

The Blacksmith Shop at Annan

The blacksmith shop was located beside the home, owned by Lou Somers.

The building consisted of three sections. The first building was the main shop where the machinery, drills, etc. were kept. The 3 forges were also in this section. The forges were pumped by hand (bellows system). Beside this section which was made of stone was a lean-to where the coal was stored.

Directly behind the main shop was the shoeing shed made of frame structure. The horses were shod in a part separate from the section which housed the forges because it was cooler for the horses.

The stable was behind the shoeing shed, and here the blacksmith kept his own horses, and above this section was a loft where the hay was stored.

Outside the shoeing shed were scales which were used to weigh anything and everything in the community. When horses were taking off after being shod, they crossed the weigh scales and out over the brow of the hill.

Charlie Lemon, who was blacksmith for many years learned his trade at McKinnley's blacksmith shop in Bognor and started up business for himself in Annan. He employed two men at all times. Several men learned the blacksmith trade here.

Bob Scott kept a tinsmith shop at the back of the blacksmith for a number of years.

Others who carried on a blacksmith business in this location were J.P. Telford, who built the stone house and buildings for the blacksmith trade about 1858. After Mr. Lemon's retirement the Alfred Pusey's and Mr. William Bell carried on the business. About 1920 James Leflar bought the business and carried on the trade until about 1928 when he moved to a farm at the south side of the village of Annan and built a blacksmith shop next to the cemetery. This business was closed in the 1940's when motor cars and tractors followed the horse and wagon.