

THE CLOTH TRADE ALONG THE PAINSWICK STREAM

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THE CLOTH MILLS

PART III



Tocknell's Court:
clothier's house
connected with
Tocknell's Mill
of which nothing
at all now
remains.

ZACHARIAH POWELL'S MILL

A short distance upstream from Loveday's Mill, the Painswick Stream is joined by the little Washwell Brook. About 200 yards up that brook from the main stream there was once a cloth mill named Zachariah Powell's Mill. It was the only one recorded on that stream and it only existed for a short time. The whole of Washwell Brook was in Spoonbed Tithing.

Zachariah Powell was named on a list of clothiers and woollen manufacturers in 1802 (1) but there is no evidence at that time to show where he was carrying on his trade.

From 1810 he was recorded in Spoonbed Tithing (2) and in 1811 he was paying rates for his workshops (3) and in 1818 the first evidence of a mill is found when the rates list recorded "Zachariah Powell for the Mill". (4) On Charles Baker's map of 1820 his mill and mill cottages, pond and land were all recorded (5) and that same year he was recorded as a "Woollen Manufacturer" (6). On the 1822 Valuation of Mills List Zachariah Powell's was quoted at £25, the same as Little's Mill, and those two were the lowest in value quoted on that list. (7) From 1818 to 1837 Zachariah Powell was recorded as owner, with mill "in hand". (8) On the 1828 map his mill was shown clearly but not named. (9) In 1837 there was an advertisement of "Sale by Auction" at "Powell's Mill" of all the household goods and clothing, and machinery of "Mr. Zachariah Powell, who is declining the Cloth

Industry and removing from his premises." Two pairs of fulling-stocks were included in the sale list, (10) After this there has been no evidence that the mill was ever used again.

On the 1838 List of Valuation of Mills it was quoted at £10 (11) and that same year John Loveday was recorded on the rates list for "Mill - Vacant - Washwell" (12). In 1841-42 it was recorded "Mill now down" so evidently that was the end of the mill, recorded for a shorter period than any other cloth mill along the Painswick Stream and its tributaries. (13) Sir Francis Hyett recorded in the Annual Register of 1895 that Zachariah Powell lived in a house at the top of Vicarage Lane and that Mr. John Loveday of Holcombe demolished his mill when he bought the land. (14)

Now, 1982, nothing remains of the mill or mill pond but the two mill cottages converted into a cattle shed, which may still be seen on that site. (15)

BAYLIS'S UPPER MILL

About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream from Loveday's Mill, the next mill on the Painswick Stream was Baylis's Upper Mill, also called Lodge Mill. Today nothing of the mill building remains, but there is a dwelling-house named Highgrove, which was once 2 mill cottages, and the ruins of a wool-drying stove. (See Journal for 1981, p 31. Ed.)

In 1548 a mill named Borton's Mill, held by John Berry "near the Park Pale" was recorded, (1) but although Baylis's Upper Mill was near the Lord of the Manor's Park, the site cannot be proved as being exactly the same.

The first evidence found of a mill on the site was in 1806 when William Baylis was recorded paying rates for the mill and Highgrove. (2) Highgrove at that time was a field name.

William Baylis was recorded in 1795 living at Castle Hale in Painswick (3) and in 1802 he was included in a list of "Woollen Manufacturers." (4) In 1812 he was recorded as a clothier making goods for the East India Company. (5) It seems probable from this evidence that Baylis's Upper Mill was a cloth mill during these years, although it was not named in that way on the rates lists. (6) In 1820 it was recorded that William Baylis had "in hand" not only a mill, a pond, some fields, but also a "Rack Hill". As the rack hill was where cloth was dried on tenter hooks, this shows that it was a cloth mill. (7)

In 1822 on the "Valuation of Mills", William Baylis's mill was £100 (8) and in 1823 William Baylis, junior, reported in the Gloucester Journal about a patent scouring machine which he had invented: "It succeeds equally well for pising as for scouring Black or other descriptions of cloth without the smallest risk of damage." (9) This William Baylis, junior, died in 1826 aged 29 years, (10) but whether he was managing the mill for his father is not recorded.

