

My grandmother

by Creighton Sims

My grandmother's name was Hannah Nicholas and she lived at 11 Glannant Street in Penygraig. Just before World War I, a runaway horse entered her house through the open front door. My grandmother was in the rear kitchen and on hearing the commotion, opened the door to the living room only to be confronted by this horse that was stuck in the passage way. A crowd of people, both children and adults, had gathered around the front door and would not disperse, despite repeated shouts from my grandmother, who was stuck inside the house. The horse was stuck and could not be backed back into the street. My grandmother lost her temper and, squeezing out of the living room, she made her way upstairs. Dropping open the sash window of the smallest bedroom which was directly above the front door, she threw the contents of the two chamber pots over the crowd. Not surprising, this made them move away quickly. My grandfather and his brother-in-law were then able to get to the horse to back him out of the house.



Creighton's grandmother, Hannah Jones (later remarried and became Nicholas), buying bread in Glannant Street, Penygraig during the 1910-11 strike. The old lady in the doorway is her mother Rachel Davies. The photograph can be dated to 1910-11 strike and not the 1926 strike as his great grandmother died in 1924. The notice on the bread cart reads ;

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STRIKERS WE GIVE ONE OF OUR LARGE 8 Lb, 1/= (one shilling) LOAVES OF OUR WELL KNOWN FARMHOUSE BREAD FOR 10d (ten old pence - there were 12 old pence to the shilling) WHICH WILL SATISFY A FAMILY FOR A WEEK. THIS OFFER WILL STAND FOR AS LONG AS THE STRIKE LASTS. The bread would possibly have been baked at the Pontrhydyfen Bakehouse, which was situated on Tylacelyn Hill, Penygraig, and was still in operation until a few years ago. Image © Creighton Sims