

# *Trade and Industry*

**The Cross, Stoke-under-Ham, Somerset.**

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ATTRACTIVE SALE OF the  
**LIVE AND DEAD FARM STOCK**  
comprising

**14 Deep-milking Shorthorn and Cross-bred DAIRY CATTLE**

Lor	Viz.:
1 SPOT, seasoned to calve	25th February
2 STRAWBERRY "	11th March
3 NANCY "	11th March
4 STAR "	5th May
5 PRIMROSE took season	20th November
6 LAWNEY "	2nd December
7 BLUEBELL "	18th December
8 JERSEY "	18th December
9 DAISY "	24th December
10 BONNY "	30th December
11 COKER in milk	
12 REDDY in full milk	
13 SHERBORNE (2 qrs.) barren and in milk	
14 ODCOMBE barren and in milk	

**4 Home-bred HEIFERS**

15 Friesian-cross 2-yrs.-old Heifer due to calve	1st May
16 Ditto ditto took season	3rd January
17 Ditto ditto ditto	
18 A 14-months-old Barren Heifer	

**HORSES**

19 Maggie, half-way Mare, a good worker in all gears
20 Set Breeching Harness
21 Joey, a reliable and quiet Cob
22 Set Harness

**HAY AND MANGOLDS.**

Three Ricks of prime **Meadow Hay**, the produce of 26 acres, situate at "Holy Tree"; "Venns," Ilchester Road and "Humber's Hill," East Stoke.

Cave of **Mangolds** situate at "Shetcombe," the produce of about 2 acres.

**A USEFUL COLLECTION OF FARM IMPLEMENTS**

Spring Waggon with lades; Milk Float; Farm Putt with lades; Bamford Horse Rake; Jarman's Side Rake and Swather combined; Bamford Swathe Turner; 1-horse Hay Sweep; Spring-tine Cultivator; Howard Plough; Set Chain Harrows; about 50 sheets Galvanized Iron; "Hebditch" Poultry House; Grindstone and Iron Stand; and other useful effects.

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**W. Palmer & Co. and R. & C. Snell, Ltd.**

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Have received instructions from Mr. Wm. Guppy, who has sold his milk round and is retiring from business, to sell the above Live and Dead Farm Stock by Auction on the Premises on

**WEDNESDAY, 24th JANUARY, 1940.**

**SALE AT 1 o'clock.**

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EDWIN SNELL & SONS, YEOVIL.

Sale catalogue January 1940 for the farm stock, feed and implements of William Guppy, The Cross, Stoke sub Hamdon.

## *A Brief History of Quarrying, Farming and Trade in Stoke sub Hamdon*

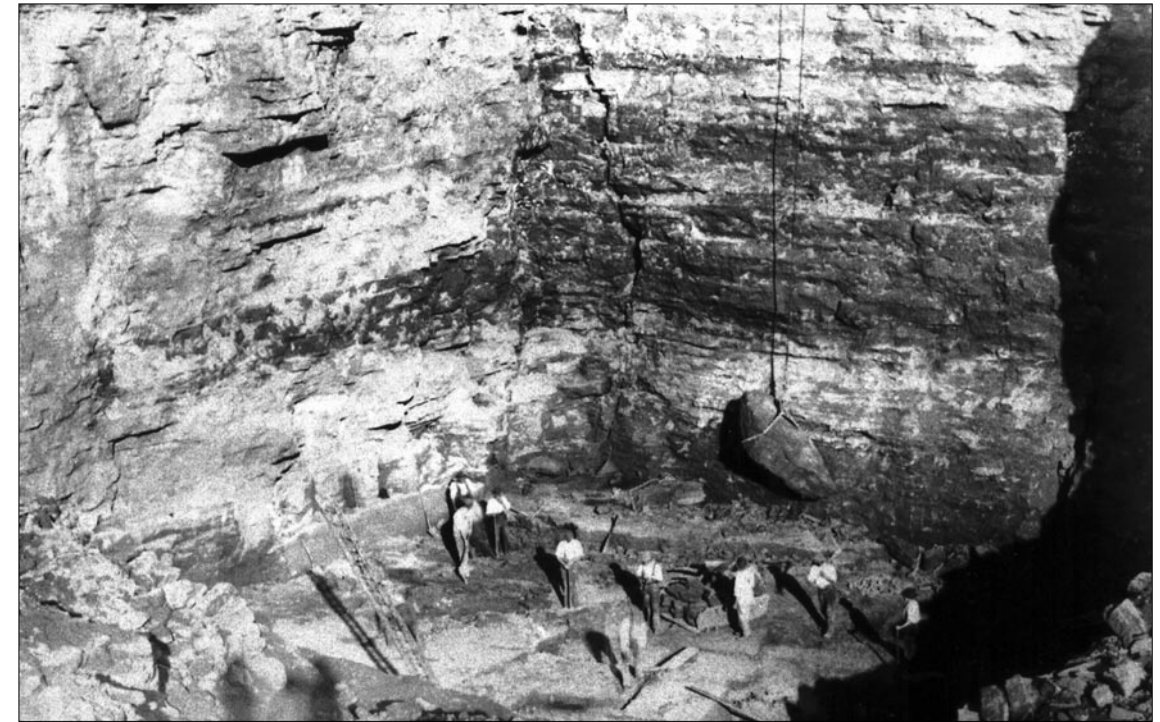
Ham Hill is only 400 feet above sea level but seems considerably higher set against the lowlands of Somerset. The Romans were the first to quarry on the hill, the golden coloured limestone has been and is still used locally and further afield for dwellings, farm buildings, churches and great houses. The Stoke end of the hill was the first to be quarried because a horse and cart could back up to the rock face. The top layers were removed and the loose stone was put to one side - hence the typical lumpy landscape. Quarrying on the Norton side of the hill began when steam cranes became available, it is a softer stone but can be quarried more deeply.