In 1824 a reward of £20 was offered for information about persons who had stolen "23 yards of Saxony Black Cloth" from the center-field of Mr. William Baylis of Painswick. (11)

A map of the Baylis estate of 1829 which also has detailed plans and pictures in it names the mill as "Lodge Mill". The plan shows stocks, a gig-mill, a washer, a steaming-house, a wool-drying stove, 2 mill cottages with warehouses at the back, and the mill-pond. (12) William Baylis, senior, continued as owner of the mill until he died in 1837 aged 79 years (13) but Thos. Gordon and Philip Foxwell were recorded as tenants. (14)

Philip Foxwell also had Lovedays Mill which was owned by William Baylis and in 1837 he paid rent for both mills to Charles Baker, who had married Ann Baylis in 1825 (15) and continued to manage the Baylis estate for many years. There was evidence of the decline of the Cloth trade in Charles Baker's accounts for 1837-38 for money had been lent to Philip Foxwell. In 1838 the "Two Cloth Manufactories" owned by the Baylis family were advertised "To be Let" and were described as "capable of making 12-14 ends of fine cloth per week, contiguous to the manufacturing town of Painswick, known as Baylis's Upper and Lower Mills, both supplied by the same powerful stream of water, having excellent falls thereto". The Upper Mill was described as having 2 pairs of fulling-stocks, cloth-washer, gig-mill, 2 acres with cloth racks and 3 cottages for workmen. (16) In the same year on the "Valuation of Mills" it was £42 with the "House not included". (17)

In 1839 on one list Ann Baker was quoted as owner and Philip Foxwell as tenant (18) but in the same year Charles Baker was quoted as owner and the mill as vacant. (19) It seems from this information that Foxwell had ceased to use it and his accounts with Charles Baker show debts, (20) and in 1840 he was bankrupt. (21) In 1841 all his clothing machinery was for sale. (22) From 1840 to 1850 Charles Baker was still recorded as owner, (23) and in 1847 he wrote a letter from his address at Highgrove (24) so it seems that by that time he had converted the mill cottages into a dwelling-house for himself, and in 1848 he was recorded for his house "Highgrove". (25) No tenant was quoted for the mill until 1855 when Thos. Cook had it (26) and in 1856 he was described as a "Flock & Wadding Manufacturer, Lodge Mill." (27) In 1856 the Baylis Estate was advertised for sale and it included a "Clothing or Flock Mill" (Hogg & Cook) and it was not sold as Charles Baker was quoted as owner in 1858 but the mill was vacant. (28) In 1860 Baker was owner and tenant of house and garden called "Highgrove" but no mill was mentioned. (29) He died in 1861 and his widow in 1864. (30) In 1865 the Baylis Estate was for sale again and included "Highgrove Cottage late in occupation of Mrs. Baker" and "Scite and materials of mill."

No evidence has been found that the mill was ever used again. In 1889 Highgrove was a farm (31) and it remained a farm until the Second World War this century. Now in 1982 it is a private residence. The remains of the wool-drying stove may still be seen there about 3 feet high only, but the mill has been completely demolished and the site of the mill-pond is just a hollow in the field. (32)

DAMSELL'S (also Damsel's) MILL

About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile upstream from Baylis's Upper Mill is Damsell's Mill, where Damsell's Lane, a route to Sheepscombe from the A46, crosses the Painswick Stream. Today it is a private dwelling-house.

