

# TILTED COTTAGE

This cottage used to be situated at 12 Cooper's Bank, Gornal Wood. It was probably built in 1847 and was affected by subsidence as the coal from the Earl of Dudley's mines was dug from underneath the area - hence it became 'titled'!



In 1984, Jerushah Bradley, who had lived here with her husband Jack, died. The cottage was dismantled two years later over a period of 15 weeks and moved to this site where it took three years to reconstruct.

Before getting married Jack Bradley had lived in the cottage with his parents Joseph and Seneh and his sister Rose. Joseph worked at the mine in a clerical job - he was very much a 'collar and tie' man. He was described as an old fashioned gentleman, well educated and was a sidesman (an assistant to the churchwarden who collects offerings of money in the church) at St. James' Church in Lower Gornal.

Here in the sitting room there is a black lead range. To the left of the fire was an old fashioned chair and there were small ornaments on the fringed mantel shelf above the inglenook (a corner by a fireplace). The coal was kept loose in the understairs cupboard.

Here we see someone making rag rugs - called ragging or tatting. The rug had a sacking base and the family would cut up old clothes, mainly wool and tweed then, into 3/4 inch strips which would be worked into and secured in the sacking with a 'podger' with a hook on it.



Less well off people may well have used a clothes peg to do this if they could not afford a podger. The rugs were necessary because the stone floors were very cold underfoot. Using old clothes was an early form of recycling! There were 2 bedrooms upstairs leading from a door in the sitting room.

The Jerushah tea set on the table was purchased in the 1840's. It is shown on the living room table which has a tablecloth and embroidered napkins.



Photograph by Mike Hessey



The Bradley family considered themselves 'posh' in comparison to other local people. Certainly as children, Rose and Jack attended school regularly and Rose learnt the piano and later went on to work in a solicitor's office whilst Jack became a works storekeeper. Their sense of style and quiet prosperity is shown in the high quality wallpaper they chose to decorate the sitting room.

Seneh used the smaller downstairs room as a pantry and from about 1920 she began to sell dry groceries such as sugar, flour and sweets. In 1915 Joseph built a new 'brewus' at the roadside end of the cottage with a range, a mangle, a copper for washing and a sink under the window.

The family kept two pigs and had a large plot of land for growing vegetables.