At the turn of the century about 200 men from Stoke, Norton, Montacute and Chiselborough worked in the quarries, starting work at 6.00am. Unfortunately during the winter if the weather was very frosty or wet, the men were laid off. There were three types of quarryman, those who actually dug out the stone, those who cut the stone with big hand saws and those called "banker men" who carved the stone in the workshops. Today only two quarries remain, Richard England quarries the north side of Ham Hill and Ray Harvey the deeper quarries in the southeast corner.

Farming in Stoke in the late 19th and early 20th century consisted of dairy, sheep, vegetable and fruit growing. Until the 1940s West Stoke still had a few strip fields, East Stoke was pasture in small enclosed fields, probably due to the wetter ground. There were several tenant farmers and smallholders such as Terrell, Hebditch, Wakely, Pomeroy, Morris, Guppy, Murley, Hillard and Lord. Most small holders had a few cows, a field or two and a horse and cart. The arrival of the Ferguson tractor in 1943 lightened the load of manual work and gradually took over from the horse, other agricultural machinery followed such as the combine harvester and hay baler. Hand milking changed to machine in 1947 and the last dairy herd was sold in 2000. Sheep grazed the hill, separating into individual flocks in the evening before returning to their own farms.... Today there are only three working farms, West Street Farm, Castle Farm and East Stoke Farm, beef cattle and sheep are reared, wheat, potatoes, cider apples and soft fruit are grown.

From the early 1900s to the 1970s there were a wide variety of shops and trades in Stoke such as blacksmiths, bakers, barbers, butchers, carpenters, a chemist, clothing store, fish and chip shop, furniture store, garage, greengrocers, hairdressers, hardware store, newsagents, post office, shoe shop, sweetshop etc. Today only 11 remain, the post office, two general stores, hairdressers, a carpet shop, garage, restaurant, chemist, garden ornament supplier, veterinary surgery and veterinary supplier.

North Street workshops have quite a variety of businesses including: aviation consultants, printers, public relations, photographers, management consultants, a fine art restorer, an artist, a charitable organisation, computer consultants, a book binder, antique book seller, leather goods manufacturer and a clothing importer and exporter.



A large piece of hamstone is being raised from a deep quarry by rope and steam crane c1890. Accidents were frequent and sometimes fatal.



An interesting picture shows how the quarryman moved across the quarries by building piles of waste stone, which supported planks c1890. Note the fir trees growing in the background along the Stoke to Higher Odcombe road.