It was probably named after the Damsell family, as in 1327 "Will^m Damesele" was recorded on a Lay Subsidies List (1) and "Nicholas Damsel" in 1381. (2) More Damsels were recorded in 1415 about the surrender of property. (3) In 1453 at an inquest on the death of John, Earl of Shrewsbury, Lord of the Manor of Painswick, Damsell's Land is mentioned with messuages and 3 mills. (4) There is nothing to prove where these mills were, but when the mill known as Damsell's Mill for centuries was converted to a private dwelling-house, Mr. E.H.G. Collins considered that the floor foundations were not earlier than 1450. (5)

In 1548 Damsell's Mill was held by "Johannis Berry" who also had Barton's Mill which was possibly on the site of the later Baylis's Upper Mill. (6) There is a date over a door of the mill which may be 1674. The initials E. G. are also there. (See Journal for 1982, insert to p 27. Ed.) No one with initials E. G. was recorded in Spoonbed Tithing in 1674, but the initials were probably of an owner who did not live there. There was an Edward Gardner whose similar initials may be seen at Rock Mill House with the date 1681, but no proof has been found that he also owned Damsell's Mill. (7) The Gardner family did have the Damsell's Estate in the 17th century, as "Richard Gardner de Damsell's" was Overseer of the Poor in 1668 (8) and he was paying rates for the estate until he died in 1690. (9) His son, Richard Gardner, was recorded for the Damsell's Estate until he died in 1728 aged 71, when he was recorded as a Clothier. (10) From 1700 to 1709 Will. Bubb & Son were recorded on Rates Lists for Damsell's Mill, (11) and 1709-10 Widow Bubb was recorded, then in 1711-12 it was Mrs. Bubb or tenant. (12)

Although the Gardners continued to be recorded for the Damsell's Estate, the next evidence of someone at the mill was in the Reeve's Book 1717-18, "William Lidiyard for Bubbs as was". (13) Will. Lediard (spelt differently) continued to be recorded on Rates Lists and then in 1723 the first evidence was shown to prove Damsell's Mill was a cloth mill.

There was an advertisement in the Gloucester Journal that some thief had stolen late at night from Mr. William Lediard's Mill "a white long broadcloth unmill'd". Two guineas reward was offered for information by Mr. Lediard. (14)

From 1730 to 1734 Wm. Lediard was recorded on Rates List for his mill, (15) but it seems that he must have been a tenant, as in 1732 Eliz. Townsend surrendered Damsell's Mill to Tho^s Small, and written on the outside of the document is "Lediards". The copyhold property is described mainly as lands, but includes 1 messuage and 1 water-mill in Spoonbed Tithing "near the King's Highway leading from Pains-

