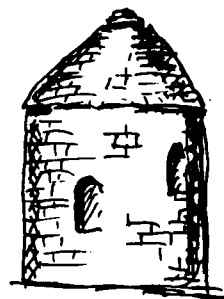


## ~ WOOL DRYING STOVES ALONG THE PAINSWICK STREAM ~

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The earliest documentary evidence found of a Wool Stove was in 1797 at a dwelling house named "Brookhouse" in Greenhouse Lane, which was advertised "To be Let", with land and various outbuildings including wool lofts and a "Stove for Drying Wool". The second section of the advertisement offered "Cook's Mill To be Let." (1) John Gardner, who owned Brookhouse (2), also owned Cook's Mill, now named Painswick Mill, 1784-1795. (3)

In 1807 Brookhouse (the dwelling) was again "To be Let" with "Wool Loft, Workshops and Stove for Drying Wool" and Cook's Mill was offered with it (4) which from 1798 had been owned by Richard Mason (5), but the tenants of Cook's Mill were Nathaniel and Benjamin Butler, who were bankrupt in 1807. (6) It seems from this evidence that the mill owner had wool lofts and the 'Wool Drying Stove' on the ground adjoining his private residence, and not close by his mill (Cook's) which is 1/4 mile away, and was not Brookhouse Mill (Ludloe's, Savory's) which is only a few yards from the dwelling house. In 1824 and 1825 Cook's Mill was again "To be Let", by Mr. Mason (7) and in these advertisements a Wool Stove is recorded at the mill itself. After these dates no further evidence has been found of a Wool Stove at Cook's Mill, and there are no remains to be seen there today.

In 1835 when Brookhouse (Ludloe's, Savory's) Mill was advertised "To be Let", a Wool Stove was included. (8) Robert Wight who had this mill was bankrupt in 1832 (9) but as his brother lived at Brookhouse (the dwelling) 1830-32, it seems likely that some land and the 'Wool-Stove' recorded in 1797 had been taken over by Brookhouse Mill. (10) Nothing remains there now. Rock Mill was for sale in 1811 and the description included a 'Stove for Drying Wool.' (11), and again in 1815 a sale notice included a "Capital Stove for Drying Wool". (12) After that date a 'Wool Stove' has not been mentioned although it is likely it still remained there for many years, but like so many others nothing remains there today.

Small's Mill was "For Sale" in 1810 and 1818 when a 'Drying House' was recorded (13) but it is not clear whether this was for cloth or wool. In 1840-41 however a 'Wool Drying Stove' was recorded for which Philip Foxwell was paying rates in Pitchcombe Parish, as it was on the western side of the Painswick Stream. He was an important clothier, who also had Lovedays Mill and Baylis's Upper Mill. (14) In 1849-56 William Clark of Small's Mill was paying rates for the 'Wool Drying Stove', but as he was an 'Umbrella Stick Manufacturer' it was probably dis-used. (15) The remains of it could still be seen there in the 1930s but today, nothing remains. (16)

In 1825 Dorey's Mill on the Washbrook was "For Sale" and a 'Wool Stove' was included, (17) but no other evidence has been found. In 1821 and again in 1831, Sale notices of 'Little's Mill' on the Pitchcombe Brook included a 'Wool Drying Stove' but no other evidence has been found. (18) The 1829 plans of the Baylis Estate show clearly a 'Wool Stove' at Baylis's Upper Mill and the remains of this stove can still be seen there, although only about 4 ft high now. (19) The mill has been completely demolished and what was in 1829 two mill cottages and a warehouse is now a private dwelling named Highgrove.

Farther up the Painswick Stream no evidence has been found of Wool Drying Stoves, although it seems likely that some must have existed. In the central part of Painswick, in the early 19th century a number of clothiers had property for sale which included wool lofts, workshops, press shops - but none of these advertisements have been found which mentioned a Wool Drying Stove.

The only Wool Drying Stove near the centre of Painswick was recorded in C.W. a/cs and O.V. a/cs and it is the only one which can still be seen today, which has not been demolished, but has been preserved. It is shown clearly on the map of 1839 (20) and in 1836-7 J. Driver was paying rates for it and from 1836-7 to 1842 John Skinner was quoted as owner. (21) The builders who did the renovations said that a central stove was taken out and a chimney removed, and large numbers of iron hooks were removed from the inside walls. It can still be seen today a few yards off Kemp's Lane and is the only Wool Drying Stove which remains in the cloth trade area along the Painswick Stream and its tributaries.



Wool Drying Stove, Kemp's Lane, Painswick.

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The remains of the Wool Drying Stove at Upper Baylis' Mill. The bank of the former millpond can be seen in front of the ruins.

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