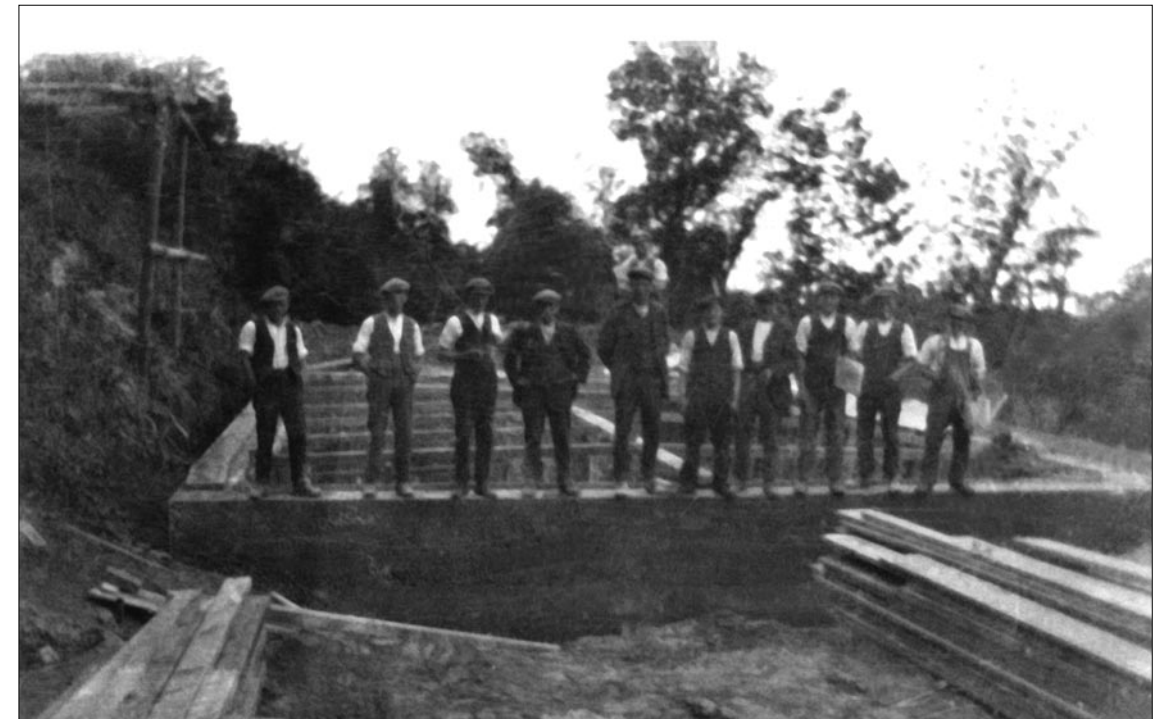
A picture of William Bishop's quarry yard on Ham Hill c1890s, showing the cut stones stacked in the workshop area.



The interesting lumpy characteristics of Ham Hill were formed over the centuries by heaps of dumped quarry spoil. Areas of Ham Hill where no quarrying has taken place are quite evident by their flat surfaces c1890.



Stone being moved from the quarry by a trolley on rails, the easiest way to transport large stones to the quarry workshop. Up to the 1990s rails could still be seen at the site of old quarry workings.

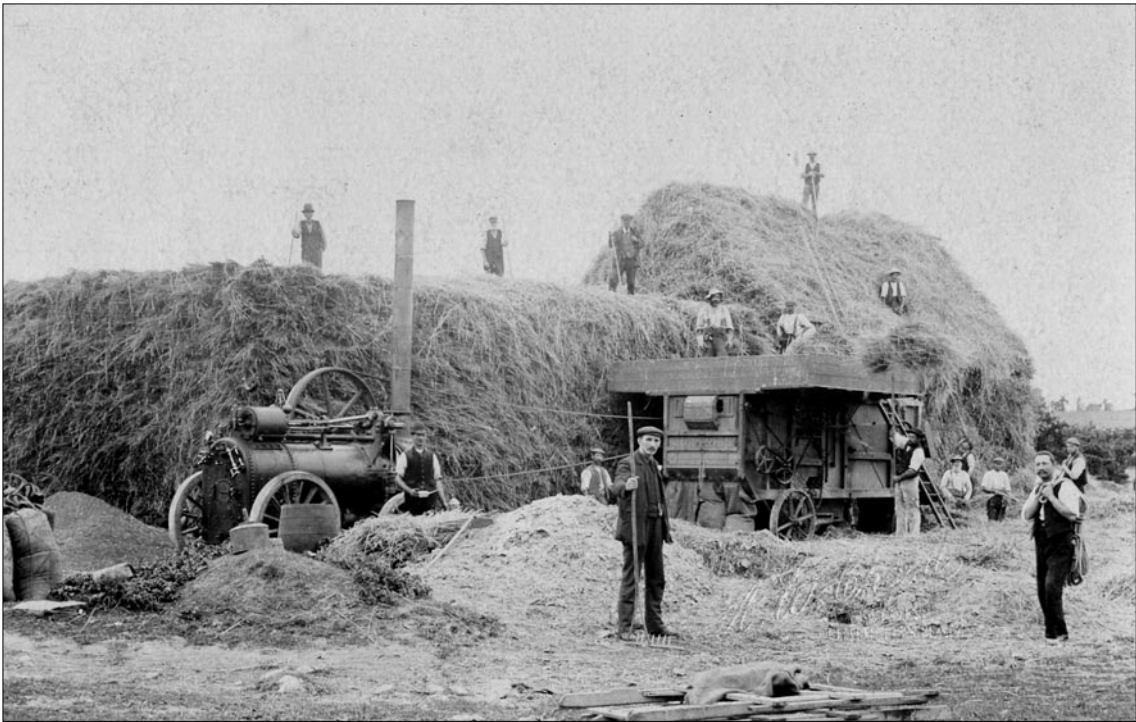


A rare picture of the construction of Stoke reservoir in Stoke Woods in the 1920s. Water came from a spring in Stoke Woods, this was pumped to the reservoir by a Petters engine and gravity fed to the village. For some years Stoke also sold water to Martock.





