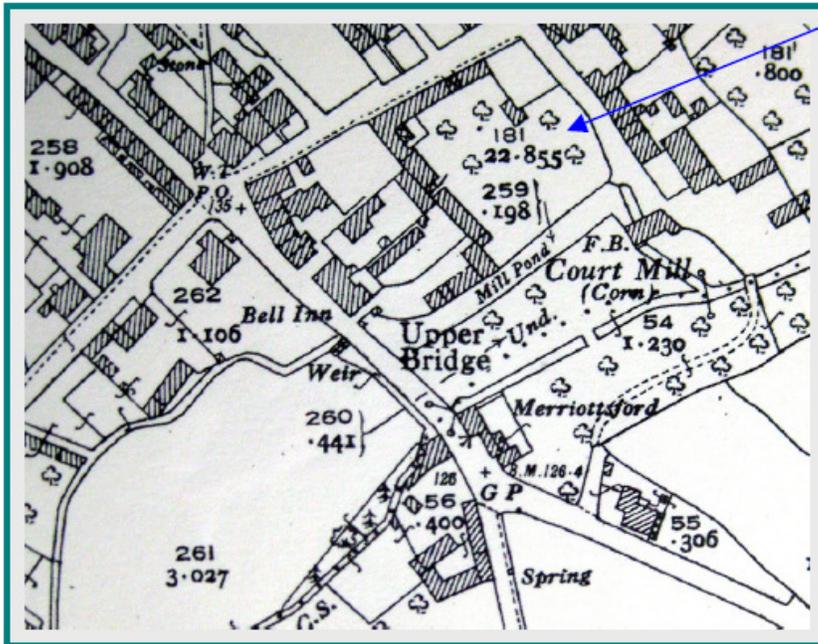


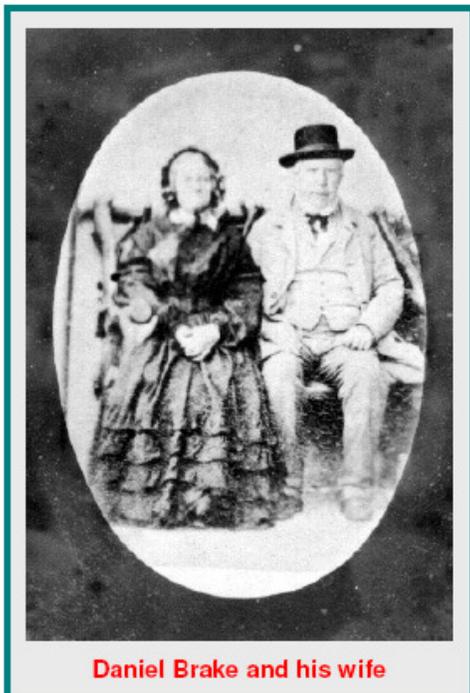
Nut Tree Farm

Mary Paull



Nut Tree Farm

Nut Tree Farm is no longer a farm, the farmyard now being transformed into a housing estate and the house itself has been updated and modernised.



Daniel Brake and his wife

Nut Tree was the home of the Brake family for many years from the nineteenth century. At that time it was inhabited by Daniel Brake and his family, Daniel was a baker and farmer.



