

ACORN

Cramp Hill Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Hammonds [1860] – [1862]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1860

“To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Magistrates and Chief-constable have deemed it their duty to take steps to put a stop to it. There can be no doubt that such steps have been adopted with due care. The police after, going round in their uniform and finding that they could not thus detect publicans in allowing the offence, recourse was had to sending constables round in private clothes yesterday about twenty-three summonses were returnable. The Magistrates expressed a very strong opinion upon the subject, and marked by the severity of the fines their sense of the importance of the movement, and the determination they had come to put down practices which had so corrupt and demoralising an influence upon the community. The following cases were heard.....

John Hammonds, beerhouse keeper, ACORN TAVERN, Darlaston, was charged with allowing the game of ‘ten pegs’ on the 21st March. Mr. Sheldon defended. Police-constable Hollis saw the game, which was for a pint of ale each side, and saw defendant play at the game also. The offence was admitted, and defendant, through his solicitor, said he would do away with the game, which he did not know was illegal. Fined £3 and costs.

In the course of the hearing of these cases, Mr. Leigh made some observations condemnatory of the practice of publicans and beerhouse keepers throwing all sorts of attractions and blandishments around their houses with the view of inducing husbands and sons to go and spend their time and money, and neglect the duties of life – the maintenance of their wives and families, and the other obligations which devolved upon them. It would be absurd to inflict light fines.....”

1861 Census

Cramp Hill Street – ACORN

[1] *John Hammonds* (37), bricklayer and retail brewer, born Ludlow, Shropshire;

[2] *Emma Hammonds* (31), wife, born Ludlow, Shropshire;

[3] *Hannah Hammonds* (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] *Richard Hammonds* (4), son, born Darlaston;

[5] *William Hammonds* (2), son, born Darlaston;

[6] *Thomas Butler* (57), lodger, labourer, born Staffordshire

[7] *William Simcox* (57), lodger, stone mason, born Ludlow, Shropshire;

[8] *Elizabeth Simcox* (57), wife, born Ludlow, Shropshire:

John Hammonds, retailer of beer, Cramp Hill. [1862]

John Hammonds – see also ACORN, Wednesbury.

ALADDINS LAMP

Wiley Avenue South, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns [1990s]
Keith Garbett (acquired 1997)

LICENSEES

Leonard Mills (1962 – [1967])
E Rudge [1976]
Ann Lillian Brettell [1997] – [1998]
Gerald Fiddler [1998] – [1999]
Dean Riley [2007] – [2008]

NOTES

It was built in 1962, to replace the LAMP.
It opened on 7th March 1962.

Rugeley Times 10/3/1962 - Advert

“Opening Wednesday 14th March at 10am.
ALADDINS LAMP, Wiley Avenue, Darlaston.
A New M&B House.
Cave Bar. Oasis Room.
Off Sales Department.
Car Park.”

Black Country Bugle 4/9/2014

Letter from Alan Wheatley

“..... as a kid sneaking into the cellar for a crafty fag with my mates, before they built the top on it.
In those days they were not so hot on security. There was no fence round the site so when the builders went home you could walk round and have a look.....”

Gerald Fiddler married Colleen.

Express & Star 22/11/2008

“A landlord and his teenage son fled after their Black Country pub was deliberately set on fire today. *Dean Riley* and his son Lance, aged 17, attempted to put out the flames in the bar of the ALADDINS LAMP, in Darlaston, but were forced to abandon the premises. West Midlands Police said a 51-year-old woman had been arrested on suspicion of arson following the blaze at about 2.45am at the pub in Wiley Avenue South. Mr. *Riley*, aged 39, said, ‘We were woken up by the smoke alarm. We had a look round and realised there was a fire downstairs in the bar. We managed to fight it a little with extinguishers, but we got out and let the fire brigade take over.’

The bar area was left heavily smoke-logged. Fire crews said the cause of the fire was arson.”

It closed in 2013.

Express & Star 12/6/2014

“A vandal-hit former pub will be converted into apartments after complaints it has become a blight on the community. The ALADDINS LAMP in Darlaston has been standing empty for months and already become a magnet for youths. Plans to restore and transform the building, which had been a source of anti-social behaviour when open, were lodged with Walsall Council. The scheme to turn it into seven apartments in Wiley Avenue South has now been approved by planning chiefs under delegated powers with the backing of ward councillors.

The application by agent Daljit Bharya said, ‘The ALADDINS LAMP is an important building and makes a special contribution to the unique character of Wiley Avenue South. The development proposal will ensure the well-being and proper use of a building that is at present showing signs of accelerating decline and disrepair to the main fabric of this ageing structure. The level of decline now requires more than routine maintenance and repair; the present condition is the result of many decades of minimal investment and now requires major overhaul and urgent action. Those major works can be implemented within the proposed conversion, to bring this building back to an acceptable condition. We have chatted to some local residents who are in approval of our proposed conversion as, when the public house was running, there was many issues with anti-social behaviour and there are many other public houses within a 15 minute walking distance.’ He added the building was falling into decay and had been vandalised and was ‘blighting the area’. ‘The era of the public house is passing on. The benefits gained for the other local residents will be less street noise at the later parts of the day or from people drinking during the day in the beer garden,’ the report adds. The project includes a rear and front extension and will see a mixture of seven one and two-bedroom units created.....”

It was converted into housing. [2022]

ANCHOR

(Great) Croft Street / Blakemore Lane, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Betsey Winsper [1861]
James Jenks [1862] – [1866]

NOTES

CROWN AND ANCHOR [1866]

Betsey Winsper = Betsy Winsper

1861 Census

Great Croft Street – ANCHOR

- [1] *Betsy Winsper* (53), widow, retail brewer and huckster, born Darlaston;
- [2] Mary Wilkes (17), house servant, born Darlaston;
- [3] James Jukes (27), visitor, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;

[4] William Griffiths (57), visitor, gun lock filer, born Darlaston:

Betsey Winsper (53), widow, Great Croft Street, married William Perry (59), widower, Pinfold Street, manager of iron works, on 25th December 1861.

James Jenks = James Jinks

James Jenks, retailer of beer, Great Croft Street. [1862]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/2/1864 - Deaths

“On the 16th inst, in the 33rd year of her age, Emma, wife of Mr. *James Jenks*, grocer and beer retailer, Great Croft Street, and eldest daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Golcher.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/1/1865 - Advert

“Wanted by a young Widower, with no family, a respectable Person as Housekeeper. She will be required to attend to the Books and Grocer's Shop. Servant kept.

Apply to Mr. *Jenks*, ANCHOR INN, Croft Street, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/1/1865 - Advert

“Wanted a Servant of All Work.

Apply personally to Mr. *J. Jenks*, ANCHOR INN, Great Croft Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/2/1865

“Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, before Mr. Isaac Spooner, stipendiary, a publican named *James Jenks*, residing in Blakemore Lane, Darlaston, was charged with cruelly using dogs by causing them to fight.

Police-constable S. Lynar said on Tuesday evening, the 24th January, he was on duty in Blakemore Lane when his attention was called to a dog fight. He proceeded to *Jenks's* house, and on going into the kitchen, he found the defendant and another man named Foster with a dog each in their hands. The dogs rushed at each other, and he observed them fight about a minute, while he made exertions to separate them. They were large black animals. They ‘cried’ much, and blood flowed from one of their mouths.

Witness, in reply to Mr. Ebsworth, who appeared for the defence, said he could not tell if the dogs were mere retrievers – animals of a currish nature. Mr. Ebsworth produced a large black dog, and setting it before witness, asked him if he recognized it. Witness could not, he was no judge of dogs, but the one produced was certainly like the two he saw fight, as they were big black ones (laughter).

Mr. Ebsworth said if ever there was a case in which the Act of Parliament was turned from its proper meaning, the present case was that one. The facts of the case were simply these. A man named Foster saw an advertisement in the Birmingham daily papers describing a large black dog which had been lost. He had found a dog of the description, and on the evening of the 24th of January he brought the dog to Mr. *Jenks* for his opinion as to the identity of the animal. Mr. *Jenks* had another dog, and they had begun to fight.

Witnesses were called to support this version of the affair; but Mr. Spooner said he could not trust their evidence. One was an accomplice – a person named Wilks, and the other, a female, was also interested. He could not credit Foster's evidence, and this being so, and remembering that it was a very bad offence to set dogs to fight in a public house, he had decided to inflict a fine of 10s.

Mr. Ebsworth said he would much rather his Worship would inflict a fine of £1 in order that his client might appeal. Mr. Spooner said he had inflicted a fine which he believed a sum commensurate with the nature of the offence. It was not a bad case of dog fighting.

Mr. Ebsworth: It is my duty to ask that we may appeal.

Mr. Spooner: I shan't go out of my way; as I have said, I have inflicted what I think to be a proper fine. The money was paid.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1865

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, the persons named below were, on the information of Mr.

W. Hullett, fined in the sums stated, with 14s costs, in each instance, for having in their possession defective scales or weights.....

James Jenks, grocer, Great Croft Street, 5s.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/9/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a Servant Of All Work, for a Public House, about 20 years of age.

Apply to *James Jenks*, ANCHOR INN, Blakemoors Lane, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/12/1865

“Amos Baggott and Sam Nash (both of Darlaston). This match at catch weight, for £10 a side, is going on. They contend on Jan 2, and toss for choice of place at the final deposit. £5 a side is down, and a further deposit has to be made this (Saturday) evening at *Jinks's*, ANCHOR INN, Darlaston. Nash is training under Joe Wareham at the Odd Fellows Arms, Manchester Street, Birmingham, and Baggott under George Holden at Walsall.”

AND

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/12/1865

“Sam Nash and A. Baggott. These district men make their final deposit good this evening at Askew's, the FOX INN, Darlaston Green, when they will toss for choice of place of meeting. The affair comes off on Tuesday next at catch weight, for £10 a side. Nash is training at Joe Wareham's, the Odd Fellows Arms, Manchester Street, Birmingham; Baggott at G. Holden's, the MALT SHOVEL, Walsall, where the whereabouts can be known; as well as at *Jinks's*, the ANCHOR INN, Darlaston.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/1/1866

“Spirited Fight, Yesterday, in the Birmingham Ring.

Amos Baggott and Sam Nash, of Darlaston, at catch weight, for twenty sovs.

The match to contend for the above stake, which was fixed for Tuesday last, was unavoidably postponed until yesterday, owing to two causes – the presence of the police, and the absence of a referee to suit the contending parties.

On the former day they met at a place called Bicknell's Farm, some mile and a half from Penkridge, Staffordshire, and a ring was formed at 9.15am, the articles specifying that the men should be therein between 8 and 10. Baggott here threw in his cap to do battle, but Nash did not strip, and before long the police came up prepared to resist any breach of the peace by swearing in several able-bodied men. In this position of affairs, a retrograde movement was rendered a necessity, and a second meeting obtained at the Spread Eagle, near the Four Ashes, in the Wolverhampton district. Here upwards of an hour was cut to waste in the fruitless attempt to select a referee, and at length, seeing no chance of any satisfactory settlement of the vexed question, the parties had the mortification of returning homewards without a fight. A meeting was convened for the evening, at eight o'clock, at the stakeholder's, Mr. Pritchett, BELL INN, Darlaston, where a fixture was made for yesterday morning, at Bassett Pole, near Sutton Coldfield, a proviso being made that the man absent at nine o'clock should forfeit the stakes. Accordingly at 9.5am the men were stripped, and ready for action.

The first bout was distinguished by some very fast fighting in round-arm style at long range, the science exhibited being anything but a first-class display.

In the second bout Nash obtained first blood from a fine shot on the back of the ear, which brought on some merry ding-dong work to a close, and in the scramble that ensued, Baggott was undermost.

Baggott took an ample revenge in their next meeting by dropping his right weapon on his opponent's nose with crashing effect, drawing the vital stream plentifully.

From this point some capital long-shots followed, the fortunes of war hovering betwixt the pair, Baggott showing much aptitude in getting out of danger. At one time the affair seemed over, in favour of Nash, who fought in a most determined manner. Want of condition, however (for which he alone is blameable), prevented his taking advantage of the lead he had obtained, and in the 31st bout, one of Baggott's seconds, who should have known better, struck Nash a heavy blow on the jaw, which tended not a little to bring the affair to a finale. Nash's second retaliated, and a general melée ensued, most discreditable to all parties concerned. Baggott, from this, took a commanding lead, and in the 44th meeting paid a visit to his opponent's jaw,

throwing all his force into the undertaking. This was a settler for Nash, who went down very weak, and his second, finding him in a state of insensibility, at once gave in for him, after contending 44 rounds in an hour and two minutes.

Baggott is 23 years of age, and stands 5ft 8in in altitude, having defeated M. Millington, an old Walsall pugilist; and, more recently, been matched with Humpage, of Darlaston, which, however, ended in smoke. Nash is 28 years of age, 5ft 5in, and has contended in some three or four rough-and-ready engagements. Both men weigh over 10 stone.”

Sporting Life 13/1/1866

“The late fight between Baggott and Nash.

To the Editor of the Sporting Life.

Sir, In your impression of Saturday last, you reported the disgraceful proceedings which took place at the above fight, but you did not hold up to censure the real culprit. Now, as I think it is only just that the onus should rest on the right shoulders, I, as an eye-witness, furnish you with the facts of the case, and trust to your love of fair play to give insertion to the same. In the thirty-first round – and when Nash, who at the time held a decided lead, and by a terrific blow had nearly settled his opponent – George Holden, of Walsall, who was acting as second to Baggott, in the most unprovoked and cowardly manner, struck Nash a severe blow on the jaw, at a time when victory certainly appeared in his grasp, and to this blow mainly must be attributed his defeat. Again, begging your insertion of the above in vindication of fair play, to which I know your columns are at all times open.

I am, Sir, yours, &c, *James Jinks*, ANCHOR, Croft Street, Darlaston.”

AND

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/1/1866

“Baggott and Nash. Mr. *Jinks* of the ANCHOR INN, Darlaston, informs us that the person who struck Nash in this encounter was Young George Holden of Walsall, who was acting as second to Baggott. If this be the case we caution Mr. Holden as to his future conduct. We shall have our eye upon him, and unless he is very careful he will surely come to grief.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/1/1866

“Sam Nash of Darlaston intends taking a sparring benefit on Monday, Jan 29, in the large tent now erected near Mr. *J. Jenks*'s, CROWN AND ANCHOR, Great Croft Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/9/1866 - Advert

“Wanted, a Servant Girl-Of-All-Work. Washing put out. No Children.
Apply, Mr. *James Jenks*, ANCHOR INN, Great Croft Street. Darlaston.”

ANCHOR

14a, (14), Station Street / 1, Bills Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

James Horton [1870]

F. W. Cotterill Ltd, Atlas Works, Darlaston

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd. (leased)

Atkinsons Ltd. [1932]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Horton [1868] – [1881]
William Lester [1887] – [1898]
George Simmonds [1901] – [1903]
Arthur Fieldhouse [1904] – [1913]
Wilfred Taylor [1919] – **1922**);
Edwin Jones (**1922 – 1932**);
John Patrick Walsh (**1932 – 1934**);
Florence Lilian (Walsh) Curnan (**1934 – 1939**);
James Edwin Whittle (**1939 – 1959**);
William Adolphus Stubbs (**1959 – 1960**);
Stanley Hughes (**1960 – 1963**);
Dennis Harper (**1963 – 1964**);
Edwin Lloyd Snr. (**1964 – 1966**);
Edwin Lloyd Jnr. (**1966 – [1967]**)

NOTES

1, Bills Street [1871]
14, Station Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1904], [1911], [1912], [1918]
14a, Station Street [1932], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

James Horton, beer retailer, Station Street. [1868], [1870], [1872]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions at West Bromwich.....

The applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

Mr. Slater applied on behalf of *James Horton*, ANCHOR. Mr. Ebsworth opposed on behalf of the proprietor of the VINE INN. Refused.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Meeting at West Bromwich.....

New applications *James Horton*, ANCHOR INN, Station Street. The house was applicant’s own property, and 272 yards from the nearest licensed house. Mr. Slater supported the applicant, and Mr. Ebsworth opposed on behalf of the landlords of the VINE and FOUNTAIN near, and pointed out that in Tipton the applicant had been convicted twice. Refused.”

1871 Census

1, Bills Street – ANCHOR

- [1] *James Horton* (40), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Elizabeth Horton (38), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Thomas S. Horton (4), visitor, miner’s son, born Darlaston;
- [4] Ann M. Cresswell (14), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

1881 Census

14, Station Street – ANCHOR INN

- [1] *James Horton* (48), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Elizabeth Horton (46), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Thomas Horton (14), son, carpenter’s apprentice, born Darlaston;
- [4] Mary A. Harper (16), niece, general servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/9/1887

“Yesterday Mr. Hooper (district coroner) resumed an inquest at the ANCHOR INN, Darlaston, on the body of Harriet Price (59), wife of William Price, engineer, Tilley Street, in that town.

When the inquiry was opened last week, her son, by a former husband, deposed that she had complained to him that her husband had ill-treated her to such an extent that she feared she should not get over it, and in consequence of that and other statements, the inquest was adjourned.

Dr. V. J. Magraine deposed that he saw the deceased at his surgery on the 20th of August, when she made a rambling statement to the effect that she had been assaulted, but she did not say by whom, and that she was suffering from a severe pain in her right side. From what she told him he suspected that a rib was fractured, but on examining her he could not satisfy himself that she was so injured. He treated her for fracture, however, and told her that if she had been assaulted she ought to apply to the police. A few days later he was sent for to her house, and he found her suffering from pains all over the abdomen. He attended her until the 3rd inst, when she died, and he gave a certificate that death had resulted from peritonitis.

The Coroner: Did you think that was a right thing to do after her statement? – Witness: Well, I did not know what to do at the time.

The Coroner: But you now see that it was an error of judgement? – Witness: I do.

Afterwards other information came to him, and he gave the deceased’s son a note to the police. On the 7th inst, by the Coroner’s instructions, he made a post mortem examination of the body in the presence of Dr. Sydney Partridge. The liver was large and congested, the stomach was healthy, and the heart was flabby and thin. There were clots in the left ventricle, and chalky deposits in the aorta, and the sixth rib on the right hand side was fractured, the fracture having been caused within twenty-one days. The immediate cause of death was peritonitis, but he was not prepared to swear that it was caused by violence; it might have been brought about by other causes – cold, for instance. The deceased was not a temperate woman, and had she taken cold she would have been more liable to peritonitis than a temperate woman.

Neither the son nor the husband had any questions to put; but the former called Charlotte Bowker, a neighbour, who deposed that she attended the deceased in her last illness, and saw a green mark on her left side, as if a bruise was dying out. The deceased, in explanation of it, said her husband had been ill-treating her, and had kicked her there on Wake Tuesday.

Police-sergeant Curtis said he had made very particular enquiries, but had been unable to find anyone who had seen the deceased’s husband ill-treat her. The husband’s character was very good, but the deceased was a drunken woman, and bore a bad character in the district where she lived.

The jury, after deliberating some little time in private, returned the verdict that death had resulted from peritonitis, but whether caused by violence or natural causes there was no evidence to show. They added an expression to the effect that, taking into account the deceased’s drunken habits, they thought the injuries might have been self-inflicted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/9/1887

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the ANCHOR INN, Darlaston, on the body of Fanny Lester (31), wife of *William Lester*, the keeper of the house. The latter stated that on the afternoon of Monday, the 5th inst, his wife left home in a pony trap to collect money, and some time after he was sent for to the house of Mr. George, butcher, where he found his wife in an unconscious state. He had her taken home, where she remained in an unconscious state till Sunday, when she died. She had been accustomed to drive the pony, which was a quiet animal.

Charles Bishop, draper, Church Street, said that at about half-past four o’clock on the 5th he saw the deceased driving a pony and trap along New Street, at the rate of ten or twelve miles an hour. He was about to call to her to drive more cautiously round the corner, but before he could do so she pulled the left rein, and in turning into Church Street the near wheel of the trap rose up from the ground, and after the vehicle had run on a few yards on the off wheel, it turned over, and the deceased fell upon the pavement and was stunned. In his opinion the accident was due to the reckless driving of the deceased.

Verdict, Accidental Death.”

William Lester (34), widower, married Isabella Jane Johnson (30), spinster, on 5th February 1888.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/12/1888 - Advert

“General Servant (good), at once; quick and good washer.
ANCHOR INN, Station Street, Darlaston.”

1891 Census

14, Station Street – ANCHOR INN

- [1] *William Lester* (36), beerhouse keeper, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Isabella J. Lester* (34), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *William Lester* (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Arthur Lester* (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Lily Lester* (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Frederick Lester* (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Edith E. Lester* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Sarah A. Guest* (18), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Walsall Advertiser 22/1/1898

“At Darlaston Police Court, on Monday, a stylishly-dressed young woman, named *Mary Jane Marlow* (22), married, of 29, Bath Street, Walsall, was placed in the dock on a charge of (1) obtaining two pairs of boots by false pretences from *Mary Chapman*, of 12, Whitton Street, Darlaston, (2) obtaining a gold wedding ring, the property of *Samuel Edwards*, jeweller, King Street, Darlaston, by false pretences, and (3) of obtaining two dress pieces, the property of *Edward Firman*, of Walsall Road, Darlaston, by false pretences. *Mr. A. J. Glover*, of Wednesbury, defended.

It appeared that on November 29 last the prisoner went to the shop of *Mr. Chapman*, and informed *Mr. and Mrs. Chapman* that she was the sister of *Mrs. Lester*, of the ANCHOR INN, Station Street, and had come to stay with her sister for a few days. She chose two pairs of boots, and asked to be allowed to take them, and she would select and keep the pair she wanted and return the other. The prisoner never returned to the shop, but pawned the boots in Darlaston.

Mrs. Lester said the prisoner was not her sister, and she did not know her, neither had the prisoner ever stayed at her house.

In the charge of obtaining the ring, *Mrs. Edwards* said that the prisoner came to her husband’s shop, and asked to see some rings. Prisoner said the ring she wanted was not for herself, but for *Miss Holt* at the butcher’s shop. She asked to be allowed to take a ring for *Miss Holt* to try on, and witness allowed her to take one, but the prisoner did not return. Witness identified a ring produced as the missing one by the scratches upon it, its size, weight, and the initials, *H. A.*, of the maker.

Mr. Glover urged that the witness was mistaken as to the identity of the ring.

Harriet Holt, single woman, of 74, Walsall Road, Darlaston, said that she had assisted at a butcher’s shop kept by her brother, but had never authorised the prisoner to purchase a ring for her.

Prisoner was committed for trial at Stafford Sessions on both these charges.

The third charge of obtaining the dress pieces fell through and was dismissed.

The magistrates decided to allow bail, the prisoner in £50 and two sureties in £25 each.”

AND

Walsall Observer 5/3/1898

“At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions yesterday before *Lord Hatherton*, the following cases were tried.....

Mary Jane Marlow, a well-dressed young married woman, of Walsall, pleaded guilty to obtaining by false pretences, at Darlaston, two pairs of boots from *Daniel Chapman*, with intent to defraud. She also pleaded guilty to obtaining by false pretences from *Alfred Edwards*, at Darlaston, a gold wedding ring, with intent to defraud.

Lord Hatherton said the prisoner was now undergoing imprisonment for another offence, and the present sentence would be one month’s hard labour, to run concurrently with her former sentence, so that at the end of her sentence of six months’ imprisonment she would be discharged.

Prisoner asked the chairman if he would kindly allow her to take her baby, aged ten weeks, with her.

Lord Hatherton told her to make her application to the Visiting Justices of the prison.

It was stated that the baby was at present at Walsall.”

1901 Census

14, Station Street – ANCHOR INN

[1] *George Simmonds* (25), coal merchant and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Nellie Simmonds* (23), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Eliza Thompson* (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston;

[4] *Emily Knight* (13), adopted daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted of drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

ANCHOR INN, Station Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Tipton Herald 23/5/1903

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, *George Simmonds*, landlord of the ANCHOR INN, Station Street, Darlaston, was charged with selling intoxicating liquors to a drunken person on the 27th April. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted, and Mr. Willcock defended.

The evidence showed that about 2.20 on the afternoon of April 27 Police Constable Marshall met a man named William Whitehouse coming away from the ANCHOR INN staggering and in a drunken condition. He was carrying a jug containing ale. The constable spoke to the man, and took him back to the house, where he returned the drink and received the money he paid for it in exchange.

Mr. Willcock, for the defence, submitted that when Whitehouse entered the house he showed no signs of drunkenness whatever, and he urged that it was a case that might be met by the payment of costs.

The man Whitehouse was called, and said he did not have anything to drink in the defendant’s house. Defendant was fined 10s and costs, in all £3 2s 6d, but the Bench expressed the opinion that the offence was not a serious one, and did not call for any other punishment at the hands of his employers. They also hoped the retention of the defendant in the house would not in any way influence the Licensing Committee when the matter came before them.

The man Whitehouse who had not been before the Court for 21 years, was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Arthur Fieldhouse, beer retailer, 14, Station Street. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

14, Station Street – ANCHOR

[1] *Arthur Fieldhouse* (38), beerhouse keeper and brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] Rosehannah Fieldhouse (37), wife, married 13 years, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah Alexandra (24), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

1913 Probate

“*Arthur Fieldhouse*, of the ANCHOR INN, Station Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 25 August 1913. Probate Lichfield 24 October to Samuel Butler, bolt forger, and William Tolley, licensed victualler. Effects £2,316 2s 2d.”

[William Tolley was licensee of the VINE, Station Street, James Bridge.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1918

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1917 was as follows.....

An application was made to the committee for approval to the provisional grant by the justices of Wednesbury Division for the removal of the license of the ANCHOR INN, beerhouse, 14, Station Street, Darlaston, to new premises to be erected a short distance away, it being stated that the old premises were required to provide rest rooms for female workers at the Atlas Works adjoining. After consideration and communication with the Ministry of Munitions, it was decided to confirm the grant, subject to certain alterations being made in the plans.”

South Staffordshire Times 7/2/1920

“Darlaston Police Court.....

At the adjourned licensing sessions on the 7th March, a provisional order was granted for the removal of the license of the ANCHOR beerhouse, Station Street, to premises proposed to be built on the land in Station Street, a short distance away. The new proposed beerhouse is in course of construction, and for the present business is being carried on at the old premises.”

A Final Order of Removal of the license to new premises erected in Station Street, was granted on 3rd March 1920.

Walsall Observer 2/1/1932

“Applying at the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday for a temporary authority for *John Patrick Walsh*, for the ANCHOR INN, Station Street, Darlaston, belonging to Messrs. Atkinson, Mr. E. E. Brown (solicitor) said the license was in the name of *Edwin Jones*, who, it was alleged, left the house on December 21, without notice to the brewery company, and since then his whereabouts were unknown. ‘There was held at the house,’ added Mr. Brown, ‘a death and dividend club and there was due for division on Christmas Eve a substantial sum of money which the members found to their astonishment, regret and remorse, was not forthcoming.’ *Walsh* said he took possession of the ANCHOR INN on Wednesday, December 23.

In reply to the Chairman (Mr. A. E. Horton) who asked if the police had any objection, Police-inspector Heath said, ‘No, sir, the man *Jones* has gone.’ The application was granted.”

Rugeley Times 17/3/1934 - Deaths

“On March 4th, *John Patrick Walsh*, the ANCHOR INN, Station Street, Darlaston, aged 41 years.”

A wine license was granted and confirmed on 27th April 1937.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1937

“County justices attending a meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Confirmation Committee at the Shire-hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, had to deal with the heaviest agenda for many years, and it was found impossible to get through the whole of the business in the day. There were no fewer than 36 applications for the confirmation of either provisional licenses or removal orders.....

Application was made for confirmation of the granting of wine licenses to the following beerhouses.....

ANCHOR INN, Station Street, Darlaston.....

After hearing evidence by the individual applicants the justices retired, and on their return the Chairman said they had given careful consideration to the applications. It would be appreciated that it was their duty to see that the public were protected to a certain extent. They wished to give all the accommodation, comfort and satisfaction that they could, but at the same time they had to bear in mind their responsibility as a licensing authority. In some of the cases they felt the evidence showed the application was much more justifiable than in others, but they had decided that in all the cases there was sufficient evidence to justify the granting of the application. The licenses would, therefore, be confirmed in every case.”

Florence Lilian Walsh married Hugh John Curnan on 19th August 1939.

Florence Lilian Curnan = Florence Lilian Curran

James Edwin Whittle = James Edward Whittle

Walsall Observer 23/9/1939

“Lighting Restriction Regulations.....

Superintendent Hall stated, ‘Licensees who have to open their premises and show many lights inside must see that all their lights are properly shaded and windows and doors adequately protected so that light will not show on to the streets. I have no alternative but to ask that these cases be dealt with in a rather severe manner. Licensees must see that their premises are in order and the regulations must be rigidly enforced.’

James Edward Whittle of the ANCHOR INN, Station Street, Darlaston, who pleaded guilty was fined £2, evidence in this case being that light shone through two lounge windows and a beam of light was visible from a door as people were entering or leaving. The blinds and brown paper on the windows did not prevent the light escaping. When his attention was called to the matter *Whittle* was stated to have said, ‘I am sorry. I did not know they were so bad.’ *Whittle* told the magistrates he did the best he could in the circumstances. ‘You know the difficulties of getting materials,’ he said, ‘and having so many windows and doors to do. It has been rather a problem. We had the blinds at the time but could not get the fittings to put them up. We have since taken steps to put matters in order.’ It was stated that *Whittle* had been given a fair opportunity of putting matters right without a prosecution, having been previously warned.”

1939 Register

Station Street – ANCHOR INN

[1] *James E. Whittle*, date of birth 21/5/1892, warehouseman, married;

[2] Mildred Whittle, dob 20/6/1892, public house manageress, licensed, married;

[3] Frank L. Whittle, dob 12/6/1917, engineering storekeeper, single;

[4] James E. Whittle, dob 27/7/1925, upsetter, (motor forging), single:

Walsall Observer 31/1/1942

“An entertainment at the ANCHOR INN, Station Street, Darlaston, on Monday, on behalf of Mr. E. Hinchcliffe’s home for bombed-out babies and evacuees attracted a large attendance and a collection realised £8. Mr. Hinchcliffe, who was present with two of the nurses on his staff and Mr. W. Smith, Chairman of the Home, gave a short address on the good work that is being done on behalf of some 400 children from the Poplar district of London. An enjoyable programme was provided by Larry Wolverson (conjurer), Alex Airston (ventriloquist), Fred Carey (mimic), Billy Bull (comedy conjurer), Jack Lawley, the Whitehouse Sisters (vocalists and dancers) and Alex Tinkler (pianist).”

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1950.

Rugeley Times 8/8/1959 - Advert

“Carriage for sale, apply *J. E. Whittle*, the ANCHOR, Station Street, Darlaston.”

Stanley Hughes was fined £3 5s 0d and costs, on 7th July 1961, for selling intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours.

[1985]

Closed

Demolished [2007]

ANCIENT BRITON

41, Pinfold Street, The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1895]

LICENSEES

John Rolfe [1868] – **1870**);

James Hall (**1870** – [1871]

George Hall [1871] – [1871]

David Thornton []

Job Slater [1879]

William Harper [1880] – [1881]

William Horton [1891] – **1895**);

William Tristram Downing (**1895**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

John Rolfe, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/2/1870 - Advert

“To be Let, the ANCIENT BRITON INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, doing a fair trade. Valuation only required, the Proprietor having entered into engagements which compel him to give up the Public Business. Apply on the Premises; or to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1870 - Advert

“To be Let, the ANCIENT BRITON INN, Darlaston. It is a snug house, doing a fair business, and only disposed of in consequence of the present proprietor having entered into engagements at a distance. Apply to R. L. Courtney, High Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/3/1871

“*George Hall*, proprietor of the ANCIENT BRITON beerhouse, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, was summoned for an offence against his license. On the night of Tuesday, the 21st inst, a little past eleven o’clock, Police-sergeant Price noticed some persons go out of the defendant’s house to the back premises; and the officer himself, going to an adjoining yard, saw a man there, who walked away on his appearance. The officer remained for a minute or two, when a can from the ANCIENT BRITON was handed over the wall to the very ‘ancient’ Briton on the other side, with the whisper, ‘Here it is; where are you?’ The policeman received the can, and inquired what it contained; and the reply was, ‘Half a gallon of ale.’ To clear up any doubt that might have been entertained by the landlord, the sergeant told him he had made a mistake that time; that he had given the ale to the wrong person. The landlord, on looking, at once saw how correct was the statement. He hoped, however, Price would say nothing about the matter. The Magistrates inflicted a fine of £1 and costs, the defendant’s license to be endorsed as well.”

1871 Census

Pinfold Street – ANCIENT BRITON

- [1] *James Hall* (54), beer retailer and milk dealer, born Bilston;
- [2] Ann Hall (53), wife, born Great Bridge;
- [3] William Hall (25), son, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Corns (16), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1877

“West Bromwich Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following reports as to the convictions of publicans during last year were made by Superintendents Woollaston and Holland, for the police divisions of West Bromwich and Wednesbury.....

David Thornton, ANCIENT BRITON, allowing gambling, to pay costs.....

All the old licenses were then renewed with the exception of those whose holders had been convicted in a penalty of 20s and upwards. The latter were adjourned until 26th September.”

1881 Census

41, Pinfold Street – ANCIENT BRITON

- [1] *William Harper* (40), beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah J. Harper (32), wife, born Caldmore [Walsall];
- [3] Emily J. Davies (15), domestic servant, born Knighton:

Wednesbury Herald 4/2/1882

“James Hood, general dealer, Oak Street, West Bromwich, was charged with refusing to quit the ANCIENT BRITON INN, The Green, Darlaston. Mr. Green of Darlaston appeared to prosecute and Mr. Sheldon appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Green said the defendant went into complainant’s house, and created a disturbance, and upon being requested to leave the house he struck the complainant. A severe struggle followed, during which defendant was rather seriously injured.

A number of witnesses having supported Mr. Green’s statement. Mr. Sheldon said his client was badly assaulted by the complainant and two other men, and required a surgeon’s certificate showing that defendant sustained various injuries, consequently he thought that the case might be dismissed.

The Bench fined defendant 5s and costs.”

William Horton = William Morton = William Orton

1891 Census

41, Pinfold Street – ANCIENT BRITON

- [1] *William Horton* (35), boiler maker and publican, born Princes End;
- [2] Livinia Horton (38), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Betsy Horton (16), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Harriet Horton (15), daughter, born Darlaston;

- [5] Willie Horton (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Louisa Horton (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Edward Horton (4), son, born Darlaston;
- [8] Henry Horton (2 months), son, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/10/1893

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, John Wilkes was charged with stealing 5s from the till of *William Morton*, the ANCIENT BRITON beerhouse, Pinfold Street. On the 15th inst he was in the prosecutor’s house, and was seen to be tampering with the till. When the money was examined it was discovered that 5s had disappeared. The accused was fined 20s and costs, or twenty-one days’ imprisonment, with hard labour.”

Wednesbury Herald 7/9/1895

“At Wednesbury County Police Court on Monday, before the Stipendiary (Mr. N. C. A. Neville), *William Horton*, landlord of the ANCIENT BRITON beerhouse, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, was charged with selling during prohibited hours on Sunday morning, July 31st.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the police. Mr. R. A. Willcock defended, and Mr. C. N. Wright represented Messrs. W. Butler and Co, owners of the house.

Mr. Sharpe, in opening, stated that in consequence of complaints received, two police officers concealed themselves at 3.45 on the morning named in premises situated at the back of the ANCIENT BRITON.

About nine o’clock a very steady trade seems to have commenced. At the back of the premises there was a private house occupied by a man named George Page. About forty men and a number of women were seen at different times between 9 o’clock and 10.50 to go to Page’s house, and *Horton* was observed to make several journeys between his house and Page’s carrying each time something bulky in his pockets and always looking round to see that the coast was clear. At ten minutes to eleven the police thought it was time to be moving and they made a rush for Page’s house. They had some difficulty in getting through the door and inside there was great confusion. Defendant was there. He had a bottle of ale in his possession. Several others were also present including a man named Banks who also had a bottle of ale in his hand. When Banks saw the police he threw down sixpence on the table, clutched his bottle, and ran out. On the table were a jug and a glass, both containing freshly drawn beer.

When the officers asked *Horton* for an explanation of his conduct he said, ‘Good God, don’t say anything about it,’ and made a suggestion that the officers accept a bribe. He offered them a pound apiece and subsequently said he would make it two pounds. On proceeding to *Horton*’s house to examine the taps they were resisted by defendant and his daughter, but eventually effected their purpose, finding that all the taps were dripping.

PCs Green and Bott bore out this statement, adding that defendant’s daughter went to Page’s house two or three times carrying something under her apron. Replying to Mr. Willcock they denied that *Horton* explained his presence in Page’s house by stating that he was going pigeon flying with him and had the beer in his pocket for his own refreshment.

John Reynolds, of 23, Station Street, was called for the defence and stated that Banks was not in the house when the police came. He saw a drop of beer but did not see anybody drink nor any money pass. *Horton* had a bottle of beer in his pocket, but did not produce it. Mr. Sharpe put in a signed statement by this witness which varied from his present evidence and bore out much of the police evidence.

John Banks, 42, Pinfold Street, said he had been in Page’s house that morning, but had left before the police came. When there he had nothing to drink.

George Page denied that any beer was supplied in his house, and accounted for *Horton*’s presence by saying that they were going a walk together.

During the hearing of the case Mr. Willcock two or three times conferred in private with the defendant. At the close he said he hoped he would never throw doubt on police evidence, unless he had strong instructions behind him. The witness Reynolds had given evidence fairly bearing out what he (Mr. Willcock) was given to understand he would say, otherwise he should have withdrawn from the case.

The Stipendiary said it was as bad a case of selling during prohibited hours as there could be. The evidence of the policemen was given very clearly. It was based up by the witness Reynolds, and also to some extent

by the witnesses called for the defence, nine tenths of whose words were lies. He would be fined £10 and costs. There would be no endorsement of the license this time. The total penalty amounted to £14 8s 6d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1895

“At the Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. A. Elwell and J. Nayler – Mr. R. A. Willcock, Wolverhampton, on behalf of Messrs. Butler, Wolverhampton, applied for the temporary transfer of the license of the ANCIENT BRITON INN, Pinfold Street, from *William Orton* (who last week was fined £10 and costs for Sunday trading) to *William Downing*. The transfer was granted, the magistrates intimating that the question of the renewal of the license would be dealt with at the adjourned licensing session.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/9/1895

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Wednesbury County Division.

Mr. R. A. Willcock applied for the license of the ANCIENT BRITON INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, to be transferred from *William Horton* to *William T. Downing*. Superintendent Salt objected on the ground that *Horton* had been fined for selling during prohibited hours. In reply to Mr. Willcock, Superintendent Salt said he had nothing to say against *Downing*. Witnesses were afterwards called who stated that during the last two years it had been discovered that the house had been frequently visited by persons of low repute, and that disorderly proceedings had been allowed. Mr. Willcock objected to the evidence, but the Bench ruled that it was in order. Mr. Willcock submitted that the objections did not come within the meaning of the Act. *Horton*, who had broken the law, had left the premises, and *Downing*, whose character was good, had been accepted as the new tenant. The Bench decided not to renew the license.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1895

“The adjourned licensing session for the parishes of Darlaston and Tipton took place at Wednesbury yesterday.

The police objected to the renewal of licenses to the following persons.

William Horton, ANCIENT BRITON beerhouse, Pinfold Street, Darlaston. The application of *Horton* would be refused, the ground of objection being that the house was of a disorderly character. Notice of appeal given.”

Wednesbury Herald 7/12/1895

“At the Staffordshire adjourned Quarter Sessions on Friday, before Lord Hatherton, an appeal was lodged against the decision of the Wednesbury county magistrates not to renew the license of the ANCIENT BRITON, Darlaston, to *William Downing*. It was sought to prove that the house was habitually a disorderly one, and it was pointed out that a former tenant had been fined £10 and costs by the Stipendiary. The Court dismissed the appeal with costs.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/11/1895

“*William T. Downing*, tenant of the ANCIENT BRITON INN, Wednesbury, appealed against the decision of the Wednesbury district justices in refusing to renew the license of the house to him. Mr. Disturnal appeared for the respondents, and Mr. A. Young and Mr. Plumptre appeared for the appellant.

Mr. Disturnal stated that the license was refused on the usual ground, that the house was a disorderly one. The former tenant of the house, a man named *Horton*, was fined £10 and costs by the Stipendiary in July, for selling drink during prohibited hours. He did not deny that *Downing*, the present tenant, was a man of good character; but it was clearly pointed out to him when the temporary license was granted that the license might be refused at the Brewster Sessions.

Mr. Young addressed the Court at some length, observing that there had only been one conviction against the house in eight years, and that *Downing* was a respectable man, who was conducting the house in a proper manner.

The Court dismissed the appeal, with costs.”

ANGEL

Cock Heath, Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Simkin [1834] – [1851]

David Lowe [] – **1864**)

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1841 Census

Cock Heath

- [1] *James Simkin* (45), miner, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Phoebe Simkin* (47), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *James Simkin* (19), painter, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *William Simkin* (16), puddler, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Sarah Edwards* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Cock Heath

- [1] *James Simkin* (59), licensed brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Pheobe Simkin* (59), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Simkin* (24), son, miner, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Sarah Brown* (17), servant, born Walsall:

James Simkin died on 16th September 1854.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1863 - Advert

“To be Let, the ANGEL INN, Moxley, near Bilston. The House is surrounded by Ironworks. Rent and In-coming low.

For particulars apply on the Premises.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/3/1865 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

David Lowe, formerly of the ANGEL INN, Moxley, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper and Iron Roller, and now of Douglas Street, Litchurch, in the county of Derby, Iron Roller, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 6th day of February, 1865, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Henry Weller, Registrar of the County Court of Derbyshire, holden at Derby, at the first meeting of Creditors to be held on the 14th day of March, 1865, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the County Hall, in Derby.

Jeremiah Briggs is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

At the meeting the Registrar will receive the proofs of the debts of the creditors, and the creditors may choose an assignee or assignees of the Bankrupt’s estate and effects.

All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the said Bankrupt must deliver them to the Registrar, and all debts due to the Bankrupt must be paid to the Registrar.

Geo. H. Weller, Registrar.”

Derby Mercury 22/3/1865

“County Court, Derby, March 14. Bankruptcy.....

In re *David Lowe* This was the first meeting of creditors herein.

Mr. J. B. Smith, on behalf of a creditor, examined the bankrupt as to his property, when it appeared that on leaving the public house, in October last, he sold his stock and furniture in trade, to the in-coming tenant, and with some part of the money paid some of his creditors, and expended the residue in removing to Derby. His liabilities amount to £253 13s 9d, and his assets, consisting of household furniture and book debts, to £37 14s 7d. No creditors’ assignee was chosen.

The Registrar passed the first examination, continued protection, and appointed the Court to be held on the 10th of April next, for the bankrupt’s last examination and application for discharge.”

Derby Mercury 19/4/1865

“In re *David Lowe*, of Litchurch, iron roller, and late of Moxley, Staffordshire, publican and iron roller.

This was the meeting for the bankrupt’s last examination and application for discharge. There was no opposition. The bankrupt’s debts were stated to amount to £253 13s 9d, and his assets, £34 14s 7d.

His Honour passes the examination and granted bankrupt an immediate order of discharge.”

BARLEY MOW

15, (16), (15+16), Cross Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Henry Woodhall

Highgate-Walsall Brewery Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1926)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939)

LICENSEES

John Howl [1861] – [1862]

Thomas William Harrison [1881] – [1882]

Henry Woodhall [1895] – **1926**;

Albert Austin Holmes (**1926 – 1927**);

James Harris (**1927**);

Bertram Newton (**1927 – 1928**);

Alfred Higginson (**1928 – 1936**);

Harry Skitt (**1936 – 1942**);

Mary Ann Minnie Skitt (**1942 – 1946**);

Harry Skitt (**1946 – 1960**);

Herbert Thomas Postle (**1960 – [1967]**)

NOTES

15+16, Cross Street [1881], [1901], [1911]

16, Cross Street [1904], [1912]

15, Cross Street [1939]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/3/1855

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

William Ford, aged 23, miner, was indicted for feloniously and maliciously shooting at Charles Kynaston, on the 31st of January, at Darlaston, with intent to murder him. Mr. Motteram was for the prosecution, and Mr. Kenealy for the prisoner.

The prosecutor was employed as usual working the forge bellows at Mr. Jones’s works, between four and five o’clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, on the 31st of January, when he saw a man come up to the window and point a gun at him. Prosecutor started back, and fell behind the fire. At that time the gun went off, and some shots were lodged in the back door of the shop, opposite the window. Prosecutor ran through the door and down the alley, at the end of which he saw two men, and asked them where the man was who had shot at him. They told him he had gone the other road. He started off that road, and met a man named Williams, who told him that the man who had shot at him was on the other side of the hedge. He went in that direction, when the man got up from the hedge, pointed the gun at him, and then went off, accompanied by the two men to whom prosecutor had spoken to in the first instance. Prosecutor said the prisoner was the man who shot at him. He knew him from having fought with him at Christmas. Prisoner was dressed in a long grey coat, with a cap on at the time.

The witness Williams said that the man who fired the gun was dressed in a drab coat.

Prisoner was apprehended on the 6th of February, at the BARLEY MOW, Darlaston.

For the defence the prisoner’s landlady, Ann Maddocks, and her son, John Maddocks, were called to prove an alibi, to the effect that on the day charged prisoner came home at three o’clock, lay down on the bench, being unwell, until half-past four o’clock, and went out to see a neighbour named Jones a few minutes before six o’clock. Mrs. Maddocks added that the prisoner had no such clothes as a long grey coat and a light cap.

Mr. Kenealy was about to call the two men who saw the shot fired to prove that the prisoner was not the person who fired it, when the Judge stopped the case, saying that there was no reason to disbelieve the evidence of Mrs. Maddocks, and directed an acquittal; and the prisoner was acquitted accordingly.”

1861 Census

Cross Street – BARLEY MOW

- [1] *John Howl* (38), stirrup maker and retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Rosanna Howl* (35), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Aston Howl* (14), son, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Mary Howl* (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Elizabeth Aston Howl* (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Sarah Maria Howl* (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Rosanna Howl* (3), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] *John Howl* (1), son, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Mary Ann Cooper* (20), general servant, born Darlaston:

John Howl, retailer of beer, Cross Street. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Post 27/7/1878 - Advert

“To Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the BARLEY MOW, Cross Street, Darlaston. Stock and fixtures at valuation. In-coming low.

Applications to be made by letter to Josephus Lilley, Accountant, Bell Street, Darlaston.”

1881 Census

15+16, Cross Street – BARLEY MOW

- [1] *Thomas W. Harrison* (41), retail brewer, born Walsall;
- [2] *Eliza Harrison* (39), wife, born Darlaston;

- [3] Sarah E. Harrison (17), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] John Harrison (67), father, widower, boot maker, born Polesworth, Warwickshire;
- [5] Samuel Harrison (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Thomas Harrison (6), son, scholar, born Willenhall;
- [7] John Harrison (5), son, born Willenhall;
- [8] Eliza Harrison (4), daughter, born Willenhall;
- [9] James Harrison (4 months), son, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 4/6/1881

“Are Innkeepers Abolished?”

At the Walsall County Court, on Thursday, before W. D. Griffiths, Esq. judge, a case which raised this question came on for hearing. The action was an interpleader by the executors of Mr. Henry Fincher in a case of *Uriah Holden v William Harrison*, the BARLEY MOW beerhouse, Darlaston, in which Mr. Hyde appeared for the executors, who claimed under a bill of sale, and Mr. Loxton for the execution creditor (Holden), who had seized *Harrison's* goods. The value of the goods had been paid into Court to abide the issue of the trial. The bill of sale – the bona fide nature of which was not questioned – was given to secure a debt for goods, and in it *Harrison* was described as ‘of the BARLEY MOW INN, Darlaston, innkeeper.’

In cross-examination *Harrison* said that he was a shoemaker, and occasionally worked at that trade. His father lived with him and assisted him, and they had a good name for the boots they made. He was not a victualler, but a beerhouse keeper.

Mr. Loxton argued that the bill of sale should have described *Harrison* as a beerhouse keeper and shoemaker, and not as an innkeeper. The term innkeeper was a technical term, as shown by *Calye's* case and other cases. Those showed that it meant a person who kept a public house where travellers could have all they required, and there could be no licenses granted to innkeepers except under the statute of George; whereas *Harrison's* license was under the Wine and Beerhouse Acts.

Several cases were cited, and the arguments were gone into at great length, both by Mr. Loxton and Mr. Hyde, and his Honour came to the decision that although technically an innkeeper, any person asking for *Harrison* by that title would have been directed to him, and it was therefore a generally fair and sufficient address. He decided in favour of the claimants; but would give a right of appeal as there was some doubt about it.”

London Gazette 7/6/1881

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditor, instituted by *Thomas William Harrison*, of the BARLEY MOW INN, Cross-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper, and Boot and Shoe Maker.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. George Vaughan, Solicitor, 18, Walsall-street, Willenhall, on the 24th day of June, 1881, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 3rd day of June, 1881.

George Vaughan, 18, Walsall-street, Willenhall, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Evening Star 20/6/1882

“At the Wednesbury Police Court this morning, before Messrs. G. Heaton and S. Stokes, *Thomas Harrison*, beerhouse keeper and grocer, Cross Street, Darlaston, was charged with illegally opening his house for the sale of beer on Sunday morning, the 4th inst, between the hours of eleven and twelve o'clock, also with allowing the purchases of intoxicating liquor to drink the same on the premises – without being duly licensed. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 40s and costs for selling during illegal hours, and £5 and costs for allowing liquor to be consumed on his premises without having a license so doing. The Bench ordered two endorsements to be made on his license.

The four men to whom liquor was illegally supplied were also summoned, and were fined in sums ranging from 1s to 2s 6d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1891

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Neville (stipendiary), Arthur Groves was charged with assaulting Francis Bickley, on Saturday night, in the BARLEY MOW INN, Cross Street, Darlaston. The evidence was to the effect that the defendant attacked the complainant without provocation in the house, and blackened his eyes. A fine of 40s and costs was imposed.”

Wednesbury Herald 2/3/1895

“Owing to the great distress which still prevails at Darlaston, Mr. *H. Woodhall*, of the BARLEY MOW INN, Cross Street, on Tuesday, distributed one large loaf of bread and a quarter of a hundredweight of coal each to two hundred persons.”

1901 Census

15+16, Cross Street – BARLEY MOW

- [1] *Henry Woodhall* (38), brewer, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Fanny Woodhall* (36), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ernest Woodhall* (15), son, core maker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Leonard Woodhall* (10), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Elsie Woodhall* (7), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Martha A. Trimmer* (16), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Tipton Herald 24/10/1903

“Before Messrs. A. E. Pritchard and G. S. Peake, at Darlaston Police Court on Monday morning, a case which presented several remarkable features was heard. *Henry Woodhall*, landlord of the BARLEY MOW INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and also supplying drink to a drunken person, on September 19th; and Joseph Warwick, a navvy, of 2 court Cramp Hill, was summoned for being drunk on licensed premises on the same day. Mr. J. Clark (West Bromwich) appeared to prosecute on behalf of the police, and Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) defended.

The case for the police was that at 8.10 on the night named PCs Smallman and Marshall went to the BARLEY MOW, and in the taproom, among about twenty other men, they found the defendant Warwick apparently asleep and breathing heavily. It was obvious that the man was drunk, and there was a jug of beer before him. The landlord, however, said, ‘He is not drunk, it is his way.’ Shortly afterwards the officer saw the man assisted from the house by two other men, and he was then staggering. Consequently the landlord and another man went to Warwick’s house and fetched him out and took him to Dr. Magrane’s surgery. It was admitted that Warwick walked in a flat-footed manner, but PC Smallman, who had known the man for five years, asserted that he was on this occasion staggering.

Evidence was given for the prosecution, PC Marshall causing some amusement by stating that ‘the man’s feet would not go where his body wanted.’

The defence was that the man had had an injury, which caused him to walk peculiarly, and that he was quite sober. The landlord had kept this house for five years without complaint, and the man Warwick had lived in Darlaston for eleven years, and had not been in the police court before. The landlord made no secret of the fact that he was taking the man to a doctor, and he invited PC Smallman to accompany him there.

Dr. Magrane gave evidence for the defence, and said the man was sober, and he (witness) was surprised to hear that proceedings were being taken. He did not think a drunken man could, while under observation, ‘pull himself together’ sufficiently to pass an examination. In his case he caused the man to place his legs together and shut his eyes, and he did not stagger, but underwent the test. A drunken man would, under such circumstances, always stagger.

The magistrates dismissed the case.”

Henry Woodhall, beer retailer, 16, Cross Street. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

15+16, Cross Street

- [1] *Henry Woodhall* (49), brewer, born West Bromwich;

[2] Fanny Woodhall (47), wife, married 26 years, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;

[3] Earnest Woodhall (25), son, assisting in brewery, born Wednesbury;

[4] Leonard Woodhall (19), son, plater's helper, born Darlaston;

[5] Elsie Woodhall (17), daughter, assisting in the business, born Darlaston:

Rugeley Times 29/7/1927 - Acknowledgements

"Mrs. Alice *Harris* and Daughter, the BARLEY MOW, Cross Street, Darlaston, desire to Thank their numerous Friends in Darlaston and Walsall, Neighbours and Dr. Oakey for sympathy and floral tributes in their sudden and sad bereavement."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/6/1933

"Draws for the second rounds of the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* lawn tennis competitions.....

Women's Competition T. M. *Higginson*, BARLEY MOW, Darlaston."

Walsall Observer 29/7/1939

"More than fifty licensed premises in Walsall and neighbouring place become Mitchells and Butlers houses this week as a result of the well-known Cape Hill brewery company's acquisition of the whole of the undertakings of the Highgate-Walsall Brewery Co. Ltd., and the Walsall Breweries Proprietary Ltd., and of all the licensed and certain un-licensed properties of Messrs. John Lord, brewers, of Short Acre.....

A list of the licensed premises that form part of the properties acquired by Mitchells and Butlers is as follows.....

John Lord's houses.....

Highgate houses.....

BARLEY MOW, Darlaston."

1939 Register

15, Cross Street – BARLEY MOW (2 of 3)

[1] *Harry Skitt*, date of birth 26/6/1901, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Mary A. M. Skitt*, dob 23/5/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield in 1939/40.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1950.

Walsall Observer 21/1/1966

"The wife of the licensee of a Darlaston public house described, at Darlaston Magistrates Court on Wednesday, how she was stuck over the head with a bottle of lemonade before her assailant stole a quantity of money from a glass behind the bar. Colin William Hawkins (21), of 137, Leighswood Road, Aldridge, was committed for trial at Staffordshire Assizes on a charge of robbery with violence.

Mr. E. Hiscox, prosecuting, said Mrs. Dora Rosina *Postle*, wife of the licensee of the BARLEY MOW public house, Cross Street, Darlaston, was alone in the bar on Monday afternoon, January 10, when Hawkins entered and asked for a drink and some cigarettes. Another customer entered soon after Hawkins, and the two stood talking for a short time. Hawkins then went into the yard at the rear and returned as Mrs. *Postle* was clearing up. He asked for a bottle of lemonade, and when Mrs. *Postle* had given him the bottle, turned to the till, she received a violent blow on the top of her head. Hawkins then pushed her and she fell to the floor, after which Hawkins took some money from a glass. Leaving the premises Hawkins was pursued by Mrs. *Postle*, and two men took the number of a car into which Hawkins jumped and drove off.

Dr. David Graham Reed, casualty officer at Walsall General Hospital, said Mrs. *Postle* was treated for two cuts on the head.

In evidence supporting Mr. Hiscox's statement, Mrs. *Postle* said the glass from which the money was stolen

contained about £9 10s.

Christopher Sparks, of 99, Derwent Road, Willenhall, said he was surveying roads in the Cramp Hill area when his attention was drawn to a woman shouting. He also saw a man running towards the top of Cramp Hill. Several minutes later he saw the man, whom he identified as Hawkins jump into a car.

Detective-constable Brian Stanley Windmill said that when arrested at a house in Rowlands Avenue, Bentley, Hawkins said, 'Well that's it. You have got me fair and square.'"

AND

Walsall Observer 28/1/1966

"An Aldridge man who admitted striking the wife of a Darlaston licensee over the head with a bottle was sent to prison for 12 months at Staffordshire Assizes on Wednesday. Colin William Hawkins (21), storeman, of Leighswood Road, pleaded guilty to robbing Dora *Postle* of £9 10s and a beer glass valued at 1s.

Mr. W. Field Hunt, prosecuting, said that amateur detective work had proved to be very effective after a robbery with violence in the BARLEY MOW, Cross Street. Hawkins ordered a bottle of lemonade and used it to strike a blow on the back of Mrs. *Postle*'s head when she was alone in the bar. He then ran off with a glass which contained the money. Two civil engineers saw a man running from the public house. The man disappeared, but later got into a car and drove off and the civil engineers took the registration number said Mr. Field Hunt.

Hawkins was told by Mr. Justice Paull that his youth saved him from a much longer prison sentence."

Walsall Observer 12/1/1968

"County Borough of Walsall.

The Highways Act 1959 and The Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act 1946.

The Walsall (King Street Darlaston By-Pass) Compulsory Purchase Order 1967.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Walsall County Borough Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by the above-mentioned Acts on the 22nd December 1967 made a Compulsory Purchase Order entitled The Walsall (King Street Darlaston By-Pass) Compulsory Purchase Order 1967, which is about to be submitted to the Minister of Transport for confirmation, authorizing them to purchase compulsorily for the purpose of the construction of new highways in Darlaston in the said County Borough the land described in the Schedule hereto.....

In Cross Street, Darlaston the BARLEY MOW Public House."

BARREL

42, Horton Street, The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William John Wardle, Darlaston

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph and Samuel Robinson [1865] – [1872]

Samuel Robinson [1881] – [1891]

William John Wardle [1901] – [1904]

Patrick McCormack [1911] – 1939);

Mrs. Ann McCormack (1939 – 1946);

Wilfred Charles Davies (1946 – 1951);

David Newell (1951 – 1957);
William Davis (1957 – 1960);
Arthur Townsend (1960 – 1964);
James John Davies (1964 – 1965);
Lily Stone (1965 – [1967])
Alan Christopher Cox [1969]

NOTES

42+43+44, Horton Street [1881], [1891], [1901]
42, Horton Street [1939]

OLD BARREL [1869]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

It was known locally as “Paddy Mac’s”.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1866 - Advert

“Found, on Sunday, February 11th inst, a Dark Brown Pony, about 11 hands high. The owner may have it again by paying expenses. If not owned within seven days it will be sold to pay expenses. Apply to Mr. *J. Robinson*, sign of the BARREL, Darlaston Green.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 23/10/1869

“An inquest was held yesterday, by Mr. Hooper, at the OLD BARREL INN, Darlaston, on the body of Thomas Jobourn, aged 18 years, who was killed on the morning of Thursday last, whilst at work at No.3 pit of the West Bromwich Old Colliery, belonging to Mr. Groucutt, being run over by a skip which was laden with stone, so that he died on the spot. A juryman, named Joseph Smith, shoemaker, of Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, was not present at the beginning of the inquiry, and the Coroner, ordered that his name should be called three times by Police-constable Walters. On his not answering to his name, Mr. Hooper said he would be fined 40s. Samuel Ramsden and Levison Banton proved that the deceased was killed accidentally, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect.”

1871 Census

Street No.3, The Green – BARREL and chandlers shop

- [1] *Joseph Robinson* (51), widower, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston, blind;
- [2] Ann Robinson (19), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [3] Elizabeth Robinson (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [4] Sarah Robinson (15), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [5] Joseph Robinson (13), son, screw maker, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Samuel Robinson* (45), brother, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [7] Mary Robinson (42), sister-in-law, born Darlaston:

London Gazette 7/5/1880

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement, or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Joseph Robinson* and *Samuel Robinson*, of No.42 Horton-street, the Green, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keepers, and Grocers and Provision Dealers, trading in co-partnership, under the name of Joseph and Samuel Robinson.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named persons has been summoned to be held at the offices of Messrs. Slater and Marshall, Solicitors, Butcroft, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on the 20th day of May, 1880, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 4th day of May, 1880.
Slater and Marshall, Solicitors for the Debtor.”

1881 Census

42+43+44, Horton Street – Public House

[1] *Joseph Robinson* (61), widower, basket maker, born Darlaston, blind;

[2] Sarah Robinson (25), milliner, born Darlaston;

[3] Joseph Robinson (23), baker, born Darlaston;

[4] Ellen Robinson (19), milliner, born Darlaston:

AND

[1] *Samuel Robinson* (54), publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Mary Robinson (50), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] Mary Brown (19), niece, born Wednesbury:

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/1/1886

“On Thursday evening the members of St. George’s Church Choir sat down to their annual dinner at the BARREL INN, Horton Street, Darlaston. After doing justice to the things provided, the Rev. George Oliver delivered a short address, after which the following programme was gone through. Song, ‘Close the shutters, Willie’s dead,’ Mr. Hobson; song, ‘Bay of Biscay,’ Mr. Jeffs; song, ‘We meet again,’ Mr. W. Whitehouse; solo, ‘Come where my love lies dreaming,’ Miss Robinson; song, ‘Rock me to sleep,’ Mr. David Reynolds; song, ‘The Thorn,’ Mr. T. Taylor; dialogue, ‘Grannie,’ by members of the choir; recitation, Mr. William Lavender; song, ‘The Village Blacksmith,’ Mr. E. Bliss; song, ‘Sweet Bell Mahone,’ Mr. Hobson; recitation, Mr. J. Robinson. Mr. T. Taylor accompanied. The customary toasts having been suitably honoured, the assembly dispersed after singing the national anthem.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/11/1887

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an enquiry at the BARREL INN, Horton Street, Darlaston, relative to the death of Thomas Peter Woolley (19), The Green, miner, who was killed on Wednesday whilst employed as a loader at the Bradford Colliery, Bentley. Mr. W. H. Pickering (assistant inspector of mines) was present.

The evidence went to show that the pit had been recently opened by a man named Benjamin Cox, the men having to descend by means of a windlass. On Wednesday morning, whilst deceased was at work at the bottom of the shaft, a large iron ball or ‘dolly,’ weighing 1¼cwt, became detached from the balance and fell upon him. Assistance was at once obtained, and it was found that he had sustained shocking injuries to the head and back, which terminated fatally shortly afterwards.

Mr. Pickering stated that the accident was caused by a pin in the tackle being badly riveted, and having no head. In the condition he found it, it should not have been worked.

Other evidence bore out this testimony, and the jury, whilst returning a verdict of Accidental Death, censured Mr. Cox, the proprietor of the colliery.”

Joseph Robinson died in the 1st quarter of 1889.

Ellen Robinson (29), spinster, daughter of *Joseph Robinson* deceased, basket maker, married *William John Wardle* (24), bachelor, engine fitter, on 23rd August 1890.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1891

“Yesterday Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the BARREL INN, Horton Street, Darlaston, on the body of Thomas Henry Hollywood (2), son of a furnaceman living in the same street. On Tuesday the mother went to the tap to fetch some water, leaving the deceased and another child, aged five years, in the house, and when she returned in about three minutes she found the younger child’s clothing in flames. She wrapped her shawl about him, and a neighbour named Ann Vale also rendered assistance; but death took place in a short time. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, and the Coroner spoke as to the necessity of proving a fire-guard in every house where there were children.”

1891 Census

42+43+44, Horton Street – BARREL INN

- [1] *Samuel Robinson* (64), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Robinson* (62), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Sarah Robinson* (35), niece, born Darlaston;
- [4] *William J. Wardle* (24), nephew, engine fitter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Ellen Wardle* (29), niece, milliner, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Eleanor J. Henney* (6), niece, scholar, born Cannock:

Samuel Robinson died in the 3rd quarter of 1900.

1901 Census

42+43+44, Horton Street

- [1] *William J. Wardle* (34), shopkeeper, grocer and publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Ellen Wardle* (39), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary Robinson* (72), aunt, widow, born Darlaston:

William John Wardle, beer retailer, 42, Horton Street. [1904]

Patrick McCormack = Patrick McCormick

1911 Census

Horton Street – BARREL INN

- [1] *Patrick McCormack* (43), licensed victualler (not full), born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Anne McCormack* (34), wife, married 14 years, born Walsall;
- [3] *Robert McCormack* (12), son, school, born Blakenall;
- [4] *Mary McCormack* (10), daughter, school, born Bloxwich;
- [5] *William McCormack* (7), son, school, born Bloxwich;
- [6] *Anne McCormack* (4), daughter, born Bloxwich;
- [7] *Sarah Podmore* (22), domestic servant, born Wellington, Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/6/1911 - Advert

“Wanted, a Strong General, about 18.

Apply, Mrs. *McCormack*, BARREL INN, Horton Street, Darlaston. Character required.”

Walsall Observer 1/7/1911

“On Coronation evening, at the BARREL INN, Horton Street, Darlaston, about fifty customers were invited to a free dinner to celebrate the Coronation. After full justice had been done to the excellent dinner provided by the Host and Hostess, Mr. Thomas Jones occupied the chair, and proposed ‘The health of the King and Royal Family,’ which was drunk with great ovation. Thanks were afterwards tendered to the Host and Hostess for their kind invitation. The rest of the evening was spent in harmony, the National Anthem bringing a very enjoyable evening to a close.”

Patrick McCormack, beer retailer, 42, Horton Street. [1912]

Patrick McCormack was also a brewer. [1914], [1921]

Walsall Observer 26/9/1925

“In spite of the heavy rain, customers of the BARREL INN, Horton Street, Darlaston, and their friends had an enjoyable char-a-banc trip to Brewood on Saturday, through Albrighton, Shifnal, Weston Park, and Ivetsey Bank. Musical items were rendered at Brewood, where refreshments were served and Mr. J. Greatrix acted as accompanist. Thanks were accorded to Mr. and Mrs. *P. Mc Cormick* (licensees of the BARREL

INN) and to the joint hon. secretaries (Messrs. J. Spicer and W. Corns).

Patrick McCormack died in the 4th quarter of 1938.

1939 Register

42, Horton Street – BARREL PH

[1] *Ann McCormack*, date of birth 19/3/1877, beerhouse keeper, widowed;

[2] Daisy M (Gould) Gwinnett, dob 30/11/1919, domestic servant, single:

Walsall Observer 26/6/1943 - Advert

“1938 Morris 8, De-Luxe, nearest £50.

BARREL INN, Horton Street, Darlaston.”

Evening Despatch 28/5/1945

“A Wednesbury Sea Cadet, 16-year-old James F. Geraghty, 66, Dangerfield Lane, returning from a parade at Willenhall, saw a child disappear in the canal in Midland Road. He dived in fully clothed and groping about on the canal bottom, found what appeared to be a bundle of clothing which he brought to the surface. His pals grabbed him, and they found his bundle was a child quite limp and breathing faintly. Artificial respiration was applied, and the child revived. He was 4½-year-old Anthony Robin Davies, whose parents have been residing, since the raids in London, at the BARREL, Horton Street, Darlaston.”

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘Square Roots (A childhood in The Green, Darlaston)’ by Elizabeth M. Shaw

“In June 1937 my parents moved to No.39 Horton Street in The Green. Our house was in the centre of the only three Council houses built next to the BARREL public house. This side of the street was a mix of old properties and some factory premises, next to No.38. This factory had another entrance on the main road, but was not working to my knowledge when we moved in. Further down were the old houses which continued to the end of the street where Mr. Hearn had a garage. The bottom end of the street led onto Beard Street.

Next to the BARREL was a short street which led onto the main road and may have been called Short Horton Street but I never remember seeing a name. A couple of small houses were on the corner of this street then a pair of gates led to the rear of the houses on the main road. On the corner of this street and the main road stood a cobblers shop. Some say it was a pub at one time but I never knew it other than a cobblers, which Mr. Maul later took over. He moved further down The Green when these properties were pulled down.....

I don’t know exactly who ran the BARREL pub when we first moved in. We rarely went in there, but it always seemed a quiet pub and there was never any trouble with drunks then. Later a family named *Davis* ran the place and they had one son named Robin.....”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

Walsall Observer 24/6/1966

“Although formed only last year the Darlaston Sunday Darts League had a magnificent display of trophies at their first annual presentations in the GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston, on Friday, a collection that was a tribute to the hard work put in by the officials during this inaugural year. Fourteen teams took part in the league, thirteen of which were from public houses in the Darlaston area.

A total of 67 trophies were presented. Five major trophies which were donated to the league and the remaining 62 miniatures were purchased by players in the league. Apart from the prize money which totalled £85 10s and the money for the trophies, the committee paid all other expenses to help achieve a first-class season. The presentations were made by Mr. C. Staite.

The most successful team was the BARREL INN who failed to win the league by nine legs with the same number of points as the champions (the NAGS HEAD), but who reached both semi-finals of the knock-outs and who received the Mitchell and Butlers Collection Shield.

An additional presentation was made to Mr. W. Thorpe of Bentley Sons of Rest of £17, which was the result of a collection among the players. Mr. Thorpe donated a cup on behalf of the Sons of Rest, which was won by the SWAN (Moxley) with the GREEN DRAGON runners-up.
Other winner were: the President's Knock Out Cup, KINGS HILL TAVERN, with runners-up the SWAN.
League champions: NAGS HEAD, with runners-up BARREL INN.
Wooden spoonists: BOAT INN.
Supplementary league winners: BRADFORD ARMS, with runners-up ROYAL GEORGE."

Walsall Observer 30/6/1967 - Advert

"Football. Friendly matches required with teams with own pitch.
BARREL, Horton Street, Darlaston."

Walsall Observer 30/5/1969

"The first meeting of Walsall Compensation Committee since 1966 will next month consider the cases of three public houses for which the licensing justices have decided not to renew licenses. The houses are the BARREL, Horton Street, Darlaston; the PRINCE OF WALES, Queen Street, Walsall, and the BUTTS INN, Butts Street, Walsall."

Walsall Observer 20/6/1969 - Notice

"County Borough of Walsall.

Notice is Hereby Given that the compensation authority for the above area having decided at their principal meeting held on the 12th day of June 1969, to refuse the renewal of the license of the premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of the payment of compensation under the said Act are required to send to the compensation authority notice of their claims before the 21st day of July, 1969.....

BARREL, Horton Street, Darlaston. Publican's Old on-license. Licensee, *Alan Christopher Cox*. Registered Owners, Mitchells & Butlers."

Closed

It was converted into two houses.

BEEHIVE

The Leys, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Ann Dangerfield [1861] – [1865]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Ann Dangerfield, beer retailer, The Lays. [1860], [1861], [1864], [1865]

Ann Dangerfield, retailer of beer, Cock Street. [1862]

1861 Census

Leys – BEE HIVE

[1] *Ann Dangerfield* (53), widow, publican and retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] Simeon Dangerfield (26), son, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;

[3] William Howell (4), grand-son, scholar, born Darlaston:

BEEHIVE

11+12, Walsall Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Batham [1850] – [1870]

George Henry Hill [1871] – **1872**);

Eliza Hedge (**1872** – []

Joseph Batham [1880]

Granville George James Green [1881] – **1882**)

Simeon Butler [1889] – [1891]

Abraham Foster [1893]

Hannah M Robinson [1901]

Henry Harper [1910]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850

“The annual licensing day for the hundred of Offlow South was held on Wednesday last.....

There were no less than fifty-five new applications from retail brewers for spirit licenses.....

Joseph Batham, Darlaston. Refused.”

1851 Census

Walsall Street

[1] *Joseph Batham* (32), screw maker, born Smethwick;

[2] Ann Batham (40), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah Batham (3), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Fred Butler (70), father-in-law, lock filer, born Darlaston;

[5] Martha Butler (69), wife, born Darlaston;

[6] Leah Wilkes (17), general servant, born Darlaston;

[7] George Wilkes (11), servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“On Wednesday, the annual special sessions for renewal of licenses was held.....

By an arrangement (duly announced in the *Journal* at the time) the consideration of the granting of new licenses is adjourned until the 24th September. This arrangement has been universally approved of, and will

give proper time for the due and necessary inquiries, which step has been undertaken by the respective Magistrates best acquainted with each locality. We give the names of the applicants for new licenses, fifty-one in number, within one or two of the same amount as those of last year.....

Joseph Batham, Walsall Street, Darlaston, retail brewer.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1851

“On Wednesday last, according to notice, the adjourned special sessions was held at Great Barr....

The applications for spirit licenses resulted in the granting of eight, out of a list of fifty-one retail brewers and others, who had asked for the privilege.....”

[Not granted.]

Joseph Batham, beer retailer, Walsall Street. [1860]

1861 Census

Walsall Street – Beer House – BEE HIVE

[1] *Joseph Batham* (44), publican and grocer, born Smethwick;

[2] Ann Batham (50), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah Batham (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Martha Butler (82), mother-in-law, widow, invalid, born Darlaston;

[5] Ann Johnson (20), house servant, born Darlaston:

Joseph Batham, retailer of beer, Walsall Street. [1862]

Joseph Batham, beer retailer and shopkeeper, Walsall Street. [1864], [1865]

Joseph Batham, beer retailer, Walsall Street. [1868], [1870]

George Henry Hill = George Henry Hills

1871 Census

Walsall Street – BEE HIVE

[1] *George H. Hill* (29), widower, publican and grocer, born Hocker Hill; [Ocker Hill, Tipton]

[2] Lydia Firm (27), housekeeper, born Darlaston:

George Henry Hills, beer retailer and grocer, Walsall Street. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 14/11/1872 - Advert

“Lady Pianist Wanted.

Apply to Mrs. *Hedges*, BEE HIVE INN, Darlaston.”

Joseph Batham, beer retailer, 11 Walsall Street. [1880]

Wednesbury Herald 12/3/1881

“*Granville George James Green*, landlord of the BEE HIVE INN, Walsall Street, Darlaston, was summoned for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the night of the 28th ult. Mr. Green, of Darlaston, appeared for the defence.

Police-sergeant Ainsworth said that on the night in question at 11.50, he visited the defendant’s back premises, and saw a man named Lowe leave the back door and place a gallon can containing ale upon the wall, but on seeing witness the man decamped, leaving the ale behind him.

Police-constable Charles corroborated.

Mr. Green, for the defence, said the ale was paid for and filled before eleven o’clock, and hoped that under the circumstances his worship would deal leniently with his client.

The Stipendiary fined defendant 5s and costs.”

1881 Census

11+12, Walsall Street – BEE HIVE

[1] *Granville G. J. Green* (27), grocer and beer retailer, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Sarah A. Green (23), wife, born Darlaston:

Evening Express 16/9/1881

“John Male, Albert Street, Darlaston, was charged with stealing two bags of malt, value £2 6s, the property of his employer, Charles Green, maltster, Darlaston; and *Granville George James Green*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Walsall Street, Darlaston, was charged with receiving the same knowing them to have been stolen. Mr. Thomas Green, of Darlaston, appeared for the prosecution.

Thomas Sale, grocer, Church Street, Darlaston, stated that on Wednesday morning last he observed the prisoner Male take a bag of malt from prosecutor’s malthouse to the prisoner *Green*’s shop adjoining the BEEHIVE public house. Witness informed the prosecutor’s son next morning of what he had seen.

George Washington Green, son of the prosecutor, said he went to the prisoner *Green*’s shop and found two bags of malt. *Green* was formerly a customer of his father’s, but he had received no malt during the past six months. Male received no instructions to take malt to the prisoner *Green*’s.

Police-sergeant Ainsworth said when he charged Male with the offence, he replied that *Green* asked him to bring two bags of malt, and he would make it all right with him. He took the malt the next morning, and *Green* told him to leave it in the shop, which he did. He was very sorry, and hoped his employer would forgive him.

The prisoner, *Green*, when asked by the Bench if he had anything to say, stated that he told Male to ask Mr. Green to let him have two bags of malt, and when they were brought to the shop Male assured him time after time that he had brought the malt with the consent of the prosecutor.

The prisoners were committed to the Sessions for trial, but were admitted to bail, *Green* himself in £100, and to find two sureties of £100 each; and Male himself in £25, and to find two sureties of £25 each.”

Wednesbury Herald 22/10/1881

“At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions on Monday.....

Granville George James Green (on bail) and John Male (34), maltster, were charged with stealing two bags and a quantity of malt on the 14th September, the property of Charles Green. Mr. Owen and Mr. J. Ross appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. R. C. H. Plumtree defended.

The jury acquitted the prisoners on the ground of insufficient evidence.”

Wednesbury Herald 14/1/1882

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before W. F. F. Boughey Esq, Stipendiary Magistrate, *George Granville Green*, landlord of the BEEHIVE beerhouse, Walsall Street, Darlaston, was summoned for making a false entry in his brewing book. Mr. Squires, of London, appeared on behalf of the Inland Revenue Commissioners, and Mr. Ebsworth, in the absence of Mr. Sheldon, appeared for the defence.

Mr. Squires said that the case was the first of the kind under the Licensing Act of 1880, that had been brought before the Court, and that action was laid under 43 and 44 Vic. c.20, a.20, sub-sections 5 and 7. The duty might be charged on the entry made by the trader, or from the gravity as ascertained by the officer, and, therefore, it was of vast importance that the entries made should be perfectly true. In this case the defendant was a brewer of beer for sale, and on the morning of the 9th September last, he made an entry in his book of certain worts in No.1 vessel. The entry was 11.8 dry inches (96 gallons), and the gravity 1,064 degrees. The total produce of this brewing would have been 126 gallons at the standard gravity of 1,064 degrees. About ten o’clock the same morning, the officer, Mr. Ingram, visited the defendant’s brewery, and after inspecting the brewing book, proceeded to No.1 vessel, where he found the dry inch measurement, as stated by the defendant, was correct; but the gravity of the worts was 1,072 degrees, and not 1,064. The gravity, therefore, found by the officer was equal to 129 gallons; but the true gravity as ascertained on analysis was 1,074, the charge on which would have been equal to 143 gallons.

This opening statement was corroborated by Mr. Ingram, the officer of the district, who, in cross examination, said the defendant showed him a broken saccharometer, but he did not say whether he had used it in ascertaining the gravity. The worts had to be stirred in order to ascertain the correct gravity. A sample of the worts was taken and forwarded to Somerset House for analysis.

Mr. James Cameron, analyst, said he received a sample of worts at Somerset House, on Saturday last, and found it to be practically 1,074 degrees.

In cross examination he said by the analytical process adopted it did not matter whether a sample taken on the 9th September was analysed as late as Saturday.

Mr. Ebsworth in addressing the Bench in mitigation of the offence, said there was a good deal in the Act passed by Mr. Gladstone in 1880 which he could not understand, and his Worship must see that the case was not only proved, but he must also exercise mercy with justice. Mr. Gladstone's Act pressed very hard in a district like this, and more especially among widow women, as the person summoned was not allowed to be called as a witness. Under the Licensed Victuallers' Act the landlords of the houses and their wives were permitted to give evidence. By section 24 there was a sort of a gift of five degrees given to the brewer, and that being so the only loss the revenue had sustained was three degrees. The defendant did not use the saccharometer shown to Mr. Ingram, but he ascertained the gravity he had returned in his book with an old one he had used under the late Act.

The Stipendiary held that an offence had been committed, and directed defendant to pay £10 and costs. On the application of Mr. Ebsworth the Stipendiary allowed the defendant a month to pay the fine."

Wednesbury Herald 25/3/1882

"*Granville George James Green*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, was summoned for keeping his house during prohibited hours on the morning of the 15th inst.

Mr. Vaughan of Willenhall defended.

Police-sergeant Ainsworth stated that on the morning in question he saw two men leave the defendant's house shortly after two o'clock, and upon going into one of the rooms of the house he found cards. He asked the defendant to account for the men being on his premises, and he replied that he had been keeping his birthday. He also urged witness not to say anything about the event, as he had been in trouble enough. The Stipendiary: What did he mean by that? – Witness: Some previous cases he had figured in.

The evidence having been corroborated, Mr. Vaughan addressed the Bench for the defence. He said that on the day in question the defendant was desirous of commemorating his birthday, and invited a few friends, including three lodgers, to supper. On the party being broken up about two o'clock in the morning the police came to the door, and were informed that a private birthday party had been held, and that the whole of the persons present had been the guests of the defendant. No money whatever was spent by the visitors, and he thought if he proved the facts he had mentioned the Stipendiary would have no alternative but to dismiss the case.

After the hearing of six witnesses who bore out the statement made by Mr. Vaughan, the Stipendiary said he considered it a very suspicious case, but under the circumstances said he did not think he would be justified in convicting, consequently the case would be dismissed."

Granville George James Green was fined £5 and costs for keeping open at illegal hours, on the 20th August 1882, and his license was endorsed.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1882

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Granville George James Green*, the BEEHIVE beerhouse, Walsall Street, Darlaston, was summoned for keeping open during prohibited hours, and also for selling liquors during prohibited hours on Sunday; and William and George Robinson, father and son, were summoned for assaulting Police-constable Clarke.

The evidence showed that on Saturday night Clarke and another officer were watching the defendant's house, and soon after midnight they saw persons go to the back door for beer. The elder Robinson was one of these, and as he was going away with a jar containing half a gallon Clarke stopped him, and took possession of the jar, after being assaulted and knocked down by Robinson, who was taken to the police station. The son also struck the officer, and went to the police station, where he became very disorderly. *Green* declared that he supplied Robinson under the impression that he was entitled to refreshment, he having just reached home from Walsall.

There being a previous conviction against *Green*, he was fined £5 and his license was endorsed; and the Robinsons were fined 20s each and costs."

Birmingham Mail 27/9/1882

“The adjourned licensing session for West Bromwich and Wednesbury police division was held today..... Mr. Slater, of Darlaston, said he appeared to represent the lessee of the house occupied by *Granville James Green*, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, and he was instructed to state that his clients disapproved of their tenant’s conduct as much as the Bench, and an arrangement had been made for *Green* to surrender his lease on the 23rd of October. The renewal in this case was granted.”

London Gazette 24/10/1882

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall. In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Granville George James Green*, of Walsall-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Beer Retailer and Grocer.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. George Vaughan, Solicitor, Walsall-street, Willenhall, on the 3rd day of November, 1882, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 19th day of October, 1882.

Geo. Vaughan, Walsall-street, Willenhall, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1882

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Messrs. S. Lloyd and S. Stokes, *Granville George James Green*, beehouse keeper, was summoned for having had his house open during prohibited hours, and for having sold liquors during prohibited hours. Mr. Vaughan appeared for the defendant, and Mr. Slater was present in the interest of the owners of the premises.

The testimony of Police-constables Clarke and Watson was to the effect that at about half-past twelve o’clock on the night of the 12th inst, they heard voices in the defendant’s house, and a jingling of money, and soon afterwards two women left the house, followed in the course of a few moments by two men. When spoken to, the defendant declared that the men had been helping him to remove his furniture; but Mrs. Marks, the wife of one of the men, said it served her husband right, he should have stopped at home after supper. The officers then went to a place where they could watch the house, and saw the defendant come out of the house with a half-gallon jar and go to the wall of Mark’s garden, and call out, ‘The — are gone; come and fetch this half-gallon.’ In attempting to hand the jar to Mark it got broken, however.

The defence was that the men had been helping the defendant to remove his goods; that they had remained to supper; and that was what the defendant said when he handed the jar over the wall was, ‘Here is some beer left; you may as well have it.’

The case was dismissed, Mr. Stokes remarking that it was a very shady defence.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/2/1889 - Advert

“To Let, a Free Beerhouse, with home brewing plant, in a surrounding population of Darlaston. Apply, BEEHIVE INN Walsall Street, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/10/1889

“Darlaston Birthday Club Supper. On Saturday evening a supper in connection with the BEE HIVE INN, Walsall Street, was held at this house. There was a good muster of members. The supper was served in excellent style by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Simeon Butler*. After the removal of the cloth several toasts were given and songs rendered by Messrs. S. Hague, W. Mark, R. Smith, and Eli Downes, who acted as chairman. A most pleasant evening was spent.”

1891 Census

11+12 Walsall Street

[1] *Simeon Butler* (37), iron puddler, born Darlaston;

[2] Susannah Butler (37), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Mary Butler (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

- [4] Simeon Butler (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Thersa Butler (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Clara Butler (4), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] Sarah Butler (2), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Tipton and Darlaston took place at Wednesbury, yesterday.....
Singing and music licenses were granted to Messrs. Showell and Sons, the OLD BRITANNIA, 31, High Street, Moxley, and to *Abraham Foster*, the BEEHIVE INN, 12, Walsall Street. An application for a like license was applied for by Thomas Fox, of the VINE INN, 11, Bell Street, Darlaston; but the notice was found to be insufficient.”

Walsall Observer 27/8/1898

“On Monday morning a serious accident befell Thomas Malvern, aged twelve years, son of Thomas Malvern, labourer, who lives with his parents at the back of the BEEHIVE INN Walsall Street, Darlaston, by falling from a swing-boat in the Darlaston Wake Ground. As soon as possible he was carried into Dr. Partridge’s surgery, where it was found that his right leg was badly broken in two places. He was subsequently conveyed to the Walsall General Hospital in a very critical condition.”

1901 Census

11+12, Walsall Street – BEEHIVE TAVERN

- [1] *Hannah M. Robinson* (50), beerhouse keeper, born London;
- [2] William Robinson (57), husband, blacksmith, born Darlaston;
- [3] William Roberts (16), son, smith’s striker, born Darlaston;
- [4] Annie Roberts (14), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] John H. Steen (8), grand-son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).
Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted of drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

BEEHIVE, Walsall Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....
There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not

duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Lichfield Mercury 1/7/1910

“On Friday the principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shirehall, Stafford Licenses refused.....
BEEHIVE, Darlaston, ante-1869 beerhouse.”

Lichfield Mercury 6/1/1911

“The annual report of the County Licensing Committee stated that at the principal meeting the committee refused to renew 27 licenses. At the supplemental meetings the committee went into great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee considered that the amounts of compensation agreed upon were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the compensation fund.....
BEEHIVE, Darlaston, beerhouse, ante 1869, £400.”

BELL

48+49, (46+47), (47+48), Church Street / Dale End, DARLASTON

OWNERS

James Pritchard and Son, Darlaston Brewery [1912]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 7th May 1946)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Foster [1818] – [1830]
Charles Foster [1834]
Jabez Howl [1835] – [1842]
John Howl [1845] – [1850]
Jones [1846]
James Harper [1848] – **1850**);
James Pritchard (**1850 – 1871**);
Joseph Pritchard (**1871**)
James Pritchard (**1871** – [1901]
James Pritchard and Son [1904] – [1912]
Edward W Pynor [1916]
Charles Taylor [1919] – **1922**);
William Baker (**1922 – 1926**);
James Hitchins (**1926 – 1931**);
Mrs. Mary Hitchins (**1931 – 1947**);
Samuel George Bayley (**1947 – 1954**);
George Joseph Williams (**1954 – 1955**);
Mrs. Winifred Louise Beaumont (**1955 – 1956**):

NOTES

47+48, Church Street [1881], [1939]
46+47, Church Street [1901]
48+49, Church Street [1904], [1912], [1932], [1940]

BLUE BELL [1818]
BELL INN [1871], [188]
BELL HOTEL [1898], [1901], [1904], [1912]

The Darlaston Brewery was at the rear.

Thomas and Obadiah Howl's omnibus left from here to Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/6/1831 - Died

"On the 7th instant, Mr. *William Foster*, of the BELL INN, Darlaston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/9/1833 - Advert

"*William Foster*, Deceased.

All Persons who have any claim or demand upon or against the real or personal Estates of *William Foster*, late of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, deceased, are requested forthwith to deliver the particulars thereof to Mr. Moses Foster, of Darlaston aforesaid, Iron Dealer, the Administrator, in order that the same may be examined.

Darlaston, 16th September, 1833."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/8/1833 - Advert

"Important Offer to the Public.

To be Let, with immediate Possession (with or without 12 or 13 Acres of excellent Land, contiguous to the Premises).

All that well-accustomed House, called the BELL INN, Darlaston, with extensive Stables, Cowhouses, Barns, and other Outbuildings.

The premises are situate in an increasing neighbourhood, and worthy of the attention of persons wishing to engage in that business.

The present proprietor is leaving on account of other particular engagements.

The Stock, Brewing Vessels, Fixtures, and part of the Household Furniture, to be taken at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post-paid) to the Landlord of the Premises, or Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, Wednesbury."

Jabez Howl = Jabez Hawl

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/3/1836 - Advert

"Darlaston. Freehold Building Land, Foster Street and Bell Street, each lot entitling the purchaser to a Vote for South Staffordshire. Shortly will be Sold by Auction, at the BELL INN, in Darlaston....."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/8/1836

"William Small, of Darlaston, better known by the appellation of Will Soger, is ready to make a match to fight Timer Hill, of Wolverhampton, for from £5 to £25 a side; his shiners are ready at the BELL INN, Darlaston, any time that may be appointed."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/8/1837 - Advert

"Darlaston. Freehold Building Land (with the Mines) in the centre of the Town of Darlaston, giving Votes for the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, on Monday the 14th day of August, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the BELL INN, Darlaston (by direction of the Trustees for sale named in the will of Mr. Charles

Foster, deceased).....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/6/1839

“Messrs. John and Jabez Howl, coach proprietors of Darlaston, were charged by Mr. James Jones, who stated that he acted under the authority of the stamp office, with having carried more persons in a coach belonging to them, than they were authorised to do.

Mr. Jones stated that on the 22nd of May last, he was at the Walsall Street turnpike gate, and saw the coach numbered 8085, which belonged to the defendants, pass; and that there were three persons on the box, including the driver, six on or about the dickey, and six or seven more on the roof.

(A great deal of conversation took place respecting the number on the coach, but it did not in the end appear to have any immediate bearing on the case.)

On the part of the defendant, Henry Wood, the guard of the coach, was called, and he positively swore that the coach carried only fifteen passengers, namely four inside and eleven out, exclusive of the coachman and guard and four babies.

Robert Smallwood, the driver, said they only carried eleven outside and four inside, and he was sure that number was all they had.

The Rev. J. Clare asked Mr. Jones if he intended to call any persons to controvert these statement, when Mr. Jones said that he did not, and consented to withdraw the information.

The same defendants were then charged on a second information with carrying on the same day, more persons in an omnibus than they were by their license entitled to, and, pleading guilty, were convicted in the lowest mitigated penalty of £1 5s and expenses.”

1841 Census

Church Street

[1] *Jabez Howl* (35), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Howl* (30), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Mary Howl* (5), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Jabez Howl* (3), born Staffordshire;

[5] *John Howl* (2), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Thomas Howl* (8 months), born Staffordshire:

Morning Chronicle 14/12/1841

“Darlaston. The enemies of monopoly in this town, undismayed by previous defeat, have taken the field with renewed spirit, to do battle against the oppressor in the good cause of free trade; and have issued an address, which, we believe, it is their intention to follow up at intervals, with others, on the same subject, written in the most simple and plain language. A large meeting was held at Mr. *Hawl*'s, the BELL INN, on the 26th ult, and another on Wednesday last, at Mr. B. [sic] *Cotterill*'s, the NELSON, Catherines Cross, to make arrangements for the coming campaign, when the sinews of war were liberally subscribed. We shall take an opportunity of publishing the address, No.1, next week. *Staffordshire Examiner*.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/4/1844

“Henry Martin, of Darlaston, will fight John Flemings, of Walsall, for £5 or £10 a side. His money is ready at the BELL INN, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/7/1844

“Crown Court. The commission for opening these assizes was opened late on Saturday night, at the Town-hall, Stafford, in consequence of the Lord Chief Justice Tindal, who came from Worcester, being unable to arrive from that city until between nine and ten o'clock.....

William Butler was charged with killing and slaying John Snelson, on the 5th of June last, at Darlaston. Mr. Neale stated the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Yardley appeared for the prisoner.

George Shore, a nailer, stated that on the 4th of June last he saw the deceased at the BELL INN, in Darlaston, in company with the prisoner, at about ten o'clock at night. Snelson and Butler said something to him, which induced the prisoner to go out to fetch a police officer. A man named Webb quarreled with the de-

ceased, and they went out to fight. Witness went to see them fight, and Butler met Snelson. Snelson said, 'Butler, you've gone out for the police; I shall be time enough tomorrow morning.' Butler then struck the deceased on the side of the head, and he fell down violently, the back part of his head striking violently against some cinders. Witness said, 'Butler, don't hit him again, he's in a fit.' The deceased was subject to fits when he was drunk. There was much quarreling about stealing some rabbits. Snelson charged Butler with stealing some.

The witness, in cross-examination, stated that he was very fresh, having been drinking from nine o'clock in the morning until twelve o'clock at night. They were all drunk together.

His Lordship asked who was the landlord of the house, and whether there were any magistrates in the neighbourhood.

Obadiah Shore was present at the BELL, and Butler and the deceased began to haggle and jaw about stealing nails. Witness did not see the blow, but went to the prisoner, and spoke to him about his striking the deceased, and he said, 'I have given him a bit of a blow, and that I think has well nigh straitened him, and if that has not straitened him I will straiten him before I go home.'

The cross-examination of this witness disclosed some remarkable circumstances, as they regarded both himself and the case. He had, he said, with the great frankness, been in confinement nine or ten times. He was thirty-four years old, and had been in prison about twelve months altogether. The magistrates had not been merciful to him, his crimes would not do it; they were 'drunken crimes.' He was not drunk on the night in question, but fresh. Snelson was very drunk and abusive, and threatened to stab Webb's horse, or put it in a pit.

His Lordship inquired if the landlord of the house was in Stafford, and on being informed that he was not, said he was sorry he was not.

He (witness) had been accused of felony, but it was by Snelson, for what another man had done, and he was acquitted; in another case there was no bill against him. He assisted to take the deceased home; he carried one leg, and some one else carried the other. He cried out to the deceased's father, 'Get up, I believe Butler has killed your Jack.' His father cried out, 'I hope so,' (laughter) and witness really believed they were glad he was dead, for he was always kicking up a row, and beating his old poor father and mother. He (witness) was not a prize-fighter, but he 'had foughten a bit before now.' (Laughter.)

Enoch Giles, a nailer, stated that the prisoner called him up out of his bed, at about one o'clock on the morning of the 5th of June, and said, 'I doubt I have killed Snelson; put on your trousers, and go see if he is dead.' Witness went to Snelson's house, and the doctor came and said he was dead.

William Webb gave a similar account of the row and quarrel to that already given, and said they were all very fresh; the deceased was the freshest of the lot.

Mr. John Thornywill, surgeon, of Darlaston, said that he went to see the deceased, and found him dead. He made a post mortem examination on the same day, and found that death was occasioned by the rupture of a blood vessel of the brain, which was suffused with blood. There were marks of violence on the head of the deceased; and the rupture of the blood vessel was no doubt occasioned by blows or by a fall.

Mr. Yardley addressed the jury for the prisoner, observing that the whole party were in such a state of intoxication that it was quite impossible to place any reliance on their testimony.

His Lordship having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and his Lordship, after a severe admonition, in which he said the affair was disgraceful to all the parties, sentenced the prisoner to six months' imprisonment with hard labour."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/9/1845

"South Staffordshire General Hospital. Wolverhampton, September 9, 1845.

The Donations and Subscriptions towards the establishment and support of the above Institution, received to this day, as follows.....

Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge No.16, at Mr. *John Howls*, BELL INN, Darlaston, £10 0s 0d."

Birmingham Journal 15/11/1845

"Henry Dickens, of Darlaston, will run William Wilkes five score yards for £5 a side, and meet him on Monday, at the BELL INN (*Howle's*) to make the match."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/11/1845

“George Fairley of Darlaston wishes to bowl a match with George Millard of Sedgley, for from £5 to £25 a side; or any other man in England upon the same terms; the bowl to be about 13lb or 14lb in weight. The match can be made any time at the BELL INN (*Howl's*), or the THREE FISHES, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Journal 18/7/1846

“Another of those fatal accidents which are of such frequent occurrence in the mining district, took place in a coal pit belonging to Messrs. Addenbrooke, near Darlaston, by which a young man, named John Price, twenty-two years of age, lost his life. From the evidence of a collier, named Alexander Morris, it appeared that on Tuesday last the deceased was at his usual occupation in one of the workings of the pit, when a quantity of coal suddenly gave way, burying him underneath. Morris had a very narrow escape from a similar fate, being only three or four yards off when the occurrence took place. No time was lost extricating the unfortunate man, but when the body was recovered he was quite dead. An inquest was held the same afternoon, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, at Mr. *Jones's*, the BELL INN, Darlaston, when it appearing that the pit was carefully managed, a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/12/1846

“Inquests before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner.....

On Monday, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, on the body of Martha Gibbons, a child aged five years, whose clothes caught fire, and inflicted injuries of which she died. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/1/1847

“Whereas a Petition of Obadiah Howl, late of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, licensed victualler, at the same time in partnership with Thomas Howl, of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, omnibus proprietor, trading under the style or firm of Howl and Company, omnibus proprietors; and now of Darlaston aforesaid, licensed to brew and sell ale and beer by retail, and driver of an omnibus to and from Birmingham to Darlaston, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, and the interim order for Protection from process having been given to the said Obadiah Howl, under the provision of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said Obadiah Howl is hereby required to appear in Court before John Balguy, Esq, QC, the Commissioner acting in the matter of the said Petition on the 19th day of January next, at half-past 11 o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, for his first examination, touching his Debts, Estate and Effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes, and the choice of the Creditors' Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All Person indebted to the said Obadiah Howl, or that have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Richard Valpy, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, the Official Assignee nominated in that behalf by the Commissioner acting in the matter of the said Petition.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/4/1847

“An inquest was held on Monday last, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, on the body of Anne, wife of John Goalby, miner. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased had enjoyed good health up to the previous Tuesday. On that day her husband returned home in a state of intoxication and beat her, from the effects of which she continued to complain until her death, which took place on Sunday night.

A female who had resided in the same house with Goalby and his wife, and who saw the transaction referred to, gave her evidence with much reluctance.

The inquest was adjourned until Tuesday evening, at six o'clock, to afford time to make a post mortem examination. Goalby is in custody of the police at Wednesbury.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1847

“George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, held the following inquests in the course of the week.....

On Monday, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, on the body of Ann Goalby, aged 64, who died suddenly, and from report circulated in that neighbourhood, it was imagined that her death had been accelerated by some personal violence received from her husband, a few days previous to her death. On inquiry, this proved to

be incorrect, as from the medical testimony produced in evidence, it was clearly shown that the deceased died from inflammation of the lung, under which she had been suffering for some time previous. Verdict accordingly.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/10/1847

“Inquests before George Hinchcliffe, Esq, Coroner.....

On Saturday last, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, on the body of John Wall, aged 24 years. It appeared that on Friday se’n-night the deceased was at work in an ironstone pit belonging to Messrs. Bill and Mills’s colliery, when a quantity of ironstone suddenly fell from the roof upon the deceased, and killed him upon the spot. The pit is properly managed. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/11/1847

“Charles Martin, a screw maker, was charged on Tuesday before J. Leigh, Esq, at Wednesbury, with stealing from the person of Mr. Joseph Hadley, a respectable ironmaster, at Darlaston.

The evidence adduced was to the effect that the prosecutor went to the BELL INN, at Darlaston, on Saturday last, where he had something to drink, and that the prisoner and his brother were there also, to whom he gave a quart of ale; subsequently he left the kitchen, and went into the parlour, where he lay down on the sofa and fell asleep. At that time he had nine sovereigns loose in his pocket. He was afterwards awakened by finding some person’s hand in his pocket; and on laying hold of the man by the wrist, he found it to be the prisoner, who immediately left the house. The prosecutor afterwards asked the landlady whether he had left his money with her, and did not charge the prisoner with having robbed him. When the prisoner was taken he had no money upon him. The prosecutor was stated to have been drunk when he went to the station-house. Mr. Leigh remanded Martin until Friday, when the matter will be brought before him again at Wolverhampton.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1848

“On Wednesday last, the annual licensing meeting was held.....

The following persons were reprimanded for offences committed against the tenor of their licenses during the past year.....

James Harper, BELL INN, Darlaston.”

Post Office Directory 1850

“Darlaston Omnibuses Thomas and Obadiah Howls.

To Birmingham – Sun, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Sat, from the BELL INN, at ½ past 9 in the morning.

To Wolverhampton – Every Wednesday morning at 9, from the BELL INN.”

James Pritchard = James Pritchett

1851 Census

Church Street

[1] *James Pritchard* (54), miner employing 67 men, born New Hadley, Shropshire;

[2] Mary Pritchard (38), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *James Pritchard* (18), son, miner, born Tipton;

[4] Ann Maria Pritchard (20), daughter, born Falehill, Warwickshire;

[5] Sarah Boycott (9), niece, born Little Wenlock, Shropshire;

[6] Richard Pritchard (20), nephew, miner, born Little Wenlock, Shropshire:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/11/1853

“Thomas Winsper of Darlaston, who never won a shilling by hopping, will hop Charles Minty of Leeds 10 hops for £25 a side, and give £3 for the match to come off at Aston Cross, Birmingham; or jump John Brooks of Bilston 20 spring jumps, for £5 or £10 a side. A match can be made at *James Pritchard*’s BELL INN, Darlaston, any night next week.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/1/1854

“Samuel Bowen of Darlaston, having been idle some time, wishes to try his speed once more, and will run his old opponent, George Bishop of Birmingham, two miles, half way between home and home, for £10 a side; or John Rhodes of Wolverhampton, two miles, at Mr. Pitt’s ground, Wednesbury, for £10 or £15 a side. A match can be made at *James Pritchard’s*, BELL INN, Darlaston, any night next week.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

One sheep was roasted at Mr. *Pritchard’s*, the BELL.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off during the course of the night two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/3/1856

“Thomas Tricket and Joseph Smith (both of Darlaston) are matched to jump four spring jumps, for £5 a side, on Monday, April 21, at the Victoria Ground, Wednesbury. Mr. James Pritchard, jun, of the BELL INN, Darlaston, has received the first deposit of £1 a side; the next deposit, of £1 a side, is to be made on Saturday, the 22nd inst.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 6/12/1858 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. William Pool Tomkys, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, on Wednesday, the 22nd day of December inst, at four o’clock in the afternoon, the under-mentioned Freehold Properties.....

Lot 1. The BELL INN, situated at the junction of Church Street and Dale End, in Darlaston, together with the Outbuildings thereto belonging; and also the six Messuages, Smith’s Shop, Piggeries, Sheds, Outbuildings, and Premises erected on the adjoining Land. This lot contains about 1,400 square yards of Land, and the Land and the Buildings thereon form a triangle, and front to Church Street on the one side, and to Dale End on the other two sides thereof.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 20/12/1858 - Advert

“Sale of Freehold Properties, at Darlaston.

William Pool Tomkys, Sen., Auctioneer, 27, Wellington Street, Bilston, begs respectfully to inform the Public, that the above Properties having been Sold by private Contract, No Sale will take place at the BELL INN, Darlaston, as previously announced in Newspapers, Bills, &c.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/3/1859

“Thomas Winsper of Darlaston will run Bissell of Hilltop 100 yards level, for £10 or £15 a side, or take two yards in 160, or three yards in 200; or will run Williams of Dudley Port from 100 to 250 yards level; or take two yards start in 200 of Frank Lloyd of Westbromwich, for £10 or £15 a side. A match can be made any time at the BELL INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1860

“At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, William Corbett and his wife, Ann; George Robinson and his wife, Mary; John Gibbons and Job Gibbons, were severally charged with having, on the 14th inst, feloniously and violently assaulted Evan Butler and robbed him of two shillings and six pence. Mr. Slater prosecuted, and Mr. Bayley defended. Job Gibbons did not appear, he having absconded. A young man named William Robinson was charged with taking part in an assault upon George Butler.

The prosecutor, Evan Butler, appeared in court in a dreadfully lacerated and enfeebled condition, and appeared to be suffering from the most barbarous ill-usage.

Mr. Slater briefly stated his case, remarking that on Tuesday, the 14th inst, the defendants, with the prosecutors, were at the BELL public house together, when a bet was made, in which Evan Butler was asked to hold the stakes. The stakes were deposited in his hands, but in a short time he declined to be stakeholder, and

gave up the money, whereupon an assault was commenced, which afterwards continued by defendants, who waited for prosecutor after he left the house, then attacked and beat him in the manner complained of, and robbed him of his money.

Evan Butler deposed that he was a lock-filer and grocer, living in Darlaston. On Monday week he was in the BELL TAVERN. The defendants came in shortly afterwards. Two shillings were placed in his hands as the stakes of a bet. The money was afterwards taken from him by each party. George Robinson then struck one Foster and then struck him (witness). Never had any quarrel with Robinson, who knocked him down behind the door. Corbett then beat him, and all the defendants were at him. Five of the defendants were tuned out of the house. Witness went into Bilston Street on his way home, and then he heard his brother shouting out. When he got up to the spot, the prisoners, all except Mrs. Robinson, were kicking him. He said, 'Don't murder my brother, let him get up.' He stooped down to assist him, when a blow on the temple knocked him down. Did not strike anyone himself. When he was down all the prisoners began to kick him, and the woman Corbett stamped her foot on his neck, and kept it there for some time, during which he was being kicked. When he left the BELL he had one shilling and eleven pence in his trousers pocket and half-a-crown in his left-hand waistcoat pocket. While he was down on the ground he felt a hand inside his right-hand waistcoat pocket. The left-hand pocket was then searched, and the half-crown was taken out. His assailants then left him, and he managed to get home; but had not been able to walk, or to attend to his business since.

In cross-examination the witness admitted that he had been to his brother's house drinking from five till eleven o'clock; that he afterwards went to the WHITE LION, and from thence to the BELL. He denied that he was drunk at the time he went to the latter house.

Henry West, a banksman, living in Bilston Street, deposed that a little before two o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, the 14th inst, he heard a noise. He got up to his bedroom window, and looked out. He saw a woman and a man rush out of an entry, and lay hold of another man, whom they knocked down and beat. Another man came up and tried to get them off the one they had down. Two of them set about this second man, and then the first got up and went off. The second man was then beaten in a most brutal manner. He identified Corbett and his wife amongst those who were engaged in the assault, saw the woman put her foot on the man's neck or close to it. Heard one say, 'There is but half-a-crown.' It was one of those committing the assault. Had been in bed ever since ten, and was quite sober when he went to bed. After they all cleared off he went to bed again. Did not know at the time who the men were who were being beaten. Went to the Butlers' next morning. Could not identify any of the prisoners besides the Corbetts, whom he knew well. At this point the Magistrates, after consulting with Mr. Ward, intimated that they were of opinion that the charge of highway robbery could not be sustained.

Mr. Alfred William Latham, surgeon, deposed that he had been in attendance upon Evan and George Butler. Evan was bruised all over his head and body, and he had sustained a recent rupture. The rupture would be caused by people jumping or falling upon him. The treatment he stated he had received would cause it. He had been spitting blood for several days, and passing blood from the kidneys. He was blind for two days, and was in a dangerous state until Sunday last. He had not been able to walk since. George Butler was bruised about the face and head, and had a severe contusion on the knee. Evan Butler told him he had not been ruptured before.

Stephen Foster, who was in the BELL TAVERN all the time, and saw the whole transaction in that place, gave evidence confirmatory of the prosecutor's statement, stating also that the Butlers were sober, and that they did not strike a blow in the BELL.

George Butler, a brother of Evan Butler, a beerhouse keeper, and James *Pritchard*, son of the landlord of the BELL TAVERN, gave evidence as to the general facts; after which Mr. Bayley addressed the Bench, contending that, while there could not be any question as the assault having been committed, yet that the complainants had brought it upon themselves by their drunkenness and aggravating conduct. This he would prove, and then would ask whether his clients had not already suffered sufficient punishment in having been incarcerated for a week in the unwholesome cells of the police station, one week in which was far worse than three weeks at Stafford.

Thomas Lyons deposed that when the Butlers went to the BELL TAVERN, they were tipsy. George Butler, he said, was very drunk, and drank whiskey, and when they left the BELL he saw the two brothers wrestling and fighting together. They were falling about on the floor, and he, witness, picked Evan Butler up once.

John Bond, living in Bilston Street, said he heard a row in the street on the morning in question. He got up,

and saw the Butlers with Corbett and Robinson. They were wrestling, and the Butlers appeared to be drunk. Mr. Bayley submitted that there was no evidence against the Robinsons, a remark which the Bench agreed in. After a brief deliberation, the Magistrates having decided to deal summarily with the matter, sentenced William Corbett, Ann Corbett, and the Gibbonses, to be fined 40s and costs, or in default two months' imprisonment, and the other prisoners were discharged. The case lasted several hours, and excited much interest in Court."

1861 Census

Church Street – BELL INN

[1] *James Pritchard* (56), coal miner and publican, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[2] *Mary Pritchard* (54), wife, born Toll End;

[3] *James Pritchard* (28), son, coal miner, born Toll End;

[4] *Emma Prince* (18), house servant, born Toll End:

Walsall Free Press 4/7/1863

"About five o'clock on Sunday morning the body of George Minnege, miner, who resided near to the BELL INN, Darlaston, was found at the side of the canal at James Bridge. Deceased left his home in a state of intoxication about one o'clock in the morning, and it is supposed he had gone to bathe, as he was in the habit of doing so when drunk. When found, deceased had in his hand a piece of soap. The body was conveyed to the BELL INN, where an inquest was held upon it on Wednesday last, by E. Hooper, Esq, coroner for the district, at which the jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of 'Accidentally killed by falling over the canal bridge.' Deceased's neck was dislocated by the fall."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/9/1863 - Advert

"To be Sold on Tuesday Next, at the BELL INN, at Darlaston, Two Dwelling Houses, at Darlaston, in Bilston Street. The one is a Shop, valuably Furnished; the other is a Dwelling House.