Milking in the fields, during the summer months c1890. Cows were milked by hand in the field, the milk being transported in a churn by pony and cart to the village for sale. The cows were shorthorn and generally a red or blue roan colour.



Threshing corn and rick building at Hebditch's, Castle Farm c1912. This was a very labour intensive operation. Note the steam engine providing power to the threshing machine via belt and pulleys. Will Welch is standing beside the traction engine.



Horse drawn hay rake on the site of the present Stanchester School c1890.



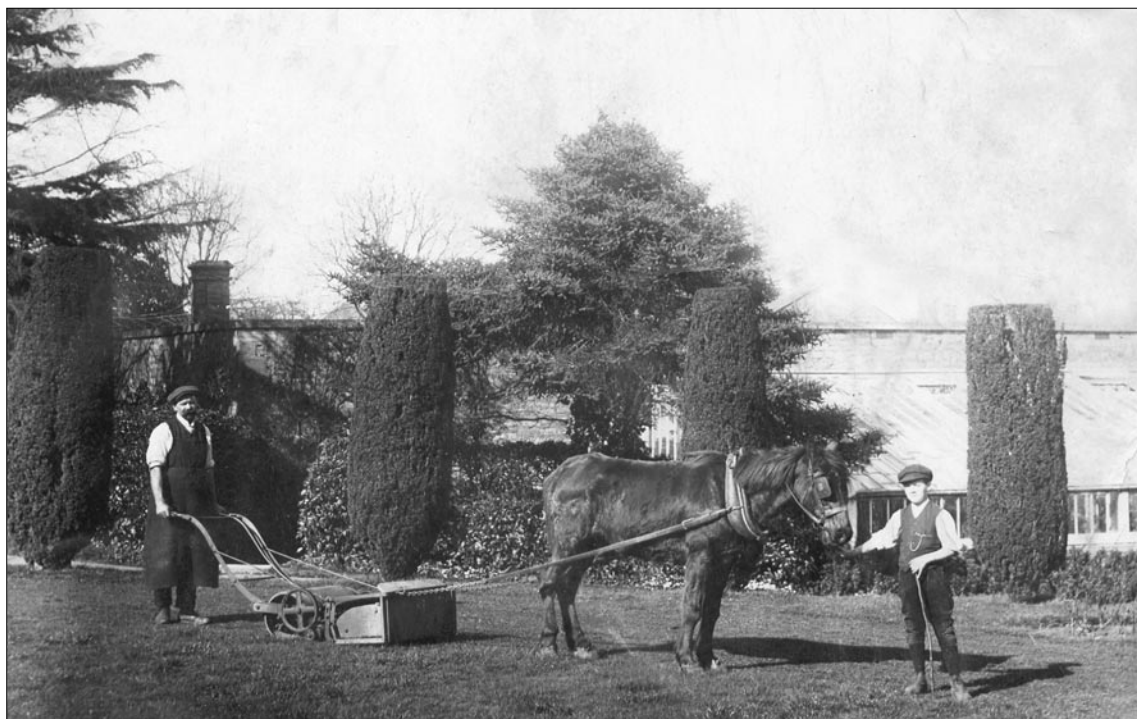
Hayfield tea, summer 1946 to celebrate the wedding of Jean Hebditch, Castle Farm, Stoke.  
*Rows left to right. Top row:* 1. Jean Hebditch 2. Ken Burt, dairyman 3. Arthur Crossman 4. Albert Caller 5. Nan Hebditch 6. Keith Hebditch *2nd row:* 1. Kate Caller 2. Emily Gregory 3. Harold Hebditch 4. Charlie Pittard 5. Shep Gregory *3rd row:* 1. Fred Cornick 2. Peter Sparks 3. Will Pittard 4. Bill Eaves *4th row:* 1. Shiela Caller 2. .... (in front) 3. Glenda Pittard? 4. David Crossman 5. Brian Pittard.



Ploughing in Great Cratt, west side of Norton Road, Stoke. Thatching ricks, Frank Caller and Fred Haines, driving the Ferguson tractor Albert Caller, early 1950s.



Hawkes Store, West Street, before renovation of shop and adjoining cottages 1920s.



Horse drawn lawn mower at Brocks Mount, Stoke. The writing on the back of the photograph says - "This is father starting his hard work with Crows pony and young George. The pony don't look like it want much holding to keep it back, do it!"



Sheep walking down Ham Hill, 1950s, passing Hamdon Hall on the right, previously the iron church of St. Nicholas.





Co-operative Society Shop now 23 Castle Street, Stoke early 1900s. Shop assistant, Mr. Thorpe and errand boy Percy H. Crago in the doorway.



Walt Shayler's Market Garden, Matts Lane, Stoke, past the present Recreation Field c1920s.