

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 49

The Old Bakery, Crampshaw Lane, Ashtead



The Old Bakery in Crampshaw Lane is a three-bay boarded house, part 17th and part 18th century, which originally consisted of two small cottages, extended in the late 17th century. From about 1720, the premises were used as a bake house and shop. Though the oven has been removed, its chimney can still be seen on the south side of the house. An area once used for storing flour now forms a gallery over the main lounge, and the crane and pulley for hoisting sacks, with wooden cogs, still survive. Henry Harman born 1792 followed by his

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daughter Ann (Annie) born 1840 ran the business for 50 years from 1841 to 1891. In the 1841 and 1851 census respectively, two further children are recorded. Rebecca born 1823 and Henry Jnr. born 1829. No mention is made of his wife in 1841 so one must assume he was a widower. In 1861 Henry is shown as employing two men. He bought the freehold in the 1879 sale for £640. Annie never married and on her retirement went to live in *The Elms* in *The Street*. (Next to Ashtead Village Club).



Sheath & Son Shop, The Street c. 1914

In 1892 the business was taken over by Arthur Sheath, a member of the 'Sheath' dynasty of bakers, whose father John had premises in Epsom High Street. In the 1901 census his son Arthur Leonard assists him, but his wife Harnet and daughter Florence are lodging in Leatherhead. However, by the 1911 census they are shown as living at the Old Bakery. The business was sold in 1928 when the building ceased to be used as a bakery. The shop in *The Street* was later acquired by Redington's (United Caterers Ltd) Bakers. Arthur had two other brothers, Leonard who remained with his father in Epsom and John Harvey who took over the baking premises of Robert Smith at 20 Bridge Street, Leatherhead in the early part of the 20th century and was there until his death in 1925. Arthur died in 1939.

Goff Powell - Extracted from Ashtead A Village Transformed L&DLHS 1977 / History of Ashtead L&DLHS 1995 with additions.

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