wick Lodge." It states that no heriot was payable. (16) William Lediard was bankrupt in July 1734, but continued to work the mill as in December that same year cloth was stolen from his racks. (17) In 1740 William Lediard was still recorded for land and the mill. (18) That same year the property was surrendered by Tho^s Small to William Packer. (19) This William Packer had Rock Mill in 1738. In 1745 William Packer surrendered the property to Ed. Palling of Brookhouse, who contracted to sell it to John Cox the same year, but for some reason the actual surrender did not take place until 1761. (20) This was the first time that the Cox family was found recorded for a mill, although a William Cox was recorded in Spoonbed Tithing as early as 1664. (21) In 1770 there was an agreement between Richard Gardner of Kent and John Cox about Damsell's in mortgage. (22) That same year John Cox died aged 65, described as a "Clothier of Damsell's Mill". (23) On the map of 1777 Damsell's Mill was named "Cox Mill", (24) and from 1777 to 1781 John Cox's widow was recorded on the rates list for "Little Damsell's" but no mill is mentioned. (25) In 1784 their son John Cox was recorded as a Clothier, (26) and in 1785 his mother, Mary Cox, widow, surrendered her "Freebench" to him as the "heir at law" of John Cox dec^d. (27) In 1787 there was proof that he had a cloth mill, as there was an advertisement which said that 7 yards of "Superfine Spanish Salisbury Cloth", white, had been stolen from the tenters of John Cox, Painswick, and 5 guineas reward was offered for information. (28) The mill however was not named, and as the Cox family had Oliver's Mill as well as Damsell's by this date, it is not clear from which one the cloth was stolen. In 1788 John Cox of Damsell's, Clothier, made a will which was proved in 1790. (29) That same year a John Cook of Damsell's died, aged 44, described as a Clothier, (30) and John Cook and heirs were recorded from 1781 to 1796 on rates lists for "part of Damsell's and Cox's". (31) In the 1800 Land Tax, Mr. John Cox's heirs were reported for Damsell's and John Cook's heirs for part of Damsell's, with Thos. Cook recorded as occupant, but after this date there was no further record of Cooks at Damsell's. (32) Mr. John Cox's heirs, sometimes recorded as Mrs. Eliz. Cox, continued to be recorded as owners and occupants until 1818 "for Damsell's". (33) In 1802 E Cox & Son were recorded as Woollen Manufacturers, (34) and in 1812 Daniel Cox was named on a List of Clothiers re. trade to the East. (35) In 1818 Mrs. Cox and Capt. Will. Cox agreed to lease the mill and estate to Messrs. John Cox and Weston Hicks of Olivers, Clothiers, for 7 years at a yearly rent of £182. It was described as the Lower Mill at Damsell's, with buildings, courtyards, racks or tenters, all cottages, warehouses and gardens. (36) On the 1822 Valuation of Mills John Cox was recorded for Lower Mill - £90. (37)

From 1823 to 1833, when he died, Charles Cox was recorded for Damsell's Mill (or Lower Mill). (38) The Cox family continued to use the mill. On rates lists John Cox was again recorded as tenant and his mother Mrs. Elizabeth Cox as owner. (39) On the 1838 Valuation of Mills, Cox's Lower Mill, where Mrs. Cox's house and cottage in the court were not included, was quoted as £35. (40) In 1839 the burial was recorded of Eliz. Cox, Lower Mill, Damsell's, and it was mentioned in her will

that her late husband had purchased the premises, then on mortgage to Elizabeth Dancer. She left her premises to her son Charles Thomas Cox with £400, cottages at Clattergrove to her son John Cox, and 45 acres in Sheepscombe Tithing to her son the Rev. George Cox. (41) Local tradition says the cottages at Clattergrove were once weavers' cottages, and as they were owned by the Cox family this seems possible. John Cox was recorded on rates lists for Lower Mill to 1841 (42) but by that year he was suffering from the decline of the cloth trade, as he was recorded in debt to several people, including relatives Thomas Cox and George Cox. Thomas Cox was recorded "of Damsell's, clothier". (43) That same year, 1841, John Cox released some copyhold land to the Rev. George Cox, but the details were not given. (44) William Jewell was recorded for Lower Mill on rates lists 1840-42 and Charles Gardner in 1841, so presumably they were tenants. (45) On the lists for 1842-43 Lower Mill was described as "Vacant" so this was the end of the mill as a Cloth Mill. (46) From 1844 to 1849 Lord & Archer were using the mill as a corn-mill. They also had Loveday's Mill for a few years, but in 1849 they were bankrupt and their stock was for sale. (47) In 1852 Samuel Herbert was recorded at Damsell's Mill, (48) and in 1854 the Cox family sold it to Charles Gardner who took out a mortgage on it for £2,250. (49) He and his son were described as malsters and millers in many directories. (50) After the death of William Charles Gardner, the property was offered for sale in 1896. It was described as a Farm Residence and "adjoining the house is the stone-built CORN MILL containing 3 floors fitted with 3 pairs of stones driven by a water-wheel connected with Painswick Stream which runs through the property". Outbuildings, 2 cottages and 58 acres of land were also mentioned. Another area of land offered for sale was "Turners", near the centre of Painswick, now Painswick Recreation Ground. Maps with the sale particulars show this clearly. (51)