Apply to J. Marsh, Bilston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1865

"At the West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, two miners, named James Pickering and John Fowke, were charged, the former with attempting to pass two counterfeit sixpences, and the latter with having possession of a large quantity of base coin. Mr. *Pritchard*, landlord of the BELL INN, Darlaston, stated that, on the Tuesday previous, the prisoner Pickering came into his shop, and asked for a glass of gin, which was supplied to him. He offered a base sixpence, which the witness refused to take. He then tendered another, which was also refused. Police-sergeant Fenner entered the house at the time, and witness mentioned the circumstances to the officer, who apprehended Pickering on the above charge. When searched five sixpences and one shilling, all counterfeit, were found upon him. The officer then proceeded to the house kept by Fowke, in Walsall Street, and found the second prisoner, who denied that Pickering lodged there. Fenner inquired if he had any 'shine' on him, upon which the prisoner attempted to put out the light. Assistance arriving directly afterwards, the officer searched the prisoner, and found a quantity of base sixpences upon him, each wrapped up in a separate piece of paper. When asked how he got possession of such a quantity, he behaved in a very dogged manner. Upon being charged, Pickering said he was very sorry, and that it was his first offence. Fowke stated that he found the coins. Both prisoners were committed to the Sessions."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/7/1865

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The following prisoners pleaded guilty and were sentenced as stated. John Fowke, 26, miner, for having counterfeit coin in his possession at Darlaston, on the 23rd May, 12 months' hard labour; John Pickering, 34, miner, for uttering counterfeit coin, at Darlaston, on the 23rd May, 12 months' hard labour."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/1/1866

"Spirited Fight, Yesterday, in the Birmingham Ring.

Amos Baggott and Sam Nash, of Darlaston, at catch weight, for twenty sovs.

The match to contend for the above stake, which was fixed for Tuesday last, was unavoidably postponed until yesterday, owing to two causes – the presence of the police, and the absence of a referee to suit the contending parties.

On the former day they met at a place called Bicknell's Farm, some mile and a half from Penkridge, Staffordshire, and a ring was formed at 9.15am, the articles specifying that the men should be therein between 8 and 10. Baggott here threw in his cap to do battle, but Nash did not strip, and before long the police came up prepared to resist any breach of the peace by swearing in several able-bodied men. In this position of affairs, a retrograde movement was rendered a necessity, and a second meeting obtained at the Spread Eagle, near the Four Ashes, in the Wolverhampton district. Here upwards of an hour was cut to waste in the fruitless attempt to select a referee, and at length, seeing no chance of any satisfactory settlement of the vexed question, the parties had the mortification of returning homewards without a fight. A meeting was convened for the evening, at eight o'clock, at the stakeholder's, Mr. *Pritchett*, BELL INN, Darlaston, where a fixture was made for yesterday morning, at Bassett Pole, near Sutton Coldfield, a proviso being made that the man absent at nine o'clock should forfeit the stakes. Accordingly at 9.5am the men were stripped, and ready for action.

The first bout was distinguished by some very fast fighting in round-arm style at long range, the science exhibited being anything but a first-class display.

In the second bout Nash obtained first blood from a fine shot on the back of the ear, which brought on some merry ding-dong work to a close, and in the scramble that ensued, Baggott was undermost.

Baggott took an ample revenge in their next meeting by dropping his right weapon on his opponent's nose with crashing effect, drawing the vital stream plentifully.

From this point some capital long-shots followed, the fortunes of war hovering betwixt the pair, Baggott showing much aptitude in getting out of danger. At one time the affair seemed over, in favour of Nash, who fought in a most determined manner. Want of condition, however (for which he alone is blameable), prevented his taking advantage of the lead he had obtained, and in the 31st bout, one of Baggott's seconds, who should have known better, struck Nash a heavy blow on the jaw, which tended not a little to bring the affair to a finale. Nash's second retaliated, and a general *melée* ensued, most discreditable to all parties concerned. Baggott, from this, took a commanding lead, and in the 44th meeting paid a visit to his opponent's jaw, throwing all his force into the undertaking. This was a settler for Nash, who went down very weak, and his second, finding him in a state of insensibility, at once gave in for him, after contending 44 rounds in an hour and two minutes.

Baggott is 23 years of age, and stands 5ft 8in in altitude, having defeated M. Millington, an old Walsall pugilist; and, more recently, been matched with Humpage, of Darlaston, which, however, ended in smoke. Nash is 28 years of age, 5ft 5in, and has contended in some three or four rough-and-ready engagements. Both men weigh over 10 stone."

[For further on this fight see ANCHOR, Great Croft Street.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/2/1866

"Yesterday, William Taylor, of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, and *James Pritchard*, of the BELL INN, Darlaston, were summoned before sitting magistrates, at the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, for selling beer on Sunday, the 11th inst, during the hours of Divine service. The cases were proved by Police-sergeant Steele, and the defendants were each fined 10s and costs."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/7/1868

"On Thursday evening Mr. C. H. Bayley, Deputy Coroner for the district, held an inquest at the BELL INN, Darlaston, touching the death of John Carroll, aged fourteen. It seemed that on Tuesday the deceased was bathing in the canal at Darlaston Green, when John Bruerton, one of his companions, 'dared' him to venture in up to his chin. The poor little fellow went further into the water, and slipping into a hole, disappeared from sight. His companions then ran away, but an alarm being raised, Andrew M'Nulty, a man employed at the Darlaston Green Works, went to the spot, and after diving into the water several times, and searching about twenty-five minutes, he succeeded in recovering the body. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and complimented M'Nulty for his praiseworthy efforts to recover the body alive."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/2/1869

“Mr. Winspur will match his brown mare to trot Mr. Gold’s horse Bacon Sides two or five miles, for £25 or £50 a side; or he will take 100 yards start in one mile, 200 in two miles, or 300 in three or five miles of Mr. Harrison’s mare Miss Brickey, of Birmingham. Either match, for £50 or £100 a side, can be made at the BELL INN, Darlaston, any night next week.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/8/1869

“T. Evans of Darlaston will run W. Cooper of Shavers End 120 or 130 yards, with a yard start, for £10 or £15 a side. A match can be made by sending a deposit to Mr. *Pritchard*, the BELL INN, Darlaston.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 23/10/1869

“Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, Coroner, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, on the body of Francis Abberley, banksman, aged 38 years, who was killed on the previous day whilst engaged in hanging a skip on the chain at the top of the Rough Hay pit shaft belonging to Messrs. G. and J. Addenbrooke.

A girl named Elizabeth Rogers, who is employed as a hanger-on at the pit, said that on the previous day, about half-past eight, she was standing about four yards from deceased, and helping him to push the skip up to the wagon on to the coal run, when his foot slipped, and he fell into the pit. Deceased was sober, and the ground was dry. Mr. George Bould and Mr. Wm. Taylor were on the pit-bank at the time.

George Grover, hanger-on, said he was at the bottom of the shaft and he heard deceased fall. He struck the bottom of the shaft ‘like a ball,’ and he picked him up. Deceased was dead.

The Coroner said he should have pleasure in adjourning the inquest for the presence of Mr. Baker, Government Inspector, if the jury thought necessary, but they thought the evidence very clear, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

The Sportsman 15/1/1870

“Archer’s brindled bitch Quick, of Darlaston, and Woodcock’s brindled and white dog Bogey, of Willenhall, are matched to run 200 yards, give or take two yards to the pound, for £5 a side, on Monday, January 24. Mr. *Pritchard*, BELL INN, Darlaston, stakeholder, has £2 a-side.”

1871 Census

Church Street – BELL INN

- [1] *James Pritchard* (38), victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] Rose Pritchard (34), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] Mary Pritchard (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] Ann Pritchard (3), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] James Pritchard (1), son, born Darlaston;
- [6] John Pritchard (3 months), son, born Darlaston;
- [7] George Holmes (26), boarder, brewer, born Walsall;
- [8] Mary Turner (24), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Emma Cooper (11), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

The Sportsman 1/4/1874 - Advert

“£2 Reward. Lost, at Lincoln, a Betting-Book. Of no use to any one but the owner.

Above reward will be paid on delivery of the book to Mr. *James Pritchard*, BELL INN, Darlaston, Staffordshire.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 13/2/1875 - Advert

“Independent Order of Oddfellows.

Lodge No.16 is held the first Tuesday in every month at the BELL INN, Church Street, Darlaston.

No entrance fee for admission to new members. Graduated scale of payments according to age. Special advantages now offered to members joining. Funded stock of the Lodge now at interest £1,000.

Full particulars to persons wishing to join on application to the Secretary, Mr. Thomas Wilkes, Block Hall; or to Messrs. W. Foster, SCOTTS ARMS, or Japhet Howl, 41, Cramp Hill, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/7/1877

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. Topham (Deputy District Coroner) held an inquiry at the BELL INN, Darlaston, on the body of Thomas Hague, aged 13 weeks, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning. The mother of the deceased said she gave the deceased the breast between three and four o’clock on Sunday morning, when he appeared to be perfectly well, but upon awakening at half-past eight o’clock he was dead. Deceased had been subject to fits, and she believed that he died in one. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1881 Census

48+47, Church Street – BELL

- [1] *James Pritchard* (48), licensed victualler, born Toll End;
- [2] *Rose Pritchard* (41), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Mary Pritchard* (15), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Ann M. Pritchard* (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *James Pritchard* (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *John Pritchard* (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Sarah Partridge* (17), cook, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Mary Partridge* (15), housemaid, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 16/7/1881

“The brothers of the Benevolent Lodge of Oddfellows Indeed celebrated their 70th anniversary on Monday, in the large Assembly Room, BELL INN, Darlaston, when a capital dinner was provided by the worthy host, Mr. *J. Pritchard*. After the repast Brother G. Foster, NG, took the chair.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/12/1884

“On Monday, E. Hooper, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the BELL INN, Darlaston, touching the death of William Blakemore, aged 39 years, an ironworker, Foster Street, who died suddenly on Saturday morning. Evidence was given to show that deceased had been ailing and under the doctor’s hands for some time past, and a verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/8/1885

“On Wednesday evening an inquest was held by T. W. Topham, Esq, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, touching the death of Susannah Fowls, aged 4½ years. Lydia Fowls, mother of the deceased, stated the girl was helping her on Monday with some cleaning at the residence of Mr. J. Harper, in Church Street, and on going to the back of the house she found the child with her head downwards in a tub of water. She took the child to Dr. Featherston, but his services were of no avail. After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of Death from Accidental Drowning.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/9/1885

“On Monday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, opened an inquest at the BELL INN, Darlaston, touching the death of William Barnett Roden (32), clerk, of Foster Street, Darlaston, who died under circumstances reported on Saturday.

Assenath Alma Roden said she was the wife of deceased, who was a clerk in the employ of Messrs. John Bagnall and Sons, Wednesbury. She last saw him alive about ten minutes to nine on Wednesday morning, when he left home for business. When he got up he complained of a pain in the head and stomach. He did not return home, and the clerk from the office called at the house the next morning to see where he, and she informed him that she did not know. He then stated that her husband had not been at the office since half-past ten on the Wednesday morning. On Friday morning she called at the office to see if anything had been heard of him, and also went to his sister’s at Great Bridge, but failed to ascertain where he was. As she was returning in the afternoon she met a lady, who asked if she had heard anything about Mr. Roden, and she replied that she had not. In reply to a question asking what he had done, the lady told her to make haste home and she would then know. She made haste home, and there found his dead body, which had been

brought about one o'clock.

The Coroner said he did not intend to take any further evidence, as it was necessary a post mortem examination should be made and other witnesses produced.

In reply to the Coroner, the witness said deceased was insured for £50.

The inquest was adjourned till Thursday morning, the 17th inst.

A large number of persons were in the streets, and considerable interest appeared to be manifested in the inquiry.”

AND

Manchester Courier 18/9/1885

“An inquest was held at Darlaston, yesterday, respecting the death of William Barnett Roden, a clerk, who had been found dead under singular circumstances. Deceased was employed at the Imperial Ironworks as wage clerk, and, in consequence of discrepancies in his accounts having been found amounting to £10, a warrant was issued for his arrest, and the deceased was missing for two days. On the third day he was found in a convulsed state on the canal towing path, and died before medical aid could be obtained. He had lost money by horse racing, and had been in difficulties in consequence. An analysis of the stomach showed that death had been caused by strychnine. There was no evidence to show how the poison was administered, and an Open Verdict was returned.”

Walsall Observer 3/7/1886 - Advert

“Darlaston. Sale of Valuable Freehold Building Land and Dwelling Houses. Monday, July 5th, 1886. Messrs. J. Belcher and Son will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the BELL INN, Church Street, Darlaston, on the above date, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions, the following Properties.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1886

“Yesterday at the BELL INN, Darlaston, Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest on the body of William Edwards, two years and eleven months, son of Sarah Edwards, a widow, living at 40, Church Street. It seemed that on the evening of Friday, the 12th instant, the deceased's mother was engaged in carrying a dish of boiled meat into the front part of her house, which she uses as a shop, when the child, playing with his brother, ran into the house from the street, and, passing into the back room, fell into a pot in which the meat had been boiled, and which had temporarily been placed on the floor by the side of the fireplace. The mother hearing his screams ran and took him out, removed his clothes, and sent for oils; and the next morning, finding that the case was more serious than she had supposed, she sent for Mr. McGrane, whose assistant, Mr. Featherstone, came, and continued in attendance upon the child until its death, which took place on Friday last. Verdict, Accidental Death.

George Ensell, fishmonger, Church Street, who had been summoned to serve on the jury, but did not attend, was fined 10s.”

Walsall Observer 26/11/1887 - Advert

“Darlaston, Staffordshire. Important Sale of Eligible Building Land, with the Ungotten Mines and Minerals thereunder, with extensive Stabling, a well-built Dwelling House, and other Buildings. Messrs. Horton & Scott have received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday, the 29th day of November, 1887, at 6.30 o'clock in the evening precisely.....”

1891 Census

Church Street – BELL INN

- [1] *James Pritchard* (58), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Rose Pritchard* (51), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Mary Pritchard* (25), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Annie Pritchard* (23), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *James Pritchard* (21), son, law student, born Darlaston;
- [6] *John Pritchard* (20), son, brewer, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Emma Slade* (29), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1893 - Advert

“To be Sold, pursuant to an Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, made in an action Lloyds Bank Limited v Morewood and Heathfield Limited, with the approbation of the said Court.

By James Belcher, of the firm Belcher and Son, the person appointed by the said Court, at the BELL INN, at Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on Monday, the 11th day of September, 1893, at Five o'clock in the evening precisely, in one lot. Certain Leasehold Property, known as the St. George's Galvanising Works, situate at Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1893

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, John Monckton (23), Victoria Road, and Charles Davis (29), Albert Street, were charged with stealing three bottles of whisky, the property of Gerald Carroll, keeper of the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston. The evidence was to the effect that they were in the house alone for a short time, and that after they had left the bottles of spirits were missed. The men then went to the BULLS HEAD INN, and after trying to dispose of a bottle of the liquor for 1s 6d, tapped it, and distributed its contents among the persons in the house. Their defence was that they bought a large bottle of whisky from a tramp and his wife, and emptied it into smaller bottles. They were each fined 20s, including costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment.

They were further charged with having stolen three bottles of curacao, the property of *James Pritchard*. In this case they took the bottles from a rack in the prosecutor's vaults, and, having forced their way in a drunken condition into a house occupied by a Mrs. Mansfield and her daughters, there wasted some of the liquor, drinking the remainder. They were each fined 20s, including costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment.”

James Pritchard's daughter, Ann Maria, spinster, married Samuel, bachelor, nut and bolt manufacturer, son of Samuel Canlett of the SWAN, Victoria Road, on 17th October 1896.

Walsall Observer 17/1/1925

“Darlaston has lost another well-known figure by the death of Mr. Samuel Canlett, who passed away at his residence, Foxcote Lodge, Tudor Hill, Sutton Coldfield, in the early hours of Tuesday from pneumonia. For upwards of 40 years the deceased gentleman, who was 60 years of age, had been associated with the firm of J. & R. Rose Ltd, nut and bolt manufacturers, of London Works, Darlaston, and rose to the post of managing director.

Born at Victoria Road, Darlaston, at that time known as Pardows Lane, where his father for many years was licensee of the SWAN HOTEL, Mr. Canlett was educated at Mr. Belcher's School and also at Queen Mary's School, Walsall. As a young man he obtained an appointment under his uncle, the late Mr. James Rose, and soon acquired a thorough knowledge of the nut and bolt trade and did much to develop the business.

Mr. Canlett married, about 30 years ago, the daughter of Mr. *James Pritchard*, brewer, of the BELL HOTEL, Darlaston, and she, with four daughters, survives him.”

[His wife was Ann Maria and his daughters Gladys, Barbara, Peggy and Elsie.]

James Pritchard and Son were wine and spirit merchants and family brewers (est.1849). [1898]
The Son was John Pritchard.

Walsall Advertiser 12/11/1898 - Register of Sales

“Monday, November 14, by Messrs. J. Belcher and Son, Freehold Building Land, at the BELL HOTEL, Darlaston, at 7.30.”

1901 Census

46+47, Church Street – BELL INN

[1] *James Pritchard* (68), licensed victualler and brewer, born Tipton;

[2] Rose Pritchard (63), wife, born Walsall;

[3] Mary Pritchard (34), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] James Pritchard (31), son, solicitor, born Darlaston;

[5] John Pritchard (30), son, brewer, born Darlaston;

- [6] Polly Shaw (19), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath;
[7] Mary Robinson (14), servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Advertiser 9/11/1901 - Advert

“The Well-Built, Semi-Detached Freehold House (formerly the Police Station), situated in Church Street, Darlaston, containing Hall Entrance, three Sitting Rooms, Pantry, Kitchen, Scullery, six Bedrooms, etc. To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Nock & Joseland, at the BELL HOTEL, Darlaston, on Monday, 18th November, 1901, at 7 o’clock in the evening punctually.....”

James Pritchard was president of Darlaston FC for many years. [1905]

Walsall Advertiser 20/3/1909

“The annual general meeting of the Darlaston Cricket Club was held at the headquarters, GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, on Wednesday evening.....

Season 1908 had been the most remarkable one in the annals of the club, for in its first season’s connection with the Walsall and District League, the championship was carried off, the club heading the league table for the greater part of the season.....

The presentation of the League championship medals was made by the chairman to the players, and the league cup was filled with champagne by Messrs. James Pritchard and Son, of the BELL HOTEL, and proprietors of the cricket field.”

Walsall Observer 30/7/1910

“The funeral of the late Mr. *James Pritchard*, head of the firm of Messrs. James Pritchard and Son, brewers, of Darlaston, took place on Monday afternoon. A service was held at the Parish Church, which was crowded. The officiating clergyman was the Rector (the Rev. T. E. Hamer).....”

1911 Census

Church Street – BELL INN

- [1] Rose Pritchard (74), widow, born Darlaston;
[2] Mary Pritchard (44), daughter, born Darlaston;
[3] Polly Shaw (29), general servant, born Cradley;
[4] Edith Cartwright (19), general servant, born Dudley:

James Pritchard and Son, brewers, Church Street, and BELL HOTEL, 48 & 49, Church Street. [1912]

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘Darlaston’ by A. E. Pitcher, JP

“.....On ground now occupied by the Trustee Bank was the BELL INN, a large pub owned by Mr. *Pritchard* who had a brewery to the rear which was later demolished and the land used by the Council Highways Department. Between the BELL and Croft House ran a passageway which gave access to Dale End and Walsall Street.”

South Staffordshire Times 14/2/1920

“Darlaston Poultry Society. The monthly meeting and prize distribution of the above took place on Thursday last week at the BELL HOTEL, Church Street.....”

Walsall Observer 5/4/1924

“The first of a series of smoking concerts organised for the benefits of the funds of the Darlaston Football Club, was held at the BELL HOTEL, Darlaston, on Tuesday evening. Mr. C. H. Hollinshead (chairman of the committee) presided. There was an attendance of over 100, and a very enjoyable time was spent.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 18/7/1925

“Mr. A. D. Belcher (Messrs. Belcher and Son, FAI) held a property sale at the BELL HOTEL on Monday,

when there was a good attendance. In all nine lots were put up for auction, and five of them were disposed of.....”

James Hitchins married *Mary Spink*, the widow of Samuel Spink of the FORGE, Willenhall Road, in the 4th quarter of 1914.

1931 Probate

“*James Hitchins*, of 48 Church Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 28 December 1930. Probate London 21 February to Albert Hitchins, fitter, and Albert Shaw, bricklayer. Effects £878 10s 5d.”

1939 Register

47+48, Church Street

- [1] *Mary Hitchins*, date of birth 14/12/1879, manageress, widowed;
- [2] Samuel Spink, dob 20/8/1903, turner, tools, married;
- [3] Sarah Ann (Spink) Carpenter, dob 23/7/1901, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] Margaret (Spink) Wright, dob 9/12/1930, at school, single:

Walsall Observer 22/7/1944

“Lieut. J. M. Pritchard Killed In France 3 Months After Brother’s Death.

Only three months after the death from wounds in Burma of their elder son, Captain Norman H. Pritchard, Mr. and Mrs. John Pritchard, of 20, Mellish Road, Walsall, were notified last week that their younger son, Lieut. John Max Pritchard, had been killed in action in Normandy. Only a short time before his death a picture published in a Midland evening paper had shown him leading a column of the Royal Warwicks after their landing in France. He was married two years ago to Miss Joyce Banks, of Stratford-on-Avon, where his wife is now living with their year-old son.

Lieut. Pritchard, who was 36 years of age, was a man of splendid physique – well over six feet in height and of proportionate build – and his fine moral qualities as much as his athletic prowess, won the admiration of all who knew him. For a time he attended Queen Mary’s Grammar School and received his later education at Denstone College, where he won numerous awards on the sports field.

Having decided to follow the business of his father, who is head of the firm of J. Prichard and Son, brewers of Darlaston, he went for his early training to the Highgate Walsall Brewery Co. Ltd. (of which Mr. John Pritchard is now a director). Later he held appointments at Blackburn, Sone, and Stratford-on-Avon. He left the service of Flower and Sons Ltd., of Stratford, to join the Army early in 1941.....”

George Joseph Williams died in the 1st quarter of 1955.

Winifred Louise Beaumont was his daughter.

It closed on 27th March 1956.

The license was transferred to the OLD HALL.

It was demolished.

Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1958

“A Darlaston widow, Mrs. *Winifred Beaumont*, of Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Bentley, may refuse to leave her council maisonette on August 11. Darlaston Urban Council had ordered her to quit the premises by this date. ‘Unless something drastic happens I cannot see how I can comply with this order,’ Mrs. *Beaumont* said yesterday. ‘I am prepared to state my case in a court.’

Mrs. *Beaumont* was licensee of a Darlaston public house for a year after her father’s death. When the house was demolished by the local authority she was granted tenancy of the maisonette for a year. The council permitted a three-month extension, but will not allow more time because of the commitments of the housing list.

Mrs. *Beaumont* has a widowed mother, aged 75, and an 11-year-old son to look after. She works in a Wolverhampton office, and her son has just gained a place at Wolverhampton Grammar School. Her request to be placed on the Wolverhampton housing register was refused because she lives just inside the five mile

travelling radius. ‘My case is that I should be allowed more time to find somewhere to live,’ she said. ‘I have tried many places, but I just cannot afford the fantastic rents asked.’”

BENTLEY GREEN

Bentley Road North, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Brewers Fayre [1997], [1999]

Table Table [2010]

Beefeater (Whitbread) [2021], [2022]

LICENSEES

NOTES

[1997]

Express & Star 22/11/2010

“On a cold night you could do worse than pull up a pew at this warming Black Country pub, writes Catherine Dalton. Yes, winter is definitely well and truly on its way. So what can be better on a cold wintery night than an evening in a comfy chair, a log fire and a plate of warming food? It may not have real log fires but BENTLEY GREEN restaurant and bar certainly succeeds in creating a warm, welcoming and homely feeling. Deep red walls and dark wood fittings help to make this pub/restaurant feel like a cosy hub tucked away despite it being just off the Black Country Route in Bentley. Exposed brick work, piles of logs and low lighting really do give the feel of a country pub, while abstract arty statues and paintings help keep it feeling young and modern. Mismatched chairs and tables of all shapes and sizes – some tucked away in separate alcoves ideal for family parties – help to create an informal and lived-in feeling. At the centre of the restaurant is a long, brightly lit and well-stocked bar which would not look out of place in a trendier city centre wine bar. The Table Table restaurant at BENTLEY GREEN is a bit of a rabbit warren – with each corner leading off to a new seating area making it ideal for people who like to people watch as they eat but also great for people who want to find a little nook or cranny to hide away. On this cold weekday night, most of the tables have already been taken up, while reserved signs stand on top of a large number of the others.

Situated next to a Premier Inn hotel and close to junction 10 of the M6, the restaurant welcomes a fair amount of businessmen and women passing through. The low lighting is interrupted only by the glare from the laptops and iPads set up around the place. In one corner, a lone diner is absorbed in a heavy block of business papers, while at the next table two work colleagues are loudly discussing the events of the day. Tucked away in one of the alcoves is a party of 12 – young and old – who are celebrating a family birthday. At the bar, a petite barmaid is chatting animatedly to a group of regulars who are perched on stools. The menu at the Table Table restaurant is varied and vast and is almost certain to be able to cater for most tastes. Starters range from classics such as prawn cocktail and breaded mushrooms to the more continental dough balls dipped in flavoured olive oils. Main courses include your pub classics such as half a chicken and chips (£7.99) and beef, mushroom and ale pie (£7.99) to pastas and salads and a range of beefburgers.....”

[2022]

BIRD IN HAND

65, (66), (27), Pinfold Street / King Edward Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Atkinsons Brewery Ltd. [1909], [1910]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired on 1st October 1959)

LICENSEES

Simeon Butler [1861] – **1896**
Thomas Evans [1900] – [1904]
Herbert Williams [1909] – **1931**);
Sidney Thomas Debney (**1931 – 1936**);
Samuel Taylor (**1936 – 1937**);
Joseph Cresswell (**1937 – 1939**);
Arthur Foster (**1939 – 1949**);
John Henry Powell (**1949 – 1954**);
George Butler (**1954 – 1956**);
Arthur Clarke (**1956 – 1958**);
William Hood (**1958** – [1967])

NOTES

27, Pinfold Street [1871]
66, Pinfold Street [1884]
65, Pinfold Street [1881], [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Pinfold Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Simeon Butler* (29), screw forger and beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Butler (28), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] John Butler (10), son, blower on a screw factory, born Darlaston;
- [4] Simeon Butler (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Mary Butler (4), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Job Butler (1 month), son, born Darlaston;
- [7] Rhoda Butler (27), sister, general servant, born Darlaston:

Simeon Butler, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1862], [1868], [1872]

1871 Census

27, Pinfold Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Simeon Butler* (39), labourer and beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Butler (37), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] John H. Butler (20), son, iron roller, born Darlaston;
- [4] Simeon Butler (16), son, iron roller, born Darlaston;

- [5] Mary Butler (14), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Job Butler (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Theresa Butler (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Rhoda Butler (37), sister, domestic servant, born Darlaston:

1881 Census

65, Pinfold Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Simeon Butler* (49), beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Butler (48), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Mary Butler (24), daughter, assists in house, born Darlaston;
- [4] Job Butler (20), son, assists in brewery, born Darlaston;
- [5] Theresa Butler (15), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Thomas Butler (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1884 - Advert

“Sale of Properties at Darlaston. August 6, 1884.

Messrs. J. Belcher & Son will Sell by Auction, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Darlaston, on Wednesday Next, August 6, at 5 for 6 o'clock, subject to conditions to be then produced.

Lot 1. The Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House and Beershop, being No.66, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, now in the occupation of Mr. *Simeon Butler*, and known as the BIRD IN HAND. Also, the Two Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, being Nos.64 and 65, Pinfold Street, in the occupation of Messrs. Gilbert and Butler, producing together an annual rental of £45 2s.

Lot 2. Two Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, Nos.62 and 63, Pinfold Street, adjoining the last-mentioned Lot, in the several occupations of Messrs. Turley and Turley, producing an annual rental of £16 18s.....”

1891 Census

65, Pinfold Street

- [1] *Simeon Butler* (60), widower, brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Armeal T. Butler (19), son, tailor, born Darlaston;
- [3] Clara Butler (17), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Martha Butler (39), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

1901 Census

65, Pinfold Street

- [1] *Thomas Evans* (66), married, licensed victualler, born Kingswinford;
- [2] Mary J. Evans (31), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [3] Betsy Evans (30), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Joseph Evans (26), son, bolt maker, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the

house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5."

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....

There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act....."

[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Thomas Evans, beer retailer, 65, Pinfold Street. [1904]

Walsall Advertiser 6/2/1909

"The general annual Licensing Sessions for Darlaston were held at the Police Court on Wednesday morning.....

The licensees of BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street (*Herbert Williams*) were then called before the Court and informed that a notice of objection would be served on them on the ground that the licenses were not required. Each case would be dealt with at the Adjourned Sessions."

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

"The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston were held on Wednesday.....

The license of the BIRD IN HAND beerhouse, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, and tenanted by *Herbert Williams*, was objected to on the grounds of redundancy.

Mr. R. A. Willcock, who appeared for the owners, Messrs. Atkinsons Ltd, brewers, of Aston, said that if the justices would renew the license of the BIRD IN HAND, he would apply next year for the removal of the spirit license from the UNION INN to the former house and give up the license of the UNION INN altogether. After a remark by Mr. Doughty as to whether they were willing to give up any other license, Mr. Willcock said, 'That is £2,000 for you, sir.'

After retiring and conferring with Mr. Willcock, the Bench said the license would be renewed upon conditions agreed upon."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/2/1910

"Darlaston licensing sessions were held on Wednesday.....

An application by Messrs. Atkinson for a full license at the BIRD IN HAND beerhouse, Pinfold Street, was deferred."

Birmingham Mail 1/2/1911

"At Darlaston annual licensing sessions today, Supt. Salt reported that there was one license to every 167.3 of the population, four licensed houses having been closed during the year owing to the operation of the compensation clauses of the Licensing Act. Only one licensed victualler had been prosecuted, and the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness was 69, against 62 in the previous year.

The Chairman (Mr. F. H. Lloyd) characterised the report as a very gratifying one, but he urged licensees to pay special attention to the suppression of bad language on licensed premises, and said the magistrates were determined to deal in a severe manner with complaints of this description. Mr. A. H. Partridge added that it was a matter for satisfaction that there had been a diminution of drunkenness amongst females.

The Bench renewed all the licenses except those of BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, in connection with which there is an application to remove the license to new premises."

Walsall Observer 4/3/1911

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

An objection was made to the renewal of the license of the UNION INN, Pinfold Street, on the ground of redundancy, and there was an application by Mr. R. A. Willcock, on behalf of Atkinson’s Brewery Company, for the license to be transferred to new premises to be erected on the site of the BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, or in the alternative for a full license to be granted to the new premises. He explained that originally an offer was made to surrender the license of the UNION INN in consideration of the proposed grant of a full license for the BIRD IN HAND, but owing to conflicting interests between the county compensation authority and the Inland Revenue the nature of the application had to be altered. The Bench, if agreeable to the proposal, would have to fix the monopoly value, and he suggested this should be simply an amount which would be equivalent to the sum the owners would receive as compensation for the license of the UNION INN.

Mr. Simpson (Birmingham), on behalf of the Inland Revenue, urged that there must be a monopoly value apart altogether from the question of the license of the UNION INN being given up.

The Bench, after a long hearing, agreed to grant the application, intimating that they would recommend that £400 should be paid as compensation in respect of the UNION INN, and that the monopoly value of the full license of the BIRD IN HAND should be fixed at £450.”

1911 Census

65, Pinfold Street

- [1] *Herbert Williams* (31), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Emily Williams* (32), wife, married 10 years, assisting in business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Herbert Williams* (9), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Edith Williams* (2), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Horace Williams* (15 months), son, born Darlaston:

Herbert Williams, beer retailer, 65, Pinfold Street. [1912]

1939 Register

65, Pinfold Street – B IN HAND

- [1] *Arthur Foster*, date of birth 4/6/1889, manager, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Violet May Foster*, dob 1/1/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Arthur William Foster*, dob 20/5/1916, sheet metal worker, single;
- [4] *Jack Foster*, dob 22/1/1922, wood worker, carpenter, single;
- [5] *Nellie (Joyce) Foster*, dob 13/12/1911, sheet metal worker, single:

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

Arthur Foster – see also OAK TREE.

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1950.

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1963.

John Henry Powell was fined £3 and £3 7s 0d special costs, on 17th February 1954, for selling adulterated gin.

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....
BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.”

It closed in January 1979.

It was converted into housing. [2004]

BLACK HORSE

20, Pinfold Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1919], [1939]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Job Taylor [1834] – [1846]

Edward Hardstone [1851] – [1861]

William Hopkins [1871] – [1874]

George Spruce [1879] – [1881]

Thomas Newton [1882] – **1913**;

Arthur Newton (**1913 – 1926**);

Arthur Henry Newton (**1926 – 1958**);

George Edward Garner (**1958 – [1967]**)

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1838 - Advert

“Runaway Apprentice.

Whereas George Hague, aged seventeen years, of short stature, with light brown hair and long countenance, dressed in a flannel shirt with new front, and dark plaid trousers, has Absconded from his master, John Tice, miner, of Darlaston; a reward of 10s will be given to any person giving such information as may lead to his apprehension.

Address John Tice, to be left at the BLACK HORSE, Darlaston.”

Job Taylor, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1841]

1841 Census

Pinfold Street

[1] *Job Taylor* (65), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] Ann Taylor (65), born Staffordshire;

[3] Job Taylor (20), born Staffordshire;

[4] Elizabeth Taylor (35), born Staffordshire;

[5] Jemimah Taylor (15), born Staffordshire;

[6] Charlotte Hitch (15), born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/10/1841 - Died

“On the 1st instant, aged 25, Mr. Job Taylor, son of Mr. *Job Taylor*, of the BLACK HORSE INN, Darlaston.

The deceased was a member of the Walsall troop of Staffordshire Yeomanry, and marched to Lichfield on permanent duty; was at Walsall fair, on Tuesday, and in the street, at Darlaston, only two days prior to his death, which is supposed to have been occasioned by a tumid inflammation in the throat, produced by his having caught cold. The deceased was interred with military honours on Monday afternoon."

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/10/1846

"*Job Taylor* was fined 10s and costs, for having his house open on Sunday morning, the 27th of September, at Darlaston."

Edward Hardstone = Edward Hartstone = Edward Harstone = Edward Harlston = Edward Harston

1851 Census

Pinfold Street

[1] *Edward Hartstone* (42), beer retailer, born Walsall;

[2] Elizabeth Hartstone (41) wife, born Darlaston;

[3] William Page (22), nephew, born Darlaston;

[4] Edward Blough (22), servant, born Bushbury;

[5] Comfort Goodwin (14), niece, born Darlaston;

[6] Faith Goodwin (7), niece, born Darlaston;

Elizabeth Hardstone was the daughter of *Job Taylor*.

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

"Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

One sheep was roasted at Mr. *Hartstone*'s, the BLACK HORSE.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off during the course of the night.....

Many of the shops and houses were brilliantly illuminated Mr. *Harlston*, the BLACK HORSE, displayed two stars, with the letters 'V.A.N.' underneath a crown; Mr. Corbett. the UNION INN, had a transparency, with the letter 'V.' in his window; Mr. Howl exhibited a crown in variegated lamps; two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order."

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

"A Special Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Great Barr, on Wednesday last, to determine with reference to sixty-three new applications for spirit licenses made in the division.....

Edward Harston, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, supported by Mr. Duignan, not opposed Refused."

Birmingham Journal 29/8/1857

"Annual Licensing Day Sessions adjourned till Friday, the 25th day of September next, when forty-two applications from retail brewers in the division for wine and spirit licenses will be considered.....

Edward Harstone, Pinfold Street, Darlaston."

[Refused at the adjourned sessions.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1858

"Applications for New [spirit] Licenses.....

The number of applicants for licenses was thirty. The following were the applications.....

Darlaston.....

Edward Harstone, Pinfold Street, was supported by Mr. Hinchliffe Refused."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/12/1859

“Wednesbury Petty Sessions.....

David Bolton was charged with having stolen some wheat and a pair of nippers, the property of *Edward Hardstone*, beershop keeper. The evidence of witnesses went to show that on Saturday night the prisoner got into prosecutor’s back room, where was a sack of wheat, from which he abstracted a quantity, and took it away, with the nippers. He was sentenced to eight days’ imprisonment, with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1860

“At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Wednesday, before J. Leigh and T. Davies, Esqrs, Edward Court was charged with having uttered and put off a number of counterfeit coins, with intent to defraud a hawker of jewellery, named Nathan Levi. The prosecutor stated that on Monday afternoon he was at the BLACK HORSE public house, Darlaston, when the prisoner came in, purchased some of his wares, and gave him seven shillings in bad money in payment. He gave information to the police, who apprehended the prisoner, and took him into custody, when some other base coins were found upon him. The case was remanded for the decision of the Mint authorities.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/3/1860

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Edwin Court, 40, boilermaker, was charged with uttering counterfeit coin, at Darlaston. Nathan Levy, a licensed hawker and a Jew, was, on the evening of the 9th January last, at the BLACK HORSE public house, Darlaston, where he sold the prisoner, who was ‘fresh’ at the time, a gilt pin, ring, and brooch, for 6s 6d, which money was discovered to be counterfeit. Police-constable Cockayne, who apprehended the prisoner, also found upon him two other counterfeit coins, wrapt up in tissue paper. Levy admitted, in cross-examination, that he had offered to make up the matter if the prisoner would give him back what he had bought, and a good shilling.

Mr. Kenealey, for the defence, said that the prisoner could have no motive in committing the crime he was charged with, as he was a man of property; and that being drunk he might have been robbed of his own money by some thief, who had substituted the bad money in its place. He also argued that a professional ‘smasher’ would never have tried to impose upon so sharp a fellow as Levy appeared to be, but upon some unsuspecting girl or little child. The learned counsel then called William Walton, butty miner; Thomas Rogers, iron turner; and Thomas Aston, fitter and turner – who gave the prisoner a good character for periods varying from seven to thirty years, during which time he had maintained an excellent character as an honest well-conducted man.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to twelve calendar months’ imprisonment to hard labour.”

1861 Census

Pinfold Street – BLACK HORSE

- [1] *Edward Hardstone* (53), publican and retail brewer, born Walsall Wood;
- [2] *Elizabeth Hardstone* (53), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Sarah Goodwin Hardstone* (17), niece, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Maria Green* (20), house servant, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Edward Toovey* (7), nephew, scholar, born Darlaston:

Elizabeth Hardstone (60), widow, married *William Hopkins* (27), bachelor, labourer, on 3rd February 1869.

William Hopkins = William Hopkiss

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/1/1871

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), Matthew Penn, butty collier, Darlaston, was summoned for violently assaulting a man named Heartless, screw-maker, also of Darlaston. From complainant’s evidence it appeared that he and a friend were walking out together, and they called at the BLACK HORSE, Pinfold Street, about a quarter past twelve for the purpose of ‘wetting their whistles.’ They went there, in point of fact ‘to let the old year out, and the new year in.’ (Laughter.)

Mr. Spooner: You were going to 'let the new year in,' and at the same time get the landlord into a scrape. It was a quarter past twelve, you say. 'Well,' continued complainant, 'we had not been at the door many minutes, when the defendant came up and knocked me down. I got up, and he knocked me down again, and almost stunned me. I had given him not the least provocation.'

Mr. Spooner: Were you drunk? – Complainant: No, I hadn't been drinking at all that night.

Mr. Spooner: No, but had you had anything during the day time? – Complainant: I only had two glasses of ale. I only left 'wum' (home) at about half-past eleven.

Defendant denied that he struck complainant. He heard him kicking at the door of the public house, and saw someone throw a quantity of fire at him through the window.

Mr. Spooner said it appeared to him that defendant had committed a most unprovoked assault on complainant, and he should fine him as high as he possibly could. Fined £5 and costs, or in default two months' imprisonment."

1871 Census

Pinfold Street – BLACK HORSE beerhouse

[1] *William Hopkins* (30), contractor on roads, born Shipston on Stour, Worcestershire;

[2] *Elizabeth Hopkins* (62), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Joseph Cleming* (20), horse driver, born Harrington, Somerset;

[4] *Edward Toovey* (16), domestic servant, born Darlaston;

[5] *Elizabeth Critch* (7), niece, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] *Ann Dabbs* (17), domestic servant, born Ocker Hill, Tipton:

Dudley Guardian 21/3/1874

"Nicholas Fitzsimon, an Irishman, a hawker, of 90, Oxford Street, Bilston, was charged with having attempted to pass a base florin, at the house of *William Hopkins*, the BLACK HORSE INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, on Saturday night.

Evidence was given to show that he tendered the coin in payment for a glass of beer. Mrs. *Hopkins* saw that it was a bad one, and refused to give it him again. He stated that he had received it for a piece of cloth he had sold. He then left the house, went to the Police-station, and told Sergeant Breton what had occurred.

The sergeant went with the man, and ascertained that he had sold a piece of cloth, but the purchaser denied that the two-shilling piece he gave him was a bad one. Only 1½d was found upon him.

The Stipendiary said it was impossible for a hawker to mistake the character of the coin, and he should remand the prisoner until Friday, bail being allowed."

George Spruce, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1880]

1881 Census

20, Pinfold Street

[1] *George Spruce* (47), butty miner, born Snedshill, Shropshire;

[2] *Emma Spruce* (47), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *George Spruce* (25), son, coal miner, born Darlaston;

[4] *Samuel Spruce* (23), son, engine fitter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Larius Spruce* (21), son, coal miner, born Darlaston;

[6] *Thomas Spruce* (20), son, coal miner, born Darlaston;

[7] *Emily Spruce* (16), daughter, born Darlaston;

[8] *Jane Spruce* (14), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[9] *Rachel Spruce* (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[10] *Anna Spruce* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury:

George Spruce – see also WOODMAN.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/7/1889

"Free Gardenry at Darlaston.

The first annual dinner of the Welcome All Lodge of the Birmingham and District of the N.U.O. of Free Gardeners was held, on Monday, at the house of Bro. *Thomas Newton*, BLACK HORSE INN, Darlaston, when an excellent repast was served up by Mrs. *Newton*, the hostess. After the cloth had been withdrawn, Bro. John Evans, DM, was voted to the chair, and Bro. *Thomas Newton*, PDM, to the vice-chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been duly honoured, 'The Order' was responded to by Brother *Thomas Newton*, and 'Success to the Welcome All Lodge' by Brother John Evans, after which a most satisfactory report was read by the Secretary (Brother Thomas Bingley). Songs and duets were most ably rendered by Brothers *Newton*, Hingley, Amos Thompson, and Lamburn."

1891 Census

20, Pinfold Street – BLACK HORSE

- [1] *Thomas Newton* (49), band bolt manufacturer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Hannah Newton (48), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Isaac Newton (22), son, band bolt maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] Benjamin Newton (20), son, fitter, nut and bolt factory, born Darlaston;
- [5] Keziah Newton (18), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] Thomas Newton (16), son, band bolt maker, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Arthur Newton* (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Birtham Newton (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/9/1892

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Mr. Neville (stipendiary) – James Fletcher and Humphrey Beasley, of Catherines Cross, were each fined 1s and costs for refusing to quit the BLACK HORSE INN, Pinfold Street. Mr. F. W. Topham prosecuted.

Fletcher and a man named Careless were then charged with assaulting Charles Humphage at the same time and place. Police-constable Green said he saw prisoners strike and kick Humphage, whose face was covered with blood. The Stipendiary said it was a cowardly assault, and fined Fletcher 20s and costs, or a month; and Careless 10s and costs, or fourteen days' hard labour."

1901 Census

20, Pinfold Street

- [1] *Thomas Newton* (59), bolt screw manufacturer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Hannah Newton (58), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Arthur H. Newton* (17), son, fitter (machine), born Darlaston;
- [4] Birtham Newton (15), son, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

"Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

BLACK HORSE, Pinfold Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of

police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5."

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act....." [Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

1911 Census

20, Pinfold Street

[1] *Thomas Newton* (69), innkeeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Hannah Newton* (68), wife, married 46 years, born Darlaston;

[3] *Arthur Newton* (27), son, screwing tool maker, born Darlaston;

[4] *Birthington Newton* (25), son, band screw maker, born Darlaston:

Thomas Newton, beer retailer, 20, Pinfold Street. [1912]

Black Country Bugle

'Darlaston - In The Mind's Eye Of Horace Rose'

"In fact, his family had deep Darlaston roots – his maternal grandfather being *Thomas Newton*, of BLACK HORSE fame (the *Newton* family, of course, kept this Pinfold Street hostelry for several generations) *Thomas* also ran a nut and bolt factory behind the pub for about twenty years, employing a number of local olivers (nut and bolt forgers). He passed away in 1913, in his 82nd year. Horace's uncle, *Arthur Newton*, then took over the pub license During his youth, Horace lived behind the BLACK HORSE and was a frequent visitor to the old 'spit and sawdust' bar. He was intrigued by the grimy but colourful colliers, the spittoons and the monkeys and parrots that would be on display for the amusement of the imbibers."

Walsall Observer 3/1/1925

"Both over 80 years of age, Mr. and Mrs. *Thomas Newton*, of the BLACK HORSE INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, on Christmas day celebrated their diamond wedding. Mr. *Newton* has kept the BLACK HORSE for something like 38 years, and it is a source of pride with him that he and his wife are still able to carry it on. Born in 1842, Mr. *Newton* is a native of Darlaston, his parents at the time of his birth living at Blockall. He had some schooling under Mr. Belcher, of Darlaston, but when only 9 he commenced work in his father's business of screw-making. At 22 he set up a business of his own (which is still being carried on by one of his sons) and in 1864 he married Miss Hannah Turner, of Cramp Hill, who is only seven months younger than himself. Of their thirteen children, seven are still living, and all, with 19 grand-children and four great-grand-children, were present at the family re-union.

Mr. *Newton* was looking remarkably hale and hearty when interviewed by an *Observer* representative. He said he had once been a big smoker, and he does not ascribe his ripe age to water drinking!

Times have altered a good deal since Mr. *Newton* was a lad, and even since he became a licensee, and one of his earliest recollections is of the building of St. George's Church. The Green, Darlaston, instead of practically linking Darlaston with the Pleck by an almost continuous line of houses, Fallings Heath in his younger days was marked only by a building here and there, while along the way to Willenhall, where now stand huge furnaces and works, were cornfields, and the district had a rural aspect.

Licensing conditions, too, have altered much since the days when almost every licensee brewed, and it was quite common for the public houses to remain open all night long."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 25/8/1928

"The death took place last week of Mr. *Thomas Newton*, a highly respected resident in Darlaston, and licens-

ee of the BLACK HORSE HOTEL, Pinfold Street, for over 43 years. Mr. *Newton*, who was 86, was by trade a master screw maker, and carried on a business in Darlaston, which he inherited from his father. He was very well known in Darlaston, and his death will be felt by a wide circle of friends. The funeral took place on Monday at James Bridge Cemetery, a service being conducted in the cemetery chapel by the Rector of Darlaston (the Rev. J. W. Augur).....”

1928 Probate

“*Thomas Newton*, of the BLACK HORSE INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 16 August 1928. Administration London 6 November to Hannah Newton, widow, and Benjamin Newton, works foreman. Effects £1,531 19s 1d.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 6/10/1928

“Darlaston Fire Brigade were called out on Friday night to the BLACK HORSE INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, where a fire had broken out. The brigade turned out in 4½ minutes, and on arrival it was found that the chimney had been on fire during the day, a beam continuing to smoulder in the chimney.”

Walsall Observer 24/12/1932

“The funeral took place on Wednesday, at the Parish Church, Darlaston, of Mrs. Hannah *Newton*, aged 90, of the BLACK HORSE, Pinfold Street. Mrs. *Newton*, who died yesterday week, was a well-known figure in Darlaston, and had been in the licensed trade for over 45 years. Seven years ago she and her husband, the late Mr. *Thomas Newton*, celebrated their golden wedding. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. W. Augur (Rector), and the principal mourners were Mr. Thomas Newton, Mr. Benjamin Newton, Mr. *Arthur Newton*, Mr. Bert Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Rose, and Mr. and Mrs. Tyler. The bearers were Messrs. T. Askey, T. Turner, A. H. Partridge, E. Pitcher, J. Wright, and S. Smith. The interment was at James Bridge.”

Plans were approved for the provision of a bathroom and indoor sanitary accommodation on 26th May 1937.

1939 Register

20, Pinfold Street – BLACK HORSE

[1] *Arthur Henry Newton*, date of birth 18/12/1882, foreman tool maker and tool setter, bolts, and beerhouse licensee, single;

[2] Emily Greaves, dob 20/10/1893, paid domestic duties, assists in bar, single:

A full license was confirmed on 26th April 1960.

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

BLACK HORSE, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.”

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1978 and 1979.

Closed

Demolished

BLACK HORSE

Bank, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Wood [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

BLUE PIG

Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Rebecca Jones [1834] – [1851]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Rebecca Jones, beer retailer, Catherines Cross. [1841]

1841 Census

Catherines Cross

[1] *Rebecca Jones* (63), born Staffordshire;

[2] *Sharlotte Dunklin* (19), f.s., born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Catherines Cross

[1] *Rebecca Jones* (74), retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Ann Wilkes* (11), grand-daughter, servant, born Darlaston:

BOAT

20, Bentley Road (South), (Canal Side), (Lower) Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd [1919]

Frank Myatt Ltd. (acquired 7th February 1921)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Anne Garratt [1818]
Joseph Butler [1831] – [1834]
Thomas Grosvenor [1843]
Edward Russell [1845] – [1850]
William Whitehouse [1850] – [1851]
Joseph Cockram [1851] – [1854]
Henry Pitt [] – **1857**);
James Small (**1857** – []
William Rhodes [1857]
Joseph Cockram [1859]
Mrs. Hannah Cockram [1860] – **1863**);
Henry Cope (**1863** – **1869**);
Isaac Yardley (**1869** – **1870**);
John Henry Whitworth (**1870** – [1872]
John Price [1880]
Thomas Hale [1880] – **1881**);
Mrs. Mary Ann Hale (**1881** – []
Thomas Hale [1883] – [1891]
Mrs. Eliza Hale [1891] – [1892]
Joseph Nightingale [1896] – [1901]
John Thomas Simmonds [1904] – **1925**);
Mrs. Mary Ann Simmonds (**1925** – **1951**);
Harry Preece (**1951** – **1954**);
Joseph Edward Cockayne (**1954** – **1955**);
John ‘Jack’ Bott (**1955** – **1956**);
Joseph Bastable (**1956** – **1958**);
Derek Jones (**1958** – **1959**);
Henry Herbert Biggins (**1959** – **1961**);
John Thomas Farnell (**1961** – **1963**);
Frederick Noakes (**1963** – **1965**);
Elizabeth (Archer) Watton (**1965** – [1967]
Bernard J Guest [1975]
Peter Knight [1985]
Gary Turner (**1994** – [1996]
Keith Braithwaite [2003]

NOTES

Canalside [1834]
Green [1850], [1851], [1862]
Bentley Road [1871], [1896], [1912], [1916], [1940]
20, Bentley Road [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911], [1939]
Bentley Road South [1975]

The original pub was situated on the opposite side of the Walsall Canal to the present building.

It had a beerhouse license.

BOAT HOUSE [1831]

BOAT COMMERCIAL INN [1896], [1900], [1904], [1912]

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1831

“Duke of Wellington’s Beer Bill.....

The cheapness of beer proves only an incentive to excess; while the grand object of the retailer is to multiply every vicious attraction which interest and ingenuity can suggest. We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured, and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.....”

AND

Birmingham Journal 3/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

In perusing your *Journal* of Saturday last, I find the following which is incorrect, but I have no doubt it is from misinformation. ‘We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.’

The fact, Sir, is this; there were eight bulls in the whole, and one of those was at a Beer House, in Wednesbury parish, and seven were in the parish of Darlaston. There are, in the latter parish, seventeen houses licensed under the old Act, and thirty-five under the new Act. Six of those bulls were baited at the houses of the licensed victuallers, and but one at the house of a retail brewer.

This, Sir, is a truth which cannot be contradicted. I can give you the names of the persons, and the signs of every house at which these bulls were baited, if required.

I am, Sir, Your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, August 31, 1831.....

AND

Birmingham Journal 10/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

Sir, Agreeable to your request I have given you the names of the persons, also their signs, at the houses where the bulls were baited at the late Darlaston wake.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, September 8, 1831.....

Licensed under the Old Act *J. Butler*, BOAT HOUSE.”

Thomas Grosvenor = Thomas Grovener

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 19/6/1843 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, adjoining Messrs. Bills and Mills’s Iron Works, and Catherines Cross, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. Whitehouse, at the BOAT INN, Darlaston aforesaid, on Friday the 30th day of June, 1843, at five o’clock in the evening, by direction of the Mortgagee, subject to conditions to be then and there produced.

Lot I. All that old-established Public House, called the BOAT INN, consisting of two parlours, tap room, cellarage, together with the Stable, Slaughter-house, Piggeries, Garden Ground, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, fronting the Canal, and adjoining Messrs. Bills and Mills’s Iron Works, and now in the occupation of *Thomas Grosvenor*.

Also all those six newly-erected Messuages or Dwelling Houses adjoining to the last-mentioned Premises, with the Garden Ground and Appurtenances thereto belonging, and now in the respective occupations of William Bird, William Shearwood, and others.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/3/1844 - Advert

“To be Let, the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green.

Persons wishing to take to a public house will find this an excellent opportunity, as the house is excellently situated on the Liverpool line of canal, and adjoining the extensive ironworks of Messrs. Bills and Mills. The house is also suitable for selling hay, straw, horse corn, grocery, or the butchering business, as a good slaughter-house and stable and other outbuildings suitable, are adjoining the house, with good garden.

The coming-in will be very low, as the stock of spirits &c is reduced, and only the brewing utensils and a few fixtures to be taken to; the person leaving will take his furniture away with him, as he is going to commence the farming business, and leaving on account of ill health.

Apply by letter to W. Powell and Son, 37, Bromsgrove Street; or to Mr. Partridge, house agent, Darlaston; or to Mr. *Grovener*, BOOT [sic] INN, Darlaston Green."

Edward Russell was also a bricklayer. [1845], [1849], [1850]

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/5/1846

"On Wednesday, and, by adjournment, on Friday, an inquest was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Mary Rose, a young woman, about 19 years of age, who had been found in the canal that morning. It appeared that the deceased had been married to her husband, John Rose, about 8 weeks.

On Easter Monday night, there was a dance at the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green, to which the deceased went with her mother-in-law, and after dancing about two hours, they went into the bar, where the husband of the deceased was, and in a short time they all went home together. On the following night there was another dance at the same place, and the deceased went again, although her husband, who had gone to bed before she went, told her she had better not go. At half-past eleven o'clock her mother-in-law went and told her the time, but she refused to go until the last dance was over, which was about twelve o'clock, shortly after she left the room, followed by a young man named John Pearson, with whom she had been dancing. The husband awoke about three o'clock in the morning, and not finding his wife in bed, he got up and part dressed himself, but finding the door locked, he went to the BOAT INN, and enquired if his wife was there, and on learning that she had left about half-past 12 o'clock, he returned home, and finished dressing himself, and then went up to deceased's father and knocked him up; but he never saw her again until Wednesday last, when he saw her dead body in her mother's room. He had never heard of the deceased threatening to make herself away. Mr. Meeson, surgeon, said he had made a post mortem examination of the body of deceased, and there was a slight bruise on the right side of the face, but not sufficient to cause death, and he was of opinion that her death was occasioned by drowning. Verdict to that effect."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/2/1847 - Advert

"To Publicans and Others.

Sale at the BOAT INN, near the Iron Works of Messrs. Bills and Mills, Darlaston Green.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Osbourn, on the premises as above, on Wednesday next, February 24 (under a distraint for rent and an execution from the Sheriff).

All the Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, &c; comprising mahogany dining and other tables, chairs, eight-day clock, buffet, mahogany corner cupboard, bedsteads, feather beds, bed linen, chest of drawers, beer machine, malt-mill, large iron boiler, mash-tub, eighteen bushels, coolers, prime gathering tubs, twenty-three ale barrels, stock of ale, three store pigs, and other effects belonging to Mr. *Edward Russell*.

Sale to commence at ten o'clock.

Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's office, Dudley Street, Walsall."

London Gazette 21/9/1847

"*Edward Russell*, late of Darlaston, Staffordshire, Bricklayer. In the Gaol of Warwick."

AND

London Gazette 19/11/1847

"*Edward Russell*, late lodging at Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Bricklayer, formerly of the same place, carrying on business as a Bricklayer and Licenced Victualler."

Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850

"The annual licensing day for the hundred of Offlow South was held on Wednesday last.

The old applications for renewal of licenses, numbering two hundred and twenty, were granted, but the following publicans having been fined during the current year for Sunday trading, were respectively admonished, and cautioned as to a repetition of this offence, and a notice to this effect was by order of the Court

endorsed on the licenses.....

William Whitehouse, Darlaston. With reference to *Whitehouse* he stated that he did not open his house on Sundays, but on the occasion of his conviction he had on the previous Saturday night, in order to get rid of some troublesome customers, promised them if they would leave the loan of a glass of gin each on the following Sabbath morning. He stated that he had no idea the men would come, but they did, and whilst giving the unlucky liquor in came the police, hence the fine and the caution.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/5/1851

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday last, before Phillip and John Williams, Esqrs, a man giving his name as William Earp, 36 years of age, was charged with burglariously entering the dwelling house of Mr. J. Burford, situated at Willingsworth, and stealing a quantity of wearing apparel and other articles therefrom. Mr. Burford stated that on the night of the 18th April last his house was entered by means of the back window having been taken out. The property then produced belonged to him, and was stolen from his house on the night in question.

The prisoner was also charged with breaking into the dwelling house of Mr. *William Whitehouse*, BOAT INN, Darlaston, on the night of the 23rd of last month, and stealing a quantity of wearing apparel, consisting of shawls, coats, handkerchiefs, &c.

The manner in which the thief was captured is somewhat singular. It appears that on Friday afternoon, the 2nd instant, as a labouring man named William Grice was passing an old water engine in Scott and Foley’s field, he suddenly missed his dog, and on going to the engine to look for him, found him whining in front of the fire hole, when, from certain marks about the place, and from the peculiar conduct of the dog, he felt satisfied that some person was concealed under the boiler. After waiting for some time, he saw a person passing, and sent for the police. Inspector Mills and police-constable Bellingham were soon in attendance, and proceeded to examine the place, when the prisoner, finding that all further attempts at concealment was useless, quietly crawled out from under the boiler. On further examination of the place, it was discovered that the prisoner had for some time past taken up his quarters in the bottom of the ‘stack’ (which is of large dimensions), where the greater portion of the property belonging to the prosecutors was found.

The prisoner was identified by Inspector Mills as having been in his custody about two years ago, on a charge of housebreaking, for which he was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment. The prisoner was committed to the assizes on both charges.”

AND

The Cornish Telegraph 8/8/1851

“William Earp was convicted at Stafford assizes of a burglary at the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green. The prisoner got into the house through a window at the back of the brew-house, and stole wearing apparel and other articles. Before leaving the dwelling he wrote in chalk upon the table ‘I am much obliged. I can’t find any money. Goodbye.’ The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to ten years’ transportation.”

1851 Census

Green

[1] *Joseph Cockram* (27), victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Hannah Cockram* (26), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Ann Cockram (3), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] William Cooper (55), uncle, servant, born Darlaston:

Worcester Journal 21/4/1853

“Mr. Hinchliffe held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green, on the 12th instant, on the body of William Thomas, forty-one years of age, who came by his death in the following manner. He was employed in sinking a pit for Mr. Paul Jones, being assisted by a man named Jeffs, and by Thomas Reeves, who acted as banksman; and on the previous Saturday they had got to a depth of somewhat more than forty yards. A skip full of earth having been raised to the mouth of the pit, Reeves instead of placing the ‘waggon’ under it, commenced pushing a trolley, on which there was an empty skip, towards the shaft, and pushing it too far, he and the trolley were both precipitated into the pit. The result was that he was at once killed, and the deceased was so badly injured by the trolley falling upon his head that he died immediately after he had been

taken home. A verdict in accordance with these facts was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 17/6/1854

“On Saturday last a very sad affair occurred in the death of Stephen Martin, a brickmaster, residing at Darlaston. It appears that for about a fortnight previously he had repeatedly complained of being unwell, although he followed his employment as usual. On Saturday morning he got up about seven o’clock, and went to Willenhall, where he called upon Mr. Reeves, innkeeper, with whom he was acquainted. He informed Mr. Reeves that he had been to Mr. Seydes, chemist and druggist, for some arsenic to kill the rats, which were eating all the matting in his brickyards; but that Mr. Seydes would not allow him to have any without a witness. Mr. Reeves, seeing him in his usual health and spirits, and without any suspicion that the story was untrue, consented to accompany him to Mr. Seydes’ establishment. Martin then obtained three pennyworth of arsenic, which was mixed with some blue; and after some conversation went away. He returned home, and told his wife that he felt very unwell, but he refused to take anything, and went to bed. He continued ill during the day, and in the afternoon Mr. Thornhill, surgeon, was sent for. In reply to Mr. Thornhill, he stated that he could easily account for his illness, as he had been drinking some ale and porter. He gradually, however, got worse; and died about six o’clock the same evening. Not the slightest suspicion had been entertained that he had died from poison; but on a post mortem examination being made by Mr. Thornhill, by the Coroner’s direction, he found appearances which left no doubt that the deceased died from the effects of arsenic, which the unfortunate man had taken.

At the inquest, which was held at the BOAT INN, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, on Wednesday, no light could be thrown on the probable motive for the rash act; and it was shown, moreover, that on the day on which it was committed he was in his usual spirits, but rather quieter than usual. Mr. Thornhill also stated that even after he had taken the poison the deceased was quite rational, although rather reserved. Under the circumstances, a verdict of ‘Felo de se’ was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 9/5/1857

“Joseph Cockram was charged at Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, with assaulting *William Rhodes*. Mr. Burbury appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Sill for the defence.

The complainant, who is landlord of the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green, stated that on the 11th ult he had returned home from Wolverhampton a little fresh, and being lame sat down at his own fire-side. The defendant was there, stood up between him and the fire, and then without any provocation struck him with his clenched fist, split his lip, knocked him down, and his head coming into violent collision with the floor produced concussion of the brain, from the effects of which he suffered for a fortnight.

Cross-examined: He denied having struck the defendant over the legs with his stick.

The complainant and several witnesses (one of whom stated that complainant was ‘market fresh’ on the occasion) having been examined for the prosecution, Mr. Sill called the defendant, who deposed that when the prosecutor came into the house he gave him ‘a stunner’ over the legs with his stick, and it was in consequence of that blow that he struck him.

The Bench fined the defendant (who wore his arm in a sling) 40s and costs, or two months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Walsall Free Press 23/1/1858

“At the Police Court, Wednesbury, on Tuesday last, John Smith and William Smith, were charged with assaulting Maria Green on Saturday week, at the BOAT INN, Darlaston. A summons had also been obtained by William Smith against Joseph Green, and another by John Smith against Joseph Green. Mr. Burbury, solicitor, of Brierley Hill, appeared on behalf of the prosecution, and Mr. Bailey for the defence.

It appeared from the evidence that the complainant, Maria Green, went to fetch her husband from the inn on the night in question, between nine and ten o’clock, trying to induce her husband to accompany her home, when the defendants set about her, beating her in a shameful manner. The poor woman, who had a child in her arms at the time, shouted ‘Murder’ several times, and her face was covered with blood before she could make her escape.

Several witnesses were examined, who stated and explained the seriousness of the case.

The Magistrates fined defendants 2s 6d each for the assault on the woman, and dismissed the other cases, it

appearing that the parties were intoxicated when the assault was committed.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/9/1859 - Deaths

“On the 18th instant, after a brief illness, in the 36th year of his age, Mr. *Joseph Cockram*, of the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green.”

Hannah Cockram = Hannah Cockran

1861 Census

Lower Green – BOAT INN

[1] *Hannah Cockram* (37), widow, victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Cockram (13), daughter, born Darlaston;

[3] Ann Martin (19), house servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1863

“Yesterday morning an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Henry Cope*, the BOAT INN, Darlaston, before Mr. E. Cooper, Coroner, on the body of Charles Bird, a man about twenty-four years of age, who, while at work on the morning of the previous day at the ironworks belonging to Mr. Joseph Lloyd, and known as Sparrows Forge, was killed by a stack of iron falling upon him. The evidence of two witnesses, named Taylor and Grainger, went to show that the deceased was working between two stacks of iron, about 5½ feet high, which had been built up somewhat close to each other, and that a bar of iron from one of the stacks having extended beneath the other stack, he was endeavouring to pull it out, and in his effort shook the mass of metal, and caused it to fall upon him, literally dividing his skull. The Coroner expressed regret that Mr. Fellows, the manager of the works, or some representative of the owner, was not present, and at the request of the Jury he undertook to communicate with Mr. Fellows, desiring that for the future the stacks of iron might be built further apart, and of less height. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/12/1863

“On Tuesday a young man named Charles Bird, who lived at Darlaston, was killed by a fall of a stack of several tons of pig iron, which he was working, at Rings Hill Forge (Mr. Joseph F. Lloyd’s). An inquest was held on the following day at the BOAT INN, Darlaston, and a verdict of Accidental Death returned.”

Henry Cope was also a builder. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 4/3/1864

“At a sitting of the Walsall County Court, on Wednesday, before his Honour, A. M. Skinner, Esq. (Judge), *Henry Cope*, builder, Darlaston, sought to recover from John Reed, schoolmaster, of the same place, the sum of £11 6s 4d, for work done. Mr. Brevitt appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Ebsworth for the defendant. Defendant admitted £6 13s 9d, but disputed his liability for the balance, £4 13s, asserting that the sum was due for certain building alterations, ordered by his landlord, a Mr. Booth. After hearing the several witnesses his Honour gave a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/9/1864

“Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest on Saturday at the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green, on the body of Mary Higgins. From the evidence, it appeared the deceased was 35 years of age, the wife of a labourer; on Tuesday she was engaged at the house of Mr. Hadley, surgeon, and had some quarrel with the housekeeper. When she came home in the evening she was in a great state of excitement, and threatened Mr. Hadley’s housekeeper, in the presence of her husband. Shortly after she retired to rest; in the middle of the night her husband found her dead. Deceased had been subject to heart disease for some time. The jury returned a verdict of ‘Died from disease of the heart, accelerated by excitement.’”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/1/1869

“*Henry Cope*, a licensed victualler, of Darlaston, was charged with having had his house open at improper

hours on Christmas Day. Sergeant Price and Police-constable Hodson proved the case, and said defendant was very abusive to him. Defendant said the liquor was filled before twelve o'clock, and was given to carol singers. The case was dismissed."

Dudley Herald 9/2/1869

"At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions on Tuesday a beerhouse keeper named *Henry Cope*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of ale, during prohibited hours dismissed with a warning."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/3/1869

"An inquest was reported in our columns on Saturday, as having been held on the previous day, at the BOAT INN, Darlaston, by Mr. Hooper, on the body of a child named Henry Cope, the son of Mr. Cope, builder, of that town, who had been killed on the previous Wednesday through being run over by a cart in charge of a labourer named John Lloyd, who lives at Wolverhampton, and is in the employ of Mr. George Golcher. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and the Coroner severely censured the gross carelessness of the driver, who had on previous occasions been guilty of a like negligence in regard to the animal in his charge. On Saturday the prisoner was brought up at the West Bromwich Police Court, before Mr. Bagnall, and evidence of a similar character to that heard before the jury on the Friday was taken. Mr. Travis appeared for the prosecution.

Police-constable Joseph Hainsworth said he took the prisoner into custody on the previous Wednesday on a charge of having caused the death of the child. Prisoner was then charged with manslaughter, and made the same defence as that which he offered at the inquest. The prisoner was committed for trial."

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 13/3/1869

"Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

Joseph Lloyd, 18, groom, was indicted for killing and slaying Henry Cope, on the 24th of February, at Darlaston. Mr. Motteram was for the prosecution; prisoner was undefended.

The evidence showed that on the date named, in the middle of the day, prisoner was employed in carting some refuse to a plot of land by the side of the road leading from Darlaston to Willenhall. Instead of going along the turnpike road to this vacant land, prisoner went by a short cut. The horse which the prisoner was driving was a very spirited animal, but, notwithstanding this, the man was from fifty to sixty yards away from it. The deceased child and some others were playing at marbles, when deceased was knocked down and injured so seriously that death ensued immediately. The jury who heard the case at a coroner's inquest returned a verdict of Accidental Death; but the friends of deceased were dissatisfied, and the case was investigated before the magistrates, the result being a committal of prisoner for manslaughter.

Prisoner asked to be mercifully dealt with, as he had never before been in the hands of the police.

The Judge spoke of the case as showing a gross piece of negligence on the part of the prisoner; and remarked how important it was that carters should be careful to attend to their duties. The man was then sentenced to one month's imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the West Bromwich district was held yesterday.....

The following list of victuallers brought before the magistrates during the year ending 25th August, was handed to the magistrates by Superintendent Woollaston.....

Henry Cope, BOOT [sic] INN, Bentley Road, Darlaston."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/8/1869 - Advert

"The BOAT INN, Darlaston Green.

Mr. H. Court will Sell by Auction, on Monday next, August 30th, commencing at Eleven o'clock, unless previously disposed of by private treaty.

The Licenses of the above old-established Inn, near the Iron and Steel Works, together with the Household Furniture, Public-house Fittings and Fixtures, Stock of Ales and Spirits, Brewing Utensils, Hogshead and Half-hogshead Casks, Furnaces, small Stock of Timber, Carpenter's Benches, Bricks, Tiles, and other Ef-

fects, by order of the Official Assignee, without reserve.

Catalogues and further information may be had at the Offices of G. Kinnear, Esq, Waterloo Street; and the Auctioneer, 13, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/9/1869 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District.

Henry Cope, of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Builder, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on the Seventeenth day of August, 1869, is hereby required to Surrender himself to Alfred Hill, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the First Meeting of Creditors, to be held before the said Registrar, on the Third day of September, 1869, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the said Court. George Kinnear, Esquire, of Waterloo Street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy is Thomas Brevitt, Darlaston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/9/1869

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *H. Cope*, Darlaston, licensed victualler. First meeting. Mr. Brevitt appeared for creditors, and nominated Mr. Samuel Askey, builder and beerhouse keeper, as assignee. The 8th October was fixed for the last examination and discharge.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/10/1869

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *H. Cope*, Darlaston, licensed victualler. Meeting for last examination and discharge, attended by Mr. Brevitt, of Darlaston, for the trade assignee. There was no opposition, and the bankrupt was discharged.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/12/1869 - Notice

“This is to give Notice, that the Court acting in the prosecution of a Petition for Adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy at Birmingham, on the 17th day of August, 1869, against *Henry Cope*, of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Builder, did, on the 8th day of October, 1869, grant the Discharge of the said *Henry Cope*, and that such Discharge will be delivered to the Bankrupt unless an Appeal be duly entered against the judgement of the Court, and Notice thereof be given to the Court.

Thomas Brevitt, Solicitor, Darlaston.”

1871 Census

Bentley Road – BOAT INN

[1] *John H. Whitworth* (37), licensed victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] Catherine Whitworth (38), wife, born Staffordshire;

[3] Henry Whitworth (12), son, born Staffordshire;

[4] Frank Whitworth (6), son, born Staffordshire:

John Henry Whitworth was also a bus proprietor. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 31/5/1872 - Advert

“Man (steady, active, young) Wanted; one used to Horses.

Apply at the BOAT INN Darlaston Green, Darlaston.”

London Gazette 26/6/1874

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *John Henry Whitworth*, formerly of the BOAT INN, Darlaston-green, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, now of the BLACK SWAN, Blue-lane West, Walsall, in same county, Beerhouse Keeper.

Notice is hereby given, that a Second General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. John Farrington Crump, No.5, Bridge-street, Walsall aforesaid, on the 2nd day of July, 1874, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 24th day of June, 1874.

John F. Chump, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

Midland Examiner and Times 8/1/1876

“E. Hooper, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on Saturday, at the BOAT INN, Darlaston, touching the death of John Bolton, an excavator on the works of the Mines Drainage Commissioners. On Friday night the deceased was seen in the canal near the Darlaston Green Furnaces, having, it is supposed, fallen in as he was walking along the towing path. A boy named Brown, who heard a splash, and saw the deceased struggling, instantly called to an ironworker named John Roscoe, who was at work at the adjacent furnaces, and Roscoe at once plunged into the water, and at great risk succeeded in bringing Bolton to the bank, but the last-named died immediately on being taken out of the canal. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and complimented Roscoe upon his courageous conduct, and further subscribing with the Coroner 10s, which was handed to him as a recognition of his bravery.

Mr. Hooper expressed his regret there was not a recognised fund out of which such commendable actions could be fittingly remunerated.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 27/7/1877

“On Friday evening Mr. F. W. Topham (District Deputy Coroner) held an inquiry at the BOAT INN, Bentley Road, Darlaston, touching the death of William Cherrington (63), labourer, of Walsall, who was found drowned in the canal on Wednesday. The evidence showed that the deceased was at work at the Darlaston Green Furnaces on Monday night until eight o'clock, after which he, in company with a fellow-workman, named Joseph Hutchinson, went to the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, where they remained until ten o'clock. The deceased upon leaving was a little the worse for drink, and he was not seen again until his lifeless body was found in the canal. The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

Wednesbury Herald 4/9/1880

“*Thomas Hale*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours.

Sergeant Ainsworth said that on Sunday morning, the 8th of August, he saw a man named John Dennis come out of the defendant's house with a can containing a quart of ale. He asked how much he paid for it, and he said 5d. He also asked the landlord if he inquired where the man came from before he filled it. He said no, but his son filled it. He then questioned the son, and he said he did not ask how far they came, but was under the impression that they were travellers. He (witness) ascertained that the men had travelled a distance of 1½ miles.

Mr. Sheldon, who defended, said that the men had come from Walsall, for the purpose of going a distance of about 43 miles, and as the heat was rather oppressive, they called for some refreshments at the defendant's house. When the defendant's son supplied the drink he thought they were travellers.

The Bench dismissed the case on payment of costs, remarking that the question was how far had the persons travelled and not how far they were travelling.”

1881 Census

20, Bentley Road – BOAT INN

[1] *Mary Hale* (50), widow, licensed victualler, born Princes End;

[2] *Thomas Hale* (20), son, boatman, born West Bromwich;

[3] *William Hale* (15), son, nut and bolt maker, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Albert Hale* (12), son, scholar, born West Bromwich:

Wednesbury Herald 22/10/1881

“An inquest was held at the BOAT INN, Darlaston Green, Darlaston, on Monday morning, before E. Hooper Esq, district coroner, touching the death of Abraham Wood, who was killed on Friday last by the fall of a

chimney at the works of the Staffordshire Bolt, Nut, and Fencing Company Limited.

Mr. Slater, of Darlaston, watched the proceedings on behalf of the company at whose works the accident took place.

Margaret Bird said that the deceased was her brother-in-law, 27 years of age, by trade a striker, and lately lived at New Town, Bilston.

Thomas Robinson, bolt forger, said on Friday morning last he was going across the yard to have his breakfast when the lid of his tea can blew off, and on turning to pick it up the furnace stack came down, part of the debris falling on witness's knee, injuring it slightly. The cry was raised that a man was under the debris, and in a minute the deceased was taken out dead, his head being very much injured.

John Richards, yard foreman, said he had been employed at the works for the past 23 years. An addition of about nine feet had been put to the chimney a few years ago, and he was always of opinion that it was in a safe condition. The base of the chimney was about fourteen feet high, and it was immediately above this that the stack gave way. The chimney was well banded with iron all the way up to the top, and the accident, he believed was entirely due to the heavy gale.

By Mr. Slater: A wall was built near the chimney, and it was only that portion of the stack that was exposed to the gale that fell. It was only the side part of the chimney that fell, and had the deceased been aware that it had given way he had plenty of time to get out of the road.

The Coroner did not think it was desirable to call further evidence. It had been clearly shown that the stack was in good condition prior to the accident, and he was of opinion that its fall was entirely owing to the intensity of the gale.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

AND

"An inquest was held on Monday morning at the BOAT INN, The Green, Darlaston, before E. Hooper, Esq, relative to the death of Sarah Poole, aged 71 years, lately residing on the Green, Darlaston, who was run over on Wednesday last, and sustained severe injuries from the effects of which she died a few days afterwards.

Timothy Jones, beerhouse keeper, son of the deceased, said that his mother was quite well up till the time of the accident, and though advanced in years she enjoyed good sight and hearing. On the day of the accident the deceased had been to see a friend at Wolverhampton and was walking home from Willenhall, in the evening, when the accident took place.

Samuel Turner said that on Wednesday night he found the deceased on her knees in the middle of the footpath, near the Crescent Bridge, at a place called the Bug Hole. In answer to his questions the deceased stated that two waggons had gone over her legs, which she thought were broken.

Thomas Hartlebury stated that he saw two men, named Gee and Hood, driving four wheeled wagons, each abreast, at a walking pace, going up the hill, and witness was obliged to shout, or they would have run him over. When the drivers had gone about 30 yards further he heard Hood say to Gee, 'Can you go no faster than that; do you not know what is up?' and thereupon they both trotted on to Darlaston at a rapid pace.

When witness came up to the Bug Hole he found that Mrs. Poole had been run over.

John Gee said he was driving a horse and wagon, laden with crockery and rags and bones, from Willenhall to Wednesbury on the night in question, and he saw no one on the road, neither did he hear anyone shout to him.

The Coroner: Whether this inquiry will conclude here or not, I shall make further inquiry into your statements, and if I find that what you have said is false, I shall not hesitate to prosecute you for perjury.

William Hood, the driver of the second wagon, said he kept between 10 and 15 yards behind the last witness going down the hill. He did not, to his knowledge, knock a woman down; and Gee did not make any remark to him after they had got over the bridge.

William Henry Turner, 11, Gough Street, Willenhall, saw the two horses and wagons close to each other going up the bridge, but he could not say at what pace they were driven after they got on the other side. He could not say whether Gee or Wood were sober. The night was dark, and the nearest lamp was about thirty yards from where the accident occurred. There were no wheel marks on the footpath, but the kerbing was grazed as if a wagon had been driven close to it.

The Coroner said the evidence they had had did not appear to him as satisfactory as it should be. There was little doubt that the deceased came to her death by being run over by one of those wagons, but the evidence

of the drivers was far from satisfactory; and he doubted very much whether they told the truth. His own impression was that the deceased was knocked down either by Gee or Wood and that they were terrified and did not like to tell the truth, and did not think that there was any evidence to show that the men were driving at a rapid pace, and did not think there was evidence that that they were actually on the footpath. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased had been killed by being run over, but whether accidentally or otherwise there was no evidence to show.

The Coroner seriously admonished Hood and Gee, telling them that the jury were not at all satisfied with their evidence, that a strict watch would be kept upon them, and if anything further transpired proceedings would be taken against them in another court. He also disallowed their expenses.”

Wednesbury Herald 3/2/1883

“*Thomas Hale*, landlord of the BOAT INN, The Green, Darlaston, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours.

Police-sergeant Ainsworth stated that between eleven and twelve o’clock on Sunday morning last he saw a woman supplied with a pint of ale, which was handed to her through a small window.

Mr. Sheldon, who defended, said that his client had committed the offence through ignorance. The ale was paid for on the Saturday night and defendant thought he had the power to supply the ale during prohibited hours on the Sunday.

The Bench imposed a fine of 5s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/1/1885

“On Friday afternoon, E. Hooper, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Darlaston, relating to the deaths of the two girls, Martha Wetton and Lydia Owen, who were drowned in a pool situated between the canal and Messrs. Turner’s timber yard, on Wednesday afternoon. Mary Robinson (16) deposed that on leaving work she went with the deceased girls to the pool to slide. After sliding for some time the ice gave way, and the girls were thrown into the water. Witnesses could give no assistance whatever, and the girls were drowned. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

20, Bentley Road

[1] *Thomas Hale* (30), publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Eliza Hale* (29), wife, born Moira, Leicestershire;

[3] Martha Burns (17), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

Eliza Hall [sic], BOAT INN, Bentley Road.....

All these were for six days.”

Walsall Observer 23/7/1898

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Bentley Road, Darlaston, on Tuesday last, concerning the death of George Edward Fisher (39), of 17, Giles Square, Darlaston Green, who met with his death on Saturday morning whilst working at the blast furnace of Messrs. T. and J. Bradley & Sons. Mr. J. Jackson (Her Majesty’s inspector of factories) was present; Mr. Sidney Hooper, of Darlaston, represented the

firm, and Mr. J. Glover, of Wednesbury, on behalf of the widow and family of deceased.

Harriet Fisher, the widow, said her husband was a mine filler at the furnaces, and had worked there about ten years. She last saw him alive at nine on Friday night, just before the accident. He was then in good health. Early the following morning she heard that he had been burnt to death at the furnaces.

John Thomas Wall, night manager, said he, the deceased, and Benjamin Whitehouse had been having something to eat, and Whitehouse asked witness to fetch some beer. When he (witness) was returning from the office with the beer he saw the flames burst from the furnace. He asked Whitehouse where Fisher was, and he said that Fisher had gone to take the blast off the furnace. Witness went round to the furnace and saw deceased buried under the burning fuel. They afterwards got some water and threw on the flames. He thought the furnace must have slipped, and caused the brickwork to give way. About three-quarters of an hour before the accident he tested the tingers, and found them all right.

Joseph Williams stated that hearing a noise he went round to the furnace. He saw the deceased all covered with hot cokes and bricks. The only portion of his body that was visible was his head and shoulders.

William James Foster, the blast furnace manager, said he could form no opinion as to the cause of the accident. It was Fisher's duty to see that the brickwork was in good condition. He examined it the previous day, and thought it was all right. It was usual to have the brickwork about 2ft 6in, but in this case it was not more than 1ft thick, as the brickwork had burnt away.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Banbury Beacon 17/6/1899

"On Wednesday, the 7th inst, at Darlaston, Staffordshire, Mr. H. A. Pearson, district coroner, held an enquiry at the BOAT INN, Bentley Road, the Green, respecting the death of William Henry Upton, aged two years and three months, an illegitimate child, who died whilst under the care of people named Giles, of Bentley Road. Inspector Cook (Walsall) represented the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Evidence was given that the mother of deceased was a domestic servant, and was for a time an inmate of Warwick Workhouse, where the child was born. Subsequently she went to live with a sister at Alkerton, Oxfordshire, and on obtaining a situation left the deceased in her sister's charge. Deceased had been weakly from birth, and as the mother was informed that he was being neglected she gave him into the charge of Mr. and Mrs. Giles, who then resided at Alkerton. Previously deceased had been able to walk about, but the mother admitted that when she took him away from her sister he was so weak as scarcely to be able to stand. Whilst living at Darlaston, to which place the Giles's removed some months ago, the child had improved somewhat, but died on Sunday after an attack of meazles. As the body was in an emaciated condition it was deemed advisable to communicate with the coroner.

Evidence was given by neighbours that the Giles's had taken every possible care of the deceased, and that if there had been any neglect it had taken place before it had passed into their care. Deceased was not insured. The jury exonerated the foster parents from blame, and returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Joseph Nightingale was also a nut and bolt manufacturer. [1900]

1901 Census

20, Bentley Road

- [1] *Joseph Nightingale* (39), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
 - [2] Annie Nightingale (24), wife, born Darlaston;
 - [3] Ann Maria Nightingale (18), daughter, born Darlaston;
 - [4] Marie Nightingale (9), daughter, born Darlaston;
 - [5] George Vernon White (22), nephew, general labourer, born Darlaston;
 - [6] Lily Pooler (17), domestic servant, born Moseley Village;
- [It appears that Joseph was married before.]

1911 Census

20, Bentley Road – BOAT INN

- [1] *John Thomas Simmonds* (43), licensed victualler, born Bloxwich;
- [2] *Mary Ann Simmonds* (45), wife, married 8 years, born Darlaston;

- [3] Mary Ann Wilkes (20), step-daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] James Wilkes (18), step-son, girder works, born Darlaston;
- [5] John Wilkes (17), step-son, fitter, nut and bolt works, born Darlaston;
- [6] Alfred Wilkes (16), step-son, born Darlaston;
- [7] Winifred Wilkes (14), step-daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] Albert Wilkes (13), step-son, school, born Darlaston;
- [9] Walter Wilkes (11), step-son, school, born Darlaston:

John Thomas Simmonds was also a brewer. [1916], [1921]

Bilston & Willenhall Times 7/3/1925

“A meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held at the BOAT INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday afternoon, when Alderman J. H. Sheldon presided.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/3/1925

“It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. *John Thomas Simmonds*, licensee of the BOAT INN, The Green, Darlaston, which occurred on Friday night of last week. Mr. *Simmonds*, who was in his 58th year, was well-known and highly respected in Darlaston, the town of which he was a native. The eldest son of the late Mr. Charles Simmonds, coal merchant and contractor, the deceased gentleman went to the BOAT INN some 23 years ago, but for a considerable time assisted in his father’s business, which is now carried on by his brother, Mr. Charles Simmonds.

Although he never took part in the public life of the town, he was a staunch Conservative, and helped the cause very much. He was a member of the Conservative Club, and also of the Darlaston Habitation of the Primrose League. For 20 years he was also a member of the Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association, and it was only a fortnight ago that a meeting of the Association was held at his house. A man of kindly disposition, he was liked by all who knew him, and he will be greatly missed in many ways. His death occurred with painful suddenness, as he was only taken ill on Monday with bronchitis, but pneumonia supervened, and he passed away four days later. He leaves a widow and seven step-children.

There were many manifestations of sympathy at the funeral, which took place on Wednesday, at James Bridge Cemetery, the service being conducted by the Rev. C. G. Longrove-Herman (Vicar of All Saint’s Church, Darlaston).....”

Plans were approved for rebuilding on 3rd November 1937.

1939 Register

20, Bentley Road – BOAT INN

- [1] *Mary Ann Simmonds*, date of birth 5/3/1866, licensed victualler, widowed;
- [2] Mary Ann Wilkes, dob 29/11/1890, household duties, single;
- [3] Alfred Wilkes, dob 25/10/1894, cellar man, single;
- [4] Winifred Wilkes, dob 30/12/1895, warehouse hand, nut and bolt factory, single:

Plans were approved for alterations to existing premises, in line of plan for rebuilding, on 8th February 1939.

Rugeley Times 10/2/1940

“Darlaston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent J. H. Hall, in his report to the justices, said that the number of licensed houses in the town was 74; the same as last year, except that the license of the WHY NOT INN, The Green, had been altered from a beerhouse ‘on’ to a beer and wines ‘on.’ At the census of 1931, the population of the parish was 19,736, according to which there was one licensed house to every 267 inhabitants.....

Regarding the plans for rebuilding, the justices understood the delay in the case of the BOAT INN, Bentley Road, for these plans had to be reconsidered and new plans were drawn.”

Henry Herbert Biggins – see also KINGS ARMS, Rowley Regis; BULLS HEAD, Cradley Heath, Rowley

Regis; and MARKSMAN, West Bromwich.

Walsall Observer 24/6/1966

“Although formed only last year the Darlaston Sunday Darts League had a magnificent display of trophies at their first annual presentations in the GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston, on Friday, a collection that was a tribute to the hard work put in by the officials during this inaugural year. Fourteen teams took part in the league, thirteen of which were from public houses in the Darlaston area.

A total of 67 trophies were presented. Five major trophies which were donated to the league and the remaining 62 miniatures were purchased by players in the league. Apart from the prize money which totalled £85 10s and the money for the trophies, the committee paid all other expenses to help achieve a first-class season. The presentations were made by Mr. C. Staite.

The most successful team was the BARREL INN who failed to win the league by nine legs with the same number of points as the champions (the NAGS HEAD), but who reached both semi-finals of the knock-outs and who received the Mitchell and Butlers Collection Shield.

An additional presentation was made to Mr. W. Thorpe of Bentley Sons of Rest of £17, which was the result of a collection among the players. Mr. Thorpe donated a cup on behalf of the Sons of Rest, which was won by the SWAN (Moxley) with the GREEN DRAGON runners-up.

Other winner were: the President's Knock Out Cup, KINGS HILL TAVERN, with runners-up the SWAN.

League champions: NAGS HEAD, with runners-up BARREL INN.

Wooden spoonists: BOAT INN.

Supplementary league winners: BRADFORD ARMS, with runners-up ROYAL GEORGE.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/8/1975

“Darlaston Aluminium (1975); Incorporated July 24, 1975. Registered Office: London Works, Stafford Road, Darlaston Scrap metal merchants Directors *Bernard J. Guest*, BOAT INN, Bentley Road South, Darlaston....”

Gary Turner was born in Birmingham.

He was married to Judy.

It was renovated in 1995.

It was Walsall Branch CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2005.

It closed in 2006.

It was severely damaged by arsonists in 2007.

Express & Star 2/10/2009

“The operators of an illegal car wash at the site of a fire-ravaged pub in Darlaston may face legal action to shut it down after being refused permission to keep the enterprise going. Planning officials scuppered an attempt to continue the business in the grounds of the former BOAT INN, in Bentley Road South. The decision was made on grounds that a permanent car wash use on the land would prejudice any future use of the whole site and contradicted the borough's planning blueprint, the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The operation was still in action today. However, if it fails to close down its owners could face a hefty fine. David Jerrison, of Architectural Services, which submitted a retrospective planning application to stay on the site, declined to comment on the refusal. Walsall Council's head of planning and building control David Elsworthy said, ‘The planning application was refused yesterday and enforcement action is now a distinct possibility.’

The pub has suffered a string of arson and vandal attacks since it closed. It is the latest operation to fall foul of the council's battle to banish illegal car washes.”

Express & Star 4/4/2017

“Contractors have moved on site ready to start tearing down a disused pub. The BOAT, on Bentley Road

South, Darlaston, which has been a target for arsonists and vandals since its closure in 2006, will be brought down this week to make the site suitable for redevelopment. Contractors are cleaning up the site ahead of its demolition, which will go ahead this week. Councillor Doug James, who represents the Darlaston area, said bringing down the once popular venue was long overdue. He said, 'The BOAT pub, a frequent haunt for fire-starters, is due to be reduced to rubble. It is such a shame because it used to be hugely popular in the area and because of the decline in the pub trade generally it became vacant. It is a bitter sweet day. In one sense, I am delighted the BOAT is to be sunk. But it has taken too long to happen. It is time for a change and time to move on.' The pub was hit by arsonists in May last year, with dozens of firefighters tackling the blaze after closing a road. It was not clear if the fire was started deliberately but no-one was injured. During the course of 2005, it was named the best pub of the year by the Campaign for Real Ale's local branch but shut its doors a year later.

It soon attracted a number of fly-tippers and one man was fined more than £10,000 during 2009 for dumping scrap metal and car parts at the site, as well as at another spot in Walsall. The borough council spent £3,700 clearing the rubbish before an unauthorised car cleaning operation moved onto the site. It was shut down as part of a council crackdown, which led to the firm obtaining permission to set up at the plot legitimately for a maximum of two years from 2010."

Demolished [2018]

BOLTMAKERS ARMS

Bilston Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Duffield [1859]

Thomas Wilkes [1861]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/11/1859

"At Mr. *Duffield's*, the BOLTMAKERS ARMS, Darlaston, Staffordshire, on Monday last, the match between Messrs Adcock and Duffield to shoot at 11 birds each, for £10 a side, came off, which was won by Mr. Adcock."

1861 Census

Bilston Street – BOLT MAKERS ARMS

[1] *Thomas Wilkes* (47), bolt and nut forger, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Wilkes* (39), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Richard Wilkes* (19), son, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;

[4] *Thomas Wilkes* (16), son, gun lock forger, born Darlaston;

[5] *William Wilkes* (14), son, gun lock forger, born Darlaston;

[6] *Ellen W. Wilkes* (16), general servant, born Derbyshire:

Thomas Wilkes, retailer of beer, Bilston Street. [1862]

BORERS ARMS

DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Moses Whitehouse []

NOTES

Moses Whitehouse was “Rough Moey” of ‘Wedgebury Cocking’ fame.
He was the last man to sell his wife in Wednesbury market.
[Wedgebury Cocking was a broadside ballad.]

Check MINEBORERS ARMS.

BRADFORD ARMS

5, Bilston Street / Eldon Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Howells
Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd. (acquired in 1928)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Edward John Corbett [1861] – **1871**);
John Corbett (**1871** – [1872]
Henry Samuel Parker [1880] – [1881]
Thomas Derry [1884] – [1886]
John Worrall [1891]
Alfred Jones [1892] – [c.1898]
William Howells [1901] – **1923**);
Rachel Ann Howells (**1923**);
Charles Henry Hadley (**1923** – **1932**);
Silas Dunn (**1932** – **1936**);
Edward ‘Ted’ Perks (**1936** – **1950**);
Arthur Mills (**1950** – **1957**);
Rose Eliza Mills (**1957** – [1976]
Fred Gilbert [] – **1982**)

NOTES

It was originally the HATHERTON ARMS.

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

It was known locally as the “Frying Pan”.

Black Country Bugle (July 1985) - Pub of the Month

“.....additions to the original 19th century building beer was not dispensed until around 1830.”

Black Country Bugle 11/8/2021

Article by Steve James

“.....Facing the Leys, the BRADFORD ARMS was originally three separate buildings dating from the 18th/19th centuries. It was known locally as the Frying Pan, since a huge frying pan was kept on the hearth for local workmen to cook their dinners. In the early 1900s, regulars organized a Sunday night ‘Fryin’ Pon Club’ where members had a special badge and used a password to enter. The chairman wore a hat, and chain around his neck from which was suspended, inevitably, a frying pan. Anyone who lit their own cigarette or lifted their glass with their right hand was fined, with the money going to charity.”

The entry to the right of the pub led on to Eldon Street and was later opened out into a road.

Edward John Corbett = Edward John Corbet

1861 Census

Bilston Street – HATHERTON ARMS

- [1] *Edward John Corbett* (47), gunlock filer and retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Caroline Corbett* (48), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Corbett* (19), son, gun lock filer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Corbett* (17), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Mary Corbett* (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *George Corbett* (11), son, errand boy to a printer, born Darlaston;
- [7] *James Corbett* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

E. J. Corbett, beer retailer, Bilston Street. [1861]

Edward John Corbet, retailer of beer, Bilston Street. [1862]

Edward John Corbett, beer retailer and gunlock manufacturer, Bilston Street. [1864], [1865]

Edward Corbett, beer retailer, Bilston Street. [1868]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1866

“At about nine o’clock on Wednesday night, as Mr. *Edward Corbett*, beerhouse keeper, Bilston Street, Darlaston, was passing along the highway at James Bridge, he was seized by two men, one of whom garotted him, and rendered him unconscious. On recovering he found himself on the ground, and missed from his pockets a silver watch, a gold chain, and 5s in silver. Mr. *Corbett*’s throat was badly injured. A part of the chain was subsequently found in the road, close to where the outrage was perpetrated.”

1871 Census

Bilston Street – BRADFORD ARMS

- [1] *Edward John Corbett* (57), widower, retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Norton* (23), daughter, housekeeper, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Henry Norton* (26), son-in-law, engine fitter, born Birmingham;

- [4] James Corbett (18), son, born Darlaston;
[5] John Norton (4), grand-son, born Darlaston;
[6] Mary Meek (23), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

John Corbett, beer retailer, Bilston Street. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 22/1/1878 - Advert

“Darlaston. Beerhouse, BRADFORD ARMS, Bilston Street. Good business house. Rent £20. In-going low.

Apply to Bruford and Co., Brewers and Maltsters, Wolverhampton.”

Henry Parker, beer retailer, Bilston Street. [1880]

1881 Census

5, Bilston Street

- [1] *Henry Samuel Parker* (33), iron roller, born Wednesbury;
[2] Elizabeth Parker (32), wife, born Liverpool;
[3] James Parker (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
[4] Herbert Parker (2), son, born Wednesbury;
[5] Nellie Parker (2 months), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/2/1884

“On Wednesday night an interesting ceremony took place at the lodge house of In Prosperity lodge of the National United Order of Free Gardeners, the BRADFORD ARMS, Bilston Street, Darlaston, when Mr. Harry E. M. Long, surgeon, was initiated as an honorary member of the order. Prior to the ceremony, the members of the lodge, together with a number of friends and members of other lodges, sat down to a capital supper provided by the host, Brother *Derry*. The initiation having been performed, the remainder of the evening was devoted to sociability.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/5/1884

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Thomas Derry*, landlord of the BRADFORD ARMS INN, Bilston Street, Darlaston, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours. The defendant was represented by Mr. Green.

PC Luff stated that about four o’clock on the afternoon of Sunday, the 4th of May, he saw a woman named Holden coming out of the BRADFORD ARMS, carrying a jug, which contained about two quarts of ale. Mr. Green, for the defence, stated that on the day in question, there was a procession of Free Gardeners in aid of the Hospital funds, and a man named Harris, who took part in the proceedings, ordered half-a-gallon of ale at two o’clock, and stated that he would send for it. The ale was pulled at the time it was ordered. The nominal penalty of 1s and costs as inflicted.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 30/1/1886

“Free Gardenerly. On Tuesday evening, a complimentary dinner and presentation was given to Brother Samuel Foster, Past Master of the In Prosperity lodge, No.1512, held at the house of Brother *Thomas Derry*, BRADFORD ARMS INN, Darlaston.....”

1891 Census

5, Bilston Street – BRADFORD ARMS

- [1] *John Worrall* (24), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
[2] Mary Worrall (25), wife, born Coventry:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Music and singing licenses..... The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for danc-

ing, in addition, being abandoned.....
Alfred Jones, BRADFORD ARMS, Bilston Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/2/1895

“Yesterday, at the BRADFORD ARMS, Eldon Street, Darlaston, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest on the body of Gertrude Worrell, seven months, daughter of parents living in Eldon Street. On Saturday afternoon the deceased and her mother were lying on the sofa together, until the latter went away for a short time. On her return she found that her child was dead or dying.

The Coroner came to the conclusion that for the sake of warmth the child had crept close to its mother, and had been suffocated.

A verdict of Accidentally Suffocated was returned.”

William Howells = William Howell

1901 Census

5, Bilston Street – BRADFORD ARMS

[1] *William Howells* (63), brewer, born Church Stretton, Shropshire;

[2] Rachel Ann Howells (32), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Lizzie Painter (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

William Howell, beer retailer, 5, Bilston Street. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

5, Bilston Street – BRADFORD ARMS

[1] *William Howells* (74), beerhouse keeper and brewer, born Church Stretton, Shropshire;

[2] Rachel Ann Howells (41), wife, married 11 years, born Darlaston;

[3] Annie Piggott (18), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1918

“At Darlaston Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the BRADFORD ARMS, which was adjourned until March 6 owing to the licensee having been convicted. The KINGS ARMS, Cramp Hill, and the ROYAL GEORGE, Station Street, were also adjourned to allow of notices being served on the ground of redundancy.”

Walsall Observer 8/2/1930

“Darlaston Brewster Sessions on Wednesday.....

The Bench deferred the renewal of the BRADFORD ARMS, Bilston Street, the ROYAL OAK, Booth Street, the VICTORIA INN, Butcroft, and the DARTMOUTH ARMS, High Street, to see if certain structural alterations are carried out.”

Plans were approved for alterations, including sanitary and living accommodation, on 5th March 1930.

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

“Darlaston Brewster Sessions.....

In his report, Police-inspector Adams stated.....

Various plans for the alteration of licensed houses had been approved by the justices, and the work carried out. Delay in the case of the BRADFORD ARMS, Bilston Street, had, he believed, been occasioned by the Urban District Authority.”

1939 Register

5, Bilston Street – BRADFORD ARMS

[1] Alice M. Perks, dob 6/9/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[6] *Edward Perks*, date of birth 19/11/1905, licensed victualler, married:

Edward Perks – see also WHITE DOG.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division A, in 1948.

A full license was confirmed on 14th April 1948.

Rugeley Times 31/5/1952

“The Darlaston Darts League concluded the 1951-52 season with the playing-off of the final for the league president’s cup and the presentation of the prizes, by Mr. V. Dishman, of Atkinsons Brewery, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, King Street, on Friday. Mr. T. Malthouse (league Chairman) presided over a gathering that packed the room, and was supported by Mr. J. Tinsley.

Congratulating all who had taken part, Mr. Dishman said they had had a very successful season, and, from that angle, the main point was the contribution they had made to charity – a sum of over £45 to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. They were all to be congratulated also on the sportsmanship existing throughout the league and the important function it fulfilled in the general life of the public houses of the town.....

Mr. Dishman presented the prizes as follows.....

Highest Break, Division A – S. Jukes, BRADFORD ARMS, 152.”

Walsall Observer 24/6/1966

“Although formed only last year the Darlaston Sunday Darts League had a magnificent display of trophies at their first annual presentations in the GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston, on Friday, a collection that was a tribute to the hard work put in by the officials during this inaugural year. Fourteen teams took part in the league, thirteen of which were from public houses in the Darlaston area.

A total of 67 trophies were presented. Five major trophies which were donated to the league and the remaining 62 miniatures were purchased by players in the league. Apart from the prize money which totalled £85 10s and the money for the trophies, the committee paid all other expenses to help achieve a first-class season. The presentations were made by Mr. C. Staite.

The most successful team was the BARREL INN who failed to win the league by nine legs with the same number of points as the champions (the NAGS HEAD), but who reached both semi-finals of the knock-outs and who received the Mitchell and Butlers Collection Shield.

An additional presentation was made to Mr. W. Thorpe of Bentley Sons of Rest of £17, which was the result of a collection among the players. Mr. Thorpe donated a cup on behalf of the Sons of Rest, which was won by the SWAN (Moxley) with the GREEN DRAGON runners-up.

Other winner were: the President’s Knock Out Cup, KINGS HILL TAVERN, with runners-up the SWAN.

League champions: NAGS HEAD, with runners-up BARREL INN.

Wooden spoonists: BOAT INN.

Supplementary league winners: BRADFORD ARMS, with runners-up ROYAL GEORGE.”

It closed in 1982.

It was demolished.

It was replaced by the FRYING PAN.

BREWERY

47+48, Blockall, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Green Snr. [1865] – **1883**;
John Green Jnr. (1883 – []
William Steemson [1891] – [1896] manager
Simeon Foster [1900]
Daniel Griffiths [1901] – [1903]

NOTES

It had a six day license.

Blockall Brewery was at the rear.

John Green Snr. was the son of George and Elizabeth Green.
He was described as a brewery agent. [1861]
He was described as an ale and porter merchant, Blockall. [1864], [1865]
He was described as agent for Burton Brewery Co. Ltd. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

Blackall

[1] *John Green* (41), brewer and ale dealer employing 2 men, born Darlaston;
[2] Rebecca Green (41), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] *John Green* (15), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
[4] Elizabeth Green (14), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[5] Minnie Green (13), daughter, scholar, born Great Barr;
[6] Alice Green (10), daughter, scholar, born Liverpool;
[7] Maria Pernott (25), domestic servant, born Tewkesbury:

John Green, brewer, Blockall. [1872], [1876], [1880]

Walsall Observer 10/4/1875

“Darlaston. Local Board Elections. Nominations.

The gentlemen who retire this year by rotation are *John Green*

Twelve gentlemen have been nominated to fill the seven vacancies *John Green*, Blockall, brewer.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1875

“Darlaston. Local Board Elections. The newly-elected members of the Local Board are *John Green*.”

Walsall Observer 2/4/1881

“Darlaston. Local Board Election.

Mr. James Slater (returning officer) has received the nominations of the following for the seven vacant seats on the Local Board *John Green*, brewer, Blockhall.”

[He was elected.]

1881 Census

47+48, Blockall

[1] *John Green* (51), brewer, born Darlaston;
[2] Rebecca Green (51), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] *John Green* (25), son, brewer's traveller, born Darlaston;
[4] Elizabeth Green (24), daughter, born Darlaston;

- [5] Minnie Green (22), daughter, born Great Barr;
- [6] Alice Green (20), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] George H. Green (9), son, born Darlaston;
- [8] Agnes Price (19), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

John Green Jnr. (27), brewer, married Sarah Elizabeth Huskins (25), spinster, on 29th March 1883.

John Green Snr. died on 26th November 1883.

'Blockall Brewery, Darlaston' by Terry Smitheman

"*John Green Snr.* was also involved in many aspects of public life. He was, at various times, Church Warden at St. George's Church, The Green, a long-standing member of the School Board, Manager of St. George's School. *John Green* was a lifelong Tory, he was also a member of the Local Board, which was the forerunner of the Urban District Council.....

John Green Snr. died just a few weeks after returning from a visit to his daughter in the United States of America. His funeral took place on 1st December 1883. The service, held at St. Lawrence's, was a restrained affair but between Blockall and the church the road was lined with people wishing to pay their respects to him. Many businesses in the town were also closed as a sign of the respect in which he was held by the community. His body was interred in the family vault along with his parents."

1884 Probate

"The Will of *John Green*, late of 48, Blockall, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, Brewer, who died 26 November 1883 at 48, Blockall, was proved at Lichfield on 28 January by Rebecca Green of 48, Blockall, Widow, the Relict, and *John Green* of 46, Blockall, Brewer, the Son, the Executors. Personal Estate £2,103 17s 5d."

Application for a 7-day license was refused in 1885.

1891 Census

47, Blockall – Beerhouse

- [1] *William Steemson* (46), beerhouse manager, born Nottingham;
- [2] Jane Steemson (48), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Henery Steemson (24), son, married, nut and bolt forger, born Wednesbury;
- [4] T. W. Steemson (21), son, engine fitter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] G. Steemson (17), son, born Walsall;
- [6] Ann Steemson (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Minnie Steemson (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Arthur J. Steemson (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

1901 Census

48, Blockall – Public House

- [1] *Daniel Griffiths* (38), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Sarah Griffiths (34), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] May Griffiths (8), daughter, born Walsall;
- [4] Harold Griffiths (2), son, born Walsall:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

"Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury). Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course

with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

The BREWERY, Blockhall.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5."

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....

There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....

In the case of *Daniel Griffiths*, of the BREWERY beerhouse, Blockhall, insufficient annual value was the chief objection raised by the police. William Bailey, architect, Walsall, was called on their behalf, and valued the premises at only £12 a year. On the other hand, Mr. Farmer (Walsall) stated that he valued the premises at £20 a year on the basis of the Act. The Bench reserved their decision."

Closed

It was demolished in 1910, in order to build a skating rink on the site, which was never built. Part of the Olympic Cinema was built on the site of the pub and brewery yard.

BRICKLAYERS ARMS

Bell Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

John Bayley

LICENSEES

John Bayley [1861] – [1865]

James Lappage [1870]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/5/1846

"William Lissermore will run Jack Esscock (alias Black Jack) one mile, for £5 a side, on Whit-Monday.

Money ready at the BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Bell Street, Darlaston.”

John Bayley, beer retailer, Bell Street. [1860], [1861], [1864], [1865]

1861 Census

Bell Street – Beerhouse – BRICKLAYERS ARMS

[1] *John Bayley* (63), retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Bayley (64), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Ann Jones (17), house servant, born Darlaston;

[4] Rachel Rathbone (9), grand-child, scholar, born Darlaston:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/5/1870 - Advert

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of James Bayley, late of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, but since of Tipton, in the county of Stafford, in lodgings, and out of business, a Bankrupt.

To be Sold by Auction (by order of the Assignee).....

All the Part Share, and Interest to which the Bankrupt is entitled under the Will of his late Father, *John Bayley*, of Bell Street, Darlaston, aforesaid, Bricklayer and Retail Brewer, deceased, of and in the Moneys arisen or to arise from the Sale of the Messuages, Buildings, Lands, Hereditaments, and Real Estate of the said Testator, *John Bayley*, subject to the Life Interest therein of the Testator's Widow, Elizabeth Bayley.....

The Testator's Real Estate consists of two Messuages or Dwelling Houses (formerly one), situate in Bell Street, Darlaston, one of which is occupied by the said Elizabeth Bayley, and the other by *James Lappage*, and is used as a Beerhouse, and is known by the sign of the BRICKLAYERS ARMS.....”

Check Bilston Street.

Check ENGINE, Bell Street.

BRICKLAYERS ARMS

Bilston Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Bayley [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

BRIDGE

8, Baggotts Bridge, Heathfield Lane, Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Bowers [1861] – [1867]

Charles Henry Johnson [1881] – [1896]

James Thomas Dibble [1901] – **1905**:

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Heathfield, Darlaston – BRIDGE TAVERN Public House

[1] *William Bowers* (30), publican and boatman, born Corse, Gloucestershire;

[2] Charlotte Bowers (35), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] Betsy Johnson (11), step-daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Thomas Johnson (7), step-son, born Cannock;

[5] James Johnson (5), step-son, born Darlaston;

[6] Priscilla Johnson (2), step-daughter, born Darlaston;

[7] John Bowers (1), son, born Bilston;

[8] Caroline Rogers (13), domestic servant, born Shropshire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/2/1865

“On Monday morning an inquest was held before Mr. E. Hooper and a respectable jury, at BAGOTTS BRIDGE TAVERN, Darlaston, upon the body of a little girl named Sarah Woodford, aged three years and ten months. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was the daughter of respectable people residing in the parish, and on Thursday morning the father, as usual, proceeded to his work at an early hour, leaving the kitchen fire lighted and his wife and two children in bed up stairs. A few minutes before eight o’clock the deceased got up in her night dress and proceeded down to the kitchen. Immediately after the mother observed an unusually vivid light issue from the kitchen, and on hurrying down she found the deceased enveloped in flames. Assistance was called and the fire extinguished. Mr. Partridge, surgeon, was called in, but so severe was the nature of the injuries that the child died on the following morning in much agony. It appeared in the course of the evidence that there had been no protection before the fire in the shape of a bow-fender.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and at the same time censured what they considered to be the gross neglect of the mother in permitting the child to go down stairs by itself, the fire not having been guarded sufficiently. It was elicited in this case also that the child had been ‘entered’ in a club, and that the parents at its death received 20s.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/1/1868

“The inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Esther Baggott was resumed yesterday..... [For reports of this murder see under GEORGE, Moxley.]

