

Walter Stone, Llanblethian, Aug 2000

Walter's father, Harry Stone in mill 1920s to 1954; it ceased to work 1948.

This was after a visit from Cllrs Percy Smith and Johnson Miles, with the River Board engineer, Mr Wright, who said that the sluice gates were contributing to the flooding of Cowbridge. Harry volunteered to close the mill and give up the water rights. Demand for milling had decreased considerably by then, as farmers could fix attachments to their tractors - kibblers - to produce rough crushed grain for cattle and chickens (which was formerly the mainstay of the mill's production). Walter had kept the mill going over the years.

They also had a bakehouse where Afon Ladrud is today. There were at least 4 bakes in C and L then - Stones, Thomas, Harry Gibbs, Watts where John Thomas undertakers are. Delivered to the villages - Sigginston, Llysworney, Llandough, St Mary Church, Welsh St donats, Penllyne. Stones had a regular contract with the Grammar School (40 boarders) and an intermittent one with the Girls School. There they were eventually undercut by the Co-op (political considerations).

The mill was owned by Hopkins, in trust to Arthur Jones, garage. Hopkins gave the land for the Baptist Sunday School, and kept horses in the walnut orchard.

Brook Cottage - Gilead Spencer, wheelwright; Llewellyn Spencer had run the mill.

Brooklyn - Geo Williams

(Coopersale)cottage: Mrs Ridge, who'd come home with a pram full of flagons.

Lodger - Jack Ray, a plumber/jointer (Water in Lib 1923); Then moved to the Bakehouse which was much smaller then.

After murder, 2 coppers and a sergeant dug all the garden, 2 spades deep.

Geo Williams owned it, used to live in Hillside). Arrested 4 - locked up for the night.

Piccadilly - 5 houses +

1. Darky Summers, little Cornish man, took 8 policemen to hold him down when drunk

2. Chisells - widowed early; chn were Fred, Agnes, 1 other

3. Lil Jones, and d Lottie

4. Mrs Boobyer

5 Miss Williams in Hill Drop (tin roof)

Little cubby hole next - some old boy lived there

Jameses in Hillside - Herbert, Tom, Ossie, Ralph, Dai, Frank, Idris and Ted.

Ted a marvellous cricketer, a lovely bat; played for Llanblethian.

Wicket was behind Hunt stables - a proper wicket, laid for Sir Geoffrey Byass. Glamorgan Hunt team

also used it. Grazed outfield. Matches every Saturday in summer; many James boys and 3 Stone brothers.

Soccer team on Harry Thomas's field.

Ted Lewis in Mill cottages was a good bowler for Cowbridge.

Glebe - Jim Warren and son Fred

Tadwick. Chedzoys lived there (and Mrs Lee, later) Ian Jewell's wife's mother named it Tadwick.

Pleasant View. Davids lived there - there was a well in the corner. Very old ramshackle place.

Edgar Chedzoy altered it and lived there some years. Edgar Chedzoy lost 1st wife young.

Walter Stone

was killed because we'd be up on the roof there – when you look at it today you'd wonder “How the hell did we get up there?” We climbed everywhere, and almost lived on the castle walls – we'd be walking on the top of the castle walls and if any of us kids had gone over the top, that would have been it.

There were a couple of little shops in the village in the 20s – there was one up on Broadway, and my mother had one in the mill, selling bread and everything like that, and sweets. The only pub that was open was the Picton; I can remember old Tom Harkett coming up the Church Hill with a team of three horses for Herbert Thomas's father, from Penyrheol, Llysworney, and old Miss Llewellyn waiting for him at the top with a pint in her hand. That was service, that was.

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