

Laburnum Cottage Farm Lane Margaret and Roger Stokes

Conversation with Margaret and Roger Stokes 08/11/2022.

Laburnum Cottage was formerly two semi-detached cottages known as Bridge and Brook Cottage.

Margaret and Roger purchased Bridge Cottage from Roger's grandparents Authur Jones in 1975.

Brook Cottage was rented by the Jarret family who had lived there for many years. The Jarret family had 3 children and a lodger.

Mr Jarret was an agricultural worker and Brook cottage was tied to the job. Mr Bob Bebbington owned the cottage. He had previously owned both cottages which he had bought with an agricultural grant. He sold Bridge cottage to Roger's grandparents Mr & Mrs Aurthur Jones.

Following a fire in the fireplace of Brook cottage, which had burnt undetected for months, the cottage was put up for sale in approximately 1990 and Margaret and Roger purchased the cottage. They have slowly over the years made it into one cottage and a modern family home.

The Stoke's have owned all or part of Laburnum for 47 years.

Margaret recalls the garden having large and well established vegetable plots.

Additional Information

1. Letter from Mrs Hall of White Hart Cottage
2. M&R described the tank tracks from WW2 being used in the garden for hedging. Margaret thinks that there are other examples around the village.
3. Margaret thinks both cottages could have been part of the Bath estate.
4. Roger spent his childhood in Hope Bowler. He recalls travelling to Ludlow Grammar School by bus but first he would have to cycle to Church Stretton. His grandfather Mr Authur Jones was a car mechanic in Ludlow. When Mr Jones retired they moved to Bridge cottage from Ludlow.

Apportionment for Tithe Map 1840

Entry 882: Owners Samuel Wilding. Occupiers James Clayton
Entry 883: Owners Samuel Wilding. Occupiers John Speake

Census Record

1841 Entry 71 (882)

James Clayton	Agricultural Labourer	60 yrs	Born in county
Hannah Clayton		50 yrs	Born in county
Ann Clayton		20 yrs	Born in county
Jane Morgan	To Nurse	9 yrs	Born in county
Hannah Jones	To Nurse	1 yr	Born in county

1841 Entry 72 (883)

John Speake	Agricultural Labourer	30 yrs	Born in county
George Speake	Ropemaker	70 yrs	Born in county
Mary Speake		30 yrs	Born in county
John Speake		14 yrs	Born in county
Elizabeth Speake		11 yrs	Born in county
Eliza Speake		9 yrs	Born in county
Humphrey Speake		8 yrs	Born in county
Samuel Speake		6 yrs	Born in county
William Speake		2 yrs	Born in county
Hannah Speake		2 weeks	Born in county

Census Record

1851 Entry 16 (883)

John Speake	Head Married	43 yrs	Timber faller	Born in county
Mary Speake	Wife Married	43 yrs		Shobdon
William Speake	Son Single	12 yrs		Born in County
Anna Speake	Daug Single	9 yrs		Born in County

Census Record

1901: Entry 65

Brook Cottage

Margaret Sankey Born Much Wenlock	Head	Widowed	67 yrs	Laundress
Sarah M Sankey Born Kenley	Daughter		33 yrs	Laundress
William P Jones Born Staffordshire Hanley	Boarder		27 yrs	Lead Miner

1911: Entry 36:

Bridge Cottage

James Hiles Born All Stretton	Head	Married 12 yrs	50 yrs	Miller
Hannah Hiles	Wife		53 yrs	
Thomas Evans	Boarder		21 yrs	Shop Porter

The Hiles family lived at Mill Cottage in 1901
George Hiles is also recorded resident with his family including James in 1890

Bridge Cottage Entry 38

Margaret Sankey	Head	Widowed	79 yrs	
Ester Sankey	Daughter	Single	38 yrs	
James Strafford	Lodger	Widowed	76 yrs	Retired Farmer

Both cottages listed as Bridge cottage in the 1911 census

The 1939 Register:

Entry 26: Laburnum Cottage

Annie Sankey	60yrs	M	Unpaid Domestic Work
Florence Sankey	32yrs	S	Waitress
Alfred Sankey	24yrs	S	Farmer Heavy Work
George E Pritchard	63 yrs	S	General Farm Labourer Heavy Work

1 Closed Record

Entry 27: Bridge Cottage

Mary Holloway	28 yrs	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
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3 other Closed Records

1970 Electrol Roll - Ludlow Constituency

Aubrey Holister	Brook Cottage Farm Lane
Denis L Jarrett	Brook Cottage Farm Lane
Rosemary H Jarrett	Brook Cottage Farm Lane

Arthur Jones	Laburnum Cottage Farm Lane
Edith E Jones	Laburnum Cottage Farm Lane

1980 Electrol Roll - Ludlow Constituency

Louisa A Jarrett	Brook Cottage Farm Lane
Denis L Jarrett	Brook Cottage Farm Lane

Christine Wright	Laburnum Cottage Farm Lane
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Notes on Brook Cottage and Bridge Cottage (now Laburnum Cottage) from Mrs Hall who lived in White Hart Cottage Farm Lane.

When I first remember these two cottages in 1920, Mr and Mrs Fred Pagett lived in Bridge Cottage with 3 small children and the Sankey family in Brook Cottage. Both cottages belonged to the Sankeys. When the Pagetts left Bridge Cottage to go down Heighways Lane, Mr and Mrs Walter Teague and 3 children came to live there from Windyridge on the old Watling Street. (Ted and Ada Buttery bought their house.) They stayed there until they got a council house in Church Stretton. Mary Sankey(Holloway) moved in with a little boy and she had another little boy while they lived there. Then Pattie Sankey(Jones) came for a time then moved to Novers Cottage.

During the war there were several lots of people in and out, soldiers' families and evacuees from London. Then Alf Sankey and his wife Doris came and lived in Bridge Cottage while their house was build on their land at the end of the lane, Longmynd View. John was born there. All this time, Mr and Mrs Sankey and the younger members of the family lived in Brook Cottage. Bessie, the pig lived in a sty by the gate, she had, I think one lot of piglets there. In the warm weather the smell was rather bad and I seem to remember using a whole bottle of Eau de Cologne!! Mrs Sankey brought us a small piece of Bessie for our Sunday Lunch which my husband thankfully buried in the garden! How old she was I've no idea!

There was a small wall between the two cottages which Mr Sankey had built, with a large stone in the middle saying 1715. He told my husband that he had worked on the cottage when it was partly taken down and modernised in 1910 and had taken the stone and put it in the wall. He said, when I go from here, you shall have it! My husband gave him half a crown for it on the day of the sale, and with help brought it into our garden where it still is!!

When Mrs Sankey died, Mr Sankey went to live with a daughter and everything was sold. Bob Bebbington bought both cottages with an Agricultural Grant and his two farm labourers came to live there. Denis Jarrett and his wife and 3 little girls lived in Brook Cottage and Brian Scott and his wife in Bridge Cottage. There was friction between them all so Bob Bebbington built a bungalow near the farm for Brian Scott and sold Bridge Cottage to Mr and Mrs Jones from Ludlow. The name was changed to Laburnum Cottage then and Mrs Jones fetched the Laburnum trees from Mrs Edwards at Bagbatch.