Edward Caudwell [murder suspect] said he was a boat builder, and lived in a boat at Baggotts Bridge. He remembered the 22nd of November last, and was at work all that day for a Ms. Clarke, at Baggotts Bridge. He left work on that day a little after five o’clock, and went with a man named Edward Jones to the house of Mr. *Bowers*, BAGGOTTS BRIDGE TAVERN. After they had been there a short time witness saw the deceased come in, about a quarter to seven o’clock. She had her father’s watch with her, and had been to Bilston to get a new glass placed in it. She did not stay at the tavern above five minutes, but returned in

about forty minutes to get some beer to take to her husband. Mrs. *Bowers* served her with the beer, and she left immediately. Witness remained at the house about a quarter of an hour after the deceased left, when he left, and went to his boat to wash, and having done so, he returned to the tavern, arriving there about eight o'clock He stayed at the public house then until shortly after ten o'clock, and during that time *William Bowers*, the landlord of the house, was present, not going out of the room at all. When witness left the tavern he went straight home.....”

[Edward Jones corroborated this.]

1881 Census

8, Bagots Bridge – BRIDGE INN

[1] *Charles H. Johnson* (30), engine fitter at works, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary J. Johnson* (27), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Mary A. Johnson* (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] *Elizabeth Johnson* (4), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Charles Johnson* (2), son, born Darlaston;

[6] *Esther Johnson* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[7] *Jane Franklin* (15), general servant, born Staffordshire:

Wednesbury Herald 18/11/1882

“*Charles Henry Johnson*, landlord of the BRIDGE INN, Moxley, was summoned by Superintendent Holland for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the 5th inst. Mr. Jackson, of West Bromwich, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Green, of Darlaston, for the defendant.

In opening the case Mr. Jackson stated that it was not one of the most flagrant cases that he had been connected with, but it was only fair to the general body of publicans that in the event of any of their numbers being found trespassing – especially for trading during prohibited hours on Sundays – that they should be seriously punished.

The evidence of Police-constable Hayward showed that on the morning of the 5th inst, at a quarter past eleven o'clock, he visited the defendant's house, and found in a recess four men, and immediately in front of them was a jug containing ale. Two of the men stated that they came from Bilston, one from Oldbury, and one from Darlaston, but the one who stated that he came from Oldbury, resided in Walsall Street, Darlaston. Mr. Green said the defendant was justified in supplying ale to the man who said he came from Oldbury, as he was a bona fide traveller, as he had walked from his mother's house, at Oldbury. The other three men went to the house to fetch a jug, and were not supplied with any intoxicating liquor.

The Stipendiary held that a flagrant offence had been committed, and fined defendant 40s and costs.”

1891 Census

Baggott Bridge, Darlaston – Public

[1] *Charles H. Johnson* (40), fitter, born Bilston;

[2] *Jane Johnson* (37), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Mary Ann Johnson* (16), daughter, general servant, born Darlaston;

[4] *Jennie Johnson* (14), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Charles Johnson* (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] *Esther Johnson* (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] *Edwin Johnson* (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[8] *Janet Johnson* (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[9] *Arthur Johnson* (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 15/6/1895

“On Monday evening, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquiry at the BRIDGE INN, Baggots Bridge, into the circumstances connected with the death of a little boy named Thomas Hughes, aged four years, son of Emmanuel Hughes, ironworker, who resides at 15, Heathfield Lane, who was found in the Bilston Brook arm of the Birmingham Canal on Saturday afternoon.

A verdict of Accidentally Drowned was returned.”

BRIDGE INN, *C. H. Johnson*, Heathfield Lane, Moxley, Wednesbury. [1896]

1901 Census

8, Baggotts Bridge

- [1] *James T. Dibble* (36), clay worker, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ellen Dibble* (38), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Fred Dibble* (13), son, blacksmith's striker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Charles Dibble* (11), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Mary Dibble* (8), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Nelly Dibble* (6), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Josiah Dibble* (4), son, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Janet Dibble* (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Thomas Dibble* (9 months), son, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

BRIDGE INN, Baggotts Bridge.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/2/1905

“Darlaston Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The police objected to the renewal of the license of the BRIDGE INN beerhouse, Heathfield Lane, Darlaston, kept by *James Thomas Dibble*, on the ground that the premises were of insufficient annual value. Mr. Taylor (Wolverhampton) applied for the renewal.

Mr. James Belcher, valuer, called by the opposition, said the property was in a very dilapidated state by reason of mining operations, and the wife of the tenant complained that it ‘rained in like a riddle.’ A fair rental would be £10 8s a year.

Mr. Taylor argued that these dilapidations had existed for 25 years, and that a similar objection to this, made

two years ago, was withdrawn at Quarter Sessions.

Mr. Powell (valuer, of Walsall), for the applicant, stated that the premises were worth £19 10s a year, and that all the property in the district was more or less dilapidated.

The Bench refused to grant a renewal of the license, but fixed recognisances, in case an appeal against their decision.”

BRIDGE

Bull Lane, Bull Bridge, Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Ralph Small [1869] – [1881]

NOTES

It was situated next to Wesson’s Ironworks, canal side.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1869

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, *Ralph Small*, keeper of the BRIDGE INN beerhouse, near Moxley, was fined 10s and costs for having had his house open at improper hours on Sunday morning. Police-constable Anderton proved the case.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/5/1869

“Ralph Small of Moxley will fly his pigeon from Oxford against Mr. Jones’s pigeon of the Old-road, Bilston, for from £5 to £20 a side. Money ready any night next week at *Ralph Small*’s, BULLS BRIDGE INN, Moxley.”

1871 Census

Bull Lane

- [1] *Ralph Small* (40), publican, born Moxley;
- [2] Phoebe Small (36), wife, born Moxley;
- [3] Elizabeth Small (16), daughter, born Moxley;
- [4] Joseph Small (14), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [5] Isaac Small (12), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [6] John Small (10), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [7] Paul Small (8), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [8] Ralph Small (6), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [9] Richard Small (4), son, born Moxley;
- [10] Phoebe Small (3), daughter, born Moxley;
- [11] James Small (2), son, born Moxley;
- [12] Ann Small (5 months), daughter, born Moxley;
- [13] Hannah Johnson (18), domestic servant, birthplace not known:

Ralph Small was the owner of the celebrated bull terrier ‘Warrior Bill’.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1872

“James Foster, agent for the Assam Tea Company, was charged, before the Stipendiary, at the Police Court, yesterday, with obtaining by false pretences £1 2s from *Ralph Small*, beerhouse keeper, of Moxley; and 4s 6d from Elizabeth Parsons, beerhouse keeper, near Wednesbury. Mr. Barrow appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Sheldon, of Wednesbury, for the defence.

The first charge was that the defendant sold a quantity of tea to *Ralph Small*, under the representation that he was commissioned by the secretary of the Wednesbury Beerhouse Association, and that the profits went to the funds of that society. The complainant had paid for 6lbs of tea, whereas the tea supplied was 1¼lb deficient. The false pretences were the same in the other case. It was shown that the defendant had no connection with the Beerhouse Association, and that he had not been authorized by the secretary of that society to sell tea in his name.

Mr. Spooner decided that the offence was one of untruthfulness, but did not constitute an indictable offence under the head of false pretences. The prisoner was therefore discharged.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/1/1874

“Thompson’s brown bitch Lue of Greatbridge and Redfern’s white bitch Rose of Walsall ran 200 yards, for £10 a side, both scaling at 14lb weight, Rose having a dog slipped a yard in front of her. Lue was favourite, and, after a close race, won by a yard and a half. Mr. *R. Small*, of Moxley was stakeholder and referee.”

Dudley Herald 13/5/1876

“A youth, fourteen years of age, named John Shine, was charged with stealing a sovereign, the property of *Ralph Small*, a publican, residing at Moxley.

On Saturday the prisoner went into the prosecutor’s house, and after he left some money was missed from the bar. Two men followed the prisoner, and saw him hide a sovereign in an ash-hole connected with one of the adjoining ironworks.

The prisoner was sentenced to one month’s imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/5/1878 - Advert

“Bull-Terrier Bitch Wanted, as foster-mother, to whelp about middle of May. Apply, Mr. *Ralph Small*, Moxley, near Wednesbury.”

Ralph Small, beer retailer, Bulls Bridge, Moxley. [1880]

1881 Census

Bull Bridge

- [1] *Ralph Small* (51), publican, born Moxley;
- [2] Phebe Small (46), wife, born Moxley;
- [3] Isaac Small (22), son, general labourer, born Moxley;
- [4] John Small (20), son, horse driver, born Moxley;
- [5] Paul Small (18), son, bricklayer’s labourer, born Moxley;
- [6] *Ralph Small* (16), son, labourer in iron works, born Moxley;
- [7] Richard Small (14), son, pike carrier for miners, born Moxley;
- [8] Phebe Small (13), daughter, scholar, born Moxley;
- [9] James Small (11), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [10] Ann Small (10), daughter, scholar, born Moxley;
- [11] William Small (9), son, scholar, born Moxley;
- [12] Jane Small (8), daughter, scholar, born Moxley;
- [13] Alfred Small (5), son, scholar, born Moxley:

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/1/1885 - Advert

“To be Let or Sold, the BULLS BRIDGE INN, Moxley. It is very well situated, several large ironworks being near; doing a very good business, There is some very good stabling attached. For particulars apply to Josiah Parkes, Auctioneer, Wood Street, Willenhall.”

BRITANNIA

Bilston Road, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Sarah Hatton [1818]

BRITANNIA

Cock Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Tranter [1871] – [1872]

Urban Bate [1878]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

Cock Street – BRITANIA

[1] *William Tranter* (38), gunlock filer and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Elizabeth Tranter* (33), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *James Tranter* (10), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;

[4] *Elizabeth Tranter* (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Sarah J. Tranter* (3), daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] *Nancy Tranter* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[7] *Margaret Newell* (16), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

William Tranter, beer retailer, Cock Street. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1878 - Advert

“Good Beerhouse to Let, in a well-populated neighbourhood. In-going low. Other engagements the cause of leaving.

Apply, *Urban Bate*, BRITANNIA INN, Cock Street, Darlaston.”

BRITANNIA

50, Eldon Street / Cross Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Nightingale [1871] – [1880]

John Goodwin [1878] – [1881]

Stephen Roberts [1891]

Thomas Fox [1901]

John Wilkins [1904]

NOTES

1871 Census

Eldon Street

[1] *Edward Nightingale* (56), beer retailer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Charlotte Nightingale* (51), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *James Nightingale* (20), son, nut maker, born Darlaston;

[4] *Ellen Nightingale* (17), daughter, born Darlaston:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/12/1876 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Properties in Woods Bank and Dangerfield Lane; and Life Interest in a Public House and Dwelling House, in Eldin Street, Darlaston, with a Policy of Insurance upon the Life of Mr. Samuel Bayley.

Mr. E. Cox has received instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. John Yardley to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, 18th day of December, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.....

Lot 4. The Interest for Life of Mr. Samuel Bayley in a Freehold Public House, known as the BRITANNIA INN, and a Dwelling House adjoining, at the junction of Cross Street and Eldin Street, Darlaston aforesaid, together with a Policy of Assurance for £200, in the Briton Office, upon the Life of the said Samuel Bayley, who is now in the 64th year of his age.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/6/1877

“*Edward Nightingale*, landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Eldon Street, Darlaston, was charged at the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before Mr. Spooner, with selling ale during prohibited hours on the night of the 9th inst. Police-constable James proved seeing a woman enter the defendant's house at half-past eleven o'clock on the night in question with a jug and purchase a pint of ale. The defendant said the woman left the jug and paid for the ale before eleven o'clock. Mr. Spooner said the defence was of no consequence whatever, and the defendant would be fined 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1877

“West Bromwich Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following reports as to the convictions of publicans during last year were made by Superintendents Woollaston and Holland, for the police divisions of West Bromwich and Wednesbury.....

Edward Nightingale, BRITANNIA INN, Darlaston, keeping open, fined 20s and costs.....

All the old licenses were then renewed with the exception of those whose holders had been convicted in a

penalty of 20s and upwards. The latter were adjourned until 26th September.”
[Renewed at the adjourned licensing sessions.]

Edward Nightingale, beer retailer, Cross Street. [1880]

Edward Nightingale – see also OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1878

“The licensing session for West Bromwich and Wednesbury districts took place yesterday.....

The following beerhouse keepers in the Wednesbury district have been convicted during the year.....

John Goodwin, BRITANNIA INN, Darlaston, 20s and costs, for permitting drunkenness.....

The licenses were not endorsed in any of these cases.

Those whose fines were 40s or upwards were directed to apply for their licenses at the adjourned Sessions.”

John Goodwin, beer retailer, Cross Street. [1880]

1881 Census

50, Eldon Street

[1] *John Goodwin* (48), bolt maker, born Darlaston;

[2] *Martha Goodwin* (48), wife, born Shropshire;

[3] *Thomas Goodwin* (16), son, born Stantonbury, Buckinghamshire;

[4] *James Goodwin* (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *George Goodwin* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] *Samuel Goodwin* (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

50, Eldon Street – BRITANNIA

[1] *Stephen Roberts* (45), nut and bolt maker, born Darlaston;

[2] *Hannah M. Roberts* (42), wife, born London;

[3] *William Roberts* (6), son, born Darlaston;

[4] *Annie Roberts* (4), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Ada Steen* (22), daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] *James Steen* (21), son-in-law, stock taker in plate mill, born West Bromwich;

[7] *Nellie Steen* (2 months), grand-child, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Mail 19/6/1891

“On Wednesday night, *Henry Bennett* (24), Cross Street, Darlaston, nut and bolt forger, was taken before Mr. G. S. Guy, at Wednesbury, and charged with the manslaughter of *Patrick Costello*, a miner, of Cramp Hill, Darlaston, and formal evidence having been given, the accused was remanded till Tuesday next. The two men were at the BRITANNIA INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, on Saturday night, and after they had come to high words and had exchanged blows they were got out of the house. In the street they continued the quarrel, and it is said that in return for a blow on the ribs *Bennett* struck *Costello* on the jaw, causing him to roll over on to the ground, where he lay for some little time in an unconscious condition. When he had recovered somewhat he was taken home, and was found to have a wound on the temple and another at the back of the head. Afterwards he was attended by Dr. *McGraine*, and apparently his injuries were not regarded as of a very serious character; at all events he was not confined to the house. On Wednesday evening, however, he died, and *Bennett* was at once apprehended, and, as already stated, taken before a magistrate, and charged with manslaughter. Mr. *Hooper*, who had been communicated with, has ordered a post mortem examination.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1891

“Yesterday Mr. E. *Hooper* (coroner), held an inquest at the LION INN, Darlaston, on the body of *Patrick Costello* (29), miner, Cramp Hill, in that town, who died on Wednesday evening under circumstances al-

ready reported. Superintendent Walters and Sergeant Curtis were present on behalf of the police, and Mr. T. Green watched the proceedings in the interest of Henry Bennett, nut and bolt forger, who is charged with having caused Costello's death.

Bridget Costello, mother of the deceased, said she returned from Wednesbury market on Saturday night, and was met by people who told that her son was dead. She found, however, that it was not true, but that he had been seriously injured on the temple and left side of the head. She dressed the wounds and attended to her son until the beginning of the week, when she sent for Dr. McGraine. Death took place on Wednesday evening.

Stephen Roberts, keeper of the BRITANNIA INN, Cross Street, said the deceased was at his house from half-past five until half-past eight o'clock on Saturday night, and Bennett and some other men were also there. The party had four quarts and three pints of ale between them. A dispute arose, and he heard Costello tell Bennett to hold his peace and sit down. Witness had his back to them at the time, and when he turned round he found that they were fighting. He ordered them to leave the house, and they obeyed, stating that they would go outside and 'have it out.'

George Morgan said he saw the men begin to fight in the street. The deceased appeared to be getting the best of the fight, and Bennett turned away 'as if he was a coward,' but suddenly stopped, turned round again, and dealt the deceased a violent blow which knocked him down, his head coming in contact with the ground 'as if a cocoanut had been cracked.' The blows interchanged were very heavy ones, and the men were strong and powerful.

William Cooke deposed to carrying Costello home, he being in a semi-conscious condition.

Dr. McGraine said the deceased was suffering from contused wounds on the left side of the head, which he did not think could be caused by a blow with the fist, but were probably due to a fall, or they might have been done with some iron instrument. If he had been called earlier, say on the Saturday or Sunday morning, he believed he could have saved the man's life. He had made a post mortem examination, and found that the organs were all in a healthy condition, except the liver, which was that of a heavy drinker. He found a clot of blood on the brain, beneath the membrane, and he attributed death to the injuries to the head, and the consequent haemorrhage. He called the attention of the coroner to the need of a place in the town in which to conduct post mortem examinations, stating that he had conducted these lately, all of which had been done under circumstances of great difficulty owing to the want of a mortuary.

The Coroner said Darlaston was the only town of its size in his district that had not such accommodation, and if some members of the Board were only present to see the difficulties in which medical men were placed in such cases no doubt they would take steps to provide a mortuary.

A verdict of Manslaughter was returned."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 28/7/1891

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Henry Bennett (on bail) was charged with the manslaughter of Patrick Costello at Darlaston, on June 15. Mr. Owen prosecuted, and Mr. Kettle defended.

Mr. Owen said that the case was one of those well known in those courts as public house brawls, having arisen out of a quarrel in a public house, called the BRITANNIA, at Darlaston. Evidence was given that Costello pushed a man named Underhill who was passing him, and told him to sit down. Prisoner said, 'Push a man your own size.' This resulted in a fight outside. A man named George Morgan stated that prisoner was beaten in the fight, and was going away when Costello followed him and struck him again. It was in defending himself against this renewed attack that prisoner struck the fatal blow. Upon this his Lordship said that there appeared to be no case against the prisoner, and the jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty."

1901 Census

Eldon Street – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *Thomas Fox* (24), publican, born Walsall;

[2] *Gertrude A. Fox* (24), wife, born Walsall;

[3] *Blanche E. Marston* (22), visitor, born Walsall;

[4] *Hilda Whelley* (5), visitor, born Walsall:

Walsall Advertiser 20/4/1901

“William Henry Marston, of 24, Lumley Road, was summoned for neglecting and deserting his wife, Blanche Marston, of the BRITANNIA INN, Cross Street, Darlaston. Mr. W. B. Thursfield, of Wednesbury, prosecuted, and Mr. W. F. Hall defended.

The parties were only married in January this year, and went to live with defendant’s mother in Lumley Road, Walsall. Unpleasantness seemed to have arisen through the defendant’s mother, and the defendant always appeared to side with his mother. Five weeks after the marriage the defendant ordered his wife to leave the house on two occasions. On March 26th a dispute arose between the complainant and the defendant’s mother, and the defendant then practically turned his wife out of the house. The following day complainant went with her own mother to defendant to see what he was going to do. Defendant declined to have her back again and told her that if she wanted anything from him for her maintenance she would have to go to law to get it.

Complainant was cross-examined by Mr. Hall as to whether the dispute between her and her husband was not on account of her running her husband into debt. Complainant said there was only one small amount owing for grocery when she left her husband, and that was only in consequence of her having to pay another bill with the money she should have paid for grocery.

An order was made for 12s 6d a week.”

Wednesbury Herald 11/12/1901

“At Walsall County Court on Wednesday, *Thomas Fox*, landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, claimed £31 5s from the South Staffordshire Tramways (Lessee) Company for damages sustained by the negligent driving of the defendant company’s servants. Mr. W. B. Thursfield was for the plaintiff, and Mr. T. P. Haslam for the defence.

Plaintiff’s case was that on October 21st last he was driving in a trap between Walsall and Wednesbury, and when in the Bescot Road saw an electric tramcar approaching. Noticing that electric sparks were coming from the wheels of the car he put his hand up as a signal to the driver of the tram to either stop altogether or proceed cautiously. No notice was taken of the warning, and the horse, which was a fresh one, bolted into an adjoining field. Here the vehicle was overturned, plaintiff was thrown out and badly knocked about, and the horse itself so seriously injured that it was alleged to have considerably depreciated in value.

The case was not concluded when the Court rose.”

AND

Walsall Advertiser 25/1/1902

“*Thomas Fox*, licensed victualler and carpenter, Darlaston, sued the South Staffordshire Tramways (Lessee) Company Limited for £31 for personal injuries and damage to a horse and trap, which he alleged to have been caused by the negligent driving of one of the company’s cars. Mr. W. B. Thursfield (Wednesbury) was for the plaintiff, and Mr. T. P. Haslam (Wolverhampton) defended.

The case for the plaintiff was that on October 21st he was driving along the Bescot Road, Walsall, with a horse he had recently purchased. An electric tramcar approached, and as the horse became restive he told a youth, who accompanied him, to get to the horse’s head, and at that time signalled to the driver of the tramcar to stop. As no notice was taken of his gestures he shouted several times, but without result, and sparks which came from the car wheels so alarmed the horse that it bolted across some waste land, where the trap was overturned and broken, the horse was injured, and plaintiff knocked about in such a way that he had to be under the care of Dr. S. Partridge, and was unable to follow his employment.

The defence was a denial that any signal was given, and the driver of the tramcar stated that he voluntarily slackened speed because he saw that the horse was restive. He admitted that he did not stop when the animal bolted.

The Judge said plaintiff was entitled to the use of the highway equally with the tramway company. A point had been made of the fact that sparks and flashes were emitted from the tramcars, but as the tramways were properly licensed by the Government this did not constitute negligence. He found that a signal was given to the driver, which was not observed, and the fact that plaintiff’s lad loosed the horse’s head when the horse became more restive did not absolve defendants from liability.

Judgement was given for plaintiff for £17 11s 6d with costs.”

Birmingham Mail 11/11/1904

“At Walsall this afternoon an inquest was held on the body of *John Wilkins* (35), late of the BRITANNIA INN, Darlaston, who was found drowned at Walsall yesterday. It was stated by deceased’s widow that her husband had held a situation as a tube worker, but had been induced to become tenant of this public house, in which he invested a considerable sum of money. He found that the trade of the public house had been much exaggerated, and that the takings were insignificant. He had a wife and six children dependent on him, and complained bitterly that he had been ‘taken down’ by the brewery company, to whom he had frequently applied to be allowed to leave the public house. Eventually he was served with a summons for permitting drunkenness, and seemed more down-hearted than ever, being unable to either eat or sleep. He had been missing since the 3rd inst.

In returning a verdict of Suicide during Temporary Insanity, the jury expressed the opinion that brewery companies were far too prone to misrepresent the value of their houses, and the foreman said he hoped public attention would be drawn to the matter.”

AND

Walsall Advertiser 12/11/1904

“The Borough Coroner (Mr. T. H. Stanley) held an inquest at the ENGINE INN, Wolverhampton Street, yesterday, upon the body of *John Wilkins* (35), lately landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, who was found drowned in the canal on the Darlaston Road, Pleck, on Thursday morning.

Martha Gregory, wife of William Gregory, of Reynolds Street, Smethwick, identified the body as that of her brother-in-law, whom she last saw about six weeks ago, when he appeared cheerful and well.

Ruth *Wilkins*, widow of deceased, said he had suffered from pains in the head, but since he went to the public house he had been worse and it had preyed upon his mind. He was on Wednesday week served with two summonses for supplying drink to a drunken person, and permitting him to be upon the premises. That night he did not have his supper, and was unable to sleep. She saw him crying the next morning when he got up, and when she tried to cheer him up he replied that he could not face the summonses. He afterwards went out of the house, and she did not see him again alive. Her husband was a steady man, and they had always got on well together. He was a steel tube drawer by trade, and made some money, but had lost it at the house, which was misrepresented to him when he went in. When his brother-in-law went over to see him deceased told him that he was a ruined man, and that it had nearly driven him to it (meaning suicide).

The foreman requested that the Press might make a special note of the misrepresentations that had been made. There had been a great deal of that sort of thing going on.

The Coroner, in summing up, said that deceased had undoubtedly made a bad bargain, and he thought the loss of money had preyed upon his mind.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.”

Walsall Observer 16/6/1906

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, Mr. R. A. Willcock applied, on behalf of Messrs. J. and J. Yardley and Co., brewers, Darlaston, for permission to re-build the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Catherines Cross.

Mr. Willcock explained that at the annual meeting the magistrates informed the owners that unless the house was put in proper order it would in all probability be scheduled under the Compensation Act. The license was renewed on the understanding that before the court that day the owners deposited plans for the re-building of the house entirely, and at the same time surrendered an ante-’69 license. Mr. Willcock then handed over the license of the BRITANNIA INN, an ante-’69 house in Eldon Street. The application was approved.”

BRITISH OAK

71, (30), Willenhall Road, The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd. [1919]
Frank Myatt Ltd. (acquired on 7th February 1921)

LICENSEES

Thomas Simcox [1867] – **1869**);
David Richards (**1869**);
Aaron Deakin (**1869** – [1880]
William Perkins [1880]
Joseph Perkins [] – **1881**);
Thomas Hodgkins (**1881** – []
John Foster [1884]
Francis Lloyd [1886] – [1892]
Benjamin George Price [1896]
Edward Beddall [1901] – [1904]
Frederick Bill [1908] – [1912]
Thomas Allen [1912] – **1922**);
Charles Gwilt (**1922** – **1924**);
Fred Rushton (**1924** – **1929**);
Thomas Neale (**1929** – **1931**);
Reuben Canadine (**1931** – **1936**);
Thomas Gough (**1936** – **1938**);
Mrs. Mary Louisa Jesse (**1938** – **1961**);
Norman Thomas Dyas (**1961** – **1965**);
Kathleen Joan Noakes (**1965** – [1967]

NOTES

30, Willenhall Road [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916]
71, Willenhall Road [1921], [1932], [1940]

OAK INN [1880]
OAK TREE [1881]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1867

“On Wednesday the adjourned licensing meeting for West Bromwich district was held in the Petty Sessions Room new applications [for spirit licenses].....

Thomas Simcox, The Green, Darlaston, supported by Mr. Slater. Granted.”

Thomas Simcox was also a builder. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1871 - Advert

“Found, a White Pomeranian Bitch. If not owned in three days, will be sold to defray expenses.
Apply at the BRITISH OAK, Darlaston Green.”

1871 Census

Willenhall Road – BRITISH OAK

- [1] *Aaron Deakin* (39), coal master and licensed victualler, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Jane Deakin* (37), wife, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Alice Jane Deakin* (12), daughter, scholar, born Willenhall;

- [4] Edith M. H. Deakin (10), daughter, scholar, born Willenhall;
[5] Gertrude A. Deakin (8), daughter, scholar, born Willenhall;
[6] Eliza Winfield (18), domestic servant, born Wood End, Staffordshire:

William Perkins, OAK INN, Willenhall Road. [1880]

1881 Census

30, Willenhall Road – OAK TREE INN

- [1] *Thomas Hodgkins* (43), brass caster, born Wednesbury;
[2] *Maria Hodgkins* (43), wife, born Wednesbury;
[3] *William Hodgkins* (21), son, brass caster, born Wednesbury;
[4] *Maria Hodgkins* (19), daughter, pupil teacher, born Wednesbury;
[5] *Thomas Hodgkins* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
[6] *John Hodgkins* (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
[7] *Sarah Hodgkins* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
[8] *George Henry Hodgkins* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
[9] *Mary Hodgkins* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Sporting Life 21/10/1884

“Robin Hood Grounds, Willenhall.

A fair company patronised these grounds on Saturday last, the occasion being a 440 yards foot handicap promoted by Messrs. *J. Foster* (host of the OAK INN, Darlaston Green), and *W. Simcocks* (proprietor). The nomination card contained the names of thirty-eight, arranged in six various heats. The weather was all that could be desired, and the track, too, was in splendid condition. Mr. *E. Firm* was referee, and Mr. *J. Foster* handled the pistol.....

These grounds were devoted yesterday (Monday) to the second and final rounds of the 125 yards pedestrian handicap promoted by Messrs. *J. Foster* (of the BRITISH OAK INN, Darlaston Green) and *W. Simcocks* (the proprietor). The weather, though cloudy and overcast, was fine, and a fair company put in an appearance.....”

Sporting Life 20/11/1884

“Robin Hood Grounds, Willenhall.

The attraction at these spacious grounds on Monday last should have been the concluding rounds of an all-England 130 yards pedestrian handicap, the projectors being Mr. *John Foster*, of the BRITISH OAK INN, Darlaston, and Mr. *Simcocks* (proprietor), but owing to the death of the latter gentleman, which sad event took place on Sunday morning last, at seven am, the handicap was postponed sine die.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/10/1885

“Mr. *E. Hooper*, coroner, held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Willenhall Road, Darlaston, this (Tuesday) morning, on the body of *Thomas Ashbrook* (49), navy, 3, Queens Street, Darlaston, who was found dead by his wife at the bottom of the staircase early on Saturday morning. The evidence adduced went to show that deceased must have fallen downstairs. No elements of a suspicious character were introduced, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1886 - Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Property and Full-Licensed Inn, Willenhall Road, Darlaston.

Messrs. *Belcher & Son* have received instructions from the Mortgagees to offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, on Monday Next, Nov. 29, at 7 o'clock in the Evening, prompt..... Lot 3. All that Full-Licensed Inn, known as the BRITISH OAK INN, situate in Willenhall Road, Darlaston aforesaid, comprising Tap Room, Parlour, commodious Bar, Kitchen, Club Room, four Bed Rooms, Brew-house, Malthouse, and Cellar, with extensive Stabling, Loft, and good Yard, now in the possession of Mr. *Francis Lloyd*, at the yearly rent of £22 10s.

The whole of the Property is situated near to large and important Works, Lots 1 and 3 being on the main road

between Darlaston and Willenhall.....”

1891 Census

30, Willenhall Road – BRITISH OAK

- [1] *Francis Lloyd* (62), licensed victualler, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [2] Harriet Lloyd (64), wife, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [3] Alice Lloyd (34), daughter, born Madeley:

1901 Census

30, Willenhall Road

- [1] *Edward Beddall* (54), gas fitting maker, born Darlaston;
- [2] Margaret Beddall (51), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] George Beddall (20), son, student in training college, born Darlaston;
- [4] Mary Beddall (23), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Clara J. Beddall (23), niece, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

Willenhall Road – BRITISH OAK INN

- [1] *Frederick Bill* (55), licensed victualler, born Moseley Village;
- [2] Mary Elizabeth Bill (43), wife, married 15 years, born Old Hill;
- [3] Leonard Stanley Bill (5), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [4] Edwin Clifford Bill (9 months), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] Sarah Morris (74), mother-in-law, widow, born Broom, Worcestershire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/9/1912 - Advert

“Good General wanted, for public; must be honest and trustworthy.
Mrs. *Allen*, BRITISH OAK, Willenhall Road, Darlaston.”

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

“Darlaston Brewster Sessions.....

In his report, Police-inspector Adams stated.....

All the licensed premises in Darlaston, said the Superintendent, had been visited, and generally speaking were clean, though many urinals and lavatories required white-washing more frequently. The following instances were specially mentioned: MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross (‘a very poor house in accommodation, and the public sanitary arrangements needed alterations’); the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street (‘a small house with poor private accommodation and sanitary arrangements’); the WHY NOT, St. George’s Street (‘a small house with poor sanitary arrangements’); the BRITISH OAK, Willenhall Road (‘which requires internal renovation’); and the NAGS HEAD, the Green (‘good house, but dirty condition generally’). The Superintendent suggested that swing doors on some of the lavatories would be a great improvement.”

Rugeley Times 2/6/1934 - Married

“On Monday, May 21st, at Darlaston Parish Church, by the Rev. J. Winchester (Curate), Geoffrey, son of Mr. and Mrs. *R. Canadine*, of the BRITISH OAK, Willenhall Road, Darlaston, to Sarah, daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. J. Butler, of 64, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston.”

The license renewal was objected to on 12th February 1936 on the grounds of structural deficiency and unsuitability. Plans were submitted and approved on 11th March 1936 and the license renewed.

1939 Register

Willenhall Road – BRITISH OAK

- [1] *Mary Louisa Jesse*, date of birth 11/9/1886, manageress, licensee, widowed;
- [2] Marjorie Irene (Jesse) (Spellman) Sparrow, dob 2/7/1911, clerk, single;
- [3] Sydney Daryl Jesse, dob 20/6/1915, wholesale butcher, single:

Mary Louisa Jesse – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Catherines Cross.

BRITISH QUEEN

21+22, (22), (21), Albert Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Alport, 54, Bay Cottages, Enfield, Middlesex
R. A. Harper Ltd [1920]
Eleys Stafford Brewery Ltd

LICENSEES

S Statham [1855]
Cooke [] – **1857**);
Mrs. Cooke (**1857** – []
John Guest [1867] – **1875**);
Mrs. Hannah Guest (**1875** – []
Mrs. Sarah Purcell [1880]
Samuel Allport [1881]
Thomas Meanley [1891]
Richard Downes [1901]
James Green [1911] – **1919**);
John Lloyd (**1919** – **1921**);
Sydney Kendrick (**1921**);
James William Jacobs (**1921** – **1930**):

NOTES

21, Albert Street [1871]
22, Albert Street [1881]
21+22, Albert Street [1891], [1901], [1911]

QUEENS HEAD [1868], [1875]

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

One sheep was roasted at Mr. *S. Statham*'s, the BRITISH QUEEN.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off during the course of the night two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/1/1857

“Transfer of Licenses.....

BRITISH QUEEN, Darlaston, from the executors of Mr. *Cooke* to Mrs. *Cooke*.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 10/1/1857

“Transfer of Licenses.....

BRITISH QUEEN INN, Darlaston, from the executors of Mr. *Cook* to Mrs. *Cook*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/3/1868

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

John Muckley, on bail, was indicted for feloniously cutting and wounding Philemon Steatham, at the parish of Darlaston, with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Mr. Young conducted the prosecution.

On the evening of the 10th of last November the prosecutor, who is a gun-lock filer, residing at Wednesbury, was at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston. The prisoner, who was also there, called for some bread and cheese which he was toasting at the fire, when the prosecutor blew some froth from a glass of ale on to the plate. This greatly enraged the prisoner, who took up a knife and threw it at the prosecutor, inflicting a rather serious but not dangerous wound.

The prisoner did not deny having thrown the knife, but pleaded that he had received great provocation, the prosecutor having, as he alleged, spat some ale upon his cheese.

The jury found the prisoner guilty of unlawfully wounding, and recommended him to mercy.

His Lordship said he had documents before him which showed that the prisoner had for many years borne the character of a steady man. It was to be regretted that he had in this instance given way to his temper and thrown the knife at the prosecutor. The latter seemed to have taken the law somewhat into his own hands and given the prisoner what he richly deserved – a good thrashing. Under all the circumstances the sentence upon the prisoner would be 12 months’ imprisonment.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/3/1868

“Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

John Muckley, on bail, was indicted for feloniously cutting and wounding Philemon Steatham, on the 10th of November, at Darlaston, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. Mr. Young conducted the prosecution. Steatham is a gun-lock filer, living at Kings Hill, and on the day named he was drinking with the prisoner and several other men at *John Guest*’s, the QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston, for several hours. In the evening the prisoner was toasting a piece of bread, which he had begged from the landlord, at the fire, when, as the prosecutor and another man said, the former blew some froth off a jug of ale which had just been brought in towards the prisoner’s toast. The prisoner in a rage drew the knife out of the bread and threw it with considerable force at the prosecutor. It entered his back, and one of the witnesses said he bled ‘pretty nearly like a pig which had been stuck.’ Mr. Handy, surgeon, Darlaston, said the wound was three-quarters of an inch long and deep, but he did not consider it dangerous.

The prisoner called a witness who stated that the prosecutor took some ale into his mouth and spurted on to the prisoner’s bread; that the prisoner told him not to do it again, but that the prosecutor filled his mouth a second time and repeated the act, upon which the prisoner threw the knife as previously described, and the prosecutor then gave him a ‘good hiding.’

The Jury convicted the prisoner of unlawfully wounding, acquitting him of any intent to do grievous bodily harm, and recommending him to mercy on the ground of the provocation he received.

His Lordship, addressing the prisoner, said no doubt he did receive some provocation, though quite inadequate to justify the course he unfortunately adopted. He should give effect to the recommendation of the Jury by sentencing him to one month’s imprisonment only.”

1871 Census

21, Albert Street

[1] *John Guest* (51), gun-lock filer and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Hannah Guest* (50), wife, publican’s wife, born Darlaston;

- [3] Lucy Guest (15), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Joseph Guest (12), son, gun-lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [5] John Tupper (55), boarder, brewer, born Isleworth, Middlesex:

Cannock Chase Examiner 5/12/1874

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before Major Williams and S. Lloyd, Esqs, Charles Parsons, of Albert Street, Darlaston, was summoned for disorderly conduct and refusing to quit the house of Mr. *John Guest*, BRITISH QUEEN Street, on the 24th ult, and further with assaulting Joseph Guest, son of prosecutor. Mr. Sheldon appeared on behalf of defendant.

On behalf of Mr. *Guest* it was alleged that on the day in question defendant had been drinking at his house, and between seven and eight o'clock in the evening, when the son came home, defendant knocked him upon the floor, and attempted to strangle him. Defendant, prior to that, had created considerable disturbance, and refused to quit the house when requested. In support of this Joseph Guest, Mrs. Guest, Anne Hodgkins, and Harriet Gibbons, were called.

Mr. Sheldon for defendant stated that a brother-in-law of defendant had come over from America, and they went to prosecutor's house, where they had eight quarts of beer between them, and towards evening the landlord, also a man called 'Tronty Baker,' assaulted defendant, and the son got upon a table and kicked him in the eye, discolouring it. This version of the affray was corroborated by John Westward and Isaiah Sheldon.

The case was dismissed.”

John Guest died in the first quarter of 1875.

John Guest – see also OLD WOODMAN.

Mrs. *Sarah Purcell*, beer retailer, Albert Street. [1880]

Samuel Allport married Caroline Purcell in the 1st quarter of 1880.

1881 Census

22, Albert Street – BRITISH QUEEN

- [1] *Samuel Allport* (44), bolt forger and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] Caroline Allport (42), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] John Purcell (17), step-son, iron galvaniser, born Darlaston;
- [4] Arthur Purcell (16), step-son, iron rivet heater, born Darlaston;
- [5] Joseph Purcell (13), step-son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Clara Purcell (11), step-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Alice Purcell (9), step-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Sarah Purcell (4), step-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

AND

21, Albert Street – uninhabited

1891 Census

21+22, Albert Street

- [1] *Thomas Meanley* (40), file cutter, born Darlaston;
- [2] Esther Meanley (38), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Sarah Meanley (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Mary A. Meanley (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] David Walters (44), lodger, blacksmith, born Wolverhampton:

1901 Census

21+22, Albert Street – BRITISH QUEEN INN

- [1] *Richard Downes* (33), engineer's fitter, born Darlaston;

- [2] Phoebe Downes (29), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Frank Downes (12), son, born Darlaston;
[4] Jesse Downes (9), daughter, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

21+22, Albert Street – BRITISH QUEEN

- [1] *James Green* (39), tap and die maker, nut and bolt, born Darlaston;
[2] Miriam Green (37), wife, married 15 years, born Darlaston;
[3] Walter Green (13), son, school, born Darlaston;
[4] James Green (5), son, school, born Darlaston;
[5] Alfred Green (2), son, school, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/2/1930

“At the licensing sessions for Darlaston yesterday, the Chairman (Alderman C. W. D. Joynson) remarked that there had been no prosecutions against license-holders during the past five years, and that was a satisfactory indication that they were exercising great care in the conduct of their business. The license of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, and the BRITISH QUEEN, Albert Street, would be objected to on the ground of redundancy.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 5th March 1930.

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/8/1930 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County of Stafford.

Notice as to sending in Claims to be treated as Persons Interested in Licensed Premises.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 28th day of July, 1930, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

BRITISH QUEEN, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *James William Jacobs*. Registered Owner, Eleys Stafford Brewery Ltd.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/1/1931

“At the Principal Meeting of the Compensation Authority, on July 28, 14 licenses out of 16 referred were refused, and at the Supplemental Meeting the committee fixed the compensation sums as follows.....

BRITISH QUEEN, Darlaston, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,425.

The total sum awarded was £21,555 and in each case the money had been apportioned amongst the interested parties and paid.”

It closed on 27th December 1930.

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

“Darlaston Brewster Sessions.....

In his report, Police-inspector Adams stated that there are 79 houses in the parish of Darlaston licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor – a reduction of one beerhouse ‘on,’ the BRITISH QUEEN, Albert Street, having been closed by the County Compensation authority.”

BRITISH QUEEN

Bell Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 15/4/1854 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Houses and Building Land, in Bell Street, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Samuel Hodgetts, at the VINE INN, in Darlaston, on Tuesday Next, the 18th of April, at Seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read – the following Freehold Premises, situate in Bell Street, in Darlaston, in the county of Stafford.

Lot 1. All that Dwelling House, used as a Retail Beerhouse, known by the sign of the BRITISH QUEEN, and occupied by Representatives of the late Asher Butler. Also, the Dwelling House adjoining the above, occupied by Dovey Corns. Also, the Foundry or Casting Shop and the Shop over the same, respectively 38 feet by 13 feet 6in, situate at the back of the said Dwelling Houses, and Brewhouse, Pattern Shop, Painting Shop, Well of Water, Privy, and other Premises thereto belonging. Together with the large Yard, or Piece of Land, situate at the back of the said Dwelling Houses, and containing, including the site of the said Buildings, a Frontage to Bell Street of 12 yards and 1 foot, and in the whole 642 square yards. The Buildings are substantially erected.

Lot 2. A valuable Piece of Building Land, adjoining Lot 1.....

Lot 3. Another valuable Piece of Building Land, adjoining Lot 2.....

Lot 4. Another valuable Piece of Building Land, adjoining Lot 3.....

The above Property will form eligible Investments, being most favourably situated for Retail and Business Purposes, in one of the most improving parts of the Town, where the value of Property is rapidly advancing. For further particulars, and to inspect a plan, apply to Mr. J. F. Adams, Solicitor, Darlaston, or to the Auctioneer, Tipton.”

BROGDEN ARMS

The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Isaac Glover [1870] – [1871]

NOTES

Alexander Brogden was the Liberal Member of Parliament for Wednesbury from 1868 to 1885.

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions at West Bromwich.....

The applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

Isaac Glover, BROGDEN ARMS, applied personally. No opposition. Refused.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Meeting at West Bromwich.....

Isaac Glover, BROGDEN ARMS INN, and John King, Catherines Cross, received their licenses upon proving that their premises had been reassessed and put on the books at £15.”

1871 Census

The Green – Beer Shop

[1] *Isaac Glover* (36), coal miner and licensed brewer, born Walsall;

[2] Catherine Glover (34), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Nancy Glover (15), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Edward Glover (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

BROOK TAVERN

10, Bentley Road, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Mr. E. Ganders [1909]

LICENSEES

Thomas Marson [] – **1871**);

Mrs. Sarah Marson (**1871**);

Joseph Mason (**1871** – [1878])

Sarah Mason [1881]

Joseph Mason [1884]

Joseph Oakley (**1886** – **1888**)

Joseph Mason [1889]

Isaac Hill [1891]

Alice M Wilkes [1901]

William Thomas Swift [1909]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

Bentley Road – BROOK TAVERN

[1] *Sarah Marson* (35), widow, file cutter employing 3 men, and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Stephen Marson (21), son, bolt maker, born Darlaston;

[3] Thomas Marson (17), son, bolt maker, born Darlaston;

[4] Anne Marson (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Elizabeth Marson (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] Clara Marson (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] James Marson (4), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[8] Emma Marson (3), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

- [9] Richard Marson (1), son, born Darlaston;
[10] Henry Wellden (17) apprentice file cutter, born Birmingham;
[11] George Riley (15), apprentice file cutter, born Erdington:

Sarah Marson married *Joseph Mason* in the 2nd quarter of 1871.

Joseph Mason, beer retailer, Bentley Road. [1872]

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/8/1878

“*Joseph Mason*, landlord of the BROOK TAVERN, Bentley Road, was summoned for having his house open during prohibited hours on Sunday morning, the 28th ult. Police-constables Daly and Ford, upon visiting the defendant’s house on the morning in question, at half-past eight o’clock, found two men named Parker and Reay in the tap-room, and on the table were two jugs containing ale. Fined 20s and costs. James Parker, for being on licensed premises during prohibited hours, was fined 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1878

“The licensing session for West Bromwich and Wednesbury districts took place yesterday.....

The following beerhouse keepers in the Wednesbury district have been convicted during the year.....

Joseph Mason, BROOK TAVERN, Darlaston, for Sunday trading, 20s and costs.....

The licenses were not endorsed in any of these cases.

Those whose fines were 40s or upwards were directed to apply for their licenses at the adjourned Sessions.”

1881 Census

10, Bentley Road – BROOK TAVERN

- [1] Joseph Mason (55), labourer (iron works), born Wednesbury;
[2] *Sarah Mason* (45), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
[3] Thomas Marson (26), step-son, engine fitter, born Darlaston;
[4] Clara Marson (17), step-daughter, born Darlaston;
[5] James Marson (14), step-son, scholar, born Darlaston;
[6] Emma Marson (12), step-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[7] Richard Marson (11), step-son, scholar, born Darlaston;
[8] Sarah Jane Mason (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[9] Florence Mason (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[10] Alice Mason (4 months), daughter, born Darlaston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/5/1884

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Joseph Mason*, landlord of the BROOK TAVERN, Darlaston, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours.

PC Curtis proved seeing a young man named Kane leaving the premises on Sunday morning. On his being searched, a pint of ale in a tin bottle was found upon him.

Mr. Sheldon, who appeared for the defence, stated that Kane had represented himself to be a bona fide traveller, and the Bench dismissed the case.”

Walsall Observer 28/9/1907

“The petition in bankruptcy has been filed of *Joseph Oakley*, of Granville House, Perry Street, Darlaston, builder and contactor. The summary statement of affairs shows gross liabilities amounting to £3,448 1s 10d; expected to rank, £1,117 1s 5d; deficiency, £547 10s 5d. The causes of insolvency alleged by bankrupt are ‘Want of capital, loss on contracts, and loss on speculative building.’ His deficiency account shows excess of liabilities over assets twelve months ago, £45 6s; bad debts, £85 1s 1d; household expenses of self, wife, and three children, £130; estimated liability for injury to workmen £330; allowance paid to workmen during past twelve months. £24 14s; law costs, £10 9s 4d. – £625 10s 5d. Less net profit on business during past twelve months, £78; present deficiency, £547 10s 5d.

The Official Receiver’s observations are, ‘The receiving order was made upon the bankrupt’s petition, filed

in consequence of creditors suing him. He was adjudicated bankrupt 16th September, 1907. The bankrupt, aged 48, commenced business in June 1883, as a builder, at North Walsall, with a capital of £150. In June 1886, he removed to the BROOK TAVERN INN, Darlaston, where he traded as a beer retailer and builder. In December 1888, he gave up the BROOK TAVERN, and removed to Willenhall Road, Darlaston, where he continued his business as a builder.....”

Cannock Chase Courier 26/10/1889

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary (Mr. N. C. A. Neville), *Joseph Mason*, beerhouse keeper, BROOK TAVERN, Bentley Road, Darlaston, was charged with permitting gaming on his licensed premises on the 21st September. Mr. S. M. Slater defended.

Police-constable Macdermott said he visited defendant’s house at half-past seven o’clock at night, and remained till nine. During that time he saw several men in the taproom playing ‘All fours’ for a pint of ale each game, the landlady supplying the liquor. Games of ‘Don’ were also played for a quart of ale each time. The landlord was present in the room all the time, and the two losers paid 3d each to the landlady. He could not describe the card players, nor could he identify any one of them. He heard nothing said as to paying for a pint, but he did hear it said, ‘We’ll play for a quart and make a good thing of it.’ He could not identify the man who said that.

John Davis, a police-constable, from Cradley, said he heard the men who played ‘All fours’ say they would play for a quart before the game commenced. He saw no money pass, but the landlady received payment for the ale.

In reply to Mr. Slater witness expressed his inability to identify any of the men who were playing.

The Stipendiary stopped the case, and dismissed the charge of gambling.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 23/10/1889

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Mr. Neville (stipendiary) – *Joseph Mason*, the BROOK TAVERN, Bentley Road, Darlaston, was summoned for having permitted gaming on his premises on the 21st ult, and for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on Sunday the 22nd. Mr. S. M. Salter appeared for the defence.

Police-constables McDermott and Davis, in support of the first-named charge, gave evidence to the effect that they went to the defendant’s house at about half-past seven and stayed till about nine. Some men played at ‘all fours’ for drink, and afterwards at ‘don,’ the losers on each occasion paying. The landlord was present in the room at the time. The Stipendiary considered the evidence in this case too weak, and he dismissed the summons.

The second charge was then gone into, and summonses against six men for being on the premises during unlawful hours were taken at the same time.

Police-constables McDermott and Davis deposed that at about half-past eight in the morning they went to the back door of the house and saw the defendant’s daughter, who said, ‘What is it – a pint of ale?’ Davis replied ‘Yes,’ and the ale was brought, McDermott paying for it. It was supplied to them in the harness-room, where they remained for an hour or so. They then went away; but afterwards, by Police-sergeant Curtis’s directions, they returned at about eleven o’clock, and found eight men in the harness-room drinking ale. Some more was being brought, when the landlord ran down, said the police were coming, and told the men to go up into the loft. Some of them then went into the brewhouse in the yard and closed the door, and others into a private house in the yard. Whilst they were in the harness-room they saw a girl fetch some liquor from the house in a bottle, and they also saw some taken into the private house.

The defence was that the constables demanded drink as travellers; and that with the exception of the pint supplied to them, and a pint or two had by one of the defendants – a man named Green, who had been brought up by the *Masons*, but had come that morning from Walsall Wood – and two quarts had by one of the sons, there was no beer supplied to anyone outside the family.

The other five men swore that they had not had any drink that morning on the premises; and *Mason* positively denied that he ran into the yard crying out that the police were coming, declaring that when Police-sergeant Curtis was approaching the house in one direction he was coming in the opposite direction from a colliery which he managed. Green swore that the only persons in the harness-room were two strangers (the constables), *Mason*’s two sons, and himself.

The Stipendiary regarded Green as virtually a member of the family, and dismissed the summons against him. The other five men he fined 5s each and costs, or seven days' imprisonment. Superintendent Holland reported that *Mason* had been before the Bench three times, and had been fined once for Sunday trading, but that was in 1878. The Stipendiary said he would not take that into account, but the case just heard was a very bad one. There was no reason at all to disbelieve the evidence of the three policemen, but that the evidence for the defence had been got up he was certain. He imposed a fine of £5 and costs, making £6 10s 6d."

Bristol Mercury 28/11/1891

"Bankrupts (from last night's *Gazette*).....

Joseph Mason, Bentley Road, Darlaston, tile manufacturer, formerly trading at BROOK TAVERN, Bentley Road, Darlaston, beerhouse keeper, lately at the Deepmore colliery, Bentley, near Walsall, colliery proprietor."

Sarah Jane *Mason* married *Isaac Hill* in the 4th quarter of 1890.

1891 Census

10, Bentley Road – BROOK TAVERN

- [1] *Isaac Hill* (21), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah J. Hill (19), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Alice Mason (10), sister-in-law, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] Anne Price (17), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Walsall Observer 13/3/1897

"On Monday Mr. A. A. Betham, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the BROOK TAVERN INN, Bentley Road, Darlaston Green, touching the death of Gladys Mary Green, aged two years and eight months, daughter of John Green, boiler maker, Bentley Road. The child was taken very ill on Wednesday, and continued to get worse until Friday afternoon, when she died. The jury found that death was due to Natural Causes."

1901 Census

Bentley Road

- [1] *Alice M. Wilkes* (34), married, licensed victualler, born Walsall;
- [2] Susannah Wilkes (11), daughter, born Walsall;
- [3] George Wilkes (8), son, born Walsall;
- [4] Anne Wilkes (4), daughter, born Walsall;
- [5] George Evans (30), brother, black saddler, born Walsall;
- [6] Elizabeth Evans (21), wife, born Walsall:

Walsall Advertiser 6/2/1909

"The general annual Licensing Sessions for Darlaston were held at the Police Court on Wednesday morning.....

The licensees of BROOK TAVERN, Bentley Road (*William Thomas Swift*) were then called before the Court and informed that a notice of objection would be served on them on the ground that the licenses were not required. Each case would be dealt with at the Adjourned Sessions."

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

"The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston were held on Wednesday.....

The renewal of the license of the BROOK TAVERN beerhouse, Bentley Road, held by *William Thomas Swift*, was objected to on the grounds of redundancy.....

The justices announced that the question of compensation for the BROOK TAVERN would be referred to the Stafford Compensation authorities."

AND

Walsall Observer 6/3/1909

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

The license of the BROOK TAVERN, Bentley Road, was referred to the Compensation Authority, Mr. J. Pritchard, who appeared for the lessee, raising no objection, and the owner, Mr. E. Ganders, also acquiescing.....

Mr. R. A. Willcock supported an application by General Greaves Cox for a full license for the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT beerhouse, Catherines Cross, and stated that the owner, Major Cox, of Bilston, was prepared to pay the amount of compensation which would be due in the case of the BROOK TAVERN. Mr. C. N. Wright opposed on behalf of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, and the application was refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1909

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1904, by the Compensation Authority for the County of Stafford, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 10.30 o'clock am, on Friday, the 11th day of June, 1909.

And Notice is Hereby also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing Act, 1904, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

BROOK TAVERN, Bentley Road, Darlaston. Beer and Wine, ante 1869. Licensee, *William Thomas Swift.*”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/6/1909

“The adjourned meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee was held yesterday at the Shirehall, Stafford. Of the five houses referred by the justices of the Wednesbury Petty Sessional division, there was opposition in only one case The houses in regard to which there was no opposition were.....

BROOK TAVERN, Bentley Road, Darlaston.....

The committee refused to renew the licenses of all the houses.”

Lichfield Mercury 7/1/1910

“The Quarter Sessions of the peace for the county of Stafford commenced on Tuesday at the Shirehall, Stafford.....

The principal meeting of the Compensation Authority was held on the 11th June, and by adjournment on the 12th and 17th June, when the Committee, after careful consideration of each case referred, refused to renew 62 licenses.

The Committee, at a supplemental meeting, went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants. The Committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. In the following 60 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

BROOK TAVERN, Bentley Road, Darlaston, £350.

.....the money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/2/1910

“Darlaston licensing sessions were held on Wednesday.....

Superintendent Salt reported.....

With regard to the ROLLING MILL beerhouse, The Green, and the BROOK TAVERN beerhouse Bentley Road, which were referred for compensation and extinction last year, he had received notice that compensation would be paid to the parties on the 5th inst, and that the licenses would expire on the 12th inst.”

BROWN LION

Bilston Road, Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Walford [1848] – [1863]

NOTES

George Walford = George Halford

Birmingham Journal 2/9/1848

“On Wednesday last a Special Sessions was held Application for new licenses.....

John Penrice, *George Walford*, William Corbett, and Thomas Tysall, retail brewers, Darlaston, applied for spirit licenses, but the whole of the applications were be refused.”

1851 Census

Catherines Cross

[1] *George Walford* (31), coal miner and beer seller, born Bromsgrove;

[2] Lydia Walford (29), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Thomas Walford (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] John Walford (4), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Edward Sheerwood (14), general servant, born Bromsgrove;

[6] Ann Jones (15), general servant, born Darlaston;

[7] Hannah Robinson (25), visitor, housekeeper, born Darlaston:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/10/1856

“Henry Bird will run Simeon Horton or Benjamin Davis (both of Catherines Cross, Darlaston), 100 yards, for £5 a side. Money ready any night during next week, at the BROWN LION, Catherines Cross, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Journal 14/11/1857

“On Monday last an inquest was held at Mr. *G. Walford*'s, the BROWN LION INN, Darlaston.....
Adjourned until Monday next.”

AND

Brierley Hill Advertiser 21/11/1857

“At near midnight on Monday, an inquest, which had been adjourned from that day week, was held before G. W. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, at the BROWN LION INN, Darlaston, on the body of a man named Aaron Davis, aged 36. Deceased was employed in a coal pit, in Herberts Park Colliery, belonging to Mr. David Jones. Deceased and three other men were being drawn up in the skip, towards the pit's mouth, a distance of between 100 and 200 yards. It was observed that the engine worked very rapidly, and, in consequence, the skip caught against the sides of the shaft several times. When the men had got about twenty yards up, the skip caught the sides again, the rapid motion being still continued, and poor Davis, falling out of the skip, to the bottom of the shaft, was so dreadfully injured that he died the following day. The other men in the skip agreed in stating that they never knew the engine work so fast. Evidence was given to show that the usual custom with engine-men of stopping ascending skips, when a little way from the bottom of the shaft, for the purpose of adjusting them, had not been followed on this occasion. After Mr. Hancox, surgeon, Lionel Brough, Esq, and several witnesses had been examined, the jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against the engine-tender George Preece. He was committed, by the coroner, to Stafford, to take his trial at the next session.”

[At Staffordshire Winter Assizes George Priest, 35, engineer, was indicted for the manslaughter of Aaron Davies, at Darlaston. He was found not guilty as it was considered the proprietors were to

blame for requiring the skips to be brought up at an improper speed.]

Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1860

“At the Petty Sessions, held at Wednesbury yesterday, before Thomas Jesson and Thomas Davies, Esqrs, *George Walford*, beershop keeper, Catherines Cross, was charged by the police with having on Saturday week kept his house open during the prohibited hours. The evidence went to show that the police visited the house on the night in question at forty minutes past eleven o’clock, and there found seven men smoking and drinking. Mr. Sheldon, who appeared for the defence, called witnesses, who stated that the men who were in the house were members of a boot and shoe club, who had met for the transaction of club business, and that they remained to finish such business and consider the starting of another club. They also stated that the defendant had asked the company to leave the house, and that no beer was drawn after eleven o’clock except what was consumed by defendant and his wife for supper. The Magistrates dismissed the case, although it was stated that there had been three previous convictions against the defendant.”

1861 Census

Bilston Road – BROWN LION

- [1] *George Walford* (42), retail brewer, birthplace not known;
- [2] *Lydia Walford* (39), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Thomas Walford* (17), son, coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [4] *John Walford* (14), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *George Walford* (2), son, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Asenath Corbett* (6), visitor, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Rebecca Love* (20), house servant, born Bilston:

George Walford, retailer of beer, Catherines Cross. [1862]

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/7/1863

“*George Halford*, landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Darlaston, was charged with indecently assaulting *Eliza Edwards*, a girl 18 years of age. The complainant, who was a domestic servant in the defendant’s employ, stated that the assault complained of was committed on the 19th ult, between eleven and twelve o’clock at night. There was no one else in the house except a little boy. She then entered into full particulars respecting the defendant’s conduct, and the Bench inflicted a fine of £10 and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1863 - Advert

“BROWN LION, Retail Beerhouse, Darlaston.

To be Let, the above Public House, in consequence of the Owner giving up the business. There are Kitchen, Tap Room, Bar Parlour, Private Parlour, large Club Room, three Sleeping Rooms, two Brewhouses, large Yard, and other conveniences. The House is near Herberts Park and other Works, and is eligible for a Spirit License.

Apply to Mr. *George Walford*, on the Premises.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 5/12/1874

“Wednesbury Police Court The Drunkards List.....

William Walton, drunk, and refusing to quit the BROWN LION INN, Darlaston, 2s 6d in each case.”

Check GOLDEN LION.

BUILDERS ARMS

Cross Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Harper [] – **1872**);
John Butler (**1872** – []

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

John Harper, beer retailer, Cock Street. [1872]

BULLS HEAD

61, High Street, (61, Cock Street), DARLASTON

OWNERS

James Huskins [1893]
Leased to Blockall Brewery
John Lord, 96, Birmingham Road, Walsall
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939)

LICENSEES

John Butler [1834] – **1862**)
Thomas Butler [1836]
John Penrice [] – **1863**)
William Macquead [1865] – **1872**);
Mary Macquead (**1872** – []
James Clawley [1875]
Samuel Wilson Kearns [1880] – [1881]
Walter Jordan [1891]
Andrew Barnes [1901]
William Lawrence [1911] manager
Edwin 'Ted' Johnson [1912] – **1945**); manager
Edward Lewis Mussared (**1945** – **1946**);
George Edwards (**1946** – **1957**); manager
Eva Jones (**1957** – **1964**);
Donald Henry Massey (**1964** – **1965**);
Joan Elizabeth Massey (**1965** – **1966**);
James Alfred Hughes (**1966** – **1967**);
James Patrick O'Driscoll (**1967** – []

NOTES

62, Cock Street [1880]

61, Cock Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911]

61, High Street [1939], [1940]

OLD BULLS HEAD [1864], [1872], [1891], [1911]

It had a beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/11/1807 - Advert

“Desirable Public House, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by Randle Walker, on the Premises, on Monday the 30th Day of November, 1807, at Three o’Clock in the Afternoon, in one or more Lots, as shall be agreed on at the Time of Sale.....

All that substantial well-built Freehold Messuage or Tenement, situated in Cock Street, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, known by the Sign of the BULLS HEAD; consisting of large Kitchen, with two Parlours, a spacious Entrance, Bar and Pantry, with Chambers and Attic over the same, three excellent Cellars, Brewhouse and Store Room, Stable, Hogstye, and other Outoffices, a spacious Yard, with Pump of excellent Water, and large Garden, containing 600 Yards, or thereabouts, behind the same.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/3/1836

“The Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

The Matters of the Petitions and Schedules of the Prisoners hereinafter named (the same having been filed in the Court) are appointed to be heard at the Court House, at Stafford, on the 11th day of April next, at the hour of 10 in the forenoon precisely.....

John Butler, heretofore of Willenhall, Staffordshire, File Cutter; then of Darlaston, near Wednesbury, Staffordshire; first following the business of a File Cutter; then of a File Cutter and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco, and Iron Dealer; then of a Collier and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco; then of a Licensed Retailer of Beer and Tobacco, and File Cutter and Dealer in Steel; and lately carrying on the business of a Victualler and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco, at the BULLS HEAD, at Darlaston aforesaid, the Licenses to which are granted to *Thomas Butler*.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/4/1836

“Insolvent Debtors’ Court. H. R. Reynolds, Esq, the Chief Commissioner, held a court for the relief of insolvent debtors in the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Monday and Tuesday week. Sixteen insolvents petitioned for their discharge, of whom only four were opposed. The following were declared to be entitled to the benefit of the act, and were ordered to be discharged forthwith.....

John Butler, file cutter, Darlaston.”

1841 Census

Cock Street

[1] *John Butler* (44), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] Elizabeth Butler (37), born Staffordshire;

[3] Mary Butler (15), born Staffordshire;

[4] Ann Butler (13), born Staffordshire;

[5] Hannah Butler (11), born Staffordshire;

[6] Joseph Butler (10), born Staffordshire;

[7] George Butler (4), born Staffordshire;

[8] Thomas Butler (2), born Staffordshire;

[9] Japheth Butler (5 months), born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 12/7/1845

“On Monday last the seventh Annual Feast of Lodge No.5, of the Wolverhampton Order of Odd Fellows, was held at host *Butler*’s BULLS HEAD, Cock Street, Darlaston. An excellent dinner was provided by the

host, and 96 members sat down to enjoy the repast. After the cloth was drawn, Mr. Samuel Bowen was called to the chair, and gave 'The Queen,' which was heartily responded to. The chairman said the order was going on prosperously, and though £100 had been expended during last quarter, in the benevolent purposes they were combined to carry out, there was still a considerable balance in hand to meet any exigencies of the members. He was happy to say that Lodge No.5 was as flourishing as they could desire, and he hoped prosperity would always attend them.

Mr. E. Humpage, DGM, addressed the meeting, and gave a brief account of the rise and progress of the order, stating that at present they numbered 1,900 members, and exertions were being made to increase them. The funds were then alluded to, and on a division of the surplus money being declared, each person who had been a member the prescribed time received £7 10s. The meeting concluded about seven o'clock, peace and harmony characterising the whole of the proceedings."

1851 Census

Cock Street

- [1] *John Butler* (54), retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Elizabeth Butler (48), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Mary Butler (25), daughter, dressmaker, born Willenhall;
- [4] Ann Butler (23), daughter, straw bonnet maker, born Willenhall;
- [5] Hannah Butler (22), daughter, born Willenhall;
- [6] George Butler (14), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Thomas Butler (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Israel Butler (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [9] Elizabeth Butler (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/10/1852 - Marriages

"On Tuesday last, the 5th instant, at Aston, near Birmingham, by the Rev. N. Greenwell, MA, curate. Mr. Zachariah Simpkin, of Kings Hill Field, Wednesbury, to Ann, second daughter of Mr. *John Butler*, of the BULLS HEAD, Cock Street, Darlaston."

1861 Census

Cock Street

- [1] *John Butler* (64), beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Elizabeth Butler (57), wife, born Moorcroft, Staffordshire;
- [3] George Butler (24), son, carpenter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Thomas Butler (21), son, pattern maker, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elizabeth Butler (17), daughter, house servant, born Darlaston;
- [6] Martha Pearce (50), wife's sister, born Moorcroft Bilston, Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/7/1862 - Deaths

"On the 2nd instant, after a protracted illness, in the 66th year of his age, Mr. *John Butler*, upwards of thirty years the respected landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Cock Street, Darlaston."

Birmingham Journal 6/8/1864

"An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the OLD BULLS HEAD, Cock Street, Darlaston, on the body of *John Penrice*, an old man, seventy-one years of age. The deceased, who was a lock filer by trade, had kept the OLD BULLS HEAD for a number of years, but left it at Christmas last. On Sunday he had been drinking at the house, and about half-past ten o'clock went out by the back-door into the yard, from whence he could pass into the street by a gate. Next morning he was found by the landlord's son lying dead in the privy, with his boots off. Some straw was strewn over the seat, most probably to serve as a bed, which he had taken from a loft over the privy. Five weeks since deceased had been ill-treated and turned out of doors by his son, and since then he had been wandering about the town at all hours of the night. There were no marks of violence on the body. The Jury returned an open verdict of Found Dead."

William Macquead = William McQuead

William McQuead, beer retailer and wheelwright, Cock Street. [1865]

1871 Census

Cock Street – BULLS HEAD

[1] *William Macquead* (52), wheelwright employing 2 men, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Mary Macquead* (56), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Willenhall:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1872 - Advert

“Wagonette to be Sold, a bargain; new. Price £25.

Apply, Mrs. *Macqueade*, Cock Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1872

“West Bromwich Police Court. Saturday.....

The following transfers of licenses were made.....

OLD BULLS HEAD, Darlaston, from *William McQuead* to *Mary McQuead* (widow).”

Walsall Observer 10/4/1875 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Public Houses and Other Property, at Walsall and Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Farrington & Son, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Walsall, on Tuesday, the 20th day of April, 1875, at 6 for 7 o'clock, subject to such conditions as will be then produced.....

Cock Street, Darlaston.

Lot 2. All that Freehold Messuage or Beer-House, known as the BULLS HEAD, in the occupation of *James Clawley*, and also the Dwelling House adjoining, in the occupation of Mrs. Whistance, together with 873 square yards of Land, including the site of the buildings.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1878 - Advert

“To Let, Public-house, sign of BULLS HEAD, Cox Street, Darlaston. In-coming £120.

Apply on Premises.”

Samuel Wilson Kearns = Samuel Wilson Kearnes

Samuel Wilson Kearnes, beer retailer, 65 Cock Street. [1880]

1881 Census

61, Cocks Street

[1] *Samuel Wilson Kearns* (51), beer retailer, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Lucy Kearns* (41), wife, born Stourbridge;

[3] *Samuel Wilson Kearns* (17), son, born Halesowen;

[4] *Maud Lucy Kearns* (14), daughter, scholar, born Halesowen:

1891 Census

61, Cock Street – OLD BULLS HEAD

[1] *Walter Jordan* (34), publican, born Desford, Leicestershire;

[2] *Clara Jordan* (36), wife, born Aston, Warwickshire;

[3] *Walter T. Jordan* (12), son, scholar, born Birmingham;

[4] *Rebecca Jordan* (4), daughter, born Birmingham;

[5] *Margaret Jordan* (20), niece, bolt and nut works warehouse, born Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire;

[6] *Clara Nash* (17), inn servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses..... The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for dancing, in addition, being abandoned.....

Walter Jordan, BULLS HEAD, Cock Street.”

1901 Census

61, Cock Street

- [1] *Andrew Barnes* (36), publican, born Walsall;
- [2] *Rebecca Barnes* (36), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ada Pearson* (16), visitor, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

BULLS HEAD, Cock Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....

There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”

[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

[A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. \[1903\]](#)

1911 Census

61, Cock Street

- [1] *William Lawrence* (60), manager (beerhouse), born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Emma Esther Lawrence* (61), wife, married 39 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Florence Gertrude Lawrence* (20), daughter, shop assistant, born Wednesbury:

Edwin Johnson, beer retailer, 61, High Street. [1912]

South Staffordshire Times 10/7/1920

“Darlaston Police Court. Wednesday. Before Messrs. Horton and Peake.

Drunk on Licensed Premises.

George Henry James, 1 Court, New Street, Darlaston, was charged with this offence.

Inspector Cooper said that on June 19th he saw defendant, with another man, enter the BULLS HEAD INN. He was drunk at the time, and witness told him so, and that he had no right to enter. Defendant had no drink in the BULLS HEAD.

Defendant said he had lost two days work over this affair.

He was fined 5s.”

Walsall Observer 8/2/1930

“Darlaston Brewster Sessions on Wednesday.....

On the application of Mr. E. Brown (Wednesbury), plans were approved for alterations to the BULLS HEAD, High Street.”

Dudley Chronicle 13/9/1934

“A pretty wedding took place on Saturday Sept. 1st, at Great Croft Street Methodist Church, Darlaston, when Miss Matilda Garrington, youngest daughter of Mrs. A. Garrington and the late Mr. Garrington, of 21, Station Street, Darlaston, was married to Mr. John *Johnson*, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. *Edwin Johnson*, BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Darlaston.

Both the bride and bridegroom are scholars at Great Croft Street Sunday school, while the bridegroom is a member of the choir. There was a large congregation. The Rev. T. G. Phillips officiated at the ceremony, and Mr. R. Page was at the organ and played the ‘Wedding March’ by Mendelssohn. The hymns ‘The Voice that breathed o’er Eden’ and ‘Crowned with Thy Benediction’ were sung.

The bride, who was given away by her brother (Mr. James Garrington) wore a charming dress (cut on mediaeval lines) of white satin, trimmed with white lace, and had a lace veil, surmounted with a wreath of orange blossom. Her bouquet was composed of arum lilies. She was attended by four bridesmaids – Miss Mary Garrington (sister), Miss Lily *Johnson*, Miss Gwen *Johnson* and Miss Sabra *Johnson* (sisters of the bridegroom). The first two named wore dresses of mauve floral georgette and wreaths of leaves and forget-me-nots as headdresses, while the two latter wore pink floral georgette and black satin shoes. The bouquets were of sweet peas and tea roses. The bride’s mother wore a dress of flowered art silk and black hat, and the bridegroom’s mother was attired in a dress of navy crepe, with hat to match.

Mr. Bert *Johnson* carried out the duties of best man, and after the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bridegroom, there being upwards of sixty guests present.

The future residence of the newly-married couple will be at Dorsett Road, Darlaston.”

Rugeley Times 6/5/1939

“A former member of Darlaston Parish Church Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, and the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *E. Johnson*, of the BULLS HEAD, High Street, Darlaston, Miss Sabra Whitehouse *Johnson*, was married on Saturday afternoon to Mr. Ernest Lawrence Wilkes, a police-constable stationed at Stafford. The bridegroom is the youngest son of Mr. and the late Mr. S. E. Wilkes, of Roseville, Himley, near Dudley. Formerly he was stationed with Wednesbury, Darlaston and Tipton police.

The service at St. Lawrence’s Church, Darlaston, was conducted by the Rev. Dr. A. B. Lavelle. The organist was Mr. W. Whitehouse.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a Victorian gown of ivory lace and net over a taffeta slip. A long tulle veil was held by a head-dress of camelias. She carried a posy of lilies of the valley and white roses, and she wore a crystal brooch, a gift of the bridegroom. She was attended by three bridesmaids – Miss Joan Wilkes and Miss Margaret Sadler, cousins, and Miss Joyce Arrowsmith, a friend – and a matron of honour, Mrs. H. Webster, sister of the bride. Mr. H. Webster was best man, and Mr. N. Robinson and Mr. W. Shields groomsmen.

The reception was held at Darlaston Town Hall by the parents of the bride. Among the numerous gifts to the bride was a walnut coffee table from the directors and staff of Charles Richards and Sons Ltd.”

Walsall Observer 29/7/1939

“More than fifty licensed premises in Walsall and neighbouring place become Mitchells and Butlers houses this week as a result of the well-known Cape Hill brewery company’s acquisition of the whole of the undertakings of the Highgate-Walsall Brewery Co. Ltd., and the Walsall Breweries Proprietary Ltd., and of all the

licensed and certain un-licensed properties of Messrs. John Lord, brewers, of Short Acre.....
A list of the licensed premises that form part of the properties acquired by Mitchells and Butlers is as follows.....
John Lord's houses.....
BULLS HEAD, High Street, Darlaston.”

1939 Register

61, High Street – BULLS HEAD (4 of 5)

- [1] *Edwin Johnson*, date of birth 2/9/1881, manager public house, married;
- [2] *Susannah Johnson*, dob 28/10/1877, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Lily Robinson*, dob 24/1/1913, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] *Norman Robinson*, dob 7/9/1911, constructional engineer, married;

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1941/2.

Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1957

“*Mr. George Edwards*, manager of the BULLS HEAD, public house, High Street, Darlaston, yesterday opposed a woman's application for the temporary transfer to her of his license. *Mr. Edwards*, whose month's notice from Mitchells & Butlers Ltd. expired yesterday, told Darlaston magistrates, ‘I have a wife and two children, and nowhere to go.’ The applicant for the transfer, *Mrs. Eva Jones*, formerly stewardess of Darlaston Conservative Club, said she would be prepared to allow *Mr. Edwards* to stay on at the BULLS HEAD in two rooms until he found alternative accommodation.

Mr. J. T. Gulliver, an official of the brewery, said he did not expect the company would put pressure upon *Mrs. Jones* to urge *Mr. Edwards* to leave the house providing he did so within ‘a reasonable time.’

The application was adjourned for a fortnight to allow the question of accommodation to be settled.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1957

“A licensee making a second appearance before Darlaston magistrates yesterday, again refused his consent to transfer his license to an incoming woman tenant because he had not found anywhere to live with his wife and two children. A month ago the magistrates adjourned the application of *Mrs. Eva Jones*, formerly stewardess of the Conservative Club, to take over the license of the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street. Yesterday, *Mr. George Edwards*, who had been manager of the inn for 11 years, was told by the presiding magistrate, *Mr. W. L. Whitehouse*, that his reason for refusing to consent to the transfer of the license was not valid so far as the Court was concerned. The Bench had no alternative but to grant the application made by Mitchells and Butlers on behalf of *Mrs. Jones*.

Edwards said the application was previously adjourned for the brewery company to try to find him somewhere to live, but he had heard nothing. He had tried to get accommodation.

Mr. F. A. Millichip, for the brewery and *Mrs. Jones*, said the company decided last February to change the house from management to tenancy. *Mr. Edwards* declined an offer to take it over on tenancy and said he was giving up the trade because of his wife's illness. Things lingered on until July and *Edwards* had still not given up the managership of the house. He did not want to be manager of any other house.”

A wine license was granted on 11th March 1959.

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1961.

Walsall Observer 10/1/1964

“The quarter finals, semi-finals and final of the Walsall, Wolverhampton and district sub area competition of the *News of the World* individual darts championship of England and Wales, will be held in Pelsall Social Club, Norton Road, Pelsall, on Thursday next, January 16, all players to be on the mark at 8pm prompt. The eight finalists are.....

Geoff Powell (BULLS HEAD, High Street, Darlaston).”

[1982]

Closed

Demolished

CARRIERS ARMS

Bell Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Wilkes [1861]

John Kimbley [1871]

NOTES

1861 Census

Bell Street – Beer House – CARRIERS ARMS

- [1] *George Wilkes* (26), screw maker, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Susannah Wilkes* (24), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *John Wilkes* (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Ann Wilkes* (3), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Mary Wilkes* (18 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *George Wilkes* (2 months), son, born Darlaston:

George Wilkes – see also FREEMASONS ARMS and NAGS HEAD.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1867 - Advert

“To be Let, the CARRIERS ARMS, Bell Street, Darlaston. Good Yard and Out-buildings. Stock and Fixtures at a fair valuation. Rent £16.

Apply on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/1/1868 - Advert

“Found, on the 26th inst, a black Retriever Bitch, with white mark on the breast. If not owned in three days will be Sold.

Apply at the CARRIERS ARMS, Bell Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire.”

1871 Census

Bell Street – CARRIERS ARMS

- [1] *John Kimbley* (44), coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary A. Kimbley* (35), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Kimbley* (15), son, coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Esther M. Kimbley* (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Charlotte Kimbley* (11), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Harriet Kimbley* (9), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Job J. Kimbley* (7), son, born Darlaston;

- [8] Eliza Ellen Kimbley (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[9] John J. Kimbley (3), son, born Darlaston;
[10] Daniel Kimbley (2 months), son, born Darlaston;
[11] Joseph Joyce (20), boarder, coal miner, born Darlaston:

CASTLE

23, Foster Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1891], [1961]

LICENSEES

John Stokes [1857] – [1864]
Ezekiel Lunn [1871] – [1872]
Moses Huskison [1878] – [1884]
George Page [1891] – [1901]
David Emanuel Thompson [1911] – **1927**;
Mrs. Betsy Ann Thompson (**1927 – 1945**);
John Carter (**1945 – 1961**):

NOTES

NEW CASTLE [1896], [1898]

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 29/8/1857

“Annual Licensing Day Sessions adjourned till Friday, the 25th day of September next, when forty-two applications from retail brewers in the division for wine and spirit licenses will be considered.....

John Stokes, Foster Street, Darlaston.”

[Refused at the adjourned sessions.]

1861 Census

Forster Street – CASTLE TAVERN

- [1] *John Stokes* (45), retail brewer and gun lock manufacturer, born Darlaston;
[2] Harriet Stokes (48), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Betsey Stokes (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
[4] Mary Stokes (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[5] Sarah Ward (18), house servant, daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/12/1864

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Robinson, and Thomas Robinson, his son, lock makers, were charged with having been concerned in twelve robberies from various dwelling houses and workshops at Darlaston and Fallings Heath.

They were first charged with having, on the night of the 29th ult, or early on the following morning, broken

into and entered the dwelling house of *John Stokes*, CASTLE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston, and stolen therefrom a pan of lard, four loaves of bread, butter, cheese, four bottles of porter, table cloths, and other articles. The evidence in support of the case went to show that on the night of the 29th ult the prosecutor's house was fastened up by Betsy Harvey, who, at six o'clock on the following morning, found that the premises had been entered through the brewhouse, and the articles named above taken away. On the same day Sergeant Fenner found the greater part of the missing property in the houses of the prisoners, the elder of whom lived at the Pleck, and the younger in Bridgeman Street, Walsall. Both the prisoners formerly worked for the prosecutor. They were sent for trial at the ensuing Sessions, the younger prisoner asserting that all the articles found belonged to his father.

They were next charged with having broken into the workshop of Samuel Sanders, gunlock maker, of Fallings Heath, and taken away a quantity of files, a part of which were subsequently found in the possession of the prisoners. The prisoners were committed on this charge also. At the house of the elder prisoner, concealed beneath the grate, was found a jemmy, which was found to correspond with marks on the premises of both the above-named prosecutors.

The prisoners were likewise committed for trial on a charge of breaking into a brew-house belonging to Mrs. Mary Bailey, Walsall Road, Darlaston, and stealing a coffee pot, a saucepan, and other articles; and the younger prisoner was also committed for trial on a charge of stealing a copper tea kettle, the property of Edward Billingsley, Fallings Heath. The kettle was found in the house of the prisoner.

The learned Stipendiary intimated that he should instruct the police to proceed with the other cases, if by any mischance justice should miscarry in the above cases."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/12/1864

"During the past few weeks a number of burglaries have been effected in the neighbourhood of Darlaston, at workshops and dwelling houses.....

The first charge heard was by *John Stokes*, beerhouse keeper and lock manufacturer, Foster Street, Darlaston.....

The articles were identified, and both prisoners were committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions on each of these charges."

[The Robinsons appeared at Staffordshire Quarter Sessions in January 1865, found guilty and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.]

1871 Census

Foster Street – CASTLE INN

[1] *Ezekiel Lunn* (36), sheet furnaceman in iron works, born Darlaston;

[2] *Emma Lunn* (33), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *William Lunn* (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] *Arthur Lunn* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Agnes Gittins* (12), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Ezekiel Lunn, beer retailer, Foster Street. [1872]

London Gazette 29/6/1877

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Cheshire, holden at Nantwich and Crewe.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Ezekiel Lunn*, formerly of the CASTLE INN, in Foster-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Beer Retailer, and now of 34, Grosvenor-street, Crewe, in the county of Chester, Labourer.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at No.75, Market-street, Crewe, in the said county of Chester, on the 7th day of July, 1877, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 21st day of June, 1877."

Moses Huskison = Moses Huskinson = Moses Huskisson

Birmingham Daily Post 1/7/1878

“At a special Petty Sessions, at Sedgley, on Friday evening, Ernest Evans, traveller, in the employment of Mr. James Guest, Orchard Breweries, Upper Gornal, was charged with the embezzlement of moneys received for his employers.

Mr. Guest said there were several cases against the prisoner, but he should limit himself to two for the purpose of the prosecution.

Evidence was then given showing that the accused had received £3 from Mr. Dann, publican, of Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, for ale, and only accounted for £2. He had given a cheque, with receipt for £3, but entered on the counterfoil £2. In the other case he received £1 10s from Mr. *Huskinson*, another publican, and entered on the counterfoil £1, which sum, it was alleged, he only paid over.

The accused endeavoured to show that the differences were made up of temporary debts, transferred from time to time to his salary and commission account, in accordance with their arrangements. He said he had a good defence.

Prisoner was committed for trial, and bail was refused.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 25/6/1878 - Advert

“Traveller Wanted. Connection and security required.
Apply, James Guest, Brewer, Upper Gornal, near Dudley.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1878

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.

Ernest Evans (27), traveller, was indicted for embezzling, on the 9th of April, at Sedgley, the sum of £1, the moneys of his employer, James Guest. Prisoner was employed by prosecutor as a collector of accounts, and entered the service of Mr. Guest in March last. On the 9th of April an entry was made in the cash-book to the effect that £2 had been received from a man named Thomas Dunn, of Brockmoor, whereas the counterfoil book showed that £3 had been received by the prisoner. On the 21st of May prisoner received £2, and only accounted for £1; and also a further sum was shown to have been received from a Mr. *Huskison*, a publican, of Darlaston, and prisoner, it was alleged, had only given an account of £1 instead of £1 10s, which was the amount received by prisoner. Prisoner was found guilty, and sent to gaol for nine calendar months.”

Moses Huskisson, beer retailer and bricklayer, Foster Street. [1880]

1881 Census

23, Foster Street – CASTLE INN

- [1] *Moses Huskison* (32), builder and publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Nancy Huskison (34), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Eliza Huskison (10), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Lydia Firm (37), general servant, born Darlaston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/7/1884

“The 21st anniversary of the Pride of Sampson Lodge of the Nottingham Ancient Imperial United of Odd Fellows was on Monday celebrated at Brother *Moses Huskison*’s, the CASTLE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston. About 40 members sat down to the excellent dinner provided.....”

George Page, CASTLE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston, is mentioned in an article, covered nationally, in June 1888, about the miraculous properties of the medicine Warner’s Safe Cure.

[See BOROUGH ARMS, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.]

1891 Census

23, Foster Street

- [1] *George Page* (34), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Hannah Page (32), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] George Page (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

- [4] Alfred E. Page (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Lucey Page (2), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] Ada Page (8 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] Maud Phillips (14), domestic nurse, born Darlaston;
- [8] Ruth A. Banks (20), domestic servant, born Moxley:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

George Page, CASTLE INN, Foster Street.....

All these were for six days.”

Walsall Observer 21/11/1896

“Freegardenry. On Saturday evening the members of the In Prosperity Lodge celebrated their annual dinner at the house of Bro. *G. Page*, NEW CASTLE INN, Darlaston. After doing justice to the good things provided the cloth was drawn. Bro. Thomas Butler was appointed to the chair, and Bro. Charles Nicholas to the vice-chair.

After the usual loyal toasts had been given, Bro. Butler was called upon to present Bros. Downs and Tinsley with past officers’ certificates, framed, for their good services to the lodge as lodge masters. These were suitably responded to by Bro. Downs wishing the lodge, Order, and district every success.

The Secretary (Bro. Cresswell), in giving his annual report, said the funds showed an increase. Sick and funeral income, £92 18s 4d; expenses, £86 12s 3d; gain on this fund, £6 6s 1d; management fund income, £24 2s 3½d; expenses, £20 2s 8d; gain on this fund, £3 19s 7½d; benevolent fund income, £3 2s 2d; expenses, 3s; gain on this fund, £2 19s 2d; in Post Office Savings Bank, £467 6s 11d; in treasurer’s hand, £6 4s 2½d; worth of goods, £10; total worth of lodge, £483 11s 1½d.

A vote of confidence was passed in the secretary.

Songs and solos were very ably rendered by Bros. Butler, Harper, Bayliss, Sutton, Slater, Foster, and others.

A vote of thanks to host and hostess, chairman and vice-chairman, brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/11/1898

“The anniversary of In Prosperity Lodge, No.1512, of Free Gardeners took place on Saturday evening at Bro. *George Page*’s, NEW CASTLE INN, Darlaston, when a large number of members and friends sat down to an excellent repast. After the cloth was drawn Bro. Finch, Grand Secretary, occupied the chair, and Bro. Round, PDM, the vice-chair. The loyal toasts were given.....

Songs were well rendered by brethren of the lodge. A vote of thanks to the chairman, host and hostess, and visiting brothers, brought a pleasant evening to a close.”

1901 Census

23, Foster Street – CASTLE INN

- [1] *George Page* (46), nut and bolt manufacturer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Hannah Page (43), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] George Stokes Page (20), son, pattern maker engineers, born Darlaston;
- [4] Alfred Page (15), son, errand boy, born Darlaston;
- [5] Lucy Page (13), daughter, born Darlaston;

- [6] Ada Page (10), daughter, born Darlaston;
[7] Marrion Page (8), daughter, born Darlaston;
[8] Elsie Page (6), daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted of drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

CASTLE INN, Foster Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/10/1907

“Mortgages and Charges..... W. Butler and Co. Ltd. (Brewers, Wolverhampton).

A mortgage dated October 7, 1907 (supplemental to a trust deed dated May 8, 1891, securing £100,000 4½ per cent debenture stock), has been registered. Property charged land, with premises thereon known as the CASTLE INN, in Foster Street, Darlaston. Trustees, H. Cosmo O. Bonsor, 37, Lombard Street, EC, and H. E. Fowler, Woodthorne, Wolverhampton.”

1911 Census

23, Foster Street

- [1] *David E. Thompson* (43), beer retailer, manager, born Wednesbury;
[2] *Betsy Ann Thompson* (39), wife, married 18 years, born Wednesbury;
[3] *Mary May Thompson* (17), daughter, born Wednesbury;
[4] *Lily Fisher* (19), boarder, bolt machinist, nut and bolt works, born Aston:

David Thompson, beer retailer, 23, Foster Street. [1912]

Walsall Observer 6/11/1926

“On Thursday the late Mr. *David Emmanuel Thompson* (58), licensee of the CASTLE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston, was laid to rest in James Bridge cemetery, the last rites being performed by the Rev. A. Allcock, of the Slater Street PM Church. Mr. Thompson was some years ago a foreman at Messrs. Lloyds steel-

works, James Bridge.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 11/2/1928

“The annual dinner of the In Prosperity Lodge of the National United Order of Free Gardeners was held at the lodge headquarters, CASTLE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston, on Saturday evening. There was a good attendance of brethren, the chair being taken by the Worthy Master, Bro. Nash. A substantial repast was provided by the hostess, Mrs. *Thompson*, and in the course of his remarks, reviewing the work of the past year, the Chairman said the membership was less than the previous year. It was younger blood that they wanted, and as the older members died they must make new ones to take their places. In conclusion, he said the year had been a hard tussle, and he appealed to all to help to increase the membership of the lodge. The secretary, Bro. J. W. Foster, presented the report and balance sheet, which showed that the year opened with a membership of 135, and closed with 126.....”

Plans were approved for the provision of a bathroom and indoor sanitary accommodation on 26th May 1937.

Rugeley Times 27/8/1938

“The In Prosperity Lodge (No.1512) of the National United Order of Free Gardeners (Midland No.1 District) held their 54th anniversary at the CASTLE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston, on Saturday night, Bro. A. Bennett, LM, presiding.....”

1939 Register

Foster Street – CASTLE INN

- [1] *Betsy A. Thompson*, date of birth 23/4/1871, beer retailer, widowed;
- [2] *John Carter*, dob 10/3/1894, meter-furnace inspector, married;
- [3] *Mary M. Carter*, dob 22/5/1893, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] *John Carter Jun*, dob 16/1/1928, at school, single;
- [5] *Barbara A. Carter*, dob 21/6/1933, at school, single:

1945 Probate

“*Betsy Ann Thompson*, of the CASTLE INN, 23 Forster Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, widow, died 30 January 1945. Administration Birmingham 17 April to *Mary May Carter* (wife of *John Carter*). Effects £1,591 2s 6d.”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division A, in 1948.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 8th March 1961.

Staffordshire Sentinel 3/6/1961 - Notice

“The Licensing Act, 1953. Notice of Principal Meeting County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above area, will be held in the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday the 21st day of June, 1961, at 11 o'clock am.

And Notice is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the renewal of the licenses of the premises specified in the subjoined list, all those persons to whom under the Licensing Act, 1953, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the persons interested in any licensed premises in question and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District). List of Licensed Premises..... CASTLE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston. Beerhouse (Ante 1869). Licensee, *John Carter*.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 1/7/1961 - Notice

“The Licensing Act, 1953. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 21st day of June, 1961, to refuse the Renew of the Licenses of the premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of payment of the compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensees and the Registered Owners of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their claims before the 22nd day of July, 1961, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in the manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to compensation under the said Act in respect of the said premises..... CASTLE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston. Beerhouse (ante 1869). Licensee, *John Carter*. Registered Owners, *W. Butler & Co. Ltd.*”

It closed on 31st December 1961.

Demolished

CATHERINE ARMS

Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John King [1870]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions at West Bromwich.....

The applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

John King, CATHERINE ARMS, applied personally. No opposition. License granted.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Meeting at West Bromwich.....

Isaac Glover, BROGDEN ARMS INN, and *John King*, Catherines Cross, received their licenses upon proving that their premises had been reassessed and put on the books at £15.”

CELLAR INN

295, (27), Walsall Road, James Bridge, DARLASTON

OWNERS

James Pritchard, Darlaston

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]

LICENSEES

Hayes [1868] – [1869]

John Dee [] – **1871**);

Samuel Bird (**1871** – [1872]

Charles Ironmonger [1881]

Richard Clarke [1886]

John Miners [1891]

John Moore [1891] – [1892]

Sarah Elizabeth Pritchard [1911]

Enoch Harper [1919] – **1922**);

Edwin Beesley (**1922** – **1923**);

Benjamin Ford (**1923** – **1931**);

Hannah Ford (**1931** – **1932**);

John Thomas Lee (**1932** – **1953**);

Frederick John Smith (**1953** – **1957**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

27, Walsall Road [1881], [1891]

295, Walsall Road [1939]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/8/1868

“S. Horton of Darlaston will run S. Gee of Willenhall 120yards, for £25 a side, in eight weeks from signing articles, or he will run any man within six miles of Darlaston 300 yards; or if J. Fellows of the BOAT INN, Cann Lane, Sedgley, has a man that will run him he can have a match by sending a deposit to *Bells Life* and articles to Horton, at *Hayes’s*, the CELLAR INN, James Bridge, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/7/1869

“Lee Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.....

T. Hayes of Walsall is surprised that Woolley of West Bromwich, so many years his junior, should challenge him to run 100 yards level. If Woolley means business Hayes will run him 100 or 120 yards with four yards start, for £5 a side, at these grounds, in a fortnight from signing articles. Money ready at any time at *Hayes’s*, the CELLAR INN, James Bridge, near Walsall.”

Samuel Bird, beer retailer, James Bridge. [1872]

Walsall Observer 27/3/1880 - Advert

“Situation Wanted, as Groom or Coachman; married, aged 36, thoroughly experienced.
Address, H. S., CELLAR INN, James Bridge, Darlaston.”

1881 Census

27, Walsall Road – Beer House

[1] *Charles Ironmonger* (40), labourer, born Lincolnshire;

[2] Emma Ironmonger (37), wife, born Oxford;

[3] William Ironmonger (13), son, scholar, born Oxford;

[4] Arthur Ironmonger (11), son, scholar, born Oxford;

[5] Matthew Ironmonger (8), son, scholar, born Wyrley, Staffordshire;

[6] Harry Ironmonger (6), son, born Wyrley, Staffordshire;

- [7] Charles H. Ironmonger (4), son, born Darlaston;
- [8] Emma E. Ironmonger (9 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [9] John Thompson (27), lodger, bricklayer, born Dudley;
- [10] William Reynolds (30), lodger, labourer, born Banbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1882 - Advert

“Beerhouse to Let, at once; very useful, low-rented, and cheap; doing a respectable business; suit coal dealer or cowkeeper. Illness cause of giving up.
Apply, CELLAR INN, Darlaston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 11/12/1886

“*Richard Clarke*, beerhouse keeper, of the CELLAR INN, James Bridge, was charged with keeping open during prohibited hours.

Police-constable Robotham deposed that on the 1st inst he was passing the defendant’s house about 11-50pm, and, hearing some one singing, he rapped at the back door and was admitted by the defendant. In the house there were three men and a woman, and on the table were six glasses, five of which contained ale. Witness asked the men where they came from and addresses were give which witness afterwards found were incorrect.

Defendant was sworn and stated that the men in the house were friends of his, and the ale was drawn and paid for before eleven o’clock.

The Stipendiary considered the case was a very bad one and fined defendant 40s and costs.

Dan Conway, James Bridge, for being on the premises after closing hours was fined 1s and costs.”

Wednesbury Herald 7/2/1891

“Sale of Old Established Beerhouse, situate on Walsall Road, near James Bridge. Monday, February 23rd, 1891.

Messrs. Belcher and Son are instructed to Sell by Public Auction.....

All that Old-Established Beerhouse, situate on the Walsall Road, near James Bridge, Darlaston, and known as the CELLAR INN, consisting Tap Room, Parlour, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Pantry, Two Cellars and Outbuildings, with good yard, and draw in way, in the occupation of Mr. *John Moore*.

The Property, which is Freehold, is situated on the main road, and in close proximity to large and important works.....”

1891 Census

27, Walsall Road – CELLAR INN

- [1] *John Moore* (56), iron turner and publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Amelia Moore* (52), wife, born Smethwick;
- [3] *Edward Moore* (18), son, iron turner, born Bradford, Yorkshire;
- [4] *Sarah Moore* (14), daughter, born Bradford, Yorkshire;
- [5] *Gertrude Moore* (8), daughter, scholar, born Smethwick:

Wednesbury Herald 21/2/1892

“Shortly before eleven o’clock on Monday night it was discovered that a burglary had been committed at the CELLAR INN, James Bridge, occupied by Mr. *John Moore*. During the night a man obtained entrance to the principal bedroom, and succeeded in ____ a valuable watch and a quantity of other jewellery, and also £9 10s in money. Upon being disturbed, the thief made his escape by jumping through a back-room window. Some men who saw him state that he was wearing slippers.”

1911 Census

Walsall Road – CELLAR INN

- [1] *Sarah Elizabeth Pritchard* (48), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Annie Pritchard* (31), step-daughter, born Darlaston;

[3] Arthur Bowers (19), son, tap and die maker, born Bilston;

[4] Faith Pritchard (19), step-daughter, sewing machinist, tailoring, born Darlaston:

Edwin Beesley = Edwin Beasley

Lichfield Mercury 1/9/1922

“An amazing story of long-lost relatives and promises of great wealth that never materialised was told the Tipton magistrates on Tuesday morning, when Maria May Harris (25), of no fixed abode, was charged with obtaining 5s and clothing, valued at 70s, from Rose Eleanor Williams, of Petford Street, Tipton, by false pretences; with obtaining, by false pretences, a gold brooch, valued at 22s, from Edith *Beasley*, of the CELLAR INN, Darlaston; with obtaining 20s and food and lodgings, valued at 30s, by false pretences, from Joseph Harris, Beeches Road, Blackheath.

In the first case, Miss Williams she met defendant on August 7th, when the accused said she was her cousin, and was keeping company with Joseph Willetts, in California. She believed her, and it was arranged they should go to Droitwich next day. She gave defendant clothing and lent her the money. Defendant said she had no English money until she had been to the bank. Albert Williams, the father of this witness, said defendant told him he was the man she had been looking for. She said her father was dead, and had left a considerable sum of money to be divided between witness and his sister. He believed the statement, and defendant stayed at his house. She told him her share under the will was £305, and she left the house ‘to go and buy his son a motor cycle.’ She did not return.

Mrs. *Beasley* said defendant called on her and said she knew her brother Edwin, in California. She had just returned from there, and from lassoing on a ranch. She told her her brother was returning home, and that they were to meet him coming from Liverpool. She had a ‘brilliant’ brooch which she said was worth £200 and witness suggested she should take better care of it. Eventually she exchanged her own gold brooch for the ‘diamond’ one. She did not think it was worth £200, but she believed it was a good one.

Joseph Harris, a miner, of 51, Beeches Road, Blackheath, said that on August 17th defendant called at his house and said he was her uncle, and that she had come from California. She said she knew his sister in West Virginia, who had left him £200. She also said her father had made a will in witness’s favour, and she showed witness what was purported to be the ‘last will and testament’ of her parent. The will was signed ‘California, in the County of America.’ Witness was also told they were to go to the London lawyers. He did not believe her story, but as she appeared to know his sister he let her stay. On August 24th he lent her 10s, and she stayed at the house for several days. On one occasion she produced a document handing over ‘No.3 Ranch, California,’ to witness, ‘with all the cattle thereon.’

Defendant pleaded guilty to the charges, but in a written statement, which was read in Court, she made allegations of misconduct against the man Harris during the absence of his wife. Harris said the statement was false from beginning to end.

Detective-sergeant Bell, of Walsall, said defendant was a thoroughly bad lot, and had been carrying on this game for years. She belonged to Walsall. She had obtained all sorts of things by telling people she had relatives in California. Once a Walsall working man spent his life savings on motor rides because of the woman’s promises, while on another occasion, because of defendant’s representations that she was the daughter of a well-known actress, a Walsall man provided an expensive dinner for all his relatives to meet this actress. They all went to the railway station for the arrival, when defendant was handed a telegram, previously despatched by herself, to say that ‘her mother’ could not come.

Convictions for similar offences at Birmingham, Coventry, Walsall, and Cannock, were proved, and defendant was now sentenced to six months’ hard labour on the first charge, and three months’ on each of the other charges, the sentences to run consecutively– in all twelve months’ hard labour.

The Chairman (Mr. C. Lathe) said the magistrates did not believe a single word of the allegation against the man Harris. He left the Court with an unblemished character. He thought it ought to be known that they believed Mr. Harris was an innocent man.”

Plans were approved for alterations on 28th August 1925.

Benjamin Ford died in the 4th quarter of 1930.

Walsall Observer 10/1/1931

“At the Police Court on Wednesday the following full transfers were granted.....

CELLAR INN, James Bridge, from the late *Benjamin Ford* to his widow, *Hannah Ford*. It was stated that the late Mr. *Ford* died intestate and that his widow has a 27-year-old son to assist her in the conduct of the licensed premises.”

1939 Register

295, Walsall Road

[1] *John Thomas Lee*, date of birth 29/8/1881, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Dannah Lee*, dob 24/12/1886, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

Plans were approved for alterations to the lavatory accommodation on 5th January 1955.

The license was surrendered on 13th March 1957 on the approval of the grant of a full license to the COTTAGE OF CONTENT.

COCK

DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Meek [1822]

CORNER CUPBOARD

Pinfold Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Foster [1861] – [1862]

NOTES

1861 Census

Pinfold Street – CORNER CUPBOARD

[1] *James Foster* (50), coal miner and publican, born Darlaston;

- [2] Elizabeth Foster (40), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Henry Foster (15), son, gun lock smith, born Darlaston;
- [4] Enoch Foster (13), son, screw forger, born Darlaston;
- [5] Samuel Foster (2), son, born Darlaston;
- [6] Aaron Foster (7 months), son, born Darlaston;
- [7] Nancy Foster (11), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] Mildred Foster (8), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [9] Rachel Foster (3), daughter, born Darlaston:

James Foster, retailer of beer, Pinfold Street. [1862]

COTTAGE OF CONTENT

11, (9), (10), Bull Street / Albert Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Bloxwich Brewery Co. Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1924], [1957]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Simeon Robinson [1868] – **1871**);
Mrs. Maria Robinson (**1871** – [1880]
Samuel Robinson [1877] – [1880]
William Turner [1881]
Thomas Dangerfield [1891] – [1904]
Mary Jane Dangerfield [1911]
John Nicholls Snr. (**1911** – **1930**);
Eliza Nicholls (**1930** – **1935**);
John 'Jack' Nicholls Jnr. (**1935** – **1953**);
John Thomas Pineker (**1953** – **1964**);
John James Green (**1964** – [1967])

NOTES

10, Bull Street [1871], [1891]
9, Bull Street [1880], [1901]
11, Bull Street [1881], [1904], [1912], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Simeon Robinson, beer retailer, Bull Street. [1868]

1871 Census

10, Bull Street – COTTAGE OF CONTENT

[1] *Maria Robinson* (45), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] John Turner (17), son, labourer in ironworks, born Darlaston;

[3] Simeon Robinson (13), son, born Darlaston;

[4] Job Robinson (6), son, born Darlaston:

Mrs. *Maria Robinson*, beer retailer, Bull Street. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/11/1877

“At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday afternoon before Dr. T. Underhill and Mr. Wilson Lloyd, Jabez Harper, nut and bolt maker, Bull Street, Darlaston, was charged with picking the pockets of his employer, *Samuel Robinson*, and stealing £3 0s 9d on the 31st ult. Mr. Chidley, of Walsall, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Sheldon for the accused.

The prosecutor stated that he kept the COTTAGE OF CONTENT INN, Darlaston, and for the past seven months the prisoner had been in his employ, as a servant, but he had not been in the habit of sleeping in the house. On the day in question witness went out to do business, and upon returning home at night he lay down on the sofa as he was tired. A short time afterwards the prisoner came into the room, and he being under the impression that witness was asleep, prisoner searched his pockets and took out of one of them £3 0s 9d. Prisoner immediately afterwards rushed out of the room, and witness shouted out ‘Stop thief, he has got my money,’ but prisoner succeeded in getting out at the back-door, and running away. Five minutes afterwards he returned, and witness charged him with stealing the money, upon which the prisoner struck him a violent blow in the face. Prisoner was subsequently apprehended, and he denied having committed the offence.

Harriett Robinson corroborated to a certain extent her husband’s evidence, and also added that when he came home he was perfectly sober.

Mr. Sheldon said there was a prima facie case, and the prisoner would reserve his defence.

The prisoner was committed to the next Staffordshire Sessions, but bail was accepted for his appearance.”

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions ‘not a true bill’ was found.]

Samuel Robinson, beer retailer, Bull Street. [1880]

1881 Census

11, Bull Street – COTTAGE OF CONTENT

[1] *William Turner* (31), nut and bolt maker, born Darlaston;

[2] *Susan Turner* (29), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *George Turner* (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] *John Turner* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Emma Turner* (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] *Maria Turner* (4), daughter, born Darlaston;

[7] *William Turner* (2), son, born Darlaston;

[8] *Elizabeth Turner* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[9] *Simeon Robinson* (21), boarder, nut and bolt maker, born Wednesbury;

[10] *Job Robinson* (17), boarder, machine nut and bolt maker, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/2/1885 - Advert

“COTTAGE OF CONTENT Beerhouse, Bull Street, Darlaston, to be Let; not changed hands for years; in-going only £60, which includes fixtures of two taprooms, kitchen, bar, and clubroom, with good brewing plant, all complete.

For further particulars apply to D. Lockett, auctioneer, Cannock.”

1891 Census

10, Bull Street – COTTAGE OF CONTENT

[1] *Thomas Dangerfield* (46), retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Lucy Dangerfield* (38), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Samuel Dangerfield* (18), son, smith’s striker, born Darlaston;

- [4] Sarah A. Dangerfield (17), daughter, domestic servant, born Darlaston;
[5] William Dangerfield (13), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
[6] *Mary Jane Dangerfield* (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[7] Phoebe M. Dangerfield (11 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
[8] Edward Guest (3), nephew, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

Thomas Dangerfield, COTTAGE OF CONTENT beerhouse, Bell [sic] Street.....

All these were for six days.”

A fire here in 1895 led to the formation of the Darlaston Fire Brigade.

Canterbury Journal 11/4/1896

“On Saturday morning the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, public house, Darlaston, was completely destroyed by fire. Mr. *Dangerfield* and his family were aroused just in time, one child being partially suffocated. The fire brigade promptly attended, but the flames spread with great rapidity and completely gutted the building, two firemen having narrow escapes through the collapse of a wall.”

1901 Census

9, Bull Street – COTTAGE INN

- [1] *Thomas Dangerfield* (56), widower, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
[2] Samuel Dangerfield (29), son, brewer, born Darlaston;
[3] William Dangerfield (23), son, bobber in shoe tip works, born Darlaston;
[4] *Mary J. Dangerfield* (18), daughter, born Darlaston;
[5] Phoebe Dangerfield (10), daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Bull Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of

police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Thomas Dangerfield, beer retailer, 11, Bull Street. [1904]

1908 Probate

“*Thomas Dangerfield*, of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT INN, Bull Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 15 December 1907. Probate Lichfield 2 March to Victor Emanuel Johnson, ash wheeler, and *Mary Jane Dangerfield*, spinster. Effects £1,021 14s 3d.”

1911 Census

10+11, Bull Street

- [1] Samuel Dangerfield (37), brother, brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] William Dangerfield (34), brother, bolt turner, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary Jane Dangerfield* (29), head, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [4] Phoebe Dangerfield (20), sister, dressmaker, born Darlaston:

AND

- [1] Victor E. Johnson (45), head, forge labourer, born Cheadle, Staffordshire;
- [2] Sarah A. Johnson (38), wife, forge labourer, born Darlaston;
- [3] Victor E. Johnson (11), son, forge labourer, born Darlaston;
- [4] Florence Johnson (8), daughter, forge labourer, born Darlaston:

John Nicholls, beer retailer, 11, Bull Street. [1912]

John Nicholls Snr. – see also ROBIN HOOD, Willenhall, BRADES TAVERN, Oldbury and PRINCE OF WALES, Willenhall.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 31/1/1925

“Councillor T. Rice presided over an enjoyable social gathering, held at the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Bull Street, Darlaston, when an excellent dinner was served by host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *J. Nicholls*. During the evening Councillor Rice made a short speech, in which he expressed the hope that they would have many more gatherings of a similar character. Harmony was provided by Messrs. A. Edwards, J. Jukes, C. Harvey and H. Etchell (accompanist).”

It had a pigeon loft at the rear.

COTTAGE OF CONTENT Flyers Club was based here.

T. Lowe was its president. [1926]

1930 Probate

“*John Nicholls*, of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Bull Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 23 January 1930. Administration London 29 March to *Eliza Nicholls*, widow. Effects £316 4s 5d.”

Plans were approved for provision of a bathroom and indoor sanitary accommodation on 26th May 1937.

1939 Register

Bull Street – COTTAGE OF CONTENT (4 of 9)

[1] *John Nicholls*, date of birth 21/5/1903, construction engineer fitter, married;

[2] Edna (Prudence) Nicholls, dob 15/12/1904, publican, married;

[3] Selina Franks, dob 30/7/1884, domestic help and nurse, widowed;

[4] Mary J. (Nicholls) Fraser, dob 14/3/1926, at school, single;

1942 Probate

“*Eliza Nicholls*, of 47 Stafford Road, Darlaston, Staffordshire, widow, died 29 December 1941 at 202 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, Staffordshire. Probate Llandudno 4 June to *John Nicholls*, beerhouse keeper, and James Henry Nicholls, costs clerk. Effects £707 3s 6d.”

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division A, in 1948.

John Nicholls Jnr. was known as ‘Tricky’.

He was secretary of the Flyers Club. [1949]

Rugeley Times 3/3/1951

“A young married couple with two children, age 18 months and six months, whose parents will not have anything to do with them, were at Wednesbury County magistrates court on Tuesday charged with stealing a wooden collecting box containing £2 in money, the property of the Custodian Association St. Vincents Children’s Home, 106. Moseley Road, Birmingham, on February 20. They were William Frederick Styles (22) and Margaret Olive Styles (19), both pleaded guilty, and after Detective Constable Podmore had told the magistrates that her husband was a schizophrenic – having a split mind and was in need of treatment, he was committed to St. Matthews Hospital, Burntwood, for a fortnight when he would again appear before the court. His wife was put on probation for two years on condition that she is under supervision in a home. They asked for eight other similar cases of stealing children’s home collecting boxes from public houses to be taken into consideration. These offences were committed at Walsall, Darlaston, West Bromwich, Tipton and Bilston.