In 1899 this property was bought by Mr. W. Herbert, grandfather of Sir Folliot Sandford, who let it to Henry Boulton, who was tenant there until 1932. (52) In 1910 and 1914 he was recorded as Farmer, but in 1919 he was recorded as "Farmer and Miller". (53) In 1936 the mill-house was in a ruinous condition and was demolished. In 1959 the two mill cottages were converted into a modern dwelling house. In 1968 the factory floor was made into residential accommodation, and the present owner is Sir Folliot Sandford (who is Vice-Chairman of the Bristol & Gloucester Archaeological Society), and a water-wheel is still preserved in his house. (54)

OLIVER'S MILL

About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream from Damsell's Mill, there was Oliver's Mill, but no building is there now, only part of a wall over the stream with what was probably the mill-race in it. There is also a cottage nearby, probably a millman's cottage, as it was there in 1820. (1)

In 1557-58 John Oliver was recorded as "Miller" in Spoonbed Tithing. (2) This is the earliest evidence found of an Oliver

with a mill, but a Reeve's List of 1495-46 quotes Robert Frothe for one messuage, 1 water-mill and some land, and adds in brackets John Oliver for the same in 1565-66 (3) so it seems probable that this was the same mill.

Walter Tocknell who died in 1616 recorded in his will, "Oliver's Mill" as part of his estate. (4) No more evidence has been found about this mill until the early 18th century. In 1708 Thomas Smith, Overseer of the Poor, was recorded "for Olivers". (5) From 1730 to 1744 "Mrs. Bridgeman or ten^t," was recorded on Rates Lists for her mill. (6) In 1744 the estate of John Bridgeman was sold by his family to Mr. Nicholas Webb (7) who was described as a mercer of Gloucester. Five years later he let the estate, described as $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of land, a messuage, and a water-mill in Spoonbed Tithing, to Benjamin Hyett for rent. (8)

Nicholas Webb continued to pay rates for the mill until 1779 (9) when he sold the estate named "Olivers" to George Birch of London, when it was described as: 136 acres with a messuage, water-mill, and land named Hazelhanger. From 1781 John Cox's widow (Eliz. Cox) and heirs were paying rates for Oliver's Mill and land, then in 1785 George Birch sold the estate to John Cox, Clothier of Painswick. (10) This is the first connection found for this mill with the Cloth Trade. The Cox family already had Damsell's Mill as well as this one. In 1811 John Cox offered in the Gloucester Journal, 10 Guineas Reward for information leading to conviction about a theft of Worcester Cloth 27 yards in length, from his premises at Oliver's. (11) In 1817 he offered 30 Guineas Reward for information about Saxony Wool-dyed Blue Cloth, 24 yards in length in a raw state from the weaver, stolen from Oliver's Mill in Painswick. (12) In 1820 John Cox was recorded as having "in hand" not only Oliver's Mill and a cottage, but also Oliver's House and about 94 acres of land. (13) On the 1822 Valuation of Mills, Oliver's was quoted at £70. (14) In 1823 and 1824 it was named on maps as Cox's Upper Mill. (15) From 1824 John Cox was recorded in partnership with Weston Hicks on rates lists for the mill and land. (16) This Weston Hicks lived in Washwell House, Cheltenham Rd., Painswick, for many years previous to his death in 1864. (17) In 1831 John Cox advertised Oliver's Farm to be let, and a month later he had all the farming stock for sale (18) so it seems that he had given up using that part of the estate. He continued to use the mill and on the 1838 Valuation of Mills it was quoted at £42, so by that time, like many other cloth mills, it was much lower in value. (19) In 1839 John Cox of Oliver's Mill was described as a "Broadcloth and Cassimere Manufacturer" and was also recorded for Oliver's Mill, Oliver's House, cottage, and land. (20) In 1840 John Cox had Oliver's Estate for sale but not the mill. (21) In 1841 John Cox was in debt to the Rev. George Cox, Thomas Cox and John Palling. (22) It seems that this was the end of the Cloth Trade at Oliver's Mill, as from 1842 to 1844 it was recorded as vacant. (23) In 1844 the "CLOTHING MACHINERY" was for sale and the mill was to be let and buildings "with a powerful stream of water (17 feet fall), two water wheels and gearing". Also mentioned are 4 floors, a gig-mill with press shop and loft over, a scouring-

