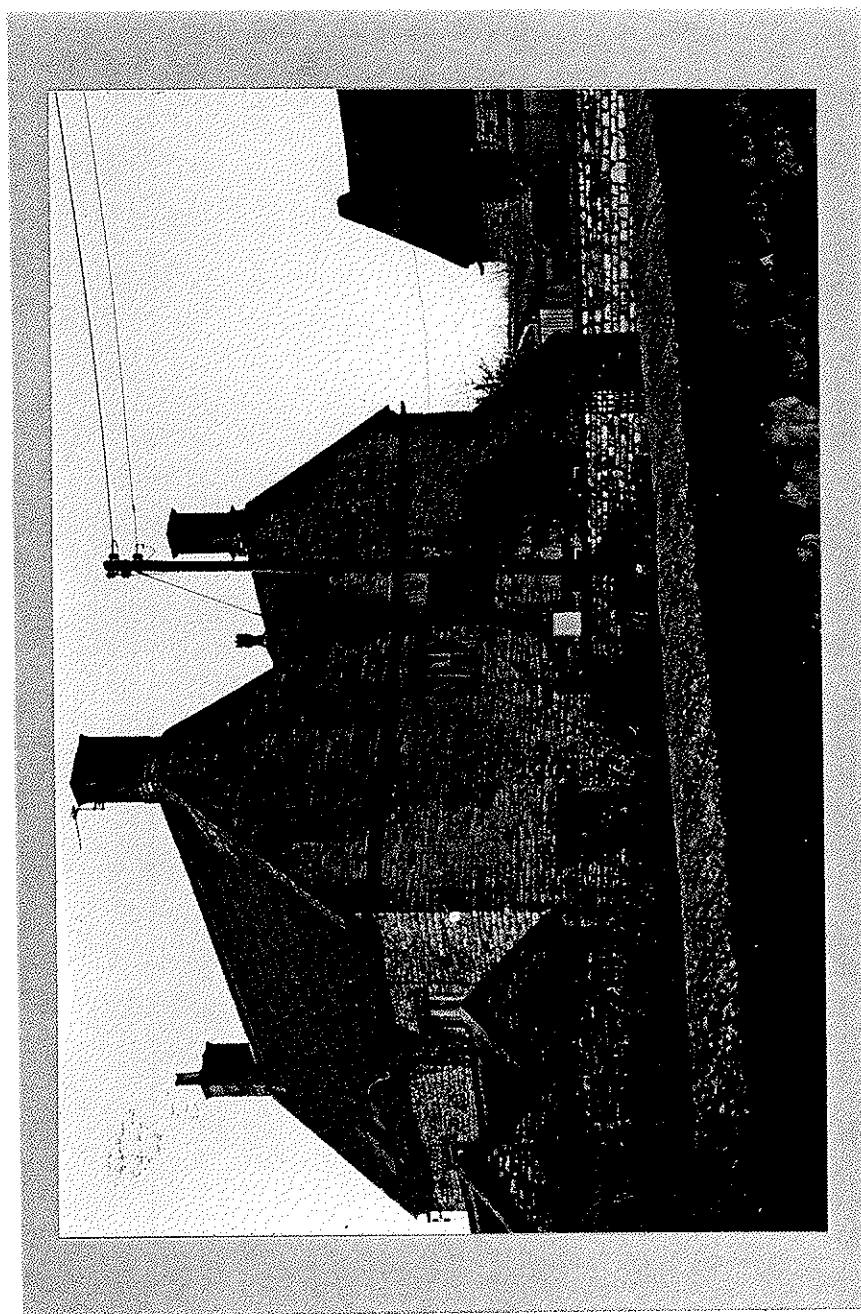


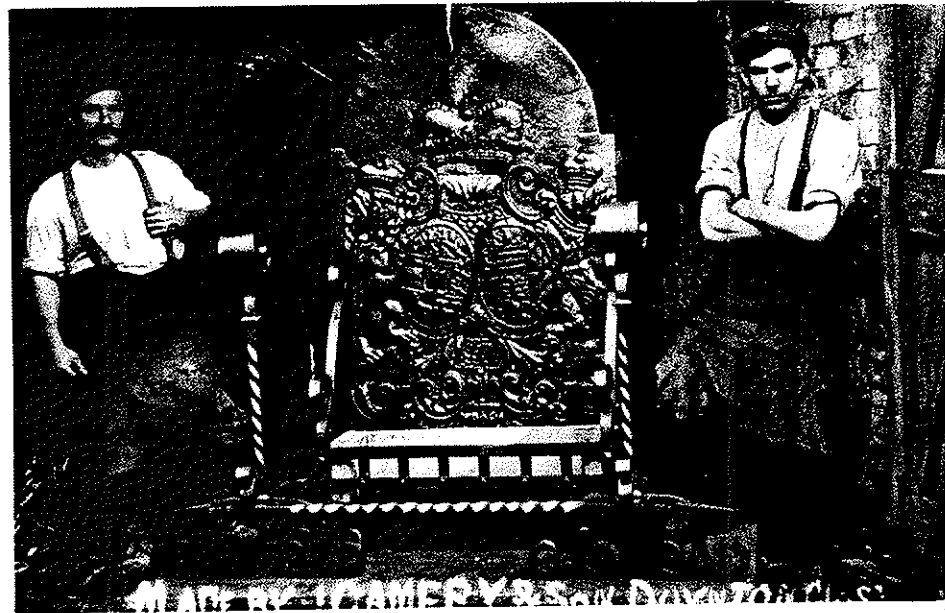
later. It is interesting to note that a Richard West was a witness to the oath of administration for the Webb estate. No trace is found of the sale of the mill but it was the West family, established in Dyrham who have taken over the occupation of the corn mill in Doynton by 1753. It continued in their hands for another 80 years. The relict of Joseph West was the Mary West, who was elected Overseer of the Poor in 1806. By 1819, already a widow for 17 years, she placed an advertisement in the Bath Chronicle on April 29th, for a tenant. This she found in James Greenland. The occupation of the mill returned to the family but by 1837 the ownership was vested in Joseph West of Widcombe, Bath, who sold the family holding. The Tugwell/James occupation lasted only 20 years. In 1860 the Dare family took over, expanded their milling interests and eventually made their mill in Wick the centre of their activities. In Doynton they appointed a manager, James Scribbins, who lived in the Mill House and would turn his hand to any job : dressing the millstone, grinding, selling and delivering.

By December 1940 the Dares were prepared to sell the Mill, Mill Ho., one derelict and one occupied cottage with 4 acres of land to Samuel Johnson for £650. During the war the later used to grind corn only for the local farmers and did not seek a wider living from the mill. This unexacting utilisation of the mill was the last time that it was put to its intended use. When Johnson sold it, the cast iron mill-wheel was dismantled and dropped into the water below the sluice gate. It was remembered that the crown wheel and pinion of the gearing was made of pear wood. For many years after that the buildings were only used for storage. The area is now a rural industrial park.

Another point on the river which attracts the eye as a site for the use of water power is that of Brook House. Here the Boyd is channelled between narrow

East face of Wilkes Farm in March 1991. Note the louvered windows in the gable end which formerly let air into the cheese loft and the dove nesting boxes in the outhouse.





vertical-sided stone walls shortly after the stream passes beneath Doynton Bridge. A mill wheel here could only have been of the undershot variety.

Brook House itself may well be 'the house in the Street' that is mentioned in the inventory of William Osborne in 1640 but it does not fit the description in the deeds of the tucking mill mentioned above. It could belong to another period or form of industry, both as yet unknown.