Inspector E. A. Martin said, ‘The hard feature of these offences was that all the collecting boxes were for children, and they had one of their own in a Catholic Convent in Birmingham. I don’t think they would like it if their children were being robbed.’

DC Podmore that they had stolen was discharged from the army after six weeks service with a nervous breakdown, and had had treatment at the Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich. The doctor said it was essential for him to have more treatment as an inpatient. The couple were turned out of the husband’s parents home in the last fortnight, and ever since they had been sleeping rough. The officer said that the Catholic priests at Friar Park had given the couple both moral and financial assistance and had even sent the husband away to Dorset for rehabilitation.

Mrs. E. P. *Nicholls*, of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Bull Street, Darlaston, said she served the Styles with a drink, and she went out to the private quarters. When she returned she noticed that the collecting box off the mantle shelf was missing, and the couple had left. They were seen later the same day by Cyril Pitt, a postman, as he was delivering mail in James Bridge. Being suspicious, he watched by the fence in the station drive. Styles put something to the ground and stamp his foot on it. When he returned the couple had gone and the collecting box was lying on the ground. He reported the matter to the police and the couple were arrested by PC Lacy last Thursday. At first they denied that they had stolen the box but they later they told DC Podmore that Styles it.

William Styles told the court that he did not intend to steal the box but he had tried to get back in the army, and had several other jobs. He had tried anything to get himself straight.”

A full license was confirmed on 13th March 1957.

[1975]

Closed

It became a sports outfitter's shop.

COTTAGE OF CONTENT

25+26, The Green / Horton Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.

Frank Myatt Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

John Ball [1871] – [1891]

John Benton [1895]

Lucretia Hickman [1898]

John Williams [1898]

George Worrall [1901]

Simeon Whitehouse [1911]

Mrs. Emily Rogers [] – **1921**);

James Simkin (**1921**);

Jesse Floyd Robinson (**1921 – 1922**);

Charles Henry Hadley (**1922 – 1923**);

William Worrell (**1923 – 1924**);

Leonard Woodhall (**1924 – 1926**);

John Lloyd (**1926**):

NOTES

It was known locally as “The Round Counter”.

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

The Green – COTTAGE OF CONTENT

[1] *John Ball* (42), bolt forger and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Mary A. Ball (43), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Esther Ball (19), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Sarah Jane Ball (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Mary Ann Ball (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] Nancy Ball (4), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] John Ball (1), son, born Darlaston:

Midland Examiner and Times 31/3/1877

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *John Ball*, landlord of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Darlaston Green, was summoned for permitting drunkenness upon his premises on Saturday evening, the 14th inst. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.

William Walters, living at Darlaston Green, was then charged with being upon the premises of the above defendant in a state of intoxication, and fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1877

“West Bromwich Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following reports as to the convictions of publicans during last year were made by Superintendents Woollaston and Holland, for the police divisions of West Bromwich and Wednesbury.....

John Ball, COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Darlaston, permitting drunkenness, fined 10s 6d and costs.

All the old licenses were then renewed with the exception of those whose holders had been convicted in a penalty of 20s and upwards. The latter were adjourned until the 26th September.”

1881 Census

25+26, The Green

[1] *John Ball* (50), publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Ann Ball* (53), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Sarah Jane Ball* (19), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Mary Ann Ball* (17), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *John Ball* (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Evening Express 6/5/1881

[For the inquest see SCOTT ARMS, Blockall.]

“William Payne (65), bolt forger, was arraigned on the charge of the wilful murder of his wife, Mary Payne, on the 12th of February last, at Darlaston. Prisoner, who was very lame, was assisted up the steps into the dock, and there accommodated with a seat. Mr. Plumtre and Mr. Fisher were for the prosecution, and the prisoner was defended by Mr. Rose.

Learned counsel, in opening the case, said that although all cases of murder must contain horrible incidents, this was about as painful a case as was ever heard in a court of justice, because the dead woman had been the wife of the prisoner at the bar for some forty years, and had borne him ten children, and because it was out of the mouth of his own children, and the lips of his own grandson, that the prisoner, if condemned, would be condemned. Although the prisoner and the dead woman had been married so long, their life could not be said to have been a happy one. Into the causes of this unhappiness he need not enter, but some five months before her death the woman found it necessary to separate from her husband and live apart from him, and accordingly she took up her residence in a little cottage situated near to the Green at Darlaston, and at the back of a public house bearing the singular name of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, kept by a man named *Ball*. Between one and two o'clock in the afternoon of the date named in the indictment the prisoner was in that public house with others, amongst whom was a man named Knowles. The latter was chaffed about an illegitimate child, and he retorted by some chaff, in which he mentioned the name of the deceased woman, and the fact of her separation from the prisoner. This chaff seemed to have annoyed the prisoner, for afterwards seeing his married daughter Emma Mason he told her ‘there was a good deal the matter.’

At nine o'clock the same evening the prisoner was again in the public house, and some further conversation took place, in which he said in effect that he was tired of his life, and something would happen before long. He left the house at half past nine. Mrs. Mason had a child named Willie, about 7 years old, and she and the boy lived with the deceased woman, although Mrs. Mason went to attend to her father's household affairs. The boy was in the house with his grandmother between nine and ten o'clock, and he would tell them that as the old woman sat by the fire the prisoner entered, carrying a jug of ale in his hand; that he asked her to drink, and that as she accepted the invitation prisoner suddenly drew a knife and struck the deceased a blow with it on the neck. Deceased at once rose and tried to make for the door, but she fell down and the boy saw his grandfather put the knife again in his pocket, and then take it out once more and threw it into the fire. The boy ran from the house and raised an alarm, and some neighbours came into the house with him, among them being the prisoner's son Noah. The latter, seeing his mother on the floor and bleeding from the neck, asked ‘who had done this?’ Receiving from his father a self-incriminating reply, he struck the prisoner to the ground, and a woman, who was in the house, held the prisoner until the latter said he was intending to run away. The police were then fetched, and the prisoner was taken into custody.

On being charged by Police-constable Daly with murder, he said, 'She is there. I loved this woman; there is nobody to blame but me. I have stood it for a long time.'

A knife was afterwards found in the ashes of the fire grate, and identified as one which the prisoner used for boot needling purposes.

William Knowles, having been examined, Mrs. Mason was called. She showed great direction, and was allowed to sit during her examination. After hearing out other portions of the counsel's statement she said, in cross-examination, that her mother left the prisoner because he made her uncomfortable. Prisoner was a good workman, but addicted to fits of drinking, and he had often had delirium tremens. He was extraordinarily jealous of her mother, and had accused her as long as witness could remember of infidelity. Among the men whose names were connected with his accusations were a next door neighbour, her own brother, witness's sister's husband, witness's own husband, and a man who called for the insurance money.....

John Ball, landlord of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT beerhouse, said he saw prisoner in his house at 9 o'clock on the day in question, and heard him say, 'I'm tired of my life, and shall do something bad, and very bad, before long.' He had half a pint of ale and then went out, saying that he was going to see his old wench. He had then been drinking, and was not sober. Hardly ten minutes later witness heard a cry of 'Murder' in deceased's house, which was next door, but he did not go to ascertain the cause.....

Mr. Rose commenced his address to the Jury by stating that he could not for a moment deny that deceased met with her death from a wound in her neck inflicted by the prisoner. If the prisoner was responsible to the law, the jury knew their sad duty; but the question for them to consider was whether the prisoner was responsible. Prisoner had one insane idea, one fixed delusion, in his mind, and he asked them to say not only was this so, but also that at the time his wife died he did not know the act he was doing was contrary to the law of the land. He briefly traced the career of the prisoner, and described him as a workman who had given way to drinking habits, which had brought him into such a state as led him to tell people he was going mad, and whose behavior justified the belief that such was the case. Prisoner's conduct at the time of his wife's death did not point to a sane man's knowledge that he had committed an act against the law, but rather showed that the mind of the man who killed deceased was a mind disturbed by those extraordinary delusions which had been referred to. It was a grievous case – a dreadful domestic tragedy – but there was one scene of the tragedy which might be averted if the jury would take a practical common-sense view, and say that maddened by unfounded jealousy prisoner was as insane as a raving maniac.

A witness named Mrs. Lingard was called for the defence to prove that the brother of the prisoner was in a lunatic asylum for a long time.

Dr. Bodington, Sutton Coldfield, thirteen years superintendent of a private lunatic asylum, gave his opinion that prisoner was subject to partial insanity, in the delusion as to his wife's infidelity, a delusion which increased as time went on, and which was a dangerous delusion. Witness had seen prisoner privately his morning. Prisoner still held to his belief in deceased's unfaithfulness, and said he did not know he had murdered her until he saw the blood. He said he knew he should be hanged, but this and other things were said in the tone and manner of an insane man.

Mr. Plumtre, after replying to the evidence for the defence, called Mr. Greaves, gaol surgeon, who said during the period prisoner had been in gaol he appeared quite sane.

By the Judge: Unfounded jealousy would be evidence of a delusion, and a delusion would indicate a disordered mind.

The Judge, in charging the jury, held that the only two alternatives were a verdict of murder or acquittal on the ground of insanity. They must ask whether the prisoner suffered from a delusion by reason of the jealousy which was not such as might happen to a man of ordinary reasonable mind, and whether that so affected his mind that he did not know what he was doing. If they answered these in the affirmative they would acquit the prisoner on the ground of insanity; but if not they would find him guilty."

AND

Wednesbury Herald 14/5/1881

"William Payne (65), bolt forger, was found guilty of murdering his wife, with a recommendation to mercy, on the grounds of 'fancied provocation.' Sentence of death was passed."

AND

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 16/5/1881

"It has been decided by a number of working men to memorialise the Home Secretary to grant a reprieve to

William Payne, who now lies in Stafford Gaol under sentence of death for murdering his wife at Darlaston a short time ago.”

AND

Northwich Guardian 21/5/1881

“William Payne, 65, nut maker, condemned to death at Stafford Assizes for the murder of his wife, at Darlaston, has been reprieved. It will be remembered that the prisoner stabbed his wife in the neck with a knife, alleging that she had been unfaithful to him. The prisoner was shown to have been suffering from delusions about his wife for several years.”

1891 Census

The Green – COTTAGE OF CONTENT

[1] *John Ball* (62), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Ann Ball* (63), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Mary Ann Ball* (26), daughter, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 2/3/1895

“*John Benton*, landlord of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT beerhouse, Darlaston, was charged with being drunk on his licensed premises. Mr. Hunt (Wolverhampton) defended.

Police constable Wright stated that at 9.50pm on the 14th inst, he was called to a disturbance at the COTTAGE OF CONTENT. He there found defendant, who was drunk. Defendant when told that he was drunk said he would go and see Dr. Magrane. He went to the police station, and there asked to see the sergeant, as he wanted to make a complaint about the policeman.

Sergeant Williams saw him, and now stated that he considered him drunk.

For the defence it was urged that the defendant was not intoxicated. When the policeman went in and told him of his condition he at once went to the police station and laid a complaint. There was no disturbance, the only occurrence out of the common being ‘a bit of a snag.’

Eventually the magistrates dismissed the case, being of the opinion that there was not sufficient evidence for a conviction.”

AND

Walsall Observer 2/3/1895

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *John Benton*, landlord of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT beerhouse, Darlaston, was charged with being drunk on his own premises. Mr. T. Hunt (Wolverhampton) appeared for the defence.

Police-constable Wright deposed that he was called into the defendant’s house on the night of the 14th to quell a disturbance, and he found the defendant behind the counter quarrelling with his wife and behaving in such a manner as to show that he was drunk.

The defence was that the accused was not drunk but excited owing to the quarrel with his wife, and in the end the magistrates gave the defendant the benefit of a doubt, and dismissed the case, at the same time expressing an opinion that it had very properly been brought into court.”

Walsall Observer 22/1/1898

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Lucretia Hickman*, of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises on the 27th ult, and *John Foster*, Darlaston, was charged with being drunk on the premises. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted and Mr. A. J. Glover defended.

Evidence was given by Sergeant Williams, who said he found Foster drunk on the defendant’s premises.

A number of witnesses were called for the defence.

Ultimately the defendant was fined 40s and costs, and Foster was fined 10s and costs, with the alternative of 14 days’ imprisonment in default.”

Walsall Observer 27/8/1898

“Wednesbury Brewster Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt reported.....

Since the last annual licensing meeting seven licensed victuallers and six beerhouse keepers had been summoned in respect of offences against the tenour of their licenses. Of the victuallers five were fined and two dismissed, and of the beerhouse keepers four were fined, one paid costs, and one was dismissed. Three of the convicted beerhouse keepers had since transferred their licenses. He had caused notice of opposition to the renewal of these licenses to be served upon the present holder of the license in each case where there had been a conviction during the year.....

John Williams, COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Darlaston.....

The consideration of objections was deferred until the adjourned sessions, to be held on the 28th of September.”

Dudley Herald 1/10/1898

“The adjourned Licensing Session for the Wednesbury Petty Sessional Division (comprising Darlaston, Tipton, and Dudley Port) took place on Wednesday licensed victuallers whose applications for renewal had been deferred.....

Mr. Wilcock represented *John Williams*, of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT beerhouse, Darlaston. It was stated that since the conviction this house had been well conducted, and the Bench renewed the license.”

1901 Census

25+26 The Green

- [1] *George Worrall* (40), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Clara Worrall* (38), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Worrall* (8), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Eliza Worrall* (7), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Flory Worrall* (5), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Edward Worrall* (2), son, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

The Green – COTTAGE OF CONTENT

- [1] *Simeon Whitehouse* (30), beerhouse keeper, born Willenhall;
- [2] *Minnie Whitehouse* (28), wife, married 2 years, assisting in the business, born Manchester;
- [3] *Simeon George Whitehouse* (2), born Darlaston;
- [4] *Elsie May Buckley* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Walsall Observer 10/6/1911

“At Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday week, a running-down case, in which *Simeon Whitehouse*, licensed victualler, the COTTAGE, The Green, Darlaston, claimed damages against *Thomas Marren*, scrap dealer, Walsall Street, Willenhall, was heard before Judge Howard Smith. Mr. Gosling (Messrs. Willcock and Taylor) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. R. Tildesley for the defendant.

Plaintiff’s case was that on September 21st, 1910, he was being driven along Heath Road, Darlaston, in the direction of James Bridge, was in the act of passing two of defendant’s scrap carts proceeding in the same direction, the drivers being together on the footpath, when one of the cart horses turned suddenly, and a collision occurred. Plaintiff was thrown out, but was not seriously injured. He afterwards drove on a for a short distance, when he noticed his horse was lame. The claim was £10 for depreciation of the horse, veterinary surgeon’s bill, £2 1s 6d; and £14 cost of keep, &c, while the horse was out of use.

For the defence it was submitted that the lameness was only a recurrence of an old trouble, which had been treated 18months previous to the collision.

The driver of the trap admitted in cross-examination that it was a jerk at the time that lamed the horse. The animal was not touched in the collision.

His Honour found that defendants were liable for leaving the horse unattended, and entered judgement for £19 and costs for plaintiff.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1914

“The adjourned sessions for the parish of Darlaston were held yesterday, Mr. A. H. Partridge presiding. The

principal business was to consider objections to licenses on the ground of redundancy.

Mr. J. Pritchard (Bilston) applied for renewal in the case of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT beerhouse, The Green; Mr. G. N. Capner, in the case of the MINEBORERS ARMS beerhouse, Catherines Cross; and Mr. A. Mand in the case of the THREE CROWNS beerhouse, The Green.

The Bench referred the three licenses to the compensation authority.”

[Reports of the meeting of the Compensation Authority mention nothing further of this pub.]

South Staffordshire Times 8/1/1921

“*Emily Rogers*, licensee of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, Darlaston, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor for consumption on licensed premises during prohibited hours, permitting it to be consumed, and further, with consuming stout during closing hours.

Summonses for consuming intoxicating liquor were also heard against Isaac *Rogers*, husband of the licensee; William Fletcher and Mary Fletcher, also residing at the public house; George Hollowood, Richard Street, Darlaston, and Alfred Tarbuck, 8, Frederick William Street, Willenhall.

Mr. E. E. Brown prosecuted for the police, and Mr. A. J. Glover represented all the defendants.

Mrs. *Rogers* pleaded guilty to permitting consumption, but not guilty to selling or consuming. Tarbuck and Mary Fletcher pleaded not guilty, and the remaining defendants guilty to consuming.

Sergeant Baker, giving evidence, said that on November 25th at midnight he was passing the COTTAGE OF CONTENT when he heard someone singing. He knocked the front door twice, but got no answer, and during the time he was waiting outside he heard the beer machines used, and money dropped into a till or box. He eventually secured admission by climbing over a gate at the side of the house. He found the defendants in the tap room with beer and stout in front of them. When he spoke to Mrs. *Rogers* she said she was very sorry; it was the first time, and it would be the last. Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher lived there, while Tarbuck and Hollowood had been invited as friends to stay and have some supper. Cross-examined, witness said that Mrs. *Rogers* did not say there had not been any sale. When he told her that he heard money jingle she did not reply.

Mr. Glover said that Mrs. *Rogers* had held the license for 15 years, and had no previous conviction against her. She would deny that there had been any sale, and the fact of the cutlery being cleared off the table might account for the jingling which the sergeant heard. The defendants who pleaded guilty to consuming did not think they were doing wrong. Under the old law they would have been bona fide guests, but under the present law, which was a somewhat iniquitous one now the war was over, they were committing an offence. Mrs. *Rogers* and Mr. Fletcher had stout in front of them, but they had not drunk any of it. Tarbuck was unwell, and did not have anything to drink at all. Mrs. *Rogers* did not think she was doing wrong in allowing consumption of liquor so long as there was no sale.

The Stipendiary told Mrs. *Rogers* that it was quite time she knew the law. For permitting the consumption of liquor she would be fined £5 and £5 5s special costs, but the summonses for selling and consuming would be dismissed. The summonses against Mrs. Fletcher and Tarbuck would also be dismissed, but Mr. *Rogers*, Mr. Hollowood, and Mr. Fletcher would be fined 10s each.”

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

“Darlaston Licensing Sessions.....

The COTTAGE OF CONTENT. Mr. A. J. Glover applied for the transfer of this license, but prior to that, Mr. Norman Birkett, barrister (instructed by Mr. A. J. Glover) applied for the license, the house having been objected to on the grounds of redundancy.

Inspector Adams (police) said he had put in copies of the notice served on February 14th. He inspected the house at the Green, Darlaston, a beerhouse, at a gross rental of £45. The premises were occupied by Mrs. *Emily Rogers*. There had been five transfers during the past ten years, and the licensee was fined £5 for a conviction lately. He had taken all the measurements a little time back, which he detailed in evidence. A good deal of indoor repair work was much needed throughout the building. There were other licensed premises not far off, both full licenses and beer licenses, within 80 to 40 yards. The license was objected to on the grounds of redundancy, and he reported this house in particular because other places were more fitted to carry on the trade.

Cross-examined by Mr. Norman Birkett: He had read the instructions contained in the licensing laws and

said he understood them.

Mr. Birkett: And yet, I suppose, you have met many lawyers who did not understand them (laughter).

If structural alterations were seen to, then the objection on these grounds would go? – I suppose so.

It is a cosy little place, is it not? – As far as I know it may be cosy, but the room I visited was full and full of smoke.

Putting all else on one side, these premises could be made good and convenient. – Yes, I suppose so.

Your objection is also that the needs of the district could be supplied by other houses. – Yes.

And that applies to each of the houses, but you selected this one. – Yes.

You prefer two entrances to a licensed house and the COTTAGE has only one? – That is so.

When did you last visit the BARRELL and the NEW INN? – I have been to both once or twice.

You say that one of them is better conducted than the COTTAGE OF CONTENT? – Yes.

Well I do not think so (photos handed up to the magistrates).

All leading manufacturers are in that area, such as Wiley, Bradley, Rubery Owen, C. Richards and others? – Yes.

Superintendent Salt asked the witness one or two questions contending that other houses mentioned served all the purposes required.

Mr. Norman Birkett addressed the Bench, and contended that the objection was made simply on grounds of redundancy, and also having reference to a certain conviction, but he asked the magistrates to dismiss the case from their minds, as regulations existing at the time were very severe, and it was a mistake, and the only case ever recorded against the house. That was on the 4th January, 1921, and it was the only case against Mrs. *Rogers*. He had visited the COTTAGE OF CONTENT but it was not a kind of house that a man would retire to by reason of salubrious surroundings, but the Black Country took its name by reason of its environment and industrial conditions, and the calls of the immediate neighbourhood. When he (Mr. Birkett) was for the prosecution he was full of facts on that side, and when he was for the defence he was filled up with facts on the other side – the same ‘facts’ of course, differently put, and the inspector was doubtless full up of his facts on one side only. The premises could be made admirably adapted by structural alterations, and he had an architect present to prove that, and he would give an undertaking to carry out anything reasonable to be done, or ordered by the Bench. It was not his business to attack any other houses in the district, far from it, but he had to defend the house he was appealing for, and they were objecting to. The argument was that the needs of the district can be met by other houses; and that may be so, but select me one and throw all the others outside the pale. They ought to deal with the matter judicially and fairly. The inspector says that the other houses are more fitted, but he ought to bring evidence to prove the point, and my points still hold good. The private views of all magistrates should go before their judicial deliberations and decisions.

Mr. Birkett told the magistrates that he had some six or seven witnesses to call: valuers, customers, and the landlady, etc.

The Chairman said, without calling upon evidence, they had decided to renew the license of the COTTAGE. Application was then made for the transfer from Mrs. *Emily Rogers* to Mr. *James Simkin*. Applicant was examined by Mr. Birkett.

The application was granted.”

Walsall Observer 22/11/1924

“The first case taken in Darlaston under the Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Persons under 18) Act, 1923, was heard at the Police Court on Wednesday, when *Leonard Woodhall* (35), licensee of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, Darlaston, was summoned for selling beer, for consumption on the premises, to two persons under the age of 18. Arthur William Pugh (16), of 64, Eldon Street, and a 15-year-old Darlaston boy were also summoned for purchasing beer for consumption on the premises, being under-age.

For the licensee, Mr. Sidney W. Smith (Wednesbury) pleaded not guilty, and Pugh, while admitting buying the beer, said he was ignorant of the law.

Police-constable Chadwick stated that at 8.55pm on November 2, while off duty and in plain clothes, he had occasion to visit the COTTAGE OF CONTENT INN, at The Green, Darlaston, and in the passage leading to the smoke room he saw the two boys, while the licensee was leaning with his head through the aperture through which drink was served, talking to them. Pugh was in the act of drinking some beer. Witness could

see he was only a young boy, and asked for his name, which was given. Asked to explain why he had served a boy with liquor to be consumed on the premises, the licensee said he was sorry, but could not tell Pugh's age. Asked what brought him on the premises consuming beer, Pugh replied that he 'only went in for a game.'

Mr. Smith submitted that he had no case to answer. No evidence had been given that the licensee supplied Pugh with beer, knowing his age. How was the licensee likely to know that the boy was not 18 years of age? Commenting that this was the first case under the Act to come before that Court, the presiding magistrate said that the Bench were of opinion that the licensee believed the boy to be of age. In the circumstances the case against the licensee and Pugh would be dismissed on payment of costs. The case against the 15-year-old boy, who was not brought before the magistrates until the summonses against *Woodhall* and Pugh had been decided, was also dismissed on payment of costs."

Walsall Observer 13/2/1926

"On the ground of redundancy three licenses – the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, the Leys; the ROSE AND CROWN, High Street and the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green – were objected to at the Darlaston Brewster Sessions on Wednesday.....

Alderman Yardley announced that all the licenses would be renewed except those of the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, the Leys; the ROSE AND CROWN, High Street, and the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, which, on the grounds of redundancy, would be referred to the adjourned licensing sessions on March 10."

Walsall Observer 6/3/1926

"Thomas Rice, a member of the Darlaston Urban Council, was granted the transfer, at Wednesbury Police Court on Wednesday, of the license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Catherines Cross, from *John Lloyd*, to whom the license of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, was transferred from *Leonard Woodall*.

In reply to the magistrates, *Lloyd* stated that he was aware of the fact that the renewal of the license of the house he was taking over had been objected to."

Walsall Observer 13/3/1926

"Alleging redundancy, the police objected to the renewal of three Darlaston licenses at the adjourned Brewster Sessions for that town, held on Wednesday.....

The third case was that of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, for the owners (Frank Myatt Ltd) and the licensee, of which Mr. A. J. Glover appeared.

Police-inspector Willetts gave the number of premises within 500 yards as 10 fully-licensed, 14 beer 'on' licensed, but no 'off' licensed, and in reply to Mr. Glover, he declared that any other licensed house in The Green district would compare with the COTTAGE OF CONTENT.

Mr. Glover, addressing the magistrates, combated this opinion, urging that if there were any redundancy, other houses in that neighbourhood did not compare with the COTTAGE OF CONTENT. Eminent counsel and expert witnesses thrashed out the question of redundancy when the issue was raised in 1921, and since then in that district 39 new houses had been built and plans passed for 66, while there had been large extensions of works, £25,000 being spent on additions in one case. In the same period, the population of The Green had increased by 500, and seeing that five licenses had been taken away since 1908, the district had been amply dealt with.

Referring to the fact that plans for alterations, which the magistrates approved in June, 1921, had never been executed, Mr. Glover said the reason was that on each of four occasions when estimates were invited the price asked was excessively high. Builders, having opportunities for new work, did not care about undertaking structural alterations.

The Chairman: If there is any blame attaching to anyone, it must be to Mr. Myatt for not doing the work in a reasonable time.

Mr. Glover: You have had to go out of the town for work on St. George's Church.

Superintendent Salt: But the church is not redundant!

In all three cases the question of renewing the licenses was referred to the Compensation Authority."

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/7/1926

“No fewer than 34 licensed premises were scheduled for consideration at the Principal Meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday. In 23 cases the authority decided to refer licenses for compensation, four were renewed, and the remaining seven were adjourned to be dealt with on July 12.....

Supporting the case for the retention of the license of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Darlaston, an ante '69 beerhouse, Mr. Myatt, managing director of Frank Myatt Ltd, said the license had been previously before the authority, and was renewed. There was a limit, he said, even to brewers' financial liability. They had spent £25,000 on alterations and improvements of licensed houses in the area, and the COTTAGE OF CONTENT being a very good structure, had to wait its turn in view of the high cost of carrying out alterations, but they had instructed their architect to obtain tenders. Mr. J. Wylie, for the justices, opened the case by stating that the license was renewed by the committee in 1921, and plans for alterations were approved by the licensing justices towards the end of that year, but the work had never been carried out. Mr. Healy, barrister, for the owners, stated that the delay was due to the high cost of building. Replying to the Chairman, Mr. Myatt said he would undertake to have the alterations to the house completed within three months. The Bench, after retiring, decided to refer the license for compensation.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/7/1926 - Notice

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 28th day of June and the 12th day of July, 1926, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *John Lloyd*. Registered Owner, Frank Myatt Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/12/1926

“The Licensing Committee for the County have fixed the following sums as compensation in the case of licences, the renewal of which was refused at the Principal meeting of the authority at Stafford, on June 28 and July 12 last.....

COTTAGE OF CONTENT, Darlaston, ante '69 beerhouse, £1,300.”

It closed on 31st December 1926.

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘Square Roots (A childhood in The Green, Darlaston)’ by Elizabeth M. Shaw

“In June 1937 my parents moved to No.39 Horton Street in The Green. Our house was in the centre of the only three Council houses built next to the BARREL public house Next to the BARREL was a short street which led onto the main road and may have been called Short Horton Street but I never remember seeing a name. A couple of small houses were on the corner of this street then a pair of gates led to the rear of the houses on the main road. On the corner of this street and the main road stood a cobblers shop. Some say it was a pub at one time but I never knew it other than a cobblers, which Mr. Maul later took over. He moved further down The Green when these properties were pulled down.....”

AND

‘Working in Darlaston Green’ by C. C. (Derek) Dudley

“In 1957 I went to work for Mr. Fred Winkle who had a butcher's shop next to the NAGS HEAD pub. In between was a small sweet shop run by ‘Kit,’ Mrs. Smith When ‘Kit’ closed her sweet shop, it went through a few short tenancies before being taken over by Harold Maull, the shoe repairer who was moved, along with others, from his shop on the corner of Horton Street. The building which was once a pub called, so legend has it, the ‘Round Counter,’ was demolished to make way for the inevitable redevelopment of that area.”

COTTAGE SPRING

Cock Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Jane Harper [1834]

COTTAGE SPRING

Queen Street, Old Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Talbot [1858]

Cornelius Price [1860] – [1862]

Harris [] – **1879**)

Thomas Banks [1882] manager

John George Nagan [] – **1886**)

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/1/1858 - Advert

“Eligible Freehold Houses, at Moxley.

Jabez Morrell will Sell by Auction, by order of the mortgagee, at the house of Mr. Wilton, known as the SWAN INN, Moxley, on Tuesday next, the 26th of January, 1858, at six o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then read.

All that well arranged and well accustomed Beerhouse, known as the COTTAGE SPRING, situate at Old Moxley, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mr. *William Talbot*, at the annual rental of £19 10s per annum, consisting of two cellars, taproom, bar, parlour, kitchen, and three sleeping rooms, brewhouse, with malt room over; stable, with loft over; piggeries, and other convenient outbuildings; bowling alley, large yard, with carriage road to the back.

Also a Dwelling House, at the rear of the above, let at £6 18s 8d per annum.

The Land, including the site of the Building, contains 400 square yards, or thereabouts. The Mines will be sold with the above.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Waterhouse, Solicitor; or the Auctioneer, both of Bilston.”

London Gazette 12/3/1861

“Whereas a Petition of *William Talbot*, formerly of Hall-green, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, afterwards of Moxley in the said county of Stafford, for about twelve months carrying on the business as a Beerhouse Keeper and Journeyman Bricklayer, afterwards of the same place for about two years carrying on

business as a Beerhouse Keeper, afterwards of the same place for about one year and four months carrying on business as a Beerhouse Keeper and Journeyman Bricklayer, and at present for about nine days residing at the same place, carrying on business as a Journeyman Bricklayer only, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Walsall, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *William Talbot*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *William Talbot* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 29th day of March instant, at ten of the clock in the forenoon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors' assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *William Talbot*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Frederic Fuhrmann Clarke, Registrar of the said Court, at his office, in Walsall, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/4/1861

"At Walsall Court on Thursday, before A. M. Skinner, Esq, QC, the following insolvents were heard on their petitions.....

William Talbot, publican and bricklayer, first hearing, supported by Mr. Sheldon; passed unopposed."

Walsall Free Press 25/5/1861

"County Court Insolvents.....

In re *William Talbot*, formerly of Hall Green, victualler; subsequently of Moxley, beerseller; and now journeyman bricklayer. Mr. Sheldon supported this insolvent, who passed his final hearing and obtained the order of the Court without opposition."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/4/1860 - Advert

"Sale of Freehold Property, at Moxley, near Bilston.

Mr. George Brown will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. Richard Talbot, BRITANNIA INN, Moxley aforesaid, on the 12th day of April, 1860, at six o'clock in the evening, by order of the Mortgagee, and subject to conditions of sale to be then read, all that Freehold Messuage or Tenement, situate at Old Moxley aforesaid, now used as a beershop, known by the name of the COTTAGE SPRING, and occupied by *Cornelius Price*, together with the Brewhouse and Room over the same, and Yard, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, the whole producing an annual rental of £19.

Also a small Freehold Messuage, adjoining the above described premises, now in the occupation of James Simonds, and producing a weekly rental of 2s 9d.

Also an unfinished Messuage adjoining the lastly mentioned premises.

The whole of the above premises occupy a site of 400 square yards or thereabouts.

For further particulars apply to Mr. C. G. Brown, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Oxford Street, Bilston."

Cornelius Price, retailer of beer, Moxley. [1862]

Dudley Herald 22/3/1879

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before Mr. William Lloyd and Dr. Underhill, John Cross was summoned for selling ale without a license at the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Moxley, on the 18th ult.

Mr. Sheldon, who appeared for the defence, said he wished to explain to the Bench how the offence with which the defendant was charged had been committed. The license for the COTTAGE SPRING INN was formerly held by a man named *Harris*, who, being anxious to leave the neighbourhood, negotiated with the defendant to take to the house and hold the license until it had been transferred. An application was subsequently made for the transfer of the license, but the Bench refused to grant it. Defendant consulted counsel, and a fortnight ago Mr. Underhill, barrister, attended the Court for the purpose of making another application, but it was ultimately deferred. In the meantime the defendant had been selling ale, thinking that *Harris*'s authority was sufficient. The defendant had decided to abandon the application for the transfer of the license, and as he had already lost about £70 by the transaction he hoped the Bench would allow the case to

be withdrawn on payment of costs.

The Bench ruled that the case would have to proceed, and Police-constable Farmer said that on the 18th ult he visited the COTTAGE SPRING beerhouse and saw defendant sell ale to customers. The defendant had been selling ale for six weeks without a license.

The defendant was then sworn, and said he thought he was acting rightly by obeying the instructions given to him by *Harris*.

The Magistrates' Clerk said that *Harris* had no power whatever to authorise another person to hold a license. The Bench considered that the defendant had acted in a very indiscreet manner, and fined him £3 and costs."

Wednesbury Herald 19/8/1882

"*Thomas Banks* of the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Old Moxley, was charged with selling intoxicating liquor without a license on the 28th July. Evidence in support of the charge having been given by Police-constable Clarke, it was stated by Mr. Superintendent Holland that the defendant had applied on two separate occasions for a temporary transfer, and was each time refused.

Mr. Page, of Wolverhampton, who appeared for the defendant, said his client was not guilty of the charge preferred against him. The defendant was only the manager of the house for the tenant, Mrs. Bromley, who agreed that he should live rent free there. Mrs. Bromley had throughout been in constant attendance at the house, serving across the counter and receiving money from the customers. The position of the defendant was really that of manager, and would remain as such until the license was transferred to the defendant or someone else.

This statement was corroborated by several witnesses, but it was also stated by Mr. Adams, cashier to Messrs. Tress and Turner, Wolverhampton, that the ale supplied to the house was in the defendant's name, and he paid the accounts.

The Bench considered the case proved, and imposed a fine of 40s and costs."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/7/1885

"Thomas Hughes, of the COTTAGE SPRING beerhouse, Queen Street, Moxley, was fined 40s and costs, for selling beer without a license."

It was 'virtually void' in August 1887, being occupied by a private family.

CROSS KEYS

Dangerfield Lane, DARLASTON

OWNERS

John Teece

LICENSEES

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 27/10/1860 - Advert

"Sale at Darlaston. CROSS KEYS, Dangerfields Lane. On Monday and Tuesday Next, October 29 and 30. Mr. R. Heseltine will Sell by Auction (by order of the Executors of the late Mr. John Teece, deceased). All the Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, about 300 Gallons Home-brewed Ale, Pit Tools, Horses, Carts, Harness, Horse Gear, and other Effects, on the Premises as above.

Sale will commence each day at Eleven o'clock punctually.

The Horses and Carts will be sold on Tuesday, at One o'clock.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, at his Offices, Midland Counties Auction Rooms, opposite the Market Place, Bilston."

AND

"Sale of Freehold Property, at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday, November 13th.

Mr. Richard Heseltine will Sell by Auction (by order of the Executors of the late Mr. John Teece, deceased).

All those Two Freehold Dwelling Houses, recently converted into one commodious Public House, known as the CROSS KEYS, Dangerfields Lane, Darlaston, containing Bar, Tap Room, Parlour, Smoke Room, large Club Room, five Sleeping Rooms, Cellars, and Brewhouse, with Stable and Malt Room in the rear, which may be converted into an additional Dwelling House, if required, there being a convenient Side Entrance, &c.

The Sale will take place at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely.

Auctioneer's Offices, Midland Counties Auction Rooms, opposite the Market Place, Bilston."

CROSS PISTOLS

Great Croft Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Penrice [1847] – [1862]

Lucy Penrice [1867]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/4/1846

"Wednesbury Police. Tuesday, April 21.....

George Penrice was charged with assaulting James Penrice, his brother. It appeared that the complainant lived in a house which he rented from his brother. On Saturday last he went out for a walk with his wife, and met with Job Humpage, whom he invited to supper. While they were together in the house, *George Penrice* came in, and asked Humpage to pay him the money he owed him, and before he had time to return an answer, he knocked him down, and beat him severely. James Penrice interfered, and told his brother that he would not allow any such conduct in his house, upon which the defendant began to beat him also. The Bench fined him £3 and expenses, and dismissed a cross summons against the complainant."

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1847

"*George Penrice* was fined 10s and costs, for having his house open after hours, on the 11th instant, at Darlaston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/4/1847

"*George Penrice*, a publican, was fined 20s and costs, for having his house open at two o'clock on Sunday morning at Darlaston."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/10/1848

“At Wednesbury Public Office, on Wednesday, before the Rev. Isaac Clarkson, a man named John Foster, who said he came from Birmingham, was charged with selling spirits without a license, upon the information of Mr. John Taylor, an excise officer stationed at Darlaston. On the previous day the prisoner had gone into the house of a person named *Penrice*, at Darlaston, and was in the act of selling the inmates some whisky, coloured so as to pass for brandy, when the excise officer dropped in, and having ascertained his business, took him into custody and gave him in charge to the police at Wednesbury. The Bench fined the defendant in the mitigated penalty of £25 and in default committed him to Stafford prison for three months.”

Birmingham Journal 14/9/1850 - Advert

“Freehold Dwelling Houses, Building Land, and Premises, at Darlaston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Enoch Bruerton (by the direction of the Trustees for Sale under the will of the late Mr. Job Wilkes, deceased), at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Cock Street, Darlaston, on Monday Next, the 16th day of September, at Six o'clock in the evening.....

Great Croft Street.

Lot 4. Four Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the Brewhouse, two Shops, Out-buildings, Yard, Well of Water, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in Great Croft Street, and now occupied by *George Penrice*, Retail Brewer (who holds two Dwelling Houses), George Reynolds, and Benjamin Webb. Yearly Rental, £27 6s.”

1851 Census

Great Croft Street

- [1] *George Penrice* (33), gunlock filer and publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Lucia Penrice* (38), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Phebe Penrice* (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *John Penrice* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Ann Penrice* (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Charles Penrice* (4), son, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Elizabeth Penrice* (3), daughter, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/10/1851

“*George Penrice*, retail brewer, of Darlaston, for keeping his house open beyond the time allowed by law, was, having been previously convicted of a similar offence, fined 40s and costs. The same party was admitted to bail to answer a charge, on the 28th inst, of having robbed Samuel Astley, of Darlaston, of 25s.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/1/1852

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

George Penrice was charged with stealing £1 5s 6d from Samuel Askey, at Darlaston.

Mr. Vaughan appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Kettle defended the prisoner.

It appeared that on the evening of October 18 the prosecutor entered a liquor-shop, where he remained about twenty minutes; he counted his money, £1 7s 6d, on leaving the shop. About twenty yards from the shop there was a crowd; the prisoner came out of it and struck Wilkes, and afterwards struck the prosecutor; he struck again; they both fell down, and a scuffle took place; the prisoner got his thumb in his mouth and bit it to the bone. The prisoner then put his hand into the pocket where he had his money and pulled it out; in pulling it out some of the money fell upon the ground. As soon as he loosed him he got up, and found he had only 2s left in his pocket. The next morning he gave information to the police, and he was apprehended the same morning.

The defence was to the effect that the companion of Askey was the person who first commenced the disturbance; that Askey, after the affray was over, said he was thankful he had not lost his money.

The evidence for the prosecution and defence was of the most contradictory nature. Verdict, not guilty.”

London Gazette 5/6/1855

“Whereas a Petition of *George Penrice*, at present and for twelve years now last past residing in Great

Croft-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, and during the whole of that time carrying on the trade or business of a Retail Brewer, and also employed as a Gun Lock Filer, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Walsall, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *George Penrice*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided the said *George Penrice* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 15th of June instant, at ten in the forenoon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors' assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *George Penrice*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Frederic Fuhrmann Clarke, Clerk of the said Court, at his office in Walsall, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent."

London Gazette 3/7/1855

"In the Matter of the Petition of *George Penrice*, at present and for twelve years now last past residing in Great Croft-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, and during the whole of that time carrying on the trade or business of a Retail Brewer, and also employed as a Gun Lock Filer, an Insolvent Debtor. Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Walsall, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 20th day of July instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/3/1856

"Job Bars of Darlaston can be matched against Ambrose Cawser of Bilston, to run 130 yards, for £5 or £10 a side, at Aston Cross. Money ready at Mr. *George Penrice's*, CROSS PISTOLS, Greatorex [sic] Street, Darlaston."

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/5/1857

"*George Penrice*, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, was convicted of a savage assault upon a poor infirm old woman named Mary Terry, and was fined 40s and expenses, or two months to hard labour."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/5/1857

"William Bayley of Darlaston can be accommodated at Mr. *George Penrice's* any time, by three of his own townsmen, viz, Old Bugle will give him two yards in 100 or three in 120, for £10 a side; or Jemmy Jobson will give him three yards in 100, for £15 a side; or Jack Motley will accommodate him from one to 10 score yards level, for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready at Mr. *George Penrice's*, CROSS PISTOLS, Great Croft Street, Darlaston."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/3/1860

"W. Nash of Darlaston will fight any man within fifty miles of that place, at 7st 2lb or 3lb, for £5, £10, or £20 a side. Man and money ready at *G. Prince's* [sic], CROSS PISTOLS, Great Croft Croft [sic], Darlaston."

Birmingham Journal 14/4/1860 - Advert

"Freehold Houses, in Great Croft Street, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Enoch Bruerton, on Wednesday, the 25th day of April, 1860, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Cock Street, in Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All those Three Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the Brewhouse, Shopping, Pigsties, Yard, and Premises thereto belonging and occupied therewith, situated in Great Croft Street, in Darlaston aforesaid, one of which said Messuages is used as a Retail Beerhouse, called the CROSS PISTOLS, and is occupied by *George Penrice*, and the others are in the occupation of John Guest and another.

The whole of the Premises produce a yearly rental of £30 11s.

Further particulars may be obtained of Mr. J. F. Adams, Attorney; or of the Auctioneer, both of Darlaston."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1860

“To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Magistrates and Chief-constable have deemed it their duty to take steps to put a stop to it. There can be no doubt that such steps have been adopted with due care. The police, after going round in their uniform and finding that they could not thus detect publicans in allowing the offence, recourse was had to sending constables round in private clothes yesterday about twenty-three summonses were returnable. The Magistrates expressed a very strong opinion upon the subject, and marked by the severity of the fines their sense of the importance of the movement, and the determination they had come to put down practices which had so corrupt and demoralising an influence upon the community. The following cases were heard.....

George Penrice, of the CROSS PISTOLS public house, was charged with allowing ‘push penny’ to be played on the 30th March. The police swore that the landlady was in at the time, but defendant said that his wife was in London that day. Mr. Sheldon submitted that this case must be dismissed, as it was not brought home to defendant. It transpired, however, that a table marked for the game was in the house; but defendant said that he had had the marks planed off. Fined 40s and costs.

In the course of the hearing of these cases, Mr. Leigh made some observations condemnatory of the practice of publicans and beerhouse keepers throwing all sorts of attractions and blandishments around their houses with the view of inducing husbands and sons to go and spend their time and money, and neglect the duties of life – the maintenance of their wives and families, and the other obligations which devolved upon them. It would be absurd to inflict light fines.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/5/1860 - Advert

“Found, on April 11th, a Black Newfoundland Dog. If it is not owned within seven days from this date (May 7th), it will be sold to pay expenses.

Apply to Mr. *G. Penrice*, Great Croft Street.”

1861 Census

Great Croft Street – CROSS PISTOLS

- [1] *George Penrice* (45), gunlock filer and retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Lucy Penrice* (48), wife, housewife, born Darlaston;
- [3] John Penrice (18), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [4] Charles Penrice (16), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [5] Mary Penrice (17), daughter, servant, born Darlaston;
- [6] Elizabeth Penrice (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

George Penrice, retailer of beer, Great Croft Street. [1862]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/3/1862

“J. Clarke will run any of the following men: J. Barrs 120 yards, if he will give a yard start; or he will give W. Platt a yard in the like distance, or run D. Howell 120 yards level; either match for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *G. Penrice*’s, CROSS PISTOLS, Great Croft Street, Darlaston. First come first served.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/1/1866

“Penrice of Darlaston will make a match to fight Jem Jinks, for from £10 to £25 a side. Money ready at the CROSS PISTOLS, Great Croft Street, Darlaston, or at J. Holden’s, Walsall, any night next week. *Bells Life* to be final stakeholder.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1867

“Yesterday, Mr. W. H. Phillips (for Mr. Hooper) held an enquiry at the OLD PARK INN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, touching the death of Thomas Bayley, a scrap dealer, whose lifeless body was found by the road-side, near Messrs. Lloyd’s, Kings Hill Works, early on Tuesday morning last. Mr. H. Jackson attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of the friends of the deceased, and it was shown that, when found, the body was minus hat and coat, and that no money was in the pockets of the garments remaining on the corpse. The enquiry was then adjourned until Tuesday next, to allow of a post mortem examination being made.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/9/1867

“On Tuesday Mr. W. H. Philips, deputy coroner, resumed an inquiry at the OLD PARK TAVERN, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Thomas Bayley, who had been found dead in the Darlaston road during the night of the 26th inst, without coat, vest, or hat, and with his pockets empty.

Lucy Penrice, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, said the deceased was well known to her. On the Monday in question he was at her house about two hours, leaving at eleven o'clock. He had two or three pints of ale. She noticed that he frequently went in and out of the house, as if there was something wrong. She saw in his possession a half-sovereign and a half-crown.

Mr. C. W. Iliffe, surgeon, who had examined the deceased about an hour after death, said he noticed an old rupture on his right side. On Friday he made a post mortem examination of the body. There were marks on the left arm, as if the deceased had been held there, and there was a bruise on the left shoulder. There were no marks on the head. The brain and lungs were much congested. He considered that death resulted from apoplexy, the result of natural causes. The marks on the arm, he believed, were received previous to death. The Coroner: If the deceased had been in his usual health, though tipsy, and his death had been occasioned by his being attacked and robbed, do you think you would have found greater marks of violence? – Witness: I think so.

By a Juror: Witness was inclined to think that drinking was the cause of the apoplexy.

The Coroner here remarked that there must be some direct evidence of violence before the jury could return any verdict but that the man died from natural causes. The fact of the deceased being robbed was most extraordinary.

A juryman thought it was probable that deceased had himself thrown off his coat.

The Coroner said that even if they assumed the deceased had thrown away his coat they could hardly suppose he removed his money.

Sergeant Steele said he had some information as to the disposal of a coat corresponding to the one worn by the deceased. He then called John Stych and Edward Humpage, two miners, who spoke to the deceased having accompanied them and two other companions to the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, on the night in question, and having left the inn, followed by two men referred to.

Ellen Wardman, barmaid at Mr. Perry's, the CASTLE INN, said she knew the deceased, who was in the habit of calling at the CASTLE. She last saw him alive at about half-past eleven o'clock on the night in question, in their liquor vault. He was 'fresh,' but talked sensibly, and was able to take care of himself, she thought. He treated a woman at the time. She saw silver and copper in his hand which amounted to about a sovereign. He left alone. He had called several times during the day, and once she believed Mr. Perry had ordered him out in consequence of a disturbance. She believed that Mr. Perry did not take hold of him. The Coroner considered that as there was a possibility of obtaining further evidence it would not be well to return a verdict that day. The jury concurred, and the inquest was adjourned until Thursday week.”

[At the resumed inquest the coroner considered that the jury could return no other verdict than that 'The deceased was found dead, having died from apoplexy, but that whether it arose from natural causes, excitement, or violence, there was no evidence to show.' The jury returned a verdict to that effect.]

CROWN

Croft Bank, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Bayley [1822]

CROWN AND CROSS GUNS

23+24, (24), New Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Corbett
Atkinsons Ltd. [1939]

LICENSEES

William Corbett [1834] – **1863**);
George P Butler (**1863** – [1875]
Mrs. Hedges [1879]
Edwin Haynes [1878] – [1885]
Samuel Haynes [1889] – [1911]
William Winsper [1912]
James Loynes [1916]
Samuel Fred Jesse [1919] – **1921**);
Walter Loynes (**1921** – **1925**);
Roland Bateman (**1925** – **1932**);
John Henry Powell (**1932** – **1939**);
Mrs. Hannah Elizabeth Powell (**1939** – **1946**);
John Henry Powell (**1946** – **1949**);
George Henry Butler (**1949** – **1960**):

NOTES

24, New Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911]
23+24, New Street [1939]

CROSS GUNS [1832], [1834], [1861], [1861], [1863], [1871], [1873], [1878], [1881], [1885], [1886], [1888], [1889], [1891], [1893], [1905], [1909]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/11/1832

“John Foster, a respectable looking young man, was charged by Malachy Reding with assaulting him on the high-road, near Darlaston, and stealing from him 15s and his hat. The prosecutor deposed that on Saturday night week he was going from Darlaston to Walsall, when he was overtaken by the prisoner. He (Reding) had been drinking at the CROSS GUNS, Darlaston; and whether he was met or overtaken he could not say, as he was in liquor, but not stupidly drunk. The prisoner took him on the Willenhall Road, and in a lone-some place, knocked him down, and took from his left hand waistcoat pocket 15s in silver, and his hat. He lay all the night in the wet grass, and in the morning returned to Darlaston, where he saw the prisoner at the CROSS GUNS and ‘took to him.’ The prisoner was sitting on a table, and said, ‘I’ll write your name in my book in large letters.’ He said he knew where his hat was and could find it, and afterwards asked him (Red-

ing) what he wanted. He said he should be content with the money he had lost and his hat; upon which the prisoner walked out of the house.

Mr. Partridge, the constable, deposed as to the willingness with which the prisoner came, when he sent for him, and said that he bore a very good character.

The prisoner was here asked if he wished to say any thing to the charge, but on being solemnly warned by the Bench, and advised by his friends not to commit himself, he resolved, apparently against his will, to remain silent.

The prosecutor was strictly questioned by the magistrates, the Rev. J. Clare, and S. S. Briscoe, Esq., and it appeared that he had not long resided at Darlaston, but that he had worked some time as a carpenter at Walsall, where, he said, he was well known. Foster was then committed to Stafford gaol.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/3/1833

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

John Foster was indicted for assaulting Malachi Reding, at Darlaston, on the 28th of October, and stealing from his person 15s, his property.

The prosecutor deposed that on the night in question, he met with the prisoner at a public house in Darlaston. Being rather fresh he begged he would put him in the way to Walsall. To this the prisoner agreed, but instead of doing so, the prosecutor stated, that he took him to a lonely part of the Willenhall road, where he first knocked him down, and then robbed him. Prosecutor acknowledged that after meeting with this treatment, he got over a gate into an adjoining field, and slept quietly till seven the next morning.

The prisoner brought witnesses, who swore that Reding was so drunk he could not tell what he was doing; that he had said he could not swear to the man who robbed him, he was so drunk. And that he had offered to compromise the matter. Four witnesses spoke to the prisoner’s character. He was acquitted.”

William Corbett, beer retailer, New Street. [1841]

1841 Census

New Street

[1] *William Corbett* (45), lock filer, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Corbett* (45), born Staffordshire;

[3] *John Corbett* (20), fitter, born Staffordshire;

[4] *Nancy Corbett* (11), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Elizabeth Harper* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 2/9/1848

“On Wednesday last a Special Sessions was held Application for new licenses.....

John Penrice, *George Walford*, *William Corbett*, and *Thomas Tysall*, retail brewers, Darlaston, applied for spirit licenses, but the whole of the applications were be refused.”

William Corbett, beer retailer and gunlock filer, New Street. [1849], [1850]

Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850

“The annual licensing day for the hundred of Offlow South was held on Wednesday last.....

There were no less than fifty-five new applications from retail brewers for spirit licenses.....

William Corbett, New Street, Darlaston. Refused.”

1851 Census

New Street

[1] *William Corbett* (59), retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Corbett* (56), wife, born Eccleshall, Staffordshire;

[3] *Nancy Corbett* (21), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Nancy Tonks* (15), house servant, born *Mary Corbett*:

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“On Wednesday, the annual special sessions for renewal of licenses was held.....

By an arrangement (duly announced in the *Journal* at the time) the consideration of the granting of new licenses is adjourned until the 24th September. This arrangement has been universally approved of, and will give proper time for the due and necessary inquiries, which step has been undertaken by the respective Magistrates best acquainted with each locality. We give the names of the applicants for new licenses, fifty-one in number, within one or two of the same amount as those of last year.....

William Booth, New Street, Darlaston, retail brewer.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1851

“On Wednesday last, according to notice, the adjourned special sessions was held at Great Barr....

The applications for spirit licenses resulted in the granting of eight, out of a list of fifty-one retail brewers and others, who had asked for the privilege.....”

[Not granted.]

1861 Census

New Street – CROSS GUNS

- [1] *William Corbett* (69), victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Corbett* (65), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Elenor Madeley* (19), general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Rebecca Smith* (61), visitor, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Mary Morriss* (40), visitor, born Darlaston:

George Butler was also builder. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1872]

He was described as a joiner and builder. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1866 - Advert

“To Parents. Wanted, an Apprentice to the Building Trade.

Apply to Mr. *George Butler*, Builder, Darlaston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/11/1870 - Advert

“Stolen, or Strayed Away, a Brown Mare, aged, 15 hands high, with hair rubbed off neck, and white hind fetlock, shod with leathers in fore feet; from a field at Tame Bridge, parish of West Bromwich, Staffordshire. Whoever has found the same, return it to *George Butler*, Builder, Darlaston, shall be handsomely Rewarded for trouble.”

1871 Census

New Street – CROSS GUNS

- [1] *George P. Butler* (34), licensed victualler, carpenter and builder, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Fanny Butler* (33), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Jane Chancellor* (23), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 2/8/1873

“Darlaston Gun-Lock Filers.

It having been brought under the notice of the Trades Council that a dispute had arisen between the employers and workmen in this trade, a deputation was appointed by the council to meet the employers, and a deputation of the workmen, and the secretary of the council was instructed to communicate with the employers, and request them to attend such meeting, which was held at the CROSS GUNS public house, Darlaston, on Friday week. There was a pretty good attendance.

Mr. S. Welsh, president of the Trades Council was appointed to the chair, and after explaining the purpose of the meeting, requested the secretary of the Gun-lock Filers' Society to explain what steps had been taken to ensure the attendance of the employers.

The Secretary explained that, as it might be considered beneath the dignity of the employers to comply

with a circular from the workmen in the trade, the secretary of the council, in the name of the council, had invited the employers, but that Mr. Corbett, whose case might be considered to form the key of the whole question – as the settlement of it would decide the whole of the dispute – was absent, and from some cause or other, best known to himself, had sent no apology. The secretary here called attention to a letter written by Mr. Corbett, and published in the *Birmingham Gazette* of Thursday, the 17th ult, and also a letter he (the secretary) had written in reply. In his letter Mr. Corbett stated that the men who worked machines for gins could earn more by 20 per cent than those who made locks from the black ones, and that the work done by machinery, for which he charged 1½d, could not be done by the workmen themselves under 2d. These, with several other statements made by Mr. Corbett, they (the gun-lock filers) were not prepared to accept. But, as their secretary, he felt himself in duty bound, for the interest of the cause, to exercise a little patience in preference to indulging in promoting hostilities. He should, therefore, for the present adhere to the principles laid down in his letter of the 21st ult, in the hope that the kind intervention of the Trades Council might yet be able to adjust the existing difference.

The Chairman expressed his regret that Mr. Corbett had failed either to attend or send a note explaining the cause of his absence. He (the chairman) felt satisfied that had Mr. Corbett been present, the matter might have been very speedily and satisfactorily settled, because if what Mr. Corbett charged for work done by his machine was fair and reasonable, all that remained to be done was to take this as the basis for calculating what should be the price paid for making the lock. Thus, if what Mr. Corbett said would occupy a man a quarter of an hour, and 1½d, was a reasonable charge, then it followed that for every piece of work requiring the same amount of skill, time and labour, 1½d ought to be paid.

The question was then referred to the next council meeting, and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1873 - Advert

“Handsome Pony for Sale, 12½ hands, fast and quiet. £18. Owner no further use. Also, Trap and Harness, together or separate. Price altogether £35.

Apply, *George P. Butler*, Builder, Darlaston.”

An inquest was held here in June 1875, resulting in a verdict of Manslaughter – see OLD CROWN.

Midland Examiner and Times 24/7/1875 - Advert

“Sale of very Valuable Freehold Public Houses and other Property, at Darlaston.

By Mr. E. B. Scholefield (by order of the Trustees for sale under the will of William Corbett, deceased), at the WHITE LION INN, King Street, Darlaston, on Monday, August 9th, 1875, at seven o’clock in the evening.....

Lot 3. All that well-known freehold Public House called the CROWN AND CROSS GUNS INN, situate in New Street, Darlaston aforesaid, containing bar, bar parlour, parlour, kitchen, 2nd kitchen. Very large club room, good bedroom accommodation, extensive brewhouse and commodious outbuildings.

There is plenty of land at the rear well adapted for carrying on a lucrative brewing business, and there is an excellent supply of good water. This valuable property is in the occupation of Mr. *Butler* at the yearly rent of £32.

An also all that messuage or tenement (adjoining the CROWN AND CROSS GUNS INN) being No.23, New Street aforesaid.....”

Midland Examiner and Times 28/8/1875

“Sketch of a Black Country Wedding.

Now and then South Staffordshire witnesses scenes which take us back to those days when the population of the Black Country had not begun to emerge from the rude uncultured state which formerly characterised the dwellers in these towns of coal and iron-days which even the very names of various localities bring back forcibly. What district can boast of its Sodom and Gomorrah, of its Katchems Corner, of its Hell Lane and Fireholes. When reciting such Black Country titles it is well to remember that the district also had its Gospel End. The habit of giving outrageous and outlandish names did not prevail with regard to localities only, but in many districts individuals and families were better known by some nickname than by their own. A

family of this kind has lived in Darlaston for several generations.

In the days when bull-baiting was a notable feature of the Darlaston Wake, a well-known Darlastonian of the period became famous for the part he played in pinning the bulls, and, in time, he was better known by the soubriquet of 'Pinner' than by his real surname. A member of this famous 'Pinner' family, who is generally known in the town as 'Billy Pinner,' recently showed the instinct of his breed by biting a man's nose off. It is not, however, to Billy Pinner's atrocious act of cannibalism that we wish now to draw attention, but to Billy's sister. 'Joyce Pinner' is a damsel of upwards of sixty summers. Her complexion has not been improved by spending that time amid the smokes of Darlaston. Some 12 or 14 years ago she quarrelled with her husband, and consoled herself with the companionship of a bricklayers labourer named Job Nightingale, but who was, and is best known as 'Joby Bouncer.' For many years Bouncer and Pinner lived together to the disgrace of themselves, and disgust of the neighbours. Some years ago the husband of Joyce died, and Joby being taken ill about the same time, the clergyman of the parish pressed him while ill in bed to be married, and offered to perform the ceremony without charging any fee. But Joby would have none of the clergyman's interference, and refused to be wed. Eccentric in manners as in habits, the couple have always been well-known in town. Often pressed to get married, Joby and Joyce yielded at last.

On Monday, Darlaston was in a state of ferment, which no royal marriage has ever caused in that typical Black Country town. The master of Joby said if he would be married he would buy Joyce a new cap for the occasion, but if he would not do that, or discontinue living in adultery, he would not employ Joby any more. His workmates collected amongst them enough to pay the fees, and on Monday the bells of Darlaston Old Church rang out a merry peal, the ringers, we understand, giving their services gratuitously. Many wondered what fashionable wedding was about to take place, and New Street was soon more lively than the Wakefield when it became known that Joby Bouncer and Joyce Pinner were going to be married.

William Horn, alias 'Duckey,' and Duckey's better half, alias 'Fiddler,' were the attendant friends of the blooming bride and gallant knight of the hod and the mortar board. Whether by special instruction of the Darlaston Local Board does not appear, but the local police force mustered in strength to keep the way for the happy pair. Soon every part of the church was crowded, many standing on the seats, eagerly watching the celebration of the nuptials of gentle Joyce and tender Joby, some injury being done to the interior of the Church. But conspicuous among the crowd was the brother of the bride, Billy Pinner, for he mounted the pulpit, and announced he was going to preach, and would give out his text. When the officiating clergyman entered the Church, Joyce, who was the custodian of the ring which was to be placed on her tapering finger by Joby, eagerly offered it to the clergyman, who intimated that he did not require that so soon. When asked if she would have Bouncer for her wedded husband, she shouted out 'Yes; I wull.'

On the conclusion of the ceremony, they with difficulty made their way to the CROWN AND CROSS GUNS, on arriving at which public house, Joby turned to the crowd, and elated at the joyous event, cried out, as he elevated both his white cotton gloves in the air, 'I've got her, an' I'm glad I have.' It appears Joby had some cause for his triumph, for it is said that another bricklayer's clerk had been aspiring to the hand of the fair Joyce who also turned round to the Darlastonian throng and shouted 'Aye now I can make Joby keep me, I cudner before.' So ended the marriage of Joby Bouncer and Joyce Pinner, the one a true type of the bricklayers oddman and the other a bride whose beauty no poet is likely to describe in glowing verse. The whole of the wake festivities, the dancing bear, the wonderful fish, and all the marvels of the fair have been put in the shade by this event, and the wake will be remembered as the time when 'Joby Bouncer' led 'Joyce Pinner' to the altar, and when 'Ducksey' gave away the blushing bride."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1878 - Births

"On the 10th inst, at the CROSS GUNS, New Street, Darlaston, the wife of *Edwin Haynes* of a daughter."

1881 Census

24, New Street – CROSS GUNS

[1] *Edwin Haynes* (29), grocer and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Charlotte Haynes* (28), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Miranda C. Haynes* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Maria Gayton* (30), cousin, barmaid, born Wolverton, Buckinghamshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 9/5/1883

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, Thomas Chester, cattle dealer, of Darlaston Green, was charged under two summonses with contraventions of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, by removing cattle – to wit, swine – in Darlaston without a license, Darlaston being a proclaimed district.

The evidence of Police-sergeant Curtis and Police-constable Clark showed that on April 16 defendant took to Darlaston by rail from Carmarthenshire eighteen pigs; and further that, on the 19th April, he removed six pigs from his premises to those of *Edwin Haynes*, a publican in Darlaston, without having obtained a magistrate’s order.

Edwin Haynes, publican, deposed that he purchased the six pigs as stated, and that he subsequently sold four of them to another man. Since so selling them he had learnt that one or two had died from swine fever. Chester in defence pleaded that he was not aware of the necessity for obtaining a license prior to the removal of swine.

The learned Stipendiary pointed out that defendant had rendered himself liable to a penalty of £125. For the first offence he would be fined £20, and costs, and for the second £1 and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/4/1885 - Advert

“A Young, New-milched Cow for Sale; suit private family.
Apply, CROSS GUNS INN, New Street, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/10/1885

“A general meeting of the nut and bolt makers connected with the Darlaston branch of the National Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers was held on Wednesday evening, at the CROSS GUNS, New Street, Darlaston.

Mr. George Carter, of Darlaston, presided, and in opening the meeting remarked that a federation of all the trades in the United Kingdom would be one of the best things they could have (hear, hear).

Mr. R. Juggins, secretary of the association, then delivered an address, in which he adverted to the question of female labour in the Black Country, observing that it was one which needed to be dealt with by legislation.....

The question of machinery at present introduced into the nut and bolt trade, and its effects upon hand labour, was also discussed.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/12/1885 - Advert

Wanted, a good General Servant, aged about 18 or 20.
Apply, Mrs. *E. Haynes*, CROSS GUNS, Darlaston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/1/1886

“On Monday evening there was a large attendance of members of Court Herberts Park Royal Rangers of the Ancient Order of Foresters, at the CROSS GUNS INN, New Street, Darlaston, to witness the initiation of Mr. Wilson Lloyd, MP, as an honorary member of the Order. After the initiation ceremony the health of the newly-made member was proposed by Chief Ranger Stambridge, seconded by Past Chief Ranger Pritchard, and drunk with the usual musical honours. Mr. Wilson Lloyd returned thanks in a very effective speech, in which he referred to the great good such societies did throughout the country, and trusted that Forestry would flourish and the number of members increase. Messrs. Joseph Yardley, A. H. Partridge, and T. Y. Yates were also initiated as honorary members. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/10/1888

“On Thursday night a meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the CROSS GUNS, New Street, Darlaston, for the purpose of considering the advisability of asking the employers for an advance in wages. Mr. Juggins presided, and suggested that the wisest course to adopt would be to convene a meeting of the whole of the employers in Darlaston to discuss the question with a deputation from the workmen’s association. After some discussion a resolution was passed instructing Mr. Juggins to notify each employer in the Darlaston district that the workmen had decided to ask for an advance in wages, and that representatives of the workmen’s association will be prepared to meet the employers on the 16th of November to explain why an

advance is demanded.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1889

“Last night a meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the CROSS GUNS INN, New Street, Darlaston – Mr. Juggins presiding – for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken with those employers who were present at a recent conference should they refuse to concede the advance of 5 per cent from the 1st January agreed upon at such conference.

The Chairman read letters which he had received from Mr. A. Keen and other employers with reference to the proposed formation of a conciliation board, and dwelt on the importance of such a board as a means of enabling employers and workmen to work together harmoniously. He also referred to the letters which recently appeared in the *Post* as to the condition of the nut and bolt makers, and denounced the writer’s statements as to the men being able to earn 38s a week and as to other matters as untrue. Several of the men said the average of the best men would not be more than 25s per week, others stating that 15s would be the general average. He said enquiries which he had made during the day showed a more promising state of things than he had expected. All the principal concerns in Darlaston would give the advance, and the difficulty would be with the smaller employers.

Two resolutions were then passed unanimously – one that the men should cease work at the factories of any employers who were present at the conference and who might refuse to pay the advance; and the second to the effect that if those employers who were not present at the conference should refuse the advance seven days’ notice should be given by their workmen.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1889

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper (coroner), held an inquest at the CROSS GUNS INN, New Street, Darlaston, on the body of James Plant (49), of the Leys, miner, who lost his life at a pit belonging to the Woods Bank Colliery Company, on Thursday morning last. Mr. Pickering, assistant mines inspector for the district; Mr. A. Rose, one of the partners; and Mr. A. Parton, mining engineer, were in attendance.

The widow of the deceased identified the body, and said her husband had never suffered from fits, faintness, or giddiness.

Isaac Forbes said he and the deceased were working at clearing away some rubbish in the shaft on Thursday morning, for the purpose of enabling them to get from the thick-coal seam to the heathen coal below. At about eleven o’clock they started to go up the shaft in a bowk, and when about five yards up the deceased cried out, ‘I’m going,’ and immediately tumbled out of the bowk. Witness called out ‘Short,’ and the engineer lowered the him to the bottom again, where he found the deceased doubled up, and apparently dying. The latter was taken to the surface, and attended by Dr. M’Graine, but he soon expired.

It was a common habit of miners to ride ‘straddle-legged’ on the bowk instead of in it; and the deceased, who was doing this, might have had a fit, or his hands might have been so numbed from working in the water at the bottom that he could not hold on.

Mr. Pickering said every provision of the Mines Regulation Act had been properly carried out, and the ventilation was perfect.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

It was incidentally mentioned that there would be no insurance payment, the pit not having been working long enough.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/5/1889 - Advert

“Pigs. A grand lot of Stores for Sale.

Apply, *Haynes*, CROWN AND CROSS GUNS INN, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/7/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, good General Servant, used to public house, age about 20; no children.

Apply, Mrs. *S. Haynes*, CROWN AND CROSS GUNS, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/9/1889

“Last night a crowded meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the CROSS GUNS, New Street, Darlast-

on, for the purpose of hearing a report from the members of the Wages Board, which recently met at the Queens Hotel, Birmingham. The report was accepted as satisfactory, and the members of the Board were instructed to urge the claims of the operatives for an advance of 10 per cent.”

1891 Census

24, New Street – CROSS GUNS INN

[1] *Samuel Haynes* (33), publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Haynes (33), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Ada Butler (21), sister-in-law, assistant barmaid, born Darlaston;

[4] Margaret Price (23), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Dancing, music, and singing.....

Samuel Haynes, CROSS GUNS, the Green.....

(the license in each of these cases being for six days, and the dancing to cease at ten o’clock at night).”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall.....

Samuel Haynes, the CROWN AND CROSS GUNS, New Street.”

Smethwick Telephone 18/3/1893

“A crowded meeting of the nut and bolt makers was held at the CROSS GUNS INN, Darlaston, on Thursday evening, to take into consideration the wages question. A resolution was submitted, and carried unanimously, inviting Mr. R. Juggins to allow himself to be nominated as one of the candidates for the representation of Darlaston on the Walsall Board of Guardians. Mr. Juggins was also thanked for the services he had rendered the community on the Local Board and School Board.”

Wednesbury Herald 2/11/1895

“Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers. A meeting, under the auspices of the above association, was held on Thursday night, in the CROSS GUNS. Mr. J. P. Price presided over a large audience.....

It was resolved to send a deputation to Messrs. Cotterill in reference to that firm employing men under the list price.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1895

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. Parkes, Guy, and Yardley – Charles Taylor, watchmaker, Walsall, was charged with having fraudulently converted to his own use a watch, value £3, the property of Aaron Butler, 1, Gladstone Street, Darlaston, and another watch, value £3 3s, the property of Arthur Taylor, grocer, High Heath, Shelfield. Mr. W. J. Corbett appeared for the defence.

The evidence in support of the first charge was to the effect that the watch was entrusted to the prisoner to be repaired on the 21st January last, and that on the following day he pledged it at the shop of Messrs. Cordwell and Herrick, Walsall. In the second case the evidence was that the watch was handed to the prisoner in March, 1894, for repairs, and was subsequently sold by the prisoner for £1, to *Samuel Haynes*, CROWN

AND CROSS GUNS INN, Darlaston. The prisoner was apprehended by Police-constable Green on Saturday, at Walsall, on a warrant taken out on the 30th April. In explanation of the delay in the execution of the warrant, it was stated that on the 29th April the accused was committed for trial from Cannock, and lay in gaol fourteen weeks awaiting trial, being unable to find bail. Then he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment. On his liberation he was rearrested and taken before the Walsall magistrates, who committed him to the quarter sessions, where he was bound over by the Recorder to come up for judgment when called upon.

For the defence, Mr. Corbett urged that this was a cruel case of persecution, not prosecution, the man being hunted down by the police and prevented from making a fresh start in life, although he had really expiated all his offences by the sentence imposed at Stafford, and had given information which had led to the recovery of all the watches which he had misappropriated. The magistrates could not deal with the cases, but he suggested that they should release the accused upon the smallest possible recognisances.

The magistrates committed the prisoner for trial, but consented to accept bail, the prisoner in £5, and one surety in a like sum in each case."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/11/1895

"Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions Pled Guilty.....

Charles Taylor (on bail), theft of a watch at Darlaston in January, the property of Aaron Butler, three months, a second charge of a similar nature, committed at Brownhills in February, not being proceeded with."

1901 Census

24, New Street

- [1] *Samuel Haynes* (43), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Haynes* (43), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *George Mason* (10), visitor, born East Hartlepool, Durham;
- [4] *Comfort Toovey* (15), general servant, born Darlaston:

County Advertiser 29/4/1905

"At the Salvation Army Barracks, Cock Street, Darlaston, the Midland Counties Trades Federation opened its 19th Annual Conference on Tuesday last.....

The delegates adjourned to lunch at the CROSS GUNS INN....."

Walsall Advertiser 16/1/1909 - Advert

"Strong Youth Wanted, assist in brewing, and make himself useful; local preferred.
Haynes, CROSS GUNS, Darlaston."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/9/1909 - Advert

"Wanted, a General Servant, about 20; good character.
Apply, Mrs. *Haynes*, CROSS GUNS, New Street, Darlaston."

1911 Census

24, New Street

- [1] *Samuel Haynes* (53), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Haynes* (53), wife, married 30 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Adam Butler* (37), brother-in-law, assistant brewer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *George Mason* (20), nephew, no occupation (grocer's assistant), born Hartlepool;
- [5] *Maggie McCarthy* (19), domestic servant, born Hill Top, West Bromwich:

William Winsper – see also NEW JUNCTION.

Samuel Fred Jesse – see also DOG AND PHEASANT.

Objections were raised to the renewal in February 1936 on the grounds of structural deficiency and unsuit-

ability.

The license was renewed, on 11th March 1936, after plans were submitted.

1939 Register

23+24, New Street – CROWN AND CROSS GUNS

[1] *Hannah Elizabeth Powell*, date of birth 14/8/1900, manageress, public house, married;

[3] Francis Joseph Powell, dob 23/7/1926, at school, single;

[4] John Henry Powell, dob 10/11/1898, RAF (LAC) 40515, married:

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

Rugeley Times 12/5/1951

“I would rather watch 11 triers than 11 stars,’ declared, Mr. G. Astley, a former West Bromwich Albion footballer, and now scout, when he addressed the Darlaston Amateur Football Club at their end of season supper at the CROWN AND CROSS GUNS, last Friday evening. He told the gathering of players, officials, friends and supporters that not all junior players can make the grade, as there is always something lacking, but everyone who gets a trial with a league club gets a square deal.

Among those who attended were Messrs. J. Brown, M. Fletcher, and D. Hughes, three staunch supporters of the club, who have seen nearly all the games the team has played in the Wolverhampton Amateur League.

Mr. G. Butler, a faithful home supporter was also present, as the players and officials discussed the mistakes they had made and the highlights during the season.”

It closed on 17th July 1960.

Demolished

DARTMOUTH ARMS

28, High Street, (28, Cock Street), (New Street) / Dorsett Road, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Enoch Bruerton [1861]

Richard Andrew Harper Ltd.

Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd. [1930]

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1966]

LICENSEES

Enoch Bruerton [1841] – [1865]

Edward Sivorn [1857] – [1858]

Isaiah Cotterell [1868] – **1869**;

A J Marchant (**1869 – 1870**);

James Bruerton (**1870 – [1880]**)

Enoch Bruerton [1881] – [1884]

William Carter [1886]

Charles Bryant [1891]

James Cotterell [1891]

Thomas Cotterill [1892]

John Potter [1893]
Thomas Colclough [1898]
John Foster [1898] – [1901]
Richard Andrew Harper [1901] – [1904]
James Weaver [1901] manager
William Matthews [1908]
Ernest Carter [1911]
Leo Fildes [1912]
Albert Atkiss [1916]
Mrs. Sarah Ann Purcell [1919] – **1925**);
John Robinson (**1925 – 1927**);
William Farley (**1927 – 1928**);
Ernest Johnson (**1928 – 1946**);
Colin Edwin Whitehouse (**1946 – 1950**);
James Henry Shelton (**1950 – 1954**);
James Norman Eves (**1954 – 1959**);
Walter Green (**1959 – 1965**);
Ernest Jarvis (**1965 – [1967]**)

NOTES

Cock Street [1841], [1850], [1851], [1860], [1861], [1862], [1865], [1868], [1869]
New Street [1845], [1849], [1850]
28, Cock Street [1881], [1891], [1892], [1904], [1908], [1911]
28, High Street [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]

It was known locally as the ‘Blazing Stump’ or the ‘Stump’.

1841 Census

Cock Street

- [1] *Enoch Bruerton* (25);
- [2] Elizabeth Bruerton (25);
- [3] Ann Bruerton (1);
- [4] John Bruerton (5 months);
- [5] Job Withers (15);
- [6] Elizabeth Evans (15), f.s.:

1851 Census

Cock Street

- [1] *Enoch Bruerton* (39), licensed victualler and auctioneer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Elizabeth Bruerton (36), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Ann Bruerton (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] Mary Bruerton (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *James Bruerton* (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Sarah Bruerton (3), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Harriet Bruerton (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] Elizabeth Bruerton (2 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [9] Elizabeth Clarkson (14) general servant, born Darlaston;
- [10] Emma Partridge (15), general servant, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/6/1854 - Advert

“Freehold Property, Catherines Cross, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Enoch Bruerton, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Cock Street, Darlaston, on Wednesday, the 28th June, 1854, at seven o'clock in the evening precisely, the following Freehold Property.....”

Birmingham Journal 17/6/1854

“Yesterday week an inquest was held before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Darlaston, on the body of John Wilkes, a boy about five years old, who was killed by the falling of a portion of an old house, situate in Blakemores Lane. The shaking caused by a passing cart is supposed to have been the immediate cause. The bricks fell on several other children, but fortunately none of them received fatal injuries. John Best Robinson, a screw maker, and John Lunn, miner, having given evidence as to the facts, various statements were then made as to the condition of the property.

Jabez Hemingsley, screw maker, of Darlaston, stated that some years ago he occupied a shop close to the house which had fallen. The owner of the shop, William Simcox, gave him charge of the house which had fallen to rent to any one who might wish to take it. He let it, and received the rent, which he paid over to Simcox's mother, who lived with her son at a butcher's shop, at West Bromwich. William Simcox told him (witness) the property belonged to him. He had been to Darlaston to look at the property many times. The chimney had been in a dangerous state ever since the room floors and walls fell down. He had many times ordered children off the premises. He had ten years since told Simcox what a bad state the premises were in. Simcox replied that he did not think he should lay any money out on the premises.

Samuel Haines, a screw forger, deposed that between three and four years ago he occupied the house. It was let to him by Jabez Hemingsley, to whom he paid his rent. He left because the house was in a dangerous state; some part of it fell down while he lived in it. He could see through the chimney in several places. The chimney was dangerous long before it fell.

Edwin Bruerton, builder, of Darlaston, corroborated the statement of the previous witnesses, as to how long the house had been in a dangerous state.

The Foreman here remarked that he thought Mr. Simcox treated the matter in a very cool manner; and he, with the consent of his brother Jurymen, should suggest that the Coroner should issue his warrant, so that he might be brought before the Coroner and Jury.

The Coroner observed that he should not think of concluding the inquiry without Simcox being present. A written notice from him (the Coroner) must be served before he could issue a warrant. If he had thought Mr. Simcox would not have attended without a written notice, he should have sent one to him previous to the inquiry being opened. He had seen Simcox's mother that morning, and she had promised him that both she and her son would attend.

David Bowen, of Darlaston, stated that in his capacity as surveyor of the roads, and under the instructions of the Board, he sent a letter to William Simcox about nine months ago, asking him to meet him (witness) at his house on the subject of the danger people were exposed to by the bad state of his premises. Simcox came to him. He (witness) went to the spot with him, and pointed out the danger that existed to passengers. The building had partly fallen down then. Simcox said it was heirable property, and he should only have it for his life. Witness told him it would be to his advantage to put the property in repair, as he had children; he must put it in a proper and safe condition. Simcox told him he would send some men to draw the rubbish away, and would have a wall put round it so as to prevent people getting near it. Nothing had been done. He subsequently sent a printed notice to Simcox, ordering him to remove some bricks, &c, which had fallen into the highway. That was not done, and an information had been laid against him, but had not yet been adjudicated upon.

John Harper, constable, Darlaston, said he had sent and written to Simcox about the condition of his property. Simcox replied that he would come over.

This being the whole of the evidence, the Coroner said that the inquiry now assumed a very serious aspect, and he should be unwilling, therefore, to conclude it without Simcox being present. Under these circumstances it would be their duty to adjourn the inquiry, and he would send notice both to Simcox and his mother to attend. The inquest was accordingly adjourned to Tuesday.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/6/1854

“.....The inquest was adjourned to Tuesday last for the attendance of Mr. Simcox. On that day Mr. Simcox

was present, but the proceedings could not be resumed in consequence of the absence of a juryman. At the Wednesbury petty sessions, on Tuesday, Mr. Simcox was fined 10s and costs for neglecting to remove the debris which had fallen upon the street. The defendant said that the ownership of the property was in dispute, and that his attorney had advised him to have nothing to do with it.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/6/1854

“The coroner’s inquiry into the particulars of the fall of houses at Darlaston was brought to a conclusion on Friday evening, when Mr. Caddick attended for Mr. Simcox, and called two or three witnesses for the purpose of showing that a man named Forster had set up a claim to the property, and also that trespassers had injured the premises. From these causes the property had got into the dilapidated condition already described.

The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against William Simcox.”

AND

“Committed to the County Prison at Stafford.....

William Simcox, charged with manslaughter at Darlaston.”

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 12/8/1854

“North Staffordshire Assizes.....

William Simcox, 44, farmer, was arraigned on the coroner’s inquisition, for the manslaughter of John Wilkes, on the 7th of June, 1854, at the parish of Darlaston. The grand jury threw out the bill of indictment preferred against him, and no evidence was offered by the prosecution in support of the charge. A verdict of not guilty was consequently recorded.”

Edward Sivorn = Edward Sevorin

Birmingham Journal 29/8/1857

“Annual Licensing Day.....

List of licensed victuallers who had been fined for breaches of the law during the past year.....

Edward Sevorin, DARTMOUTH ARMS, Darlaston, cautioned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/1/1858 - Advert

“DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, Darlaston.

Mr. Joseph Dawes will Sell by Auction, on Friday next, January 8th, 1858, all the capital Fittings of a Liquor Vault, the property of Mr. *Sivorn*, who is removing, comprising a beautiful Counter, 16 feet long, including door and flap, with drawers and shelves, twelve Spirit Casks, with six Counter Taps and Piping, nearly new; ten Spirit Jars and Taps, and various other Shop Fittings.

Sale to commence at two o’clock.”

Enoch Bruerton was also an auctioneer. [1860], [1861], [1864], [1865]

1861 Census

Cock Street – DARTMOUTH ARMS

[1] *Enoch Bruerton* (49), widower, victualler and auctioneer, elector, born Darlaston;

[2] Mary Bruerton (18), daughter, born Darlaston;

[3] *James Bruerton* (16), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Harriet Bruerton (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Elizabeth Bruerton (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] Sarah Bruerton (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] *Enoch Bruerton* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[8] Emma Clifford (20), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 27/4/1861 - Advert

“Freehold Dwelling Houses, Large Manufactory, and Other Premises, in Foster Street, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Enoch Bruerton, on Friday Next, the 3rd of May, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, in Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, at Seven o'clock in the evening.....”

Birmingham Journal 7/4/1866 - Advert

“Freehold Houses and Premises, Catherines Cross and New Street, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Enoch Bruerton, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday next, the 10th of April, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be read.....”

London Gazette 2/3/1869

“This is to give notice, that the Court acting in the prosecution of a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on the 9th day of December, 1868, by *Isaiah Cotterell*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Miner, did, on the 26th day of February, 1869, grant the Discharge of the said *Isaiah Cotterell*; and that such Discharge will be delivered to the bankrupt, unless an appeal be duly entered against the judgment of the Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/11/1869 - Notice

“Notice is hereby Given, that an Order of Discharge, was, on the 26th day of February, 1869, granted by the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, at Birmingham, to *Isaiah Cotterell*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Miner. James Slater, Solicitor, Darlaston.”

A J Marchant = A J Merchant

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/1/1870 - Advert

“To be Let, an old-licensed House, known as the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Darlaston. The house contains bar, taproom, two parlours, bagatelle-room, large clubroom, three bedrooms, and three good cellars. There are five clubs connected with the house; large yard, skittle and marble alleys. Stock would be reduced to suit purchaser; to be taken at fair valuation. Rent moderate.

Apply to Mr. *Marchant*, upon the premises, or to Mr. C. Butters, Valuer, Hanley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/4/1870

“Darlaston. Meeting of the Local Board.....

Mr. *Enoch Bruerton* and Mr. Edward Bruerton were accepted as the sureties of the collector, Mr. *James Bruerton*, on condition of their each giving a bond in £150. A set of bye-laws prepared by the committee appointed by the Board for that purpose, was presented, and, after some discussion as to whether the code should be printed for the perusal of the members before being sanctioned, was approved, and notice was ordered to be given of the intention of the Board to apply for the Secretary of State's sanction to the bye-laws. It was decided to get out one rate only, and it was ordered that the collector be instructed to prepare a rate book. It was generally agreed that the rate should not exceed 1s in the pound.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/1/1871

“Darlaston. Local Board of Health.....

A letter was received from *James Bruerton*, rate collector, in which he tendered his resignation, his reason being that other business engagements which he had to fulfill prevented him from properly discharging the duty attending the office of rate collector.

The resignation was accepted, and the clerk was instructed to advertise for another person to fill the office of rate collector to the Board.”

1871 Census

Cock Street – DARTMOUTH ARMS

[1] *James Bruerton* (26), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Honor Bruerton (22), wife, born Woodside, Worcestershire;

- [3] Edwin John Bruerton (1), son, born Darlaston;
[4] James H. Bruerton (1 month), son, born Darlaston;
[5] Mary Ann Elwell (22), domestic servant, born Woodside, Worcestershire;
[6] Mary E. Millington (12), nurse, born Darlaston:
[Woodside is a district of Dudley.]

Walsall Free Press 11/7/1874

“At the usual weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board stating that they had no objection to offer to the appointment of Mr. *James Bruerton*, licensed victualler, to the office of collector for Bentley. The Board required to be favoured with a report at the end of the month as to the manner in which Mr. *Bruerton* performed his duties.”

Walsall Observer 16/9/1876 - Advert

“Walsall Union. Collector of Poor Rates Wanted.

The Guardians of this Union will, at their Meeting to be held on the 22nd instant, proceed to the Appointment of a Collector of Poor Rates for the Township of Bentley, vice Mr. *James Bruerton*, resigned.

The person appointed will be remunerated by a percentage of £3 per cent on all moneys collected by him, and be required to give security to the amount of £100 for the faithful discharge of the duties of the office. Applications, accompanied by testimonials not exceeding three in number, must be sent to me on or before the 21st instant.

L. W. Lewis, Clerk to the Guardians.

Union Offices, The Bridge, Walsall, 15th September, 1876.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/2/1878 - Advert

“For Sale, beautiful young grey Parrot, with cage; in full plumage. Can talk, whistle, dance, sing. Quite a novelty. Worth £12. Price £6.

Address, DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Cock Street, Darlaston.”

London Gazette 14/2/1879

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *James Bruerton*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Auctioneer.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Messrs. Slater and Marshall, Solicitors, Butcroft, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on the 27th day of February, 1879, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 11th day of February, 1879.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1881 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, Will you kindly allow me, through your valuable paper, to appeal to those who are in a position for aid to alleviate the distress and suffering occasioned by the severity of the weather and shortness of labour for the poor of Darlaston? On Thursday last, through voluntary subscriptions, we were able to open four soup kitchens, and distributed soup sufficient to feed 2,500 people; but, sir, the distress in this town is so great and widespread that, unless we receive contributions from kind friends outside Darlaston, I am afraid we shall not be able to relieve above one-half of the poor people, who are in a very wretched and heartrending condition.

This being the first time an appeal has been made outside the parish, I trust it will be generously responded to.

I remain, sir, your truly, *Enoch Bruerton*, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Cock Street, Darlaston, January 29.”

1881 Census

28, Cock Street – DARTMOUTH ARMS

[1] *Enoch Bruerton* (28), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Betsey Bruerton (23), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Thomas R. Bruerton (1), son, born Aston;

[4] Ada C. Bruerton (6 months), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] Jane A. Hedges (16), domestic servant, born Darlaston;

[6] Fanny E. Hedges (14), nurse, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 7/4/1883

“On Thursday Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Darlaston, respecting the death of William Holyhead (52), puddler, who died suddenly on Wednesday night at his residence in Blakemore Lane.

The deceased was engaged at the Bulls Bridge Furnaces and owing to the intense heat he complained of being unwell. After finishing his work he walked home and asked for some ginger beer, and before it could be procured he died.

The Jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Harborne Herald 11/8/1883

“Last Friday night Police-Sergeant Ainsworth, who had been recently removed by the Chief-Constable from Darlaston to Harborne, was entertained by a number of tradesmen of the town at dinner at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Cock Street, and presented with a beautifully-illuminated address and a purse containing ten guineas. Upwards of fifty partook of dinner.

The chair was occupied by Mr. G. P. Butler, and the vice-chair by Mr. T. M. Green.

The Chairman said that during the period Police-Sergeant Ainsworth was stationed in Darlaston he performed his duties in a most admirable manner, and won the respect and esteem of the inhabitants. (Hear, hear.) Mr. *Enoch Bruerton* and Mr. James Pritchard had collected subscriptions and he had now had privilege of presenting Mr. Sergeant Ainsworth with an address and a purse of gold. (Hear, hear.) He was sure Mr. Ainsworth left the town with their best wishes.

Police-sergeant Ainsworth briefly responded for the kindness which had been shown him at Darlaston.

The following is a copy of the address presented to Police-Sergeant Ainsworth. ‘To Police-Sergeant Joseph Ainsworth. We, whose names are undermentioned, learn with much regret of your removal from this station, and we wish to express the respect and esteem which you have earned during the period you have been amongst us. They also desire to place on record their high appreciation of the admirable manner in which – with your urbanity and strict integrity – you have fulfilled the arduous and, we must admit, often unpleasant duties. We ask your acceptance of this address and accompanying purse, as an acknowledgement of the great interest we take in your welfare, and we trust that you may be spared many years to enjoy health, happiness, and prosperity.

Darlaston, April 24th, 1883.’”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/9/1883

“The annual dinner of the Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association was held on Thursday evening at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Cock Street, Darlaston, when an excellent repast was provided in an admirable manner by the host and secretary, Mr. *Enoch Bruerton*. The room in which the dinner was held bore a tasteful appearance, being appropriately decorated with shrubs and flowers, a quantity of which graced the tables. A host of willing helpers assisted in providing the ‘Creature comforts,’ and the arrangements and catering generally were such as to call forth warm commendations of those present.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/3/1884

“On Saturday evening, a new lodge of a benefit society, known as the Caledonian Corks, was opened at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, Darlaston, by the officers of the Birmingham Executive, with Brother Collins, Brother Court, members of No.1 lodge (Darlaston) and No.128 lodge (Wednesbury). Previous to the opening a procession of members clad in regalia and headed by the Darlaston Havelock Brass Band perambulated the town, calling at the various Court houses on the road. Afterwards they were entertained to a

capital spread ably served up by the host, Brother *E. Bruerton*. The ceremony was afterwards gone through, and 22 members enrolled. Speeches were delivered by Brothers Collins, Court, Bruerton, and others connected with the Order, and the evening was concluded with social harmony.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1886

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, John Harris (15) was brought up on remand charged with having stolen 6s 6d and half an ounce of tobacco, the property of *William Carter*, keeper of the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Darlaston.

The Stipendiary sentenced him to twenty-one days’ imprisonment, with hard labour.”

1891 Census

28, Cock Street

[1] *Charles Bryant* (33), publican, born Birmingham;

[2] *Harriet Bryant* (30), wife, born Brightlingsea:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

James Cotterell, DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street.....

All these were for six days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1893

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. G. S. Guy and F. H. Lloyd – Simeon Bruerton, ironworker, Blakesmores Lane, Darlaston, was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of *John Potter*, keeper of the DARTMOUTH ARMS public house, Cock Street. There was a cross-summons against *Potter* for assault.

Bruerton’s case was first heard, and he stated that on Saturday, the 4th inst, while in the public house named, he was asked by *Potter* why he didn’t play at cards or dominoes, and on replying that he had something better to do with his money, was struck and kicked about the head and half-strangled. A witness named Purslow corroborated, and spoke to finding Bruerton black in the face, and to having to pull the landlord away from him.

The defence was a total denial of this story, and witnesses were called who stated that Bruerton quarrelled with another customer, and was then ejected from the house. It was denied altogether that any unnecessary force had been used.

The magistrates dismissed the charge of assault, but fined Bruerton 2s 6d and 16s costs for refusing to quit when asked to do so.”

Walsall Advertiser 5/3/1898

“Walsall County Court. Thursday. Before His Honour Judge Griffith.

Samuel Davies, a greengrocer, of Darlaston, sought to recover £28 from *Thomas Colclough*, a licensed victualler, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Darlaston, on the ground of alleged negligence on the part of the defendant, whereby a wagonette, which defendant had hired from plaintiff, came into collision with a brewer’s float. The case was heard before a jury. Mr. Lawrence (instructed by Mr. A. J. Glover, of Wednesbury) was for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. A. Willcock, (of Wolverhampton) was for the defence.

Plaintiff’s case was that on December 6 a man named Benjamin Eyre, in the employ of plaintiff, was in

charge of the wagonette, which had to go to Wolverhampton and back. Defendant, it was alleged, insisted on driving, notwithstanding that Eyre remonstrated, and on the road commenced to race after a pony, which was being driven by a man named Bailey. A brewer's dray was approaching, which Bailey cleared. The wagonette, however, and dray came into collision, a smash resulting, and defendant and Eyre being thrown out. Eyre was rendered insensible by the fall.

In cross-examination, Mrs. Davies, wife of plaintiff, admitted that the cost of the wagonette when new was £28 only, and that £8 or £9 had been offered for what remained of it. Since it was bought one or two of the wheels had been renewed.

The defence was that the horse bolted, that the defendant merely jumped up and caught hold of the reins to stop it, and that he could not be regarded as the driver.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for £22, the defendant to have the wrecked carriage."

Dudley Herald 12/11/1898

"Conscientious Objectors at Darlaston.

At Darlaston Police Court, on Monday, before Messrs. F. H. Lloyd and E. Horton, the following residents of Darlaston made applications for certificates of exemption under the Vaccination Act, and each one was granted.....

John Foster, DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street.....

Mr. Lloyd said every case they granted was setting a bad example to other people, and they might have a scourge of small pox."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/1/1901

"On Monday afternoon an inquest was held at Darlaston, on Emily Rotherham (63), widow, who was alleged to have died from arsenical poisoning.

Mary Jane Mills, daughter, stated that her mother had usually had a half-pint of fourpenny for her supper, but owing to illness she had ceased to drink beer. Deceased had most of her beer from the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Cock Street.

Mrs. *Foster*, manageress of the inn, said the deceased had had her supper beer from her house almost every night. On December 3 she was instructed by Mr. R. A. Harper, brewer, not to sell any more of the beers in stock.

Dr. Vincent Magrane said he had attended the deceased since November 14. On her death he withheld his certificate because of the arsenical symptoms which prevailed. The post mortem examination showed that death was due to pulmonary tuberculosis. He did not discover traces of arsenic, but could not say there was no arsenic, because he was not an analytical chemist.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, the Coroner advising them that further analysis was not necessary in this case."

1901 Census

28, Cock Street

[1] *John Foster* (38), foreman, bolt and nut trade, born Darlaston;

[2] *Julia Foster* (37), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *John Foster* (18), son, carpenter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Herbert Foster* (16), son, bricklayer, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Emily Foster* (3), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/10/1901

"Darlaston adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Superintendent Salt objected to the renewal of the license of the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Cock Street, on the ground that it was not required, that the premises were difficult of supervision, and that the house was dilapidated. He informed the magistrates that since the serving of notices several improvements had been effected, and the magistrates decided to renew the license on condition that further improvements were carried out."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/11/1901

“At Wednesbury yesterday, *Richard Andrew Harper*, brewer, of Bilston, and licensee of the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Cock Street, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on the 9th inst.

The evidence for the prosecution was that two police-officers saw a man named Thomas Walton on the licensed premises in a drunken condition on the night in question, and visiting the house 35 minutes later with Inspector Williams they saw Walton drink ale from a pint cup. Upon Inspector Williams questioning *James Weaver*, the manager, he replied, ‘I know he is drunk; I told to go half an hour ago.’

The defence was that Walton was not supplied with ale, but in cross-examination *Weaver* admitted that he permitted Walton to remain on the licensed premises to pay an account for beer he had had during the preceding week.

The magistrates decided an offence had been committed by the manager allowing Walton to remain on the licensed premises when in a drunken condition, and inflicted a fine of £5 2s 6d.

Thomas Walton was fined 10s and costs for being drunk on the licensed premises.”

[*Richard Andrew Harper* was brewer and wine and spirit merchant of Hall Park Brewery, Bilston.]
AND

Wednesbury Leader 30/11/1901

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, *Richard Andrew Harper*, licensee of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness and for supplying a drunken person on the 9th inst. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted, and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

The case for the prosecution was that Police-constable Watson heard the sound of quarrelling inside the public house and afterwards saw a woman named Walters come out crying. She was followed by her husband, Thomas Walters, who was noticed to be very drunk. They had more words in the street and then Walters staggered back into the public house. About thirty-five minutes afterwards Inspector Williams visited the public house with the constable, and Walters was found sitting down among other customers, and was seen to drink from a jug containing ale.

The defence was that the manager *James Weaver*, had refused to supply Walters, and was trying to coax him to leave.

The Bench fined defendant 40s and costs, including solicitor’s fee, making a total of £5 2s on the charge of permitting drunkenness, and dismissed the charge of supplying.”

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Tipton Herald 21/3/1903

“James Smith, no fixed abode, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Cock Street, Darlaston, on March 16th.

PC Watson stated as to seeing the defendant turned out of the DARTMOUTH ARMS in a drunken condition. Witness saw the landlord, who said the defendant had been begging.

Defendant said he admitted having a drop of beer, but was sensible.

Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Walsall Advertiser 1/2/1908

“The Liberals of Darlaston gathered in goodly numbers at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, on Saturday evening, when they entertained their member (Mr. Clarendon Hyde, MP) to dinner. Mr. T. Fisher presided.....”

1911 Census

28, Cock Street – DARTMOUTH ARMS

- [1] *Ernest Carter* (26), licensed victualler, born Blackburn, Lancashire;
- [2] Sarah Carter (26), wife, married 3 years, manageress, born Willenhall;
- [3] Iris Carter (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Dora Foster (15), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/11/1923

“Fatal Mishap to Footballer. £37 for Widow of Tom Butler. Insured by *Gazette*.

In spite of the sportsman-like spirit in which professional football is played, accidents occasionally occur. Such an accident occurred in the recent match between Port Vale and Clapton Orient, on the latter’s ground. The victim was Tom Butler, a well-known member of the visiting club. He sustained a compound fracture of the left forearm, and at first all thought he would soon recover from his injury. A few days later the tragic discovery was made that the deadly tetanus germ had entered the wound, and though the finest medical advice in London was obtained and followed, lock-jaw supervened with fatal results.

At Butler’s home in Darlaston, Staffordshire, his untimely death left his widow and three babies unprovided for save for the generosity of relatives and friends.

Keenly interested in all sports, Mr. Butler, like thousands of Black Country men, was a regular reader of the *Gazette*, and some months ago registered under our comprehensive insurance scheme. The regrettable mishap came within Clause 18, the benefits under which are £25 and a payment of £2 per week for six weeks if the reader (being over 16 years of age and under 60 years of age) shall meet with a fatal accident from any cause, provided that death results within 14 days after and solely and directly from the accident.

Mrs. Butler’s claim was readily admitted, and yesterday a *Gazette* representative handed to her the cheque for £25. To realise how gratefully it was received it has only to be stated that Mrs. Butler has the anxiety of rearing three babies, a little boy aged 1 year and ten months and twin sisters only nine weeks old. Realising it was impossible to maintain her home at 44, Dorset Road, Darlaston, she is now living with her mother at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Darlaston. Though Mr. Butler only signed on for Port Vale last season, the club are raising a subscription for his family.

One of the best-known professional footballers in that district of Staffordshire, his playing career extended right back to his school days. At the age of eight, as a scholar at Kings Hill School, Wednesbury, he won his first medal. His first senior club was the famous Wednesbury Old Athletic. He was only 17 at the time. Before joining Port Vale at the beginning of last season he played for Willenhall, Birmingham Reserves, Walsall, and Darlaston.

The newsagent’s bonus has been paid to Mr. J. Mason, Bull Stake, Darlaston, who daily supplied Mr. Butler with a copy of the *Gazette*.”

Walsall Observer 30/1/1926

“When Mr. *J. Robinson*, licensee of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Darlaston, applied at the Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants from 7.30pm till midnight at the dance and social to be held in connection with the Darlaston Labour Party, at the Town Hall tonight (Saturday), Police Inspector Willetts said he objected to an extension until midnight on Saturdays. The license was therefore granted only from 7.30pm until 11, the magistrates intimating that they thought 11pm was quite late enough on Saturdays.

At the same court the Bench granted an application of Mr. A. Blakemore, of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants on the occasion of the Police ball at the Darlaston Town Hall from 7.30pm until 12 midnight on Thursday, February 25. A similar license was granted to Mr. H. Keay of

the OLD BUSH INN, to sell intoxicants at the dance in the Darlaston Town Hall, on February 4, in aid of the All Saints' C.L.B.”

Walsall Observer 8/2/1930

“Darlaston Brewster Sessions on Wednesday.....

The Bench deferred the renewal of the BRADFORD ARMS, Bilston Street, the ROYAL OAK, Booth Street, the VICTORIA INN, Butcroft, and the DARTMOUTH ARMS, High Street, to see if certain structural alterations are carried out.”

Plans for alterations to the sanitary and living accommodation were approved on 5th March 1930.

Plans for the provision of a separate out-door department were approved on 25th August 1937.

1939 Register

High Street – DARTMOUTH ARMS

[1] *Ernest Johnson*, date of birth 19/5/1898, publican, married;

[2] *Hilda (Ivy Hilda) Johnson*, dob 8/11/1897, housewife, married:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

Colin Edwin Whitehouse – see also NELSON.

James Norman Eves – see also HERBERTS PARK TAVERN.

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

DARTMOUTH INN, High Street, Darlaston.”

Walter Green was fined £2 and £10 2s 7d costs for allowing under age drinking in his premises.

Walter Green – see also GEORGE.

Ernest Jarvis – see also ROYAL OAK.

Walsall Observer 12/1/1968

“County Borough of Walsall.

The Highways Act 1959 and The Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act 1946.

The Walsall (King Street Darlaston By-Pass) Compulsory Purchase Order 1967.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Walsall County Borough Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by the above-mentioned Acts on the 22nd December 1967 made a Compulsory Purchase Order entitled The Walsall (King Street Darlaston By-Pass) Compulsory Purchase Order 1967, which is about to be submitted to the Minister of Transport for confirmation, authorizing them to purchase compulsorily for the purpose of the construction of new highways in Darlaston in the said County Borough the land described in the Schedule hereto.....

In High Street, Darlaston the DARTMOUTH ARMS.”

Closed

Demolished

DOG AND PARTRIDGE

29, (29+30), King Street, (Church Street), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Thomas William Horton (leased) [1886]
Messrs. Thomas Robinson and Co. (leased) [1891], [1895]
Mr. Kempson Bullivant, clerk, Logan House, Bilston
Messrs. J. and J. Yardley [1909]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased)
Atkinsons Ltd. [1921]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired on 1st October 1959)

LICENSEES

Thomas Partridge [1818] – **1825)**
Enoch Partridge [1828] – [1830]
Thomas Horton [1834] – [1835]
Thomas Hodgkins [1842]
E. Horton and Corbett [1851]
James Slater [] – **1851);**
E. Horton and J. A. Corbett (**1851** – []
Enoch Horton [1854] – **1858);**
Mrs. Eliza (Horton) Rose (**1858** – [1872]
James Rose [1873] – [1885]
Thomas William Horton [1886]
Joseph Golcher [1891] – [1892]
George Sykes [1892] manager
Thomas Robinson [1896]
Trott [1897]
Thomas Sandercock [1898]
Joseph Lockett [1901]
Henry Harper [1903] – [1904]
Joseph Martin [1908]
Margaret Donnelan [1909]
William Isaac Foulkes [1911] – **1923);**
Mrs. Fanny Foulkes (**1923** – **1926);**
Joseph Seaman (**1926** – **1928);**
William Chilton (**1928);**
Henry Richard Lakin (**1928** – **1930);**
John Tinsley (**1930** – **1945);**
Sarah Jane Tinsley (**1945** – **1962);**

NOTES

Church Street [1822], [1882]
29+30, King Street [1881]
29, King Street [1880], [1908], [1932], [1939], [1940]

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘The Bull Stake and Town Centre’ by Alan Pitcher, JP

“.....The large public house, the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, which I understand was nicknamed the ‘Coffin Handles’ because of the front door handles resembling those large ones usually found upon coffins.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 5/12/1825 - Notice

“All Persons who are indebted to the Estate of the late *Thomas Partridge*, of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Darlaston, deceased, are required forthwith to discharge their respective debts by paying the amount thereof to Mr. Daniel Partridge or Mr. Richard Bills, his Executors; and all persons to whom the said *Thomas Partridge* was indebted at the time of his decease are requested to deliver the amount of their respective claims to the said Daniel Partridge or Richard Bills immediately, that they may be examined and discharged. December 1, 1825.”

Thomas Hodgkins = Thomas Hodgins

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/2/1851

“George Jinks of Darlaston will run Richard Wesley of Wasall 120 or 140 yards, for £10 a side, if he will give three or four yards; or Chesger of Smethwick on the same terms, or run Brooks of Willenhall, and Constable of the same place 120 yards, for £10 a side. A match can be made at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, King Street, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/4/1851

“The following licenses were transferred.....

DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Darlaston, from Mr. *James Slater* to Messrs. *E. Horton* and *J. A. Corbett* (as trustees for the family of the late landlord, Mr. *Corbett*).”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/1/1856

“Robt. Whitehall of Darlaston, who never won a shilling, will run W. Rubery or Barrs (both of Darlaston) 100 yards; or E. Duncombe one mile, if he will give 15 yards start, or a quarter of a mile level; or Powell Duncombe of Birmingham (late of Darlaston) the same distance; or Albert Lowe, or Charles Betley of Manchester (late of Darlaston) 120 yards. Whitehall will give reasonable expenses to run either at Aston Cross or the Victoria Grounds, Wednesbury. A match can be made for £20 or £25 a side, if a letter be addressed to Whitehall, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Kings Hill, Darlaston.”

Enoch Horton died in the 3rd quarter of 1858.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/10/1858

“Transfer of Licenses.....

DOG AND PHEASANT [sic] INN, Darlaston, from the executors of the late Mr. *Enoch Horton*, to his widow, Mrs. *Eliza Horton*.”

1861 Census

King Street – Liquor Shop

- [1] *Eliza Horton* (36), widow, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Annie Horton* (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Tom Horton* (3), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Sarah Stevenson* (21), house servant, born Princes End;
- [5] *Joseph Corbett* (71), lodger, widower, engine fitter, born Darlaston:

Mrs. Eliza Horton, liquor vaults, King Street. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

King Street – DOG AND PARTRIDGE

- [1] *Eliza Horton* (46), widow, victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Annie Horton* (23), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Tom Horton* (13), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Emma Lawrence* (26), barmaid, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Alice Dickenson* (17), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Eliza Horton married *James Rose* in the 1st quarter of 1872.

James Rose, of James and Richard Rose, screw, nut and tyre rivet manufacturers, Willenhall St. [1873]

Midland Examiner and Times 23/6/1877

“On Tuesday, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Darlaston, Mr. Johnson, surgeon, presented Sergt. Burton, on behalf of the inhabitants, an illuminated address, and a purse containing money, in recognition of his uniform kindness during the time he was an officer in the town.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1877

“West Bromwich Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following reports as to the convictions of publicans during last year were made by Superintendents Woollaston and Holland, for the police divisions of West Bromwich and Wednesbury.....

James Rose, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Darlaston, permitting drunkenness, to pay costs.

All the old licenses were then renewed with the exception of those whose holders had been convicted in a penalty of 20s and upwards. The latter were adjourned until the 26th September.”

1881 Census

29+30, King Street – DOG AND PARTRIDGE

- [1] *James Rose* (55), bolt and screw manufacturer employing 90 hands and licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Eliza Rose* (56), wife, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Thomas Horton* (23), son, office clerk, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Albert Spittle* (20), visitor, clerk, born London;
- [5] *Nancy Spittle* (62), sister, visitor, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Polly Stokes* (36), widow, barmaid, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Mary Parker* (20), servant, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Emma Dixon* (21), servant, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Thomas Harriss* (8), grand-son, visitor, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 17/12/1881

“Mr. R. Juggins, general secretary of the Workmen’s Association, has just issued an address to the nut and bolt makers as follows.

Fellow Workmen.

You will doubtless be aware that the new list of prices and sizes, as agreed to at a Conference of employers and workmen, held at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, Darlaston, November 26th 1881, will come into operation on Thursday next, the 15th inst.....”

Wednesbury Herald 19/8/1882

“On Thursday, Mr. Edwin Hooper (Coroner) held an inquiry at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, respecting the death of *Nancy Thomas* (61), the wife of *John Thomas*, carter, Cock Street. The evidence showed that during a disturbance in *Blakemore’s Lane*, Darlaston, on Saturday evening, the deceased was knocked down by a boy named *Booth* and a stray dog. Her left thigh was fractured by this fall, and her head and right arm were badly injured. She was removed to her house, and attended by *Dr. Sanscombe*. She, however, expired on the following Monday. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1882

“On Thursday night last a conference of employers and workmen in the nut and bolt trade was held at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, Darlaston, for the purpose of considering the workmen’s demand of 15 per cent on the present list of prices. The employers were represented by Mr. Whittley (from the firm of F. W. Cottrill Limited); and the workmen by Mr. R. Juggins (the operative secretary), who was well supported by delegates from the various organisations, about thirty being present.

