

THE BAKERY

By Hylde Rawlings

The Bakery and cottage were built as a pair between 1872 & 1878, on land which had previously belonged to The Red Lion, later to be named The White House. The man who built the Bakery and the adjacent cottages was William Terry, the tenant of Haven/Heaven Farm, Furners Green, between 1873 & 1881. His daughter, Sarah, married Spencer Huggett, the -grandfather of Maurice and David Huggett of Portmansford Farm, Furners Green. There is a strong tradition in the Huggett family that William Terry built the bakehouse for his daughter Annie, who, whilst out in service as a cook-housekeeper married the butler and that later they worked at a big house in Ireland. The marriage was unhappy and Annie left him and with her little boy came back from Ireland to Haven Farm.

Mrs Ann Wilson was the first Baker, from c1878-1891.

Was she Annie Terry? Ann Wilson died in August 1891 and is buried at Danehill. To quote the census returns for Danehill 1881 & 1891 (No 23) 4 Rose Cottages. Ann Wilson, widow, Master Baker, aged 47 [1881] born Surrey, parish unknown. Robert W Wilson, son, scholar, aged 12. [1881], Baker, 22 [1891] born Dublin, Ireland.'

Despite extensive searches there is still no clue as to her parentage, or to any connection with the Huggett or Terry families.

Alonzo Cox c 1894-1936. He died in 1937, aged 84.

Dame Margery Corbett Ashby [1882-1981] vividly remembered Mr Cox and his horse. "He was such a nice man and he had such a lovely horse. I admired that horse excessively." This photograph of a neat, trim Alonzo Cox in his well-painted delivery van, a splendid bay pony between the shafts. It was probably a successor to the horse that five-year old Margery remembered but again, a very fine animal,

A. J. Newnham 1937-1946.

He had been the Grocer and Butcher of The White House. He helped with the Bakery when Mr Cox was ill and took over the business after Mr Cox died.

E.C. Newnham and his wife, 1946-1951.

E.C. Newnham the younger brother of A.J. succeeded him and ran the Bakery until his death in 1949. His widow then carried on the Bakery, employing a Baker, Mr Cooper.

William G Cottenham 1951-1979

He purchased the business in 1951 and baked, in the original side flue oven, a splendid selection of bread, cakes, buns and biscuits. People came from outside the district to buy his wares. He employed a man to help him with the deliveries. The last roundsman was Colin Lucas. Mr Cottenham retired, through illness in 1979 and died a year later.

Mrs Ruth Reardon. 1980.

Mrs Reardon, the wife of Canon Martin Reardon, then bought the Bakery and the attached cottage in 1980. She planned to live there with her family, run the shop and employ a Baker. She could not find a permanent skilled baker, so she then tried buying in ready-baked bread and cakes. Her business steadily declined and she closed the shop after Christmas 1980.