Nut Tree Farm bakery

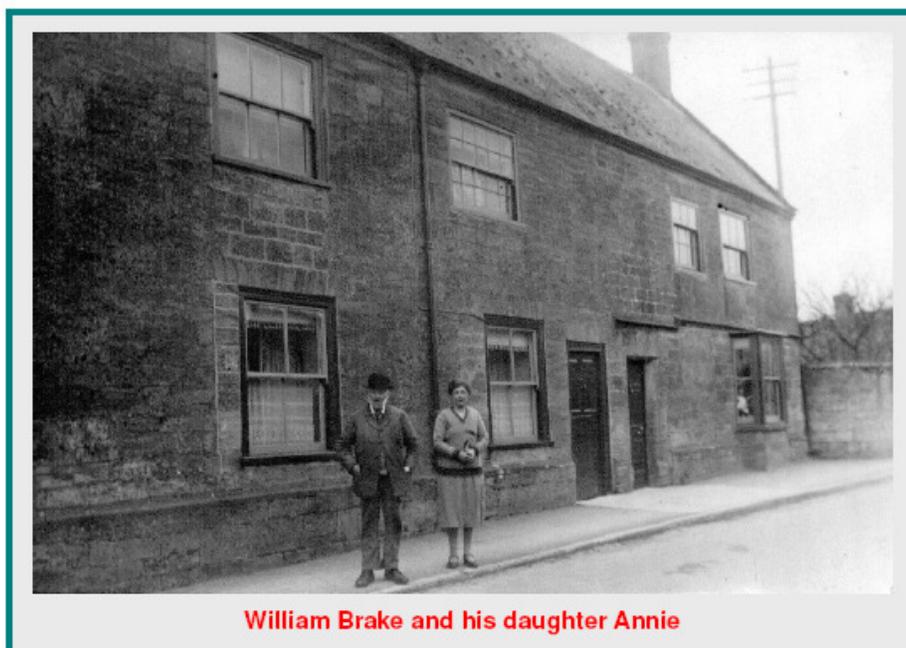
The house had two doors opening onto the pavement. The door on the left-hand side was the door to the bake house as shown in the photo opposite.



Mrs William Brake

Daniel's son, William, and his wife, later carried on the bakery business and also ran the farm.

William had a son and a daughter, Harry and Annie, neither of whom married.



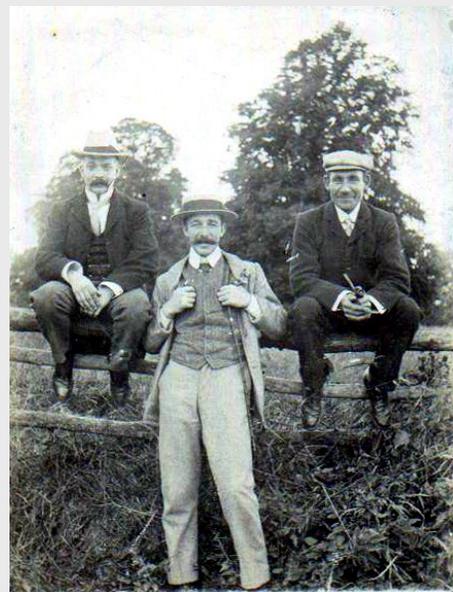
William Brake and his daughter Annie



Harry Brake, dairy farmer

Harry did not continue with the bakery but carried on the farm. The farmyard had a cow stall and outbuildings which are now converted to houses.

The only land adjoining the farmyard was a small orchard, not enough to keep the cows, so the cows had to be driven from Hazelbury Road or 'Down Over Mill' to be milked twice a day. A common sight was to see Harry's cows meandering their way across Knapp either on the way to the farm to be milked or back to the field, seemingly with no one driving them for they knew exactly where they had to go. Jim Pattermore worked for Harry for many years until retirement. In the days when Harry farmed, there were not many tractors and he conducted his business by horse and cart.