For two centuries the blacksmiths of Doynton worked on an industrial site on which successive families plied the trade. The site was the mysterious one of 'Starling Villa', which lay across Fernbank, TN 340 and the three top cottages of the High Street TN 339, 338 and 337 (see sketch map on page eight) which is now under Colindale and the driveway to Mr. and Mrs. Lane's cottage.

The earliest named occupant was a Mrs. Lewis, deceased, in a deed of 1751. Since at the time the only females mentioned as tenants would have been widows, the only woman it could have been was the widow of William Lewis, buried in Doynton in 1674 and leaving all his property to his wife Mary for her lifetime and his anvil and bellows to his son, William on reaching the age of 21. The son did not reach his majority until 1691. The William Day, faber, therefore, who was buried by Joseph Jackson in 1685 may well have been a journeyman employed by the widow to retain the business in the family, which can be traced in Wick and Doynton to before 1563. By 1707 the son William had moved away to Abson leaving the site available for the next family.

Above The wheelwright's shop about 1910 in the present day garage of 'Roselands'. The firm was run by William George Amos (centre) assisted by his younger brother Alex (left). Sam Mayberry (with axe) did not work there. The covered saw-pit was off to the right of the picture.

Photo courtesy the late Fred Mizen

Below Joshua Camery, blacksmith & publican was so proud of this work that he had postcards made. The fireback and basket were thought to be for Syston Court c 1905,

The accounts for the building of Dyrham House made payment for ironwork to Samuel Mannings of Doynton, smith. Three Samuels follow each other, all blacksmiths. Their principal tenancy from the Langtons was the Three Horseshoes but the eldest Samuel referred to the settlement of a blacksmith's business on his son, when the latter married in 1711. Is it purely coincidental, or trade connections that witnesses to that wedding were Joseph and Mary Wigmore and that this Mary had been the daughter of William Lewis? It was a Joseph Wigmore who in 1765 had transmuted a copyhold tenancy into a 1000 year lease and so this date may represent the end of the holding by the Langtons of the south side of the High Street and its conversion into freehold. They only retained Francombe's Close TN250 attached to the Three Horseshoes.

