

MORE ON PAINSWICK CLOTH MILLS

Mrs Haine writes: since the publication of the Journal for 1983, some additional information has come to light on two of the mills in that issue.

The first concerns Baylis's Upper Mill (p 25 of 1983 Journal).

Fire on Monday night.

"A large Mill belonging to Mr C Baker of Stroud and occupied by Mr W Cooke at Painswick Bottom, was burnt to the ground.

Mr Cooke's dwelling is close to the mill and about 1 o'clock he was awakened by a strong glare, which on looking out of his window he found to proceed from the mill".

The Painswick Police and Stroud Fire Brigade came, but could do nothing as it was all destroyed, including a great deal of new machinery which had only been fixed the previous week.

(GJ 9 May 1857)

The second piece of extra information concerns Tocknell's Mill.

In 1852 Tocknell's Mill was advertised "To Be Let" and was described as a Flour Mill with 2 pairs of Stones, a Boulter, a Bakehouse and Dwelling House. (1)

In 1853 George Haines, "late of Tocknell's Mill", received payments from the "Commercial and County Fire Offices". In 1854 George Haines described as a "Miller and Mealman late of Tocknell's Mill" appeared in the Bristol Bankruptcy Court, where it was mentioned that his mill had been burnt down. He appeared again at the Court in 1855 and there was another adjournment. (2)

(1) GJ 2 Oct, 27 Nov, 11 Dec 1852.

(2) Stroud Free Press - 30 June 1854 and 27 April 1855.

These extracts would seem to explain why neither mill has been found recorded after the dates given above.

C.H.