Mr. Whittley stated, on behalf of the employers, that he had carefully considered the demands of the men for 15 per cent, and very much regretted that they were unable to meet the men in that respect. It was stated by Mr. Juggins at the last meeting that one reason for asking for the advance was that the trade had very much improved, that the wages in other trades had been increased, and that the men were now entitled to an advance; but he (Mr. Whittley) was sorry to say that the trade was not so good now as it was in January last, so that on that ground the employers could not see their way clear to comply with the wishes of the men.

At the same time, the employers had liberally conceded an advance equal to 10 per cent upon bolts, from a quarter to half an inch, but on all other sizes they could not at present give any advance whatever.

Mr. Juggins said he very much regretted that the employers could not see their way to give an advance all round, as by the proposed arrangement only one part of the trade benefited. He was anxious that the whole of the workmen should share in whatever advance was conceded, as the workmen had asked for 15 per cent, and they were now willing to take 10 per cent, he thought the advance should be on all sizes, and not on the first five sizes only.

Mr. Whittley said the masters could not give more at present. If the men refused what was now offered there would be an end to the conference.

Mr. Juggins said he would consult with the delegates present, and in a short time would return with their decision.

The delegates then left the room, and in about a quarter of an hour returned, when Mr. Juggins said that the proposition of the employers had been carefully considered, and he was sorry to say that the delegates were by no means unanimous in the matter; but at the same time he was directed to say that the men would accept the employers’ offer. He, however, wished the employers to understand that it was by no means satisfactory. It was afterwards arranged that the advance should commence on October 26, and remain in force until June 30, 1883.

Mr. Juggins, on behalf of the men, thanked the masters for the courteous manner in which they had received the deputation, and the meeting terminated.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/11/1882 - Advert

“Lost, at Walsall, on Sunday, the 5th inst, a small black-and-tan Dog; a white stripe on the breast. Finder rewarded, by applying to *T. W. Horton*, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, King Street, Darlaston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/3/1884

“A public meeting in connection with the Darlaston Ratepayers Protection Society was held at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, on Friday evening, for the purpose of appointing officers and committees.....”

Walsall Observer 30/5/1885 - Advert

“Messrs. James Belcher and Son have been favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on Monday, June 8th, 1885, at the House of Mr. *James Rose*, Sign of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, King Street, Darlaston, at 7 o’clock in the Evening prompt (subject to conditions), in one Lot.

The Freehold Land, with the Works and Erections thereon, situate in Bright Street, Kings Hill, in the parish of Wednesbury, and known as The Wednesbury Bolt and Nut Works, recently in the occupation of Mr. J. E. Blandly.....”

Eliza (Horton) Rose died in the 3rd quarter of 1885.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/4/1886 - Advert

“Thursday Next. Full Licensed House, DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by George Shread, upon the premises, situate in King Street, Darlaston, on Thursday

Next, April 29, at 7 o'clock in the evening (unless previously disposed of by private sale), subject to conditions to be then produced and read.

All that Modern and Substantially-erected Full-Licensed House, popularly known as the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, with Dwelling House, Brewhouse, Malthouse, Stabling, Coach-house, and other Outbuildings essential and necessary for carrying on a large business, all of which are now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas William Horton*.

The Lease is for fifteen years, commencing September 29, 1885, at an annual rental of £27 10s. The gross rental is assessed at £55; but the Lessee is the owner of a moiety of the Freehold.

The Stock-in-Trade, Fixtures, Fittings, and all Trade Requisites now upon the Premises are to be taken to by Purchaser at valuation. The Furniture, Plate, Linen, China, and other Household Effects will be retained by the vendor at his option.

The Business has been carried on successfully for many years by the late Mrs. *Elizabeth Horton* (afterwards Mrs. *Rose*), who recently invested upwards of £2,000 in rebuilding and refitting the Premises with every modern appliance, including Hot-water Heating Apparatus for Spirit Vaults, Smoke Room, and Club Room. The Club Room is capable of dining 200 people; the Smoke Room is handsomely and luxuriously fitted up. Immediate possession can be given.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. T. W. Horton, on the Premises; to Mr. Edward Mallard, Solicitor, Newhall Chambers, Newhall Street, Birmingham; or to the Auctioneer, at his Offices and Auction Mart, 122, Colmore Row, Birmingham.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/5/1886

“On Saturday night a meeting of the Darlaston Pride Lodge of the Birmingham and Darlaston District of the National United Order of Free Gardeners was held at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, King Street, Darlaston. Mr. Wilson Lloyd, MP, presided.....”

Birmingham Mail 26/5/1886

“At Wednesbury yesterday, *Thomas Horton*, landlord of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, Darlaston, was fined £5 and costs for allowing a disturbance in his house. A number of tradesmen assembled in the hotel, a disturbance took place, and a free fight followed. The defendant refused to see the police, and the hotel was in charge of a barmaid. The Stipendiary said no doubt the defendant was incapacitated through drink from properly looking after the hotel.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/2/1889 - Advert

“DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Darlaston.

To be Let, the above Full-licensed House, six years' lease; rent £55, ingoing about £100, part of which can remain.

Thomas Skidmore and Son, valuers, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton.”

Joseph Golcher was the son of George and Ann Golcher of the NEW INN, King Street, Darlaston.

Wednesbury Herald 14/2/1891

“The annual dinner in connection with the Darlaston Havelock Band took place on Monday, at the headquarters, the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, when upwards of forty members and friends sat down to a repast provided by Host *Golcher*. Mr. Joseph Smith occupied the chair, and Mr. A. Gilbert the vice-chair. After the loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the Chairman proposed the toast of the evening ‘Success to the Havelock Band’.....”

1891 Census

29+30, King Street – DOG AND PARTRIDGE

[1] *Joseph Golcher* (28), gun lock manufacturer and licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Annie Golcher* (25), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Dorothy W. Golcher* (4 months), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Lucy Davies* (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1891 - Advert

“Darlaston. Highly Important Sale of Valuable Properties, comprising Old-established Full-Licensed Inn and Three Retail Shops, Monday, November 2, 1891.

Messrs. Belcher & Son will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, upon the above date, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Darlaston, at Five o'clock in the afternoon to the minute, subject to conditions embodying the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society to be then produced – the following Valuable Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. All that Old-established Full-Licensed Inn, known as the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, situate in King Street, Darlaston aforesaid; comprising spacious Vaults, Smoke Room, Parlour, Snug, Club Room, Sitting Room, four Bed Rooms, three Cellars, Kitchen, Pantry, Wash-house, Brewhouse, Malt Room, and small Brewery, in the occupation of Messrs. Thomas Robinson and Co., under Lease expiring the 29th day of September, 1895, at an annual rent of £55.

The Inn has recently been rebuilt and elaborately refitted in modern style, at considerable expense. It is also heated throughout by means of hot-water pipes, and occupies one of the best positions in the town, being in the principal thoroughfare, and in close proximity to the Town Hall, Public Offices, Market, Tramway Terminus, &c, and in every way adapted to do the best trade in the district.....

The above properties are owned by two individuals in equal moieties, and in case the highest bids do not reach the reserved prices one moiety will be sold practically without reserve.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George's, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints', another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Dancing, music, and singing.....

Joseph Golcher, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, King Street.....

(the license in each of these cases being for six days, and the dancing to cease at ten o'clock at night).”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Mr. A. Whitehouse applied for the renewal of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE alehouse, King Street, kept by *Joseph Golcher*, who had been convicted for permitting drunkenness. Granted.....

Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall.....

Joseph Golcher, the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, King Street.”

Joseph Golcher – see also CASTLE, Castle Street, Dudley, and SEVEN STARS, High Street, Dudley.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1892- Advert

“General Wanted, with good character; not afraid of work.

DOG AND PARTRIDGE, King Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1892

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *George Sykes*, manager of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Darlaston, was summoned for being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and trap between eleven and twelve o'clock on the night of the 16th inst. Mr. R. A. Willcock appeared for the defence.

Police-constable McNairne, Police-sergeant Willis, and other officers declared that the defendant was drunk,

and the first-named also stating that he drove furiously through the town, and refused to stop when called. On the other hand, the defendant himself, his brother, William George Sykes, of the OLD BARREL INN, Wolverhampton; Richard Billingsley, tobacconist; John Bayley, pork butcher; and Dr. S. Partridge, declared that he was not drunk, though they admitted that he had had a drink. The Stipendiary dismissed the case.”

Taunton Courier 13/3/1895 - Advert

“Brewers. Public House Wanted to Manage, with view to purchase. Highest references. Apply, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Darlaston, Staffordshire.”

Wednesbury Herald 26/10/1895

“Darlaston. Important Sale of Valuable Old-Established Freehold Full-Licensed Inn. Tuesday, 5th November, 1895.

Belcher and Son will offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Darlaston, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely.

The Old-Established Freehold Full-Licensed Inn, known as the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, with the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, situate in King Street, Darlaston aforesaid, comprising Spacious Vaults fronting to Main Street, Smoke Room, Parlor, Snug, Club Room, Sitting Room, Four Bedrooms, Spirit Room, Bath Room, Three Cellars, Kitchen (with large modern Range), Pantry, Wash-house, Brewhouse, Malt Room, and small Brewery, formerly leased to Mr. *Thomas W. Horton*, the then owner of a moiety of the premises, at a favourable rental of £55 per annum.

This lease has now expired, and the premises are held over at the request of the owners by Messrs. Thomas Robinson and Co, brewers, Burton-on-Trent, until the completion of the sale, when immediate possession can be given to a purchaser.

The inn has been recently re-built and elaborately refitted in modern style at considerable expense. It is furnished with Heating Apparatus, Hot Water Pipes, and most modern Fittings and conveniences for business purposes.

The property occupies one of the best positions in the town, being in the principal street and thoroughfare, and in close proximity to the Town Hall, Public Offices, Market, Tramway Terminus, &c, and is in every way adapted to do the best trade in the district.....”

Exeter and Plymouth Gazette 24/3/1897 - Advert

“To Brewers and Publicans. Good Public House Wanted. Send full particulars, Mr. *Trott*, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Darlaston, Staffordshire.”

Thomas Sandercock = Thomas Saundercock

Walsall Observer 7/5/1898

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Thomas Sandercock*, landlord of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, King Street, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 21st March; and Albert Spooner, who has been in service in Egypt, was charged with being drunk on the premises. Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) defended.

Evidence was given by Police-sergeant Williams and Police-constable Horne, who said they found Spooner in the DOG AND PARTRIDGE drunk at 4.15pm on the date named.

Mr. Willcock, on the other hand, urged that Spooner got excited through being teased. He was not drunk. Several witnesses were examined for the defence, and it was stated that a man who was in the house, knowing that Spooner might be easily frightened, threatened to cut his throat with an old blade. This roused him, and he shouted.

Ultimately *Sandercock* was fined 10s and costs, and Spooner 10s and costs.”

Walsall Observer 2/7/1898

“At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions on Wednesday, *Thomas Saundercock*, landlord of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Darlaston, appealed against a conviction by the Wednesbury magistrates for permitting

drunkenness, appellant being fined 10s and costs. Mr. Morton Brown was for the respondents, and Mr. Plumptre and Mr. Disturnal were for the appellant.

The case, as stated by Mr. Morton Brown, was that at 4.15pm on March 21, the police, hearing a disturbance, went into the public house and saw a man named Spooner sitting in the house drunk. At a later period the police again visited the house and Spooner was still there.

The appellant denied that the man Spooner was drunk. Some men in the house were having some fun at his expense, pretending that they were going to cut his throat, and this enraged Spooner, who became very excited and noisy, and he told him to leave the house.

Spooner and other men who were in the house at the time gave evidence in support of the appellant's version of the case.

The appeal was dismissed, with costs."

Walsall Observer 27/8/1898

"Wednesbury Brewster Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt reported.....

Since the last annual licensing meeting seven licensed victuallers and six beerhouse keepers had been summoned in respect of offences against the tenour of their licenses. Of the victuallers five were fined and two dismissed, and of the beerhouse keepers four were fined, one paid costs, and one was dismissed. Three of the convicted beerhouse keepers had since transferred their licenses. He had caused notice of opposition to the renewal of these licenses to be served upon the present holder of the license in each case where there had been a conviction during the year.....

Thomas Sandercock, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Darlaston.....

The consideration of objections was deferred until the adjourned sessions, to be held on the 28th of September."

Dudley Herald 1/10/1898

"The adjourned Licensing Session for the Wednesbury Petty Sessional Division (comprising Darlaston, Tipton, and Dudley Port) took place on Wednesday licensed victuallers whose applications for renewal had been deferred.....

In the case of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Darlaston, which also appeared on the 'black' list, Mr. R. A. Willcock stated that the present license holder (*Thomas Sandercock*) would leave the house as soon as he could.

The renewal was granted, but the Bench intimated that the premises must be put in a better state of repair."

1901 Census

29+30, King Street – DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN

[1] *Joseph Lockett* (55), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Fanny Lockett* (53), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Walter Lockett* (14), son, butcher's apprentice, born Wednesbury:

Tipton Herald 11/4/1903

"*Henry Harper*, landlord of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, King Street, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on March 21st. Mr. Sharpe, West Bromwich, prosecuted, and Mr. Wilcock defended and pleaded guilty.

PS Biddulph stated that at 10.50pm on the date in question he and PC Morris visited defendant's house and in the bar found six men and a woman, among them being a man named William Morgan, who was drunk and supporting himself by the counter. When Morgan saw witness approach him, he loosed the counter and staggered across the bar towards the window. Witness spoke to defendant about the condition of Morgan, and he said, 'I have asked him to go.' Witness asked defendant how long Morgan had been there, and defendant said, 'He's been here all the evening. He plays the piano, but I was obliged to close it at 10.30 in consequence of his condition.' Witness said, then defendant's got into this condition in your house, and defendant said, 'Yes.' Morgan gave his name but refused his address. Morgan was so drunk that witness did not consider him capable of taking care of himself, and was taken to the police station at Darlaston, and

subsequently was brought before the Darlaston magistrates and fined 5s and costs.

Mr. Wilcock said Morgan had been employed as a piano player but turned up late, and played till 10.30, when his condition was observed, and the landlord stopped the piano playing, and advised Morgan to go home. Morgan refused, saying that he wanted the full money, which the landlord refused to pay, and unfortunately allowed Morgan to stay. Mr. *Harper* was a man of excellent character.

The Stipendiary said it was a bad case in one way of permitting drunkenness, as defendant knew the man was drunk, and allowed him to remain.

Fined 20s and costs.”

Walsall Observer 12/3/1904

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the parish of Darlaston took place on Monday.....

Mr. S. M. Slater applied for the renewal of the license of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, King Street, which had been opposed by the police in consequence of a conviction during the year. It was stated that there had been previous convictions, but that there was no complaint against the present conduct of the house. In granting the application the Bench intimated that in the future they should take much more rigid notice of licensing offences than had been the case hitherto.”

Margaret Donnelan = Margaret Donnellan

Walsall Advertiser 6/2/1909

“The general annual Licensing Sessions for Darlaston were held at the Police Court on Wednesday morning.....

Margaret Donnellan, of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, King Street, was called, but did not answer. Service of notice of objection to the renewal of the license on the ground that the house had been ill-conducted was proved by Inspector Williams, and Mr. Thursfield (magistrates' clerk) intimated that a further notice of objection would be served that the license was not required, and the matter considered at the Adjourned Licensing Sessions.”

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston were held on Wednesday.....

After hearing the opposition to the renewal of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE beerhouse in King Street, held by *Margaret Donnelan*, the magistrates renewed the license, but warned the tenants to be exceedingly careful as to how they conducted the house in future.”

AND

Walsall Observer 6/3/1909

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

In the case of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Mr. J. S. Sharpe applied for renewal on behalf of the owners, Messrs. J. and J. Yardley, who, he stated, would resist to the utmost any attempt to close the house, as it occupied a central position and did a good trade. There was no objection to it which did not apply to other licensed premises in the locality. The Bench renewed the license.”

1911 Census

King Street – DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL

- [1] *William Foulkes* (37), licensed victualler, born Warrington;
- [2] *Fanny Foulkes* (33), wife, married 15 years, born Northwich, Cheshire;
- [3] *James Foulkes* (14), son, born Duttonfield, Cheshire;
- [4] *William Foulkes* (13), son, born Crewe;
- [5] *Doris Foulkes* (8), daughter, born Willenhall;
- [6] *Elizabeth Foulkes* (33), sister, barmaid, born Warrington;
- [7] *Ada Vickerman* (26), barmaid, born Crewe;
- [8] *James Walton* (35), boarder, actor, born Crewe;
- [9] *Mina Walton* (20), boarder, actress, born Dublin;
- [10] *James Walton* (2), son, born Castletown, Ireland:

South Staffordshire Times 6/1/1923

“The internment took place on Wednesday, at the Cemetery, James Bridge, of the late Mr. *William Isaac Foulkes*, licensee of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Darlaston, who died last Friday, December 29th, and the arrangements were carried out by Mr. S. Webb, undertaker, Wednesbury.....”

South Staffordshire Times 20/1/1923

“Darlaston Police Court.....

Another temporary transfer of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, from the deceased licensee [*William Isaac Foulkes*] to his widow [*Fanny Foulkes*] was granted.”

1924 Probate

“*William Isaac Foulkes*, of DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, King Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 29 December 1922. Administration Lichfield 20 February to *Fanny Foulkes*, widow. Effects £199 3s 10d.”

Joseph Seaman – see also DOG AND PHEASANT.

Plans for alterations to sanitary accommodation were approved on 28th May 1930.

It had a boxing gymnasium [1930s]

Walsall Observer 5/9/1931

“A dog running from the footpath into the front wheel of a motor cycle at Kings Hill, on Tuesday morning caused the rider, Jack Tinsley, of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, King Street, Darlaston, to be thrown to the ground. He was taken to the Walsall General Hospital, where he was found to have sustained a severe head injury, and was detained.”

1939 Register

29, King Street – DOG AND PARTRIDGE

[1] *John Tinsley*, date of birth 5/7/1883, bolt header hot machinist, heavy work, and publican, married;

[2] *Sarah J. Tinsley*, dob 11/3/1886, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/5/1941

“A customer who fell down some steps at the Court Restaurant, one of Mitchells and Butlers licensed houses in Corporation Street, Birmingham, lost a claim for damages against the brewery at Birmingham County Court yesterday. Judge Dale held that the plaintiff, *John Tinsley*, a bolt-maker and licensee of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, King Street, Darlaston, fell down the steps because he was not looking where he was going.

For the defence it was stated that there was always a light on the top of the stairs, and even if there had not been one there was sufficient daylight at the time of the plaintiff’s fall to enable anyone to realise the presence of steps.”

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

Rugeley Times 31/5/1952

“The Darlaston Darts League concluded the 1951-52 season with the playing-off of the final for the league president’s cup and the presentation of the prizes, by Mr. V. Dishman, of Atkinsons Brewery, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, King Street, on Friday. Mr. T. Malthouse (league Chairman) presided over a gathering that packed the room, and was supported by Mr. J. Tinsley.

Congratulating all who had taken part, Mr. Dishman said they had had a very successful season, and, from that angle, the main point was the contribution they had made to charity – a sum of over £45 to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. They were all to be congratulated also on the sportsmanship existing throughout the league and the important function it fulfilled in the general life of the public houses of the town.....”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 7th March 1962.
It closed on 31st December 1962.
Demolished

DOG AND PHEASANT

13, Blockall / Little Cross Street, Darlaston Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Burton and Lincoln Brewery Co. Ltd. [1892], [1896]
Thomas Salt and Co. Ltd. [1904], [1912]
Atkinsons Ltd. [1927], [1968]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Jackson [1841] – **1863**;
Mrs. Ellen Jackson (**1863** – [1879])
Henry Kirkham [1879] – **1882** manager
Charles Tallis [1880] manager
John Izon [1891] – [1892]
Henry Thomas Tyler [1896] manager
Herbert Alfred Jones [1898] – [1901]
Frederick James McNab [1904] – [1904] manager
Harry Evans [1907] – [1916] manager
Charles Meakin [1919] – **1921**;
Samuel Fred Jesse (**1921** – **1928**);
Joseph Seaman (**1928** – **1948**);
John Thomas Baker (**1948** – [1967])

NOTES

DOG AND PHEASANT HOTEL [1881], [1898]

It was known locally as the “Wrexham”.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/5/1841 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by T. Franklin, on Monday, the 31st day of May, 1841, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Jackson*, the DOG AND PHEASANT, Darlaston Green, at six o’clock in the evening.....”

1841 Census

Blockall

- [1] *Thomas Jackson* (30), born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ellen Jackson* (25), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *John Jackson* (8), born Staffordshire;

- [4] Mary Jackson (4), born Staffordshire;
[5] Betsy Winsper (65), widow, born Staffordshire;

Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850

“The annual licensing day for the hundred of Offlow South was held on Wednesday last.....
There were no less than fifty-five new applications from retail brewers for spirit licenses.....
Thomas Jackson, Darlaston. Refused.”

1851 Census

Blockall

- [1] *Thomas Jackson* (41), butcher, born Darlaston;
[2] *Ellen Jackson* (37), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] John Winsper Jackson (18), son, butcher, born Darlaston;
[4] Maryann Jackson (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“On Wednesday, the annual special sessions for renewal of licenses was held.....
By an arrangement (duly announced in the *Journal* at the time) the consideration of the granting of new licenses is adjourned until the 24th September. This arrangement has been universally approved of, and will give proper time for the due and necessary inquiries, which step has been undertaken by the respective Magistrates best acquainted with each locality. We give the names of the applicants for new licenses, fifty-one in number, within one or two of the same amount as those of last year.....
Thomas Jackson, Blockhall, Darlaston, butcher.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1851

“On Wednesday last, according to notice, the adjourned special sessions was held at Great Barr....
The applications for spirit licenses resulted in the granting of eight, out of a list of fifty-one retail brewers and others, who had asked for the privilege.....”
[Not granted.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1853

“In accordance with recent regulations, a Special Petty Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Barr, on Wednesday last, to consider upwards of sixty applications, almost of all of which were from retail brewers for spirit licenses.....
The following new applications were granted.....
Thomas Jackson, of Block Hall, Darlaston.....
It was for the first time publicly announced that any applicant for a spirit license, who had been fined on any information within the twelve months from the last licensing day, would be refused. This rule had been acted upon in previous years.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/11/1857

“On Thursday last G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Darlaston, on the body of Richard Maxfield, aged 50. The deceased was an engineer in the employ of Messrs. Addenbrooke and Co., at the Rough Hay Works, and on the 19th of October last, he was on some brickwork about five feet from the ground and assisting in moving a large pipe belonging to the blast furnace. He was using a jack or lift, and when it had been wound up he stepped backwards whilst his fellow-workman wound it down. In going back he stepped too near the edge of the brickwork, and fell from the top to the ground. He was immediately raised up, when it was found that there was a fracture of the left thigh and of the leg. Upon being taken home Mr. Handy, surgeon, attended him. The deceased lingered until Tuesday, the 3rd instant, when he died from the effects of the injuries. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Walsall Free Press 1/1/1859 - Advert

“To the Gas Consumers of Walsall.

The following letter has been addressed to the Directors of the Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas-light Company.

Gentlemen, We observe by the newspapers that you have determined to supply gas consumers at Walsall with a portion of that scanty quantity of bad gas as you have so niggardly bestowed on us, and our neighbours at Darlaston. This is strange. During the last three months the quantity all through the town has been less by one-half than what it ought to have been, and the quality, or illuminating power, has been sadly inferior to the gas-light in general use. Now, Gentlemen, if you intend to give the consumers at Walsall some gas better in quality and quantity than that which we have of late, we shall not have to thank you for your justice and fair dealing; but, on the other hand, if you should deal with them at Walsall exactly as you treat us, they, like us, may regret that we ever had pipes and brackets connected with your Gas Works. We hope and request now that you will immediately let us have not only more, but better gas, before you allow the consumers of Walsall to share your favours. If our application and complaint be disregarded, it will be our interest to apply to the Walsall Commissioners to give us bright light as a substitute for your blue blazes. We are, Gentleman, Yours very respectfully, *Thomas Jackson*, Blockall, and twenty-seven other Consumers. Darlaston, December 23rd, 1858.”

1861 Census

Blockall – DOG AND PHEASANT

- [1] *Thomas Jackson* (51), victualler and butcher, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Ellen Jackson* (47), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *John Jackson* (27), son, butcher, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Mary Ann Jackson* (24), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Mary ?* (27), boarder, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Elizabeth Jones* (13), servant, born Shropshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1862

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, the license of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE [sic], Darlaston, was transferred from *Thomas Jackson*, deceased, to *Ellen Jackson*, his widow.”

[Possibly temporary.]

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/1/1863

“On Saturday, at a special sessions, the following licenses were transferred.....

DOG AND PHEASANT, Darlaston, from the executors of William [sic] *Jackson* to *Ellen Jackson*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/2/1864

“On Tuesday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the house of Mrs. *E. Jackson*, the DOG AND PHEASANT, Darlaston, on the body of a man named David Small, aged 73, a lock filer, who expired suddenly on Saturday morning last. It appeared from the evidence of a miner, named John Ably, and Harriet Small, the grand-daughter of the deceased, who resided with his wife, in Church Street, that on the morning mentioned, at half-past five o’clock, a fire having broken out on the premises of Mr. Green, several persons went to the assistance of deceased, whose house was in close proximity to the stables where the fire originated. The greater part of the household furniture having been removed, suddenly, while the neighbours were about removing the bedsteads, deceased staggered and fell on his back in the middle of the room. He was removed to the house of a man named Samuel Oats, where he died. Mr. Fellows, surgeon, was sent for, but did not arrive until nearly an hour after deceased had expired. Deceased appeared to have been in the enjoyment of good health until within the past few weeks, when he complained of pains in his side. The Coroner left it to the jury whether they would have any further evidence, and said that had the deceased been a younger man he should certainly have required medical testimony, but deceased was undoubtedly subjected to fright, the result of the fire, which, coupled with his advanced age, might account for his death. The jury expressed a similar opinion, and returned a verdict of Died by the Visitation of God.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1865

“An inquest was held yesterday, at the DOG AND PHEASANT, Darlaston, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, the

District Coroner, respecting the death of Joseph Bullock, aged sixty-five, a sinker. Sarah Brighton, of Blockhall, stated that the deceased had resided with her as a lodger for more than five years, and during that time had not been able to work. He received a little aid from his sons and the parish. On Sunday night last he was as well as usual, with the exception of a slight pain in the stomach. He retired to rest about half-past six o'clock, and was found by the witness shortly afterwards quite dead. There was no suspicion of foul play, and the Jury returned a verdict that the deceased Died from Natural Causes."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/2/1866

"An inquest was held yesterday by Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Darlaston, on the body of an infant of 14 months, named John Parker, the illegitimate child of a young unmarried woman named Julia Parker, who resides in Eldon Street. The child died in a very sudden manner on Sunday afternoon last.

The mother of deceased said its father was a man named John Fellows, of Wednesbury. It was a healthy child, although ruptured. A truss was given by the surgeon at the Walsall Workhouse, and was on deceased when he expired. The child had been suffering from whooping cough for the past fortnight. Witness had been directed to take the infant to a surgeon, and would have done so on Sunday but for the rain. She had given deceased syrups and herbs, which she purchased from a Mrs. Gibbons, who resides near the BELL INN. On Sunday afternoon at half-past one o'clock Elizabeth Sanders, a girl of about 14 years, took the child out for an airing. It had previously eaten a hearty dinner of potatoes and meat and currant pudding. The Coroner: What! Did you give the child meat, potatoes, and pudding? – Witness: Yes, he cried so if I didn't; he was a rum 'un for pudding.

Deceased was brought back in half an hour dead. It was taken to Mr. Ransome, surgeon, before being brought home, but the child had expired. It had suffered from convulsions on the preceding day.

The Coroner thought the mother had acted very injudiciously in not taking the infant to a surgeon as directed, in giving it meat, and in sending it out in the cold without being sufficiently wrapped up while suffering from whooping cough.

The jury found a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, accelerated through want of medical treatment and neglect.

The mother of deceased was called in, apprised of the verdict, and severely reprimanded by the Coroner."

1871 Census

Blockall – DOG AND PHEASANT

[1] *Ellen Jackson* (57), widow, publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Elizabeth Nash* (21), visitor, barmaid, born Dudley Port:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/1/1878 - Advert

"The DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Darlaston. A first-class Free Old-Licensed House, successfully carried on for upwards of fifty years by the late Mr. *Thomas Jackson* and his Widow.

Mr. Edwin Howell is instructed by the Executor of the late Mrs. *Ellen Jackson*, to Sell by Auction, at the UNION INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, on Monday Next, January 28, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read – the Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of this old-established and well-frequented Inn.

The Premises were built for the trade, and contain Entrance Hall, Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, and Bar Parlour, on the ground floor; four Chambers, and very large Club Room upstairs; capital Beer and Spirit Cellars, with rolling-way from yard. The Out-offices comprise Brewhouse, with Malt Room over; Coalhouse, two-stalled Stable, Saddle Room, with Loft and Workshop over; Pigsties, and large yard.

The House is centrally situated, having a double frontage to Blockall and the main street leading to Willenhall, is located in a good position, and is replete in every convenience for doing an extensive trade.

A Lease of the Premises for fourteen years will be granted to the purchaser, at an annual rental of £70, to include a Retail Shop in the tenure of Mr. Silletoe, at the low rental of £20, also a good House, fronting to Blockall, let to Mr. Richard Hall, at 4s per week.

The Stock-in-Trade, Fixtures, Brewing and Cellar Utensils, with a portion of the Household Furniture, to be taken to at a valuation.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Jacob Rowlands, No.8, Ann Street; or to the Auctioneer, 37, Colmore Row, both of Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/4/1878 - Advert

“Found, near Walsall, a liver-coloured Spaniel Bitch. If not claimed will be sold in three days.
WREXHAM STORES, Blockall, Darlaston.”

Wednesbury Herald 5/7/1879

“Philiman Stratham and Thomas Duffield, both ironworkers, were charged with being drunk at the WREXHAM public house, Blockall.
Police-constable Daly proved to finding both defendants drunk in the WREXHAM liquor shop in Blockall. The Bench fined Stratham 10s and costs, or in default 14 days; and Duffield 5s and costs, or in default 7 days.”

Wednesbury Herald 19/7/1879

“*Henry Kirkham*, landlord of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Blockall, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house on the 25th ult. Mr. Daly, barrister of Birmingham, appeared for the defendant.

Police-constable Daly said that about half past five o’clock on the day in question he visited the defendant’s house, and found two drunken men sitting in one of the rooms, and one had a quantity of ale before him. He asked the manager how he accounted for the men being drunk, and he replied, ‘That they were not drunk, and that it was only a way that they had got.’ The manager afterwards ordered the men to leave the house, and they immediately obeyed the order.

In answer to Mr. Daly witness said he did not see the men supplied with anything to drink. He, however, saw the men, drunk in the streets prior to seeing them in defendant’s house. Evidence having been given that the men were not supplied with anything to drink in defendant’s house, Mr. Daly submitted that as there was no evidence to show that the defendant permitted drunkenness the case should be dismissed.

The Deputy Stipendiary said it was quite true that no evidence had been given showing that defendant’s representatives supplied the men with drink, and he should dismiss the case. It was, however, a proper case to bring before the Bench.”

Wednesbury Herald 27/12/1879

“*Henry Kirkham*, manager of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Blockall, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 16th inst. Mr. Dominick Daly appeared for the defendant. PS Ainsworth said that when passing the defendant’s house on the night in question at about half past six o’clock, he was called into the house by the defendant, to put two quarrelsome men out of the house. On going into the house he found two men named Newton and Lovell drunk. Upon being put into the street they fell down, and in answer to witness defendant admitted that the men had been supplied with three or four quarts of ale, and a glass of whiskey.

Mr. Daly denied that the men were drunk, and contended that his client had done his best not to violate the law.

After a number of witnesses had been called, the Bench said they considered the case proved, and fined defendant 20s and costs.

Job Newton, for being drunk on licensed premises was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Wednesbury Herald 19/6/1880

“*Henry Kirkham*, landlord of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Blockall, Darlaston, was summoned for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the morning of the 6th inst. Mr. H. Wilcox, of Wolverhampton, appeared for the defence.

Police-constable Clarke said that on the night of the 5th inst, at a quarter to twelve o’clock, he went, in company with Police-constable Hood, to the defendant’s house, which was managed by a man named *Charles Tallis*. They went to a kitchen which adjoined the liquor vaults, and heard a number of men talking. By the noise he believed that they were playing with dominoes. He heard money pass, and also heard some of the

men say they would play for a bottle of 'fizz,' whilst others said they would play for a half gallon of ale. He subsequently saw the manager (*Charles Tallis*) go into the vaults and fetch a can of ale and two bottles of stout. At half past one o'clock witness and another officer went into the kitchen, and found five men sitting round a table, and on the latter were several glasses which had contained liquor. At the request of the manager witness tasted some of the stout. He asked the manager how he accounted for the men being on the premises at that time in the morning, and the manager replied that 'they were his guests, and were lodgers and friends, and he had invited them to celebrate the birth of his little girl.' He (the manager) also stated 'that his wife was upstairs, and that the men's wives were with her.' Witness afterwards left the house, and at three o'clock he returned and found the men still in the house. The manager, in answer to a question put to him, said, 'They are going to stay all night.' He went to the residence of William Wilkes, and found that his wife was waiting for him; and upon going to the residence of Fieldhouse he found that his mother or mother-in-law was waiting for his return, and the woman complained of young men being kept in public houses until three o'clock on a Sunday morning. Witness informed the manager that he should report the case.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said he could ask further evidence, but Mr. Wilcox said it was not necessary, as he was prepared to admit that the men were in the house all night. He, however, should be able to prove that no offence had been committed, inasmuch as the men were entertained to supper by the manager as his guests in his private residence, which was some distance from the liquor vaults. The real facts were that the manager's wife was confined of a daughter, and his client was so pleased that he decided to celebrate the birth of the child by entertaining some of his friends to supper after eleven o'clock on Saturday night. If he proved in evidence what he had stated he trusted the Stipendiary would dismiss the case.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said the private residence referred to by Mr. Wilcox was part of the licensed premises.

Mr. Wilcox said there were two cottages between the liquor vaults and the manager's private residence. In answer to the Stipendiary, the defendant said people could walk out of the manager's private residence into the liquor shop.

For the defence the five men were called, and each stated that they were invited by the manager 'to wet the child's head,' after eleven o'clock on Saturday night, and that it was decided four days previous to the Saturday that a social gathering would take place.

In answer to the Stipendiary several witnesses stated that the whole of the men stayed at the house all night, and that they slept on the sitting room floor.

The Stipendiary said he believed it to be a very bad case, and should fine defendant £5 and costs.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said that as the defendant had been previously convicted he should apply for the license to be endorsed.

Mr. Wilcox said he trusted that the Stipendiary would not order the license to be endorsed, because if it was endorsed the defendant – who was not really responsible for the offence – would forfeit his lease of the property.

The Stipendiary said he was not altogether satisfied as to what distance the private residence was from the liquor vaults, and he would consequently direct the police to make the necessary inquiries by the next Court day. At present he had made up his mind to fine defendant £10 and costs providing that he did not order the license to be endorsed. If a fine of £5 was inflicted the license would be endorsed. He would, however, give his final decision after the police had inspected the premises.

The five men, William Wilkes, Thomas Newton, Samuel Fieldhouse, Harved Partridge, and James Haycock, were fined 1s and costs for being on the licensed premises during prohibited hours.

The hearing of the case created a great deal of interest."

Warrington Examiner 3/7/1880

"At the Wednesbury police court, on Tuesday, the stipendiary gave judgement in the case in which *Henry Kirkham*, of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Darlaston, was charged with keeping open his house and selling liquors during prohibited hours by his agent. The plea was that the latter having had a daughter born unto him, was giving a head-wetting festival to his friends. The stipendiary imposed a penalty of £10 and costs, without the endorsement of the license."

Birmingham Mail 21/2/1881

“Local Failures.....

A petition for liquidation was filed this day in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court by *Henry Kirkham*, of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Darlaston, and 46, Coleman Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, formerly carrying on business at the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Darlaston, aforesaid, and the UNION TAP HOUSE, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton, aforesaid, licensed victualler, with liabilities estimated at £3,000, and assets not yet ascertained.”

1881 Census

13, Blockall – DOG AND PHEASANT

[1] *Henry Kirkham* (33), married, licensed victualler, born Liverpool;

[2] *Mary Jane Kirkham* (12), daughter, scholar, born Liverpool;

[3] *Mary Smith* (44), widow, general servant, born Mayo, Ireland:

Henry Kirkham's brother, *Frederick William Kirkham*, was licensee of the WAGGON AND HORSES. *Henry Kirkham* was married to *Mary* (nee *Okell*), the sister of *Martha J. Kirkham*, wife of *Frederick William Kirkham*.

Evening Express 5/11/1881

“Dispute in the Nut and Bolt Trade at Darlaston.

A conference of employers and employed in the above trade was held at the DOG AND PHEASANT HOTEL, Darlaston, on Thursday night. There was a large attendance of employers, who were ably represented by Mr. B. Whitley. Mr. R. Juggins appeared in the interests of the workmen.

It will be remembered that on August 17th a list of prices and sizes was agreed to at the Queens Hotel, Birmingham, and came into operation September 1st, 1881. The whole of the employers in the trade were invited to take part in the arrangement of the new list, but for some cause or other the Darlaston employers held aloof. The consequence was that the workmen's association undertook the responsibility of enforcing the new list upon those employers who refused to attend the conference.....”

Wednesbury Herald 16/12/1882

“*Henry Kirkham*, landlord of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Blockall, appeared on an adjourned summons with keeping his house open during prohibited hours.

It was stated that defendant had now left the house, and the magistrates subsequently only inflicted a nominal penalty of 2s 6d and costs.”

Henry Kirkham – see also BARREL, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton, UNION TAP HOUSE, Wolverhampton, THREE CUPS, Walsall, and OLD BUSH, Darlaston.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1890 - Advert

“DOG AND PHEASANT, Darlaston, to Let; full-licensed corner house. Rent £70; let-offs about £22.

In-going by valuation, about £200.

Apply, first instance, by letter, *John Izon*, 135, Larches Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

Mr. A. Young mentioned two cases in which he was concerned objected to on the ground that the licensee was non-resident. He pointed out that under the Acts of Parliament residence was not necessary in the case of holders of alehouse licenses, though necessary in the case of beerhouse licenses. Mr. Elwell said the magistrates had given every consideration to this question, and had decided to renew all licenses where the holders were bona-fide owners or tenants. This decision affected the following cases.....

John Izon, DOG AND PHEASANT, Blockall, Darlaston Granted, subject to transfer to the Burton and Lincoln Brewery Company.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....
Mr. W. S. Smith, for the Burton and Lincoln Brewery Company, applied for the renewal of the license of the DOG AND PHEASANT Alehouse, Blockall, in the place of a former tenant, who had been convicted for permitting drunkenness. Granted.....
Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall.....
The Burton and Lincoln Breweries Company, Blockall.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/11/1894 - Advert

“DOG AND PHEASANT, Darlaston.
This excellent Fully-Licensed House to be Let upon very Advantageous Terms.
Apply, Thomas Skidmore & Son, Valuers, 2, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton.”

Weekly Dispatch (London) 19/6/1898

“At Wednesbury yesterday a young woman named Mary Butler was arrested and remanded for committing a daring robbery at the DOG AND PHEASANT HOTEL, Darlaston. Prisoner was employed as a domestic servant at the hotel. A few days ago she suddenly decamped, taking with her a considerable sum of money and several articles of wearing apparel. She went to Birmingham, and spent her money in spreeing with other girls, and eventually had to sleep in a brewhouse.”

AND

Uttoxeter Advertiser and Ashbourne Times 6/7/1898

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Pleaded Guilty.....
Mary Butler, domestic servant, theft of money, a lady’s cape, and other articles, from the house of her employer, *Herbert Alfred Jones*, at Darlaston, on June 15th, one month.”

1901 Census

13, Blockall – LIQUOR VAULTS

- [1] *Herbert Jones* (25), publican, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Ellen Jones* (26), wife, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Herbert Jones* (5), son, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [4] *Frances Jones* (3), daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).
Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

DOG AND PHEASANT, Blockhall.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Birmingham Mail 19/7/1904

“At Wednesbury, today, Joseph Anslow, carter, Church Steps, was committed to the Assizes, charged with obtaining two shillings by false pretences from *James McNab*, a Darlaston footballer, of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Blockall. Prisoner represented that a committee had been formed with the intention of starting a gymnasium in connection with the Wednesbury Volunteers, and that the expense was to be met by voluntary subscriptions. This proved to be a fabrication.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/7/1904

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Richard Joseph Anslow, carter, was indicted for having obtained by false pretences 5s from Joseph Hampden, at Wednesbury, and 2s each from William Henry Bostock and *Frederick James McNab*, at Darlaston. Mr. Graham Millward prosecuted.

The prisoner called upon Mr. Hampden and asked him for his subscription for the Wednesbury Volunteers. The prisoner told him the amount he had been in the habit of giving, and he then handed the prisoner 5s. In the other two cases he obtained the money by representing that he was collecting for a gymnasium for the Darlaston Volunteers.

Sergt.-Instr. Eaton, of the G and H. Companies 2nd V.B. South Staffordshire Regiment, said he did not know the prisoner. He had no authority to collect money for the Volunteers.

Sergt.-Instr. Morley, of H. Company 3rd V.B. South Staffordshire Regiment, stationed at Darlaston, said he did not know the prisoner, and he was not authorised to collect money for the company.

Police-constable Parsons said when in custody the prisoner said he was instructed by a man named Charles Withers, of 192, Pleck Road, Wednesbury, to collect money. There was no road of that name in Wednesbury. Charles Withers, son of the landlord of the THREE CROWNS, Wednesbury, said he conducted a gymnasium class at the KINGS ARMS, and he knew the prisoner. He had never instructed the prisoner to collect money for his gymnasium or for any other gymnasium.

The prisoner said the witness Withers, who had been called, was not the Mr. Withers who had given him instructions to collect the money.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to three months' hard labour.”

Walsall Advertiser 29/6/1907

“A case was mentioned at the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday in which *Harry Evans*, licensee of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Blockhall, Darlaston, has been summoned for alleged gaming on his premises. It was stated that Mr. Lawrence, who had been engaged for the defence, was unable to attend. Mr. A. J. Glover (for the prosecution) raised no objection to an adjournment, and it was decided to hear the case at Wolverhampton on Friday.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/7/1907

“*Harry Evans*, of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Darlaston, was charged with allowing betting on his premises on several days in May. The case had been before the Court previously.

The evidence for the prosecution was that on three dates in May two men were sent to the house by the police, who had reason to suspect that gambling was allowed there. These men stated that they played on a ring-pitching board with the defendant for drink, and when the latter lost he supplied the beer.

For the defence, it was denied that gaming for drink took place, and he and his wife gave evidence to that effect. Mrs. *Evans* further stated that one of the men named Sherrard had been refused drink in the house. He afterwards called and said that the defendant was to have a summons, and unless he came to terms with him (Sherrard) it would be the worse for him.

Other witnesses for the defence denied that gaming occurred.

The Stipendiary said the case for the prosecution rested on the evidence of the man Sherrard, and it was totally untrustworthy. He dismissed the case, and the prosecution was ordered to pay £7 towards the defendant's costs."

1911 Census

Blockall – DOG AND PHEASANT

- [1] *Harry Evans* (33), licensed victualler, born Ettingshall;
- [2] Sarah Ann Evans (38), wife, married 8 years, born Bilston;
- [3] Florence Evans (6), daughter, born Wolverhampton:

Samuel Fred Jesse – see also CROWN AND CROSS GUNS.

1939 Register

13, Blockall – DOG AND PHEASANT

- [1] *Joseph Seaman*, date of birth 13/9/1880, licensee, married;
- [2] Sarah L. Seaman, dob 8/3/1884, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Joseph Seaman, dob 15/7/1912, pattern maker, single;
- [4] George Seaman, dob 2/3/1918, toolmaker (fitter), single:

Joseph Seaman – see also DOG AND PARTRIDGE.

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1948/9, 1949/50, 1950/1, 1961/2 and 1962.

In 1951 a team from here won the Division A Trophy in the Darlaston Darts League.

Rugeley Times 31/5/1952

"The Darlaston Darts League concluded the 1951-52 season with the playing-off of the final for the league president's cup and the presentation of the prizes, by Mr. V. Dishman, of Atkinsons Brewery, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, King Street, on Friday. Mr. T. Malthouse (league Chairman) presided over a gathering that packed the room, and was supported by Mr. J. Tinsley.

Congratulating all who had taken part, Mr. Dishman said they had had a very successful season, and, from that angle, the main point was the contribution they had made to charity – a sum of over £45 to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. They were all to be congratulated also on the sportsmanship existing throughout the league and the important function it fulfilled in the general life of the public houses of the town.....

Mr. Dishman presented the prizes as follows.....

A Division Championship Shield, ROYAL GEORGE; runners up, DOG AND PHEASANT; third, HERBERTS PARK TAVERN.

Archer Cross Cup, DOG AND PHEASANT; runners-up, NELSON INN."

Plans were approved for alterations on 14th September 1955.

Walsall Observer 12/1/1968

"County Borough of Walsall.

The Highways Act 1959 and The Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act 1946.

The Walsall (King Street Darlaston By-Pass) Compulsory Purchase Order 1967.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Walsall County Borough Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by the above-mentioned Acts on the 22nd December 1967 made a Compulsory Purchase Order enti-

tled The Walsall (King Street Darlaston By-Pass) Compulsory Purchase Order 1967, which is about to be submitted to the Minister of Transport for confirmation, authorizing them to purchase compulsorily for the purpose of the construction of new highways in Darlaston in the said County Borough the land described in the Schedule hereto.....

In Little Cross Street, Darlaston the DOG AND PHEASANT Public House.”

The license was surrendered in 1971.

Closed

It was demolished to make way for St. Lawrence Way.

DOLPHIN

Catherines Cross, (Wolverhampton Lane), DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Bayley [1861] – [1863]

NOTES

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Lane – DOLPHIN

[1] *Thomas Bayley* (45), beer seller and boat loader, born Darlaston;

[2] *Maria Bayley* (43), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Thomas Bayley* (9), son, born Darlaston;

[4] *John Bayley* (6), son, born Darlaston;

[5] *Adam Bayley* (1), son, born Darlaston;

[6] *Emma Bammer* (20), general servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Free Press 7/3/1863 - Advert

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the matter of *Thomas Bayley*, of Catherines Cross, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, Beerhouse-keeper and Boat-loader, Dealer and Chapman, a Bankrupt.

Whereas at a public sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the said Court.

Dated this 18th day of February, 1863.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

DUCK

Cock Heath, Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Woodward [1861] – [1862]

NOTES

1861 Census

Cock Heath – Beer Shop – DUCK

[1] *William Woodward* (45), gunlock filer and retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Woodward (44), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] James Woodward (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Jonathon Woodward (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Jemimah Chell (45), domestic servant, born Bradley:

William Woodward, retailer of beer, Cock Heath. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1866 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Walsall.

William Woodward, late of the DUCK Beerhouse, at Moxley, in the county of Stafford, Retailer of Beer and Dealer in Tobacco, but now in Lodgings at Cock Heath, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Gun Lock Filer, having been adjudged Bankrupt, on the 3rd day of September, 1866, a Public Sitting for the said Bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make application for his Discharge, will be held at the said Court, on the 27th day of October, 1866, at the Court House, Goodall Street, Walsall, at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said Bankrupt to surrender. Frederick F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Jno. Ebsworth, of Wednesbury, is the Solicitor in the Bankruptcy. Jno. Ebsworth, Esq, Solicitor, Wednesbury.
C. G. Megeven, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/10/1866

“Bankrupts. At Walsall County Court, on Saturday.....

The last examination of *William Woodward*, beerhouse keeper, Moxley, was adjourned until the 24th of November.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/11/1866 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of *William Woodward*, late of the DUCK Beerhouse, at Moxley, in the county of Stafford, Retailer of Beer and Dealer in Tobacco, but now in lodgings at Cock Heath, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Gunlock Filer, adjudged Bankrupt on the 3rd day of September, 1866, an Order of Discharge will be delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless an appeal be duly entered against the Judgement of the Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.

Dated this 24th day of November, 1866.

C. G. Megeven, High Bailiff.”

DUKE OF WELLINGTON

Church Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Wilkes [1822] – [1830]

NOTES

Terry Smitheman (local historian) believed that this became the GREEN DRAGON, in protest against the Duke of Wellington's Act allowing people to buy a license to sell beer.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/11/1830 - Advert

“Freehold Lands, Mines, and Buildings, in Darlaston and Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. D. Taylor, at the house of Mr. *William Wilkes*, known by the sign of the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, situate in Church Street, Darlaston, on Thursday the 11th day of November inst at four o'clock in the afternoon

DUKE OF WELLINGTON

6, The Leys, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Samuel Woodhall Ltd, High Street, West Bromwich

LICENSEES

William Watson Harper [1864] – [1881]

Obadiah Hopkins [1884]

Henry Woodhall [1890]

George Deans [1891]

George Grainger [1892] – **1926**):

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

William Watson Harper, beer retailer, Leys. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/2/1865 - Advert

“To be Sold, a 3-foot Slide Rest Lathe, flat Bed.

Apply to *W. W. Harper*, the Leys, Darlaston.”

William Harper, beer retailer and gunlock maker, The Leys. [1868]

William Harper, beer retailer and gunlock manufacturer, The Leys. [1870]

1871 Census

The Leys – DUKE OF WELLINGTON

- [1] *William W. Harper* (55), beerhouse keeper and gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Martha Harper (55), wife, beershop, born Sedgley;
- [3] John Harper (33), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [4] Amelia Harper (31), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [5] Ann Harper (17), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] Diana Jones Harper (14), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

William Watson Harper, beer retailer and gunlock manufacturer, The Leys. [1872], [1880]

Birmingham Daily Post 13/6/1872

“South Staffordshire General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

At a meeting of the Weekly Board, held on Tuesday Donations.....

Mr. *W. Harper*, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Darlaston, 1s.”

1881 Census

6, The Leys – DUKE OF WELLINGTON

- [1] *William W. Harper* (65), gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Martha Harper (65), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Ann Harper (27), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] John Williams (20), boarder, engine fitter at iron works, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 23/6/1883

“William Jeffs, nut and bolt maker, of Darlaston, was charged with assaulting Joseph Cresswell, on the 12th inst.

The complainant alleged that whilst he was sitting in the DUKE OF WELLINGTON INN, a disturbance took place, during which defendant struck complainant in the mouth.

Defendant denied the offence, and alleged that he was first struck by the complainant.

The magistrates imposed a fine of 2s 6d and costs.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/4/1884

“The annual dinner in connection with the Mutual Society of Friends was held at Mr. *Obadiah Hopkin*’s, the DUKE OF WELLINGTON INN, Darlaston, on Easter Monday. The members present, after doing full justice to the good things profusely provided by the worthy host, proceeded to dispose of a few items of business connected with the society.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/5/1884

“On Monday evening, a social gathering was held at the DUKE OF WELLINGTON INN, the Leys, Darlaston. The host, Mr. *Obadiah Hopkins*, served an excellent repast. After the cloth was removed, Mr. T. Hopkins, Mr. Carter, and others, contributed to the evening’s enjoyment, by giving a number of songs in good style, and Mr. R. Evans gave some account of his recent visit to America. A very pleasant evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/1/1885 - Advert

“Old-Established Free Beerhouse, with brewing Plant, now doing fair trade, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, The Leys, Darlaston; present proprietor taking to full-licensed house.

For particulars, apply on the premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1886 - Advert

“To Let, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, The Leys, Darlaston; free beerhouse. Capital brewing plant, work-

shop, large gateway entrance, and enclosed yard. Rent £21 per annum. In-going £110. Apply on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1890

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, Richard Wells, West Bromwich, applied for the temporary transfer of the DUKE OF WELLINGTON INN, the Leys, to him from *Henry Woodall*. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared in support of the application, which was opposed by Superintendent Holland, on the ground that the applicant was a professional bookmaker. He called Inspector Ainsworth, who said the applicant was a moulder by trade, but for two years during which he had lived in West Bromwich he had spent his time in making books on horse races, and had kept a young man named Benjamin Roberts as his clerk. The applicant had told him that he intended to give up bookmaking.

Mr. Smith called the applicant, who said he had worked as a moulder for Mr. Bumstead, a justice of the peace for the county; for the Cannock and Huntingdon Colliery Company; for Mr. Green, Coseley; and for Messrs. Platt, Kings Hill. He had also kept the Queens Arms Inn at Hednesford for a year and seven months, and had never had a complaint against him. It was true that he had been betting for another person for two years, but he had resolved to give it up.

The magistrates retired to consider the matter, and on their return Mr. Harding said they felt they should not be justified in granting a transfer to a man who had for two years up to the present time been getting his living by bookmaking. The transfer would therefore be refused.”

1891 Census

6, The Leys

- [1] *George Deans* (23), publican, born Cannock;
- [2] *Annie Deans* (24), wife, born Cannock;
- [3] *Elizabeth Deans* (10 months), daughter, born Cannock;
- [4] *Louisa Austins* (24), visitor, living on her own means, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Music and singing licenses..... The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for dancing, in addition, being abandoned.....

George Grainger, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, The Leys.”

1901 Census

6, The Leys

- [1] *George Grainger* (48), unmarried, publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Matilda Grainger* (74), mother, widow, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Edith Bailey* (15), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

6, The Leys

- [1] *George Grainger* (50), unmarried, publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Thomas Cooksey* (25), boarder, tramway inspector, born Hill Top, West Bromwich;
- [3] *Florence Mary Cooksey* (26), wife, married 2 years, born Hill Top, West Bromwich;
- [4] *Leslie Turner Cooksey* (1), boarder, born Hill Top, West Bromwich:

George Grainger, beer retailer, 6, The Leys. [1912], [1916], [1921]

Walsall Observer 13/2/1926

“On the ground of redundancy three licenses – the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, the Leys; the ROSE AND CROWN, High Street and the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green – were objected to at the Darlaston Brewster Sessions on Wednesday.....

Alderman Yardley announced that all the licenses would be renewed except those of the DUKE OF WEL-

LINGTON, the Leys; the ROSE AND CROWN, High Street, and the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, which, on the grounds of redundancy, would be referred to the adjourned licensing sessions on March 10.”

Walsall Observer 13/3/1926

“Alleging redundancy, the police objected to the renewal of three Darlaston licenses at the adjourned Brewster Sessions for that town, held on Wednesday.....

With regard to the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, The Leys, Police-inspector Willetts said that within a distance of 500 yards there were 20 fully-licensed houses, 24 beer ‘on’ houses, and three ‘off’ licensed houses. The Magistrates’ Clerk (Mr. L. A. Shirlaw): Can you differentiate this house from the others in that vicinity? Witness: In my opinion it is doing the least trade. It is two and a half to three barrels and about four dozen bottled goods per week.

Answering Mr. G. D. Wheway (counsel for the owners, Messrs. Woodhall, West Bromwich), the inspector agreed that the licensee had been at the DUKE OF WELLINGTON for the past 36 years without complaint. Mr. R. A. Tench, for the licensee, said that ‘if the magistrates had made up their minds to refuse renewal of the license he would reserve what he had to say until they got to Stafford.’

Following a consultation with his fellow magistrates, the Chairman (Mr. J. Yardley) took exception to this remark. ‘We have not come here with our minds made up not to renew the license,’ he said, ‘and we feel that your remark ought not to have been made.’

Mr. Tench: I did not cast any reflection on your worships. I mean that I have something to say as to the renewal of the license, but if it is to be referred, I much prefer to lay my case before the Compensation Authority at Stafford.

Emphasising the owners’ great desire to maintain the license, Mr. Wheway admitted there was a considerable supply of licenses to the population in The Leys district, but the DUKE OF WELLINGTON was the only house owned by Messrs. Woodhall in that district. If the license were taken away, the business of the district would not be reduced but would merely go elsewhere, and the profits to those owners who had the good fortune to possess a number of houses in that district. It was much better to promote competition than monopoly.....

In all three cases the question of renewing the licenses was referred to the Compensation Authority.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/7/1926

“No fewer than 34 licensed premises were scheduled for consideration at the Principal Meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday. In 23 cases the authority decided to refer licenses for compensation, four were renewed, and the remaining seven were adjourned to be dealt with on July 12.....

The following licenses were referred for compensation.....

DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Darlaston.”

[Nothing further than this was reported.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/7/1926 - Notice

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 28th day of June and the 12th day of July, 1926, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *George Grainger*. Registered Owner, Samuel Woodhall Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/12/1926

“The Licensing Committee for the County have fixed the following sums as compensation in the case of licenses, the renewal of which was refused at the Principal meeting of the authority at Stafford, on June 28 and July 12 last.....

DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Darlaston, ante ’69 beerhouse, £1,150.”

It closed on 31st December 1926.

DUKE OF YORK

1, (1+2), Moxley Road (1, (1+2), Woods Bank) / Catherines Cross, Darlaston Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

George Jones [1857]
Northampton Brewery Co. Ltd. [1892]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1928], [1964]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Benjamin Skidmore [1818] – [1834]
Isaiah Skidmore [1835] – [1836]
William Simkin [1837]
Zachariah Simkin [1841] – [1851]
John Teece [1854] – [1857]
George Jones **(1857 – 1858)**;
Miss Lucy Jones **(1858 – [1873])**
Lucy Phillips [] – **1873**);
Lucy Lowe Partridge **(1873 – []**
John McMahon [1874] – [1881]
Thomas Barfoot [1891] – [1892]
Frederick W Keywood [1896]
Thomas Russell [1901] – [1908]
George Jeffries [1911] – [1912]
Charles Edward Craddock ‘Charlie’ Nicholls [1916] – **1934**);
Thomas Joseph Oakley **(1934 – 1949)**;
Edward James Holland **(1949 – 1950)**;
Mrs. Nancy Leona (Jones) Yardley **(1950 – 1954)**;
Joseph Crosby **(1954 – 1967)**;
Charlotte Ellen Crosby **(1967 – []**

NOTES

Catherines Cross [1818], [1830], [1851], [1861], [1862], [1864]
Wood Bank [1849], [1850], [1861]
Woods Bank [1871], [1873], [1880]
1+2, Woods Bank [1881]
1, Woods Bank [1892], [1896]
1+2, Moxley Road [1901], [1911]
1, Moxley Road [1908], [1912], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It had a bowling green.

Benjamin Skidmore was also a miner [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/12/1825 - Advert

“Valuable Mines at Moxley, near Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by D. Taylor, at the dwelling house of Mr. *Benjamin Skidmore*, known by the sign of the DUKE OF YORK, in Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on Thursday the 29th day of December inst at four o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1831

“Duke of Wellington's Beer Bill.....

The cheapness of beer proves only an incentive to excess; while the grand object of the retailer is to multiply every vicious attraction which interest and ingenuity can suggest. We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured, and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.....”

AND

Birmingham Journal 3/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

In perusing your *Journal* of Saturday last, I find the following which is incorrect, but I have no doubt it is from misinformation. ‘We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.’

The fact, Sir, is this; there were eight bulls in the whole, and one of those was at a Beer House, in Wednesbury parish, and seven were in the parish of Darlaston. There are, in the latter parish, seventeen houses licensed under the old Act, and thirty-five under the new Act. Six of those bulls were baited at the houses of the licensed victuallers, and but one at the house of a retail brewer.

This, Sir, is a truth which cannot be contradicted. I can give you the names of the persons, and the signs of every house at which these bulls were baited, if required.

I am, Sir, Your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, August 31, 1831.....

AND

Birmingham Journal 10/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

Sir, Agreeable to your request I have given you the names of the persons, also their signs, at the houses where the bulls were baited at the late Darlaston wake.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, September 8, 1831.....

Licensed under the Old Act *B. Skidmore*, DUKE OF YORK.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/10/1834 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Land and Mines, at Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by D. Taylor, at Mr. *Benjamin Skidmore's*, DUKE OF YORK INN, in Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on Friday the 17th day do October inst, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/7/1836 - Advert

“At the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston. To Publicans and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by D. Taylor, on Monday and Tuesday, the 18th and 19th days of July inst, on the premises, the greater part of the useful Brewing Vessels, iron-bound Casks, Hops, modern Household Furniture, and other Effects of Mr. *Isaiah Skidmore*, who is changing his residence.

Particulars will appear in catalogues, which will be distributed prior to the sale, and may be had on the premises, or of the Auctioneer, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Sale to commence each morning at ten o'clock, with the usual conditions.”

William Simkin = William Simpkin

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1837

“*Zachariah Simpkin*, a respectable looking youth, the son of Mr. *Simpkin*, landlord of the DUKE OF YORK public house, at Darlaston, was charged by Joseph Wolfe, an itinerant vender of jewellery, of the Jewish

persuasion, with having stolen a sovereign from complainant's pocket while he was asleep. Wolfe, having been sworn after the Hebrew fashion, stated that he had lodged at the house of the defendant's father occasionally for nearly twelve months, and that on Wednesday last, after having been at Wolverhampton races, he returned home soon after nine o'clock, and went to bed about ten. But before he reposed himself on his couch, inviting the approach of 'tired nature's sweet restorer,' he prudently counted his cash, and found himself possessed of four sovereigns, and thirteen shillings and four pence in other coin. The gold he carefully wrapped up in a piece of paper, which he carefully poked into the innermost recesses of one of his breeches' pockets; and the unmentionables themselves, as is customary with cautious people, he deposited beneath his pillow. Having thus made every necessary preparation for undisturbed repose, and the security of his money, he quickly surrendered up his consciousness to the influence of the sleepy god – whose favours were bestowed upon him with a degree of bounty which many a disappointed supplicant to Somnus will envy; for, according to his own account, he slept till nearly three o'clock, and 'very, very hard.' At this hour his rest was interrupted. A fumbling about the bed awakened him – he felt a slight blow on the head from his watch, which was in another pocket of the breeches – and the little hillock of cash appeared to glide from beneath his pillow. He started – clutched the depository of his treasure, which, if it had ever been removed from its place of safety, was yet remaining near its original locality – and hastily inquired, as alarmed men are apt, 'Who's there?' 'I am seeking for my night-shirt,' replied a voice, which the Jew affirmed to be that of the defendant. Confiding in the integrity of the possessor of the voice, which was well known to him, the Jew again folded his hands and resumed his slumbers. The day dawned – the Jew arose – washed himself – and then inspected that sanctum sanctorum of Mammon, his breeches' pocket, and found that one of his sovereigns had vanished, and that the remainder no longer occupied the envelope in which he had so warily encased them. On the Jew's mentioning his loss, the defendant regretted it, and said, 'I'm sorry I was by your bed, as you may have suspicions of me.' And suspicions had the Jew which nothing could shake; for though it appeared that the room was a double-bedded one; that two other lads besides *Simpkin* slept in it; that the door was not locked; that any one might have entered while the Jew was so 'very, very hard asleep;' that his valuables on all previous occasions had remained untouched, though *Simpkin* at all times had access to them; and, finally, that on his return from the races the Jew was in a state which might excuse his seeing a sovereign double, and occasion a little misapprehension even in his own mind as to the mode in which he had disposed of them – yet nought availed. The sovereign, he averred, was taken – and who could have taken it, if the defendant had not? In vain were the probabilities pointed out to him; that the sovereign, if lost at all, might have disappeared without the knowledge of the defendant – and for a very long while did he decline to acknowledge that the contents of his shorts might have been investigated by some one while he was sound asleep. He could not believe that his vigilant guard over his treasure was for one moment, sleeping or waking, relaxed; and so dear was his money to him that he evidently believed it could not be stolen from him while he slept without his knowing it; but the Magistrate, and all present, came to a directly contrary conclusion, and Mr. Clare, after many endeavours to convince the Jew of the reasonableness of his decision, finally dismissed the charge, observing the *Simpkin* left the office without the slightest imputation on his character."

William Simkin died on 25th January 1838.

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/2/1838

"Inquests before Henry Smith, Esq, Coroner.

On the 27th ult, at Darlaston, on *William Simkin*, a miner. Deceased was 49 years old, and landlord of the DUKE OF YORK public house. Whilst ascending the shaft of a coal pit at Wednesbury, which he superintended, a piece of rock fell down the shaft by which he was stunned and fell to the bottom. Mr. Rooker, and four other medical gentlemen, attended him and trepanned his skull, but he died from the injuries received. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Zachariah Simkin = Zachariah Simpkin

1841 Census

Catten Cross

[1] *Zachariah Simkin* (25), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Maria Simkin* (20), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Emma Simkin* (20), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Simeon Simkin* (15), born Staffordshire:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/3/1842

“Whiteheaded Bob, of Darlaston, is prepared to make a match with George Roden, of Walsall, for from £15 to £50, or any 8½st man in Staffordshire. His money will be ready at the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, on Wednesday evening.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/12/1843 - Married

“On Tuesday last, at All Saints Church, Sedgley, by the Rev. Mr. Lewis, Moses, eldest son of Mr. Joseph Butler, of Bradley, near Bilston, to Emma, youngest daughter of the late Mr. *William Simkin*, and sister to Mr. *Zachariah Simkin*, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/1/1844 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by John Mason, at the house of Mr. *Zachariah Simkin*, DUKE OF YORK INN, in Darlaston, by the direction of the surviving assignee of Emanuel Lawton, a bankrupt, on Monday, the 8th day of January, 1844, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

The Remainder of Reversion expectant upon the decease of Mrs. Elizabeth Lawton, widow, aged 73 years, or thereabouts, of and in all that Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House and Shop adjoining, situate and being at Catherines Cross.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/8/1844 - Married

“On the 13th instant, at All Saints Church, Sedgley, by the Rev. W. Lewis, vicar, Mr. *Zachariah Simkin*, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, to Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph Cockram, of the same place.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/9/1844 - Died

“On the 16th instant, aged 24, Emma, the beloved wife of Mr. Moses Butler, of Bradley, near Bilston, and youngest sister to Mr. *Zachariah Simkin*, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Journal 27/9/1845

“On Friday, the 17th instant, an inquest was held on the body of a boy, named William Martin, at the DUKE OF YORK TAVERN, Darlaston. It appeared that the deceased worked at the forge of Messrs. Bills and Mills, for John Jones; and about four o'clock in the morning, after the men had done work, he went to the basin leading from the canal to the works, to cool his tongs. There was a boat moored by the side, and he attempted to push it away, but over-balancing himself, he fell into the water. He was not missed for some time, but the tongs being found on the side of the basin, led his master to suppose he had fallen into the water. On search being made, the body of the unfortunate lad was discovered, but he was quite dead. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/11/1846

“Inquests during the week held before George Hinchliffe, Esq.....

On Wednesday, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, upon the body of Robert Billingham, a miner, who was killed by a fall of coal in one of Messrs. Scott and Foley's collieries, near Bilston. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 19/12/1846

“For some weeks past a man named Emanuel Lawton, aged about forty-seven years, had been missing; and although search had been made, no trace of him could be found. On Monday, however, two men, named George Wilkes and William Roberts, proceeded to renew their search, and in a field not far from Darlaston, they discovered his body in an old pit half full of water. Lawton worked in Darlaston, but slept at a whimsy-house in the parish of Wednesbury, to which it was his custom to proceed after work. The pit in which

his remains were found was directly in his route, and it is conjectured that in going home in the dark he had accidentally stumbled into the pit, and there met his death. An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the DUKE OF YORK, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, when a verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/12/1846 - Died

“On Tuesday last, aged 26, Ann, the beloved wife of *Zachariah Simkin*, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Journal 10/7/1847

“Yesterday an inquest was held at the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a boy named Joseph Mitchell, who on Wednesday fell into a cess-pool, and was suffocated. As the occurrence was purely accidental, a verdict to that effect was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/3/1850

“On Wednesday night last Abraham Gold, employed at the Sand Pitt Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Scott and Foley, was knocking out what are called ‘lambs’ or wedges, which are used in propping up the coal whilst the undermining is going on. The deceased had been told immediately before not to knock them out without some one to warn him, should the coal fall sooner than expected; but, disregarding the advice, he commenced knocking them out, and the coal fell upon him, and killed him. It was four o’clock on Thursday morning before the body was extricated. No fault appears to be attached to any one but himself.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/3/1850

“An inquest was held on Friday, the 1st instant, at the house of Mr. *Zachariah Simkin*, DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Abraham Gold, the particulars of whose death we gave in our paper of last week. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Durham Chronicle 16/9/1850

“On Saturday an inquest was held at the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, on the body of William Hughes, about forty-eight years of age, who was killed on the previous night, by a fall of coal, in one of Mr. Bagnall’s pits, at Moxley. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1851 Census

Catherines Cross

- [1] *Zachariah Simkin* (35), widower, victualler and shoemaker, born Darlaston;
- [2] Maria Simkin (30), sister, housekeeper, born Darlaston;
- [3] William Simkin (29), brother, pattern maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] Ann Rowe (20), house servant, born Bilston:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/9/1851 - Advert

“Freehold Land, at Heathfield, in the parish of Darlaston, Staffordshire, with the Mines and Minerals Thereunder; Comprising the real Estate of Samuel Penn, the elder, an Insolvent Debtor.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Son (by direction of the Assignee, and pursuant to a resolution of the Creditors of the said Samuel Penn), on Monday next the 8th of September, at six o’clock in the afternoon, at the DUKE OF YORK, in Darlaston.....”

Herts Guardian 25/9/1852

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, at Colliers [sic] Cross, Darlaston, before T. M. Philips, Esq, on the body of Wright Payne, when the following painful circumstances were disclosed.

On the Monday morning, during the absence of the father, who had gone to order a coffin for his infant, which was lying dead in the house, by some means his son Wright ignited his clothes, and his fearful cries attracted the attention of the neighbours, who found him surrounded with flames; he was so dreadfully scorched all over that he expired in the course of the afternoon. The mother of the boy, who was confined by

illness in bed, heard the shrieks of her son, and endeavoured to get up and assist him, but in vain, her bodily powers being completely prostrated, and she expired on the following Thursday. A verdict of ‘Died from his clothes taking fire, but by what means is unknown,’ was returned.”

Worcester Journal 21/1/1854

“South Staffordshire Election.....”

On Tuesday Lord Ingestre addressed the electors at public meetings held at the NEPTUNE, Willenhall; the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston; the GEORGE HOTEL, Walsall; and the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, and Princess Assembly Rooms, Westbromwich.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/12/1854

“On Thursday last, at the DUKE, Catherines Cross, G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on the body of Amelia Wall, aged seven years, who met with her death under the following circumstances. She attended a school kept by Elizabeth Wood. She was at school on the previous Thursday, and went out to play at noon. When she came in, the mistress told her to go and warm herself at the fire, but not approach too near to it. She went to the fire, and it appeared placed two bricks upon the hearth to reach a circular off the mantel shelf, when, in doing so, her clothes caught fire, and she was so much burnt before the flames could be extinguished that she died on Monday night. The coroner censured the mistress of the school for not having a guard in front of the fire in the school room. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

AND

“On Thursday last, at the DUKE INN, Catherines Cross, an inquest was held before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Ann Cooper, two years and a half old, who met with her death under the following circumstances. On Saturday, the 25th ult, a sister of deceased took a saucepan of potatoes off the fire and placed it upon the ground, and whilst she was gone to fetch a dish in which to put the potatoes, the deceased, while walking backwards, fell on to the saucepan, and was so severely scalded that she died on Wednesday last. The mother of deceased was sitting from rheumatism by the fire side at the time of the accident, and was unable to get up and rescue the child. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/5/1854

“Richard Martindale, for stealing, at Darlaston, a pair of shoes, the property of *John Teece*, was, on Tuesday last, committed for trial.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1854

“Richard Martindale, an elderly man, was on Tuesday brought up at the police court, on the charge of stealing a pair of boots, belonging to Mr. *John Teece*, landlord of the DUKE OF YORK public house, at Darlaston. The prosecutor had seen the boots that morning under a bench in the back kitchen. At an early hour the prisoner came in and asked his son-in-law for a pint of small beer. The son-in-law, who had just returned from his night’s work, fell asleep, and when he awoke the boots were gone. He pursued the prisoner, and found the articles in his possession. The prisoner, who said he could not think what induced him to commit the offence, was committed.”

[At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Richard Martindale pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/12/1854

“On Thursday last, at the DUKE, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on the body of Amelia Wall, aged seven years, who met with her death under the following circumstances. She attended a school kept by Elizabeth Wood. She was at school on the previous Thursday, and went out to play at noon. When she came in, the mistress told her to go and warm herself at the fire, but not approach too near to it. She went to the fire, and it appeared placed two bricks upon the hearth to reach a circular off the mantel shelf, when, in doing so, her clothes caught fire, and she was much burnt before the flames could be extinguished that she died on Monday night. The coroner censured the mistress of the school for not having a guard in front of the fire in the school room. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

AND

“On Thursday last, at the DUKE INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, an inquest was held before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Ann Cooper, two years and a half old, who met her death under the following circumstances. On Saturday, the 25th ult, a sister of deceased took a saucepan of potatoes off the fire and placed it upon the ground, and whilst she was gone to fetch a dish in which to put the potatoes, the deceased, while walking backwards, fell on to the saucepan, and was so severely scalded that she died on Wednesday last. The mother of deceased was sitting from rheumatism by the fire side at the time of the accident, and was unable to get up and rescue her child. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/8/1856

“Mr. Hinchliffe, coroner, held an enquiry on Monday, at the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, into the death of Joseph Smith, aged 44, doggy, in the employ of Mr. Addenbrooke, at an ironstone pit at the Rough Hay Colliery. On the 11th July deceased was finishing some holing, when seven or eight tons of ironstone fell from the face of the work, burying him under them. His arm, thigh, and ankle were broken, and after lingering until the 1st instant, he died from the effects of the injuries he sustained. It appeared that there were two sprags or pieces of timber to prop the roof at the spot, and the place had been examined and considered safe a short time before. It was the duty of the deceased, as doggy, to see that the roof was safely propped. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 10/1/1857

“An inquest was held on Thursday at the DUKE OF YORK, Catherines Cross, before Mr. Hinchliffe, on the body of Thomas Simpkin. It appeared that on Tuesday, deceased was at work at Messrs. Skidmore and Rose’s Colliery, Bradley, when a quantity of coal fell upon him. The deceased was told by a doggy to put some sprags or supports under the coals he was cutting, and deceased said he would go a bit further first. Whilst he was at work the coal fell upon the deceased, and injured him severely on the breast. Conveyed home and died the same day. Verdict, Accidental Death. L. Brough, Esq, Government Inspector, attended.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/4/1857

“On Friday last, an inquest was held at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Charles Fouke, aged 54 years. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased was employed at Mr. Jones’s, Herberts Park Colliery, and on the previous Monday he went along the gate-road in the pit, which is eleven feet, and took a dresser, and commenced pulling a piece of coal from the roof, when about four cwt of rock suddenly come down upon him, severely injuring him, from the effects of which he died the following day. The place was considered safe, and was propped with trees, and the rock was supposed to have fallen in consequence of being disturbed by the deceased pulling the coal; he had no business to have done so, as his work in the pit was some distance from where he was injured. L. Brough, Esq, Government Inspector, was present during the inquiry, and stated he had examined the pit and should not have considered the gate-road dangerous. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 11/7/1857 - Advert

“Catherines Cross, Darlaston. To Brewers, Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Unreserved Sale by Auction, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, of all the valuable Brewing Vessels, Public House Fixtures, Household Furniture, and Effects, which comprise capital 20-strike Mash Tub, large Gathering Tub, two large square Ale Vats, with Frames and Lead Pipe, 130-gallon wrought-iron Boiler, with underwork, 70-gallon copper Boiler, 16-gallon cast-iron Boiler, fifteen capital well-seasoned iron-bound Ale Casks, superior four-pull Ale Machine, complete, metal-top Tap Table, with ten drawers, the whole of the Gas Fittings, five Bells, with pulls, two Nests of Shelves, Kitchen Screens, cross-legged Tables, four Boards and Tressels, eight long strong Benches, Malt Mill, large Dog Kennel, Saddle and Bridle, set of Gig Harness, useful Pony, strong Pony Gig and Set of Harness (in one lot), Spring Cart, capital Lead Pump, in wood Case, complete, two Pig Troughs, &c; the Furniture comprises twelve Single and six Arm Windsor Chairs, six Parlour Chairs, mahogany Sofa, Four-post Bedsteads and Hangings, straw Mattresses, prime feather Beds, Spanish mahogany Chest of Drawers, mahogany Cheffionere, Toilet and Chimney Glasses, Dressing Tables and Stands, large oak Chest, quantity of Dinner Ware, Wine, Tumbler and Goblet Glasses, Five Ancient Oil Paintings, two Guns, Two Pockets of Hops, and a variety of other Effects, belonging to Mr. *John Teece*, who

is leaving the Premises.

Will be Sold by Auction, by R. L. Courtney, on Monday July the 20th, 1857.

Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's Office and Residence, nearly opposite the Bank, High Street, West Bromwich.

The whole will be sold strictly according to the catalogue, commencing at Eleven o'clock."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/10/1857

"At the Police Office, on Saturday the following transfers of licenses, adjourned from the last sessions at Great Barr, were granted.....

DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, to Mr. *Jones*, the proprietor of the premises, from the executors of the late occupier."

AND

Birmingham Journal 7/10/1857

"At the Public Office, on Saturday last, the following transfers were allowed on application, by the Court.....

DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, being untenanted, Mr. *Jones*, the owner of the premises, asked the transfer of the licenses to himself, and the application was granted."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/1/1858

"Samuel Upton, a youth who resides at Walsall, pleaded guilty to stealing two taps of a beer machine, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, on the 23rd of January, 1857, he having requested to be allowed to repair it. Mr. Cater, superintendent of police at Walsall, stated that there was a charge against Upton at Walsall, from which he had been brought; two of obtaining goods under false pretences, and one of felony, at Birmingham; and one at Handsworth. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment."

George Jones died in 1858.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/7/1858

"At the Public Office, on Saturday last the following transfer of public house licenses took place.....

DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, from the executors of Mr. *George Jones* to his sister, Miss *Lucy Jones*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/11/1858 - Advert

"Notice To Creditors.

All Persons having Claims on the Estate of Mr. *George Jones*, late of Darlaston, Maltster, deceased, and who have not already sent in particulars of their claims to Miss *Lucy Jones*, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, are requested to do so without delay.

Darlaston, 18th November, 1858."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/2/1859 - Notice

"Pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery, made in the cause Adams against *Jones*, all persons claiming to be Creditors of *George Jones*, late of Catherines Cross, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Inn-keeper and Dealer in Malt, the testator in the proceedings named, who died in or about the month of March, 1858, are by their solicitors, on or before the 26th day of February, 1859, to come in and prove their debts at the Chambers, Number 3, Stone Buildings, Lincolns Inn, Middlesex, or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said decree. Thursday, the 3rd day of March, 1859, at twelve o'clock at noon, at the said Chambers, is appointed for hearing and adjudicating upon the claims.

Dated this 27th day of January, 1859.

Fredk. Ers. Edwards, Chief Clerk. Clarke, Gray and Woodrock, 20, Lincolns Inn Fields."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/3/1861

"The Fatal Accident at Lloyd, Foster, and Co's Pit.

The particulars of this accident have already appeared in the *Chronicle*. The inquest, it may be remembered, was adjourned for the purpose of communicating with the Secretary of State. The reply has been received,

and the inquiry was concluded on Friday last, before Edwin Hooper, Esq, Coroner, at the SCOTTS ARMS, Kings Hill, and the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, respectively.

From the evidence, it appeared that Charles Kent, the banksman, was employed in supplying the sinkers engaged at the Old Park Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co., with bricks and other materials required, and it was Kent's duty to see that the waggon was placed over the mouth of the pit before the bowk, loaded with bricks and ashes, was placed in the waggon. This he neglected to do, and the consequence was that the bowk and skip, together with the bricks and ashes, was pushed by him down the pit, and entirely crushed the two unfortunate deceased, Benjamin Nicholls and Daniel Houghton, who were the sinkers then employed at the bottom of the pit.

The Coroner having summed up the evidence, and clearly laid down the law relating to manslaughter, the Jurors in each case returned a unanimous verdict of Manslaughter against Charles Kent, the banksman, who was in both cases committed by the Coroner to take his trial at the next assizes. The Coroner, in his address to the Jury, expressed his entire approbation of the conduct of the man Charles Kent, in having come forward and given his evidence in so satisfactory manner, and added that he was also pleased that by a recent Act of Parliament he was enabled to take bail in such cases as the present. Kent was then bound over in £50, and two sureties in £25 each. He has been in the employ of Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co. upwards of fifteen years, and bears an excellent character."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 13/3/1861

"Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Charles Kent, on bail, a man of respectable appearance, was charged on two indictments with killing and slaying Daniel Houghton and Benjamin Nicholls, in February last, at the parish of Wednesbury. Mr. Spooner conducted the prosecution. The prisoner was not defended.

George Holyhead, labourer, deposed that he was employed by Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co., at the Old Hall Colliery, Wednesbury. On the 13th of February last they were bricking a stone shaft, and were sending down bricks and mortar. He knew the deceased, who were on a scaffold about fifty yards down the shaft. The prisoner was acting as banksman. About nine o'clock at night he heard the men in the pit call out, 'Now, Charley, send it down.' There was a tramway down to the mouth of the pit, along which ran a waggon, containing the bricks and mortar, &c. There was a waggon to cover the mouth of the pit, which it was the banksman's duty to run over the pit. A 'bowk' was run down the incline containing bricks, and the waggon not being over it, it went down the pit. On witness going to the mouth of the pit, the prisoner exclaimed, 'Good Lord, I forgot to put the waggon over.' In answer to the prisoner's cross-examination, witness stated that he thought it was an accident, and that prisoner could not see the waggon going down the incline from the position in which he stood.

Joseph Daley, butty at the colliery above named, deposed that he went down the shaft after the accident happened, and found the man Nicholls quite dead. Houghton was not dead, and was brought out of the pit, but died in three quarters of an hour afterwards.

The prisoner, in addressing the Jury, said he was confused at the time of the accident by the shoutings of the other men, and forgot that the waggon was not over the pit.

His Lordship summed up with remarkable clearness, and after dealing with the facts, he said it struck him that the pit in question was not quite what it ought to be. When the safety of the pit depended upon mere temporary appliances, they might venture to say that the construction of the pit was, to say the least, defective.

The Jury found a verdict of guilty, but recommended the prisoner to mercy.

The learned Judge, addressing the prisoner, said it was quite clear he had been a hard-working man, and had done his duty at the colliery for years. He should take into consideration the prisoner's good character, and the recommendation of the Jury. Though the death of the deceased was the result of the prisoner's negligence, he (the Judge) believed that, from the construction of the pit, the accident was one which might have been caused without any great degree of negligence. The prisoner was sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/3/1861

"Edwin Hooper, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on Monday last, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, on

the body of a miner named Thomas Merrick, who was killed in the Barn Farm Colliery by a fall of coal. At the same time and place an inquest was held on the body of William Bounce, who was doggy at the Rough Hay Colliery. Some time ago the deceased was removing some props when a quantity of coal fell on him, and he died on Thursday last. In both cases the jury returned verdicts of Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

Wood Bank – DUKE OF YORK

[1] *Lucy Jones* (63), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Selina Collins* (42), house servant, born Madeley, Shropshire;

[3] *Lucy Partridge* (16), house servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 3/5/1862 - Advert

“Catherines Cross, Darlaston.

Four Hundred square yards, or thereabouts, of valuable Building Land, with a frontage of 22 yards to the main street, being a most desirable situation for Retail Shops, or well adapted for an Hotel. Also all that Freehold Dwelling House and Premises, standing on a portion of the said Land, now in the occupation of Samuel Jones. The whole will be Sold in One Lot, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on Monday, May 19, 1862.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1862

“The Distress in Lancashire. The following subscriptions to this fund have been reported at the office of the *Journal* and *Post*, in addition to £1,494 7s 0d announced on Saturday last.....

The Lodge of Good Fellows, held at the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, £1 1s.”

Hereford Times 26/9/1863 - Advert

“Barmaid. Wanted, by a respectable young person, a situation as Barmaid, in an hotel or vaults; experienced in both. Good reference.

Address C. B., DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1864

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, district Coroner, opened an enquiry at the house of Miss *Jones*, the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, respecting the death of Elizabeth Lawton, the wife of a puddler, who had died in consequence of her clothes having caught fire on the morning of the 6th inst.

James Lawton, a puddler, said he was the husband of the deceased, who was thirty-four years of age at the time of her death. On the morning of the 6th inst he left home for his work, at the Bull Bridge Ironworks.

About dinner time the sister of the deceased came and told him that the deceased had been badly burnt, through a ‘glean’ shooting out of the fireplace and igniting her dress. Mr. Hardy, surgeon, had been sent for, as well as Mr. Partridge, another medical gentleman. The deceased became gradually worse, and died on Tuesday morning last. Deceased had had a ‘stroke’ about three years ago, and it had partially deprived her of the use of her limbs. There was a girl of sixteen to assist her in her household duties. Witness and the deceased had always lived on good terms.

Mary Wilkes deposed that on the morning in question, having heard screams, she ran into the house, and found the deceased in flames. Witness got a bucket of water and extinguished them. The deceased was standing against a table, with her face towards the window, and there was a chair at one side of the fireplace. The shoulder, elbow, and other portions of the body were much burnt. The deceased did not explain how the occurrence had taken place.

It appeared from the evidence of the other witnesses that the deceased was all but helpless, and that her husband had treated her well.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

The Coroner cautioned Lawton to take care and have a guard before his fireplace, and to employ some one to look after his children during his absence, assuring him that if any of them met with a similar accident to that which befell their mother he would be criminally responsible.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1864

“An inquest was held yesterday evening, by Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the house of Miss *Lucy Jones*, the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, on the body of an old lady, named Sarah Hardwick, 87 years of age, and the widow of Roger Hardwick, a miner, who died on Wednesday last of injuries she had received some short time previously by burning.

Elizabeth Butler, the wife of a steel caster, residing in Glovers Lane, believed deceased was the widow of a miner named Roger Hardwick. Last Saturday week, the 28th ult, she heard the children screaming, and she entered her house and found Mrs. Hardwick sitting on a chair near the grate, and her clothes, especially about her lap, on fire. Deceased resided with her son, who was married. Witness obtained some water, and extinguished the flaming attire of the deceased. The latter had had a light upon the table for a candle and stick were lying beside her. She was badly burnt on her chest, throat, and head. Witness called for assistance, and Mr. Ransome was sent for, and sent some oils and called on the following morning. Deceased died on Wednesday last of the injuries she had received. In reply to witness deceased said she was lighting a candle when her clothes became ignited by the same.

A grand-daughter of the deceased, eleven years old, although too young to understand the nature of an oath, made a confirmatory statement, and the jury at once returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

The witness, Mrs. Butler, who, it appeared, had been unremitting in her attention to the deceased, was recalled into Court, and thanked by the Coroner and the jury for her Christian conduct, the former observing that he was always glad to tender acknowledgement to any person who behaved in so kindly a manner.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/11/1864

“An inquest was held yesterday by Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, on the body of an engineer named William Bate, 27 years of age, who met his death on Monday last by coming in contact with the machinery at the colliery of Messrs. Yardley and Roberts. Deceased was engineer at the above-named works, and on the day mentioned the clerk of the works, observing the engine standing, went up the steps leading to the engine-house, and saw the deceased with a portion of his body in the crank-hole. He gave instant orders for the engine to be reversed, and the body was removed. The unfortunate fellow was quite dead, his heart having been completely torn out by the working of the crank. There was a ladder standing in the engine-house, and the impression appeared to be that deceased was driving a nail in the wall when the ladder slipped, and he was precipitated on to the crank. The position of the body in the crank-hole also favoured such an impression.

The Coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, by coming in contact with the crank of the steam-engine. The deceased has left a widow and two children.”

Birmingham Journal 15/4/1865

“Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an enquiry at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday, on the body of Charles Garrington, a pikeman, 33 years of age, who was killed on Saturday last, at the Church Field Colliery, at Willenhall, belonging to Messrs. Williams Brothers. Mr. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, attended the enquiry, and the proprietors of the colliery were represented by Mr. Silas Bowkley, their agent. Between eight and nine o'clock on Saturday morning the deceased was engaged in removing a spurn or prop in a dangerous part of the pit, when about ten or fifteen tons of coal and rock slipped from the roof, and a considerable portion fell upon him. As he was working alone at the time, the accident was not discovered for a short period; but then prompt measures were taken to reach the deceased's body, which was recovered in about one and a half or two hours. Life was then quite extinct, and the body much bruised and mutilated. One of the witnesses complained that there was not a proper supply of timber in the pit; but this did not appear from the evidence generally, and the Coroner and the Jury coming to the conclusion that the deceased had not exercised proper care in his work, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1865

“On Saturday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, district Coroner, held an enquiry at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, touching the death of Isaac Fellowes, aged 60, who was killed on Wednesday, at a colliery at Moxley, in the occupation of Mr. David Rose, and known as the Broadwater Colliery. Mr. J. Harvey, Mr. Rose's ground bailiff, attended the enquiry.

The deceased was employed as an engineer at the colliery in question. At about half-past eleven o'clock, on Wednesday morning, while the gale was at its height, he was standing near the firehole, with his fireman, William Heburn, who was doing something to the boiler, when about 12 feet of the top of the stack fell. Heburn was not looking at the deceased at the time, but as soon as he had partially recovered from the fright which the shower of bricks around him occasioned him, he looked for his companion, and saw him lying between the boilers, surrounded by the debris of the stack, and bleeding copiously from wounds about the head. Heburn then called John Evans, another engineer at the colliery, who stopped the engine, and thus averted another accident at the pit-mouth.

Mr. Fellowes, surgeon, was subsequently called to see the deceased, who had expired, however, before he was removed from the spot where he fell. It was afterwards found that his left leg was broken, and his back and head dreadfully injured.

It was shown that the stack was built about twenty-eight years ago, and that although it was out of the perpendicular, and was seen to rock on the morning in question, no danger was apprehended. It was secured by iron rods passing inside the stack from the base to the summit, a distance of some fifty feet, but these were snapped asunder when the erection gave way. There was no reason to suppose that any person had been guilty of negligence, and therefore, deeming no further evidence necessary, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/11/1866

"Mr. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the DUKE OF YORK, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on Saturday, touching the death of William Bailey, aged 56. Deceased was a labourer, and for some time had not enjoyed good health. On Wednesday night, while in bed, he was taken suddenly with a spasm between the shoulders. His wife went downstairs to prepare a mustard plaster, and was shortly afterwards called upstairs by her daughter. On going into the room, she found her husband on the bed, insensible, and he died in a few minutes. Deceased had been subject for years to these attacks, and the Jury returned a verdict of Died by the Visitation of God."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/5/1867

"On Monday night Mr. E. Hooper, the district Coroner, held an inquest at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, respecting the death of a man named John Maybury, which took place under the following circumstances.

The deceased, who was a shingler by trade, and 56 years of age, resided in Foundry Street. On the afternoon of Monday week he had been out in a trap, along with his wife and a friend, and on their return they reached home about half-past eight in the evening. Maybury was in the act of alighting at his own door, when he unfortunately lost his balance, and fell from the footboard of the trap backwards to the ground, his head coming into violent contact with the gutter. He was carried into the house, and Mr. Partridge, surgeon, was sent for, and attended to him until his death, which took place on Friday morning last, he having been insensible from the time that the accident happened. It was stated that the deceased had been subject to giddiness in the head, and that he had an attack of this kind about a fortnight before the accident.

The jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Wellington Journal 7/12/1867

"On Monday Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an enquiry at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, touching the death of Isaac Wilkinson, aged 66, a sinker, who lost his life through falling down a pit shaft, at the colliery of Mr. D. Rose, Moxley. Mr. Bell attended on behalf of the owner of the colliery.

It seemed that the deceased was employed with his son in sinking a shaft at the colliery of Mr. Rose, and, at about half-past nine o'clock on the day named above, he told a boy, who was working the gin by which he was lowered and raised, that he was about to go down the shaft. At the same moment he went to the top of the shaft, and moved as if he was stepping in the bowk. Whether or not the bowk was attached to the chain, or whether the deceased, in putting his foot into it, forced it on one side against the bricks, and unhooked it, those present at the time could not tell; but the deceased disappeared, and, as was soon ascertained, fell to the bottom of the shaft. When his son-in-law, who happened to be on the bank, went down to his assistance, he was leaning against one side of the shaft, and the bowk lay at the other. His feet were injured, one

of them being broken, and his back was hurt. He said he could not tell how it had happened, and that he blamed no one. He was at once removed to his home, and was attended by Mr. Ransome, surgeon, at intervals, until his death, which took place about seven o'clock the same evening. There being no direct evidence to show how the deceased fell down the shaft the jury returned an Open Verdict."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/7/1868

"Yesterday, an inquest was held before Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, touching the death of John Smith, aged 59, a labourer, of Pinfold Alley, Darlaston. Louisa Smith said the deceased was her husband, and for the last six months he had been in a poor state of health. On Wednesday morning last, between three and four o'clock he left home to go to work at Mr. Brevitt's farm, Bescot. He was then in his usual health. Shortly before two o'clock in the afternoon of that day witness arrived at the farm with her husband's dinner. She found him lying under a hedge, and looking very ill. She spoke to him, and raised him up. He muttered something to her, but the only words she understood were, 'This is a nice time to come with dinner.' Witness asked the men in the field, how long he had been in that state, and they replied, 'Ever since just before dinner.' Some of the men then came and looked at the deceased, and one of them remarked, 'He's done with.' Witness afterward got some of the men to assist her in getting him home, but the deceased died before he arrived there. At the time she saw him at the farm the sun was dreadfully hot upon him. Mr. Partridge, surgeon, afterwards saw the deceased, and said he had had a sunstroke.

William Beaseley said he was a labourer at the farm of Mr. Brevitt. On the day in question the deceased had been mowing barley up to near dinner time, when he suddenly staggered backwards like a drunken man, and said, 'I'm done!' Witness did not hear the deceased complain of anything during the day. The sun was very hot.

This being the whole of the evidence, the Coroner summed up, and the jury returned a verdict that the deceased died from the effects of a Sunstroke."

1871 Census

Woods Bank – DUKE OF YORK

- [1] *Lucy Jones* (73), unmarried, victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Lucy Brevitt* (25), niece, visitor, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Lucy Partridge* (26), niece, barmaid, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Mary Lowe* (34), niece, domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 1/7/1871

"On Tuesday afternoon, an untenanted cottage at Woods Bank, close to Messrs. Yardley and Roberts's colliery, which, with other buildings, was evidently in an unsafe condition, fell to the ground. Several boys who were playing inside escaped, almost miraculously, without injury. A boy named William Cole, six years old, the son of a widow, who was outside, was less fortunate. He was buried by the falling timbers, and having been drawn out, died on the knees of one of the bystanders within about ten minutes.

The inquest was held yesterday, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, by Mr. Hooper. The proprietors (Messrs. Yardley and Roberts) were represented by their mine agent, Mr. Hayward, who declared that no complaints had been made to them respecting the condition of the cottage, and promised the firm would put the remaining buildings into a safe condition. A verdict of Accidental Death was then returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/10/1872 - Advert

"I John Jones hereby Retract all that I have said about Miss Lucy Partridge, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, on October 17th, 1872, as being wholly Untrue and without any foundation whatever.
(Signed) John Jones, Darlaston, October 28th, 1872."

Lucy Jones died in 1873.

Lucy Phillips died in 1873.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/5/1873 - Advert

“Old-licensed Inn and other Freehold Property, at Darlaston, near Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Enoch Bruerton, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, near Wednesbury, on Friday, June 13, 1873, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read, the following Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. All that Old-established Public House, known as the DUKE OF YORK INN, with the Malthouse, Stable, Coach-house, Garden, Yard, and Premises, at the back thereof, situate at Catherines Cross, in Darlaston aforesaid. The Inn has a commanding frontage (which includes a Spirit Shop) to the open space known as Catherines Cross, and is almost without opposition in a populous quarter of the town. For upwards of half-a-century it has been well-known as a lucrative business house.

The Malthouse is let to Mr. George Wilkes as a yearly tenant.

The Inn and the remainder of this lot are in hand, having been held by the deceased Proprietress at her death, and being now held by her Representatives, so that possession can at once be arranged for.

This lot contains 1,049 square yards.

Lot 2. All that desirable and eligibly-situated Residence, adjoining Lot 1, now occupied by Henry Francis Handy, Esq, Surgeon, as a yearly tenant, and consisting of a commodious Dwelling House, Surgery, Stable, Coach-house, Out-buildings, and extensive Garden. This lot contains 946 square yards.....”

Cannock Chase Examiner 3/10/1874

“Mr. Edwards made an application for an occasional license on behalf of Mr. *McMar* [sic], of the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston to sell wines and spirits at the Town Hall, on the occasion of the Catholic Bazaar, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Mr. Edwards stated that no doubt there would be a number of visitors to the bazaar, and who would not all be Good Templars, and it was thought that the supply of refreshments would be desirable. On behalf of the applicant, he wished to say that he did not intend to make any profit, as the profits would be devoted to the object for which the bazaar was held.

Mr. Supt. Holland said it was his duty to inform the magistrates that a similar application was made at a previous sitting, before Messrs. Davis and Elwell, on behalf of Mr. Patrick Flynn, and refused.

Mr. Lloyd: Do you object? – Mr. Holland: Certainly not, but it was my duty to inform you what had been done in the same matter on a previous occasion.

Mr. Lloyd: Certainly.

Mr. Edwards said he did not think Mr. Davis would have objected had all the facts been explained. He saw that at Bilston on the previous day, where a bazaar was being held, and at which Mr. Davis was a patron, that refreshments were allowed.

The magistrates expressed an opinion that there could be no objection to the granting of the permission, and acceded to the application.”

Midland Examiner and Wolverhampton Times 10/4/1875 - Deaths

“On the 24th ultimo, at her son-in-law's, DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, aged 66 years, Harriet, relict of James Wells, formerly of West Bromwich.”

1881 Census

1+2, Woods Bank – DUKE OF YORK

[1] *John McMahan* (49), licensed victualler, born Ireland;

[2] *Mary E. F. McMahan* (45), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Catherine M. McMahan* (20), daughter, barmaid, born Sunderland;

[4] *John McMahan* (11), son, scholar, born Park Gate, Rotherham;

[5] *Margaret Ellen* (17), general servant, born Ocker Hill:

Wednesbury Herald 5/3/1881

“*John McMahan*, landlord of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston Green, was charged with assaulting a married woman named *Louisa Horton* on the 21st inst.

The complainant said that learning that her brother was drunk in defendant's house she went for him, and

on arriving at the house found defendant, her brother, and a man quarrelling. Subsequently her brother and defendant commenced to fight, and upon witness attempting to remove her brother defendant struck her on the side of her face and on the left arm.

Joseph Mason corroborated, and added that all three men were drunk.

Defendant denied striking the woman, but alleged that she sustained her injuries through falling down.

A number of witnesses having been heard for the defence, the Bench said they considered the case proved, and fined defendant 10s and costs."

Wednesbury Herald 28/5/1881

"An inquest was held on Thursday at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, by Mr. E. Hooper (District Coroner) relating to the death of Elizabeth Aston (65), who died suddenly on Thursday.

The evidence showed that on Tuesday the deceased went to Wednesbury and upon returning home was taken ill and died.

A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned."

Evening Express 22/6/1881

"James *McMahon*, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, was charged with being drunk while in charge of a pony and cart.

On Friday night, the defendant was driving a pony and cart at a furious rate down Oxford Street, and while one of the wheels of his trap was running in the tramway groove the hoop and spokes were twisted out of the hub of the off wheel, and defendant and another gentleman with him rolled out of the cart. The defendant then went to the WATERLOO public house, and on Inspector Gasson following him in, found he was drunk, and cautioned the landlord not to fill him any drink. Shortly afterwards the defendant and his companion were driving away in a cab.

For the defence, Mr. Bowen denied that the defendant was drunk; he said he had been stupefied by being thrown out of the trap, by the accident. He also denied that the defendant was driving at a furious rate.

The magistrates considered the case proved, and fined the defendant 10s and costs."

Wednesbury Herald 8/10/1881

"By Mr. Edward Ellis, on Monday, October 10th, 1881.

Unreserved Sale at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston.

Edward Ellis has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, on the above Premises, the whole of the Household Furniture, and greater part of the Brewing Plant, and Public House Requisites, consisting of about 100 Ale, Wine and Spirit Casks, from 9 gallons up to 350 gallons, Gathering Tubs, Mash Tubs, Round and Oval Coolers, a Superior Hop Press, Large Vats, Meat Hastener, Crockery, Tea and Dinner Ware, Massive Pier Glasses, a Number of Prints, Framed and Glazed, a Small Sewing Machine, Small Bureau, Handsome Mahogany Sideboard, Two Mahogany Framed Easy Chairs, 4 Sets Superior Iron and Brass Mounted Steads....."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/7/1885

"On Thursday night a young girl, named Caroline Rotchel, about 14 years of age, daughter of Henry Rotchel, residing at Heathfield Lane, was sent with supper to Mr. David Rose's ironworks at Moxley. When returning home she, in company with three or four others, began to play, by riding on an old gin, situated in Mr. David Rose's colliery, Moxley, and whilst so doing the girl by some means got her head entangled in the wheel of the gin, and was nearly decapitated. A number of persons were speedily on the spot and quickly extricated the girl, but life was of course quite extinct. The body was removed to the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, to await an inquest."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/7/1885

"On Monday evening Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, respecting the death of Caroline Rotchell (13), of Heathfield Lane, who had met her death under shocking circumstances. The evidence showed that the deceased and two other girls, when walking from Moxley to Darlaston, got into a gin drum at Messrs. Rose's colliery. Whilst

two of the other girls were revolving the drum the deceased put her head through an aperture, when it came in violent contact with a crossbeam. It was subsequently found that the neck was dislocated and the head shockingly injured.

The Coroner recommended that steps be taken to prevent the gin from revolving.

Mr. Davis, who represented Messrs. Rose, promised the recommendation should be carried out.

Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/8/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, from 20 to 25; good character required; one from country preferred. Apply, DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/6/1890 - Advert

“Wanted, for a Concert Room at Bloxwich, a young lady Pianist. Apply, DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston.”

1891 Census

Woods Bank – DUKE OF YORK

[1] *Thomas Barfoot* (24), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Harriet Barfoot* (23), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Albert Barfoot* (1), son, born Darlaston;

[4] *Martha Hennifer* (20), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall..... The Northampton Brewery Company, DUKE OF YORK, Woods Bank.”

Walsall Observer 20/10/1894

“On Saturday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, respecting the death of *Amelia Bridgewater* (83), of Woods Bank.

On the 26th ult deceased and four other ladies went a drive to Pattingham in a wagonette. When they arrived at Woods Bank on the return journey, and as the deceased was in the act of alighting, a horse belonging to Mr. Golcher, of Bright Street, Kings Hill, took fright and collided with the vehicle. The deceased was thrown into the middle of the road, as were also Mr. and Mrs. Golcher. Deceased complained of her leg being badly injured, and she was carried to her residence. Mr. and Mrs. Golcher were also very badly injured, and their conveyance was completely shattered. Deceased was attended by Dr. Partridge. She gradually grew worse, and died on the 10th inst.

Police-constable Bott stated that when Mr. Golcher was driving from Wolverhampton the shaft of his vehicle broke, and he had to get another gig to resume the journey. The gig was too small for the horse, and the animal, being irritated, took fright at Woods Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Golcher were still confined to their bed, Mr. Golcher suffering from fractured ribs and Mrs. Golcher from serious injuries to her head.

The jury were of opinion that Mr. Golcher was in no way to blame, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/2/1895

“Yesterday Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, on the body of *Elizabeth Turner* (65), Dangerfield Lane. Her husband, a labourer, on Saturday night left her in charge of a small shop which she carried on, and upon his return he found her lying dead on the hearth. Death was apparently due to spasms, from which the deceased had suffered for some time. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, and the Coroner blamed the husband for not having got medical assistance for his wife.”

Walsall Observer 22/1/1898

“At Darlaston Police Court, on Monday, William Caddick, Cramp Hill, was fined 20s and costs or one month’s imprisonment, for stealing three pigeons, a wooden pipe, and a dog’s collar, the property of Henry Woodcock, brewer, Dangerfield Lane. On the 5th inst the prosecutor, meeting defendant at the DUKE OF YORK INN, took him home, and gave him something to eat and drink. While there the accused purloined the property named and afterwards dealt with it. Alderman Williams told him he had committed a mean theft, and badly repaid the kindness of his friend.”

1901 Census

1+2, Moxley Road – DUKE OF YORK

- [1] *Thomas Russell* (53), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Ann Russell* (34), sister, housekeeper, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Sarah E. Russell* (29), sister, barmaid, born Birmingham:

Tipton Herald 3/1/1903

“On Monday, Mr. H. Pearson (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquiry at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Moxley, concerning the death of Arthur Gelder, a child three weeks old, the son of a tube fitter residing in Foundry Street, Moxley.

The mother of the child, Mary Gelder, said she gave the deceased the breast at 2am on the 26th ult, but upon waking again at 4am found the child dead on her arm.

Dr. Partridge attributed death to asphyxia, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the doctor’s evidence.”

1911 Census

1+2, Moxley Road – DUKE OF YORK

- [1] *George Jeffries* (58), widower, publican, born Walsall;
- [2] *Clara Goddard* (56), sister, widow, housekeeper, born Walsall:

George Jeffries – see also DURHAM OX, Walsall.

Charles Nicholls was the father of Lord Nicholls.

Walsall Observer 26/8/1916

“Bowling. Talbot (Cheslyn Hay) v DUKE OF YORK (Darlaston).

The DUKE OF YORK Club from Darlaston visited the Talbot green on Saturday, and brought a good company. The home bowlers appeared to be in exceptionally good form with the woods, and out of 19 ends played gained advantage on 13 games. The scores were Talbot Club, 194 points; Darlaston Club, 111 points.”

South Staffordshire Times 13/11/1920

“Darlaston Police Court.....

Plans were also presented in another case (the DUKE OF YORK), Mr. Slater jun., representing, but the chairman remarked that it would be better for adjournment till the next Licensing Court as the justices had been conferring over the matter. This was agreed to.”

Walsall Observer 12/4/1924

“By way of a preliminary to the approaching season, members of the DUKE OF YORK bowling club, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, spent a pleasant evening at a smoking concert at headquarters on Tuesday. Formed last year, the club has a membership of about fifty, with Mr. T. Longmore as chairman, and Mr. R. Green secretary.....”

Dudley Chronicle 17/4/1924

“A new bowling club has been formed at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, and on

Tuesday se'night an enjoyable concert was held at the headquarters.....

The musical programme was contributed to by the Old Church Glee Club (Messrs. A. E. Humphries, S. Griffiths, J. Smith, and J. Howl), who sang glees, solos and duets. Mr. Howl is now a veteran, but his voice has lost none of its quality and power. The members of the Glee Club all possess good voices, which blended well, especially in 'When Evening's Twilight' and 'In Absence.' The humorous element was introduced by Mr. Sullivan, who was especially amusing in his song 'What will the congregation say?' Master Nicholls, who is a budding artiste, sang in a diverting manner 'Maggie. Yes Ma,' and 'Father's name was Brown.' Mr. George Wilkes was a capable accompanist.

The chairman, in the course of a brief speech, said how pleased her was to be there that evening, and promised them that he would do whatever he could for the bowling club. He hoped they would have a successful season....."

Walsall Observer 2/8/1924

"When *Charles Nicholls*, licensee of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Woods Bank, applied at the Darlaston Police Court, on Wednesday, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants at a charity sports to be held at the City Ground on August 12th, in aid of the Walsall Hospital and the Darlaston Nursing Home, he stated that the whole of the proceeds would be devoted to these institutions.

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr. Shirlaw): What will happen to the money from the sale of drinks?

The applicant: There may not be much.

The presiding magistrate (Mr. C. W. D. Joynson): What do you want a license for then?

Applicant: We may make a loss.

The application was granted."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 25/10/1924

"Mr. Alfred Blakemore, SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, applied to the magistrates on Wednesday for an occasional license for November 20th, for the Darlaston Moto Cycle Club ball, from 8pm to 1pm. The Bench granted the extension from 8 to 12.

Mr. *Nicholls*, DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, was granted a similar license for November 13th, the occasion of a dance of the special effort on behalf of the Walsall Hospital and Darlaston Nurses' Home, and Mr. Henry Keay, of the OLD BUSH INN, Bush Street, for one on November 6th, when a dance is to be held in aid of the renovation of the Roman Catholic Church School."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 22/11/1924

"The annual dinner and presentation of prizes in connection with the Duke of York Bowling Club was held at headquarters, the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on Thursday evening, when there was a large attendance of members....."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 10/1/1925

"An inquest was held at the DUKE OF YORK, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, yesterday afternoon, concerning the death of Charlotte Ward (62), wife of Joseph Ward, 19, Dangerfield Lane, Darlaston, which occurred on Thursday morning. Evidence was given by Ada Ward, daughter, who said her mother appeared to be in her usual health on Wednesday and went to bed at 11pm. At 7 o'clock next morning witness went to her and thought she was asleep, but found she was dead.

Dr. Lockhart Lowe said deceased had passed away in her sleep, death being due to heart failure.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 9/5/1925

"At a monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers' Association, held on Tuesday evening, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, the Secretary (Mr. William Till) made some outspoken remarks with regard to the budget....."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 9/5/1925

"Considering that last season was their first of the Walsall, Wednesbury and District League, the members of

the DUKE OF YORK Bowling Club were very successful, and the present season was inaugurated on Saturday afternoon, when the green at the headquarters (DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross) was opened. The host (Mr. *Charles Nicholls*) has paid attention to it during the close season, and it is now in splendid condition.....”