house and wool-stove detached, a modern building suitable for a dwelling-house, a cottage and 12 acres of pasture and 4 acres of arable ground. (24) Another advertisement gave a very long list of the clothing machinery which included 4 superior scribbling and carding machines, 6 broadlooms, 100 mill-full gig-mill work, copper boiler, wool-drying stove, cloth rack and water-wheel. (25) That same year 1844 a letter from Charles Baker described the whole estate including the mill and land to be worth £6,150 if sold freehold, or £5,950 if sold copyhold. (26) The mill was not sold, as from 1845 Lord & Archer were tenants there. They were corn merchants who also used Damsell's and Loveday's Mills. (27) The Oliver's House and Estate were offered to be let in 1848, and application was to be made to Mr. Cox, The Post Office, Stroud. It was also recorded by Hyett that when the mill closed John Cox became a Postmaster at Stroud. (28) *

In 1849 Lord & Archer were bankrupt and their stock was for sale. (29) In 1851 Samuel Herbert, Miller and Farmer, was recorded at Oliver's Mill. (30) From 1855 to 1865 Will. Proctor was recorded for the House, land and mill. The mill was vacant in 1865. (31) In 1863 John Cox, formerly of Oliver's, died at Stroud aged 87. He had 7 children and 5 of them died under 21 years! (32) In 1889 Daniel Merrit, Farmer, and in 1897 Philemon Phipps, Farmer, were recorded at Oliver's Mill (33) but by 1903 it was disused. (34)

Now in 1983 only part of a stone wall exists with the nearby mill cottage. Much of the stone from the old mill was used in the 1930s to build a new part to Oliver's House which still exists as a fine country house. This new wing was designed by Detmar Blow. (35)

TOCKNELL'S MILL

The next mill upstream from Oliver's Mill was called Tocknell's Mill. Nothing now remains of the mill; but the dwelling-house connected with it, Tocknell's Court, still may be seen there. The relationship of this mill with the cloth trade is only rather vague, but the Tocknells were recorded as clothiers. The first Tocknell found recorded in Painswick was in 1598 when Walter Tocknell was on a Lay Subsidy Roll. (1) The evidence that he was a clothier may still be seen in the north aisle in Painswick Church where James Tocknell, buried in 1602, is described as "the son of Walter Tocknell, Clothier". (2) Walter Tocknell in his will proved in 1616, mentions property at Bisley which he owned, and Oliver's Mill, but does not mention a mill on Tocknell's estate. (3) This however does not prove whether it existed or not, because full details are not given of his own estate where he lived, and as he was recorded as a clothier there is just a possibility that he did have a cloth mill there, but it is not proved. The Tocknells continued paying rates for the estate until 1710. (4) From that date George Newland, who had married Elizabeth Tocknell (5)

