

## Rinding

**R**INDING was the stripping of the bark of the oak-tree for use in tanning hides for conversion into leather. One place in which rinding was done was in Morgan Wood, just under Trerice farm in St. Breock parish. Both old and young were employed in this work, and even women. The old used to work at the foot of the trees, while the young climbed ladders to do the higher parts. The women were there to pick up the bark and to put it into bundles, which were then put up in ricks to dry, for about a week. A bundle weighed 56 lbs. approximately.

The workers started at 6 a.m., working all day as long as they could see to do so. They would load their waggons by night (30 cwt. to a load) and take them to Whitecross and leave them there. From there, about 1 a.m., the waggons would proceed to Grampound Road, where the tannery was. They would arrive there early in the morning and be unloaded; after which the men would have their dinner and return home on the same day.

During the process of rinding, the workers had all their meals in the woods, drinking large quantities of tea, cider and beer. A boy would be employed to keep the kettle boiling.

A drastic form of punishment was meted out to any member of the party who did anything wrong, or which was not approved of by the others. He would be "crooked," i.e., put to lie in the sun, with a piece of wood on each hand and leg, fastened into the ground and with his face direct to the sun. There he was left for a long time. D. M. TRENGOVE.

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