Dudley Chronicle 16/7/1925

“The popularity of the Rev. A. H. T. Benson, Vicar of Moxley, who leaves at the end of the month to take up his new living at Ilam, was evidenced on Thursday evening, where there was a large gathering at the DUKE OF YORK HOTEL, Catherines Cross, Darlaston. The occasion was the presentation to the Vicar of an enlarged and framed photograph of himself from the members of the DUKE OF YORK Bowling Club The Chairman also asked him to accept a beautiful tea cosy for Mrs. Benson, which was the gift of Mrs. *Nicholls*, hostess of the house.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 29/8/1925

“At Darlaston Police Court, on Wednesday, Mr. P. J. Slater applied to the magistrates on behalf of Mr. *Charles Edward Nicholls*, DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, for an occasional license to sell intoxicating liquors at the Darlaston football ground on the days when matches were played. Mr. Slater said there were one or two special reasons for the application. It was fairly common knowledge that the club had had a difficult time during the past few years, while there had also been the competition of the neighbouring clubs where certain amenities other than football existed. No one wanted to say that a man went to a match not for football alone, but at the same time he may have had a journey, and required refreshment. Darlaston had been at a disadvantage in this respect compared with other clubs, and the licenses were granted in other parts of the country to football clubs. He, therefore, asked the magistrates whether they would now think the time had come to grant one to the club. At any rate, they might see their way clear to give it a trial for a few weeks. The license would only be required at home matches, which come about every three weeks, and application would have to be made on each occasion.

Mr. *Nicholls* supported the application. He said he asked for a license from 3.15 to 4.45pm. He had had similar licenses for the ground on occasion of sports, and there was excellent conveniences in the shape of bars.

Supt. Sault said he had no objection, and thought it might be tried for a week or two, and if there was any objection afterwards the police could make it.

The Bench – consisting of Mr. W. M. Winn (in the chair), Sir Harris Spencer and Mr. Charles Foster – agreed the application.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 5/9/1925

“It is somewhat unusual for an outing to take place to the Black Country, but this was the case on Wednesday, when a party of some 150 ladies of the Tamworth Co-operative Guild paid a visit to Darlaston. They first of all made a tour of Himley and the CROOKED HOUSE [GLYNNE ARMS] and then went to the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, where tea was served by the hostess (Mrs. *Nicholls*). The party then made a tour of the town, and afterwards were entertained by Mr. Jack Pratt, of Cheslyn Hay, and his jazz band, and Mons. Purchase and his ventriloquial dolls. Songs were also rendered, and during the evening the Guild presented the secretary (Mrs. Patrick) with a handsome handbag, for which she suitably thanked the gathering.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 17/10/1925

“The magistrates at Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, granted Mr. *C. E. Nicholls*, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, an occasional license to sell intoxicating liquor on the Darlaston Football ground today, the occasion being a Birmingham League match between Darlaston and Kidderminster Harriers.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 19/12/1925

“*Charles Nicholls* licensee of the DUKE OF YORK INN, was granted occasional licenses to sell intoxicating liquor at Darlaston Football Ground on Boxing day and the following Monday.....”

Walsall Observer 4/8/1928

“Clement Croft (24), of Foster Street, Darlaston, is recovering from injuries received when, in the Walsall Road, Darlaston, it is alleged his motor-cycle came into collision with another ridden by Harry Nicholls, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, who was turning out of Cobden Street. Croft had his jaw and collar bone broken, and was treated in Wolverhampton Hospital. Nicholls escaped unhurt.”

Walsall Observer 31/8/1929

“When Mr. *Charles E. C. Nicholls*, licensee of the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, applied for an occasional license to sell intoxicants from 2 till 10pm at Guest Keen and Nettlefold’s new sports ground, Rough Hay, today, the magistrates expressed the opinion that there should have been present a representative of the firm to give them some information about the programme. They did not feel disposed to grant a license for longer than four hours, and suggested from 4 till 8pm. They invited a suggestion as to the suitability of the times from the applicant, and eventually granted the license from 3 o’clock till 7pm.”

Rugeley Times 27/6/1931

“Bowling Fixtures Darlaston Central League.
Ex-Servicemen v DUKE OF YORK.”

Charles Edward Craddock Nicholls was married to Sarah Ann (‘Sally’).

See also OLD BUSH, Pelsall, Walsall, and WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.

Evening Despatch 16/3/1939

“Midland Dog Show Awards.....

The show held at the DUKE OF YORK, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, was attended by an enthusiastic gallery, and the judge’s awards met with approval. A Staffordshire bull terrier, owned by Mr. Brookes, of Wednesbury, gained the highest award in the show.....”

Evening Despatch 17/5/1939

“These Dogs Were Prize Winners.....

The DUKE OF YORK HOTEL, Darlaston, was the venue of an excellent show at which the high standard of dogs made judging difficult. Best dog was a wire-haired fox terrier owned by Mr. Lowe, and judged by Mr. Campbell.....”

Evening Despatch 30/11/1939

“Well-supported dog shows were held at DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston.”

1939 Register

1, Moxley Road

[1] *Thomas Joseph Oakley*, date of birth 29/5/1897, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Ivy Berina Oakley*, dob 4/4/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Major Derek Oakley*, dob 12/10/1926, at school, single;

[5] *Archie Stuart Oakley*, dob 24/11/1931, at school, single;

[6] *Sarah Ann Dixon*, dob 5/1/????, old age pensioner, widowed;

[7] *Susannah (Flavell) Cooper*, dob 18/12/1913, paid domestic duties, single:

Walsall Observer 27/1/1940

“Among the prize winners at a dog show held at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston, was Mr. Bolton, of Walsall, whose golden retriever secured first place in the ‘any variety’ category.”

An application was granted on 10th March 1948 to enable the brewery to complete the transfer of the license to the new building, which was already partially built on an adjoining site.

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1957/8.

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

DUKE OF YORK, Moxley Road, Darlaston.”

Daily Mirror 29/12/1977

“Best For Darts.....

Teddy Burke, Keith Roberts, and Geoff Atkins helped the DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston, inflict the first-ever defeat on the Chronicle Town team, Wolverhampton, after more than five years.”

[1983]

Closed

Demolished

A rest home was built on the site.

EARL GREY

Eldon Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Tysall [1834]

George Wiley [1836]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

ENGINE

45+46, (46), Bell Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Henry Freeth

James Pritchard, Darlaston Brewery (leased) [1930]

William Henry Freeth, 5, Garrington Street, Darlaston

Highgate Walsall Brewery Ltd. [1950]

LICENSEES

Leah Lappage [1871]
John H Butler [1880] – [1881]
John Leedham [1882]
Thomas Dangerfield [1882]
Isaiah Duley [1891]
Hannah Duley [1906]
Henry ‘Harry’ Freeth [1909] – **1922**);
Hannah Freeth (**1922 – 1925**);
John Marson (**1925 – 1926**);
Harold Wolfe (**1926 – 1930**);
Edwin Beesley (**1930 – 1936**);
Edwin Beesley Jnr. (**1936**);
Albert Cooper Ledgard (**1936 – 1937**);
Arthur Horton (**1937 – 1944**);
Richard Bertram Jones (**1944 – 1946**);
William Henry Freeth (**1946 – 1948**);
Douglas Haig Sullivan (**1948**);
Arthur Badham (**1948 – 1949**);
Horatio George Cooper (**1949 – 1952**);
Arthur Bertram Southall (**1952 – 1955**);
John Woodward Seagar (**1955**);
John McKenzie Mason (**1955 – 1957**);
Ernest Jarvis (**1957 – 1958**);
Sidney George Haycock (**1958 – 1961**);
Albert James Dunkley (**1961 – 1966**);
Derek William Turley (**1966**);
Albert Charles Spooner (**1966 – 1967**);
John Price (**1967 – []**)

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license,

1871 Census

Bell Street – ENGINE TAVERN

- [1] James Lappage (50), engine tender, colliery, born Birmingham;
- [2] Leah Lappage (44), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [3] Joseph Lappage (21), son, mill man in iron works, born Darlaston;
- [4] Mary Lappage (19), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] James Lappage (15), son, mill boy in iron works, born Darlaston;
- [6] Enoch Lappage (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Rachael Lappage (3), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1880 - Advert

“Bitch. Stolen, on the 20th, white Bull-terrier Bitch. No marks. Weighs 16lb. Answers name Nell. No reward.

Apply to *J. H. Butler*, ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston.”

1881 Census

45+46 Bell Street

- [1] *John H. Butler* (30), iron worker, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Amelia Butler* (33), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Harmel T. Butler* (10 months), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Amelia Turley* (16), general servant, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 8/4/1882

“Joseph Beckett, ironworker, was charged with stealing a watch valued at 20s, the property of Joseph Holt, of Bloxwich. Mr. Sheldon defended.

The prisoner and the prosecutor met at the ENGINE INN, Blockall, Darlaston, on Monday, and prosecutor offered a silver watch for sale. The prisoner said he should like to have the watch examined and valued, and thereupon left the house and took the watch to the house of a friend to have it valued. As he did not return the police were communicated with, and prisoner was found and taken into custody.

Mr. Sheldon said his client had not the slightest intention of committing a felony, and asked for him to be discharged.

The Stipendiary discharged the case but with a caution.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/7/1882

“Local Liquidations.....

John Leedham, ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, beerhouse keeper.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/10/1882

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Mary Jane Thickett, a woman under police supervision, and William Goodwin, a convicted thief, with whom she was living, were committed for trial on a charge of stealing an iron pot and a saucepan from a brewhouse at the house of *Thomas Dangerfield*, the ENGINE INN beerhouse, Bell Street, Darlaston.”

AND

Wednesbury Herald 28/10/1882

“Mary Jane Thickett and William Goodwin were charged with stealing a saucepan and pot, value 5s, the property of *Thomas Dangerfield*, of the ENGINE INN beerhouse, Darlaston.

On Saturday, the 14th inst, the prisoners had been drinking in the house, and after some time the female prisoner went out, and returned again in about half an hour. The next morning the saucepan and pot referred to were missing. The police having been communicated with, the prisoner’s house was searched by Police-sergeant Ainsworth, when the missing articles were found.

The prisoners having been previously convicted for felony – the female prisoner to penal servitude for five years, and at present was under police supervision – they were committed to take their trial at the Sessions. Goodwin was admitted to bail on two sureties of £25 each.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1883

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

William Goodwin, on bail, and Sarah Jane Thickett (28), no occupation, was charged with stealing a saucepan, on the 14th October last, at Darlaston, the property of *Thomas Dangerfield*. Thickett, who pleaded guilty, was sentenced to three months’ hard labour. Goodwin was discharged.”

1891 Census

45+46, Bell Street

- [1] *Isaiah Duley* (41), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Hannah Duley* (28), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Samuel Duley* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Isaiah Duley* (1), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Clara Duley* (24), housemaid, born Darlaston:

1901 Census

45+46, Bell Street – ENGINE INN

- [1] *Isaiah Duley* (48), gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Hannah Duley* (39), wife, brewer, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Samuel Duley* (18), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Nellie Duley* (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Hannah Duley* (9), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Patsy Williams* (21), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Leader 5/1/1906

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before the Mayor (Alderman J. A. Kilvert) and Mr. G. S. Guy, Benjamin Beechey, nut and bolt forger, of Kings Hill, Wednesbury, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, on the 23rd ult, and with assaulting Samuel Duley, son of the licensee, on the same date.

Mr. A. Slater, who prosecuted, explained that the prosecutor managed his mother’s beerhouse. Defendant came into the house about eight o’clock on Saturday night, apparently with the view of creating a disturbance. There had previously been some disagreement between Samuel Duley and the defendant, and he was in a very quarrelsome mood.

Mrs. *Duley* served the defendant with drink about eight o’clock, but he was not drunk at that time. Defendant remained in the house about three-quarters of an hour, and then he went into the smoke room, where a club was being held, and where the complainant, Samuel Duley, was engaged on business with the secretary. He immediately challenged Samuel Duley, to fight for 2s. Duley then ordered defendant to leave the house, but he refused to go, and he then used sufficient force to put him into the passage. In the passage defendant struck Samuel Duley, and knocked him against the wall. A disturbance ensued, and defendant, Mr. Slater asserted, fell down or was knocked down, and just about that time two police officers came in and Samuel Duley gave defendant in charge. Defendant was taken to the Police Station. He pointed out that *Hannah Duley* had been the licensee of the house for twenty-four years, and there had been no conviction against the house.

Several witnesses were called and bore out Mr. Slater’s statement, and Samuel Duley admitted that he struck defendant two or three blows, and that it must have been in consequence of these he was rendered unconscious.

Defendant denied the refusal to quit and the assault, and said Samuel Duley committed an assault upon him, and he was badly knocked about.

The Bench dismissed the case.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun League. [1909]

Walsall Advertiser 3/4/1909

“At Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday before Messrs. C. W. D. Joynson and J. T. Rubery, John Thomas Clarke (30), of Cock Street, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Victoria Road, and also with stealing a cap, the property of *Henry Freeth*, of the ENGINE INN, Cock [sic] Street. Police-constable Taylor having given evidence of the arrest of Clarke, deposed to finding a cap concealed beneath his coat, which *Freeth* identified as his property.

The accused entered the ENGINE INN, but was refused drink owing to his condition.

Defendant said he did not recollect taking the cap.

A fine of 2s 6d and costs, or seven days, was imposed on the first charge, and for the theft prisoner was ordered to pay 10s 6d, including costs, or a further 14 days.”

1911 Census

Bell Street – ENGINE INN

- [1] *Harry Freeth* (27), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Hannah Freeth* (20), wife, married 2 years, born Darlaston:

Henry Freeth, beer retailer, 46, Bell Street. [1912], [1916], [1921]

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

“Darlaston Police Court.....

Harry Freeth, a publican, ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, was summonsed for being drunk and disorderly in Foster Street, on February 17th.

Defendant admitted it was not the first time, and he would be glad to get it over and done with. He had nothing to say. In reply to the Chairman, he said it was not a very serious thing to get drunk, but he objected to being locked up for it.

PS Baker said he was in charge when *Freeth* was brought in by PC Barber. Defendant was very drunk. He visited his wife, who told him to let him stop till the morning. She then bailed him out.

The Chairman said he was very sorry to see the defendant before them, and they would fine him £2.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/4/1922

“At Wednesbury yesterday *Harry Freeth*, landlord of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, was fined 10s for being drunk on his own licensed premises. It was stated that he had been at the house 13 years and the Stipendiary told him he ought to have known better after being there so long.”

South Staffordshire Times 18/8/1923

“*Henry Freeth* (39), of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, was charged on remand, from Wednesbury, of assaulting Mrs. Nellie Marson, of 21, Bell Street. At the previous hearing complainant wished to withdraw the summons, but the police did not think it wise, and the Wednesbury magistrates remanded *Freeth* in custody for a week.

Nellie Marson, the complainant, said the accused assaulted her on August 1st, between 6 and 7 in the evening. Witness who was a sister-in-law to the accused, went to see her sister (accused’s wife), whom she found sitting in the yard. Accused came and struck her in the chest and on the arm and shoulder. She fell down and hurt her wrist, so that she had to see a doctor, who attended her for a week. Witness was rendered unconscious and remembered nothing till her sister came out and assisted her.

Freeth, in defence, said, ‘We were both sitting in the yard, drinking together. She tried to strike me. When she fell I picked her up immediately and assisted her. All of us were sitting together drinking. She used to do the cleaning at our house. She sent for her husband, and that is all I know.’

Mrs. Marson replied: I never had a drink after dinner-time.

Freeth: I only had one punch at her, and down she went. I did not knock her about. She must have been the worse for beer.

The Chairman (Mr. Rose) to prisoner: It is a serious assault, and we want you to consider your position.

You ought to be a respectable citizen of Darlaston, but taking into consideration that you have been in prison for a week we will now only fine you £3. We hope it will be a lesson to you.

Prisoner: All right; I’ll pay it.”

Walsall Observer 2/8/1924

“How the husband of a Darlaston licensee turned all the customers out of a public house when he was indulging in a drinking bout, was told at the Darlaston Police Court, on Wednesday, when *Henry Freeth*, of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises.

Police-constable Chadwick said that on Tuesday night he found a crowd of some 300 people gathered outside the ENGINE INN.

Defendant: You will find them there every night.

Continuing, the constable said he found that *Freeth* had turned out all the customers, and also his wife, who was the licensee. He was in the passage of the inn, rolling from one side to the other in a very drunken state. When requested to go into the kitchen, he told witness to get out, and used filthy expressions. Witness then reported the occurrence to his superiors at the police office.

Police-sergeant Bailey stated that, accompanied by Police-sergeant Scott, he went to the ENGINE INN, where he saw defendant come out of the tap room staggering drunk, and carry a half pint glass of beer into the kitchen. Witness said, ‘Is that your beer?’ to which *Freeth* replied, ‘Yes, and I am going to drink it.’

Thereupon witness drew the licensee’s attention to her husband’s condition, and warned her that he must not assist in the business. She then said, ‘I cannot stop him; nor can I stop him from drawing his own beer and

drinking it.' While witness was taking a statement from the licensee, defendant drew himself three half-pints of beer and consumed them. He made rambling statements about his wife and switched out the electric light, remarking, 'Finish your writing and put in that my wife is a fast woman.' *Freeth* was then taken to the police station and charged with being drunk on licensed premises. On the way to the lock-up *Freeth* kicked at Sergeant Scott and used a filthy expression.

Continuing, Sergeant Bailey said that a week last Monday he visited the public house and found *Freeth* more or less under the influence of drink. He had pulled down the sign of the inn. The next day witness was again called to the house and found *Freeth* saddened with drink.

Freeth, who leaned on the edge of the dock, and gaped frequently, denied that he tried to kick the sergeant and declared, 'I call upon him to withdraw that statement.'

Mr. Shirlaw (Magistrates' Clerk): In any case it is not material. You are charged not with kicking the sergeant, but with being drunk.

Defendant: If you want to have a drink of beer, you can have it, can't you?

Defendant said his wife was in court and she could testify to the fact that they had always lived as happily as two turtle doves. 'There's no people under 40,' he added, 'have lived as happy as what we have done. I am sorry I am standing here in these things,' he added, as he pointed to his clothes. 'Me and her,' he rambled on, 'was the best five that ever lived, that is counting the children. I never touched any beer from August 15 last year until July 4 this year, neither beer nor liquors, nor any other intoxicants. I have been drinking about a week or ten days now.'

The Clerk: Do you admit you were drunk yesterday?'

Freeth: I admit I am very bad now. (Laughter.)

The magistrates remanded *Freeth* for seven days in order that his mental condition might be enquired into. 'My mental condition is all right,' said defendant to Mr. Joynson (presiding magistrate).

Mr. Joynson: It isn't for me to go further than that."

South Staffordshire Times 9/8/1924

"*Henry Freeth* (40), who resides at the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, appeared before the magistrates at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, on a charge of being drunk on licensed premises. Defendant was before the Darlaston Court on Wednesday of last week for the offence, and as a result of a singular story that was then told he was remanded to Winson Green Prison for a week for his mental condition to be enquired into.

The magistrates imposed a fine of 10s."

Hannah Freeth died in the 1st quarter of 1925.

Walsall Observer 9/5/1925

"Peculiar circumstances were related by Mr. E. Brown (solicitor), applying in the Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday for an ejectment order against the tenant of a house, No.40, Bell Street, Darlaston. His Client, *Henry Freeth*, he said, was at present living at the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, of which his wife, who died recently, held the license ever since an occasion when *Freeth*, in consequence of mental trouble, had had to spend some time in a county institution, and when she died it was thought that some relative should have the license rather than *Freeth*. The Wednesbury licensing Bench granted a younger brother, Bertram *Freeth*, a temporary transfer of the license on the distinct understanding that *Henry Freeth* left the premises before the final transfer was made, but *Freeth*, who had three young children, had nowhere else to go, excepting No.40, Bell Street. The present tenant, Daniel Fellows, was a respectable man and had no arrears of rent, and there was no complaint against him.

It was rather an unusual application, but, Mr. Brown contended, the house was reasonably required, and if there was any hardship it should fall on the tenant rather than on *Freeth*, who had a right to his own house. *Freeth* bought the premises, Mr. Brown added, in 1913, and there was no onus upon him to find alternative accommodation. Fellows had had ample notice.

Fellows was not present in Court, and although he was sent for his wife said he was at work and refused, it was stated, to accept the responsibility of coming to Court herself.

The Bench made an order for possession."

AND

Walsall Observer 30/5/1925

“Further reference to a case in which a man, *H. Freeth*, who has been required to leave the premises of the ENGINE INN, Darlaston, of which his late wife was the licensee, obtained an order for possession of a house in Belt Street, Darlaston, was made at Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, when Mr. R. A. Tench applied on behalf of the present tenant of the private house, Daniel Fellows, a labourer, for postponement or discharge of the order.

It was explained that a temporary transfer of the ENGINE INN, Darlaston, was granted with the stipulation that *H. Freeth* should vacate the premises. As the owner of the house occupied by Fellows, *Freeth* obtained an order for possession. Fellows was married to a widow on Easter Sunday, after the first notice had been served. In the witness-box he stated that he had been tenant of the house for three or four years. His family had resided there for about 60 years, and he was born in the house. He was willing to vacate it if he could get other accommodation, which he had tried to do.

Mr. E. E. Brown, acting for *Freeth*, said that in view of the stipulation imposed he felt he was under a moral obligation to comply, and he had endeavoured to do so.

Mr. Tench: The only difficulty in this case is the acute shortage of houses.

The Bench granted an extension of six weeks for the execution of the ejection order.”

Walsall Observer 20/2/1926

“Well known in Darlaston, Mr. *Henry Freeth*, of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, died on Sunday night from pneumonia at the age of 42. The funeral was conducted at James Bridge cemetery on Thursday, by the Rector (the Rev. J. W. Auger, MA).”

1926 Probate

“*Henry Freeth*, of the ENGINE INN, 46, Bell Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 14 February 1926. Probate Lichfield 10 April to Bertram Freeth, pawnbroker’s assistant, and Ernest Edward Brown, solicitor. Effects £3,148 7s 7d.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/2/1930

“At the licensing sessions for Darlaston yesterday, the Chairman (Alderman C. W. D. Joynson) remarked that there had been no prosecutions against license-holders during the past five years, and that was a satisfactory indication that they were exercising great care in the conduct of their business.

The license of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, and the BRITISH QUEEN, Albert Street, would be objected to on the ground of redundancy.”

Midland Advertiser 8/3/1930

“.....Evidence as to the structure of the house, its accommodation, and other details was given by PS Windridge, who said that the trade of the house was three barrels per week. The house was redundant, and not so suitable for trade as neighbouring houses.

Mr. Pritchard, in addressing the Bench, submitted that the house was in a working class area, was typical of the Black Country, and was required.

Mr. F. E. Brown addressed the Bench, and pointed out that he was one of the trustees under the will of the late Mr. *Freeth*, and the property was being held in trust for his son.”

[The license was renewed.]

Walsall Observer 14/6/1930

“An elderly woman’s sudden yielding to temptation was described in a case in which Mrs. Jane Tomlinson (63), of 2 Court, 2 House, Bell Street, Darlaston, was charged, before Messrs. A. E. Horton and H. B. Marston, with stealing 11s from Mrs. Edith *Beesley*, of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Complainant said on June 2 she put some silver, including a two-shilling piece, in a pewter mug on the kitchen shelf, and pressed some socks over it. Later, defendant came in, and Mr. *Beesley* served her with beer, which she drank near to the kitchen door. Witness went upstairs, and, on coming down, saw that the

socks in the mug had been disturbed, while Tomlinson was standing in the middle of the hearthrug, 'looking flustered.' She asked Mrs. Tomlinson what was the matter and what she had done, and defendant replied, 'Nothing; but this beer is nice.' Witness looked at the mug, and found 11s had gone, but defendant denied having taken it. She offered to be searched, and lifted up her coat, but instead of putting her hand in the apron pocket, witness put it in the coat pocket, and found 11s in small silver, including one two-shilling piece.

Police-constable Simkins said that Mrs. Tomlinson came and reported to him that Mrs. *Beesley* had taken 10s from her pocket in the ENGINE INN at 1.30 that day. Later, he interviewed her, in Mrs. *Beesley*'s presence, and, when cautioned, said, 'I am sorry; I did take the money. I don't know what made me do it. I think it was the beer.'

'Was she sober?' asked the Clerk (Mr. L. A. Shirlaw). 'She was not,' emphatically replied Inspector Heath. Stating that defendant would be bound over to be of good behaviour for six months, the Chairman warned Tomlinson that she had better leave the drink alone."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/2/1937

"'Darlaston is a town noted for its sobriety and it is a great tribute to the general public to record the vast decrease in drunkenness in recent years,' remarked Alderman C. W. D. Joynson, at the Sessions there yesterday.

Superintendent J. H. Hall reported that no proceedings had been taken against license-holders during the past three years, and the two males convicted for drunkenness were both non-residents.

All licenses were renewed with the exceptions of ENGINE INN, Bell Street, which were deferred to the adjourned sessions."

Plans were approved for alterations on 10th March 1937.

1939 Register

45+46 Bell Street – ENGINE INN (3 of 4)

[1] *Arthur Horton*, date of birth 28/4/1897, plater, construction engineering, married;

[2] *Alice L. Horton*, dob 15/12/1897, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Arthur G. Horton*, dob 15/7/1917, capstan lathe, aeroplane, single;

Walsall Observer 22/1/1944

"When *Arthur Bettelley* (29), of 1, Partridge Avenue, Darlaston, was stopped in the Green, Darlaston, by Police-constable Allmark, while riding his pedal cycle, and told that his rear light was not functioning he said, 'It's the battery that's gone.' In fining him 10s at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, the Stipendiary (Mr. B. G. Grimley) said, 'You are a danger not only to yourself but also to motorists and other road users.' For similar offences *Ernest Higginson* (34), of 17, Dorsett Road Terrace, Darlaston, *Richard Bertram Jones* (40), of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, and *Joseph Samuel Onions* (33), of 52, Remembrance Road, Wednesbury, were each fined 15s, the Stipendiary remarking that he had once before at Wednesbury given cyclists a warning to carry spare bulbs."

Arthur Badham died on 26th October 1948.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/1/1949

"*Simeon J. Foster* (36), of Wesson Road, Darlaston, treasurer of the death and dividend club of the ENGINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, was committed for trial at Darlaston yesterday on three charges of fraudulently converting members' money to his own use."

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1950.

Rugeley Times 9/2/1952

"Members of the Darlaston Cribbage League were in festive mood on Monday when at the OAKTREE INN, Fisher Street, the trophies won during the season were presented to the respective winners. Section A win-

ners this season are BARLEY MOW who in addition receive a plaque for having won the trophy three years in success. Runners up are the Free Gardeners. Section B winners were ENGINE INN, Bell Street, and NAGS HEAD runners up.”

Check BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Bell Street.

ENGINE

Dangerfield Lane, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Lee [1869]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 5/4/1869 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. Bruerton, at the UNION INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, This Day (Monday), the 5th day of April, at Seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then and there produced.....

Lot 3. All that Freehold Public House, with two Brewhouses, Stables, and Out-Buildings thereto belonging, known by the name or sign of the ENGINE, in the occupation of *John Lee*, situated in Dangerfield Lane, in the parish of Darlaston.”

ENGINE

Woods Bank, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Horton [1861]

NOTES

1861 Census

Woods Banks – ENGINE

[1] *George Horton* (49), publican and ironstone miner, born Darlaston;

[2] *Sarah Horton* (64), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Rachiel Hollowood* (18), house servant, born Darlaston:

ENGINEERS ARMS

Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

W Whitmore [1854]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1854

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing publican’s licenses in the parish of Bilston and Sedgley was held on Friday last, in the Bilston Police Court.....

There were eleven applications for new licenses which were disposed of as follows.....

Mr. Hall, in making an application on behalf of Mr. *W. Whitmore*, of the ENGINEERS ARMS, Moxley, said that the neighbourhood was an increasing one, that large gas works had recently been put up, and almost palatial buildings had been raised there.

Mr. Underhill opposed for Mr. S. Baggot, of the CROWN AND CUSHION, and Mr. J. Ruberry, of the MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, and said that the only house at Moxley which had any pretention to the character of a palatial residence was that occupied by the Emperor of Moxley, Mr. Wells. (Laughter.) Refused.”

Check SPREAD EAGLE, Moxley.

FIERY HOLES

Great Bridge Road, (Bull Lane), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Charles Clayton [1959] – **1966**;

Horace Clifford Green (**1966** – [1967]

Gail V Hill [2007]

NOTES

It had a pigeon flying club known as the FIERY HOLES Flying Club.

Charles Clayton was convicted of allowing his premises to be used for the purpose of betting on 22nd May 1959.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1967

“Detectives are investigating the theft of £30 by an intruder who broke into the FIERY HOLES public house at Moxley, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/4/1967

“Mr. Richard Glover, a 59-year-old wheelchair cripple and veteran of the Hunger Marches of the 1930s has been banned from his local, the TRAVELLERS REST, for arguing politics. Mr. Glover, a life-long socialist, of Great Bridge Road, Bilston, Wolverhampton, has written to his Labour MP, Mr. Robert Edwards, requesting a ruling from the Home Office be sought as to whether a man can be barred from licensed premises for the expression of a political viewpoint. Since the ban was imposed Mr. Glover, instead of being wheeled across the road to the TRAVELLERS REST, which he has for the past 20 years, has to be wheeled seven times as far to the FIERY HOLES to drink his nightly three pints of beer.

At his home last night Mr. Glover agreed, ‘I am an argumentative old devil.’ But, he said, ‘To be barred from a public place because of what you say hits at the rights of free speech. I like my pint in the corner and my sing-song and I will argue politics or anything else with anyone. This occurred after I had pulled up a young man who said he would like to put a bullet through Mr. Wilson’s head. We had words. Next time I went to the public house I found the licensee waiting for me. He simply said, ‘Take him away,’ and he would not listen to any explanation,’ he said. ‘I feel very bitter about this. To think that after all these years I have been barred from my local where all my friends go. I suppose the fact that I am disabled makes it worse.’

The licensee of the TRAVELLERS REST, Mr. Ray Martin, said, ‘I have put up with this for two years. He has been warned not once, but a thousand times. If this was a big place I might be able to lose him in a corner, but this is very small and everything he says can be heard. There are only two things that cause trouble in a pub, politics and religion. Customers should never discuss either. His controversy was causing people to stay away and I was losing custom. That is why he is barred.’

Last word with Mr. Glover, ‘I get into much worse arguments at the FIERY HOLES.’ But Mr. *H. C. Green*, the licensee, said of Mr. Glover, ‘He has never given me any cause to bar him. Occasionally he argues about politics, but politics, religion and football have always been argued in pubs. Sometimes some of our customers have a rattling good argument, after all everyone is entitled to their views. I don’t interfere.’”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1968

“Thieves who broke into the FIERY HOLES public house Great Bridge Road, Darlaston, stole cigarettes worth about £54.”

Walsall Observer 23/8/1968

“During a scuffle in a Darlaston public house, a Tipton man received a blow to his head which required stitches and caused him to stay in hospital for a week while it healed, Walsall magistrates were told on Monday. John Vanes (20), of 8, Chestnut Avenue, Tipton, denied maliciously wounding Kenneth Jones. The case was dismissed.

Mr. Jones, of 52, Turton Road, Princes End, said that he was in the FIERY HOLES public house, Great Bridge Road, Darlaston, on March 3 when he saw a friend involved in an argument with another man. He went to his friend and told him to go home and a fight broke out in which he attempted to intervene between his friend and Vanes, who was standing near him. He then received a blow to his head and lost consciousness. His wife, Mrs. Catherine Jones, said that she was with her husband in the public house just before the incident, but that she could not remember how the scuffle started. The defendant was standing near her husband while the scuffle was on, she said.

Royston Wilkins, of 69, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, said that he could only remember that Vanes and Mr. Jones

were fighting, that he saw Vanes strike Mr. Jones and that there were about 10 people in the passageway of the public house during the fight.

Police-constable K. J. Degville said he interviewed Vanes about 13 days after the incident. Vanes told him, 'Yes, I was in a bit of an argument.' But when he was told that he would be reported for the offence, he replied, 'No, I know Ken, I never hit him.'

Vanes said that he left the public house with a group of friends at about closing time on the evening concerned and, having been informed that one of his friends had been left behind, he went back to look for him. He found him in the passageway outside the assembly room, involved in an argument. While trying to break up the argument, he was struck on the side of his face and, 'in reaction' struck out himself in the direction from which the blow came. A person other than Mr. Jones then began to hit him. He emphasised that he only hit out once, because he wanted to prevent the person who struck him from doing it again so that he could take his friend from the argument and go home."

Lichfield Mercury 31/8/1984 - Advert

"Car Boot Sale. Sunday, 2nd Sept. 11.00 – 3.00pm.

FIERY HOLES INN, Greatbridge Road, Bilston.

In aid of Compton Hall and St. Giles' Hospice.

Car park bookings ring Wolverhampton 42540."

Express & Star 30/3/2015

"Two men were wanted by police today after a man playing pool was badly beaten inside a Darlaston pub. The victim, 38, was playing with a friend when a young child tried to join in at the FIERY HOLES pub. When the child was told it wasn't his turn, he told his father. The father and another man went over to the victim, punched him in the face, smashed pint glasses over his head and threw pool balls and a bar stool at him. The man was left with a deep cut to his forehead, a black eye and bruising to his head and body. DC Andy Sims, from the force's violence team, said, 'This was a vicious attack on a man who was enjoying a game of pool with his friend. The assault took place in front of the offender's child and left the man with horrific injuries. We need help identifying these two men as soon as possible in order to bring them to justice.'

Both men are described as white, one wore a green jacket and dark jeans and a baseball cap, the other man wore a blue zip-up jacket, dark jeans and a green T shirt and was bald under a grey flat cap. It happened on February 8, between 5pm and 5.30pm at the pub on Great Bridge Road, Moxley."

FIERY GRILL AND CURRY HOUSE. [2018]

Express & Star 23/9/2022

"A prominent Darlaston boozer could have a new grocery store and takeaway built on site to help boost business for the pub. Walsall Council planners are considering a proposal for an extension to the FIERY HOLES Public House on Great Bridge Road in Moxley, which bosses say will secure the future of the venue. If approved, a two-storey extension will be attached to the existing building which will house a convenience store on the ground floor with manager's accommodation above. As part of the overall refurbishment, there are also plans to convert part of the existing premises into a hot food takeaway, as well as creating new toilets and extending the pub's lounge. Representatives for applicant Harjinder Singh Bagri added the venue would create an additional five full-time jobs if it is given the go-ahead. An application for a similar extension was refused by Walsall Council in 2014 with concerns raised about the design, loss of light for neighbours, impact on transport and worries it would lead to increased crime and disorder. But this was appealed and Government planning inspectors agreed the applicants had addressed concerns raised and concluded the development could go ahead with conditions applied. That project didn't come forward and the applicants said the scale of the proposed store in this new application is less than the previous one. They added the venue is well served by public transport and within walking distance for many local people, adding CCTV would be installed while the hours of the store will be restricted to 7am-11pm while the takeaway will open from 11am-11pm.

Agents Pegasus Group said, 'he proposed works provide an opportunity to significantly enhance the vitality

and viability of the FIERY HOLES public house. The public house is an important and prominent business within the local area and the diversification of uses proposed in this application would assist in securing its future. The proposed works have carefully complemented the design of the existing building with the necessary provision of improvements to the public house and the addition of a convenience store with accommodation above. This will allow expansion of the facilities at the Public House for continued success and contribution to the local economy. The proposed development is wholly compliant with the provisions of both national and development plan policy and has overcome the reasons for refusal relating to the previous application. It is considered that there are no other planning reasons why planning consent should be withheld and therefore it is respectfully requested that planning permission is granted.’
A decision on the proposal is expected to be made in early November.”

[2022]

FORGE

Factory Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Wednesbury Herald 31/1/1880

“On Saturday, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), held an inquiry at the FORGE INN, Factory Street, Darlaston, relative to the death of Mary Bird, aged three years and nine months. The evidence showed that the deceased during the temporary absence of her mother got near to the fire, and her clothes becoming ignited she was so injured by the flames that she died about an hour after the accident occurred. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

FORGE

17, (8), (7+8), Willenhall Road, The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Timothy Jones, The Green, Darlaston [1893]

James Pritchard and Son

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]

LICENSEES

John Pool [1864] – [1872]

Timothy Jones [1880] – [1891]

George Hubbard [1893]
Joseph Bayley* [1901]
Joseph Bailer* [1904]
Samuel Spink** [1911]
Simeon Spink** [1912]
Arthur George Roberts []
Clara Worrall [] – **1919**;
James Hitchins (**1919 – 1926**);
Thomas James Williams (**1926 – 1929**);
James Fieldhouse (**1929 – 1932**);
Horace William Spink (**1932 – 1933**);
Joseph Bagnall Wilkes (**1933 – 1936**);
Harold Platt (**1936 – 1939**);
Arthur James Yates (**1939 – 1952**);
William Albert Hammond (**1952 – 1960**):

NOTES

7+8, Willenhall Road [1881], [1891]
8, Willenhall Road. [1893], [1904]
17, Willenhall Road [1911], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

John Pool = John Poole

John Pool, beer retailer, The Green. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]
John Poole, beer retailer, Willenhall Road. [1872]

1871 Census

The Green – FORGE INN

- [1] *John Pool* (68), buckle maker and publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Pool (61), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Sarah Jones (15), domestic servant, born Darlaston;
- [4] Sarah J. Coley (19), visitor, domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Timothy Jones, beer retailer and grocer, Willenhall Road. [1880]

1881 Census

7+8, Willenhall Road

- [1] *Timothy Jones* (41), publican and grocer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Mary Ann Jones (46), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Sarah Poole Jones (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] Emma Brookes (19), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

7+8, Willenhall Road – FORGE INN

- [1] *Timothy Jones* (51), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] Ann M. Jones (56), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Sarah Jones (21), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Rosannah Harper (20), servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1893

“To the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, and to the Superintendent of Police of the District of Wednesbury, in the said county, and to all whom it may concern.

I, the undersigned, *George Hubbard*, residing at No.8, Willenhall Road, The Green, Darlaston, in the said county of Stafford, Beerhouse-keeper, do hereby give you Notice that it is my intention to Apply to her Majesty’s Justices of the Peace acting for the Division of Wednesbury, in the said county of Stafford, assembled at the Adjourned Annual Licensing Meeting for the said Division, to be holden at the Public Office, Wednesbury, in the said county, on Monday, the 25th day of September, 1893, at Eleven o’clock in the forenoon, for a License to be granted to me authorising me to apply for and hold an Excise License to Sell by Retail at a house situated and being No.8, Willenhall Road, The Green, Darlaston aforesaid, Beer, Cider, and Perry, to be consumed either on or off the premises, in pursuance of the Act II George IV and I William IV, chapter 64, and Acts amending the same.

The Owner of the Premises in respect of which this Application is made is *Timothy Jones*, of No.34, Foley Street, Wednesbury aforesaid.

At the present time a six-day License for the Sale of Beer, to be consumed on or off the above-mentioned premises, which are known by the sign of the FORGE INN, is in existence, and under that License I hold an authority to sell.

Dated this second day of September, 1893. *George Hubbard.*”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Tipton and Darlaston took place at Wednesbury, yesterday.....

Mr. T. E. Slater (instructed by Messrs. Slater and Co.) applied on behalf of *George Hubbard*, FORGE INN, of Willenhall Road, Darlaston, for a seven-day license in lieu of the six-day license hitherto in force. The application was refused.”

1901 Census

Willenhall Road

- [1] *Joseph Bayley* (31), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Ann Bayley* (32), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Joseph Bayley* (8), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Ethel Bayley* (7), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Annie Bayley* (5), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Norah Bayley* (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Eliza Lane* (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

*possibly the same person

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

FORGE INN, Willenhall Road.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Joseph Bailer, beer retailer, 8, Willenhall Road. [1904]

1911 Census

17, Willenhall Road – FORGE INN

- [1] *Samuel Spink* (37), licensed beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Spink* (31), wife, married 8 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Samuel Spink* (7), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Horice William Spink* (2), son, born Darlaston:

Samuel Spink died on 27th October 1913.

Mary Spink, his widow, married *James Hitchins* – see BELL, Church Street.

**possibly the same person

Simeon Spink, beer retailer, 17, Willenhall Road. [1912]

Arthur George Roberts was married to *Frances Ellen* (Nellie).

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

“Darlaston Brewster Sessions.....

In his report, Police-inspector *Adams* stated that there are 79 houses in the parish of Darlaston licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor.....

Two of the beerhouses ‘on’ – the FORGE, Willenhall Road, and the STAR MUSIC HALL, Walsall Road – were closed on Sundays.”

Plans were approved for alterations, including the supply of water to the bar, on 22nd May 1935.

1939 Register

Willenhall Road – FORGE INN

- [1] *Arthur James Yates*, date of birth 10/1/1899, beerhouse manager, married;
- [2] *Doris Yates*, dob 17/1/1904, household duties, married;
- [3] *Muriel* (Crow) *Webb*, dob 27/9/1926, at school, single:

Walsall Observer 13/7/1940

“For breaches of the lighting restrictions, *Arthur William Hodson*, of 10, Willenhall Street, Darlaston, was fined 40s, while penalties of 30s each were imposed on *Arthur James Yates*, of FORGE INN, Willenhall Road, Darlaston, and *Charles Yates*, of 4, Drews Court, Wednesday. The last defendant, who was alleged to have committed the offence during an air-raid warning, said, ‘When the sirens sounded we all rushed out of the house to the shelter and the wind from the open window must have blown the curtains apart.’”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.
A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

Arthur James Yates – see also OLD ENGINE.

Rugeley Times 31/5/1952

“The Darlaston Darts League concluded the 1951-52 season with the playing-off of the final for the league president’s cup and the presentation of the prizes, by Mr. V. Dishman, of Atkinsons Brewery, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, King Street, on Friday. Mr. T. Malthouse (league Chairman) presided over a gathering that packed the room, and was supported by Mr. J. Tinsley.

Congratulating all who had taken part, Mr. Dishman said they had had a very successful season, and, from that angle, the main point was the contribution they had made to charity – a sum of over £45 to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. They were all to be congratulated also on the sportsmanship existing throughout the league and the important function it fulfilled in the general life of the public houses of the town.....

Mr. Dishman presented the prizes as follows.....

President’s Cup, FORGE INN.”

Plans were approved for alterations to the bar on 5th January 1955.

It closed on 31st December 1960.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/5/1961 - Advert

“By direction of W. Butler & Co. Ltd. in the Counties of Stafford and Worcester.

Sale by Auction of the Important and Valuable Freehold De-licensed Properties.

Prominently situated in and adjacent to Shopping Centres and ripe for early conversion or re-development.....

Lot 7. FORGE INN and No.15 adjoining, Willenhall Road, Darlaston.

A Corner Property with Frontage of 117ft and Total Site Area of 460 square yards or thereabouts. Vacant Possession on Completion except No.15 Willenhall Road adjoining, being let on weekly tenancy.”

FORTUNE OF WAR

9, Smith Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Thomas Penrice

Millward Brothers, Wednesbury

Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired on 26th July 1926)

Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. [1926]

LICENSEES

Thomas Penrice [1860] – [1881]

Enoch Page [1890]

Benjamin R Lowe [1891]

Thomas Cotterell [c.1898]

Harry Lyndon [1901] – [1911]

James Foster [1912]

Benjamin Ford [1916] – 1923);
Leonard Woodhall (1923 – 1924);
Charles Gwilt (1924 – 1926);
Sidney Brindley (1926 – 1927);
John Stokes (1927 – 1928);
Reuben Canadine (1928 – 1929);
William Richard McIntyre (1929 – 1931);
John Thomas Hill (1931 – 1932);
Fred Marson (1932 – 1956);
Sydney Burns (1956 – [1967])

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Penrice, gunlock filer and beer retailer, Smith Street. [1860]

1861 Census

Smith Street – FORTUNE OF WAR

- [1] *Thomas Penrice* (48), gunlock filer and retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Penrice* (50), wife, housewife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *James Penrice* (18), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *George Penrice* (16), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Margaret Penrice* (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Thomas Penrice* (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Thomas Penrice, retailer of beer, Smith Street. [1862]

Thomas Penrice, gunlock filer and beer retailer, Smith Street. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

Smith Street – FORTUNE OF WAR

- [1] *Thomas Penrice* (59), gunlock maker and publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Penrice* (61), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [3] *James Penrice* (31), son, gunlock maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *George Penrice* (27), son, gunlock maker, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Margaret Penrice* (21), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Mary Unitt* (15), grand-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

1881 Census

9, Smith Street – FORTUNE OF WAR

- [1] *Thomas Penrice* (69), gunlock maker, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Penrice* (74), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *George Penrice* (35), son, gunlock maker, born Darlaston
- [4] *Clara Ratheram* (17), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/5/1890 - Advert

“Darlaston. Important sale of Old-established Beerhouse and Dwelling Houses. Monday Next, May 19. Messrs. Belcher & Son have received instructions from Messrs. James and George Penrice, Trustees of the Will of *Thomas Penrice*, deceased, to offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, at Seven o’clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Wolverhampton Law Society, to then produced and read – the

following Valuable Freehold Properties.....

Lot 6. All that Old-established Beerhouse, known as the FORTUNE OF WAR, and being No.9, Smith Street, Darlaston aforesaid, comprising Bar, Tap Room, Kitchen, Club Room, two Bed Rooms and two Cellars; together with the Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, Piggery, and Outbuildings, with draw-in Gateway, private Passage, and good Yard. The Premises are in the occupation of Mr. *Enoch Page*, at the low annual rental of £23.

The whole of the Properties are Freehold, are well built, fully tenanted, and in good condition of repair. For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Darlaston, and Bank Chambers, Bridge Street, Wednesbury; or to E. B. Thorneycroft, Esq, Solicitor, Wolverhampton.”

London Gazette 19/8/1890

“*Thomas Penrice*, Deceased.

Pursuant to the Statute 22nd and 23rd Vic, cap35, entitled ‘An Act to further amend the Law of Property, and to relieve Trustees.’

Notice is hereby given, that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the estate of *Thomas Penrice*, late of Smith-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Retail Brewer, deceased (who died on the 15th day of April, 1888, and whose will was proved in the District Registry of the Probate Division of Her Majesty’s High Court of Justice at Lichfield, on the 5th day of July, 1888, by James Penrice and George Penrice, of Smith-street, Darlaston aforesaid, two of the executors therein named), are hereby required to send the particulars, in writing, of their claims or demands to me, the undersigned, on or before the 1st day of September, 1890; after which date the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice; and they will not be liable for the assets of the said deceased, or any part thereof, so distributed, to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they shall not then have had notice.

Dated the 16th day of August, 1890.

Edward B. Thorneycroft, 25, King-street, Wolverhampton, Solicitor for the Executors.”

1891 Census

9, Smith Street

- [1] *Benjamin R. Lowe* (44), forgerman and publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Phebe Lowe* (43), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Elizabeth Lowe* (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Benjamin Lowe* (16), son, forgerman’s assistant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Phebe A. Lowe* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *James E. Lowe* (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Thomas Lowe* (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Norah Lowe* (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Lillian Lowe* (5), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Harry Lyndon = Harry Lunnon

1901 Census

9, Smith Street

- [1] *Harry Lunnon* (37), publican, born Moseley, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Mary J. Lunnon* (31), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] *Percy Lunnon* (2), son, born Small Heath, Warwickshire;
- [4] *Ada Davies* (18), domestic servant, born Gold Thorn Hill:

Walsall Observer 23/8/1902

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Samuel Blakemore, ironworker, Darlaston, was charged with refusing to quit the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, South Street, Darlaston. The defendant went into the house and created a disturbance, and when requested to leave he refused to do so. The landlord (*Harry Lyndon*)

said as the defendant had apologised for his conduct he did not wish to press the case. The magistrates, under the circumstances, dismissed the case, and complainant had to pay the costs – 4s 6d.”

Harry Lyndon, beer retailer, 9, Smith Street. [1904]

Lichfield Mercury 27/7/1906

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Samuel Causer (38), miner and shoemaker, was indicted for having on the 9th April caused grievous bodily harm to William Piggot, with intent to disable him. Mr. R. J. Lawrence, prosecuted, and Mr. R. C. Plumtree defended.

Prosecutor, on the day in question, visited the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Darlaston. Prisoner went in shortly afterwards, and a friendly conversation ensued for some time. Eventually prisoner put his fist up, and prosecutor, saying he did not want any bother, pushed prisoner on to the floor. On leaving the inn prisoner, it was alleged, got behind a wall, and threw a brick-end at prosecutor’s head. The blow rendered hm unconscious, and he was in bed for some days.

In cross-examination prosecutor denied that he hit prisoner three times.

Elizabeth Antrobus, of 5, Alma Street, Darlaston, stated that she heard prisoner state in the passage that he had waited for prosecutor for some time, and that he would kick his teeth out.

Samuel Jones, a youth, described the scene of the fracas, and the position of prisoner when he threw the brick at Piggot.

Prisoner said that prosecutor struck and kicked him over the eye when he was in the public house. He denied having thrown the brick. He simply gave Piggot one punch.

Howard Wall and Harriett Fitzgerald, who were in the public house on the day of the fracas, said they saw prisoner [sic] strike prisoner [sic] three times in succession.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and prisoner was sentenced to twelve months’ with hard labour.”

1907 Probate

“Mary Jane Lyndon, of the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Smith Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire (wife of *Harry Lyndon*) died 21 January 1907 at Burntwood, Staffordshire. Administration Lichfield 8 February to the said *Harry Lyndon*, beer retailer. Effects £246 1s 9d.”

Walsall Observer 14/11/1908

“The monthly meeting of the Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers’ and Beer Retailers’ Friendly and Protection Society was held on Thursday last at the house of the President, MANOR ARMS INN, Daw End, Rushall. Mr. R. Anson, Daw End (president), occupied the chair.....

New Members..... *H. Lyndon*, FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Smith Street, Darlaston.”

1911 Census

9, Smith Street

[1] *Harry Lyndon* (47), widower, beerhouse keeper and brewer, born Moseley, Warwickshire;

[2] Percy Harry Holt Lyndon (12), son, school, born Small Heath, Warwickshire;

[3] Harriet Ann Fitzgerald (25), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

James Foster, beer retailer, 9, Smith Street. [1912]

Benjamin Ford, beer retailer, 9, Smith Street. [1916]

Leonard Woodhall – see also COTTAGE OF CONTENT.

South Staffordshire Times 2/8/1924

“The members of the United Flying Club, whose headquarters are at the FORTUNE OF WAR, held their first young birds race from Marlboro’ on Saturday.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/2/1925

“A meeting of the Darlaston United Flying Club was held at headquarters, FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Smith Street, Darlaston, on Monday evening when it was decided to compete in the Birmingham and District Homing Federation.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/11/1925

“In connection with the Darlaston United Flying Club the annual prize distribution took place at headquarters, FORTUNE OF WAR, Smith Street, on Monday evening.....”

Walsall Observer 13/12/1930

“Applying to the Darlaston magistrates on Wednesday, on behalf of Messrs. Holts brewery, for a temporary transfer of the license of the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Smith Street, Darlaston, from *William Richard McIntyre* to *John Thomas Hill*, Mr. E. Bown, solicitor, of Wednesbury, said that when the matter was originally before the Court it was stated that a notice expiring in August was served on *McIntyre*, but the case was adjourned to give him further opportunity to apply for other accommodation. He could have had another house under the firm he worked for but had not applied for one. He had preferred deliberately to stay on in the public house.

McIntyre, objecting to the transfer, said he had made every effort to obtain another house but had failed. He was prepared to go anywhere reasonable but protested against being turned into the street with a wife and five children. ‘It’s a waste of time being in the house,’ said *McIntyre*.

It was stated that *McIntyre* was a manager and *Hill* had signed a tenancy agreement.

Mr. Horton said *McIntyre* had already had 4 months in which to find a house and the magistrates adjourned the matter for another month to give him a further opportunity. ‘You must understand this cannot go on indefinitely.’”

1939 Register

9, Smith Street

- [1] *Fred Marson*, date of birth 8/1/1900, work inspector, drop-forging trade, and licensee, married;
- [2] *Georgina May Marson*, dob 28/3/1898, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Madge Eileen Marson*, dob 7/1/1921, sales order clerk, bolt and nut factory, single;
- [4] *Bernard Frederick Marson*, dob 28/8/1928, at school, single:

A full license was confirmed in 1961.

Walsall Observer 15/8/1969

“County Borough of Walsall Housing Act, 1957.

The Walsall (Smith Street, Darlaston) Compulsory Purchase Order 1969.....

Lands outside the Clearance Area Public house, the FORTUNE OF WAR, Smith Street, Darlaston.”

FOUNTAIN

25, Eldon Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company [1891], [1913]

LICENSEES

Edward Nightingale [1865]
Joseph Rigby [1871]
James Hyde [1876] – [1884]
Joseph Cross [1890]
John Cross [1891]
Phoebe Bowker [1894]
John William Harrison [1901]
William Alfred Seagar [1913]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/2/1865 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Properties and Building Land, in the parishes of Darlaston and Wednesbury. Messrs. Ludlow and Daniell will Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. Bill, the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday, the 13th day of March next, at Five o'clock in the afternoon.....

Lot 1. The Freehold Retail Beerhouse, in Eldon Street, Darlaston, called the FOUNTAIN, in the occupation of Mr. *Edward Nightingale*, at a rental of £16 per annum, together with Brewhouse, Scullery, with Shop over; Yard and Party Entry.

The Property has a frontage of 9 yards and 1 foot to the street, runs in depth about 20 yards 2 feet on one side, and about 21 yards and 9 inches on the other side, and contains about 197 square yards.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1871 - Advert

“To be Let, the FOUNTAIN INN, Eldon Street, Darlaston, in consequence of other business, four miles from the town.

Joseph Rigby, FOUNTAIN INN, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/3/1876

“*James Hyde*, landlord of the FOUNTAIN INN, Darlaston, was summoned for selling ale during prohibited hours.

Police-sergeant Breton, last Sunday morning, shortly after nine o'clock, visited the defendant's house, and found three men with jugs of ale before them. They had obtained entrance by means of a private door which led into a works in an adjoining street.

The defendant, who denied the truth of the sergeant's statement, was fined 40s and costs.

A man named John Bayley, one of the men found drinking upon *Hyde's* premises, was fined 10s and costs.”

James Hyde, beer retailer, Eldon Street. [1880]

1881 Census

25, Eldon Street

[1] *James Hyde* (51), gun lock filer, born Darlaston;

[2] Harriet Hyde (27), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] John Hyde (3), son, born Darlaston;

[4] Mary Hyde (1), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1884

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *James Hyde*, FOUNTAIN INN, Eldon Street, Darlaston, was charged with having his house open during prohibited hours, but the evidence being deemed insufficient the summons was dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1884

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *James Hyde*, beerhouse keeper, was charged with having his house, the FOUNTAIN, Eldon Street, Darlaston, open during prohibited hours.

The evidence of Police-constables Paling and Hill was to the effect that on the 15th November they watched the house until forty minutes past twelve o’clock, and then they saw a little girl go to the door and knock, and in reply to a question by someone inside, say that she had come for some beer.

The defence was that the little girl was employed as a domestic servant, but was living at her own home, and that when she left, taking her supper, she was told to bring a bottle for some beer, and she did so.

The Bench said it was a suspicious case, but the only course open to them was to dismiss it.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1890

“*Joseph Cross*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Darlaston, was yesterday fined £3 and costs by the South Staffordshire stipendiary at Wednesbury for having neglected to report to the authorities the fact that he had a pig in his possession which was suffering from swine fever. Defendant pleaded ignorance of the law.”

1891 Census

25, Eldon Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *John Cross* (31), iron moulder and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Cross (29), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Clara Cross (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Annie Cross (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] John Cross (4), son, born Darlaston;

[6] Ellen Cross (3 months), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

Mr. A. E. Wilkes applied for the renewal of the license of *John Cross*, the FOUNTAIN beerhouse, Eldon Street, Darlaston; and Mr. Lawrence appeared on behalf of the owners, the Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company. The grounds of opposition were drunkenness and refusing to quit licensed premises

Refused at first, but afterwards granted subject to transfer.”

Walsall Observer 15/12/1894

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary (Mr. N. C. Neville), *Phoebe Bowker*, landlady of the FOUNTAIN INN, Eldon Street, Darlaston, was summoned for selling during prohibited hours.

Police-constable Green stated that on Sunday morning, November 18th, at 11.40, he saw a man named James Riley come out of the house in possession of two bottles, each containing a pint of beer. The landlady said he had ‘begged and prayed’ of her to supply him. Witness told her that she sold more beer on Sunday than any other house in Darlaston.

Mr. R. J. Lawrence, barrister, of Wolverhampton, defended, and pleaded guilty. His client gave way to sudden temptation.

Fined 40s and costs.

Riley was fined 15s and costs, or 14 days.”

1901 Census

25, Eldon Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *John W. Harrison* (37), nut and bolt fitter, born Tipton;

[2] Eve Harrison (36), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] William H. Harrison (14), son, driller in iron plates, born Darlaston;

[4] Fred Harrison (12), son, born Middlesborough;

[5] Lillian E. Harrison (10), daughter, born Middlesborough;

[6] Violet Harrison (8), daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W.

Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

FOUNTAIN INN, Eldon Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5."

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act....." [Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

[1911]

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/8/1913 - Notice

"The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 24th day of July, 1913, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 7th day of September, 1913, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

FOUNTAIN, Darlaston. Beer 'on' ante 1869. Licensee, *William Alfred Seagar*. Registered Owner, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd."

Lichfield Mercury 9/1/1914

"The annual report of the County Licensing Committee fixed the following amounts.....

FOUNTAIN, Darlaston, £650."

FOUNTAIN

153, (78), (3), Walsall Road (Street), Fallings Heath, (Kings Hill Field), (Butcroft), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Samuel Slater, Walsall Road, Darlaston
William Butler and Co. Ltd. leased [1924] (acquired in 1952)
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Bird [1834] – **1861**);
William Butler (**1861** – [1872]
George Lee [] – **1871**);
Joseph Rigby (**1871** – **1872**);
Elisha Griffiths (**1872** – []
William Butler [1873] – [1879]
Mrs. Harriet Butler [1880] – [1896]
Samuel Blakemore [1901] – [1908]
Mrs. Fanny Blakemore [1911] – [1912]
John Eaton [1916] – **1931**);
George Henry Nicholls (**1931** – **1953**);
Norman Vincent Harrison (**1953** – **1954**);
William Wade (**1954** – **1959**);
Stanley Noel Gilbert (**1959** – **1960**);
George Lawrence Morgans (**1960** – **1963**);
James Edward Parker (**1963** – **1964**);
Kenneth Arthur Bagley (**1964** – **1965**);
Brian Boffey (**1965** – **1966**);
Hilda Ruby Butler (**1966** – [1967]

NOTES

3, Walsall Road [1871]
78, Walsall Road [1879], [1880], [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896]
153, Walsall Road [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1954],
[1976]

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Bird, beer retailer, Fallings Heath. [1841]

1841 Census

Butcroft

- [1] *Thomas Bird* (50), gun lock maker, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Bird (50), born Staffordshire;
- [3] William Bird (28), labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [4] John Bird (24), gun lock maker, born Staffordshire;
- [5] Thomas Bird (20), labourer, born Staffordshire;
- [6] Jabez Bird (18), gun lock maker, born Staffordshire;
- [7] James Bird (16), gun lock maker, born Staffordshire;
- [8] Harriet Bird (13), born Staffordshire;
- [9] Samuel Bird (8), born Staffordshire;
- [10] Alexander Morriss (19), coal miner, born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/5/1841

“Wolverhampton Public Office. Wednesday, May 12.....

Theophilus Wilkes was charged by his employer, *Thomas Bird*, of Darlaston, with stealing two gunlock forgings. The prosecutor, who is a gunlock maker, deposed that the prisoner went into the premises the previous day, partly tipsy, and left again almost immediately; prosecutor called him, on which he (prisoner) ran down the lane. Prosecutor shouted ‘stop thief,’ and afterwards missed two gunlock forgings; the forgings then produced by Mr. Yates were those stolen. Joseph Yates, gunlock maker, deposed to buying the forgings from the prisoner. Committed.”

[At Staffordshire County Sessions, 29th June 1841, Theophilus Wilkes was found guilty of larceny and sentenced to four months imprisonment.]

Harriet Bird, spinster, daughter of *Thomas Bird*, married *William Butler*, bachelor, engineer, on 1st June 1846.

1851 Census

Butcroft

- [1] *Thomas Bird* (61), miner and beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Bird* (61), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Samuel Bird* (17), son, labourer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Frederick Harvey* (16), visitor, miner, born Brednall, Staffordshire;
- [5] *Jane Foster* (18), grand-daughter, servant, born Darlaston;
- [6] *William Foster* (12), grand-son, miner, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Elizabeth Butler* (3), grand-daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Thomas Foster* (17), lodger, miner, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“A Special Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Great Barr, on Wednesday last, to determine with reference to sixty-three new applications for spirit licenses made in the division.....

Thomas Bird, Butcroft, Darlaston, supported by Mr. Duignan, not opposed Refused.”

Birmingham Journal 29/8/1857

“Annual Licensing Day Sessions adjourned till Friday, the 25th day of September next, when forty-two applications from retail brewers in the division for wine and spirit licenses will be considered.....

Thomas Bird, Walsall Road, Darlaston.”

[Refused at the adjourned sessions.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1858

“Applications for New [spirit] Licenses.....

The number of applicants for licenses was thirty. The following were the applications.....
Darlaston.....

Thomas Bird, FOUNTAIN INN, Walsall Road, supported his own application, and the Magistrates granted it. (This was the sixteenth time *Thomas Bird* had applied.)”

1861 Census

Walsall Road – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *William Butler* (39), victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Harriet Butler* (33), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Elizabeth Butler* (14), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Emma Butler* (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Ann Butler* (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Samuel Bird* (13), nephew, scholar, born Darlaston:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/2/1864

“To be shot for at Mr. *W. Butler*’s, FOUNTAIN INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, within three minutes’ walk of Darlaston or James Bridge stations, on Monday, Feb 15, a 20-score pig, by 20 members, at 10s each, at 3 birds each, single guns 1¾oz of shot 21 yards rise; double guns 1½oz of shot, 19 yards rise; 80 boundary. Shooting to commence at twelve o’clock. Woodshaw supplied birds.”

The Sportsman 24/2/1866

“W. Chambers, of the Pleck, Walsall, and J. Bottomley, of Darlaston, are matched to shoot at 11 pigeons each, for £10 a side, at the Mr. *Butler*’s, FOUNTAIN INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, on Monday, March 5.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/4/1866

“To be shot for in a handicap, on Monday next, April 23, at Mr. *Wm. Butler*’s, FOUNTAIN INN, Walsall Road, near Darlaston, a good pigeon gun, by 16 members, at 2s 6d each, 5 sparrows each, from 17 to 21 yards rise, 1½oz of shot, 40 yards boundary. Mr. Martin has promised to supply plenty of sparrows.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1867

“Jas. Gee was committed to the Sessions for trial for stealing four fowls, the property of Mr. *Butler*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Walsall Street, Darlaston. On Friday week last the fowls were missed from the stable where they were kept. The prisoner was suspected, and it was found that he had sold the fowls to Thomas Adams, a puddler, for 4s.”

1871 Census

3, Walsall Road – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *William Butler* (48), victualler and colliery engine tender, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Harriet Butler* (42), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Sarah Ann Butler (17), daughter, victualler’s assistant, born Walsall;
- [4] William W. Lowe (3), grand-son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Samuel Bird (21), nephew, coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [6] Benjamin Forman (15), visitor, ironworker in forge, born Darlaston:

Midland Examiner and Times 1/5/1875

“Mr. E. Hooper held an adjourned inquest on Friday at the FOUNTAIN INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, into the cause of the death of John James Cooper, a miner, who was killed at the Kings Hill Colliery, belonging to the Kings Hill Colliery Company, about a month ago. A long discussion followed, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and censured the doggy, and a man named Hunt, for having neglected to properly timber the gate road.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/11/1877

“An inquest was held yesterday at the FOUNTAIN INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, before Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), touching the death of Samuel Yates (29), stock-taker, Albert Street, who died suddenly on Sunday night.

Robert Yates, father of the deceased, said that his son had for some time complained of pains in the side, and from what he had informed him he believed that he had been suffering from a diseased heart. On Saturday night the deceased and he had two glasses of ale each at the RED LION INN, and that was the last time he saw him alive. Early on Monday morning he was sent for to his son’s house and found that he was dead. The Coroner said if the jury thought it necessary he would adjourn the inquiry for a post mortem examination to be made.

Several of the jurymen said they did not think it necessary for the inquiry to be adjourned as there were no suspicious circumstances. A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was then returned.”

1881 Census

78, Walsall Road – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *Harriet Butler* (52), widow, publican, born Darlaston;

- [2] Harriet Lowe (9), niece, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [3] Sarah A. Lowe (7), niece, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] William Slater (7), grand-son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elizabeth J. Willmott (18), general servant, born Tewkesbury;
- [6] Betsy J. Holt (25), boarder, no occupation, born Lane Head, Willenhall:

1891 Census

78, Walsall Road – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *Harriet Butler* (60), widow, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] William Slater (16), grand-son, nut and bolt forger, born West Hartlepool, Yorkshire;
- [3] Harriet Lowe (19), grand-daughter, domestic servant, born Darlaston;
- [4] Emma F. Slater (11), grand-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

William Slater – see ROLLING MILL.

Walsall Advertiser 12/1/1895

“The third annual supper of the ‘Fountain Birthday Club’ was held on Monday evening, at the FOUNTAIN INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, when about fifty sat down to an excellent repast provided by the hostess, Mrs. *Harriet Butler*, assisted by Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Holt, and the Misses Harriet and Sarah Ann Lowe. After the cloths had been drawn, Mr. Titus Lowe was unanimously voted to the chair, and Mr. S. Foreman to the vice-chair.

The Chairman, in a very neat speech, called upon the Secretary of the Club (Mr. S. Lowe) to read the annual statement of affairs, which showed the club to be in a prosperous condition, with a balance on the right side. The Secretary then announced the election of new officers for the ensuing year, and they were duly appointed as follows: Mrs. *Harriet Butler*, treasurer; Miss Harriet Lowe, secretary; Mr. William Slater, chairman; Mrs. Emma Jane Lowe, spill-major; Mrs. Emma Holt, constable; and Messrs. R. North and T. Clifford as committee-men.

Cordial votes of thanks to the retiring officers for their services during the past year closed the club’s business. On an adjournment being made to a more convenient room, singing, &c, was indulged in, and kept up till 11 o’clock, when ‘God save, the Queen’ brought a most enjoyable evening to a close, all appearing to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Mr. William Slater ably officiated as accompanist.”

Samuel Blakemore = Samuel Blackmore

1901 Census

153, Walsall Road

- [1] *Samuel Blakemore* (53), coal hewer and beerhouse manager, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Fanny Blakemore* (50), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Joseph Blakemore (24), son, ironworks mill furnaceman, born Darlaston;
- [4] William Blakemore (22), son, house painter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Alice Blakemore (20), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] Minnie Blakemore (17), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] Mary A. Blakemore (15), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] Philip Blakemore (11), son, born Darlaston;
- [9] Albert Blakemore (9), son, born Darlaston:

Minnie Blakemore married *John Eaton* in the 4th quarter of 1904.

1911 Census

153, Walsall Road – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *Fanny Blakemore* (60), widow, manageress, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Philip Blakemore (21), son, machine riveter, born Darlaston;
- [3] Albert Blakemore (19), son, labourer, born Darlaston;

- [4] *John Eaton* (30), son-in-law, bolt header, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Minnie Eaton* (27), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Jack Eaton* (4), grand-son, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Phoebe Basset* (22), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

1915 Probate

“*Fanny Blakemore*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, Staffordshire, widow, died 7 September 1915. Probate London 23 December to *Minnie Eaton* (wife of *John Eaton*). Effects £138 9s 6d.”

1939 Register

153, Walsall Road

- [1] *George Henry Nicholls*, date of birth 9/1/1887, manager of licensed public house, married;
- [2] *Florence Nicholls*, dob 6/10/1889, manageress of licensed public house, married;
- [3] *Phyllis Molly (Nicholls) Johnson*, dob 15/10/1919, invoice typist, single;
- [4] *Clara Alice (Cowley) Plant*, dob 11/11/1899, bar general, single:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1954

“Results of the Licensed Trade Diploma Examination held in April show that of 225 candidates who entered 175 passed, 11 with honours and 62 with credits. The examination which followed a course which dealt with all aspects of running a licensed house was held in centres including Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent. Local winners were.....

Pass *N. V. Harrison*, FOUNTAIN INN, 153, Walsall Road, Darlaston.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Cribbage League. [1970]

[1976]

Closed [1999]

Demolished [2009]

The site was incorporated into the Zia-E-Madina mosque.

FOX

49, The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Simeon Whitehouse

LICENSEES

Mary Bayley [1834]

Samuel Askey [1862] – [1881]

Mary Ann Askey [1891]

James Wilkes [1901]

Miss Mary E Jones [1904]

Simeon Whitehouse [1909]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Sentinel 18/3/1854

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Samuel Osbourne was indicted for killing Thomas Beech, on the 14th November, 1853, at Darlaston. Mr. Huddleston appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Cooke for the defence.

Joseph Turner deposed that he was near the FOX INN, at Darlaston, on the night of the 14th of November, where the deceased, prisoner, and others had been drinking. On going out of the public house, the deceased challenged and struck the prisoner; a fight took place, in which deceased received the blow which caused his death. Several other witnesses, who were present, corroborated that statement.

Mr. Abraham Rooker, the surgeon, who was called in, proved that the deceased's death was caused by a blow, which produced effusion of blood on the brain.

For the defence it was contended that the wound on the head was caused by an accidental fall, and not by a blow. The Jury took that view of the case, and returned a verdict of not guilty.”

Samuel Askey = Samuel Askery = Samuel Askay

Samuel Askery, retailer of beer, The Green. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/6/1862

“At the Wednesbury New Town Hall, yesterday, before W. Partridge, Esq, Stipendiary, five men, of respectable appearance, named Joseph Hodgetts, Stephen Hodgetts, Zachariah Bradley, Thomas Deeley, and John Collins, were placed in the dock, charged with being present at and aiding and abetting a fight between two cocks.

Police-sergeant Fenner stated that from information received he and Police-constable Marlow went at noon on Monday to a public house called the FOX INN, kept by a person named *Askey*, at Darlaston Green. On arriving there, they proceeded upstairs to a room at the top of the house, and peeping through a kind of trap-door they saw the whole of the prisoners in the room, standing round two cocks that were fighting. As soon as the officers made their appearance, the defendant Bradley picked up the two cocks, and ran into an adjoining bed room, and tried to secrete the birds in the bed. The other defendants, with others who were in the room, rushed to the doors and windows for the purpose of escaping, but some of them were secured by the police. On examining the two cocks, they were both found to be bleeding profusely from several wounds, and one of them was nearly dead. Both the birds were armed with steel spurs about an inch and a half in length, and the points sharpened as fine as the point of a needle. When the police first made their appearance in the room, one of the Hodgetts remarked that they (the police) would not have been sent for if the brown cock had been likely to win, meaning to imply that the backers and friends of the losing bird had called them in, in order to stop the game and save their money, there being several heavy bets on the result of the battle. Police Marlow gave corroborative evidence.

The defendant Bradley had claimed one of the cocks as his property. The defendants could not deny that they were present, and Mr. Partridge, in giving his decision, remarked that whatever the people of South Staffordshire thought of cock-fighting, it was in his opinion a very cruel and barbarous custom for a number of men to assemble together and incite two dumb animals to fight each other, and what was worse to arm them with steel spurs, in order that the fight might be of a more deadly character. This practice was the more disgraceful when it was considered that men like the defendants assembled together, not for the love of sport – if sport it could be called – but for the sake of making money, by betting upon the result of the brutal encounter to which these poor dumb animals were incited. He considered it was the bounden duty of every Magistrate to punish very severely every person who was brought before them on such a charge. He should show his sense of the present case by ordering each of the defendants to pay a fine of £3 and costs, and in default of payment two months' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Journal 12/7/1862

“At the Petty Sessions held at Wednesbury, on Tuesday, *Samuel Askey*, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, was summoned on a charge of having allowed disorderly persons to assemble in his house. Mr. Travis appeared in support of the charge, and Mr. Bayley defended.

The real offence was allowing cock-fighting on defendant’s premises, and it was clearly proved that in an upstairs room of his house a number of persons had assembled, and at the time the police entered a cock fight was going on.

Defendant was fined £5 and costs on the charge of keeping his house in a disorderly manner, and £1 and costs for the cruelty to animals, under which the offence of allowing cock-fighting was charged. The total of fines, with the costs, was £7 2s 6d.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/7/1862

“*Samuel Askey*, beerhouse keeper, of Darlaston, at whose house a cock fight had taken place, was summoned for keeping his house in a disorderly manner, and also for cruelty to animals. For the first offence he was fined £5 and for the second £1, making with costs £7 2s 6d.

Richard Garrington and Ralph Yardley, on being summoned for being concerned in the affair, did not appear, and warrants were issued for their apprehension.”

Birmingham Journal 19/7/1862

“Richard Garrington and Ralph Yardley were charged with assisting at a cock fight at Darlaston.

Police-constable Fenner and other constables found the defendants at a cock fight, in an attic of a beerhouse kept by a man of the name of *Askay*, who was fined, with five others, for the offence at the last sitting of the Bench.

Mr. Slater, for the defendants, said they pleaded guilty to being present; they had called in for a glass of ale, and hearing what was going on had been led by curiosity to go upstairs and see it.

The Magistrates fined them £3 each and costs, or in default two months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1862

“At the Petty Sessions, West Bromwich, on Saturday, two gipsies were brought before W. Sharp, Esq, and Major Elwell, the sitting Magistrates, named Christopher Hall and Phoenix Boswell, charged with robbing Mrs. *Mary Ann Askey*, wife of the landlord of the FOX INN, Darlaston Green, of 9½d. The two prisoners were having some ale in the tap room on Friday night, when Boswell shortly afterwards entered the bar, and asked Mrs. *Askey* if she had any old halfpence, as he wanted some of a particular date. She produced a quantity, and put them upon the table, when one of the prisoners began shuffling them about, and eventually shuffled 9½d into his pocket, but as the two men had ‘tried it on’ on Wednesday last, Mrs. *Askey* sent for a policeman, who took them into custody, and charged them with stealing 9½d. As they were going to the station, Boswell said, ‘You have no occasion to bring Hall, as he had nothing to do with it.’ The Magistrates discharged Hall, but committed Boswell, who pleaded guilty, for six weeks’ hard labour.”

Samuel Askey, beer retailer and bricklayer, Green. [1864], [1865]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/12/1865

“Sam Nash and A. Baggott. These district men make their final deposit good this evening at *Askew’s*, the FOX INN, Darlaston Green, when they will toss for choice of place of meeting. The affair comes off on Tuesday next at catch weight, for £10 a side. Nash is training at Joe Wareham’s, the Odd Fellows Arms, Manchester Street, Birmingham; Baggott at G. Holden’s, the MALT SHOVEL, Walsall, where the whereabouts can be known; as well as at Jinks’s, the ANCHOR INN, Darlaston.”

[For further on this fight see ANCHOR, Great Croft Street.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1868

“On Friday, at Bilston Police Court, before W. Hatton and H. D. Best, Esqs, two men, named John Hutchinson and John Lockett, were charged with stealing a watch belonging to Harris Morris a travelling Polish Jew. It appeared from the evidence that on the 1st instant the prosecutor went to the FOX INN, Darlaston Green,

where the prisoners and others were assembled, and while there he offered a watch for sale to a person named Wilkes. Wilkes, after examining it, declined to purchase the watch, and gave it back. The prisoner Lockett then asked to be allowed to look at it, and he afterwards handed it to Hutchinson, and they walked out of the room together. The prosecutor followed them, and asked for his watch; but they refused to give it up, and subsequently pawned it at a shop in Wednesbury for 12s. The police were communicated with in the meantime, and after a warrant had been got out the prisoners were taken into custody – one of them at Walsall and the other at Wednesbury station, where he gave himself up. They were both committed for trial at the Sessions.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/7/1868

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Hutchinson, 20, baker, and John Lockett, 36, labourer, were indicted for stealing a watch, the property of Harris Morris. Mr. Bosanquet prosecuted. On the 1st of May prosecutor went into the FOX public house, Darlaston, and attempted to sell the watch. Prisoners, who were in the house, obtained the watch on the pretence of simply wishing to look at it, and refused to return it. The Jury convicted the prisoners, who were sentenced to six months’ imprisonment each.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/9/1869

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re H. Cope, Darlaston, licensed victualler. First meeting. Mr. Brevett appeared for creditors, and nominated Mr. *Samuel Askey*, builder and beerhouse keeper, as assignee. The 8th October was fixed for the last examination and discharge.”

[Henry Cope – see BOAT.]

1871 Census

The Green – FOX

[1] *Samuel Askey* (37), bricklayer and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary A. Askey* (37), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Ann Evans (18), sister-in-law, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/10/1871

“Working Men’s Fund for the Extension of the South Staffordshire Hospital.

At a meeting of this committee, held at the Beehive Coffee House, on Wednesday evening last, the following amounts were paid in.....

Collected on cards by Mrs. *Askey*, FOX INN, Darlaston, £1 10s 6d.”

Samuel Askey, beer retailer, The Green. [1872], [1880]

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1874 - Advert

“For Sale, a handsome Cob Mare, 13.3; rising six years old. Quiet to ride and drive, and warranted sound.

Also, handsome Trap and Harness to match.

Apply, FOX INN, Darlaston Green.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/3/1875 - Advert

“For Sale, a black Mare, in foal, 13½ hands; quiet to ride and drive. Also, a Gig and Harness, by Forder and Co, Wolverhampton; new last year.

Apply, *Samuel Askey*, FOX INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/5/1875 - Advert

“Found, on the 19th, a brown Mare Pony, in foal about 11 hands high. Owner can have it by paying all expenses.

Apply, FOX INN, Darlaston.”

1881 Census

49, The Green – FOX

[1] *Samuel Askey* (47), publican and bricklayer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Ann Askey* (47), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Ann Maria Jones (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Samuel Askey died in the 1st quarter of 1890.

1891 Census

49, The Green – FOX INN

[1] *Mary A. Askey* (57), widow, born Coseley;

[2] Samuel Spink (17), nephew, moulder, born Darlaston;

[3] Mary Saunders (23), servant, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/7/1898

“A meeting was held at the FOX INN, Darlaston, today (Friday), of the men locked out from the Darlaston Galvanised Hollowware Company for a 5 per cent reduction. The large room was well filled, and after addresses had been given by Mr. T. Jones and Mr. W. Shorthouse, the following resolution was unanimously carried, ‘That we, the men employed at the Hollowware Company, refuse to accept the terms offered to us, and further pledge ourselves not to resume work only on the same conditions we left.’”

1901 Census

49, The Green – FOX INN

[1] *James Wilkes* (37), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Mary A. Wilkes (35), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Mary A. Wilkes (10), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] James V. Wilkes (8), son, born Darlaston;

[5] John A. Wilkes (7), son, born Darlaston;

[6] Alfred Wilkes (6), son, born Darlaston;

[7] Winifred Wilkes (5), daughter, born Darlaston;

[8] Albert Wilkes (3), son, born Darlaston;

[9] Walter Wilkes (1), son, born Darlaston;

[10] Virginia A. Anne Smith (23), general servant, born Shelfield:

Miss *Mary E. Jones*, beer retailer, 49, The Green. [1904]

Walsall Advertiser 6/2/1909

“The general annual Licensing Sessions for Darlaston were held at the Police Court on Wednesday morning.....

The licensees of FOX INN, The Green (*Simeon Whitehouse*) were then called before the Court and informed that a notice of objection would be served on them on the ground that the licenses were not required. Each case would be dealt with at the Adjourned Sessions.”

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston were held on Wednesday.....

The FOX INN beerhouse, The Green, Darlaston, owned and tenanted by *Simeon Whitehouse*, was referred for compensation on the grounds of redundancy.”

AND

Walsall Observer 6/3/1909

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

The license of the FOX INN, The Green, was referred to the Compensation Authority, Mr. R. A. Willcock, who appeared for the licensee and owner, Mr. *S. Whitehouse*, stating that he could not contest the matter.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1909

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1904, by the Compensation Authority for the County of Stafford, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 10.30 o’clock am, on Friday, the 11th day of June, 1909.

And Notice is Hereby also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing Act, 1904, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....
FOX, 49, The Green, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Simeon Whitehouse*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/6/1909

“The adjourned meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee was held yesterday at the Shirehall, Stafford. Of the five houses referred by the justices of the Wednesbury Petty Sessional division, there was opposition in only one case The houses in regard to which there was no opposition were.....

FOX, the Green, Darlaston.....

The committee refused to renew the licenses of all the houses.”

Lichfield Mercury 7/1/1910

“The Quarter Sessions of the peace for the county of Stafford commenced on Tuesday at the Shirehall, Stafford.....

The principal meeting of the Compensation Authority was held on the 11th June, and by adjournment on the 12th and 17th June, when the Committee, after careful consideration of each case referred, refused to renew 62 licenses.

The Committee, at a supplemental meeting, went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants.....

FOX, Darlaston, referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, the committee being unable to approve the amounts submitted for their approval.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/2/1910

“Darlaston licensing sessions were held on Wednesday.....

Superintendent Salt reported.....

The FOX beerhouse, which was referred for compensation, had not yet been finally dealt with and was still open.”

Lichfield Mercury 6/1/1911

“The annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue gave their decisions in the cases referred to them last year.....

FOX, Darlaston. £1,500.”

FREEMASONS ARMS

146, The Green, (146, Blockall), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Bloxwich Brewery Co. Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1924]

LICENSEES

William Wood (1859 – 1860)
Thomas Perry [1861]
George Wilkes [1864] – [1871]
Zachariah Downen [1880] – 1889);
Harriet Downen (1889 – [1891]
Samuel Downen [1895] – 1905);
Ellen Druscilla Downen (1905 – []
Joseph Ernest Phipps [1911] – 1920);
Mrs. Mary Ann Alice (Phipps) Hotchkiss (1920 – 1926);
George William Taylor (1926 – 1932);
Albert Edward Whitehouse (1932 – 1936);
Thomas Rush (1936 – 1938);
James Merricks (1938):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 5/5/1860

“Wednesbury. Gaming in Public Houses. To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Magistrates and Chief-constable have deemed it their duty to take steps to put a stop to it. There can be no doubt that such steps have been adopted with due care. The police, after going round in their uniform and finding that they could not thus detect publicans in allowing the offence, recourse was had to sending constables round in private clothes, and the result has been the following convictions.....

William Wood, retail brewer, FREEMASONS ARMS, Darlaston, for permitting parties to play at a game called ‘Billy Fair-play’ for ale, fined £3 and costs.....

In the course of the hearing of these cases, Mr. Leigh made some observations condemnatory of the practice of publicans and beerhouse keepers throwing all sorts of attractions and blandishments around their houses with the view of inducing husbands and sons to go and spend their time and money, and neglect the duties of life – the maintenance of their wives and families, and the other obligations which devolved upon them. It would be absurd to inflict light fines. The Act of Parliament said that for the first offence a fine of £5 should be inflicted. They had, however, materially reduced them, simply in consideration of any circumstances which might be deemed extenuating. Still it was necessary to put a stop to the practice.”

London Gazette 24/7/1860

“Whereas a Petition of *William Wood*, at present and for nineteen days last past residing at Darlaston Green, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Painter, Plumber, Glazier, and Paper Hanger, previously thereto and for eleven months and one week residing at Darlaston Green, Darlaston aforesaid, Licensed Retailer of Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, Painter, Plumber, Glazier, and Paper Hanger, previously thereto and for one year five months and about two weeks residing at Darlaston Green aforesaid, previously thereto and for nine months and about ten days residing at Blockhall, Darlaston aforesaid, and previously thereto and for about two months residing in Bell-street, Darlaston aforesaid, during his residence at all the said three last-mentioned places carrying on the trades of a Painter, Plumber, Glazier, and Paper Hanger, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Walsall, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *William Wood*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *William Wood* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 11th day of August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors’ assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *William Wood*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Frederic Fuhrmann Clarke, Registrar of the said Court, at his office, in Walsall, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said

insolvent.”

Birmingham Journal 8/9/1860 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall. The 11th day of August, 1860.

In the Matter of the Petition of *William Wood*, at present and for nineteen days last past residing at Darlaston Green, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Painter, Plumber, Glazier, and Paper Hanger, previously thereto and for eleven months and one week residing at Darlaston Green, Darlaston aforesaid, Licensed Retailer of Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, Painter, Plumber, Glazier, and Paper Hanger, previously thereto and for one year and five months and about two weeks residing at Darlaston Green aforesaid, previously thereto and for nine months and about ten days residing at Blockhall, Darlaston aforesaid, and previously thereto and for about two months residing in Bell Street, Darlaston aforesaid, during his residence at all the said three last-mentioned places carrying on the trades of a Painter Plumber, Glazier, and Paper Hanger, an Insolvent Debtor. Notice is hereby given, that the Court will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, on Saturday, the 29th day of September, 1860, at Ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

By order of the Court.

Joseph Edward Sheldon, Attorney, Wednesbury.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

1861 Census

Green Highway – FREE MASONS ARMS

[1] *Thomas Perry* (34), labourer and beer seller, born Shropshire;

[2] *Jane Perry* (30), wife, born Shropshire;

[3] *Charles Gordon* (21), lodger, iron miner, born Dorsetshire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/11/1863 - Advert

“Darlaston Green. Capital Beerhouse, in a thoroughly good business neighbourhood, the FREEMASONS ARMS INN, Darlaston Green. In-coming low.

Apply, E. B. Scholefield, Auctioneer and Appraised, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1863 - Advert

“Darlaston Green. Capital Beerhouse, in a thickly-populated neighbourhood, FREEMASONS ARMS INN, Darlaston Green. Coming-in low.

Apply, E. B. Scholefield, Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/12/1864

“*George Wilkes*, landlord of the FREEMASONS ARMS, Darlaston Green, was charged at the instance of Police-constable Lynall, with allowing gaming in his house on the 26th of November last. Mr. Sheldon defended the case, which was dismissed, there being no legal evidence against the defendant.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/1/1869

“*George Wilkes*, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, was charged with having had his house open for the sale of beer at 11-45 at night. Defendant pleaded guilty to the charge, and said he always kept his house open until about that time every Saturday night, but not for the purpose of selling beer. Mr. Spooner said there was the greatest misery arising from these beerhouses. They were the curse of the nation, and every person who had to deal with criminal law knew this to be the case. This was owing to the excesses which took place in them. The beerhouses in the country were a crying evil, and every person who administered justice must lament the evils rising from them. Of course this was not owing to there being something inherently bad in beerhouses, but the evil was caused by the manner in which they were conducted, for the infractions of the provisions of the law. He could assure Mr. *Wilkes* that if he came before him again he would fine him £10, and if he dared to come after that he would take his license away altogether. He could assure Mr. *Wilkes* and the public generally that he was determined to act in this way all through the district. He should this time fine him 1s and costs, 10s 6d.”

1871 Census

The Green – FREEMASON ARMS TAVERN

- [1] *George Wilkes* (37), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Susanna Wilkes* (35), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Ann Wilkes* (12), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [4] *John Wilkes* (16), son, carpenter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *George Wilkes* (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *William Wilkes* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *James Wilkes* (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

George Wilkes – see also CARRIERS ARMS and NAGS HEAD.

Zachariah Downen, beer retailer, The Green. [1880]

1881 Census

146, Blockall

- [1] *Zachariah Downen* (40), nut forger, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Harriet Downen* (34), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary Downen* (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Samuel Downen* (8), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Eli Downen* (3), son, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Flora Downen* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Mary Collins* (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Zachariah Downen died in the 1st quarter of 1889.

1891 Census

146, The Green

- [1] *Harriet Downen* (40), widow, publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Samuel Downen* (18), son, brewer, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Eli Downen* (14), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Flora Downen* (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Clara Downen* (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Zachariah Downen* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Samuel Downen married *Ellen Walsh* in the 3rd quarter of 1895.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1895

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Samuel Downen*, landlord of the FREEMASONS ARMS, the Green, Darlaston, and *John Manders*, a resident in the same locality, were charged with illtreating a gamecock by cutting its comb. Mr. W. H. Willcock appeared to prosecute on behalf of the RSPCA, and Mr. S. M. Slater appeared for the defence, and as regarded Manders pleaded guilty, but not guilty so far as *Downen* was concerned.

The evidence was to the effect that whilst two or three persons were looking at the bird, which belonged to *Downen*, the latter said he thought of having its comb cut, the comb having been torn. Manders then cut the comb, and afterwards, the bird being in great pain, the attention of Inspector Browne was called to the matter, and the bird was destroyed.

Mr. Slater proposed to call Manders on behalf of *Downen*.

The Stipendiary intimated that he could not be expected to believe a man who could be guilty of such cruelty.

Mr. Slater said it did not follow that because a man was cruel he would give false evidence. However, in view of what his worship had said, *Downen* would plead guilty.

The Stipendiary: Do you mean that?

Mr. Slater said he withdrew the expression, and apologised. He used the words probably owing to pique at what his worship had said.

Manders was fined £5 and costs, or two months' imprisonment in default; and *Downen* was discharged."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1900 - Advert

"Darlaston. Sale of Freehold Old-Established Beerhouse. Monday Next, April 23.

Belcher & Son, FAI, will offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the UNION INN, Darlaston, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the evening prompt, subject to conditions.

The Old-established Beerhouse, known as the FREEMASONS ARMS, with Grocer's Shop, three Bed Rooms, Club Room, Cellaring, with Rolling-way, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Closet, Paved Yard, and Gateway Entrance; in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Downen*, at an annual rental of £30.

The House, which is double-fronted and well-situated, has for many years done an excellent business in both branches.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Darlaston and Wednesbury; to Joseph Corbett, Esq, Solicitor, Town Hall, Darlaston; or to Slater and Co, Solicitors, Darlaston."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/4/1900

"Messrs. Belcher and Son, auctioneers, of Darlaston and Wednesbury, conducted a sale of freehold properties at the UNION INN, Darlaston, on Monday evening. There was a good attendance, and biddings were spirited. A dwelling-house, No.20, New Street, Darlaston, realised £110; No.147, The Green, Darlaston, £355; and the old-established beerhouse, known as the FREEMASONS ARMS, with grocer's shop attached, The Green, Darlaston, £1,250. A plot of land in Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, containing an area of 1 acre 1 rood, sold for £44."

1901 Census

146, The Green – Public House

[1] *Samuel Downen* (29), innkeeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Ellen Downen* (34), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Sissy Walsh (12), step-daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Ellen Downen (2), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] Tom Downen (4 months), son, born Darlaston;

[6] Maria Carter (21), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Tipton Herald 2/5/1903

"At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before Councillor A. E. Pritchard and Mr. A. H. Partridge, *Samuel Downen*, landlord of the FREEMASONS ARMS INN, The Green, Darlaston, was summoned for an offence against the new Licensing Act, with serving a lad under the age of fourteen years with intoxicating liquor in a vessel without a proper seal attached. Mr. Camm defended.

Inspector Williams said on the 10th inst he was on duty in The Green, Darlaston, when he saw a boy named James Jackson come out of the defendant's house with a bottle in his possession containing drink, which was unsealed. Witness took the lad back to the public house, with the bottle, and spoke to the landlord, informing him that Jackson gave his age as eleven years. Defendant after some hesitation said he thought the lad was old enough.

By Mr. Camm: Witness could not tell whether when he met the lad the full quantity of the drink was in the bottle. Defendant did not tell witness that the lad took the beer whilst he was serving another man.

Police-constable Garner corroborated Inspector Williams, and evidence was also called to show that the lad was under fourteen years of age.

For the defence Mr. Camm contended that while there was some slight carelessness on the part of defendant there was no actual sale to the lad. He explained the defendant, after filling the bottle with a pint of ale, placed it upon the counter, and turned to supply another man. While he was doing so, and before he was able to place a seal on the bottle, the lad took it away.

The Bench fined defendant 5s and costs, in all £1 3s 1d.

Charlotte Jackson of The Green, Darlaston, was summoned for sending her lad, James Jackson, under the age of fourteen years for intoxicants on the same date – dismissed.”

Samuel Downen, beer retailer, 146, The Green. [1904]

1905 Probate

“*Samuel Downen*, of Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 12 March 1905. Probate London 28 March to *Ellen Druscilla Downen*, widow. Effects £198.”

Black Country Bugle 22/1/2004

‘Pulling Pints with the Tavern Keeping Phippses of Darlaston Green’

“.....the pub consisted of a smoke room on the right and a taproom on the left and a brewhouse at the back. The FREEMASONS was supplied by the Bloxwich Brewery before switching to Walsall’s Highgate Brewery.”

Black Country Bugle 15/12/2021

Article by Dan Shaw

“FREEMASONS ARMS, The Green, Darlaston.....

Joseph Ernest Phipps took over the pub around 1910 and ran it with his wife, *Mary*, brewing his own beer on the premises on Sundays. He also served beer from the Bloxwich Brewery and later from Highgate Brewery.

Joseph’s brother Frank Phipps was a baker with a shop at the Bull Stake, Darlaston. In the First World War *Joseph* was not called up, even though he was of age for service, because he had a weak heart. However, he had to take over the running of his brother’s bakery and the strain of baking every day and brewing at weekends took its toll on his health. He died, aged 34, in 1920.

Mary Phipps carried on running the FREEMASONS ARMS with the help of her daughter Gertrude, who was only 10 years old. *Mary* married again, to Charlie *Hotchkiss* and around 1926 they left the FREEMASONS ARMS and took over the OLD FORGE TAVERN in Darlaston.”

Joseph Ernest Phipps (23) married *Mary Ann Alice Davies* (22) in the 3rd quarter of 1908.

1911 Census

146, The Green – FREE MASONS ARMS

[1] *Joseph Ernest Phipps* (25), beerhouse keeper, born Dudley;

[2] *Mary Alice Phipps* (25), wife, married 3 years, assisting in business, born Darlaston;

[3] Gertrude Phipps (1), daughter, born Kings Hill, Wednesbury;

[4] Annie Haden (20), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Joseph Ernest Phipps, beer retailer, 146, The Green. [1912]

Joseph E. Phipps was also a brewer. [1914]

1919 Probate

“*Joseph Ernest Phipps*, of FREEMASONS ARMS, The Green, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 29 October 1919. Probate Lichfield 30 December to *Mary Ann Alice Phipps*, widow. Effects £468 9s 3d.”

Mary Phipps was also a brewer. [1921]

She was born on 18th December 1885.

She married Charles Hotchkiss in the 1st quarter of 1926.

She died on 26th March 1988.

Charles Hotchkiss – see FORGE, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.

Rugeley Times 13/2/1937

“Darlaston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the OLD CROWN, Cramphill.....

Mr. Frank Joseph Yardley applied, on behalf of W. Butler and Co. Ltd., Wolverhampton, for an order sanctioning the removal of the license held by Alfred William Gobsill in respect of the OLD CROWN, Cramphill, to premises proposed to be erected on land situate and fronting the Wolverhampton-Walsall Road, Bentley.

Mr. P. J. Slater, for the applicants, said the OLD CROWN INN was in a congested area. Wide developments were taking place at Bentley and vehicular traffic was heavy. He thought it would be the first substantial house of any kind to be erected in this area since Bentley Hall was built some hundreds of years ago.

Mr. Yardley said the Company were willing to surrender two other licenses – the FREEMASONS ARMS (beerhouse) and an off-license in Willenhall Street.

Mr. C. A. Clarke, of Belcher and Son, estate agents, Darlaston, said that within a radius of 440 yards of the OLD CROWN, there were 35 licensed houses. In that area there were 1,390 private houses and taking four persons per house, the population was 5,560. The number of persons to a licensed house was 150, compared with 256 for the whole of the town. At Bentley there were no licensed houses whatever in the area, the two nearest being 990 yards and 1,180 yards away respectively. There were already 52 private houses in the area and 11 others were nearer to the site than any other licensed house; altogether about 252 persons resided nearer to the site.

It was proposed to provide car park facilities, which would be the only one between the centre of Walsall and Neachells House, Wolverhampton Road, Willenhall, a distance of four miles.

It was stated that the total cost of the proposed premises would be £8,000.

After retiring, Alderman Joynson said the justices had decided to grant the application.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/5/1937

“Twelve applications for the confirmation of license removals remained to be heard by the Staffordshire Licensing Confirmation Committee when they resumed their sitting at Stafford on Tuesday.....

One removal in the Wednesbury Division was confirmed. This was for the removal of the full license of the OLD CROWN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, to premises proposed to be erected at the junction of Bentley Lane and Wolverhampton Road, Bentley.”

It closed on 14th December 1938.

The license was surrendered as part of the removal of the license of the OLD CROWN HOTEL, Cramphill, to the LANE ARMS, Bentley.

FRYING PAN

Bilston Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Mick Steed (1982 – [1985])

NOTES

It was built to replace the BRADFORD ARMS.

It opened on 11th August 1982.

Express & Star 22/5/2007

“Three men were jailed over the pre-arranged brawl involving up to 30 jobs outside the FRYING PAN pub in Darlaston. A judge said the trouble could be a sign that football-related trouble was enjoying a resurgence. The fight was said to have been organised over the phone, with the threat of vandalism against one of the gang’s houses if it did not happen. Albion hooligans descended on the pub on the evening of January 2 last year – the day the Baggies played Aston Villa and Wolves were away to Coventry. Police footage of the battle was shown to Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday, which was told that sticks, a spanner, a screwdriver, chisel and plank of wood with a screw sticking out of it were discarded at the scene. One person was injured and at least two others were sprayed with CS gas by a rival hooligan....”

[2014]

A fish and chip shop opened in part of the building. [2019]

It closed in 2021.

Express & Star 29/7/2021

“A struggling Darlaston pub which has suffered a drop in trade looks set to be converted into a business centre. Members of Walsall Council’s planning committee are being asked to approve a proposal to turn the FRYING PAN, in Bilston Street, into 12 self-contained offices. A fish and chip shop and flats on the first floor are also on site and they will be retained if the plans are agreed.

Applicants Jacob Asset Management said the pub had been failing even before the Covid-19 pandemic struck and faced strong competition from other venues in the area. They said, ‘The building currently has mixed usage, with a large public house and chip shop on the ground floor, with the pub non-trading, with three bedroom residential on first floor. It is common knowledge even before Covid hit, that the pub industry was struggling. However, the past 18 months have provided even greater significance to highlight the long-term decline in the traditional pub trade, and regrettably it is still unknown how the industry will ever recover after both the long-term changes in consumer behaviour, e.g. the shift away from wet-led drinking establishments and closures as a result of this awful pandemic. Previous years have seen significant decreases in trade across the sector and at this outlet, set against increase in costs from the likes of the breweries and fixed property related overheads, such as business rates. It is therefore conceded it is not a viable option to re-open the pub due to it operating at a loss even before Covid-19. The strategic decision to divest of this asset, as no longer even a marginal trading concern, had already been taken by the breweries, whom previously owned. Due to the large number of pubs close by, that have now reopened for trading, after compulsory closure, this is seen as increased competition, when attempting to attract ever few customers.’

Committee members are recommended to approve with conditions at a meeting on August 5.”

Express & Star 6/8/2021

“Objectors who tried to keep a closed Darlaston pub from becoming a business centre have been told they should have used it before losing it. Members of Walsall Council’s planning committee agreed a proposal by Jacob Asset Management to convert the FRYING PAN in Bilston Street into a business centre. In their application, pub bosses said the venue had been struggling even before the Covid-19 pandemic struck and it wasn’t viable to reopen it.

The plans sparked objections and an online petition calling for the FRYING PAN to be retained as a public house attracted more than 500 signatures. But committee chairman Mike Bird said a lack of trade was the reason for its closure and leaving it sitting empty would only attract anti-social behaviour. He said, ‘I find it amusing when people say we want to keep the pub and it’s been closed. It’s the old story – use it or lose it. I find it amazing that people want to put a petition to keep a pub where they haven’t been using it. Publicans are in business to make a profit and sadly if it hasn’t made a profit, that’s why it has closed. What we don’t

want to see is as well all know, redundant pubs becoming tip sites. We have got many around the borough.’ Darlaston ward councillor Paul Bott added, ‘Vacant pubs create vandalism and the people live by these – they have a nightmare. We must welcome what this will become. A business centre will create some jobs in Darlaston.’

The business centre will see 12 self-contained offices created on the ground floor of the premises. A fish and chip shop and a first floor flat will remain as part of the development. Members voted to give the go-ahead for the new business centre, subject to conditions.”

GEORGE

23, (23+24), Church Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

James Pritchard and Son [1934], [1939]

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 7th May 1946)

LICENSEES

Thomas Wood [1841] – **1851**);

Mrs. Sarah Wood (**1851** – [1854]

Wood [1855]

George Wilkes [1860] – **1862**);

William Taylor (**1862** – **1867**);

John Jones (**1867** – **1869**);

James Bayley (**1869**);

John Humpage (**1869** – [1879]

William France [1878] – [1892]

Samuel Garbett [1891] – [c.1898]

James Pritchard [1892]

James Glaze [1899] – **1905**)

Job Newton (**1905** – []

Edwin Beesley [1908]

William Thomas Hingley [1911] – [1912]

Mrs. Emily Hingley [1916] – **1919**);

Joseph Statham (**1919** – **1920**);

John Henry West (**1920** – **1923**);

Edwin Beesley (**1923** – **1930**);

Ernest Southan (**1930** – **1934**);

John Nicholls (**1934** – **1935**);

Richard Wilfred Nicholls (**1935** – **1941**);

Rowland Job Tasker (**1941** – **1943**);

John William Yates (**1943** – **1950**);

Walter Green (**1950** – **1959**);

William Edward Swan (**1959**);

Mrs. Winifred Irene Swan (**1959** – **1960**);

Sidney Roobottom (**1960** – **1963**):

NOTES

23+24, Church Street [1881]

23, Church Street [1891], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Wood, beer retailer, Church Street. [1841]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/7/1845 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Property, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, on Friday, August 8, 1845, at the house of Mr. *Wood*, called the GEORGE INN, in Darlaston, at six o’clock in the evening.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/12/1850 - Advert

“Lost, on Sunday morning last, the 22nd instant, from Darlaston, a Black Retriever Bitch, with a white mark between her forelegs, curly hair, long tail and ears, with a single curb collar, with the name engraved on ‘R. Dungate, 11th Hussars;’ whoever has found the same and will bring her to Mr. *Thomas Wood*, GEORGE INN, Darlaston, shall receive One Sovereign Reward; and whoever detains her after this notice will be prosecuted according to law.”

1851 Census

Church Street

[1] *Sarah Wood* (62), widow, innkeeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Thomas Wood* (27), son, iron founder and bolt maker, born Darlaston;

[3] *Marianne Wood* (27), daughter-in-law, born Bray, Ireland;

[4] *Sarah M. Daugate* (24), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Ann Simcox* (25), servant, born West Bromwich;

[6] *Rose Neale* (20), servant, born Newry, Ireland:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/4/1851

“The following licenses were transferred.....

GEORGE INN, Darlaston, to *Sarah*, widow of the late landlord, Mr. *Thomas Wood*.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/10/1854 - Died

“September 28, suddenly, Mrs. *Sarah Wood*, relict of the late *Thomas Wood*, of Church Street, Darlaston, in the 65th year of age, much respected and regretted by her sorrowing relatives and friends.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

The workmen of Mr. Warden were plentifully regaled with beef, plum pudding, and ale, at Mr. *Wood*’s, the GEORGE INN.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off during the course of the night two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1855 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Sale of Eight Freehold Dwelling Houses, at Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Danks, on Tuesday, October the 16th instant, at the house of Mr. *Wood*, the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, at six o’clock in the evening.....”

Birmingham Journal 24/3/1860 - Advert

“Freehold Houses, Workshops, and Premises, in Bilston Street, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Enoch Bruerton (by order of the Mortgagee), on Tuesday, the 3rd day of April, 1860, at the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, at Seven o'clock in the evening.....”

1861 Census

Church Street – GEORGE INN

- [1] *George Wilkes* (22), victualler and screw manufacturer employing 10 men, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Wilkes (23), wife, born Gnosall, Staffordshire;
- [3] Leah A. Wilkes (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Martha J. Wilkes (4 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Sarah Mason (17), general servant, born Coseley;
- [6] Martha Butler (12), servant, born Darlaston:

London Gazette 25/7/1862

“*George Wilkes*, of Church-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Screw Manufacturer, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in Her Majesty’s Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 18th day of July, 1862, is hereby required to surrender himself to a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 15th day of August next, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the said Court, at Birmingham. Mr. George Kinnear, of No.37, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Thomas Brevitt, of Darlaston, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/10/1862

“Walsall County Court. Monday.....

The following bankrupt cases were disposed of.....

George Wilkes, innkeeper and screw-bolt maker, Darlaston, whose case was transferred from the Birmingham Court, came up for his final examination, and was supported by Mr. Matthews. Mr. Brevett, of Darlaston, appeared for the assignees. The bankrupt was unopposed and passed.”

Birmingham Journal 11/10/1862 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of *George Wilkes*, of Church Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Screw Bolt Manufacturer, a Bankrupt.

Whereas, at a Public Sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt.

Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the said Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless in the meantime an Appeal be duly entered against the Judgement of the said Court.

Dated this 29th day of September, 1862.

C. C. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1862

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before W. Partridge, Esq, Sarah Ann Lockley, the wife of a working man of good character, was charged with stealing a basket and several mutton chops, the property of Mrs. *William Taylor*, of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston.

From the evidence of Mrs. *Taylor* it appeared that on Tuesday morning last her son placed the basket containing the meat upon a table in the room in which the prisoner was sitting. She shortly afterwards missed it, and at once gave information to the police.

Sergeant E. Fenner deposed that on Tuesday afternoon, in consequence of information he received, he went to prisoner’s house, and there found the stolen articles, the meat in the pantry, and the basket in an upstairs

room. The prisoner at first denied that she had been at the GEORGE that morning, but afterwards said she had been there. Mrs. *Taylor* recommended the prisoner to the clemency of the Court, and the Stipendiary permitted the charge to be withdrawn upon payment of costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1863

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, before T. Jesson and T. Davis, Esqrs, Richard Wooton was brought up charged with stealing a pair of boots, value 5s, the property of *William Taylor*, of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston. It seemed that on the 17th ult the prisoner was drinking at the prosecutor’s house, and while he was there the boots were seen safe in the back kitchen. On the following morning the boots were missed, and the police were communicated with. Subsequently Police-constable Hooper found the prisoner wearing one of the boots, and the other was discovered at his lodgings. The prosecutor declined to press for punishment, and the prisoner, who alleged that he found the boots in the street, was cautioned and discharged, upon payment of a fine of 10s.”

William Taylor was also a gunlock forger. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/2/1866

“Yesterday, *William Taylor*, of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, and James Pritchard, of the BELL INN, Darlaston, were summoned before sitting magistrates, at the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, for selling beer on Sunday, the 11th inst, during the hours of Divine service. The cases were proved by Police-sergeant Steele, and the defendants were each fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/8/1867 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, Darlaston Green Coal and Breeze Wharf, Canal Frontage, with two Boats, Weighing Machine, &c.
Apply, GEORGE INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/9/1867 - Advert

“Coal Wharf. To be Disposed Of, Darlaston Green Coal Wharf, with two Boats, Cart, Weighing Machine, &c.
Apply, Mr. *J. Jones*, GEORGE INN, Darlaston.”

John Jones, beer retailer, Darlaston. [1868]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/1/1868

“Bellevue Grounds, Moat Road, Walsall.....

G. Kendrick and E. Drayton (both of Darlaston) are matched and have signed articles to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, on Monday, Feb 24. Mr. *J. Jones* of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, final stakeholder.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/3/1868

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.....

Teddy Harper of Darlaston and E. Drayton are matched to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, Harper having one yard start, on Easter Monday. £1 a side is down in the hands of Mr. *Jones*, the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, who is final stakeholder and referee.”

Dudley Herald 4/7/1868

“*John Jones*, licensed victualler of Darlaston was charged with indecently assaulting Hannah Maria Green, a girl 13 years of age. The girl was in the employment of the prisoner. On Tuesday night the prisoner came into the room where the girl and two of his children were sleeping. He put the light out and got into the bed. He then commenced talking and acting indecently to the girl, but owing to her resistance failed to effect his purpose. The prosecutrix attempted to cry out, but the accused put his hand over her mouth, and finding that not sufficient to prevent her making a noise he pushed his tongue into her mouth. Eventually, Mrs. *Jones*, thinking her husband had been absent a long time, went to look after him, and found him in bed with the

servant.....

For certain reasons, however, the magistrates thought it desirable to deal with the case as an ordinary assault and for that they inflicted upon the prisoner the highest penalty of the law, a fine of £5 and costs, or the alternative of two months' imprisonment with hard labour."

London Gazette 11/12/1868

"*John Jones*, of the GEORGE INN, Church-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 7th day of December, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 23rd day of December instant, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court-house, Lichfield-street, Walsall. Mr. F. F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Samuel Wilkinson, of Walsall, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/1/1869 - Notice

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.....

John Jones, of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, adjudicated Bankrupt on the 7th day of December, 1868. An Order of Discharge was granted by the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 21st day of January, 1869.