was recorded for the Tocknell Estate but the mill is not mentioned on the rates lists. (6) In 1755 George Newland leased to William Clark of Gloucester a tenement and mill called "Tocknell's Mill" with garden, small pieces of land between the brooks and the mill-pond, for 10 years at a yearly rent of £5. (7) At the end of these 10 years, in 1765 it was advertised to be sold described as messuage and Grist Mill at Tocknell's in Painswick with 2 pairs of French Stones, a Bolting Mill etc. (8) This proves it was not in the cloth trade then. It was not sold, for the lease was renewed by George Newland to William Clark or his heirs and administrators for 21 years at £5 a year, but he was required to keep all the premises, water-wheels and all utensils in good repair. (9) In 1773 Tocknell's Mills were advertised again to be sold "with all conveniences for a Baker and Miller". (10) It seems that they were again not sold, as in 1786 there was a complaint from George Newland stating that the premises and mills were in bad condition, and a warning was given to get repairs done in the next 3 months. (11) In the year before this, 1785, George Newland had the Tocknell's estate advertised to be let with a Dwelling-Hse, 2 Barns, 2 Stables and 100 acres and applicants were to apply to Mr. Newland at Tocknells, so it seems he was still living there. (12) George Newland, who was the son of a previous George Newland, died in 1791 (13) and he left his estates in Cranham and Painswick to his wife.

After the complaint of 1786 no evidence has been found about the mill until 1807 when Mrs. Codrington was quoted as owner and Mrs. Cox was recorded "for Mill". (14) The Cox family continued to be there until 1850. In 1820 Mr. W. Cox was recorded as tenant for the House, Mill, Buildings and 96 acres. (15) The mill was named as a Corn Mill in 1822 and valued at £35. (16) The Cox family continued to be tenants for the Tocknell's Estate and the mill for many years. (17) William Cox died in 1836. (18) In his will he was described as a farmer. He left a house in Vicarage Lane to his son William Cox, then all his stock in trade in farming and the "Clothing Business" to his sons James Cox and Joseph Cox and daughters Mary and Elizabeth. The man who proved the will was James Cox of Tocknells, Cloth Manufacturer. (19) Whether this means that after 1822 Tocknell's Mill was used in the cloth trade is not clear, as although it is quoted on many lists, it is just named Tocknell's Mill, but not described as a cloth mill or a corn mill. In the 1838 Valuation of Mills it is quoted as "Tocknell's Mill - Hse adjoining incl. £30". (20) The Codrington family continued to be owners of the land, house and mill, and the Cox family as tenants up to 1850. (21) In 1848 all the farm stock at Tocknell's was offered for sale by auction because of being "under a distress for rent", (22) so this shows that the Coxes at Tocknell's were in a difficult financial position, as was John Cox of Oliver's and Damsell's Mills.

The last evidence of the Cox family at Tocknell's was the rates list of 1849-50 when "John Cox - House & Mill Tocknells" was recorded. (23) In 1851 Will. Hobbs, Mealman, was recorded for Tocknell's Mill (24) so if the Coxes had used it in the cloth trade, it was by then a corn mill. In 1852 George Taylor,

Miller, had Tocknell's Mill. (25) This is the last evidence that has been found of its use, and nothing remains of the mill.

EDDELL'S (also Eddel's, King's) MILL

Only a short distance upstream from Tocknell's Mill, the next mill recorded was Eddell's Mill, still on the main Painswick Stream, but in the Parish of Cranham. The mill building may still be seen there, but it is now a private residence. In 1650 it was recorded as a water Grist Mill, with dwelling-house, stable beast-house and land copyhold by Richard Gardner and Anne his wife during their natural lives and also during the natural lives of Henry King and Richard King, sons of Anne by a former husband. The annual rent was £11.10s.0d. (1) In 1712 Atkyns wrote about Cranham, "It is full of Springs which supply 4 Corn Mill Mills". This suggests that Eddell's Mill was still a corn mill at that time. (2) In 1731 the copyhold of the mill, messuage, and 2 closes of land was granted to John King by the Manor Court, so it seems likely that it was still held by the same family. (3) In 1742 the will of John King was proved and he was recorded as a "City of Gloucester, Dyer, being weak in body but of sound and perfect mind, memory and understanding". He left to his wife, Mary King, in addition to other property his copyhold Mill in Cranham. (4) On a map of Cranham Manor c. 1750 the buildings were shown clearly on the present site. (5) In 1758 the Manor Court granted to Mary Wood of the City of Gloucester a messuage and "Mill, commonly called King's Mill" at Cranham. It was granted also to her assignees for the lives of John Baylis and Edward Baylis, children of Edward Baylis of the City of Gloucester, Woolstapler. (6) It is not surprising that it was called King's Mill as that family had it for a very long time.

