave up their time and memories to be interviewed for this entry into 'People's Collection Wales.' Those interviewed were :-

Mrs. Gwyneth Beer of High-Cross, Rogerstone.

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans of Dinas Lodge, Brecon.

Mr. Derrick Williams of Ty- Cynfin Farm, Tretower.