F. F. Clarke, Registrar."

James Bayley = James Bailey

James Bayley was the son of John Bayley of the BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Bell Street.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/4/1869

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *James Bayley*, of the sign of the GEORGE, George [sic] Street, Darlaston, was fined 40s and costs for permitting drunkenness in his house on the 6th inst. John Woodhall was called to prove the case and stated that there were twelve persons in the house, and they were all drunk."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/4/1869

"W. Gittens of Moxley and J. Turner of Darlaston. The 100 yards match, for £5 a side, Gittens receiving a yard start, is progressing. A further deposit is to be made this evening (Saturday) to Mr. *Bailey*, GEORGE INN, Darlaston, the final stakeholder. The match is to come off on May 3."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1869

"Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner, Stipendiary, *James Bailey*, GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, pleaded guilty to having, on the 7th inst, permitted drunkenness in his house. It was shown that only three months ago the defendant was fined £2 and costs for a like offence. The Stipendiary imposed a fine of £5 and costs, and said this was a case of all others that should be brought under the notice of the licensing magistrates. The law was perfectly strong enough to deal with such cases, if only put in force. If a few offenders were made examples of by being deprived of their licenses, he was convinced that it would cure one-half the drunkenness which, unhappily, prevailed throughout the district."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/7/1869

"Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions Robbery from a Public House.

Henry Bond and Joseph Onions were indicted for stealing, on the 7th of July, the sum of £1 12s, one pint of rum, and eighteen cigars, the property of *James Bailey*. Mr. Fulford prosecuted; Onions was defended by Mr. Smith; the other prisoner was undefended.

It appeared that on the morning of the 7th July Mr. *Bailey* opened his house at four o'clock, after which he fell asleep. A noise was afterwards heard in the bar by Mr. *Bailey's* wife, and, running downstairs, she saw the two prisoners, and Bond with his hand in the till, and as they were about to run off she observed Bond

hand something to the other prisoner. In the course of the morning Mr. *Bailey* saw Bond drunk in a wheelbarrow, and being wheeled along the street by two men, when he called *Bailey* to him and gave him the bottle. Bond was then given into custody, and subsequently the other prisoner was apprehended. It was urged on behalf of Onions that he had gone to the house for a bottle of ginger beer, and had not taken part in the robbery.

Both prisoners were found guilty, and they were sentenced to four months' imprisonment each."

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 24/7/1869

"Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Henry Bond and Joseph Onions, indicted for stealing, on the 7th of July, the sum of £1 12s, one pint of rum, and eighteen cigars, the property of *James Bailey*, innkeeper, Darlaston, were found guilty, and each sentenced to four months' imprisonment."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/7/1869 - Advert

"To be Let, the OLD GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston. May be entered upon immediately. Coming-in low."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1869

"Case under the new Beerhouses Act.

Yesterday, at the Police Court, before I. Spooner, Esq, *James Bayley*, landlord of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, was charged, on adjournment, with having permitted disorderly conduct in his house on the 17th July, he having been twice previously convicted of offences against the tenour of his license.

Mr. Ebsworth appeared on behalf of the defendant, and said that before the case was heard he had an application to make. Mr. Spooner would see that two previous convictions were charged against the defendant, and in such a case the Act of Parliament provided no penalty to be inflicted for a third offence, but said, 'Penalty for a first offence, not exceeding £5 and costs; but on proof of prior conviction within three months, not exceeding £10 and costs; and if proof be given of two separate offences within three years, the case to be adjourned to the next transfer day, or the annual licensing meeting, in manner here mentioned, and on conviction the offender to forfeit any sum not exceeding £50, and costs. If the Justices order, or the person charged requests in writing, the hearing is to be adjourned to the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and there tried by Jury. And on conviction there, the Court may fine not exceeding £100, or adjudge the license to be void, or punish by fine and forfeiture of the license; and if the license be adjudged to be void, the person will be incapable of selling by retail for three years. The Court may adjourn the hearing to the next Sessions. Justices may order constables to carry on the prosecution at the General or Quarter Sessions, at the expense of the county or place for which they act.'

Mr. Ebsworth then submitted that the Stipendiary could only take evidence as to the previous convictions.

Mr. Spooner overruled this objection.

Defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge, and Sergeant Price was called to prove that on visiting the house, with Police-constable Ainsworth, at half-past eleven at night, he heard a noise, and on going upstairs he saw nearly 30 people in the room. Several of the men were drunk, and two men, who were fighting, were separated by the company. Thomas Nash was called to prove being in the house, and seeing the men fighting. When some one cried out, 'The bobbies are coming,' the fight was stopped.

Mr. Spooner did not think the evidence sufficient to prove that defendant had allowed disorderly conduct, and he could not convict."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for the West Bromwich district was held yesterday.....

The following list of victuallers brought before the magistrates during the year ending 25th August, was handed to the magistrates by Superintendent Woollaston.....

James Bayley, GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston.....

The magistrates declined to grant the license of *James Bayley*, of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1869

“.....There were two previous convictions recorded against *Bayley*, and, after careful consideration of his case, the Bench refused to grant a renewal of his license.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/9/1869 - Advert

“Notice. The Sale advertised to take place at the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, This Day (Monday), September 5th, 1869, will not take place. E. B. Scholefield, Auctioneer.”

London Gazette 7/9/1869

“*James Bayley*, late of the GEORGE INN, Church-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, but now of Dudley-street, Tipton, in the county of Stafford, in lodgings, and out of business, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 3rd day of September, 1869, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 7th day of October next, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the Court-house, Lichfield-street, Walsall. Mr. F. F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. John Ebsworth, of Wednesbury, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/11/1869

“At the Walsall County Court, yesterday, before Mr. Skinner, judge, *James Bayley*, builder and publican, Darlaston, came up for final examination, supported by Mr. Ebsworth, and opposed by Mr. Gillespie (of the firm of Wilkinson and Gillespie) on behalf of the assignee, and Mr. Dale on behalf of three creditors, namely, Mr. Hale, timber merchant, Walsall; and two travelling drapers, named David McDonald and Peter McKenzie.

Mr. Gillespie applied to have the bankrupt committed under the 159th clause of the Bankruptcy Act, for having contracted debts without having any reasonable prospects of paying them. From the history of the case, as given by Mr. Gillespie, it appeared that on the 30th of August last the defendant sold his household furniture and the goodwill of the public house to a person named *Humpage* for a sum, according to the statement in the bankrupt’s statement, of £68 10s, but according to his evidence before the Registrar, £78 10s, and gave to a connection of his, named Salt, a labourer, who resides at Toll End, and from whom he said he had borrowed on commencing business the sum of £60, and on that very day (the 30th of August) he went to Mr. Hale, and purchased timber to the amount of £19 10s, and directed that it should be sent to Mr. Salt’s, at Toll End. When he purchased the timber he told Mr. Hale the timber was required to complete a contract, but on the 3rd of September, within four days of this transaction, he filed his petition in bankruptcy, and declared he had no property, and that he had not been in business as a builder for twelve months.

Mr. Dale said the bankrupt, about the same time he contracted the debt with Mr. Hale, ordered three suits of clothes from three different parties.

Mr. Ebsworth replied on behalf of his client, and contended that at the time he purchased the timber from Mr. Hale, he had, according to Mr. Gillespie’s own showing, not only a reasonable prospect, but the actual means of paying for, not only the timber, but also for the clothes, as he had in his possession the £68 or £78 which he had received for his furniture and for the goodwill of his public house.

His Honour, after hearing the arguments on both sides, sentenced the bankrupt to twelve months’ imprisonment.

Mr. Ebsworth gave notice of the intention of the bankrupt to appeal, and applied to have the amount of bail to be required. His Honour consented to liberate the bankrupt upon £20 being deposited.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/11/1869

“Notes on district matters.....

What a happy man, in the days of his liberty, Mr. *James Bayley*, publican and builder, of Darlaston, must have been. Many a man finds the greatest difficulty in getting a tailor to give him credit for a suit of clothes, and having got credit, finds still greater difficulty in paying for them. But Mr. *Bayley* had actually three tailors all at one time forcing as many suits of clothes upon him against his will. Some uncharitable people says that the payment for the suits in question was a matter which sat very lightly on the mind of Mr. *Bayley*,

inasmuch as he never had any intention of parting with any money for them. At any rate, he had them only a few days before becoming bankrupt; and having, it is said, for certain amounts of money handed all three suits over to the care of an 'uncle,' one may be excused for entertaining doubts as to the honesty of his intentions. He did not pretend that the timber he had from Mr. Hale was forced upon him. Mr. *Bayley* was cool in his examination before the Walsall County Court, but he was hardly cool enough for that. He expressed himself desirous for truth. It is satisfactory to think that Mr. Skinner having got at the truth in regard to Mr. *Bayley's* conduct in business, sent him to reflect thereon for twelve months in Stafford goal."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/12/1870

"At Walsall County Court, on Wednesday, before Mr. A. M'Lean Skinner, judge, the following bankrupt cases were heard.....

In re *James Bayley* his Honour granted the bankrupt an order of discharge, as he considered the 12 months' imprisonment which the bankrupt had undergone was punishment sufficient, and would, he trusted, not only have a salutary effect upon the bankrupt, but would act as a wholesome example to others."

1871 Census

Church Street – GEORGE INN

- [1] *John Humpage* (54), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Maria Humpage* (54), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary Humpage* (18), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Hannah Humpage* (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Julia Phillips* (17), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/6/1878 - Advert

"Old-Licensed House. Business to be Disposed of, present proprietor leaving through ill-health. One of the best situations in Darlaston, having been established many years. Goodwill, licenses, and possession £100; stock and fixtures at valuation. Rent very low. Apply, GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston."

1879 Probate

"26 March. The Will of *John Humpage*, formerly of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, Victualler, but late of 54 Bell Street, Darlaston, who died 8 November 1878 at 54 Bell Street, was proved at Lichfield by Thomas Humpage of 42 Church Street, Gunlock Filer, and Francis Humpage of 50 Garbett Street, Birmingham, Tube Maker, the Sons, the Executors. Personal Estate under £200."

John Humpage – see also WHY NOT, The Green.

William France – William Francis

Globe 30/10/1878

"A curious case came before the bench at Wednesbury yesterday. Mr. *France* of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, was summoned by the police for serving liquors during prohibited hours, and he had taken out cross-summonses against the constables for being on his premises for an unlawful purpose. The constables secreted themselves in a hayloft, and alleged that they saw liquor served to several persons. This was denied. The bench fined Mr. *France* 20s and costs, and one of the constables 5s and costs, for being on the premises during unlawful hours. The unlawful purposes summonses were withdrawn, but Mr. *France's* solicitor said that he should apply today at Wolverhampton for summonses for perjury against the policemen."

AND

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligence 2/11/1878

"Yesterday, at Wolverhampton, two policemen, named Steele and Mark Ford, were charged with perjury. At Wednesbury, *William France*, of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, had been convicted for Sunday trading. The officers swore that, concealed in a loft early on Sunday morning, October 13th, they saw Robert Hartstone served outside the back door with whisky, for which he paid. Yesterday, the landlord, his wife, and Hart-

stone deposed that the spirit was served in the house, and that it was a gift, no money being paid. Steele was committed to the assizes. The case against Ford was postponed.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1879

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

The Grand Jury ignored the bills against the following prisoners.....

Thomas Steele and Mark Ford, for wilful and corrupt perjury at Wednesbury, in October, 1878.”

1881 Census

23+24, Church Street – GEORGE INN

[1] *William France* (54), publican, born Shropshire;

[2] *Phebe France* (54), wife, born Shropshire;

[3] *Matilda France* (19), daughter, inn servant, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *George France* (15), son, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 24/3/1883 - Advert

“.....Lot 11. All that Old and well-established Full Licensed Inn, known as the GEORGE INN, situate in Church Street, Darlaston, aforesaid, comprising Bar, Tap, and Smoke Rooms, Two Kitchens, Free and Easy Room, Club, and Store Rooms, Three Bedrooms, Good Cellaring, with Brewhouse, Coachhouse, sundry Buildings and draw-in Way; now in the occupation of Mr. *William France*, at an annual rental of £35. These Premises are in a capital position for extensive Trade.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 31/10/1885

“On Tuesday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, *William Francis*, of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, was summoned for allowing a raffle to take place on his premises; and *Luke Wilde* and *Henry Thompson*, the putter-up and winner of the article raffled – a fowl – were summoned for taking part in the raffle. The proceedings were set in motion by *Joseph Thompson*, brother of Henry, to gratify a pique against the landlord, who would, he imagined, alone be summoned; but in the end the summons against the landlord was dismissed, and the other two men were fined 1s each and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1887

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday – before Messrs. R. Williams (Mayor) and W. Lloyd – *John Heaven* (17), New Road, Darlaston, labourer; *Thomas Walters* (17), Cock Street, Darlaston, labourer; and *John Thomas* (16), 40, Blakemores Lane, Darlaston, labourer, were brought up on remand, charged with having, on the 17th inst, stolen eight fowls, the property of *William France*, of the GEORGE INN, Church Street; and Heaven and Thomas were also charged with having, on the 10th inst, stolen four fowls, the property of *Joseph Cheshire*, Bilston Street, Darlaston; with having, on the 26th November, stolen six fowls, the property of *James Watts*, of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston; with having, on the 17th inst, stolen two fowls, the property of *John Westmoreland*; with having stolen three fowls, the property of *Reuben Fellows*; with having, on the 3rd instant, stolen four fowls, the property of *John Blackham*; and with having stolen one fowl, the property of *John Booth*, all of Darlaston. The first two cases in the list were gone into.

It was shown that Heaven and Thomas had sold the fowls – one to *Aaron Butler* for 3s 2d, three to *Thomas Wells*, a miner, for 4s 6d, and the others at equally low prices to other persons.

Police-sergeant *Curtis* had the twenty-eight fowls to which the charges related in court, and he said he had traced twenty-eight more which had been sold by the prisoners and eaten; but the prisoners had really stolen more than one hundred ducks and fowls within a comparatively short period, and for some time the police were baffled in their inquiries, the stolen booty having been purchased by persons whom the police would never have suspected. Heaven and Walters had previously been caught in the act of robbing a fowl pen.

The Bench sentenced the prisoners to three months’ imprisonment with hard labour in each case, the sentences to run concurrently. Mr. Lloyd said he and his colleague felt very much annoyed that so many people should have been found ready to receive these goods, and to take them at prices which must have shown them that the sellers could not have come honestly by them. But for such receivers there would not be the thieves. The magistrate hoped there would be more care in the future.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1890

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, Thomas McCormack and Martin Quinn, two young men, of Walsall, were charged with stealing a bottle of peppermint and a bottle of aniseed, on Monday night, the property of Phoebe *Francis*, the landlady of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston. Prosecutrix saw the prisoners take the bottles from a small window near the bar, and informed the police. Police-constable Brandrick arrested them, and found the bottles in their possession. The Stipendiary sentenced each to twenty-one days’ hard labour.”

1891 Census

23, Church Street – GEORGE INN

[1] *William France* (64), licensed victualler, born Lilleshall, Shropshire;

[2] *Fhoebe France* (64), wife, born Lilleshall, Shropshire:

William France – see also ROYAL OAK, Booth Street, Darlaston.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

Samuel Garbett, GEORGE, Church Street.....

All these were for six days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall.....

James Pritchard, the GEORGE INN, Church Street.”

It was the headquarters of Darlaston FC. [1899]

Walsall Observer 4/3/1899

“At the Police Court on Monday, *James Glaze*, landlord of the OLD GEORGE INN, Darlaston, made his usual application for an occasional license to sell intoxicating liquors on the Darlaston Recreation Ground on the occasion of a football match on March 4th.

Mr. Joynson said that it was very peculiar that on some occasions this license was granted, and on others it was not. As there was no complaint against applicant, the license would be granted. The latter said he expected a crowd of between 4,000 and 5,000 people at the match in question.”

1901 Census

23, Church Street – GEORGE INN

[1] *James Glaze* (34), licensed victualler, born Netherton;

[2] *Jemima Glaze* (32), wife, born Manchester;

[3] *Mary L. Glaze* (11), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;

[4] *Alfred W. Glaze* (8), son, scholar, born Walsall;

[5] *Annie Glaze* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] *Clara Mossley* (21), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

1905 Probate

“*James Glaze*, of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 3 September 1905. Administration Lichfield 10 October to Jemima Glaze, widow. Effects £382 14s 9d.”

Birmingham Mail 9/9/1905

“It is with regret that I have to record the death of *James Glaze*, the late secretary of the Darlaston club, who came from Walsall Wood to the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, some few years since, and was the mainstay of the club for a considerable period.”

Walsall Observer 16/9/1905

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Mr. Pritchard made an application for the transfer of the license of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, to *Job Newton*.

In reply to Superintendent Salt, *Newton* denied ever having kept a gambling house. He had, however, kept a public house before.

Mr. Partridge (magistrate) repeated the superintendent’s question, and *Newton* again repudiated the allegations.

The application was granted, and Mr. Prichard said he would convey the suggestion of the superintendent to the owners of the house, so that they may look into the matter.”

1911 Census

Church Street – GEORGE INN

- [1] *William Thomas Hingley* (48), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Emily Hingley* (47), wife, married, 25 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Horace Hingley* (21), son, tram conductor, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Bertha Hingley* (23), daughter-in-law, married 1 year, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Thomas Arthur Hingley* (18), son, iron worker’s helper, born Darlaston:

Joseph Statham was fined £3 in each of four cases of selling whisky for consumption off his premises after permitted hours, and £11 special costs, and fined 10s and £2 2s 0d special costs for failing to keep posted a copy of the Central Control Board liquor notice.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/2/1920

“At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday *Joseph Statham*, of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, was fined £21 10s, including costs, for contravening the Liquor Control Board Orders.

Charges of overcharging on five bottles of whiskey were dismissed.”

South Staffordshire Times 7/2/1920

“Darlaston Police Court.....

The next matter was to consider the adjournment of any, if any, licenses. Two of these, the TRAVELLERS REST, and the ROYAL OAK, would be adjourned, and all the others would be renewed. In addition, the license of Mr. *Statham* (GEORGE INN) was put back till the adjourned sessions, as his name had been associated with a police court case recently.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/8/1921

“Application was made for the temporary transfer of the license of the WHITE LION, Swan Village, from George Fantham to *Joseph Statham*, of Bilston.

Mr. Glover mentioned that the applicant had been in the licensing trade since 1889. Unfortunately, at Wednesbury he was fined £10 and about £11 special costs for offences against the Defence of the Realm regulations while he was licensee of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston. Evidence showed that the offences took place on Christmas Eve when he despatched bottles of whiskey to some people who had formed a Christmas Club. That was the only hitch in the whole of his licensing career.

A number of testimonials were sent from residents of Bilston where the applicant had held a license for five

years. In view of the facts stated by Mr. Glover, the police offered no objection, and the temporary transfer was consented to.”

On 2nd February 1921 *John Henry West* was fined 20s and £2 2s special costs for permitting beer to be taken from licensed premises after hours.

South Staffordshire Times 5/2/1921

“*John Henry West*, GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, was summoned for supplying intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours. J. Glover prosecuted.

PC Bradley said he was in Church Street, in plain clothes, and he saw defendant’s wife at the front door. She was looking up and down the street. He saw a servant girl named Williams come out with something under her shawl, so he took her back to make enquiries, and he saw defendant, Mr. *West*. The girl had half a gallon of beer. *West* said he knew nothing about it. Mrs. *West* said a man named Phillips had paid for the beer at nine o’clock and asked her to send it down by the girl. She would not let Phillips carry it out as it was after time, and so sent the girl.

Sergeant Baker gave corroborating evidence.

Mr. Pritchard, for *West*, pleaded guilty of a technical offence, but pointed out that the defendant had an excellent character and record. The beer in question was actually drawn and paid for at 8.45pm. Mrs. *West* supplied the beer, thinking Phillips would take it home, and put it in the passage before time, but Phillips stayed over the time talking with friends. The girl, Williams, lived in the same house as Phillips, and as he had paid for the beer, naturally asked Mrs. *West* to send it home by the girl. It was an unfortunate error made by Mrs. *West*. Defendant had lived in Darlaston for 37 years.

After retiring, the Chairman said the magistrates regretted to see defendant there, but they had no alternative but to fine him, but it would be light, 20s and special costs.”

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

“Darlaston Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. J. Pritchard applied for the renewal of the license of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, against which there had been an objection.

Mr. Pritchard explained that there had been a conviction of one pound to Mr. *West*, but he asked for renewal now, owing to the good past record of the applicant. The house was in Church Street, and his client came before the Bench with a better character, and had lived in the town over forty years. Mr. *West* was penalized, but the offence was committed by his wife in error.

The renewal was granted.”

South Staffordshire Times 4/2/1922

“Darlaston Licensing Sessions.....

Notice of objection to the renewal of his license was subsequently served upon *John Henry West*, GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, on the ground that the licensed premises had been ill conducted. The matter had been gone into at the adjourned Licensing Meeting on 2nd of March last, and the renewal of the license had been granted to *West*.”

South Staffordshire Times 17/5/1924

“Three cases of alleged loitering for the purpose of receiving bets came before the County Magistrates (Messrs. C. H. Barrow and G. S. Peake) at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday. Two convictions were registered and the other case dismissed.....

A third case was against Joseph Gough (32), 5, Addenbrooke Street, Darlaston, who was summoned for loitering in Addenbrooke Street for the purpose of receiving bets on May 10th. Defendant was represented by Mr. Ernest E. Brown.

PC Steadman stated that between 12.45pm and 1.10pm on Wednesday, May 10th, he was on plain clothes duty in Addenbrooke Street, and during that time he had defendant under observation. He saw about twenty people go up to him and hand him what appeared to be betting slips. Witness then lost sight of him as he went into his house. At 1.50pm witness was in Church Street, he stopped him and told him he would ar-

rest him for loitering in Addenbrooke Street for the purpose of receiving bets. When he was charged at the Police Station he replied, 'You have made a mistake. I have not taken any bets for twelve months.' When searched, nothing relating to betting was found in his possession, but he has 12s 3½d, in money.

Inspector Adams: Had he time to get rid of anything relating to betting during the time you lost sight of him? – Witness: Yes; he was lost for about half-an-hour.

The Clerk (Mr. L. A. Shirlaw): He did not go to the rendezvous you expected him to, to get rid of his betting slips? – Witness: He had got rid of them before.

Mr. Brown: If a man commits a crime at five o'clock in the morning are you justified in arresting him at five o'clock at night? – Witness: If I was satisfied with the offence I should arrest him, I have no doubt they were betting slips he was taking.

Mr. Brown: I did not ask you that. I want to know if you are justified in arresting a man at sight for something that has happened some time previously? – Witness: Certainly I am.

Mr. Brown: If a man commits an offence for which you have a right to arrest him, and you let him go by, do you suggest you are justified in arresting him later on, or the next day? – Witness: I did not let him go by. He went into the house. He takes bets outside his house.

Mr. Brown: He was outside his house, was he? – Yes, and his house is at the back of mine.

So it is a good place then? – It is all right for betting.

Where were you? – I am not obliged to answer that.

Do you object? – Yes.

Why? – Because I might have chance at it again.

Gough knows you? – He does.

I suppose he did not know your movements? – He did not know them on this day at any rate.

You seem to have it in for Gough? – No, I have it in for no one.

You are vexed because you lost the last case? – No, the case was not for me to decide.

Well, where were you? – About 20 yards from Gough.

Were you in a house? – I was in no house.

Were you in a yard? – I was in no yard.

Had you a full view of Addenbrooke Street? – I had a full view of Gough.

The Clerk explained to the witness that he must answer the question.

Witness: I could not see the whole of Addenbrooke Street.

Were you on the Rough Hay side of Addenbrooke Street or on the main road side of the corner? – I was opposite to where he was standing.

Near a works there? – No, I was nearer towards the Green if you want to know.

I think people know where you were then. You say twenty people went up and gave him what appeared to be betting slips. Why do you put the word 'appeared' in? – I have had a lot of experience in betting cases, and I have always said the same thing.

You are not sure they were betting slips? – No, but I have a good idea.

Supposing it were true for a moment that he was there taking these slips. He had got to get them to the place you have named, and you expected him to take them there. Don't you think if he had taken the slips he would have had them on him at the time you met him? – I thought he had them on him, but he had not.

You made a mistake in thinking? – No I did not make a mistake in thinking.

The Clerk: He was surprised not to find them.

Mr. Brown: It is always very difficult to get a policeman to say he has made a mistake.

Inspector Adams: You know he is out of work? – Witness: Yes.

And that he is not drawing any unemployment money? – Yes.

How much money had he when he was taken? – 12s 3½d.

You know he is a runner for a bookmaker? – Yes.

Addressing the magistrates, Mr. Brown said he could account for the defendant having the greater part of the money he was found in possession of. On Friday defendant was with a friend of his, who knew he was out of work. They went into a public house, had a drink, and the friend gave defendant the change from a ten shilling note. According to his (Mr. Brown's) instructions, defendant was in Wednesbury on Saturday, May 10th, and did not go home until the 12.50 car. He had not taken anything in the shape of bets for twelve months. He (Mr. Brown) contended that there was a big element of doubt in this case, and defendant should

have the benefit of it.

Giving evidence, Gough said he was a stamp moulder by trade. He had very bad eyesight, and at his last place of employment the chief engineer (Mr. Lockett) stopped him because he thought it was too dangerous for him to work. On Friday, May 10th, he was with Mr. Lockett, who had often helped him financially because he was not getting any out-of-work pay. Mr. Lockett then gave him the change from a 10s note. On Saturday morning he left Wednesbury at ten minutes to one, and got home at 1.20. He had dinner and went for a drink at the GEORGE INN at 1.40. He came out ten minutes later. He denied that he was loitering for the purpose of taking bets from 12.45 to 1.10 on May 10th. He admitted two years ago he was fined for a similar offence to the one he was now charged with, but from that day he had never taken a bet for anyone. Inspector Adams: You heard the statement by the policeman that he saw twenty people give you bets; do you mean to say that he came here to tell lies in order to get you convicted? – Defendant: I do.

Did you receive any money while you were in the GEORGE? – No.

You had about three florins?

Mr. Brown objected to the question. The man, he said, was charged with loitering, and it did not matter if he received 42 florins in the GEORGE. It was not an offence.

Inspector Adams: Did you see the policeman coming towards you? – No.

Did you put anything in your mouth and chew it before he got to you? – No.

George William Lockett, who said he was an American citizen over in England on special work, said he knew the defendant's position, and had often helped him. On the Friday they went into a public house in Wednesbury to have a drink.

The Clerk: And he is an American citizen? (Laughter.)

Witness further stated that he gave defendant at least 8s 6d, and he asked him to do something for him in Wednesbury on the Saturday morning, so he knew he was in Wednesbury that day.

The magistrates imposed a fine of £5.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/1/1934

“*Ernest Southan*, licensee of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, appeared on remand at Darlaston yesterday, charged with fraudulent conversion, but on the suggestion of Mr. E. Brown (prosecuting) the magistrates reduced the charge to one of stealing £1 19s 8d.

Mr. Brown said that through the good offices of Mr. Pritchard, owner of the licensed house, the money had been found and had been paid to the persons entitled to it.

At the GEORGE INN there was a death and dividend club, in which there should have been available at the end of the year £140 4s 1d for distribution amongst the members. There was found to be only £35 14s 9d. *Southan* was responsible for 15 members, and there was a deficiency on the basis of 98 members of £85 10s 9d.

When interviewed *Southan's* wife said, ‘I’ve used the money to pay household and business expenses, but I can raise it from other sources.’

Southan pleaded guilty to being responsible for the money, but not to taking any. To the police he had said, ‘I trusted my wife with the money, but she’s let me down.’

Southan was bound over and ordered to pay £4 19s costs.”

1939 Register

23, Church Street (2 of 5)

[1] *Richard W. Nicholls*, date of birth 23/7/1908, tenant, licensee, married;

[2] *Phyllis H. Nicholls*, dob 19/7/1908, unpaid domestic duties, married;

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

It closed on 15th June 1963.

Demolished

GEORGE

8, Church Street, (8, High Street), (Cock Heath), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Atkinsons Brewery Ltd. [1900]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1961]

LICENSEES

John Jones [1862] – **1865**);
James Whitehouse (**1865** – [1873]
Mary Whitehouse [] – **1875**);
Emanuel Whitehouse (**1875** – []
Joseph Pearce [1880] – [1887]
Mrs. Hannah Gardner [1891]
George Bullock [] – **1900**);
Thomas Bates (**1900** – [1901]
Charles Smith [1901] – [1902]
Ernest Greenway [1904]
John Brown [1908]
George Frederick Howell [1911] – [1912]
Caesar Jenkins [1916]
Ernest Johnson [1921]
James Edwin Whittle [1932]
Thomas Timmins [1939] – [1940]
Percy Smith [1961] – **1967**);
Francis Joseph Forde (**1967** – []

NOTES

Cock Heath [1871], [1881]
8, High Street [1873]
Church Street [1901], [1916], [1921], [1932]
8, Church Street [1891], [1911], [1939], [1940]

John Jones, retailer of beer, Cock Heath. [1862]

County Express 30/11/1867

“The inhabitants of the parish of Moxley on Saturday morning last were much alarmed by the report that a woman had been brutally violated and murdered. The report at first was not believed, but on inquiries being made it proved to be true. The spot where the victim, Esther Baggot, aged 35, wife of Moses Baggot, met with her death is a very lonely one, situated near the Monway Works, Moxley, the property of Mr. J. Marshall, JP, and at these works the husband of the deceased is employed. Mrs. Baggot is said to have been a very handsome woman, but it is reported that she did not live very comfortably with her husband. Albeit, on Friday last they were on good terms, and previous to Mr. Baggot going to work, he instructed his wife to put his fishing tackle together, as he intended to go fishing on the following morning. This she promised to do,

and as evening approached she commenced to prepare his supper, and at seven o'clock left home to take it to the works to her husband. She left it there but did not see him, and she accordingly turned back to go home. She was expected to return by her father-in-law at a certain time, but as she did not come he thought it probable that she might have called at a friend's house. Hour after hour, however, passed away, the father-in-law became anxious, and at dawn of day started out in search of his son's wife. About eight o'clock on Saturday morning, three youths named John Price, John Churchill, and Samuel Churchill, were passing along a road not far from the works when they saw a woman lying by the side of the road. They turned to look about them and seeing Mr. Baggot, senior, approaching, they called him, and directed his attention to the woman. He looked at her, and in her features, which bore marks of violence, he recognised with horror, his daughter-in-law. Assistance was speedily procured, and the murdered woman – for that she met her death otherwise seems out of the question – was removed to the GEORGE INN, Moxley.

A surgeon was sent for, and Mr. Hancox soon arrived. He examined the body, and in addition to swollen lips and a contused face, he found marks similar to what would be caused by the pressure of the hand on the throat. There were other injuries also about the body, and a belief exists that the person of the poor woman had first been violated, and then she had been murdered. Although we cannot vouch for the accuracy of this belief, it seems to be very probable that such has been the case. The murderer could not have been actuated by the motive of robbery, for the simple reason that when the murdered woman was discovered her watch and chain were found safely upon her person.

This morning an inquest into the matter will be opened before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the house where the body now lies. Superintendent McCrea and Superintendent Holland have been enquiring into the matter, but up to Monday nothing further had been heard, so the murderer or murderers are still at large. It is supposed that she either lost her life by being stifled, or that she was struck on the head and killed by being dragged along the road. The deceased had no children.

On Monday morning Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, opened an enquiry at the GEORGE INN, Moxley, touching the death of Esther Baggot. Captain Congreve (Chief Constable of the County) and Superintendents McCrea and Holland were in attendance.

Moses Baggot, senior, was the only witness called. He deposed that he was a brickmaker, and lived at Heathfield Bridge, in the parish of Darlaston. Was father-in-law to the deceased who was the wife of his son Moses, a 'lumper' in the iron trade. The body the Jury had just seen was that of his daughter-in-law. She was about 35 years of age, and had been married to witness's son about 12 or 14 years.

The Coroner then intimated that certain evidence that would be required, not being available at that time, it would be better to adjourn the enquiry at that stage until two o'clock on Saturday afternoon next; and the Coroner issued a warrant for a post mortem examination of the body."

AND

South London Chronicle 7/12/1867

"The coroner's inquiry into the circumstances tending the death of Esther Baggott, the woman who was found dead, evidently by violence, in a colliery field at Maxley, in Staffordshire, a week ago, was resumed on Saturday last, and then adjourned for a fortnight. The evidence adduced went to establish that Esther Baggott was, on the day that she was murdered, going in fear of her husband, that she told a neighbour, when she returned from taking her husband's supper to him, that she was afraid of him and she asked the witness to accompany her home. Some time before this deceased was struck by her husband violently near this witness's house, and was heard to cry out, 'Oh, for God's sake, don't!' Deceased mother deposed that about half an hour before her daughter left to take her husband's supper, two men were standing near the yard door. Seeing deceased, one said, 'Hallo Esther, do you live here?' Deceased replied, 'Yes.' Another asked her where her husband was. She answered, 'At work.' The man then said, 'Are you going to take his supper?' To which question she answered, 'Yes; but I must not be long; for I have got Moses' clothes to get ready. One of the men put another question, but the witness could not hear what it was. Deceased replied to it, 'Go forward, George; I am coming directly.'

Mr. W. M. Hancox, who made the post mortem examination, described minutely the injuries he found on the body of the murdered woman. These appearances led him to the supposition that the deceased was struck a violent blow on the right cheek, and that the blow caused her to fall to the ground. A grasp was then, in his opinion, made by a left hand, which was held over her mouth, and violently compressed the nostrils. A finger extended to the right side of the throat, and what appeared to have been a finger-nail caused a wound

there. The nose, mouth, nostrils, and outside of the throat being thus firmly compressed, speedy suffocation would ensue and cause death.

The coroner considered that it was advisable to adjourn the inquest for a fortnight, and that adjournment was taken.”

[At the adjourned inquest more evidence was taken and then adjourned.]

AND

London Evening Standard 10/1/1868

“The inquiry into the death of Esther Baggott, who was murdered at Moxley on the night of the 22nd of November whilst returning from taking her husband’s supper, was concluded yesterday before Mr. H. Hooper, coroner. The evidence given related chiefly to the ‘whereabouts’ on the night of the murder of Edward Caudwell, a boat builder, with whom the deceased was intimate, who, according to the evidence of the mother of the deceased, called to see her just after she left to take the supper on the night of her death. The testimony of the man himself and several other witnesses, however, proved that he was in a public house near his home during the evening up to a little before ten. The evidence threw no suspicion upon any one, and a verdict of Wilful Murder against some person or persons unknown was returned, and the jury recommended that The Secretary of State should be memorialised to offer a reward for information that would lead to the conviction of the murderer.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/1/1868

“At the Police Court, yesterday, before Isaac Spooner, Esq, Stipendiary Magistrate, Moses Baggott, 38, a forgerman of Moxley (husband of Esther Baggott, who was murdered a short time ago at Moxley) was charged with having committed a violent assault upon Edward Candwell, a boat builder, residing at Bagott’s Bridge, Darlaston, and one of the witnesses at the inquest upon the body of the deceased woman. Mr. Bayley, of Wednesbury, appeared for the defence.

It appeared that on Thursday, the 9th instant, the complainant attended the adjourned inquest, held at the GEORGE INN, Moxley. At the close of the inquiry, he stayed, as he himself said, ‘drinking and enjoying himself with his friends.’ Prisoner was there also, and they had a ‘few words.’ Witness went to several other beer shops, having a drop of ale at each place. When he arrived at Groucutt’s Coal Field, on his way home, prisoner, in company with a man named Jones, ‘pounced upon him like a lion,’ and, using the words ‘You b——, I’ve got you,’ commenced a most brutal assault, during which prosecutor was knocked upon his back, and nearly strangled. He received two black eyes, and other serious internal injuries. Jones had retired some distance to watch the proceedings. Prisoner afterwards let go his hold for a minute and addressing the prosecutor said, ‘You b—— will you confess?’ Prosecutor replied, ‘Moses, I’ve nothing to confess about,’ and called for assistance, but prisoner a second time caught hold of him, threw him down, and again attempted to strangle him. The prisoner then retired, leaving prosecutor insensible. When the latter recovered he was alone, in a pool of blood. He crawled as well as he was able to the cabin where he lives and sent for the police. Doctor Hancox had attended him ever since.

Several witnesses were called upon both sides, and ultimately the Learned Magistrate sentenced the prisoner to two months’ hard labour.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/1/1868

“The Home Secretary, in compliance with the recommendation of the Coroner’s jury, as forwarded to him through Captain Congreve, the Chief Constable of the county, has offered a reward of £100 to any person or persons who shall give such information and evidence as shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the murderer or murderers of Esther Baggott, whose lifeless body, with marks of violence upon it, was found by the side of the turnpike road between Wednesbury and Moxley, on the morning of the 23rd November last. Up to the present time this mysterious case has completely baffled all the attempts which have been made by the police and the Coroner’s Court to unravel it.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1868

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE INN, Moxley, on the body of Joseph Offler, aged fifty, a gun barrel roller. It appeared from the evidence of deceased’s brother and other persons that the deceased had been ‘wild’ for several years, and had led an irregular life. On

the night of Sunday week he entered the GEORGE INN, somewhat the worse for liquor, and after drinking a pint of ale, left again at half-past nine. Nothing more was seen of him until the morning of Monday last, when a canal boatman named Law, as he was guiding his boat away from the works of Messrs. Rose and Skidmore, at Moxley, raised the body of the deceased to the surface of the water, but failed to retain it there. Lewis's companion was no more successful, and accordingly Police-constable Pointon was fetched, who got the body out, and took it to the GEORGE INN. One of the Jurors remarked that those who knew the deceased had for some time expected that he would come to his death in some such way. There was no suspicion of foul play, and the belief was that the deceased accidentally fell into the canal, but in the absence of evidence on this point, an Open Verdict was returned."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/9/1868

"Last night, Mr. Alexander Brogden, the chosen candidate for the representation of the borough of Wednesbury, addressed a Liberal meeting of the electors in the Assembly Room of the GEORGE INN, Moxley. Mr. Henry F. Rose presided, and there was a good attendance....."

James Whitehouse, beer retailer, Moxley. [1870]

Walsall Free Press 14/5/1870 - Advert

"Wanted Shooting, for Next Season, about 200 or 300 Acres, within 12 miles of Walsall. Apply, GEORGE INN, Moxley."

1871 Census

Cock Heath

- [1] *James Whitehouse* (52), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Whitehouse* (53), wife, born Essington;
- [3] *James Whitehouse* (21), son, carpenter, born Essington;
- [4] *Paul Whitehouse* (18), son, born Essington;
- [5] *Esther Whitehouse* (14), daughter, scholar, born Essington;
- [6] *Rose Whitehouse* (12), daughter, scholar, born Essington;
- [7] *Eliza Dibble* (22), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/7/1872

"Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions *Whitehouse v The Justices of Wednesbury*.

This was an appeal by *James Whitehouse*, publican, of Moxley, near Wednesbury, against a conviction for permitting drunkenness in his house. The respondents were Thomas Davis and S. Lloyd, Esqrs, justices, and Police-superintendent Holland. Mr. Young appeared for the appellant, and Mr. McMahon for the respondents.

There were three witnesses called by the counsel for the respondents – Police-constable Hunt, Sergeant Morris, and Superintendent Holland (of the Wednesbury division). Hunt said he went with Sergeant Morris in plain clothes to Moxley, on the evening of March the 30th, and, on reaching there, he separated from the sergeant and proceeded down the town. A great noise in the appellant's inn, the GEORGE, attracted his attention, and he went in. It was about eight o'clock. There were 20 to 30 men in the taproom, and three women. Many of the men were drunk. One man that was drunk fell over a table, and he was afterwards served with a quart of ale. Another drunken man was supplied with rum. The conduct of the men was noisy, and not like that of sober persons. The waiter appeared to be the worse for liquor, and about two hours later he saw him tumble against the door. About half-past eight o'clock, when witness left, eight or nine men were compelled to leave. One, being very tipsy, was sick outside the door. In cross-examination, witness said he could not tell the name of a single customer in the house.

Sergeant Morris said he reached the appellant's at about 8.30, and the last witness came out and met him. They watched the place till about ten. Eight or nine very drunken men came out during the time, and most of them were assisted away. One was sick. Witness went in at ten, and saw some drunk, and many the worse for liquor. In cross-examination, he said he knew no person there.

Superintendent Holland said he gave the officers direction to notice the public houses generally, and not the

appellant's in particular.

Mr. Young denounced the story of the officers as untrue, and said he saw no reason why the evidence of two policemen should be believed in preference to that of any other two members of society; for throughout the country members of the constabulary had been guilty of crimes, from the grossest offences known to the law downwards. He had several witnesses, who would show the utter groundlessness of the accusations. He would ask how it was that the police took no trouble to find out the names of any of the men who were said to be drunk in the house of the appellant, who had kept the inn for seven years without a complaint.

The Chairman: The remarkable part is that they did not take out summonses against them for being drunk. Several witnesses were examined for the appellant, the general assertion made by them being that there was no one drunk in the house on the night in question. The waiter said he was not drunk, and there was no one drunk. In cross-examination he said several persons were helping during the evening in the supply of drink. He denied the other principal assertions of the officers.

The appellant's son said there was no one drunk. He did not see any one fall against a table. That was after he went away.

Mrs. Rosanna Guest saw no drunkenness during the whole of the evening. A person stumbled because he caught his foot in her dress. There was no one who was farther gone than he ought to have been.

David Offley and another person saw no one drunk when they were in the house.

Another witness, asked if there was anyone drunk in the house, replied that there was no one beastly drunk. (Mr. Young said that the witness used the expression because it was employed by the police before the magistrates.) There was no one drunk. In cross-examination he said his father, who was at the house, was neither drunk nor sober. He was as steady as any in the house.

William Hateley said most of the company had as much as was good for them.

The Court at once, without calling upon Mr. McMahon to reply, confirmed the conviction with costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/7/1872

"Yesterday evening, Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest, at the GEORGE INN, Moxley, touching the death of Henry Tooth, miner, aged 18 who lost his life on Monday under the circumstances already reported in the *Post*. Mr. Sheldon watched the proceedings on behalf of the accused youth, Joseph Tomlinson, who was present in custody. The facts have already been reported. The deceased was bathing; and because the prisoner supposed he or some other boys had thrown stones at his younger brother, hurled a brick at him, which fractured his skull, and he died almost immediately. The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Joseph Tomlinson, who was committed for trial on the Coroner's warrant."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/7/1872

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Joseph Tomlinson, 17, boatman, was charged upon a bill of indictment, and also upon the coroner's inquisition, with the manslaughter of Henry Tooth, near Wednesbury. Mr. Fulford conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Young defended the prisoner.

Joseph Lawton, who lives in Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, deposed that on the afternoon of Monday, the 15th inst, he was standing on the canal side near the Waterloo furnaces, in the parish of Wednesbury, when two boats came by, one of them being in charge of the prisoner. He heard a little boy in the prisoner's boat crying, and on being asked by the prisoner what was the matter, the boy said that one of a number of boys who were bathing in the canal had thrown at him. The prisoner thereupon ran back, and picking up half of a brick off the toll-path, dropped it upon the head of the deceased, who was one of the boys bathing. The deceased at once sank. Witness said to the prisoner, 'You have killed that boy.' He made no answer. The deceased when taken out of the water was dead. (Before the Coroner the surgeon described the wound to the deceased's head as quite sufficient to account for death.)

His Lordship put several questions to Lawton, who stated that the prisoner did not throw the brick-end with any violence, but merely dropped it upon the deceased's head.

After this witness's evidence, Mr. Young said he had advised his client to withdraw his former plea and plead guilty. He could not contend that the act which caused the deceased boy's death was not an unlawful act, but the prisoner committed it under great provocation, his own boy having been injured by a stone.

His Lordship said the learned counsel had taken an extremely proper course. Addressing the prisoner, he

described his conduct as disgraceful, and sentenced him to six months' imprisonment."

Wednesbury Herald 4/9/1880

"Martha *Peace* [sic], of the GEORGE INN, Moxley, applied to the Magistrates for an extension of time, one hour and a half, on Monday next, as they were going to hold a club feast.

Mr. Thursfield (Magistrates' clerk): What time does the supper commence?

Mrs. *Pearce*: Four o'clock.

Mr. Thursfield: Well, I think they will have had quite enough by eleven.

The application was refused."

Wednesbury Herald 19/11/1880

"Edward Clayton, mill forgerman, was summoned for refusing to quit the GEORGE INN, Moxley, and was fined 20s and costs."

1881 Census

Cock Heath

[1] *Joseph Pearce* (44), beer retailer, born St. George's, Shropshire;

[2] Martha Pearce (47), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[3] Louisa Pearce (20), daughter, born Pensnett;

[4] Isabella Pearce (14), daughter, born Pensnett;

[5] Mary A. Pearce (12), daughter, born Pensnett;

[6] Lizzy Pearce (7), daughter, born Pensnett:

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/11/1883

"On Saturday a man named Daniel Boaz (64), of Moxley, who was employed by the Birmingham Canal Company, was seized with a fit, and before aid could be obtained, died from its effects. Deceased was well known and respected in the district, and a remarkable feature about him was the fact that he weighed upwards of twenty-two stone at the time of his death.

An inquest on the body was held at the GEORGE INN, Cock Heath, Moxley, on Tuesday, when a verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/3/1885

"The officers and members of 346 Lodge of the Grand Independent Order of Caledonian Corks, held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, have just opened a new lodge at Mr. *Joseph Pearce*'s, GEORGE INN, Moxley. The members of the opening lodge met at their lodge house, and walked in procession to Moxley, wearing the regalia of the Order, and headed by the lodge officers. The opening officers were Bros. H. T. Finch, Captain; Thomas Lee, Lieutenant; G. Darlington, Secretary (pro tem); H. Heath, MC; J. Goodall, Chief-constable; S. Hackwood, City Tyler; S. Street, City Waiter. Makers: Bros. James Timmis, Perry, Slater, Lockley, &c. Twenty-two members were enrolled and duly read in by the Captain, and many candidates for membership were nominated. The opening ceremony caused great attraction in the neighbourhood, and everything passed off successfully."

Bristol Mercury 2/3/1887

"Bankrupts (from last night's *Gazette*).....

Joseph Pearce, GEORGE INN, Moxley, parish of Wednesbury, licensed victualler."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/3/1887

"Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Joseph Pearce*, the GEORGE INN, Moxley, licensed victualler.

This bankrupt appeared for his public examination at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, Mr. J. G. Thursfield attending on his behalf.

The debtor's statement of affairs showed liabilities to the amount of £312 15s 8d, of which £261 18s 4d was expected to rank for dividend, and assets (after deducting preferential claims to the amount of £50) £39 2s

8d, leaving a deficiency of £222 15s 8d. Depression in trade, and the stoppage of large ironworks at Moxley, were assigned as the reasons of the failure.

The debtor was allowed to pass.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1889

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, William Grice, a married man, living at Cock Heath, was summoned for having assaulted Charlotte Chappel, servant at the GEORGE HOTEL, Moxley. The complainant’s statement was to the effect that on the 22nd June she was in the brewhouse of her master’s house, when the defendant entered, put his arm round her, and indecently assaulted her. She had, however, taken out a summons for an ordinary assault only, and the Bench dealt with the case accordingly, and imposed a fine of 5s and costs. Mr. S. N. Slater appeared for the defence, and sought to show that the charge had been made with the view of obtaining money from the defendant.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/9/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, a good respectable General Servant, age about 20.
Apply at the GEORGE INN, Moxley.”

1891 Census

8, Church Street

- [1] *Hannah Gardner* (64), widow, publican, born Atherstone, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Mary Warrall* (60), visitor, widow, nurse, born Castle Caerernion, North Wales;
- [3] *Elizabeth Holland* (50), friend, single, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Mary Roberts* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1891 - Advert

“Moxley, Wednesbury. Sale of Old-established Full-Licensed Inn, Five Dwelling Houses, and eligible Building Land, Monday next, December 14.

Messrs. Belcher & Son will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the GEORGE INN, Cockheath, Moxley, in the parish of Wednesbury, at Seven o’clock in the evening precisely, the following Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. Four Dwelling Houses, Nos.9, 10, 11 and 12, Queen Street, Moxley aforesaid, producing £42 18s per annum.

Lots 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Plots of eligible Building Land, each having a frontage of 11 yards to the main road leading from Moxley to Darlaston.

Lot 7. All that Old-established Full-Licensed INN, known as the GEORGE INN, situate at Cockheath, Moxley aforesaid, comprising commodious Bar, Tap Room, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Club Room, three Bed Rooms, Spirit Room, two Cellars, Brewhouse and good Yard, with Draw-in-way, in the occupation of Mrs. *H. Gardner*, as yearly tenant, at a rental of £35 per annum; together with the Dwelling House adjoining, being No.9, in the occupation of John Grainger, at a rental producing £14 1s 8d per annum.

The Licensed House is commodious and situated on the main road between Moxley and Wednesbury, in close proximity to large works.

The Dwelling Houses are well situated and command good tenants, and the Building Land is the most eligible in the neighbourhood.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury and Darlaston; or to Messrs. Duignan and Elliot, Solicitors, Walsall.”

1901 Census

Church Street – GEORGE HOTEL INN

- [1] *Thomas Bates* (46), licensed victualler, born Bloxwich;
- [2] *Jane Bates* (45), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *William Bates* (19), son, fancy leather worker, born Bloxwich;
- [4] *Lionel Bates* (13), son, born Walsall;
- [5] *Millicent Bates* (8), daughter, born Walsall;

[6] Jane Green (17), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 4/1/1902

“At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, on Thursday, before Lord Hatherton and other justices, *Charles Smith*, landlord of the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Moxley, appealed against a decision of the Wednesbury justices convicting him of having permitted drunkenness. Mr. Vachell appeared for the appellant, and Mr. B. C. Brough for the respondents.

Mr. Brough said the justices imposed a penalty of £2 and costs for permitting drunkenness. There was a second charge against appellant of selling intoxicating liquor, but the justices did not proceed to a conviction. In fact they dismissed the case, and merely made an order for *Smith* to pay the costs.

On November 9th Police-constable Horton was within sight of the house about five o'clock in the afternoon, when he saw a man named Green leave the house in a drunken condition. Green was not disorderly, and went home. Shortly afterwards the constable went into the public house and saw a man named Hartshorn in a drunken condition. Police-constable Horton said he heard the appellant say to Hartshorn, ‘Helloa, the policeman has come; you have had enough, you had better go home.’ Hartshorn left the house, and showed every sign of drunkenness. Appellant said he had only filled Hartshorn one pint, but he did not know what Mrs. *Smith* had supplied him, and he added, ‘I hope you will say nothing about it this time. I will be more careful in future.’ Mrs. *Smith* said he had supplied Hartshorn with two pints, that she did not think he was so bad, and that he seemed to get worse all at once.

Police-constable Butler gave corroborative evidence, and Thomas Green deposed to leaving the house in a drunken condition.

Henry Freeth deposed that he saw Hartshorn on the evening in question, and declared that he was drunk, and similar evidence was given by Charles Henry Archer, who said he heard the landlord refuse to supply Hartshorn with any more liquor.

Charles Smith, the appellant, gave evidence that Hartshorn was not drunk, and that he did not speak to him. He denied that he asked the constable to overlook the matter.

Mrs. *Smith* also deposed that Hartshorn and Green were perfectly sober; and William Hartshorn deposed that neither he nor Green were drunk.

Several other witnesses were called who all deposed that the two men, Green and Hartshorn, were not drunk. Mr. Vachell contended that it had not been satisfactorily made out that the drunkenness took place with the knowledge of the appellant.

The appeal was dismissed with costs, and the appeal with regard to serving intoxicating liquor to a drunken man was withdrawn.”

Birmingham Mail 17/1/1902

“At Wednesbury Borough Police Court, today, Alfred Bodenham, ironworker, Church Street, Moxley, was summoned under the new Act, for knowingly sending his son, under the age of fourteen, to the GEORGE INN, Moxley, for the purpose of obtaining intoxicating liquors.

Police-constable Horton saw the lad coming out of the public house with two pint bottles of ale and a small bottle containing rum. The bottles were simply corked, and the boy when questioned admitted that he should not be fourteen until February 26th, but said he told the landlord of the public house that he was fifteen. This was afterwards confirmed by the landlord and other people.

Defendant pleaded ignorance of the law, but it transpired that at first he told the policeman the bottles were sealed, and when this was denied admitted having done wrong, and asked the officer to overlook it.

It being the first local prosecution of the kind, defendant was fined 10s and costs, but the magistrates intimated that they intended to strictly enforce the law.”

Tipton Herald 15/4/1903

“A concert promoted for the purpose of purchasing a bath chair for Miss Selina Malisbury, who for some years has been deprived of the use of both legs, was given at the GEORGE INN, Moxley, on Saturday evening last. A capital programme of vocal and instrumental music was gone through in a creditable manner. The concert was deservedly a success.”

1911 Census

8, Church Street

[1] *George Frederick Howell* (38), innkeeper, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Mary Ann Howell* (37), wife, married 14 years, assists in business, born Oaken, Staffordshire;

[3] *Eric Maurice Howell* (12), son, school, born Small Heath, Birmingham;

[4] *Isaac Foly Howell* (24), boarder, barman, born Bradmore, Wolverhampton:

1939 Register

8, Church Street

[1] *Thomas Timmins*, date of birth 5/10/1899, manager public house, married;

[2] *Lily Timmins*, dob 24/3/1901, unpaid domestic duties, married:

[1983]

Closed

GEORGE

Wolverhampton Lane (Road), Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Daniel Tipper [1846] – **1865**);

William Tipper (**1865 – 1867**);

D Delany (**1867 – []**)

Job Hampson [] – **1869**);

Job Hampson (**1869 – 1873**);

William Harper (**1873 – [1874]**)

Samuel Blackhurst [1879]

NOTES

GEORGE AND DRAGON [1846], [1852]

NEW GEORGE [1879]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/8/1846

“Wednesbury Police. Tuesday, July 28.

Daniel Tipper was charged with keeping his beerhouse open on the 19th of July, after the hour of eleven o'clock at night, but was discharged on paying the expenses. The name of his house was stated to be the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Journal 30/12/1848

“On the evening of Saturday last, a little boy named Enoch Smith, about four years of age, was found drowned in a cistern in the wash-house attached to the dwelling of his parents, situated at Catherines Cross, Darlaston. The father and mother of the deceased had gone to Bilston in the course of the forenoon, and the child was missed soon after they were gone. Every search was made, but he was not found until the

evening. It is supposed that he had been leaning over the entrance to the cistern, trying to look into, and the door having suddenly given way, he must have fallen in. Accordingly, at the inquest, which was held by George Hinchliffe, Esq, on Tuesday, at the house of Mr. *Daniel Tipper*, Wolverhampton Road, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Catharines Cross

[1] *Daniel Tipper* (33), puddler and beer seller, born Darlaston;

[2] Nancy Tipper (31), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] William Houghton Tipper (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Edward Robinson Tipper (3), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Sarah Ann Tipper (6 months), born Darlaston;

[6] Ann Cook (20), general servant, born Staffordshire;

[7] Mary Simkin (11), nurse, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/4/1852

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Darlaston, before Mr. G. H. Hinchliffe, deputy coroner, on the body of John Williams, aged 12 years. On the previous Monday, some persons were erecting machinery at a gin pit belonging to Mr. David Jones, and in the afternoon brought three pieces of timber, which are fastened at the top and called a ‘standard,’ and this they placed upright on the pit bank, until it would be required to support the end of a beam which it was intended to put up at the pit. In the evening, after the men had let work, the deceased, who had been playing near, went to this standard, and attempted to climb up one of the pieces of which it was composed, when his weight over-balanced it and caused it to fall upon him. When taken from under he was quite dead, his skull having been severely fractured, the timber being seven or eight cwt. There was no public road over the pit bank, and deceased had no right near the place. The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death, and Mr. Hinchliffe, in accordance with the request of the jury, sent for the person who had superintendence of the erection of the machinery, and reprimanded him for his careless conduct in not laying the standard down, or putting some support to prevent its falling, and cautioned him when erecting machinery in future not to leave the standard in the same position without a support.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/7/1853

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Thomas Baggott was indicted for stealing a sum of £4 10s, the money of *Daniel Tipper*, a publican at Darlaston, on the evening of the 4th July last. No counsel appearing in the case on either side, the examination of witnesses was conducted by his Lordship.

A woman named Mary Rowley stated that on the evening in question she was engaged at the prosecutor’s house in supplying ale to customers in the tap-room. She had occasion to go out of the bar for a few moments, and left the till partially open and her mistress standing near it. On her return she found the prisoner alone in the bar, with his hand in the till, and she heard a noise resembling the clinking of money. The prisoner, on perceiving her approach, endeavoured to conceal what he had been doing. The girl did not at first discover to the prisoner what she had observed, but inquired what he was doing there, to which he replied by holding up a jug and remarking that he had come to have it filled. She, however, suddenly made an attempt to secure the door, but as she was doing so the prisoner rushed up and offered her part of the money he had taken as a bribe, but she refused, and therefore, finding his situation perilous, the prisoner effected his escape by pushing past her through the door, and thence into the street. He was apprehended six days afterwards. In defence, the prisoner attempted to implicate the girl Rowley; but his Lordship having summed up, the jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to nine months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“A Special Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Great Barr, on Wednesday last, to determine with reference to sixty-three new applications for spirit licenses made in the division.....

Daniel Tipper, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, supported by Mr. Duignan, not opposed Refused.”

Birmingham Journal 29/8/1857

“Annual Licensing Day Sessions adjourned till Friday, the 25th day of September next, when forty-two applications from retail brewers in the division for wine and spirit licenses will be considered.....

Daniel Tipper, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston.”

[Granted at the adjourned sessions.]

Daniel Tipper, beer retailer, Wolverhampton Lane. [1860]

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Lane – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Daniel Tipper* (44), widower, licensed victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] William H. Tipper (17), son, born Darlaston;
- [3] Edward R. Tipper (13), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] Sarah A. Tipper (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Harriet Tipper (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Thomas Owen (13), step-son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Ann Owen (11), step-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] Maria Robinson (65), mother-in-law, widow, housekeeper, born Darlaston;
- [9] Silence Hodgkiss (22), general servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/4/1863

“At the West Bromwich Petty Sessions on Saturday.....

On the application of Mr. H. Jackson, the license of Mr. *Daniel Tipper*, the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, was removed from the present premises in Wolverhampton Road to Union Street, in consequence of the former house having sustained serious damages from mining operations.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/5/1864

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, the District Coroner, resumed, at the house of Mr. *Daniel Tipper*, the GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, the enquiry into the death of William Foster, a boy of twelve years of age, who died on the 29th of April, from injuries sustained by an explosion of fire damp, which occurred in a pit at the Herberts Park Colliery, belonging to Mr. David Jones, on the 19th of the same month. Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines was present, and Mr. J. E. Underhill, solicitor, of Wolverhampton, attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of Joseph Foster, the chartermaster of the pit, and father of the deceased. John Lunn, a miner, said that he worked for Joseph Foster, chartermaster, at Herberts Park Colliery, belonging to Mr. David Jones. Witness was at work there three weeks last Tuesday. At six o'clock in the evening witness, with five others, among whom was the deceased, had just finished work, and witness was getting his clothes to ascend when an explosion took place. He had his candle lighted in his hand; all of them had candles. After the explosion he put his things on, ascended, and made the best of his way home, having been burnt in the back. The deceased, Joseph Bird, William Charles, and Thomas Foster were also burnt. The pit had been examined by Bird in the morning, and again in the middle of the day, with a lamp. Witness saw Bird make the examination. The explosion occurred in the main airway. Witness had worked at the pit two months, and had a copy of the rules supplied to him, but he could not read, and could not tell what penalties he might subject himself to by a breach of the rules.

By Mr. Baker: There was good air up to six o'clock on the evening of the explosion. I have known a little gas in the pit, but it has been a good time since I was burnt before. There was a fire lighted when the explosion took place. The deceased was threshing the horse when it occurred.

Joseph Bird, a miner in the same employment, stated that he was in the pit when the gas exploded; he was nearly against the bottom, and was about to dress before going up. The deceased was ill-using the horse near the bottom, and had a lighted candle in his hand. Witness cautioned him for beating the horse, and deceased then drove the animal into the side, and either his or witness's candle then fired the gas. Witness was acting as doggy that day, and had examined the pit all over thrice, without finding any sulphur. He had worked there for seven of eight years, and had not seen any sulphur for the last twelve months. The Colliery

Rules were read once a week to the men. Witness was burnt over the face. The ventilation was good, and there was a fire burning.

Joseph Foster deposed: I am chartermaster at Herberts Park Colliery, and am the father of the deceased. I had been at the pit on the 19th ult until a quarter past five in the evening. I had myself examined the pit with a lamp at half-past ten o'clock in the morning, and could detect no signs of sulphur. The ventilation was very good. I had reached my house, which is a short distance from the pit, and in a few minutes afterwards a boy came running to me, and said that the sulphur had been fired. I saw no danger in the men carrying lighted candles. I supply all the men with the colliery rules.

By Mr. Baker: I have had too much air in the pit, and 'spragged' the doors open to remedy it. I have never found the door in the stone road open, and never discovered any sulphur in the place where the explosion took place. I have heard of a small quantity of gas having been found in the 'pot-holes' in the airway. Bird is a very careful, steady man. Deceased received every attention from Mr. Hancox, the field surgeon, after he had received his injuries.

The Coroner strongly advised the witness to see that the rules were read over to the men, as many of them were unfortunately unable to read them themselves, and then summed up the evidence.

Mr. Baker said that he had carefully examined the workings, and could not detect any traces of sulphur, still he would recommend an increased ventilation to meet any sudden emissions of gas.

Mr. Jones's agent (Mr. Edward Jones) said he would at once adopt the suggestion of the Government Inspector, and the Jury then found a verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Baker likewise suggested that a person should be appointed for the special duty of keeping the doors closed, and the agent said that this recommendation should also receive immediate attention."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1865 - Advert

"To be Let, with immediate possession, the GEORGE INN, Darlaston. Coming-in abut £140. Apply to Mr. Charles Bayley, Auctioneer, Wednesbury; or the Proprietor."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/4/1865

"Offences Against the Excise Act. Heavy Penalties.

Daniel Tipper, licensed brewer and retailer of spirituous liquors, Darlaston, was fined in the sum of £50 for keeping an illicit still, and a further £25 for having in his possession a quantity of illicit distilled spirits. The informations in each case were laid by Mr. Allcorn, supervisor of Excise for this district."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/5/1865 - Notice

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

Daniel Tipper, of Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, formerly carrying on business there as a Beerhouse Keeper, afterwards as an Innkeeper, and now in no business or occupation, having been adjudged bankrupt on the 6th day of May, 1865, is hereby required to surrender himself to Mr. F. F. Clarke, the Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Walsall, at the first meeting of Creditors to be held on the 23rd day of May, 1865, at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Lichfield Street, Walsall. Mr. F. F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Messrs, Duignan, Lewis, and Lewis, of Walsall, are the Solicitors acting in the bankruptcy. At the meeting the Registrar will receive the proofs of the debts of the creditors, and the creditors may choose an assignee or assignees of the Bankrupt's estate and effects. All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the said Bankrupt must deliver them to the Registrar, and all debts due to the Bankrupt must be paid to the Registrar.

Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, and Lewis, Solicitors, Walsall.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff."

1871 Census

Wolverhampton Lane

[1] *Job Hampson* (37), publican and coach jack forger, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Fanny Hampson* (36), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Job Hampson* (15), son, coach jack gauger, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Fanny Banks* (15), general servant, born Darlaston;

- [5] Louisa Hampson (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[6] Mary Hampson (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[7] Edward Hampson (3), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
[8] Fanny Hampson (3 months) daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 1/3/1873

“Walsall County Court. Thursday. Before Mr. A. Martineau, Judge.

Matthew Bagley v *Job Hampson*. This was a claim for £7 4s 0d, for board and lodgings for defendant’s wife for twelve weeks, from November 5th, 1872, to February 4th, 1873. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for defendant, a publican, landlord of the GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston.

From the evidence of plaintiff’s wife it appeared that plaintiff resided at Church Hill, Wednesbury, and defendant’s wife, from whom he was living apart, was her sister, and had been residing at her house since November last. The claim was for maintenance and the supply of necessaries during that time, for which 12s per week was charged.

In cross-examination it was elicited that plaintiff was the occupier of a small house, at a rental of 2s 6d per week. Witness had to go in debt to maintain defendant’s wife.

Mrs. *Hampson* was called, and deposed to the circumstances under which she had been maintained by the plaintiff. She had been found in shoes, and also some portion of clothing. Her husband was in receipt of between £3 and £4 per week. He had a young woman living with him, and was keeping two servants to look after her.

Mr. Ebsworth cross-examined the witness, with the view of showing that there was a bill of sale upon the public house, and that defendant’s earnings were not so much as she had stated.

Mr. Ebsworth, in defence, contended that the matter at issue was simply a question of amount, and contended that the charge of 12s per week was excessive. He contended that the public house was a failure, and that there was no profit from that source.

Defendant was called, and stated that his earnings did not exceed £2 10s per week.

His Honour gave judgement for 11s per week, to be paid by instalments of £2 per month.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/9/1874

“Walsall Dog Show Prize List.....

Black and Tan Terriers, Dogs or Bitches (twenty-four entries).....

very highly commended, ‘Prince’, 10 months, Mr. *William Harper*, GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston.”

GOLDEN CUP

Moxley Road, (10, Moxley), (10, Darlaston Road), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Holt Brewery Company [1928]

LICENSEES

Thomas Timmins [1866] – [1871]

J Loach [1878]

Edward Hammond [1880]

William Fryer [1881]

Unitt Lloyd [1891]

Mrs. Frances Lloyd [1901]
Edward Webster [1911]
Samuel Rubery [] – **1925**;
George Pitt (**1925** – []
John Robinson [1928]

NOTES

10, Darlaston Road [1871], [1880], [1881], [1901], [1911]
10, Moxley [1880]
Moxley Road [1925]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/11/1866 - Advert

“Found, October 30, a Black Pony, 12 hands high. The Owner may have him again by giving a full description of him, and paying expenses. If not claimed within seven days it will be Sold.
Apply to *Thomas Timmins*, GOLDEN CUP, Darlaston Road, Moxley.”

1871 Census

10, Darlaston Road – GOLDEN CUP
[1] *Thomas Timmins* (50), beer retailer, born Dudley Port;
[2] *Mary Timmins* (48), wife, born Tipton;
[3] *Ellen Timmins* (19), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;
[4] *Thomas Timmins* (18), son, engine draughtsman, born Oldbury;
[5] *Sarah Timmins* (15), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
[6] *Anna M. Timmins* (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
[7] *Isaac Timmins* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
[8] *Albert Timmins* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
[9] *Henry Timmins* (2), son, born Wednesbury:

Cheltenham Mercury 6/5/1871

“Shocking Tragedy near Wednesbury. A Woman Murdered by her Husband.

A murder has been committed at Moxley. Apparently unprovoked, and with as yet no assignable reason for its committal, James Lloyd, with savage and determined brutality, killed his wife on Thursday. The place where this occurred was in a court in the Darlaston Road – a dilapidated, wretched-looking Court, with several wretched-looking houses in it. In one of these houses – sadly in keeping in its aspect of poverty and wretchedness with the neighbourhood itself – the murderer and his wife, who had removed from their former home at Swan Village, in which it would seem they had suffered a harsh trial through pecuniary burdens, came to live.

Lloyd, who is a furnace-man at Mr. David Ross’s ironworks, Moxley, seems to have been, on the whole, a respectable, well-behaved man, and to have generally lived on good terms with his wife. This appears to have been the opinion of the neighbours from their brief acquaintance with the parties. On Thursday morning, at about eight o’clock, however, piercing shrieks were heard from the children in the house of Lloyd. Mrs. George, who lives next door, instantly went to see what was the matter, and on opening the door of the house, was horrified to behold the murderer, almost naked, with a knife in one hand and a poker in the other, kneeling on his wife, who lay prostrate and powerless on the floor. ‘He was doing something to her throat,’ this woman said. He was trying to cut it, for the gashes left their terrible mark on the throat of the lifeless body. The poor creature, somehow or other, got from beneath the deadly grasp of her infuriated husband, and, staggering to the door, no doubt exhausted in the struggle, fell outside, followed by her husband, who, following up his brutal treatment, struck her a savage blow on the side of the head with the poker. Turning to Mrs. George, Lloyd, with an oath, said he would ‘hit her brains out.’ Terrified, and screaming for help,

she ran into her own house, as did the other neighbours who had hurried to the spot, but who, no less terrified, had retreated.

Through the window of her house Mrs. George saw Lloyd, who had now left his wife lifeless, with the murder marks on her head, and with the blood slops on the pavement on which his victim lay, go up the court and turn to the right, as if in the direction of a public house – the GOLDEN CUP – in the Darlaston Road. Into this public house it seems that the murderer did go, and would, if he had not been prevented, have committed another murder. He came into the passage leading to the bar of the house, brandishing, with threatening determination, the poker which had just before done such murderous work, and saying that he would kill the people who had fled a minute or two before from his sight, commenced to dash in the glass partition of the door. Whilst he was doing this, the landlord, Mr. *Timmins*, for the purposes of fair self-defence, armed himself with a poker. Lloyd had by this time got his head and arm partly through the aperture; but the landlord dealing him a well-aimed blow with the poker sent him staggering back. Having done this and while he was turning round, Lloyd ‘slipped in like a snake’ (to use the landlord’s words) through the opening he had made in the door – a very small opening too – and confronted Mr. *Timmins*, whom he hit on the shoulder with the poker. They both then closed, and a scuffle of deathly moment took place. Lloyd fell to the ground, Mr. *Timmins* on the top of him, where they both lay struggling for the best, till Police-constables Pointon and Hickman came to his assistance; and the prisoner, who was violent the whole of the time, was conveyed in a trap to Wednesbury Police Station. On his arrival there he was immediately put in one of the cells; but so frantic and excited was his behaviour that he had to be chained to the walls of the cell.

Mr. Superintendent Holland then sent for Mr. James Garman, surgeon, who on seeing the wretched man, certified that he is suffering from apparent mania, is incoherent in speech, violent in manner, and dangerous to himself and those around. The same gentleman also examined the woman, and was of opinion that the immediate cause of death was a compound fracture of the skull.

The murderer, it is stated, has been subject to fits, and deceased’s sister (Ruth Bowen) significantly asserts that ‘this was the fourth time he was off his head,’ and adds that his own daughter came to her a day or two ago, and stated that her father was going off his head, upon which Mrs. Bowen went to Mr. Bullus, chemist, of West Bromwich, and procured some composing medicine, which was sent to Lloyd and which now stands untouched on the mantelpiece of the room adjoining that in which the dead body of the murdered wife lies stretched.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/7/1871

“William Lloyd (27), puddler, was indicted for the wilful murder of his wife, Rhoda Lloyd, on the 4th May last, at the parish of Moxley. Mr. Boughey prosecuted, and the prisoner was defended by Mr. Young. Hannah George, a person living near to the house of the prisoner, stated that her attention was called to Lloyd’s house on the morning of the 4th May. The prisoner, who had only his shirt on at the time, was armed with a knife and a poker, and the witness saw him strike his wife on the head with the poker, and knock her down.

James Lloyd, son of the prisoner, gave evidence respecting the state of his father’s mind on the morning in question, and stated that before leaving the works his father made use of very strange expressions, and he continued the same after they arrived at home. He said, after he got to bed, he heard his father crying, singing, and praying, and asking God to forgive him; and sometime after he heard a scuffle down stairs. He went to see what was the matter, and found his father standing over the deceased, with a knife in one hand and a poker in the other. Witness snatched the knife out of his father’s hand, and the woman then tried to escape, but as she went through the door the prisoner dealt her a blow on the head, which knocked her down, and he then struck her several times on the head with the poker.

In cross-examination by Mr. Young: The boy said his father had been the subject to fits, and he had one the day before he committed the murder. When he had those fits he was like a madman

Several witnesses were called, who gave evidence respecting the strange behaviour of the prisoner after the murder, and Superintendent Holland stated that the man had to be strapped and handcuffed in order that he might be conveyed to Stafford.

Mr. Garman, surgeon, gave evidence respecting the injuries which the deceased had received, and stated that shortly after the murder he examined the man, and found him in a great state of excitement, incoherent in his speech, and violent in his manner. In cross-examination by Mr. Young, the witness stated that fits of epilep-

sy very much impaired the mind, and after a length of time those fits induced insanity.

Mr. Buller, surgeon, West Bromwich, stated that he had attended the prisoner for epilepsy for the last two years and a half, and the last time he attended him was about Christmas. He agreed with Mr. Garner respecting the effect epilepsy had upon the mind.

The Judge, at this stage, recommended the Jury to return a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity, and a verdict to that effect was recorded, after which the prisoner was ordered to be imprisoned during her Majesty's pleasure."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/2/1878 - Advert

"Moxley. Good Beerhouse, known as GOLDEN CUP. Rent £20.
Apply, Mr. *J. Loach*, on the premises."

Edward Hammond, beer retailer, 10 Darlaston Road, Moxley. [1880]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1880 - Advert

"Beerhouse to Let, in good situation, surrounded by ironworks, and in good condition.
The GOLDEN CUP, No.10, Moxley. In-coming £65, including brewing utensils. Rent £20 per year."

1881 Census

10, Darlaston Road

- [1] *William Fryer* (49), beer retailer, born Burlingham, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Mary Fryer* (50), wife, born Ireland;
- [3] *Mary Fryer* (19), daughter, barmaid, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Emma Fryer* (16), daughter, domestic housemaid, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Lucy Fryer* (13), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *William Higgins* (2), grand-son, born Wednesbury:

Evening Express 28/7/1881 - Advert

"Moxley. To Let, a good Beerhouse, known as the GOLDEN CUP; ingoing and rent low.
Apply, on the premises, or *Bruford and Co.*, Wolverhampton."

1891 Census

10, Darlaston Road

- [1] *Unitt Lloyd* (58), blacksmith, born Whitburn, Herefordshire;
- [2] *Francis Lloyd* (52), wife, born Ullingswick, Herefordshire;
- [3] *Rose Lloyd* (25), daughter, school teacher, born Belbroughton;
- [4] *James Lloyd* (23), son, blacksmith, born Belbroughton:

1901 Census

10, Darlaston Road

- [1] *Francis Lloyd* (60), widow, licensed victualler, born Ullingswick, Herefordshire;
- [2] *Rose Lloyd* (34), daughter, school teacher, born Martley, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Jane Lloyd* (30), daughter, school teacher, born Belbroughton:

1911 Census

10, Darlaston Road

- [1] *Edward Webster* (36), single, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Annie Williams* (44), sister, born Darlaston;
- [3] *James Williams* (50), brother-in-law, fitter, engineers, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1928

"The principal meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday, when 14 licences which had been scheduled by the licensing justices, mostly from the

South Staffordshire area, came under consideration. Of these three were renewed and the remainder were referred for compensation.....

In the following cases no opposition was offered to the referring of the licences for compensation and the action of the justices in each case was confirmed.....

GOLDEN CUP, Moxley (*John Robinson*), ante-'69 beerhouse.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1928 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 16th day of July, 1928, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee, and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their claims before the 14th day of September, 1928, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to Compensation under the said Premises.....

GOLDEN CUP, Darlaston Road, Moxley. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licensee, *John Robinson*. Owners, The Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1929

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Licensing Compensation Awards.

At the Supplemental meeting the committee awarded a total sum of £15,230 in compensation, and considered that the amounts agreed upon were satisfactory both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. The amounts approved were as follow.....

GOLDEN CUP, Moxley, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,000.

The amounts awarded had been apportioned between the interested parties and paid.”

GOLDEN CUP

34, (26), Willenhall Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Richard Turley

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1930]

LICENSEES

George Butler [1858] – [1864]

Thomas Granger []

Benjamin Bowker [1881] – [1892]

Alfred Carter [1893] – **1894**)

Susannah Cornfield (**1894** – []

Richard Turley [1901] – [1911]

Ellen Ann Perkins [1919] – **1920**);

Thomas Perkins (**1920** – **1922**);

Alice Davies (**1922** – **1923**);

John Bennett (**1923** – **1926**);

Edward Butler (**1926** – **1931**);

James William Jacobs (**1931** – **1946**);

Florence Jacobs (1946 – 1956):

NOTES

26, Willenhall Street [1881], [1901], [1911]

34, Willenhall Street [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1858

“Applications for New [spirit] Licenses.....

The number of applicants for licenses was thirty. The following were the applications.....

Darlaston.....

George Butler, Willenhall Street, was supported by Mr. Bayley Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1859

“A special licensing sessions was held on Wednesday, at the Scott Arms Inn, Great Barr.....

The number of applications [for spirit licenses] was 33 which were disposed of as follows.....

George Butler, Willenhall Street, supported by Mr. Slater, Darlaston Refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1860

“A most disgraceful outrage was committed early on Tuesday morning, upon Mr. *Butler*, of the THREE CUPS [sic] INN, Darlaston. It appears that as Mr. *Butler* was proceeding towards his home he was attacked by a number of men, who knocked him down, and beat in a most brutal manner. Since then six of the miscreants have been apprehended, and are now in prison awaiting an examination before the Magistrates.”

[For the report of the trial see under BELL, Church Street.]

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1860

“To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Magistrates and Chief-constable have deemed it their duty to take steps to put a stop to it. There can be no doubt that such steps have been adopted with due care. The police, after going round in their uniform and finding that they could not thus detect publicans in allowing the offence, recourse was had to sending constables round in private clothes yesterday about twenty-three summonses were returnable. The Magistrates expressed a very strong opinion upon the subject, and marked by the severity of the fines their sense of the importance of the movement, and the determination they had come to put down practices which had so corrupt and demoralising an influence upon the community. The following cases were heard.....

George Butler, of the GOLDEN CUP INN, Darlaston, was charged with allowing ‘nick and brick’ to be played in his house, just before nine o’clock on the night of the 27th March. Police-constables Hollis and Rushton deposed to the facts, and swore that defendant was present at the time named. Mr. Sheldon defended, and said he was instructed to say that his client was not there at the time named. Fined 40s and costs. In the course of the hearing of these cases, Mr. Leigh made some observations condemnatory of the practice of publicans and beerhouse keepers throwing all sorts of attractions and blandishments around their houses with the view of inducing husbands and sons to go and spend their time and money, and neglect the duties of life – the maintenance of their wives and families, and the other obligations which devolved upon them. It would be absurd to inflict light fines.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1860

“The annual adjourned Special Sessions for transacting licensing business was held on Thursday.....

There were twenty-nine applications from retail brewers for wine and spirit licenses, with the following results.....

George Butler, Willenhall Street, Darlaston Refused.”

1861 Census

Willenhall Street – GOLDEN CUP

- [1] *George Butler* (32), beerhouse keeper and retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Jane Butler* (34), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Annie Butler* (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *George Butler* (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Mary Butler* (4), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Joseph Thomas Butler* (2), son, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Jane Butler* (2 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Mary Smith* (20), house servant, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/4/1861

“Willenhall Petty Sessions.....

James Tomline and *Elijah Reynolds*, gun lock filers, were charged with having wilfully broken the windows of *George Butler*, innkeeper, Darlaston, on the 24th ult. Mr. Slater supported the information.

Thomas Horton identified the two defendants as two of three men whom he saw throw stones through the complainant’s window.

The defendants were mulcted in the amount of damages and costs, £1 1s each, which they paid.

On the same day *Jonathan Harper* and *John Walters*, gun filers of Darlaston, for practising running in a state of nudity, on the *Walsall* road, were fined 2s 6d each and costs, or in default of payment ordered to be committed for 21 days.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/7/1861

“*I. Gough* of Darlaston will run *J. Messenger* of Birmingham 120 yards, for from £25 up to £100 a side. Money ready any night next week at Mr. *G. Butler*’s, GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street, Darlaston. The Editor of *Bells Life* to be stakeholder.”

George Butler, retailer of beer, Willenhall Street. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/4/1864

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Police Court, before Messrs. *J. Haines* and *J. Marshall*, Mr. *George Butler*, landlord of the GOLDEN CUP beerhouse, Willenhall Street, Darlaston, appeared to a summons charged with having permitted card playing for money in his house on the 20th ult.

Police-constable *Burroughs* deposed to having visited the defendant’s house on the afternoon of the day named, and to having found two men there playing at cards for ale. They played four games while he remained there, and the landlady entered the room several times during the games. They played for a pint each time, and then were playing off. In cross-examination by Mr. *Bayley*, who appeared for the defendant, the witness stated that *Butler* was not present while he remained in the house. He did not hear Mrs. *Butler* say she would not have any card playing there; but when he had told her that he was a police-constable she told the men to ‘knock off, as *George* (her husband) would be there soon, and he would not allow card playing in his house.’ Mrs. *Butler* was not present when the men made up or lost either game, but she was in the room when the agreed to ‘play off’.

Mr. *Bayley*, for the defence, urged that the case was not made out, and after stating that a notice prohibitory of gambling was posted up in the house, and that Mrs. *Butler* was not aware that the men were playing for money, he called *William Sergeant*, who deposed that he was present in the house on the afternoon in question, when another man produced a pack of cards, and induced him and two others persons to play. When the landlady saw the cards she told the men to put them up, and they did so as soon as they had played out the game they were engaged in.

The Magistrates dismissed the case.”

London Gazette 7/7/1868

“*George Butler*, of *Codsall Wood*, in the parish of *Codsall*, in the county of *Stafford*, Beerhouse Keeper, Grocer, and Pump Mender, formerly of *Willenhall-street*, *Darlaston*, in the county of *Stafford*, Gun-lock

Maker and Beerhouse Keeper, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in Her Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 3rd of July, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to Owen Davies Tudor, Esq., a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 17th of July instant, at twelve at noon precisely, at the said Court, at Birmingham. Mr. George Kinnear, of Waterloo-rooms, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Glover, of Walsall, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy." [An Order of Discharge was granted on 18th November 1868.]

Birmingham Daily Post 1/2/1869 - Advert

"Freehold Building Land, Darlaston.

To Be Sold by Auction (by order of the Assignee of *George Butler*, a Bankrupt), by Mr. Enoch Bruerton, at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, on Thursday, 11th February inst, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions.

All that piece of Freehold Building Land, situate in Willenhall Street, Darlaston (opposite to the GOLDEN CUP) having a frontage of eleven yards to the said street, and containing in the whole 470 square yards or thereabouts....."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1878

"On the 22nd inst, in her 25th year, Mary, the beloved wife of Henry Povey, Foundry Street, and daughter of the late *Thomas Granger*, GOLDEN CUP INN, Willenhall Street, Darlaston."

1881 Census

26, Willenhall Street – GOLDEN CUP

- [1] *Benjamin Bowker* (47), nut and bolt forger, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Hannah Bowker* (54), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Sarah Bowker* (24), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *James Bowker* (18), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Middiam Bowker* (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 10/9/1881

"At about a quarter past eight o'clock on Wednesday night, Mrs. *Bowker*, wife of Mr. *Bowker*, landlord of the GOLDEN CUP INN, Willenhall Street, Darlaston, was taken ill and died almost immediately. She was 54 years of age."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/9/1881

"E. Hooper, Esq, coroner, held an inquest today at the KINGS ARMS, Darlaston, on the body of *Hannah Bowker*, wife of Mr. *B. Bowker*, landlord of the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street, Darlaston. The evidence showed that on Wednesday last the deceased suddenly fell down and expired shortly afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

1891 Census

26, Willenhall Street – GOLDEN CUP

- [1] *Benjamin Bowker* (57), bolt and nut manufacturer and publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Phoebe Bowker* (48), wife, born Wednesfield;
- [3] *James Bowker* (29), son, nut and bolt maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Rachel Bowker* (26), daughter, domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1891

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Benjamin Bowker*, of the GOLDEN CUP, Darlaston, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk on his own premises. Mr. J. Corbett defended, and sought to show that the police were mistaken."

Walsall Advertiser 11/6/1892

“On Monday, at the Walsall Police Court, before Mr. J. Brewer, Charles Hearsey, who resides in Burrowes Street, and was an under bailiff in the County Court, was put forward in the dock charged with having on the 2nd of May embezzled the sum of £8 11s 4d, the monies of Mr. F. F. Clarke, registrar of the County Court. Mr. H. H. Jackson of the firm of Stanley and Jackson appeared to prosecute, and the accused was not professionally represented.

Herbert Madeley, head bailiff at the County Court, was examined, and in reply to Mr. Jackson stated that the prisoner was an under bailiff, and it was part of his duty to receive money at times. When defendant received any money it was his duty to pay it over to witness on the same day or on the following morning. Witness did not receive any money from the prisoner on the 2nd of May, nor had he received any from him since. He produced a warrant at the suit of William Charge against *B. Bowker*, and the amount named in it was £8 11s 4d. That warrant was sent to the Walsall County Court from Worcester for execution, and witness handed it to a bailiff named Woodward. There was an official receipt attached to it, and that receipt was in the prisoner’s handwriting.

Harry Woodward was examined, and in reply to Mr. Jackson stated that he knew the prisoner, who was employed as an under bailiff in the County Court. On the 2nd of May witness gave the prisoner the warrant produced for execution. The plaintiff in the warrant was William Charge, and the defendant was *B. Bowker*, who resides at the GOLDEN CUP, Darlaston. Witness placed the prisoner in possession at the house to collect the amount named in the warrant. Witness went back to the house at four o’clock in the evening and found that the prisoner was not there. He was then shown the receipt produced. It was in the prisoner’s handwriting. It was one of the County Court receipt forms, and contained the plaint note number and the number of the warrant. Witness saw the prisoner that night when he got back to Walsall, and he told witness that he had got the amount of the warrant but not the possession fees. The prisoner did not go back to his work on the following morning, and he had not been back to his work since. The prisoner had not accounted to witness for the money he received on the warrant, and it had not been paid into the County Court.

Alderman Brewer: Did you ask him for the money? – Witness: No, sir.

Mr. Jackson: The money ought to have been paid to Mr. Madeley? – Witness: Yes.

The prisoner declined to ask any questions, and was remanded until Wednesday, when he was again put forward before the Mayor, Mr. J. Lindop, and Mr. J. Brewer, Mr. Jackson again prosecuting.

Madeley and Woodward repeated the evidence given by them on the previous occasion, after which Mr. F. F. Clarke, registrar and high bailiff to the Walsall County Court, was examined. He stated that on May 2nd prisoner was in his employ as a bailiff, and it was his duty to pay any money he might receive either into the hands of the head bailiff, or to any bailiff whom the head bailiff might direct. The head bailiff, Madeley, was responsible to witness for all money paid to him.

By the Clerk: The prisoner was paid weekly wages.

Phoebe *Bowker* stated she was the wife of *Benjamin Bowker*, landlord of the GOLDEN CUP INN at Darlaston. On May 2nd the prisoner came into possession under a warrant which was at the suit of William Charge. He demanded £8 11s 4d, and she paid him, receiving a receipt.

Detective Cliffe stated that he arrested the prisoner, who was detained by the Gosport police, on the warrant produced.

The prisoner pleaded guilty, and threw himself upon the mercy of the Court. It was the first time in his life that he had ever stood in such a position, and by this one false step he now found himself out of a good situation, and not in a position to get another. He was sincerely sorry that he had done Mr. Clarke this injury, and if able to do so he would repay the money. He hoped the Bench would deal as leniently with him as the serious character of the offence would allow.

Mr. Clarke desired to state that he knew of no other defalcation against the prisoner.

The Mayor said that the magistrates recognised that the most serious part of the prisoner’s punishment was the injury to his reputation. They would therefore impose a lenient sentence, viz, that he be imprisoned for twenty-one days.

The prisoner asked that he might be allowed to see his wife before being removed to Stafford.

The Clerk said the Chief-Constable would doubtless arrange that.

The prisoner was then removed.”

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....
Benjamin Bowker, GOLDEN CUP beerhouse, Willenhall Road, applied for the renewal of his license, and Superintendent Walters said that since the applicant was convicted in December last there had been no complaint against him. Granted.”

Smethwick Telephone 11/3/1893 - Advert

“Two Double Olivers for Sale; in working order.
Apply, GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1893

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Alfred Carter*, keeper of the GOLDEN CUP INN, Willenhall Road, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house. Mr. R. Willcock appeared for the defence.

Police-sergeant Willis deposed that on the night of the 2nd inst he heard a great noise in the defendant’s house, and on going in saw a drunken man sitting there with blood flowing from his nose, and a pint cup before him. There were ten or twelve people there, and most of them were the worse for drink and very disorderly.

Police-constable Heath gave confirmatory evidence.

Mr. Willcock said that if the man had drink he must have got some other man’s jug. The landlord was trying to get the man out and quell the disturbance when the police entered.

Witnesses were called, whose evidence showed that a man named Davis gave another man a couple of blows on the face, and was allowed to remain in the house till closing time.

The Stipendiary said it was clear that the defendant, in allowing this, was not doing his duty as a landlord. He would have to pay 40s and costs.

William Carter and Thomas Price, two of the men in the house, were fined 5s and costs each.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1894

“A meeting of the thumb-latchmakers of Wolverhampton, Willenhall, and Darlaston was held on Monday night, at the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street, Darlaston. Mr. B. Carpenter presided; and there were also present Messrs. G. Howard. J. Hoggins (Willenhall Locksmiths’ Society), J. Hyde (Gun-lock Filers’ Society), and R. Juggins (secretary Midland Counties Trades Federation). The Chairman said the latchmakers had no organisation, and, as a result, their wages had been reduced from time to time, till at present it was simply impossible to earn a living. Several speakers urged the necessity of forming an association. Mr. R. Juggins pointed out the importance of trade unions. It was unanimously decided to form a trades union, and to further consider the advisability of affiliating it with the Willenhall and Wolverhampton lockmakers’ societies.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1894 - Advert

“Darlaston. Sale of Old-established Beerhouse, situate in Willenhall Street. Monday, March 5, 1894.
Belcher & Son will Sell by Public Auction, on the above date, at the UNION INN, Darlaston, at Half-past Seven o’clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions.

The Old-established Licensed Beerhouse, known as the GOLDEN CUP, situate in Willenhall Street, Darlaston aforesaid, comprising Tap Room, Bar, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Club Room, three Bed Rooms, two Cellars, Rolling-in Way, with Brewhouse, Wash-house, and two-storey Shopping, in the occupation of *Alfred Carter*, at an annual rental of £20.

The House is in close proximity to large Works and capable of doing an extensive trade.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, Darlaston and Wednesbury; or to Thursfield and Messiter, Solicitors, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1894

“The annual general licensing session for Tipton and Darlaston took place at the Police Court, Wednesbury, yesterday Notices of opposition had been served upon.....

Susannah Cornfield, GOLDEN CUP INN, Darlaston.....

The consideration of the applications and the cases involving objections were adjourned until September 24.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the district took place at Wednesbury yesterday.....

The application of *Susannah Cornfield* for the renewal of the license of the GOLDEN CUP beerhouse, Willenhall Street, Darlaston, was opposed by Superintendent Salt, on the ground that the house was of a disorderly character, that a previous holder (in 1893) was fined for permitting drunkenness, and that the house was not required. Mr. R. A. Willcock, in support of the application, said the applicant had kept public houses for thirty years without complaint, and that she bought the property last March in complete ignorance that there was any complaint against the house Granted.”

1901 Census

26, Willenhall Street – GOLDEN CUP

- [1] *Richard Turley* (45), brewer, born Sedgley;
- [2] Sarah Turley (37), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Susannah Turley (15), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Sarah Turley (10), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elsie Turley (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] Richard Turley (2), son, born Darlaston;
- [7] Susannah Forkes (32), visitor, born Dudley:

1911 Census

26, Willenhall Street

- [1] *Richard Turley* (55), widower, brewer and beer seller, born Sedgley;
- [2] Sarah Turley (20), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [3] Elsie Turley (13), daughter, school, born Darlaston;
- [4] Richard Turley (12), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [5] Joseph Turley (9), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [6] Susannah Forkes (43), boarder, born Kingswinford:

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

“I would sooner hear of five men being convicted of drunkenness than one woman,’ said Alderman C. W. D. Joynson, presiding on Wednesday morning at Darlaston Brewster Sessions, when it was reported that no female had been convicted in the district for that offence during the past twelve months. The number of convictions for drunkenness increased from nine, in 1929, to thirteen last year, the lowest recorded being eight in 1928. The highest total in the last ten years was seventeen in 1921.

The police intimated that they should object to the renewal of the MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross, and the WHITE DOG, Bilston Street, on the grounds of redundancy. All other licenses were renewed with the exception of the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street, the WHY NOT, St. George’s Street, which were objected to because of alleged defective sanitary arrangements, and the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Pinfold Street, which was objected to on the ground that the premises had been ill-conducted. These licenses were referred for consideration on the adjourned day, March 4.

In his report, Police-inspector Adams stated.....

All the licensed premises in Darlaston, said the Superintendent, had been visited, and generally speaking were clean, though many urinals and lavatories required white-washing more frequently. The following instances were specially mentioned: MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross (‘a very poor house in accommodation, and the public sanitary arrangements needed alterations’); the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street (‘a small house with poor private accommodation and sanitary arrangements’); the WHY NOT, St. George’s Street (‘a small house with poor sanitary arrangements’); the BRITISH OAK, Willenhall Road (‘which requires internal renovation’); and the NAGS HEAD, the Green (‘good house, but dirty condition generally’). The Superintendent suggested that swing doors on some of the lavatories would be a great improvement.”

Plans were approved for alterations, including sanitary accommodation, on 4th March 1931.

1939 Register

34, Willenhall Street

[1] *James W. Jacobs*, date of birth 1/8/1883, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Florence Jacobs*, dob 23/12/1885, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Elizabeth A. Jacobs*, dob 14/9/1909, candle box maker, single;

[4] *Arthur Jacobs*, dob 22/3/1921, junior clerk for wages, engineer's department, single:

The license was surrendered on 1st February 1956 on the application for a Removal Order in respect of the RED LION, Church Street, to new premises in Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley.

Demolished

GOLDEN LION

Heathfield Road, (Field Lane), DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Walford [1868] – [1870]

Mrs. Lydia Walford [1871] – **1872**);

James Taylor (**1872** – []

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

George Walford, beer retailer, Field Lane. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

Heathfield Road – GOLDEN LION

[1] *Lydia Walford* (49), widow, beerhouse, born Darlaston;

[2] *John Walford* (24), son, colliery clerk, born Darlaston;

[3] *Hannah Cotterill* (13), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1872

“West Bromwich Police Court. Saturday.....

The following transfers of licenses were made.....

No sign, Darlaston, from *Lydia Walford* to *James Taylor*.”

Check BROWN LION.

GREEN DRAGON

55, Church Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Howard Fletcher and Sons (acquired 1871) *[1896]*
James Pritchard and Sons
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 7th May 1946)
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns [1990s]

LICENSEES

William Wilkes *[1834]* – [1835]
Samuel Wilkes *[1841]* – *[1842]*
Ann Wilkes [1841]
George Wilkes *[1845]* – **1863**);
Benjamin Cole (**1863 – 1865**);
George Perry (**1865 – 1867**);
Nehemiah Harper (**1867 – 1869**);
Thomas Whitmore Perry (**1869 – 1871**);
Howard Fletcher and Son (**1871 – [1879]**)
Stephen Newcombe* [1871]
Septimus Newcombe* [1875] – [1884] manager
Robert Hunt [1886]
John Grainger [1890] – *[1892]*
Joseph Yates [1900] – [1901]
John Yates *[1904]*
Joseph Griffiths *[1908]* – *[1912]*
William Smith *[1916]* – **1920**);
William Baker (**1920 – 1922**);
Samuel Rowley (**1922 – 1923**);
Samuel Rowley Jnr. (**1923**);
John Henry West (**1923 – 1932**);
Frank William Roberts (**1932 – 1933**);
William Grainger (**1933 – 1934**);
Sidney Roobottom (**1934 – 1943**);
Sidney Bevan (**1943 – 1947**);
Sarah Ann Bevan (**1947 – 1960**);
Frederick Nicholas Nicholls (**1960 – 1963**);
William Wagstaff (**1963 – 1964**);
Ralph Simmons (**1964 – [1967]**)
L Hill [1976]
Mrs. Sheila Langford [1983] – [1990]
Mrs. Duffy [1993]
Mrs. Joanne L Doughty [2007]
Mrs. Joanne L Doughty (**2022 – []**)

NOTES

Terry Smitheman (local historian) believed that this was previously the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, its name being changed in protest against the Duke of Wellington's Act allowing people to buy a license to sell beer.

DRAGON [1851], [1864], [1865], [1871], [1872], [1879], [1880]

Commercial Inn [1851]

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/1/1836 - Died

“On the 22nd December, Mr. *William Wilkes*, of the GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston, aged 53 years.”

1841 Census

Church Street

- [1] *Ann Wilkes* (25), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Job Wilkes* (20), painter, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *George Wilkes* (15), butcher, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Mary Taylor* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

George Wilkes = George Wilks

George Wilkes was also a butcher. [1845], [1849], [1854]

Birmingham Journal 19/7/1845

“On Monday last the eighth anniversary of the Miner's Glory Lodge, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity, was held at the house of Host *George Wilks*, GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston. At nine o'clock the members assembled, and, accompanied by an effective band in full military uniform, walked in procession to Wolverhampton, where they met their brethren, and the other lodges in the district. After joining the general procession to church, they returned to their lodge house, and, to the number of eighty, sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by the worthy host. After the cloth was drawn, Mr. John Austin was called to the chair, and the usual loyal toasts were drunk with great applause. The proceeding throughout displayed harmony and good feeling, and the toast of the worthy landlord was heartily responded to; after which the company retired.”

Birmingham Journal 24/7/1847

“Lodge Anniversaries. On Monday last, upwards of 450 members of various lodges sat down to excellent dinners provided for them at the following public houses: Mr. Joseph Yates's, SCOTTS ARMS; Mr. *George Wilkes*'s, GREEN DRAGON; Mr. John Stokes's, CASTLE INN; Mr. Thomas Simkins, JOLLY CRISPIN. The members of the Green Dragon Lodge, which is a Manchester Unity Order, proceeded to church, when the Rev. Mr. White preached a sermon suitable to the occasion; after which the rev. gentleman went to dine with the lodge.”

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] *George Wilkes* (29), victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Wilkes* (31), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Catherine Smith Wilkes* (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Sarah Kezia Wilkes* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Maria Bayhan* (25), servant, born Birmingham;
- [6] *Christian Edwards* (23), servant, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Jane Taylor* (14), servant, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Job Cottrille* (20), lodger, miner, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/12/1856 - Advert

“Sale of Building Land at Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, on Monday, the 22nd day of December, 1856, at the house of Mr. *George Wilkes*, the DRAGON INN, in Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, at six o'clock in the evening.....”

George Wilkes was also a nut and bolt maker. [1861]

1861 Census

Church Street – DRAGON INN

[1] *George Wilkes* (39), victualler and maltster, formerly butcher, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Wilkes (42), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Catherine Wilkes (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Sarah K. Wilkes (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Sarah Jane Smith (27), visitor, governess, born Great Bridge;

[6] Elizabeth Walker (37), widow, servant, born Willenhall;

[7] Caroline Allsop (22), servant, born Hatherton, Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/11/1861

“Thomas Jones, John Walton, alias Jack the Smith, Job Corns, and Joseph Richards were charged with having stolen a sack of malt, the property of Mr. *George Wilkes*, maltster, of Darlaston. Mr. Slater appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Sheldon defended Corns and Richards. The prisoner Jones was admitted as evidence for the Crown, and was therefore allowed to leave the dock.

Mr. *Wilkes* having deposed that Jones was in his employ, that he had not right to sell malt, and that none had been entered as sold during the week when the bag in question was stolen, Thomas Jones gave an account of the transaction, and deposed that on the night of the 11th October, he went to a public house kept by one Jones, the sign of the DUKE OF YORK. This house was close to the malthouse of the prosecutor. He saw Walton and Richards there. He had to go into the malthouse to get his can, and Walton and Richards followed him. They came up to the door just as he was locking it. Richards said, ‘Can we work a bag of stuff tonight?’ Witness replied, ‘I dare say we can.’ He unlocked the gate and went back to the malthouse, and gave the prisoners a bag of malt. They took it into the middle of the road, where was a barrow which Corns had in his charge. The bag was put on the barrow and Corns wheeled it away, Richards walking by his side. Before they got the malt Richards said, ‘We may as well have a bag of malt as a bag of dust.’ Richards gave him four shillings, which he gave to his master on the following night, as for a bag of dust.

In cross-examination the witness said he had never done anything of the sort before, although the prisoners had repeatedly asked him. On the night in question he had taken more to drink than usual.

It was proved that the malt was offered by some of the prisoners to a man named Corbett for 20s, 10s to be paid at once, and it was taken to the house of Thomas Cantlet, of Kings Hill, Wednesbury, by Corns and Richards, and left there at their request until Corbett could fetch it.

The bench having heard the evidence at great length, decided to commit the three prisoners for trial, and refused to admit them to bail. Corns, before leaving the dock, pleaded guilty, and said that Walton had not anything to do with the matter.”

[At the Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions Corns, Walton and Richards were acquitted.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/5/1862 - Advert

“The Wolverhampton Agricultural Hall Company (Limited).....

Directors Mr. *George Wilkes*, Maltster, Darlaston.”

London Gazette 25/7/1862

“*George Wilkes*, of Church-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Screw Manufacturer, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in Her Majesty’s Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 18th day of July, 1862, is hereby required to surrender himself to a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 15th day of August next, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the said Court, at Birmingham. Mr. George Kinnear, of No.37, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Thomas Brevitt, of Darlaston, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Journal 11/10/1862 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of *George Wilkes*, of Church Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Screw Bolt Manufacturer, a Bankrupt. Whereas at a Public Sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt, Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the said Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless in the meantime an Appeal be duly entered against the Judgement of the said Court.

Dated this 29th day of September, 1862. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/7/1863 - Advert

“Inn, Darlaston.

To be Let, from Michaelmas next, the DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston, comprising Bar, three Parlours, and Tap Room on ground floor; large Club Room and five Chambers on first floor; four Cellars, with entrance from Yard, Kitchen, Brewhouse, Malt and Store Rooms, Stables, Coach House, and other Offices, Garden, and Field of Pasture Land, about 2a 1r 0p, walled around. The whole of the Premises have been recently rebuilt, are well-arranged, and specially adapted for an Inn, centrally situated in one of the best streets in the town. Mr. *George Wilkes*, the present tenant, who is retiring from business, will show the same.

For further particulars, apply to G. S. Dorsett, Esq, The Friary, Handsworth; or to Messrs. Richard Fowler and Son, 14, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1863

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, John Dunn, a half-blind man, dressed as a labourer, was charged with having, on Monday night, wilfully and maliciously damaged a stone wall, the property of *Benjamin Cole*, the proprietor of the old wake grounds, Darlaston. The prosecutor deposed that the prisoner was engaged as a fiddler at the drinking-booth of a person who had applied to him for standing room upon the wake ground, and who, upon his refusal to let the ground, had taken land in an adjoining field, between which and the wake ground a wall intervened, which the proprietor of the booth wished to be taken down. Complainant refused to allow the wall to be taken down, and set men to watch it, and shortly before midnight the prisoner was detected in the act of pulling it down, and throwing the stones into the field. The repair of the wall had since cost 10s. Witnesses were called to prove an alibi, but their evidence was not deemed trustworthy, and the defendant was ordered to pay 5s towards making good the damage, and was fined 1s and costs, or in default twenty-one days' imprisonment.”

Benjamin Cole was also a butcher. [1864], [1865]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/9/1864

“On Friday, at the Petty Sessions, before J. Perks, Esq, *Benjamin Cole*, of the DRAGON, Darlaston, pleaded guilty to having evaded the toll at Princes End Gate, on the 5th inst, in having driven into Parks Lane. He was fined 2s 6d and costs, in all 19s.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/11/1864

“*Benjamin Cole*, of Darlaston, beerhouse keeper, was fined £12 10s and costs, for selling spirits without a license. It appeared that on the occasion of some recent feast at Darlaston, the defendant erected a booth in a field adjoining his house, and there retailed a quantity of spirits. In defence he pleaded that as he paid taxes for the field in question, he considered that freed him from any penalty for what he did. As it was evident that the defendant had acted in ignorance of the law, Mr. Allcorn, the supervisor of excise, promised to lay the facts before the Board of Commissioners, with a view to a still further reduction of the penalty.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1865

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, the persons named below were, on the information of Mr. W. Hullett, fined in the sums stated, with 14s costs, in each instance, for having in their possession defective scales or weights.....

Benjamin Cole, butcher, Church Street, 10s.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1865 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

Benjamin Cole, of Church Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Butcher, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 4th day of April, 1865, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, at the First Meeting of Creditors, to be held on the 24th day of April, 1865, at 12 o’clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Lichfield Street, Walsall. Mr. F. F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, and Lewis, of Walsall, are the Solicitors acting in the bankruptcy. At the meeting the Registrar will receive the Proofs of the Debts of the Creditors, and the Creditors may choose an Assignee or Assignees of the Bankrupt’s Estate and Effects. All Persons having in their possession any of the effects of the said Bankrupt must deliver them to the Registrar, and all Debts due to the Bankrupt must be paid to the Registrar.

Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, and Lewis, Solicitors, Walsall.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/5/1865

“Walsall County Court.....

Benjamin Cole, formerly landlord of the DRAGON INN, Darlaston.

The bankrupt’s petition was supported by Mr. Dale, from the office of Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, and Lewis. Mr. Brevitt, of Darlaston, opposed on behalf of the assignee, but on his application the final examination was adjourned for the production of the bankrupt’s licenses, or a duplicate of them, the bankrupt asserting the original licenses were lost.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/6/1865 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of *Benjamin Cole*, of Church Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Butcher, adjudged Bankrupt on the 4th day of April, 1865.

An Order of Discharge will be delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless an appeal be duly entered against the judgement of the Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.

Dated this 21st day of June, 1865. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/11/1867 - Advert

“Wanted, by a respectable married Man, 27, a Situation as Porter. Used to Grocery and Corn trade, and horses. Good character.

R.O., Mr. *Harper*’s, DRAGON HOTEL, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/9/1868

“Yesterday morning the inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Thos. Wm. Ransom, surgeon, Church Street, Darlaston, was held before Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner for South Staffordshire at the DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston. Mr. James Slater appeared for the friends of the deceased.

Geo. Butler, apprentice to Mr. Job Butler, chemist, was the first witness called. He said he remembered the deceased coming to Mr. Butler’s shop in King Street, between seven and eight o’clock on Tuesday morning last. Deceased asked for a bottle of hydrocyanic acid, which witness supplied him with, and in doing so noticed that he appeared to be in an excited state of mind.

Sarah Jones said she had been domestic servant to the deceased. On Tuesday morning last, about a quarter to ten o’clock, witness was upstairs with her mistress, when she heard groans coming from the dining room. Having drawn Mrs. Ransom’s attention to it, they both went down into the room where witness saw the deceased in a half sitting posture on the hearth rug, as though he had fallen out a chair which was close by. He was groaning, and appeared to be suffering acutely. Assistance was procured, but in a short time afterwards the deceased died. When she went into the room witness saw a yellow bottle – the same as produced – lying on the table. It was proved to have contained hydrocyanic acid. She noticed when the deceased got up,

which he did at half-past six o'clock, that he appeared to be low spirited. He went out almost immediately to Moxley, and returned about a quarter past eight o'clock, when he had his breakfast as usual, and witness did not notice anything particular about him, but thought he had a headache.

By a Juror: The deceased had been out for a holiday, and had returned only lately.

Witness did not notice any strangeness in his conversation, and always thought that he knew what he was doing.

By the Coroner: Witness had been in the dining room before she found the deceased on the hearth rug, and she was quite sure there was no bottle on the table then. Mr. Partridge, surgeon, saw the deceased before he died. When he returned from Moxley he spoke to his wife in the hall, but witness was sure he did not go into his surgery before he went into the dining room.

By a Juror: The deceased was quite insensible when witness found him on the hearth rug, and did not speak at all.

Mr. Samuel Partridge said he had known the deceased for eighteen years or more. Latterly he had been unwell; so much so, that it became necessary for him to have repose and entire relief from duty. He returned recently to his duties after a holiday, but his health did not seem to have improved much. Witness saw him frequently after his return, and noticed a strange manner about him, which was not customary with him when in a state of health. He had despondent feelings, and was incoherent in talking, from which witness judged that he was liable to fits of temporary insanity, so much so that he thought the deceased would have to go to an asylum. There was sometimes a good deal of anxiety and distress depicted in his countenance, from which a casual observer would conclude that he was a man of unsound mind. On the morning of the occurrence witness was called in, and was present when deceased died. There was an odour of prussic acid about his breath, and witness had not the slightest doubt but that he died from taking prussic acid, as he had all the symptoms of it. The bottle produced witness found on the table, and it would hold about eight drachms.

The Rev. J. P. Wilson, vicar of Moxley, said he had known the deceased for 20 years, during which time he had, without intermission, been on visiting terms with him and his family. During the past three months witness had seen him once a week, sometimes more frequently, and generally at his own house. He noticed lately a general sadness about the deceased and a reluctance to enter into a lively conversation, which formerly he used to enjoy. He became taciturn, and was with difficulty got to answer questions. Witness's impression was that the deceased's mind was seriously affected, as lately he needed constant care from his wife and those in the house. He was a man of independent means, and witness had no idea that his sadness arose from temporal distress.

This being the whole of the evidence, and the coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide while in a state of Temporary Insanity."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/5/1869 - Advert

"Excellent Opportunity. GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston.

To be Disposed Of, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above desirable and important Old-established Licensed Inn, together with the large Plot of Land at the back, which piece of Land for many years used and known as the Wake Ground, and is let out by the Landlord to parties who occupy the Land at the Wake time. The Land is level, dry, and fenced round, and is well adapted for Cricketing, Shooting, and other amusements. The House is large, with every convenience, and comprises large Club Room, six Sleeping Rooms, front Parlour, front Tap Room, Bar Parlour, Bar, back Parlour, Cooking and other Wash-houses, Brewhouse, Stables, Slaughter-house, Piggeries and Out-houses, Yard, and Garden. Gas is laid from the house, also Beer Machine Pipes from the Cellars to the Wake Ground, which are used at Wake and other times. The house is doing a good Ready-money Trade, and well deserves the attention of parties wishing to embark in the Public Business.

