

INDUSTRY IN CRANHAM

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Cranham has about 460 inhabitants. This figure has not altered much over the years, although the number of houses has increased considerably since the first World War.

Up to the beginning of this century nearly everyone worked within the village, the main industries being farming, pottery, charcoal-burning, corn-milling and brewing.

Farming

The land is said not to be very fertile. Most farms were mixed, and cattle and sheep were grazed on the Common, also donkeys, which were used for transport. Cranham was sometimes called Neddisham in recognition of this fact! In the middle of the village there is still the Pound, where stray cattle were impounded.

Charcoal-burning

The woods are owned by the Lords of the Manor, none of whom reside in the village. Rudder mentions the beech woods in *his History* in 1779. The main timber went to Birmingham for gun stocks and the rest was made into charcoal. An old man who died recently could remember as a boy, spending a night with the charcoal burners.

Pottery

Brears in his book, "The English Country Pottery" states that Richings' Pottery (now the County Scout Headquarters) was reputed to occupy the site of a Roman Pottery.

Another pottery flourished for many years where the Village Hall

now stands. This was said to date back to the time of Queen Elizabeth, if not before. Clay was dug from the woods opposite. Jugs, crocks, flower-pots, drain-pipes, etc, were sent to Gloucester. After the death of William Moulton in 1884, there were several unsuccessful owners and the trade declined. Finally the derelict site was sold and became a Chapel in 1930. In 1977 it was converted to the Village Hall. The lower door at the back was the entrance to the boiler house.

Charles Stobart built a kiln at Walnut Tree Cottage (opposite the Black Horse) and ran a small pottery for a few years until 1948.

Corn-milling

There were four corn mills in the parish, the Hargrove mill, forming part of the estate. The other three, Cranham Mill, Sutton's and Edell's are all situated on the Painswick Stream. In the valuation of 1838, carried out by a Cirencester firm, Cranham Mill was assessed at £21. Sutton's at £22, and Edell's at £20.

Bread was baked at Cranham Mill and distributed in the village within living memory.

Sutton's Mill had a separate bakery with a large oven and the directory mentions a miller and baker about a hundred years ago.

Edell's, formerly Tocknell's Mill owned by Samuel Tocknell, the woollen merchant, has presumably been a fulling mill in its time and more recently had a cider press. It was artistically converted to an architect's residence in 1926. The name is derived from Iddell, a British Prince, slayer of Saxons. He is reputed to be buried behind the Royal William at Iddell's Tump, and his ghost is said to haunt Eddell's Lane!

Brewing

There were several small ale-houses along the road that runs through the village. Cider was made from the local orchards. At the Royal William beer was brewed in the building under the present car park, and distributed as far as Brockworth. In 1904, after the death of William Sadler Hall, the business was taken over by Godsell's of Stroud.

Sanatorium

No description of Cranham would be complete without mention of the Cotswold Sanatorium. Founded in 1895 on the premises known as Todd's Cottages and Pleasure Gardens, on the Birdlip Road, its aim was to provide mountain air to cure consumption. At first there were 25 patients. In 1911 it was taken over by Dr. A.H.Hoffman, who was succeeded by his son, Dr.G.A.Hoffman. They moved into Cranham Lodge, built chalets and expanded to take over a hundred private patients and many residential staff. With the conquest of tuberculosis and the spread of the National Health Service, there was no further need and the Sanatorium closed down in 1956.