In 1783 John Baylis of Gloucester, also recorded as a Woolstapler, surrendered the land and mill, which the Manor Court then granted to George Birch of Painswick, his wife and John Birch, Surgeon of London. (7) George Birch bought Oliver's Mill in 1779 but at that date he was recorded "of London", so it seems that before 1783 he had moved to Painswick.

In 1797 the copyhold was granted to Thomas Eddells of Minchinhampton, Clothier. (8) This seems to be the first evidence that the mill was used as a Cloth Mill, because in 1801 Thomas Eddells, "Clothier of Cranham", was advertising a sale by auction at his "Cloth Mill near Tocknells" all his stock-in-trade. A long list was given which included "cloth, dyeing soak-tubs, press paper and fences, Salop oil, shearing-boards, shears, folding-screen, flock etc." (9) Only 2 months later there was an advertisement that 9 yards of Worcester Cloth, the property of Thomas Wood of Painswick, had been stolen from the rack of Mr. Benjamin Wood in Cranham. 10 guineas reward was offered for information. (10) Benjamin Wood was recorded as tenant at Eddell's Mill, but Thos. Eddel (sic) was still the owner in 1803-05. (11) Benjamin Wood had been recorded as a Clothier at Dorey's Mill in Painswick in 1798 and Thomas Wood was there from 1794 to c. 1830. (12) In 1805 Thomas Eddells (with one l)

was bankrupt, and he advertised for sale a "Valuable Clothing Mill" with messuage, outbuildings, "Racks or tenters" and about 6 acres of land, now lot to Benjamin Wood at a yearly rent of £80, for a term of years; 3 years unexpired, all freehold, mill well supplied with water, "part newly erected". Evidently it was not sold as it was advertised again 3 months later. (13) What happened to the mill during the next 30 years has not been found recorded, but in 1838 John Cox was the owner, but the mill, dwelling-house and mill-pond were recorded as "void" and the annual value was £20. (14) John Cox also had Tocknell's Mill that year, and Oliver's and Damsell's. In 1856 Joseph Cox was recorded as a miller at Cranham and 3 other millers were mentioned. (15) By this year the Cox family did not have the other mills in Painswick Parish. In 1884 Eddell's Mill was named as a Corn Mill (16) and in 1903 it was recorded "Disused". (17) It was restored and made a private residence in 1926, (18) and now in 1983 is still used as a private residence. (19)

This was the last mill going up the Painswick Stream, found recorded in the Cloth Trade, but 2 more mills were on the main stream in Cranham, named Sutton's Mill and Cranham Mill, and there was another mill in Cranham on a tributary of the Painswick Stream, called Haregrove Mill, but no evidence has been found to connect them with the Cloth Trade. Other tributaries did have Cloth Mills, but these must be left for a later article.

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(Oliver's Mill contd.)

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Edell's Mill: now a private house in Cranham Parish, the last mill up the Painswick Stream recorded in the cloth trade.

Damsell's Mill from garden side. Inside the doorway an over-shot water-wheel is preserved.



As Mrs. Haine points out, the spelling of names over the past 200 or 300 years varies considerable from time to time. For the sake of convenience, the present form of Tocknell's has been adhered to, as the name occurs so frequently in the text.
Ed.

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- G.R.O. = Gloucestershire Records Office.
 G.D.R. = Gloucester Diocesan Records.
 G.C.L. = Gloucestershire County Library.
 G.C. = Gloucestershire Collection.
 U.R.C. = United Reform Church.
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* Libby's 'Twenty Years' History of Stroud' mentions "old Mr. Cox" and his wife, of the Post Office, then in George Street.
Ed.