By 1765 the Mannings had largely moved away from the village, Samuel to Dyrham, Edmund to Tracey Park Cottage Farm (Neals) and the non-resident holder of the property was Thomas Manning of Cold Ashton, who may have given the tenancy of the smithy to John Symonds. Here again the husband died early (1766) and left a widow with a young son to be trained in his father's craft. When the widow died in 1776 the son, John was resident in Henbury.

A deed of 1831 refers to '*All that messuage or dwelling house formerly in the possession of John Lewis (had children 1777-1791) as tenant to Thomas Mannings and adjoining to that part of the messuage or tenement wherein Mary Wigmore formerly dwelt and also the Brewhouse, Smith's shop and other outhouses thereto belonging*'. This same deed conveys the whole property to James Packer of Doynton, blacksmith who had been paying the Church rate, as tenant, from 1807. As owner he worked there until his death in 1849. By that time his son had been set up independently with a blacksmith's shop in Wick (then TN 118) just above the Rose and Crown. The shop moved later across the road to the corner of the drive to Bury House. The Packer family worked both sites in

Wick for four generations but retained some of the freehold property in Doynton only until the end of the century. The end of the use of Starling Villa as a smithy came before 1851, when Andrew Russell set up his business as 'carrier' there (qv) and this led through the sequence of post office, fire and the personal memories of the occupation of part of the ruin by a brushmaker, who used to work on a chair in the gateway of the narrow path leading to his dwelling place.

The censuses for 1841 and 1851 have 2 different smiths in one of the cottages at Cleeve Bridge, but both were young. They may have found some work on this pack horse trail, but, it is more likely that they worked in Wick in a smithy or close at hand in the Wick Rolling Mills.

The gap caused by the death of James Packer was probably filled by William Perry, carpenter, smith and wheelwright, son of George Perry, carpenter, at Vine Cottage. In 1839 William was tenant to William Gale for Purbeck, but in 1879 Purbeck was sold to the Rector and Churchwardens as a residence for the master or mistress of the National School. Thus after 40 years William had to move. Next year his 2nd wife died and, by the following year, aged 69, he was living near the Mill, married for the 3rd time. He was still active and employing one man, probably his 16 year old neighbour, John Croome, a striker. Even a year after his death William appeared in a local directory. He must have been active until he was 75.

The next smith to appear was Joshua Camery, beer retailer and blacksmith, who had become tenant of the Cross House by 1891. The photograph shows the quality of work that he could handle; the fireback is said to have been for Syston Court. His forge still existed in the 1960s in the part of the barn nearest the pub. No longer in use it formed a happy perch for Archie Carrows free-range chickens. Its site is now part of the widened entrance to the car park.

At no time does Doynton seem to have supported more than one smithy.

Because the work of a wheelwright embraced the skills of a blacksmith these two trades were often run by members of the same family. The Perry family is a good example of this. George Perry, third son of Joseph and Mary of Charlecombe, Som. moved into Doynton after his marriage to Martha Cryer in 1807 and in 1832 he was paying the Poor rate for house, carpenter's shop, blacksmith's shop and land-all valued at £10 per annum. These can be identified as TN 341, Vine Cottage and TN 290 & 291, Purbeck and Roselands, then all one. George, a carpenter, lived and worked from Vine Cottage until his death in 1866. It was his second son William, sometimes called blacksmith and sometimes 'Carpenter, Smith and Wheelwright' who originally worked in the Purbeck/Roselands complex. By 1879 Purbeck was sold as a cottage for the teacher of the school on the opposite side of the road. As early as 1839 the Amos family were associated with Roselands and although the occupation may not have been continuous it was as a sitting tenant that, in 1896, William George Amos, builder, wheelwright and collector of taxes bought the property. The photograph shows the work area, now a double garage, some 10 years later. Before WW1 there was another low shed to the right set over the sawpit. Today, the sawpit area is a derelict garden which until recently was attached to Purbeck. Alex Amos who had been apprenticed to his elder brother William George took over the business when his brother moved away to work as under-bailiff and then bailiff. It was to this period that the only detailed village undertaker's bill belongs

'To A. W. Amos of the Roselands, Doynton April 17 1916
1 polished elm coffin complete with attendance

£3-12-6

Bearers 16-0

E. Amos, to digging grave 9-0