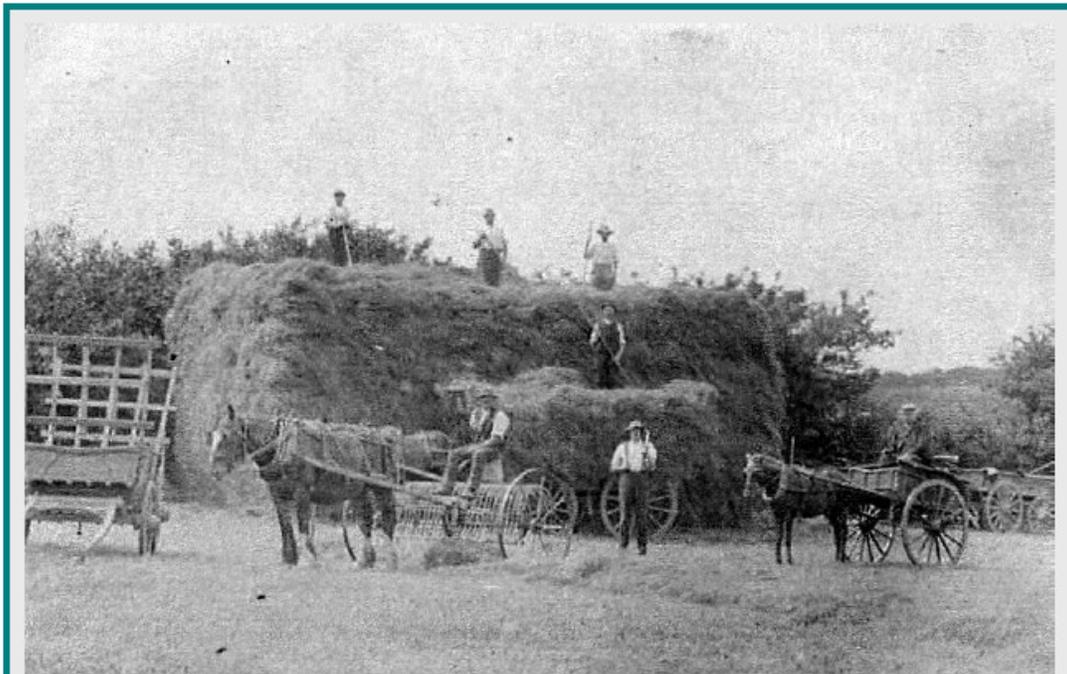


Harry Brake (left) and Jim Pattermore (right) and an unknown dandy friend!



Harry Brake, dressed the way farmers tended to dress in days gone by

Being a dairy farmer, making hay for winter feed was a very important activity for Harry and was often a race against the weather in order to get the hay dried and safely stored. It was very labour intensive and Harry, like other farmers in the village, hired men and boys on a casual basis, often for a few hours in the evening after normal work had ended.



Haymaking scenes in Harry's fields

Harry's other love was entertaining at concerts. Whenever there was a social or concert in the village he would be called upon to entertain and would sing comic songs such as "The Fly be on the Turnip", always accompanied by his sister Annie at the piano. He also told comic skits such as

Dear Wife

Am coming home to dinner at 2am sharp. If dinner is not ready shall throw you out of the window, if dinner is ready shall throw dinner after you.

Dear Sir

If you do not remove the gorgonzola you left with us a year ago, we shall be compelled to shoot it.



Harry, and also his sister, belonged to the village Choral Society. He was also a member of the Working Men's Institute and was a very good snooker and billiard player, enjoying passing on his skills to the younger generation, always in a jovial and friendly manner.

On Sundays, after his work was done, he would be seen dressed in his Sunday best and walking across Hitchen to attend church where he was a sidesman. After the service, on summer evenings he and fellow farmers would go for an evening walk looking over hedges and being critical of other farmers' way of farming.

Harry died in 1964 at the age of 85, Merriott losing one of its best-known village characters. The documents below record the farm sale that followed.

By direction Exors. of H. Brake dec'd

PRICE 6d.

Nut Tree Farmhouse,
2 Lower Street, Merriott, Somerset

(2 miles North of Crewkerne)

Catalogue of Sale of the

ANTIQUÉ & VICTORIAN
FURNISHINGS

& OTHER CONTENTS OF THE RESIDENCE

which

T. R. G. LAWRENCE & SON

will sell by Auction

on the Premises on

Thursday, 16th December 1965

Commencing at 12 noon

On View Wednesday 15th December 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and morning
of sale from 10 a.m. Mobile Canteen in attendance.

Copies of these catalogues and further particulars from the Chartered
Auctioneers, Crewkerne (Tel. 503/5) and at Yeovil, Bridport and Chard.

C. J. CREED, BROADOAK, BRIDPORT.

MERRIOTT, SOMERSET

Nut Tree House
and 42 Acres Accommodation Land

FOR SALE BY AUCTION IN LOTS

T. R. G. LAWRENCE & SON
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