Apply to Enoch Bruerton, Auctioneer, Darlaston."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/6/1869 - Advert

"To be Let, that old-established House, the GREEN DRAGON, Church Street, Darlaston, with three Acres of Land attached. In-coming low. Immediate possession."

Nehemiah Harper – see also WAGON AND HORSES, Darlaston.

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1870 - Advert

“A Bargain. A Six-horse Vertical Steam Engine, nearly new, of modern construction, with Boiler and Fittings complete.

Apply at GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/9/1870 - Advert

“To be Let, a Butcher’s Shop, in which a successful business has been done for the last 50 years past, in the parish of Darlaston. The premises are suitable for almost any wholesale or retail business. Rent £20 per year.

Apply to Mr. *T. W. Perry*, Jun., DRAGON INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/11/1870 - Advert

“To Publicans.

To be Let, the GREEN DRAGON INN (old-licensed), Darlaston, including the Wake Ground. Possesses unusual advantages. Other engagements cause of leaving.

Apply on Premises; or to E. Ellis, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Free Press 14/1/1871 - Advert

“Important Sale at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston.

Messrs. Farrington & Son are instructed to Sell by Auction, on the premises as above, without reserve, on Monday, the 30th day of January, 1871, all the clean and useful Household Furniture, and capital Brewing Plant, consisting of 3 excellent Copper Furnaces, 160 galls, 80 galls, and 40 galls, with the underwork; an excellent 20-bushel Mash Tub, 3 Vats, Brewing Tubs, 28 excellent Ale Casks, from 20 galls, to 300 galls, each all quite sweet; about 1,400 Gallons of Old and Fresh Ale in lots, capital Sussex Hops and a variety of other useful Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock, under the usual conditions.

Particulars will appear in Catalogues to be had at the Office of the Auctioneers, Walsall, or at the place of sale.”

Thomas Whitmore Perry – see also WHITE LION, King Street.

1871 Census

Church Street – GREEN DRAGON

[1] *Stephen Newcombe* (61), innkeeper, born Nottingham;

[2] *Mary Newcombe* (54), wife, born West Bromwich:

Mary Newcombe died in the 2nd quarter of 1880.

*probably the same person

Septimus Newcombe = Septimus Newcomb

Midland Examiner and Times 28/8/1875

“Wednesbury Petty Sessions. Tuesday.....

William Fennan and Esther Hayes were charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the DRAGON INN, Darlaston, on the 19th inst.

Septimus Newcomb stated that on the night in question the defendants went into his house. They were intoxicated. Witness ordered them out of the room and they refused to go. After a deal of persuasion they were induced to leave the house. The female defendant used obscene language to witness, and threatened to break his head.

The male defendant was fined 5s and costs, or, in default of payment, seven days’ imprisonment with hard labour; the female defendant was fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment with hard labour, in

default of payment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/9/1876

“Two lads named John Juggins and John Done were summoned by *Septimus Newcombe* for wilful damage to a wall. The complainant is a publican, who said he rented the Wake ground at Darlaston, which was fenced in by a cinder wall six feet high. On the 22nd ult he saw the defendants and some other boys throwing stones at the wall and breaking it down. The charge against Done was dismissed, and Juggins was fined 1s and costs.”

Wednesbury Herald 15/1/1881

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before W. F. F. Boughey, Esq. (Stipendiary), Patrick Comerford, a police constable stationed at Darlaston, was charged with assaulting *Septimus Newcombe*, manager of the DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston, and also his niece, Elizabeth Sheffield, on the 26th ult.

Mr. Brevitt, of Wolverhampton, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Sheldon defended the accused.

Mr. Brevitt, in opening the case, said the facts were that on Sunday night, the 26th ult, the defendant and four men went to the public house and demanded refreshments. Upon *Newcombe* refusing to supply any the defendant shook him, and in fact nearly strangled him. Whilst *Newcombe* went to the police station defendant attempted to kiss Miss Sheffield, and greatly alarmed her. In the event of his producing evidence to the satisfaction of the Bench he trusted a heavy penalty would be imposed upon the defendant.

Complainant stated that on the night in question the prisoner and four men made a forcible entrance into the house of which he was manager at about eleven o'clock.

The Stipendiary: What do you mean?

Witness: I heard a voice say, ‘Police, I want to speak to Mr. *Newcombe*,’ after which I opened the door. The police officer afterwards stepped in and also four men. The officer said, ‘Here is four travellers, and I want refreshments for them.’ I said, ‘Where do they come from?’ and the officer replied, ‘They came from West Bromwich,’ and witness stated, ‘They will have to go to West Bromwich again.’ The officer said, ‘They came from Birmingham,’ and afterwards ‘Essington.’ Witness said, ‘I will not let them have anything to drink.’ The officer said, ‘Let me have a pint of ale.’ Witness replied, ‘I will go to the police station and get protection.’ Witness ordered the officer to leave his house, upon which defendant caught hold of him by his coat twice and swung him round. Witness went to the police station and made a complaint, and upon leaving defendant came to the station and swung him about, and ordered him out of the yard. Upon returning to the house the barmaid made complaint to him. On the following day he went to the police station, and made a complaint to Police-sergeant Ainsworth.

Cross examined by Mr. Sheldon: He had something to drink on the night in question but he was not drunk. He could not tell how many glasses he had on the night in question. He was perfectly sober, but he could not say as to whether the officer was drunk or sober. The officer, however, did not know what he was doing. Did not think he was mad or he (witness) would have been worse off than he was. (Laughter.) He did not throw coal at the men or the policeman. The officer did not leave the house previous to the four men. Could not say how many times he had been brought before the magistrates.

Mr. Boughey: Do you mean to say you don't know how many times?

Witness: Well I don't know.

Mr. Sheldon: I shall ask no further questions.

By Mr. Brevitt: He believed he had been charged three times.

Elizabeth Sheffield, a young woman of respectable appearance, corroborated the evidence of the last witness, and added that as the officer was leaving the house he put his hand on her shoulder and asked to be allowed to kiss her before he left, and she replied, ‘No, indeed I won't.’ The defendant requested witness not to shout.

Cross examined by Mr. Sheldon: The young men left the house before the policeman.

Mr. Sheldon addressed the Bench at great length on behalf of the defendant, in the course of which he stated that as the defendant was passing the plaintiff's house, he heard a disturbance in the yard, and upon going to the back door he found three men who were desirous of obtaining refreshments. *Newcombe* came to the door and ordered the men away, when one of them stated that he had come from West Bromwich. A dispute took place, and *Newcombe* became so exasperated to pick up a piece of coal, and attempt to throw it at

the men. He was however, prevented from throwing the coal owing to the defendant seizing his arm. He strongly denied having assaulted either of the complainants.

A number of witnesses were afterwards called, who fully bore out Mr. Sheldon's statement.

Sergeant Ainsworth said that on the night in question, at eleven o'clock he met the defendant near to the police station, and he made a statement. He afterwards met *Newcombe*, who did not make any complaint. The Stipendiary reviewed the evidence at great length, after which he said the preponderance of evidence was in favour of the defendant, and consequently both cases would be dismissed."

1881 Census

55, Church Street – GREEN DRAGON

[1] *Septimus Newcombe* (71), widower, licensed victualler, born Nottinghamshire;

[2] Elizabeth Sheffield (15), niece, born Birmingham:

Wednesbury Herald 11/11/1882

"George Wistance, Bell Street, Darlaston, was charged with assaulting *Septimus Newcombe*, landlord of the GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston, and William Harper and Harold Partridge were charged with committing wilful damage, at the same time and place.

The case against Partridge was withdrawn, it having been stated that there was no evidence against him. According to the evidence, on Tuesday night, at a quarter to eight o'clock, the defendants entered the GREEN DRAGON, and were supplied with half a pint of ale and a bottle of ginger beer. Wistance complained that a mistake had been made in the change, and a young man named Partridge, who was along with the defendants, thereupon broke a bottle, a jug, and a glass. *Newcombe* remonstrated with them, and was struck by Wistance and knocked down on the floor.

It now transpired that a mistake had been made in withdrawing the case against Partridge, and that he ought to have occupied the position of Harper, against whom there was no evidence.

The Bench then withdrew the case against Harper, and ordered Wistance to pay a fine of 20s and costs; in default 21 days' imprisonment."

Wednesbury Herald 2/6/1883

"A respectably dressed man, named Joseph Golcher, King Street, Darlaston, was summoned for refusing to quit the GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston, on the 22nd inst. Mr. Sheldon defended.

Mr. *Septimus Newcombe*, the landlord of the public house, stated that on the day in question the defendant went to his house in a drunken state, and on being requested to go home he refused to do so, and at the same time made use of filthy and disgusting language.

Mr. Sheldon: I may say at once that the defendant is very sorry for what he has done. On the day in question he went to some sports at Wolverhampton and partook too freely of champagne.

The Stipendiary [W. F. F. Boughey, Esq.]: If I were him I would leave off drinking champagne and take to 'fizz.' (Laughter.)

Mr. Sheldon: Fizz is very good. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. Boughey (to defendant): This is a drunken job, and you will be fined 1s and costs. I would remind you of an old but nevertheless true saying 'When the wine is in the wit is out.' I hope you will bridle your tongue when you have champagne again."

Dudley and District News 30/8/1884

"William Osborne, a youth, was fined 5s and costs, or seven days, for stealing a duck [sic], the property of *Septimus Newcombe*, landlord of the DRAGON INN, Darlaston, on the 23rd. PC Paling saw the prisoner in Church Street on this date with something under his coat. On examination he found it was a jug which *Newcombe* identified as his property, and which the prisoner had taken out of the house."

Darlaston Weekly Times 21/3/1885

"On Tuesday a miscellaneous concert was held in the Assembly Rooms of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston, in aid of the Whitsuntide demonstration, in connection with the Birmingham and Darlaston district of Free Gardeners....."

Walsall Observer 9/10/1886

“A dinner, to celebrate the success of the first exhibition by the Horticultural Society, took place on Tuesday evening, September 28th, at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Darlaston, when the committee and some friends of the society enjoyed an excellent repast served by the Host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Hunt*. Mr. William Winn, the president of the society, was to have presided, but as he was suffering from indisposition, and from that cause was unable to attend, Mr. G. A. Wilkes, the chairman of the committee, presided, and Mr. Joseph Yates took the vice-chair. After the usual loyal toasts, Mr. W. Dean, of Walsall, one of the judges at the late exhibition, proposed, ‘Continued success to the Darlaston Horticultural Society,’ and spoke of the good work these Black Country societies were doing in fostering a love for gardening amongst the working classes.....

Special thanks were tendered to Mr. and Mrs. *Robert Hunt* for the excellent dinner provided and so well served.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1886

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday *Robert Hunt*, the GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston, was summoned for having his house open during prohibited hours, and for having sold ale during prohibited hours. Mr. G. Thursfield defended.

The evidence of Police-constables Wallis and Salt was to the effect that at twenty minutes to twelve o’clock on the night of the 17th inst they were watching the wake ground, at the back of the premises, when they saw the servant girl come from the house on to the grounds with two quarts of ale, and call out, ‘Where are you?’ They then went into the house and found a man named William Dayson, a resident in Walsall Street, in one of the rooms; James Sidefield, a man who acted as waiter, in the passage; and the three glasses on the table containing ale.

The defence was that the ale was bought and paid for by the men who were at work in the wake field, to be had when they had finished work.

The Stipendiary convicted the defendant of having his house open, and fined him 40s and costs, but did nothing in respect of the other charge.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1886

“On Saturday a show of chrysanthemums and winter vegetables took place in the large room at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Darlaston, prizes being awarded to amateurs and cottagers in Darlaston for three chrysanthemums in bloom, six leeks, six onions, six parsnips, three heads of celery, two savoy cabbages, two red cabbages, and a collection of vegetables, three prizes in each class. Numerous plants and specimens of chrysanthemums were sent for competition, and the show was a very successful one. Mr. Dean, Walsall, officiated as judge.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1890

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, *John Grainger*, of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, was summoned by Mrs. Elizabeth Devey, of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Church Street, for refusing to leave her house. Mr. W. Smith appeared for the complainant, and Mr. S. M. Slater for the defendant.

The evidence went to show that the defendant went to the QUEENS HEAD, became very abusive, and when desired to leave threatened Mrs. Devey.

The defence was that the defendant went to the house to endeavour to obtain settlement of an old debt due to him.

The Stipendiary told him that whatever his object he had no right to go there and create a disturbance, and imposed a fine of 40s and costs, or one month’s imprisonment.”

1891 Census

55, Church Street – DRAGON INN

[1] *John Grainger* (58), publican, born Tipton;

[2] *Anne Grainger* (57), wife, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall..... Fletcher and Co., the GREEN DRAGON, Church Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1892

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, on the application of Mr. C. A. Loxton, the music licenses of HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Butcroft, and the GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, were renewed.”

Midland Sun 3/6/1893

“On Saturday night Mr. T. M. Tolley entertained the whole of the members of Messrs. Tolley’s football team to an excellent supper at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston, on account of their winning the cup. After the cloth had been withdrawn Mr. G. M. Tolley was voted to the chair, and Mr. G. F. Smith occupied the vice-chair. The evening was spent in harmonic songs being given by the whole of the company.”

Lichfield Mercury 6/11/1896 - Advert

“Wanted, at once, a good strong General, from the country preferred; good reference; fond of children. Apply, GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Darlaston.”

Sporting Life 12/12/1900

“Shooting. Wolverhampton and District. Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Last Monday these grounds were well attended to witness a match in which the veteran, Mr. *Joseph Yates*, host of the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Darlaston, had for his opponent Mr. John Nicholls, of the Robin Hood Grounds, Willenhall (late Walsall), who were articed to shoot at eleven pigeons each, 30 yards rise, 1½oz of shot, 60 yards boundary, for £10 a side.

No wonder that the meeting between the old and new school of sportsmen created considerable interest in shooting circles in the Black Country towns. We may state that both shot from five traps and five yards apart. Unfortunately on several occasions two and three traps were pulled together, and Nicholls shot at the two pigeons and missed them. He wanted to claim another bird, which according to Rule 15 in the Laws of Pigeon Shooting he has no claim for another bird, but must be scored as a lost bird. After a long contention he agreed to lose the bird. As was anticipated, Mr. Nicholls was served up a warm favourite at 5 to 4 on. Mr. *Yates* was the first to handle the gun, and although he grassed his first bird it was soon apparent that youth will serve, as Mr. *Yates* managed to bring only two down out of his eleven, whilst young Mr. Nicholls had an easy task in hand, winning by killing three out of his first six.

Several prominent Midland shots were present, including Joe Taylor, ex-champion pigeon shot of England, who it is expected will be matched to shoot the winner.”

Wednesbury Leader 19/1/1901

“Nottingham United Order of Free Gardeners, Darlaston and Willenhall District.

The annual meeting of the above district was held at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Darlaston, on Monday evening, Bro. W. Danks, DM, presiding. There were also present twenty-eight delegates, together with the district officials and the Grand Secretary of the Order, Bro. Henry Finch.....”

1901 Census

55, Church Street – GREEN DRAGON INN

[1] *Joseph Yates* (62), publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Jeannette Yates (48), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Clara Best (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Joseph Yates – see also WHITE LION and RAILWAY.

Walsall Advertiser 20/3/1909

“The annual general meeting of the Darlaston Cricket Club was held at the headquarters, GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, on Wednesday evening.....

Season 1908 had been the most remarkable one in the annals of the club, for in its first season’s connection with the Walsall and District League, the championship was carried off, the club heading the league table for the greater part of the season.....

Votes of thanks to the host (Mr. *J. Griffiths*) and the chairman, for presiding, concluded a most successful meeting.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/10/1909

“Football Notices.....

Darlaston and District Cup and Medals, to be competed for in two Divisions. No.1 Division for Non-association Teams. No.2 Division for Church and Chapel Teams only. Winning teams in each Division to compete in Final. Entrance fee, 3s each team. Draw for First Round will take place Monday, October 14th at 8pm, at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Darlaston. Teams desirous of entering apply GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, or Wm. Eaton, 62, The Green, Darlaston.”

1911 Census

55, Church Street – GREEN DRAGON INN

[1] *Joseph Griffiths* (41), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Lizzie Griffiths* (35), wife, married 13 years, assisting in the business, born Darlaston;

[3] *Gertrude Griffiths* (13), daughter, school, born Darlaston;

[4] *Gladys Griffiths* (10), daughter, school, born Darlaston;

[5] *Lily May Griffiths* (19), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Walsall Observer 11/10/1924

“The sixtieth anniversary of Court Woodman’s Shelter (4435) of the Ancient Order of Foresters was celebrated by a dinner at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Darlaston, on Saturday.

Mr. J. Sheldon, who presided, thanked the Court for the honours that had been conferred upon him.....”

Walsall Observer 17/1/1925

“Signs of better trade were referred to at the annual dinner of the LMS goods and cartage staff at Darlaston, held on Saturday night at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Darlaston. There were about forty-five present, and Mr. W. Harris (goods agent), proposing the health and prosperity of Darlaston traders and the welfare of the town generally, said that was the fifteenth or sixteenth annual gathering made possible by the generosity of Darlaston traders. The tonnage dealt with by the railway company in Darlaston during the past year had increased by no less than thirty-one per cent. Trade prospects generally were good and should be maintained. A growing confidence was spreading throughout the country, and the commercial outlook seemed to be more settled than since the war. This was evidenced by the numerous extensions of works, accomplished or intended, and the output of bolts and nuts at Darlaston was greater than in any town in the world.....”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 20/10/1928

“The half-yearly meeting of the Greets Green and Wednesbury district of the AOF was held on Saturday last, at the DRAGON INN, Church Street, Darlaston. Court Woodman’s Shelter No.4435, Bro. I. Potter, DCR, presided.....”

Walsall Observer 13/4/1929

“A social organised by the Conservative ladies’ committee of the All Saints ward, Darlaston, was held on Monday evening last, at the GREEN DRAGON, Church Street.....”

John Henry West – see also GEORGE.

1939 Register

55, Church Street

[1] *Sidney Roobottom*, date of birth 23/12/1904, engineer (fitter and turner), married;

[2] *Ida Roobottom*, dob 28/5/1908, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] *Peter Roobottom*, dob 17/9/1937, under school age, single:

Plans were approved for alterations on 17th February 1952.

Plans were approved for alterations on 7th January 1953.

Walsall Observer 24/6/1966

“Although formed only last year the Darlaston Sunday Darts League had a magnificent display of trophies at their first annual presentations in the GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston, on Friday, a collection that was a tribute to the hard work put in by the officials during this inaugural year. Fourteen teams took part in the league, thirteen of which were from public houses in the Darlaston area.

A total of 67 trophies were presented. Five major trophies which were donated to the league and the remaining 62 miniatures were purchased by players in the league. Apart from the prize money which totalled £85 10s and the money for the trophies, the committee paid all other expenses to help achieve a first-class season. The presentations were made by Mr. C. Staite.

The most successful team was the BARREL INN who failed to win the league by nine legs with the same number of points as the champions (the NAGS HEAD), but who reached both semi-finals of the knock-outs and who received the Mitchell and Butlers Collection Shield.

An additional presentation was made to Mr. W. Thorpe of Bentley Sons of Rest of £17, which was the result of a collection among the players. Mr. Thorpe donated a cup on behalf of the Sons of Rest, which was won by the SWAN (Moxley) with the GREEN DRAGON runners-up.

Other winner were: the President's Knock Out Cup, KINGS HILL TAVERN, with runners-up the SWAN.

League champions: NAGS HEAD, with runners-up BARREL INN.

Wooden spoonists: BOAT INN.

Supplementary league winners: BRADFORD ARMS, with runners-up ROYAL GEORGE.”

Walsall Observer 12/8/1966

“The reforming meeting of the Darlaston Sunday Darts League will be held at the GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston, at 12-15pm on Sunday, August 21. All clubs welcome.”

Sheila Langford was married to Wilf.

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1990.

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/6/1993

“A Wednesbury licensee permitted late drinking at his pub and allowed another to be run without a license, a court heard. Police found several late night drinkers at Noel Sadlier's pub on two successive days, Mr. John Charnock, prosecuting, told magistrates at West Bromwich.

Sadlier (43), of the FORGE TAVERN, Franchise Street, pleaded guilty to nine charges of aiding and abetting the consumption of alcohol outside permitted hours and three offences under the 1964 Licensing Act. He was fined a total of £604 with £30 costs.

Michael Duffy (40), of the GREEN DRAGON, Church Street, Darlaston, who was employed by Sadlier to run the KINGS HILL TAVERN in Darlaston Road, admitted three charges under the 1964 Licensing Act. He was fined a total of £200 with £20 costs.

Mr. Charnock said police investigating a burglary found the KINGS HILL TAVERN was being managed by another person instead of Duffy, who held the license. Duffy had put him in charge after being told by Sadlier to manage the BLACK HORSE HOTEL, in Old Park Road, Wednesbury, for which he did not have a license.

The officers visited the FORGE TAVERN where, on two days running, they found Sadlier blatantly allowing the consumption of alcohol after hours.

Sadlier told the court there was a total mix-up over the license transfers and that late drinking at the FORGE occurred during St. Valentine celebrations when the pub was packed.

Dorothy Thomas, defending Duffy, said he was out of work when Sadlier came into his wife's pub and offered him the job at the KINGS HILL TAVERN. He was granted the license, but was then moved by Sadlier to the BLACK HORSE."

Joanne L Doughty was married to Shaun.
See also FRYING PAN.

[2022]

GREEN MAN

1, Willenhall Road / The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Jones [1834] – [1841]
Hugh Owen (1860 – []
William Bayley [1862] – 1871);
Richard Poole (1871 – [1872]
Samuel John Mason [1875] – [1876]
Phoebe Cullumbine [1879] – [1881]
James Bassett [1891] – [1896]
William Henry Keay [1901] – [1916]
John Thomas Keay [1919] – 1925);
Richard Arthur Simkin (1925 – 1927);
Stanley Ernest Gough (1927 – 1931);
George James Burdett (1931 – 1932);
John Cross (1932 – 1933);
Thomas Henry Wall (1933 – 1939);
Rose Anne Wall (1939 – 1940);
Joseph Lawrence Askey (1940 – 1949);
Thomas Millard (1949 – 1950);
Kenneth Dawes (1950 – 1952);
Albert Sidney Brownsword (1952 – 1957);
Charles Mackman (1957 – 1963);
Emma Mackman (1963 – [1967]

NOTES

The Green [1834], [1841], [1864], [1871]
1, Willenhall Road [1911], [1912], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Jones, beer retailer, Green. [1841]

Birmingham Journal 29/10/1859 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, a well-frequented Public House, known by the sign of the GREEN MAN, Darlaston Green. The Proprietor is leaving the same in consequence of other engagements. Apply on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1860

“To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Magistrates and Chief-constable have deemed it their duty to take steps to put a stop to it. There can be no doubt that such steps have been adopted with due care. The police after, going round in their uniform and finding that they could not thus detect publicans in allowing the offence, recourse was had to sending constables round in private clothes yesterday about twenty-three summonses were returnable. The Magistrates expressed a very strong opinion upon the subject, and marked by the severity of the fines their sense of the importance of the movement, and the determination they had come to put down practices which had so corrupt and demoralising an influence upon the community. The following cases were heard.....

Hugh Owen, of the GREEN MAN, Darlaston, was charged with allowing a raffle in his house on the 24th March. The raffle was for two fowls, which were set up for 4s, 1s 6d of which was to be spent. Mr. Sheldon defended, and urged that his client was ignorant that the raffle was illegal. Fined 5s and costs, defendant having only been in business three months.

In the course of the hearing of these cases, Mr. Leigh made some observations condemnatory of the practice of publicans and beerhouse keepers throwing all sorts of attractions and blandishments around their houses with the view of inducing husbands and sons to go and spend their time and money, and neglect the duties of life – the maintenance of their wives and families, and the other obligations which devolved upon them. It would be absurd to inflict light fines.....”

William Bayley = William Bailey = William Bealey

William Bayley, retailer of beer, The Green. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/7/1863

“In the Walsall County Court yesterday, before Mr. A. McLean Skinner, QC, Judge, Mr. *Bealey*, landlord of the GREEN MAN public house, Darlaston, brought an action to recover from Job Humpage the sum of 40s, the value of a monkey killed by the defendant’s dog.

It appeared that some time ago the plaintiff kept a monkey for the amusement of his customers, and one day the defendant called, and after inquiring whether the monkey was in a place of safety, and being assured it was, he unfastened a dog he had with him. The dog finding himself at liberty, paid a visit unobserved to the malt-house, where the monkey was kept, and where in a short time a dreadful row was heard; and on the inmates of the house going to the ‘seat of war,’ they discovered the dog and the monkey engaged in mortal combat, which terminated in the death of ‘Poor Pug.’

After hearing the evidence and the arguments of Mr. Glover, who appeared for the plaintiff; and of Mr. Ebsworth, who conducted the case for the defendant, and who contended that the monkey, being a wild animal, it was the duty of the owner to keep it in a place of safety, his Honour gave a verdict for the plaintiff for 10s.”

William Bayley, beer retailer, Green. [1864], [1865], [1868]

Birmingham Daily Post 11/8/1864

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before Messrs. T. Jesson and J. Solly, Thomas Williams, a puddler, appeared to answer a charge of having wilfully broken five panes of glass, three jugs, and other articles, the property of *William Bayley*, landlord of the GREEN MAN beerhouse, Darlaston Green. It seemed that

the complainant endeavoured to prevent the defendant and some other men who were in his house on Monday week from playing at dominoes, and ordered them to leave the premises. The defendant went out, and returning with a stone in a handkerchief, committed the damage complained of. Some of the broken goods he subsequently replaced, and the Bench ordered him to pay 7s 9d, the value of the remainder, or submit in default to fourteen days' imprisonment.

The defendant was also charged with having, along with Robert Williams, his brother, and Thomas and Ann Cook, returned to the house about an hour after the above occurrence, and behaved in a disorderly manner. The charge was made out against the three men, who were each fined 5s and costs, with the option of seven days' imprisonment. The woman was dismissed."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/11/1864

"At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, a charge for having kept open his house for the sale of beer during prohibited hours on a Sunday against *William Bayley*, beerhouse keeper, was adjourned for a week for the production of witnesses for the defence."

In August 1868 *William Bayley* was fined 1s and costs for serving during prohibited hours on a Sunday.

1871 Census

The Green – GREEN MAN

[1] *Richard Poole* (42), iron labourer and publican, born Welshpool;

[2] Margaret Poole (43), wife, born Welshpool;

[3] Thomas Poole (25), son, iron labourer, born Welshpool;

[4] Elizabeth Poole (18), daughter, screw turner, born Welshpool;

[5] Richard Poole (16), son, iron labourer, born Welshpool;

[6] Mary A. Poole (14), daughter, scholar, born Welshpool;

[7] William Poole (12), son, scholar, born Welshpool;

[8] Benjamin Poole (10), son, scholar, born Welshpool;

[9] Joseph Poole (3), son, born Darlaston;

[10] Michael Nicholls (18), boarder, limestone labourer, born Willenhall:

Richard Poole, beer retailer, Willenhall Road. [1872]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/12/1875

"Thomas Bird, an ironworker, was charged with having stolen cigars the property of *Samuel John Mason*, landlord of the GREEN MAN INN, Darlaston Green. On Sunday night the servant-girl at this house, in accordance with weekly custom, distributed a cigar to each customer in the house, and left the prisoner in the private parlour, where she placed a box of cigars, from which only two cigars had been taken, in a cupboard. Soon afterwards she learnt that the box had been tampered with, and on looking she found that at least 14 or 15 cigars had been taken away. The police were subsequently communicated with, and the prisoner was apprehended with 15 cigars in his pocket, similar to those stolen.

Mr. Ebsworth, who appeared for the accused, passed some severe strictures on the practice of enticing men to the house by the weekly present of a penny cigar, and argued that there was no proof that the cigars found on the prisoner had been stolen.

The prisoner was sentenced to one month's imprisonment."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/3/1876

"*Samuel John Mason*, landlord of the GREEN MAN, Darlaston Green, was charged with committing a rape upon Hannah Hales (17), a domestic servant who was in his employ. Mr. Ebsworth prosecuted, and Mr. Sheldon defended.

For the prosecution evidence was called to show that on the afternoon of the 10th ult the accused, in the absence of his wife, threw down the girl, and whilst insensible committed the offence with which he was charged.

Mr. Sheldon for the defence urged – and called witnesses in support of his line of defence – that the prosecu-

trix had not been violated at all by his client; and the evidence of Mr. Tombs, surgeon's assistant, who made an examination of the girl on the evening of the day when the offence was said to have been committed, was to the effect that there were no marks of violence, nor any traces of a recent assault. The magistrates dismissed the case."

Phoebe Cullumbine = Phoebe Cullembine = Phoebe Collumbine

Wednesbury Herald 29/11/1879

"*Phoebe Cullembine*, of the GREEN MAN INN, Darlaston Green, was summoned for keeping her house open during prohibited hours on the morning of the 16th inst. Mr. Elsworth defended.

Police-constable Clark proved to finding five men in the cellar of the defendant's house on the morning in question, at 12.45am, and jugs on the table.

The case was adjourned for a fortnight."

[She was subsequently fined £2 and costs, and her license was endorsed.]

Mrs. *Phoebe Collumbine*, beer retailer, Willenhall Road. [1880]

Walsall Observer 24/1/1880 - Advert

"Darlaston. Freehold In-Door Beerhouse and Messuage, at the Corner of Willenhall Road and The Green. To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Farrington & Son, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 26th January, 1880, at 6 o'clock in the Evening (subject to conditions embodying the common-form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society).

The Freehold In-Door Beerhouse, known by the sign of the GREEN MAN INN, in the occupation of *Cullumbine*, situated at the corner of the Willenhall Road, and The Green, Darlaston; together with the entire Yard, Brewhouse (and Malt Room over), Stable, and Piggeries.

The House contains Bar, Tap Room, Bar Parlour, Club Room, Cellar, 2 Bed Rooms, &c, &c.

Also the small Messuage adjoining, in the occupation of Mr. W. Huddison.

The Beerhouse is subject to a Lease to a responsible Company for 14 years from 25th March, 1878, at an annual rental of £20. Possession of the rest of the Property can be had at once.

The above Property offers a good investment to small capitalists and others, and will, with the revival of trade, greatly increase in value.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, Walsall; or to Mr. G. Cotterell, Solicitor, Walsall."

1881 Census

1, Willenhall Road

[1] *Phoebe Cullumbine* (25), unmarried, publican, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Anne Cullumbine (12), daughter, scholar, born Masbro, Staffordshire;

[3] Ann Corbett (60), mother, widow, born Worcestershire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/3/1885 - Advert

"Found, Bull-and-terrier Bitch; if nor owned in three days will be sold.

Apply, No.1, GREEN MAN INN, The Green, Darlaston."

1891 Census

1, Willenhall Road – GREEN MAN INN

[1] *James Bassett* (36), bolt maker, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Bassett (32), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] Clara Bassett (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Sarah L. Bassett (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] James Bassett (2), son, born Darlaston;

[6] Elizabeth Bassett (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[7] Harriet Wilkes (16), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

James Bassett, GREEN MAN, Willenhall Road.....

All these were for six days.”

1901 Census

1, Willenhall Road

- [1] *William H. Keay* (44), general labourer, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Keay* (43), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Minnie Keay* (22), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] *John T. Keay* (20), son, iron worker, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Henry Keay* (15), son, iron worker, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Sampson Keay* (13), son, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Charles Keay* (11), son, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Jane Keay* (9), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Vincent B. Keay* (7), son, born Darlaston;
- [10] *Violet N. Keay* (4), daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

GREEN MAN INN, The Green.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not

duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Tamworth Herald 27/6/1903

“Mr. *W. H. Keay*, landlord of the GREEN MAN INN, Darlaston, had an unpleasant experience on Sunday in connection with his bringing to Tamworth a number of visitors, and narrowly escaped being drowned. During the afternoon he conducted the party up to the boat house, on the river Anker. From here boats were hired. Mr. *Keay* saw the party started along the river, and was about to follow in a canoe, when he over-balanced and was precipitated into the water, near to the landing stage. Unsuccessful attempts were made to rescue the unfortunate man, and in these a black retriever dog figured. Eventually, however, a young man named Kirby, in the employ of the Midland Railway Co., with the assistance of a boat, succeeded in bringing Mr. *Keay* to the bank. He was conveyed in an unconscious and precarious state to the boat house, where artificial respiration was administered. Meanwhile Dr. Sculthorpe was summoned, and the usual means of resuscitation were continued with favourable results. Subsequently the man was removed on an ambulance to the Tweeddale Arms hotel, where he was put to bed and medically attended. At seven o’clock in the evening he had sufficiently recovered to warrant his returning home by road.”

1911 Census

1, Willenhall Road – GREEN MAN INN

- [1] *William Henry Keay* (54), beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Keay* (53), wife, married 35 years, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Charles Keay* (21), son, iron worker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Jenny Keay* (19), daughter, domestic servant, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Vincent B. Keay* (18), son, iron worker, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Violet N. Keay* (14), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Daniel Keay* (7), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [8] *John Horton* (77), grand-father, widower, born Tipton:

Plans were approved for the provision of a bathroom and indoor sanitary accommodation on 26th May 1937.

1939 Register

1, Willenhall Road (2 of 3)

- [1] *Rose Anne Wall*, date of birth 24/12/1877, licensee, widowed;
- [2] *Nancy (Green) Mills-Clarke*, dob 5/12/1925, at school, single;

Rugeley Times 19/6/1948

“Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association have enrolled 12 more new members, which makes 26 within a month. They are.....

J. L. Askey, GREEN MAN, Darlaston.”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

Thomas Millard – see also RAILWAY.

Plans were approved for alterations on 23rd July 1952.

A full license was confirmed on 26th April 1960.

GREYHOUND

1, Cross Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Alfred Archer [1869] – [1876]

Mary Archer [1878] – [1881]

John Garner Parker [1891] – [1901]

Miss Mary Ann Parker [1919] – **1951**);

Alfred Grove (**1951 – 1953**);

Harry Vaughan (**1953 – 1954**);

William Plackett (**1954 – 1956**);

Ronald Thomas Bayliss (**1956 – 1959**);

Leo Plumb (**1959 – 1961**);

Joseph Myatt (**1961 – 1963**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/2/1869

“Mr. Cooper of Darlaston will run his dog Tiger against Bissell’s dog Billy of Hill Top 200 yards, and give him five yards start, for £5 a side, to come off at Mount Pleasant Grounds Coseley. Money ready at the GREYHOUND INN, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/3/1869

“Mount Pleasant Recreation Grounds, Coseley.....

Harper’s dog Joe and Foster’s dog Not for Joe (both of Darlaston) are matched to run 200 yards, for £5 a side, Joe to receive two yards start to the pound, on April 26. Mr. *Archer*, of the GREYHOUND INN, Darlaston, is appointed stakeholder and referee.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/12/1869

“Mount Pleasant Grounds, Coseley.....

Mr. *Archer*’s Quick of Darlaston and Mr. Harper’s Joe of Bilston are matched to run 200 yards, for £5 a side, to give and take two yards to the pound, on Monday next, December 13. The final deposit of £3 a side is to be made this (Saturday) evening, at *Archer*’s, the GREYHOUND INN, Darlaston.”

AND

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/12/1869

“Mount Pleasant Recreation Grounds, Coseley. Monday.

The 200 Yards Dog Match, for £5, between Mr. *Archer*’s Quick of Darlaston and Mr. Harper’s Joe of Bilston, caused a good deal of excitement in the match by the large muster of Darlastons and Bilstonians, who backed their pets freely, Quick being made the favourite at 12 to 10, and who scaled at 21lb 8oz, and Joe 21lb, the former having to give the latter a yard start for the difference in weight. The dogs were placed on their respective marks at half-past two, and at the report of pistol got well away. A splendid race ensued, the dogs keeping well together to within 40 yards of home, when Quick got the lead, and won by half a yard. Mr. Cooper of Wednesbury was referee, and Mr. Hampton (proprietor of the grounds) pistol-firer.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/1/1870

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, near Dudley.....

Mr. *Archer*, of Darlaston will match his brindled bitch Quick to run Mr. Harper’s Joe of the same place 200 yards, and will give or take two yards to the pound, for £5 a side. Money ready at *Archer*’s, GREYHOUND INN, Darlaston.”

AND

“Mr. Bissell of Wednesbury will match his bitch to run Mr. *Archer*’s Quick of Darlaston 200 yards for £5 a side, and will give or take two yards and a half to the pound. An answer through *Bells Life* will be attended to.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1870

“At the County Court, yesterday, before Mr. A. M. Skinner, QC, Judge, Mr. *Alfred Archer*, pipe maker, of Darlaston, sued Mr. Joseph Hazeldine, butcher and horse dealer, of Stourbridge, to recover £9 2s 6d damages for breach of warranty of a horse. Mr. Slater appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Bartlett, instructed by Mr. Collis, of Stourbridge, for the defendant.

At the Wolverhampton market, on the 17th of November, *Archer* gave Hazeldine ten guineas for a brown mare, which the latter warranted to be ‘sound and all right’ and offered to take it back if it did not suit. Although the mare appeared sound when driven very slowly down two or three streets after the purchase, yet when it was being taken home to Darlaston on the same evening, by the plaintiff’s man, it ran lame. *Archer* had it reshod, but this made no difference. He worked the mare for four days, and after having tried to see Mr. Hazeldine at Wolverhampton market, the plaintiff went over to him at Stourbridge, and he told him to have the mare shod with a bar shoe, and without leather. He did so, but the mare still went lame, and ultimately he sold it by auction, and now claimed the amount that he had lost on the sale, together with £2 for ‘keep’ and expenses.

Mr. Robinson, veterinary surgeon, was called, and proved that he examined the mare, and found that she was suffering from sandcrack, which seemed to be of some months’ duration. The defect would not have been observed by anyone but an experienced person. In cross-examination, he said that Mr. *Archer* acted most injudiciously in working the mare after he found that it was lame.

The case for the defence was that no warranty was given, and that the mare was perfectly sound up to the moment that it was sold to the plaintiff.

Mr. Hazeldine was called, and said that he should not think of giving a warranty with a horse sold for ten guineas, especially such a young raw mare as the one in question. In cross-examination, the defendant admitted that the mare had a slight sandcrack, but said she was perfectly sound nevertheless. He did not sell her cheaply because of the sandcrack.

Several other witnesses were called, who swore that a warranty was not spoken of at the time of the purchase, that it was perfectly sound up to the time of the sale; though two of them did not look for sandcrack. The veterinary surgeons on each side said that the sandcrack might have been caused when the horse was going home to Darlaston.

In replying upon the case, Mr. Slater contended that the balance of testimony as to whether the horse had the sandcrack at the time of the sale was in favour of the plaintiff; and if the Judge was satisfied with the plaintiff’s testimony, he must give him the verdict.

The Judge was of opinion that a warranty was given with the horse; but the evidence of the plaintiff had not quite convinced him that there was a sandcrack in the foot at the time of the sale.

He gave a verdict for the defendant, but without costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/3/1870 - Advert

“Lost at Darlaston, on Monday, a Brown-and-White Whippet Pup, about ten months old.

Whoever has found the same, and will return it to Mr. *Archer*, GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, will be well Rewarded.”

1871 Census

Cross Street

[1] *Alfred Archer* (42), tobacco pipe maker, employing twelve men, born, Walsall;

[2] *Mary Archer* (40), wife, born Darlaston;

- [3] Alfred Archer (14), son, nut forger, born Darlaston;
- [4] Ann Archer (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Jane Archer (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Mary Archer (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Emma Archer (4), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Henry Archer (27), lodger, tobacco pipe maker, born Wolverhampton;
- [9] Matthias Reynolds (48), lodger, tobacco pipe maker, born Truro;
- [10] James Evans (55), lodger, tobacco pipe maker, born Malta:

Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1871 - Advert

“Found, on May 30, a Liver-coloured Retriever Dog.

The Owner, by applying to Mr. *Archer*, Cross Street, Darlaston, and paying expenses, can have it. If not, he will be Sold in three days from this notice.”

London Gazette 14/1/1876

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Alfred Archer*, of Cross-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper and Pipe Maker.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at my offices, No.79, Pinfold-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on the 28th day of January, 1876, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 10th day of January, 1876.

Joseph Corbett,79, Pinfold-street, Darlaston, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Sporting Life 9/3/1878

“Alexandra Running Grounds, Bloxwich.

Mr. T. Marshall, jun, will give £7 10s to be run for in an all-England 150 yard dog handicap on Mondays, March 18 and 25 – first prize £6, second £1, third 10s. Entries 1s each. Entries to be made at.....

Mrs. *Archer*’s, GREYHOUND INN, Cross Street, Darlaston.”

1881 Census

1, Cross Street – GREYHOUND

- [1] *Mary Archer* (48), widow, tobacco pipe manufacturer employing 2 men and 2 women, born Darlaston;
- [2] Alfred Archer (24), son, boot and shoe maker, born Darlaston;
- [3] Ann Archer (22), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Joseph Archer (8), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] Patrick Murray (59), lodger, tobacco pipe maker, born Ireland;
- [6] Arthur Kirk (46), lodger, tobacco pipe maker, born Bilstone, Leicestershire:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1888

“On Monday night, John Mason (50), a vocalist, employed at the GREYHOUND INN Concert Hall, Cross Street, Darlaston, was observed to be straining very much as he sang one of his songs, and to fall back upon his seat directly he sat down. Some of those present at once went to examine him, and came to the conclusion that he was already dead. Mr. Partridge, surgeon, was sent for, however, and he pronounced life to be extinct.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1888

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held and inquest at the NELSON INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, on the body of John Mason (50), stamper, Mill Lane, Catherines Cross.

The evidence bore out the statement already published – that after singing a song – ‘Mother kissed me in my dream’ – on Monday night, at the GREYHOUND INN, he fell forward, and when raised up was found to be dying. His wife stated that he had been in good health until Monday, when he complained of a sensation in his head, as if something was bursting, and said his hearing had become bad. At the same time blood oozed

from his ears.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned, one of the jurors remarking that the deceased had been ill for some time, and had been almost 'clammed' to death."

1891 Census

1, Cross Street

- [1] *John G. Parker* (49), beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Selena Parker (45), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary A. Parker* (25), daughter, beer retailer's assistant, born Darlaston;
- [4] Selena Parker (23), daughter, warehouse girl, born Darlaston;
- [5] John G. Parker (18), son, nut maker, born Darlaston;
- [6] Ellen Parker (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] William Parker (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Selena Foster (16), niece, errand girl, born Darlaston;
- [9] John Bailey (44), visitor, whitesmith, born West Bromwich;
- [10] Jane Bailey (43), visitor, born Darlaston:

1901 Census

1, Cross Street – GREY HOUND INN

- [1] *John G. Parker* (59), blacksmith and publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Selina Parker (55), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary A. Parker* (35), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Ellen Parker (21), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] William Parker (17), son, wheelwright, born Darlaston;
- [6] John Gilbert (4), grand-son, born Darlaston;
- [7] James Wardel (34), boarder, girder builder, born Darlaston:

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Selina Parker died in the 1st quarter of 1906.

1911 Census

1, Cross Street

- [1] *John G. Parker* (69), widower, bolt maker, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Parker* (45), daughter, house work, born Darlaston;
- [3] Ellen Parker (31), daughter, house work, born Darlaston;
- [4] J. Wardele (44), boarder, bridge maker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] W. Parker (27), son, nut maker, born Darlaston:

1917 Probate

"*John Garner Parker* of Cross Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 11 February 1917. Probate Lichfield 22 March to John Garner Parker, nut and bolt maker, and *Mary Ann Parker*, spinster. Effects £1,045 6s."

John Garner Parker – see also NOAHS ARK.

Plans were approved for the provision of a bathroom and indoor sanitary accommodation on 26th May 1937.

1939 Register

1, Cross Street – GREYHOUND

- [1] *Mary A. Parker*, date of birth 30/12/1866, licensed victualler, single;
- [2] Ellen Adams, dob 21/3/1880, unpaid domestic duties, widowed;
- [3] James Wardle, dob 29/10/1866, painter, retired, single:

Plans were approved for alterations to service and supervision to the smoke room and bar parlour on 10th September 1958.

A full license was confirmed on 26th April 1960.

Leo Plumb – see also WHITE LION.

It closed on 15th June 1963.

Demolished

HEN AND CHICKENS

Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Ellen Foster [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

HERBERT'S PARK TAVERN

16, Factory Street, Forge Road, Herberts Park, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Job Wilkes Yardley (acquired c.1904)

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1926]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Rocky Singh (acquired in 2020) [2023]

LICENSEES

Thomas Rogers [1864] – [1881]

Joseph Hingley Jnr. [c.1898]

Joseph Baker [1891]

William Hakesley [1901] – [1904]

Job Wilkes Yardley [1911] – **1922**);

Mrs. Julia Maria Yardley (**1922 – 1928**);

Leonard Jones (1928 – 1938);
Archibald Cross (1938 – 1946);
Frank Thornton (1946 – 1959);
James Norman Eves (1959 – 1964);
John Thomas Pincher (1964 – [1967])
Harry Hulse (1967 – 1975)
Alan Rhodes [2007]

NOTES

Forge Road [1939], [1940]

It had a beer, cider and wine license.

There was a pigeon club here.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/3/1864

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Police Court, *Thomas Rogers*, of the HERBERTS PARK TAVERN, Darlaston, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for having his house open during prohibited hours on the night of the 9th inst.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/1/1866

“Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, Edward Morgan was charged on a summons with removing some glazed sashes and some doors, value £20, from the premises of Mr. *Thomas Rogers*, publican, Darlaston, with the intention of stealing them. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Thurstans appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Ebsworth having opened the case, called Mr. *Rogers*, who stated that he had four houses in the course of erection, and that he had employed a man named Edward Bayley to build them. The defendant, who is a carpenter, had entered into a sub-contract with Mr. Bayley to do the carpentry. On the 10th inst the complainant saw the sashes and doors fixed in his houses quite safe. On the following morning they were missing. The complainant then (from some cause which did not transpire in evidence) went to the defendant’s house, and on looking through his shop window he saw his (the complainant’s) sashes and doors.

The Magistrates Clerk said he did not think there was any intention of stealing.

Ben Garrington was then examined, and stated that he heard the defendant say, ‘I might as well go to gaol for the sashes as anything else.’

The Bench were of opinion that there was no case for a jury, and the defendant was then dismissed.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/9/1867 - Advert

“For Sale, a handsome Bay Pony, about 12½ hands.
Apply to *Thomas Rogers*, Herberts Park, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/11/1869 - Advert

“Strayed, last Friday night, Two Ponies, one bay horse Pony, aged, about 13 hands, with a little hair off the hear fore knee; and one dark brown mare Pony, about 12 hands, branded with the letters M.D. on the near side.

Anyone returning them to *Thomas Rogers*, Herberts Park, Darlaston, will be Rewarded for their trouble.”

1871 Census

Factory Street

[1] *Thomas Rogers* (35), retail brewer and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Charlotte Rogers (35), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Betsey E. Rogers (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] George Rogers (3), son, born Darlaston;

- [5] Jonah Rogers (1), son, born Darlaston;
[6] Jane Martin (17), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Thomas Rogers, beer retailer, Factory Street. [1872], [1880]

1881 Census

16, Factory Street – HERBERTS PARK TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Rogers* (46), retail brewer, born Darlaston;
[2] Charlotte Rogers (46), wife, born Wednesbury;
[3] Hannah Greenfield (15), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1891 Census

16, Factory Street

- [1] *Joseph Baker* (32), metal broker, born Princes End;
[2] Maria Baker (32), wife, born Walsall;
[3] Harry Baker (4), son, born Priestfield;
[4] Beatrice Baker (2), daughter, born Moxley;
[5] Bernard Baker (8 months), son, born Darlaston;
[6] Henry Jones (74), relative, born Stourbridge;
[7] Elizabeth Jones (69), relative, born Walsall:

1901 Census

16, Factory Street – HERBERTS PARK TAVERN

- [1] *William Hakesley* (38), iron puddler, born Branston, Northamptonshire;
[2] Nancy Hakesley (36), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] William Hakesley (10), son, born Darlaston;
[4] Frederick Hakesley (7), son, born Darlaston;
[5] Harry Hakesley (4), son, born Darlaston;
[6] Rose Thompson (16), niece, domestic servant, born Darlaston;
[7] Ann Hawkesley (28), sister, iron washer dresser, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury). Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

HERBERTS PARK TAVERN, Forge Road.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

William Hakesley, beer retailer, 16, Factory Street. [1904]

1911 Census

16, Factory Street – HERBERTS PARK TAVERN

[1] *Job Wilkes Yardley* (57), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Julie M. Yardley* (49), wife, married 15 years, born Norway (resident in England last 7 years);

[3] *Nancy L. Yardley* (10), daughter, born United States (resident in England last 7 years);

[4] *Lizzie Webb* (25), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Job W. Yardley, beer retailer, 16, Factory Street. [1912]

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1915 - Advert

“Sale at HERBERTS PARK TAVERN, Forge Road, Darlaston. Monday Next, 20th September.

Belcher & Son, FAI, have received instructions from Mr. *J. W. Yardley* (who is leaving) to Sell by Public Auction,, upon the above Premises and Date.

The Whole of the Excellent Brewing Plant and Effects, comprising two first-class Copper Boilers (160 and 60 gals), 220-gallon Steel Boiler, two well-made Mash Tuns; Copper Refrigerator (by Gaskell and Chambers), cost £24; two Copper Attemperators, well-made oak Fermenting and Collecting Vats, heavy brass and gunmetal Taps and Stop Cocks, wrought-iron and lead Piping, well-seasoned oak Casks (9 to 54 gals), Thermometers, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock am to the minute, with the usual conditions.

Catalogues may be had from the Auctioneers’ Offices, Darlaston, and Bank Chambers, Wednesbury.”

South Staffordshire Times 6/3/1920

“Darlaston Police Court.....

Mr. R. A. Tench (solicitor) appeared on behalf of Mr. *Job Wilkes Yardley*, owner of a freehold premises at HERBERT PARK TAVERN, of which he had been the owner for sixteen years past. The application was for a spirit license, and an excellent character was put in, and also a petition, on which the signatures were voluntary given and numerously signed. The house was at present licensed for the sale of beer, ale and wine.

Mr. E. W. Cave, barrister (instructed by Messrs. Caddick and Yates), opposed the application for the extended license for spirits.

Mr. *J. W. Yardley* was examined by Mr. Tench. He was the owner of the premises and licensee for 16 years. He had been asked for spirits thousands of times. He therefore applied for a full license. The nearest place was the JUNCTION INN (full license). If granted it would be a public convenience, and he had never had any complaint against him.

Cross-examined, witness declined to answer how much wine he sold on demand under his present license, unless magistrates demanded to know. There were some works about 400 yards away from his house, and there were some houses being built.

Mr. Cave: I am going to be quite nice to you, so please answer all my questions.

People who lived in the existing houses would only have to walk fifty yards further to obtain all they wanted? – Yes.

An excise officer asked a few questions of the applicant. He appeared on behalf of Customs and Excise.

Mr. Cave, as representing the owners of the other licensed premises in the neighbourhood, opposed the license, and addressed the Bench. There had been a great shortage of spirits during the war, and if every one was now to come forward and ask for licenses to sell spirits there would naturally be far more full licenses granted than the Justices ever intended in any given locality. The existing conditions, he contended were

ample to supply all the need of the district.

Mr. E. Ward, architect, West Bromwich, was called by Mr. Cave, and stated that he hardly regarded the premises fit for a fully licensed premises. The house was only cottage property.

Mr. Tench cross-examined at length.

Mr. James Aston, licensee of the NEW JUNCTION INN, was also called by Mr. Cave. He had not noticed any extra demand for, or difficulty in obtaining, spirits of late; in fact, he had more than he could sell for the past three months.

Mr. Tench: Then your customers drink more beer than spirits?

I consider my house and full license is enough for the demand created. I never refuse to supply spirits on a doctor's certificate.

Would you supply me with a bottle of spirits – a stranger? – Yes, if you had a doctor's certificate – (laughter) – not otherwise.

In reply to the Chairman, witness said his supply of spirits was mostly in cask, and very little in bottle, so he must safeguard the bottle part of his sales, or it would soon vanish.

After consulting for a time, the magistrates said, through the Chairman, that they had decided to refuse the application, as the facilities at present afforded were sufficient for the district.”

Job Wilkes “Yankee” Yardley was born in 1854.

He emigrated to the United States in 1879.

He married, firstly, Mary Frances Meredith. She died.

He married, secondly, Julia Johnson.

They returned to the UK in 1903.

He trained as a pork butcher, and later worked as a bolt and screw maker.

He was a councillor on Darlaston Council.

He died on 26th December 1921.

[The license was not transferred until February 1922.]

South Staffordshire Times 7/1/1922

“The death on Wednesday in last week, of Mr. *Job Wilkes Yardley*, of HERBERTS PARK TAVERN, Darlaston, is deeply mourned by many friends. The funeral was preceded by a service at Darlaston Parish Church last Monday. Mr. *J. W. Yardley* was formerly a member of Darlaston Urban District Council, and reference was made to his death at the meeting this week.”

Walsall Observer 26/6/1926

“Winners last season of the Walsall Junior Cricket League championship shield for the first time in their career of five seasons, members of the Herberts Park Cricket Club, Darlaston, celebrated their success by a supper at the HERBERTS PARK TAVERN on Thursday evening. Mr. A Willmore (chairman of the club), presiding, recalled that it was thirteen years since a Darlaston club won the Walsall and District League. An appetising meal was served by the hostess, Mrs. *Yardley*, and after the club secretary (Mr. W. Rickhuss) had submitted a statement of accounts showing a credit balance of £2, Mr. W. Leighton (ex-President) presented to the captain the shield, which was accompanied by medals.....

Other presentations made were a photograph of the team to Mrs. *Yardley* for her kindly interest in the club as landlady of the HERBERTS PARK TAVERN.”

Walsall Observer 15/1/1927

“The Midland Junior Cricket League will, it is hoped, begin activities in the coming season, and applications for membership are invited from clubs whose headquarters are within seven miles radius of Wednesbury..... A challenge shield and a set of medals have already been provided. Further preparations will be discussed at a meeting to be held at the HERBERTS PARK TAVERN, Darlaston, on Tuesday, January 25.”

Plans were approved for a new building on 4th November 1936.

It was rebuilt in the late 1930s.

1939 Register

Forge Road – HERBERTS PARK TAVERN

[1] *Archibald Cross*, date of birth 16/9/1900, licensee, married;

[2] Mary Elizabeth Cross, dob 10/2/1904, housewife, married;

[3] Eric Archibald Cross, dob 17/1/1928, at school, single:

Walsall Observer 1/11/1941

“A collision between two motor cars at the crossing of Rough Hay Road and Willenhall Street, Darlaston, during the early evening of September 14, had a sequel at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, when before the Stipendiary (Mr. B. G. Grimley), Jesse Stackhouse, 96, Lowe Avenue, Darlaston, and *Archibald Cross*, HERBERTS PARK TAVERN, Forge Road, Darlaston, were each fined £4 with £1 15s 3d special costs, for driving without due care attention.”

Rugeley Times 19/6/1948

“Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association have enrolled 12 more new members, which makes 26 within a month. They are.....

Frank Thornton, HERBERTS PARK TAVERN, Darlaston.”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League in 1948.

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1949.

Rugeley Times 31/5/1952

“The Darlaston Darts League concluded the 1951-52 season with the playing-off of the final for the league president’s cup and the presentation of the prizes, by Mr. V. Dishman, of Atkinsons Brewery, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, King Street, on Friday. Mr. T. Malthouse (league Chairman) presided over a gathering that packed the room, and was supported by Mr. J. Tinsley.

Congratulating all who had taken part, Mr. Dishman said they had had a very successful season, and, from that angle, the main point was the contribution they had made to charity – a sum of over £45 to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. They were all to be congratulated also on the sportsmanship existing throughout the league and the important function it fulfilled in the general life of the public houses of the town.....

Mr. Dishman presented the prizes as follows.....

A Division Championship Shield, ROYAL GEORGE; runners up, DOG AND PHEASANT; third, HERBERTS PARK TAVERN.”

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Dominoes League. [1962]

Express & Star 7/7/2009

“A former landlord of three popular Black Country pubs who dedicated decades of his life to the trade has died aged 86. *Harry Hulse* was licensee at the THREE CROWNS in Wednesbury, HERBERTS PARK TAVERN in Darlaston and the RED LION in Wednesfield. Mr. *Hulse*’s son John today paid tribute to his father, saying, ‘He was a very popular man behind the bar. He dedicated most of his life to running his pubs and had little time to do anything else.’

Mr. *Hulse*, who grew up in Wednesbury, took on his first pub, the THREE CROWNS, in 1962 and remained there until 1967. He then went to run HERBERTS PARK TAVERN until 1975 and finally on to the RED LION. He retired from his working career in 1987. He worked behind the bar with his wife Edith, who died in 2001, and lived in Admirals Way, Shifnal, near Wolverhampton. His son John added, ‘He took all three pubs from nothing to very successful businesses by working long hours and sheer hard work. Mum and dad used to work behind the bar together. At the RED LION my dad built up a thriving catering business to the point that people would queue outside at lunchtime for his homemade steak and kidney pie. He tried to make the pub part of the community. He organised events to raise money for the children and pensioners at Christmas.’

Mr. Hulse added that his father's other loves in life included his cars, 'He loved his cars and had many over the years including a motor home to go on adventures,' he said. 'Dad was happiest when all the family were together for Christmas and celebrations.'

The late Mr. *Hulse's* grandfather brewed his own beer at the COTTAGE SPRING pub in Franchise Street, Wednesbury, towards the end of the 19th Century. Mr. *Hulse* also served in the Army during the Second World War. He was posted to Burma and Singapore before being demobbed in 1947.

Mr. *Hulse* died on June 27 following a battle with dementia. He leaves behind three children, John, 65, and Darren, 43, Janice, 59, as well as 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. His funeral was held at St. Andrew's Church in Shifnal yesterday."

Harry Hulse – see also THREE CROWNS, Wednesbury and RED LION, Wednesfield.

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield in 1983/4.

[1991]

Closed [2006]

It reopened as GABBA'S BAR in 2011.

[2015]

HERBERT'S PARK TAVERN [2018]

HERBERTS TAVERN Bar & Grill [2020]

KING GEORGE V [2022]

[Express & Star 2/7/2023](#)

"As pubs continue to battle the cost of living crisis, the *Express & Star* continues its Love Your Local series which celebrates our local inns. The KING GEORGE V in Wednesbury has undergone a £120,000 refurbishment as the pub launches its new Indo-fusion food menu, for which they have brought in a highly rated Nepalese chef. The family-run pub which is located on Forge Road, hosted its soft-opening on Friday, June 23, and then their grand-opening two days ago where there was a live DJ, a night of live entertainment, canapés, and all round good vibes – which the family say they have brought to the establishment since taking over. Rocky Singh owns the pub along with his family who all come together to help the running of the pub, including his parents and siblings. Speaking about what it was like when the family, who have run pubs for over 20 years, took over in 2020, he says, 'At first it was a typical lads pub, and we came in knowing we wanted to change the perception of the place, and we feel that we have achieved that now. Though it was during the pandemic that we took over, we have put in so much work and effort to turn the business around, and now it has become a family-friendly environment, where we invite families and friends to come and enjoy our welcoming-place, where they can enjoy good food, good vibes and enjoy their experience which will want them to come back.' One way they have achieved that is by serving high quality food, and the owners are excited at the new menu and new chef launching, which they hope will help the business grow, but whilst also not neglecting their everyday trade of drinkers....."

[2023]

HOP AND BARLEYCORN

Pinfold Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Duncomb [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

John Duncomb = John Duncombe

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/10/1834

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions.....

Hughes, Kelly, and others were charged with effecting a forcible entrance into the house of *John Duncomb*, of Darlaston.

Mr. Thomas, in opening the case to the jury, admitted that his client, who was tenant to Hughes, had given his landlord notice to quit; that that notice had been accepted by the landlord, and that some time had elapsed after the expiration of the notice, before Hughes and others took forcible possession of the house. Mr. Godson, for the defence, said, from the facts which Mr. Thomas had admitted, he was clearly ‘out of court’ with his case, for after a tenant had given notice to his landlord that he would quit, that notice being accepted, and the time expired, the landlord had clearly a right to go to his own house, and, if he did not find a key there, if the doors were locked against him, he might, if he chose, pull the house down, for the relation of the landlord and tenant, between him and the occupier, had most certainly ceased to exist.

The Court was of the same opinion, but allowed Mr. Thomas to produce evidence, if he chose to do so.

John Duncomb, the tenant was called and examined, but on the close of his evidence, the Chairman said he must stop the case, as, independent of the opinion that the landlord had a right, under all the circumstances of the case, to take possession of his own house, after the tenant had legally, though not actually, given it up, no forcible entry, according to the prosecutor’s own shewing, had been effected. Not Guilty.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/7/1835 - Advert

“The Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors.....

John Duncomb, the elder, late of Darlaston Row, Darlaston, near Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, first following the business of a Gun Lock Forger, on his own sole account; then of a Gun Lock Forger, on his own sole account, and the business of a Bridle Bit, Stirrup and Buckle, and Bed Screw Maker, in partnership with Thomas Wilkes; afterwards the sole business of a Gun Lock Forger, on his own account; since following, on his own sole account, the business of a Gun Lock Forger, Licensed Brewer, and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco; and lately of a Gun Lock Forger, solely on his own account (sued as *John Duncomb*).”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 7/9/1835 - Advert

“Eligible Leasehold Property, situate in Pinfold Street, Darlaston, almost equal to Freehold.

To be Sold by Auction, by H. Gimblett, on Friday next the 11th day of September, at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, at three o’clock in the afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that well-built Dwelling House and Premises, situate fronting to the broad part of Pinfold Street, Darlaston, occupied by Mr. *John Duncombe*, Gun-lock-forger, with excellent Shopping, Brewhouse, Piggeries, Yard, Well of soft water, and large productive Garden.

Also the Dwelling House situate at the back, occupied by Mr. Turner, with joint use of entry from the street and well of water in the yard.

The above property is centrally situate, and in an improving neighbourhood; is held under lease, of which 979 years are unexpired, subject to a pepper-corn rent.

For further particulars apply to Mr. W. S. Burman, Solicitor, Smithfield, or the Auctioneer, 34, Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

HOPE TAVERN

Dangerfield Lane, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Joseph Horton

LICENSEES

Richard Jones [1847]

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 19/6/1847 - Advert

“Freehold Premises in Darlaston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Corbett, on Monday, the 21st of June, 1847, at the DUKE OF YORK INN, in Darlaston, at Six o'clock in the evening (by direction of the Trustees for Sale, under the will of Mr. Joseph Horton, deceased), subject to conditions then to be read, and in the following or such other Lots as shall be agreed upon at the time of sale.

Lot 1. All that substantially-built Messuage or Dwelling House, used as a Retail Beerhouse, and known by the name or sign of the HOPE TAVERN, with the Workshop, Out-buildings, and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Dangerfields Lane, in Darlaston, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Richard Jones*.”

HOPE AND ANCHOR

DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

J Robinson [1865]

Knowles [1867]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/10/1865

“G. Kendrick and J. Hope, we hear, are matched to run six score yards, for £5 a side, at the Britannia Grounds, Tipton, on Monday next. Men on the ground prepared to start at three o'clock. Mr. *J. Robinson*,

of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Darlaston, has received the whole of the money. Mr. Tranter, proprietor of the grounds, to appoint a referee.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/12/1867

“L. Bird and S. Reynolds (both of Darlaston) have signed articles to run 100 yards, for £5 a side on December 26, at two o’clock. Mr. *Knowles*, HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Darlaston, stakeholder; Mr. J. Harding to be referee.”

HORSE AND JOCKEY

33, (44), Walsall Street (Walsall Road) / Auctioneer Street, (202, Butcroft), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Mr. Horton [1853]
Alfred Small
Mrs. Alice Masson, widow
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Corns [1831] – [1834]
John Corns [1841]
Thomas Corns [1851]
John Corns [1846] – **1862**);
Francis Jones (**1862** – []
Joseph Benton [1864] – **1869**);
William Jordan Potter (**1869** – **1870**);
James Cooper (**1870**);
Henry Wilkes (**1870**);
Joseph Southall (**1870** – [1871]
John Fawdry [1872] – [1873]
John Smallman [1873]
Edward Powell [1874] – [1875]
Edward Ellis [1876] – [1879]
James Webster [1880] – **1881**);
Tom Brown (**1881** – []
Henry Worrod [1881]
John Carter [1891] – [1896]
James Munger [1900]
Alfred Small [1901]
Thomas Small [1904] – [1908]
Alfred Small [1911] – **1948**);
William James Mason (**1948** – **1951**);
Raymond Lamb (**1951** – **1952**);
William Alfred Cotterill (**1952** – **1953**);
John Jackson (**1953** – [1967]
Bruce Elwell [1985] – [1994]
James Greenway [2006] – [2011]

NOTES

Butt Croft [1849]

Butcroft [1851], [1860], [1861], [1863], [1870], [1880]

44, Walsall Street [1873]

202, Butcroft [1881], [1891]

Walsall Road [1892], [1896], [1900]

33, Walsall Road [1901], [1911], [1939]

33, Walsall Street [1908], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]

OLD HORSE AND JOCKEY [1870], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1932], [1940]

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1831

“Duke of Wellington’s Beer Bill.....

The cheapness of beer proves only an incentive to excess; while the grand object of the retailer is to multiply every vicious attraction which interest and ingenuity can suggest. We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured, and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.....”

AND

Birmingham Journal 3/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

In perusing your *Journal* of Saturday last, I find the following which is incorrect, but I have no doubt it is from misinformation. ‘We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.’

The fact, Sir, is this; there were eight bulls in the whole, and one of those was at a Beer House, in Wednesbury parish, and seven were in the parish of Darlaston. There are, in the latter parish, seventeen houses licensed under the old Act, and thirty-five under the new Act. Six of those bulls were baited at the houses of the licensed victuallers, and but one at the house of a retail brewer.

This, Sir, is a truth which cannot be contradicted. I can give you the names of the persons, and the signs of every house at which these bulls were baited, if required.

I am, Sir, Your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, August 31, 1831.....

AND

Birmingham Journal 10/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

Sir, Agreeable to your request I have given you the names of the persons, also their signs, at the houses where the bulls were baited at the late Darlaston wake.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, September 8, 1831.....

Licensed under the Old Act *J. Corns*, HORSE AND JOCKEY.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/4/1843

“John Warrender, of Darlaston, will run Henry Hayward, of Bradley, from five to ten score yards, for from £5 to £10 a side. His money is ready at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Darlaston. David Garrington, of Darlaston, will also run Henry Hayward, of Bradley, a quarter of a mile, for from £5 to £10 a side. His money is ready at the same house.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/12/1843

“William Nash, commonly called the Darlaston Stump, is open to fight Jack Flemons, of Walsall, for from £5 to £10 a side. His money is ready at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Journal 7/2/1846

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday.....

John Corns, of Darlaston, was charged with keeping his house open during divine service on the 25th inst,

and fined 10s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/1/1848

“*John Corns* was summoned, upon the complaint of Major M’Knight, for allowing card playing in his house, on the 29th of December last, at Darlaston. It appeared from police constable Myatt’s evidence that he went to the defendant’s house, and found the parlour door fastened, but knocked at the door, when one of the parties, thinking it was the landlord, let him in, and he found four men playing at cards. He told the defendant what they were doing, who was close to the door in the passage. The defendant said he did not know that they were card playing, or he would have stopped it. The Bench fined him 10s and costs.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1848

“On Wednesday last, the annual licensing meeting was held.....

The following persons were reprimanded for offences committed against the tenor of their licenses during the past year.....

John Corns, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1849

“At Henley-in-Arden petty sessions on Monday, August 27th, Edward Garrington, of the Pleck, near Walsall, Charles Edwards, of West Bromwich, Frederick Farley, of Hill Top, near West Bromwich, and William Field, of Birmingham, appeared to an information laid by Mr. Henry Thomas, Secretary to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, charging them with cruelly over-riding two ponies.....

Mr. Thomas stated that he had preferred this complaint in consequence of information he had received that on the 6th of August two of the defendants made a wager of £20 to run two ponies 20 miles on the Stratford-on-Avon and Birmingham turnpike road, and that in consequence of the over exertion, and the dense heat of the day, one of them died. As related to the owners of the ponies, merely fining them would be no punishment, as they were men of substance. The two riders he would call as servants to the owners, and should wish them to be dealt with more leniently, as the Bench in their discretion thought right. Mr. Thomas then called the witnesses.....

John Corns said: I keep the HORSE AND JOCKEY, at Darlaston, and am a horse trainer. I know the defendants. I had a pony to train for the race that was to take place on the 6th of August. It was in my possession about ten days. The defendant Garrington asked me how the pony was going on. I said, ‘We shall lose; the pony is too little.’ I was sent for to the WHITE LION, Wednesbury, on the day of the race, about nine o’clock in the evening. I went to the stables and attempted to bleed the black pony on one side, and my son on the other. The pony died about ten o’clock in the evening.....

The judgement of the Bench was that Edwin Garrington be fined £3, Edwards £1, Farley and Field 5s each, and the costs, amounting in the whole to £10 7s 6d be equally paid by all the defendants. The penalty and costs were immediately paid.”

John Corns was also a farrier. [1850], [1860], [1861]

Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850

“The annual licensing day for the hundred of Offlow South was held on Wednesday last.....

The old applications for renewal of licenses, numbering two hundred and twenty, were granted, but the following publicans having been fined during the current year for Sunday trading, were respectively admonished, and cautioned as to a repetition of this offence, and a notice to this effect was by order of the Court endorsed on the licenses.....

John Corns, Darlaston.”

1851 Census

Butcroft – HORSE AND JOCKEY

[1] *John Corns* (47), farrier and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Corns (49), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Elizabeth Corns (18), daughter, servant, born Darlaston;

- [4] John Corns (8), son, born Darlaston;
[5] Joseph Corns (5), son, born Darlaston;
[6] Emma Corns (3), daughter, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/5/1851

“At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, *John Corns*, licensed victualler, was charged by the police with having company in his house during the hours of divine service on Sunday, the 4th May. The defendant said that he was a horse doctor, and the persons who were in his house were then on business, and came from a distance. Fined 10s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1853

“In accordance with recent regulations, a Special Petty Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Barr, on Wednesday last.....

Cases, in which the re-granting of old licenses in this district had been suspended, were gone into, with the following results.....

John Corns, keeping the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Darlaston, and who did not attend on the former hearing day, now appeared, and explained his absence; Mr. Horton, owner of the premises, had said that *Corns*, being under notice to quit, had properly abstained from coming, and asked that the license might be transferred to his (Horton's) son; today, however, the matter was settled; *Corns* said he did not consider himself under notice at all. The Court had nothing to do with that, and restored him his license.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 30/11/1853

“Stourport. County Petty Sessions, Friday, November 25.

William Jones, alias Walker, was apprehended for stealing a bay mare and head stall, the property of Edward Ford, of Areley Kings. Prosecutor and his man deposed to the mare being safe in the stable, with the head stall, on the night of the 18th. Between six and seven o'clock in the morning the animal was missing. *John Corns*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Darlaston, stated that the prisoner came to his house on the 19th, and wanted to sell the mare for £6. Witness did not like the look of the man, but sent another to look at the animal, while he sent for a policeman. A person who was in the HORSE AND JOCKEY, after some bargaining, bought the mare for £3 12s 6d. By this time the policeman came and took him into custody, as he could not give a good account as to the way the mare came into his possession. Ford having given notice of his loss, he was sent for, and identified the property. Committed to sessions.”

[At the Worcestershire Sessions, William Jones was sentence to four years' penal servitude.]

Birmingham Journal 21/6/1856

“On Tuesday last an inquest was held at Mr. *J. Corns*'s, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Darlaston, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Barnabas Small, eight years of age. From the evidence it appeared that on the preceding Saturday deceased was playing in a yard near his parent's house, and was shortly afterwards missing. A search discovered his dead body in a water cistern, in a brewhouse near, and this receptacle had its surface level with the floor, and had only a lid upon it. The Coroner and Jury said that the cistern must be altered, as more accidents might occur, and Mr. Hinchliffe will cause this to be done. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/1/1859

“At Mr. *Corns*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Darlaston, on Wednesday, the match between Mr. Heath's (of Birmingham) dog Turpin and the Wednesbury bitch Venus, at 15 rats each, for £5 a side, came off. Betting 2 to 1 on the dog, who won, destroying his number in 2min 38sec, the bitch in 3min 41sec.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1859

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before J. Leigh, Esq, a number of publicans were summoned for selling ale, &c, in booths erected beyond the limits of their licensed premises, at Darlaston Wake, a general warning having been previously given to publicans not to infringe the law in this respect.....

Mr. Slater, for the defendants, contended that a wake was like a fair, and that his clients had a right to sell on

the days named.

Mr. Leigh decided otherwise, and a fine of £5, the lowest amount allowed by law, with 11s 6d costs, was inflicted upon each of those charged with one offence, charges for other offences being adjourned, in order for the promoters of the proceedings to consider whether they would withdraw them. The following were the persons fined.

John Corns, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Butcroft.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/10/1859

“At Mr. *Corns*, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Darlaston, Staffordshire, on Monday last, there was a good muster present to witness the sweepstake by 12 members, at 10s each, 3 birds each, which, after a well-contested match, was won by Mr. Brown of Walsall and Cottis of Westbromwich, who tied and divided. Afterwards a match was shot by Mr. Cottis and an Unknown, for £3 a side, at 5 birds each, won by the Unknown, killing all. On Tuesday Cottis and the Unknown shot a match for £5 a side, at 11 birds each; won by Mr. Cottis, killing 9, the Unknown 8. Mr. Badham of Birmingham supplied the birds. Mr. Cottis of Westbromwich will shoot a match with the Unknown at 25 birds each, for £25 a side, to find and trap against each other. Mr. Cottis will take expenses to shoot at any place the Unknown may select. An answer through *Bells Life* will be attended to.”

1861 Census

Butcroft – HORSE AND JOCKEY

- [1] *John Corns* (56), innkeeper and farrier, born Darlaston;
- [2] Ann Corns (59), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] John Corns (17), son, farrier, born Darlaston;
- [4] Joseph Corns (15), son, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [5] Emma Corns (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Rachel Corns (9), visitor, grand-daughter, scholar, born Liverpool;
- [7] Mary Ann Rutter (7), visitor, grand-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

John Corns – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Journal 6/6/1863 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, that Old-established House, the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Butcroft, Darlaston. Licenses, Stock, and Fixtures to be taken to at a fair Valuation.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/9/1863

“An inquest was held yesterday by Mr. E. Hooper, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Darlaston, on view of the body of Bridget Shannon, aged three years and eight months. It appeared from the evidence that, on the 25th ult, the deceased was scalded by a pot of tea falling upon her, and from the injuries received she died on the 6th inst. Dr. Partridge, surgeon attended her, but his efforts were unavailable. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Joseph Benton = Joseph Benson

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/2/1866

“J. Hope of Darlaston will run W. Constable of Willenhall 100 or 120 yards level, or Mills of Wednesbury the like distance if he will give two yards start, or Waring of the same place with the start of three yards in the same distance. A match can be on for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *J. Benton*'s, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Darlaston.”

AND

“G. Haines of Willenhall will run T. Blakemore (alias the Potatoe Man) of the same place 120 yards level, for £5 a side; or he will run F. Wooten or S. Gee of the same place 120 yards, with two yards start, in six weeks from signing articles, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *Benton*'s, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/3/1866

“Hope of Darlaston is surprised at E. Dudley challenging him level, but Hope will take two yards in 120, or Haines of Willenhall can be on at the same distance, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/7/1866

“R. Poxon, of Wednesbury, and J. Whiston, of Darlaston, are matched to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, on Monday next, at the Britannia Grounds, Tipton. Mr. *Benton*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Darlaston, stakeholder; Mr. Bolton referee.”

AND

The Sportsman 24/7/1866

“The attractions at the Britannia Grounds, Tipton, yesterday (Monday) were considerable.....

J. Whistance, of Darlaston, and R. Poxton, of Wednesbury. 100 yards, for £5 a side. They got away well together, and a clipping race throughout ended in favour of Whistance by a foot.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1867

“The annual Licensing session was held at West Bromwich yesterday.....

There were 333 applications for renewals of licenses, 88 from West Bromwich, 62 from Wednesbury, 32 from Darlaston, 77 from Tipton, 26 from Handsworth, and 48 from Harborne. These were all granted, the following applicants, who had been fined during the year for offences against their licenses, being reprimanded and cautioned.....

Joseph Benton, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Butcroft, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/11/1867

“W. Hodson of Kings Hill will run G. Green of Wednesbury or Tudor of Dudley Port 100 yards, with two yards start, for £5 a side. Money ready at *J. Benton*, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/5/1868

“Young Joe Turner of Darlaston will take a yard start in 100 of Evans, for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Benton*'s, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/8/1868 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

Joseph Benton, now in lodgings at Isaac Williamson's, Angle Iron Smith, Hill Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Iron Bridge Plater, formerly and for nearly four years last past and until the 1st day of August instant residing at Butcroft, Darlaston aforesaid, Publican and Iron Bridge Plater, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 20th day of August, 1868, is hereby required to Surrender himself to the Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, at the First Meeting of the Creditors, to be held on the 21st day of September, 1868, at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the Court House, Lichfield Street, Walsall. Mr. F. F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Joseph E. Sheldon, of Wednesbury, is the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy. At the Meeting, the Registrar will receive the Proofs of the Debts of the Creditors, and the Creditors may choose an Assignee or Assignees of the Bankrupt's Estate and Effects. All persons having in their possession any of the Effects of the said Bankrupt must deliver them to the Registrar, and all Debts due to the Bankrupt must be paid to the Registrar.

J. E. Sheldon, Esq, Solicitor, Wednesbury.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/12/1868

“Walsall Bankrupts.....

Joseph Benton, angle ironsmith, Darlaston, came up for his last examination and passed, supported by Mr. Sheldon.”

London Gazette 15/12/1868

“*Joseph Benton* An Order of Discharge was granted by the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 9th day of December, 1868.”

County Courts Chronicle 1/1/1870

“The Bankruptcy Act 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

William Jordan Potter, now and since the 22nd day of November 1869, residing in furnished lodgings at No.8, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, machinist, previously and since the 4th day of November 1869, residing in lodgings with Thomas Simpson, at No.9, Upper Dean Street, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, machinist, and previously and since the 29th September 1868, residing at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Butt Croft, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, innkeeper and machinist, and previously of Terrace Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, machinist, and previously for six years and upwards of No.48, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury aforesaid, machinist, and occasionally employed as a slater, having been adjudged bankrupt under a petition for adjudication of bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 2nd day of December 1869, a public sitting, for the said bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make application for his discharge, will be held at the said court, on the 25th day of January 1870, at the Court House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender. Frederic F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the official assignee, and John Glover, of Walsall, is the solicitor in the bankruptcy.
F. F. Clarke, Registrar.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/3/1870

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Francis Taylor, lock filer, was fined 10s and costs, with the option of seven days' imprisonment, for having refused to leave the HORSE AND JOCKEY public house, Darlaston, when requested to do so.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/5/1870 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale. OLD HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Butcroft, Darlaston.

By E. B. Scholefield, This Day (Tuesday), at 11 o'clock am.

Brewing Vessels, Stock-in-Trade, Household Furniture, Malt Crusher, and numerous Effects.

Auctioneer's Office, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

1871 Census

Butcroft – HORSE AND JOCKEY INN

[1] *Joseph Southall* (78), licensed victualler, born Enville;

[2] *Sarah Southall* (77), wife, born Swindon, Staffordshire;

[3] *Edward Southall* (28), son, butcher, out of employ, born Dudley;

[4] *Hannah Hartland* (19), visitor, barmaid, born West Bromwich:

Midland Examiner and Times 24/10/1874

“*Edward Powell*, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises, and also with permitting gaming on the 10th October last. Mr. Sheldon defended.

PC Bakewell deposed to visiting the defendant's house on the 10th October in plain clothes. He went into the tap-room, and saw several men drunk. One man came in while he was there. He was drunk. The defendant asked if he had been and got drunk somewhere else and then come there. He filled him a glass of ale; one man went to sleep. He asked defendant if he had a billiard room. He said he had not got a billiard, but a small bagatelle board. He asked him to go and see a game or two, what they did they were obliged to do on the quiet. Four men were playing for a quart of beer, and the two that lost played off for it. He saw several other games played, and there was betting on each game. He saw 10s or 12s lost and won. He remained upwards of an hour. The defendant came in several times while the betting was going on. He supplied one quart of ale himself, and the other was fetched by the parties. He asked who had got to pay for it. He told one of the men to look after the beer. Sergeant Curtis than came. PC Sewell was with witness all the time.

Mr. Sheldon subjected the witness to a severe cross-examination, but failed to shake his evidence in any material manner. He could not tell the names of any of the persons that were drunk. He saw defendant turn out the man who came in drunk. He did not see any notices on the wall prohibiting swearing or gambling. He did not see either of the cards produced. Sewell and himself went together and left together. There was a kind of waiter in the bagatelle room, and he played.

PC Sewell gave corroborative evidence as to the main facts.

In cross-examination, witness said that he got closely into conversation with one of the men in the tap-room, and he promised to find him work. He had some bread and cheese with the defendant.

Sergeant Curtis deposed to going into defendant's house before the last two witnesses left. From what they told him he told the defendant that there had been gambling on the bagatelle table. Defendant said that he never allowed any gambling.

Mr. Sheldon made a very able address in defence, and contended that the manner in which the case was got up was most un-English, and ought not to be tolerated. The spy system was generally scouted by all right-thinking persons. He reviewed the evidence with the view of throwing discredit upon the constables' statements, and contended that the knowledge that gaming was going on was not brought home to the defendant. He called Stephen Baker, whose evidence went to show that the men in the tap-room were not drunk. Defendant ordered the men who came in to go out again. He told him to go and get sober where he had got drunk.

Jeremiah Bradley saw the two constables come into the defendant's house on the day in question. One said he was a bricklayer, and the other said he was a fitter. They had several pints of beer, and some bread and cheese. The man who came in drunk was removed almost immediately. The constables asked to go into the bagatelle room. Defendant said they could take their drink in with them, but no gambling was allowed, as they had to be very quiet.

Eliza Yates, servant to the defendant, deposed to waiting upon the bagatelle room upon the Saturday night in question. She saw the two constables there. She did not see or hear any gambling. The cards produced were on the walls. Defendant always ordered her to remove the balls as soon as she saw anything going on wrong.

The magistrates retired for consultation, and upon their return into court Major Williams said they had decided to dismiss the charge of permitting drunkenness, and to convict upon the information for permitting gambling, and he would be fined £5 and costs, and his license endorsed."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1875

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary).....

Edward Powell, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Butt Croft, Darlaston, was charged with having permitted drunkenness, on the 19th instant. Sergeant Breton and Police-constable O'Brian visited the house between five and six o'clock in the evening, and in the tap room found a man named Charles Butcher, who was drunk. Evidence was given to show that until the officers called his attention to the fact, the defendant did not know that Butcher was in the house, and he was only ordered to pay the costs.

Butcher, who was summoned for having been found drunk on the premises, was ordered to pay a fine of 10s and costs."

Liverpool Mercury 17/11/1875

"From the *Gazette* of last night. Bankrupts.....

Edward Powell, lately residing at 51, Green Lane, Walsall, Staffordshire, and then lately carrying on business at Butcroft, Darlaston, licensed victualler."

Midland Examiner and Times 29/1/1876

"At the Wolverhampton Police Court, on Thursday, James Pickard (22), Darlaston, was charged with having stolen a horse and cart, of the value of £22, the property of Edward Tandy, maltster; also with having stolen the sum of £23 13s 5d, the property of *Edward Ellis*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Darlaston.

The charge of stealing the horse and cart was proved against him last week, and the second charge has been discovered since he was last before the Court.

Whilst he was in Bell Street, Wolverhampton, on the morning of the 19th instant, a man who was in charge

of a horse and cart invited him to have something to drink in a public house there. He afterwards left the house, and drove the horse and cart in question away from the KINGS HEAD door. Later in the day he drove to Darlaston and called at Mr. *Ellis's* house, and after being supplied with refreshments, he took the opportunity, during the temporary absence of Miss *Ellis*, a niece of the landlord, to steal £23 13s 5d from a drawer in a room at the back of the bar. Information of both robberies was given to the police authorities, and Police-constable Bealey, of the borough police force, arrested the prisoner in Wolverhampton. Sergeant Breton, of Darlaston, applied for the prisoner to be remanded to Wednesbury until next Tuesday, for further evidence.

The prisoner pleaded guilty to stealing the money, and said, 'I was drunk at the time, and I hope you will have mercy on me.' He was, however, remanded to Wednesbury till next Tuesday.

Mr. *Ellis*, addressing the Bench, complimented Police-constable Bealey for the energy he had displayed in finding out and apprehending the prisoner."

AND

Cannock Chase Examiner 5/2/1876

"At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary, James Pickard, shoe-riveter, of Bell Street, was charged with stealing £53 3s 5d, the money of *Edward Ellis*, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Darlaston.

Eugenie *Ellis*, niece of the prosecutor, said that the prisoner went into the vaults at the house of the prosecutor at two o'clock on the 19th ult, and remained there a quarter of an hour. During that time witness left the bar for a few minutes, and on her return the prisoner had left, and she missed a bag containing £23 3s 5d out of a drawer.

Police-constable Bealey, of the Wolverhampton borough police, said that on the day in question he apprehended the prisoner on a charge of stealing a horse and cart from Bell Street, Wolverhampton, on the morning of that day. Prisoner was taken before the Wolverhampton borough magistrates, and discharged, as he then said he did not intend to steal the horse and cart, but having got drunk, he took them out for a drive.

Witness found upon him £7 4s 11½d in gold, silver, and copper, which the prisoner said he had saved whilst teetotal, and also the bag produced, which was identified as the one stolen from the prosecutor's premises.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he was drunk at the time of the robbery, and that he was now very sorry for what he had done. He was sent to gaol for six months with hard labour."

1881 Census

202, Butcroft – HORSE AND JOCKEY

[1] *Henry Worrod* (48), licensed victualler, born Balsall, Warwickshire;

[2] *Charlotte Worrod* (48), wife, born Coventry;

[3] *Minnie Worrod* (13), daughter, born Birmingham;

[4] *Emma Worrod* (10), daughter, born Birmingham;

[5] *Charles Worrod* (7), son, born Birmingham;

[6] *Florrie Moreton* (14), domestic servant, born Wollaston:

Sporting Life 25/8/1883

"Vaughan, of Darlaston, will run Partridge, of Great Bridge, for £10 or £25 a side, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, in one month from signing articles. Man and money ready at HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, But Croft, Darlaston, or ROYAL GEORGE INN, Fallings Heath, Darlaston. The *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder and referee."

1891 Census

202, Butcroft – HORSE AND JOCKEY

[1] *John Carter* (35), screw forger, born Darlaston;

[2] *Martha Carter* (31), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Sarah Carter* (3), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

"The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall..... HORSE AND JOCKEY, Walsall Road.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1892

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, on the application of Mr. C. A. Loxton, the music licenses of HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Butcroft, and the GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, were renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/10/1894

“Yesterday, Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Butcroft, Darlaston, on the body of Alfred T. Hillsword, Railway Street, works manger, who died suddenly on Friday. He had been treated for heart disease from time to time, and a shock, consequent on news of the death of a relative a day or two before, was supposed to have accelerated his death. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1900

“At Wednesbury, yesterday, *James Munger*, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, was charged with permitting gaming on April 23, 28, and 30. Mr Turton prosecuted, and Mr. Glover defended.

PC Haynes gave evidence as to seeing persons playing bagatelle, and to small sums of money being staked on the games. Defendant was fined 40s and costs on one charge, and ordered to pay the costs in the other cases.”

Alfred Small (23), bachelor, fitter, married Alice Wilbraham (25), spinster, on 19th August 1900.

1901 Census

33, Walsall Road – HORSE AND JOCKEY INN

[1] *Alfred Small* (24), engine fitter, born Darlaston;

[2] Alice Small (20), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Annie Foster (18), domestic servant, born Birmingham:

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

“A successful smoking concert was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Butcroft, Darlaston, in aid of Mr. Fred Richardson, who has had the misfortune to lose his eyesight while following his employment. The chair was taken at eight o’clock by Councillor H. Hemmings, who made a most touching reference to the cause of the concert. The following artistes contributed to the programme: Messrs. C. Pallet, E. Boulter, E. Harvey, W. Hawkins, and Professor Alberto.”

Walsall Advertiser 20/8/1910

“An interesting Marathon race took place from the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Butcroft, Darlaston, on Saturday evening, the event being witnessed by a large number of spectators.

The weather was of an ideal character for such sport and fifteen competitors left the HORSE AND JOCKEY at about 5.30, the route being by way of the Bull Stake, King Street, Church Street, Blockall, the Green, Tolleys Forge, the Crossings, Station Street, Walsall, and back to the starting point. The finish was of a very exciting character. E. Williams, of James Bridge, arrived in first, and two seconds later H. Downes, of Kings Hill, reached the finishing point, while almost on his heels was W. Perry, of Kings Hill. The method of handicapping was to give those who had never run in a race before one minute start, those who had competed and lost, half a minute, while runners who had previously been successful were placed on scratch. The winner was among those who had a minute start, while the second person in, H. Downes, received two minutes start, as he was much younger than any of the other runners, and was to be complimented on his performance.

The prizes, which were a handsome gold medal, a silver medal, with gold centre, and a silver medal, respectively, were afterwards presented by Mr. *A. Small*, who promoted the race.”

1911 Census

33, Walsall Road – HORSE AND JOCKEY INN

- [1] *Alfred Small* (32), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Alice Small* (31), wife, married 10 years, born Bilston;
- [3] *A. Small* (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Annie Wilbraham* (15), sister-in-law, barmaid, born Bilston:

South Staffordshire Times 10/1/1920

“Mr. R. A. Tench made an application for a special license, at the Town Hall, on January 29th, from 8pm to 1am for the sale of drink on the occasion of a dance in connection with the Wolverhampton Orphanage. At the Council meeting evening, the use of the Town Hall was granted, and now he (Mr. Tench) applied for the occasional license. All the profits of the dance and refreshments would go to the object intended. Last year the application was from 8pm to 12 o’clock. The caterer on the occasion would be the licensee of the HORSE AND JOCKEY (Mr. *Small*), Walsall Road, Darlaston.

Superintendent Salt recalled the fact that last April a similar application was made up to 1 o’clock, but was only granted up to midnight. He had nothing to object to now. The license was granted.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 8/11/1924

“A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers’ Society was held on Tuesday afternoon, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Walsall Road, Darlaston, Alderman J. H. Sheldon presided.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 20/12/1924

“There was a happy gathering at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Walsall, on Saturday afternoon, to celebrate the coming-of-age of Miss *Alice Small*, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. *Alfred Small*, host and hostess of the hotel. Over 70 sat down to dinner, which was excellently served, and at the conclusion, Mr. S. J. Owen proposed ‘The Health of Miss *Small*,’ wishing her every happiness and prosperity.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 4/4/1925

“The members of the Darlaston Lodge of the R.A.O.B. (G.L.E.) sat down to an excellent repast on Monday night at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Walsall Road, Darlaston. The catering was carried out by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *A. Small*, and there were about 40 present.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 18/7/1925

“The members of the Darlaston Lodge of the R.A.O.B. (G.L.E.) held an open night on Monday, in the grounds of the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Walsall Road, when there was a fair attendance and an enjoyable time was spent.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 17/10/1925

“National Foremen’s Association. To mark the opening of the winter season it was decided to have a social evening at the headquarters HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, last Saturday night, so that members could meet together and enjoy themselves in harmony and social intercourse.....”

Walsall Observer 27/5/1933

“Buffalo Ceremonies.....”

At a gathering of the Darlaston Lodge of the R.A.O.B., G.L.E., at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Walsall Road, on Monday, Bro. S. Swatman, CP, PG, Ty, was raised to the Third Degree of KOM by Bro. C. G. Harding, ROH, the Knight Director of Ceremonies being Bro. W. Page, KOM, and the Knight Sponsors, Bros. H. T. Linnell, ROH, and S. A. Wood, KOM. ‘The Newly-raised Knight’ was proposed by Bro. Harding, and responded to by Bro. Swatman, who, in turn, gave ‘The Installing Officer’ to which Bro. Harding replied. ‘The Knights Chapter and Director of Ceremonies’ was proposed by Bro. W. Willmore, CP, and responded to by Bros. J. Lote, KOM, and W. Page, KOM, and ‘The Province of Walsall and South Stafford-

shire,' given by Bro. W. Russell, CP, was replied to by Bro. B. Linnell, KOM. Bro. W. Mason, CP, proposed 'The Visiting Brethren.'”

1939 Register

33, Walsall Road

- [1] *Alfred Small*, date of birth 13/2/1877, hotel proprietor, widowed;
- [2] William J. Mason, dob 15/5/1900, turner, iron and steel, heavy work, married;
- [3] Alice Mason, dob 11/12/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] Edna J. S. (Mason) Hasler, dob 16/6/1934, at school, single;
- [5] Florence M. (Wilbraham) Ward, dob 10/6/1915, domestic help, single:

Rugeley Times 3/1/1948

“Representatives of Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association and the R.A.O.B. (Darlaston Lodge) attended the funeral at Darlaston on Christmas Eve of Mr. *Alfred Small*, the town’s oldest publican, who had been licensee of the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Walsall Road. A service at All Saints Church was conducted by the Rev. A. J. Colley, and the interment was at James Bridge Cemetery.....”

1948 Probate

“*Alfred Small* of HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 20 December 1947. Probate Birmingham 6 July to Alice Mason (wife of William Mason). Effects £16,514 13s 8d.”

Plans were approved for alterations on 21st July 1954.

A conservatory was added in 1994.

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/4/1994

“Down Your Local. HORSE AND JOCKEY, Walsall Road, Darlaston.

It isn’t just the real ale that comes packed with a punch at the HORSE AND JOCKEY. For landlady Viv *Elwell*’s 16-year-old son Stuart is something of a teenage boxing sensation Last year he won three national titles. The trouble is finding him decent opponents who can last the course. He spent four hours travelling to a fight last weekend, knocked out the other lad in the first round and was in the ring for only 90 seconds. If he does make it to the top, he might cast his mind back to the regulars at mum’s pub who had a whip round to raise the £350 travelling costs for him to box abroad.

Stuart’s glittering boxing prizes, including shields and trophies, adorn the walls of this recently-renovated pub, vying for space with the awards won by the pub’s thriving fishing club.....”

Express & Star 15/10/2011

“A car crashed into the front of a Black Country pub destroying a wall and bay window. The black Fiat car smashed into the front of the HORSE AND JOCKEY pub in Darlaston at around 3.45am today. Landlord of the Walsall Road pub, *James Greenway*, said he was woken by the crash which happened just below his bedroom window. The 57-year-old said, ‘I was woken by the skid and then there was the loud crash. I didn’t know what was going on, and I felt the building shake as it hit. It was right below my window, you wouldn’t believe that such a small car could cause so much damage.’”

[2022]

JOLLY CRISPIN

Cock Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Simkin [1834] – [1850]

Mary Simkin [1851] – [1859]

Zachariah Sivorn [1861]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Simkin = Thomas Simkins = Thomas Simpkins

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/1/1838

“George Penrice, a young man about twenty-two or twenty-three years of age, and who bore no appearance of being the desperado which the witnesses for the complainant represented him, was charged with breaking the large number of forty-four panes of glass in the windows of *Thomas Simpkins*, of Darlaston. It appeared from the evidence that on the 18th of December a gun was raffled for at the house of the complainant, who is a publican, and that, after the raffle, the party remained drinking until between two and three o’clock in the morning. A squabble and then a fight ensued, and the parties, in consequence of the solicitation and remonstrances of the landlord, adjourned into the street to settle their differences. Here the fight was continued; but the landlord in the course of the proceedings had, it seems, incurred the resentment of the defendant and his party, and a witness named Butler stated that he saw the defendant pelt the house of the complainant with stones, &c, and break the windows. Another witness named Harper, and who was not at all connected with the disturbance, deposed that on hearing the noise he opened his casement, and he also saw Penrice busily engaged in the work of destruction; and about a peck of large stones in a basket were exhibited as having been picked up from the rooms of the house, in which seven or eight children were sleeping, whose lives were consequently endangered. The expense of repairing the damage was stated to be £1 15s 2d.

A legal gentleman, who appeared for the defendant, cross-examined the witnesses with a view of shaking their testimony, but nothing favourable to the defendant was elicited; and then he argued that the complainant, having been the cause of his own wrong, by encouraging intoxication and by keeping his house open at illegal hours was not entitled to recompense for the damage committed. From this view of the case, however, both the Magistrates (the Rev. J. Clare and H. Hill, Esq) dissented, remarking that the proper course to punish such conduct was by laying an information against the complainant for the offence, not by breaking his windows.

After this the defendant’s attorney called a person named Simon Rubery, who saw the fight, and said the defendant was with him while some of the windows were broken, and that he did not throw any stones; but as this witness spoke only to the conduct of the defendant during a part of the disturbance, the Magistrates were of opinion that his evidence was by no means a satisfactory refutation of that given behalf part of the complainant, and convicted defendant in the penalty of 20s and costs.

George Penrice was then again charged with having, in company with his brother, Thomas Penrice, thrown stones at and placed in bodily fear Edward Severn and his wife, who required the defendants to find sureties for their future good behaviour. Severn and his wife, who were examined separately, concurred in stating that they had been visiting a relation, and were returning home rather late at night on Tuesday, when they were met by the defendants, who commenced pelting them with stones. In reply to this a witness stated that he was with Thomas and George Penrice the whole of the evening in question, and that they never saw the complainants; but Severn and his wife swore positively to the defendants, saying they knew them well, and that the present was not the first time by many they had been so treated. The constable in some degree corroborated their evidence, by stating that George Penrice, from his habit of throwing stones at persons, had become the terror of the neighbourhood. ‘It was,’ he added, giving a sense to the word somewhat unusual in

a court of justices, though well understood in Darlaston, ‘quite a regular, quite a *legal* thing with him.’ Both the defendants were ordered to find sureties.”

Thomas Simkin, beer retailer, Cock Street. [1841], [1849], [1850]

1841 Census

Cock Street

- [1] *Thomas Simkin* (43), born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Mary Simkin* (48), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Elizabeth Simkin* (16), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Thomas Simkin* (14), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Benjamin Simkin* (11), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Charlotte Simkin* (8), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Maria Simkin* (7), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Thomas Holey* (17), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *Ellen Sanders* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 19/7/1845

“On Tuesday last a meeting of the retail brewers was held at the JOLLY CRISPIN, Cock Street, Darlaston, to receive a deputation from Wolverhampton, and to establish a society to aid in carrying out the movement which has lately commenced.

The Secretary of the Wolverhampton Society said the deputation had come there not to spread the seeds of discord and disloyalty amongst them, but to tell them their duty both to the Queen, the law, and themselves. The law, which he cited, allowed police officers to go in and out of houses in search of vagabonds, but did not instruct them to become common informers, and to entrap them into offences. The latter allowed a beerseller to keep open his house until eleven o’clock for the sale of beer, and not after; and it was the wish of the generality of the trade that all should keep the law until they could obtain a new legislative enactment to put them upon a better footing. For this purpose they proposed to organise the members of the trade in a united body, to secure the exercise of their rights as tradesmen. To attain this object they must form societies, and all must assist in the work. They proposed to appoint delegates from every town, to meet in Birmingham, and to consider and adopt a memorial, stating their grievances, and soliciting redress. They were now crippled in trade, robbed of their profits by fines and expenses of informations, and deprived of the liberty of using their capital to their own advantage.

A Member of the trade in Darlaston then proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously passed, ‘That the beersellers of Darlaston do form a society, to join with the beersellers of Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and Dudley, and other towns, to obtain equal rights, and privileges.’

The deputation from Wolverhampton was then thanked for their attendance, and a society was formed, which, from the enthusiastic spirit of the meeting, promises to be a useful auxiliary to the cause.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/10/1846

“*Thomas Simkin* was fined 20s and costs, for having his house open on Sunday morning, the 20th of September, at Darlaston.”

Birmingham Journal 24/7/1847

“Lodge Anniversaries. On Monday last, upwards of 450 members of various lodges sat down to excellent dinners provided for them at the following public houses: Mr. Joseph Yates’s, SCOTTS ARMS; Mr. George Wilkes’s, GREEN DRAGON; Mr. John Stokes’s, CASTLE INN; Mr. *Thomas Simkins*, JOLLY CRISPIN..... The lodge held at Mr. *Simkins*’s, which is the United Benevolent Good Fellows, proceeded to the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Bilston, when a sermon was preached by the Rev. David Bowen, of Darlaston, after which they returned to the lodge-room, and partook of a good dinner of old English fare. Harmony and sentiments were the order of the day, and the parties separated highly satisfied with the proceedings of the anniversary.”

Mary Simkin = Mary Simpkin = Mary Simkiss

1851 Census

Cock Street

- [1] *Mary Simkin* (56), widow, provision dealer and beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] Thomas Simkin (22), son, screw forger, born Darlaston;
- [3] Charlotte Spittle (20), daughter, married, bonnet maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] Maria Simkin (17), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Hannah Bruerton (16), general servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1859

“At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before J. Bagnall and Mr. Round, Frederick Haywood, Joseph Dower, William Bounce, Thomas Smith, John Burges, Thomas Downen, Richard Clay, and Thomas Perry, were charged with having on the 18th of July, assaulted one David Broom, a police-constable; and Richard Orton, with the other defendants, was charged with assaulting Police-constable William Hunt, while in the execution of his duty, on the same day. Mr. Slater appeared for the defence.

The evidence of Hunt was to the effect that on the night in question he and Broom were sent for to the JOLLY CRISPIN public house, kept by *Mary Simkiss*, in Cox Street, where there was a row, and when Broom interfered in his official capacity, Clay struck him in the mouth. Broom was then about to take Clay into custody, but the other men rescued him. Witness had only been in Darlaston about four weeks, and was in his private clothes. He was struck on the head with a poker, but did not know who struck him. Broom dragged Clay downstairs after being struck by him. He (witness) did not use his staff, but saw Broom draw his staff. When he and Broom got into the room the benches were knocked over, and the legs were out.

Witness admitted that he had since been discharged from the service. Could not say that he received more than one blow with the poker. Did not remember seeing Heywood in the house at all. Saw Bounce, Thomas Downen, Perry and Orton there. Orton was in the upstairs room, but did not remember seeing him downstairs. The blow with the poker was struck downstairs.

Police-constable Broom was afterwards examined. He stated that on the night in question he went with the last witness to the house named. When they got there Clay asked him what authority he had there, and then struck him on the mouth. He then seized Clay and took him downstairs, where he was assaulted by some of the other men. He drew his handcuffs, and then Orton struck him, after which Joseph Downen also struck him. He (witness) then loosed the handcuffs and Orton ran upstairs with them. Saw Joseph Downen strike last witness on the head with a poker. Hunt then went to the station, and whilst he was away they got him (witness) down and ‘punched’ him. Hunt came back with his staff, which he (witness) caught hold of to defend himself with. Orton took the staff off him, and went upstairs with it. They afterwards got Clay out of the way, and then they went upstairs. He followed them, and Orton threatened to knock the brains out of any constable that should draw his staff. In cross-examination he admitted that he did pull Clay downstairs, and might in so doing have torn his waistcoat.

Edward Cottrell, nephew of Mrs. *Simkin*, who keeps the public house, corroborated the evidence of the police.

Police-sergeant McCrea, the officer in charge at Darlaston station, deposed to having gone to the scene of the disturbance, and seeing the two police-constables suffering from the effects of blows they had received. Heard some of the men present using violent language and threatening the police, and Perry said, ‘Kill the b—, they have no right here.’ Hunt was bleeding, and he sent for the doctor to attend him.

Mr. Slater, in the course of an able address for the defence, said that the real facts of the case were, that the policeman Broom went into the club room, stayed there several minutes without asking any question, and when requested to go he refused. He stated there about ten minutes, and Clay, the secretary, asked him by what authority he was there, whereupon he seized him and dragged him downstairs. The two constables afterwards went upstairs to the club room and, without making any demand for admittance, they burst open the door, and one of them struck a member of the club who had never in any way interfered. Mr. Slater afterwards commented upon the evidence, and then proceeded to call witnesses.

Joseph Blakemore deposed: On the 18th July there was a fight between Perry and one Parkes at the JOLLY CRISPIN, where there was a club meeting. Perry was afterwards taken downstairs. Police-constable Broom

came up into the club room afterwards, and stood inside for several minutes. The members asked the secretary Clay to question him as to his authority. He did so, and asked him many times to leave the room. He did not strike him. Broom did not answer Clay, but stood there about ten minutes, and then went out. Witness then went downstairs, and the police had gone. Did not see Clay or Heywood touch the police, or hear anyone use any threat towards them. Orton remained upstairs the whole of the time. The witness Cotterell was dismissed from the club because he did not behave himself. During the time there was the row downstairs, the whole of the defendants, with the exception of Perry, were in the club room.

John Hassell stated that he separated Perry and Parkes, who had fought in the club room. He put Perry out of the room, and remained out himself about ten minutes. When he returned he saw Broom there. Witness then confirmed the testimony of last witness respecting Clay's conduct, and added that he saw Broom take hold of Clay. Clay had not used any threat, or struck the constable. Broom dragged him downstairs violently. Clay did not afterwards return to the room. Broom and Hunt afterwards went upstairs, burst open the door, and commenced using his staff, with which he hit one John Parkes, a man who had not spoken to him at all. Parkes fell, from the effects of the blow. Orton remained upstairs from the commencement to the end of the row.

Stephen Farrer gave somewhat similar testimony, swearing that during the whole of the disturbance, Orton and Perry were in the club room. Did not hear any bad language used in the room towards the police. Believed that all the defendants were sober. Did not see any blow struck upstairs.

Ann Dowan said she saw one of the police pull defendant Clay downstairs very roughly. After which she, with his wife and some others, took him home. He was not pulled away from the police by anyone. She did not see either of the policemen struck by anyone; but there were many people there besides club members when she left.

William Boffey, not a member of the said club, deposed that being at the JOLLY CRISPIN on the night in question, he heard a row downstairs. He did not know any of the persons engaged in it. The only one of the defendants he saw was Clay, who was at the bottom of the stairs. Orton came down when the row was over, drank with him, and then went away.

Thomas Harris confirmed the foregoing statement.

Sarah Heywood proved that Thomas Dowan left the public house before nine o'clock, which was before the police had been there at all.

Richard Harrold said he saw Perry brought down to the bottom of the stairs, and he took him home and remained with him more than an hour.

This closed the case for the defence.

The Magistrates then retired with Mr. Thursfield, and after having been absent for a few minutes, they returned to the Court, intimating, without any remark, that they had decided to dismiss the case.

The case occupied upwards of three hours.

Mary Simkin, landlady of the JOLLY CRISPIN, was fined 5s and costs for knowingly allowing drunkenness and disorderly conduct in her house on the 18th of July, the day of the above row."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1859

"At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before J. Leigh, Esq, a number of publicans were summoned for selling ale, &c, in booths erected beyond the limits of their licensed premises, at Darlaston Wake, a general warning having been previously given to publicans not to infringe the law in this respect.....

Mr. Slater, for the defendants, contended that a wake was like a fair, and that his clients had a right to sell on the days named.

Mr. Leigh decided otherwise, and a fine of £5, the lowest amount allowed by law, with 11s 6d costs, was inflicted upon each of those charged with one offence, charges for other offences being adjourned, in order for the promoters of the proceedings to consider whether they would withdraw them. The following were the persons fined.....

Mary Simpkin, of Cox Street, beerhouse keeper."

Zachariah Sivorn = Zachariah Sivern

1861 Census

Cock Street – JOLLY CRISPIN

- [1] *Zachariah Sivorn* (22), unmarried, coal miner and publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Edward Sivorn (45), father, coal miner, charter master, born Darlaston;
- [3] Catherine Sivorn (42), mother, born Darlaston;
- [4] Esther Sivorn (19), sister, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elizabeth Sivorn (17), sister, barmaid, born Darlaston;
- [6] Edward Sivorn (13), brother, coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [7] Maria Sivorn (10), sister, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] William Sivorn (3), brother, born Darlaston;
- [9] George Harrison (13), potboy, born Worcester;
- [10] Sarah Sivorn (12), visitor, born Darlaston:

JUNCTION

34, Foster Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Turner [1861]
Mrs. Eliza Turner [1868] – [1870]
Thomas Bradbury []

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Forster Street – Beerhouse – GRAND JUNCTION INN

- [1] *Thomas Turner* (51), retail brewer, born Brewood;
- [2] *Eliza Turner* (41), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Thomas Turner, (20), son, bricklayer, born Darlaston;
- [4] Sarah Turner (17), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elizabeth Turner (14), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] John Turner (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Eliza Turner (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Jonathan Turner (3), son, born Darlaston:

Mrs. *Eliza Turner*, beer retailer, Foster Street. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/8/1869

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Davis and Mr. Jesson, Mrs. *Eliza Turner*, of the JUNCTION INN, Darlaston, was charged with selling porter at three o’clock on the previous Wednesday morning. Sergeant Price said that he went to the house at three o’clock in the morning and he saw seven men go upstairs. On searching the house he found them in the club room. Defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Meeting at West Bromwich.....

The license of *Eliza Turner*, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, was refused.”

London Gazette 16/5/1879

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Thomas Bradbury*, of No.20, Shepwell-green, Willenhall, in the county of Stafford, Locksmith, but recently of the JUNCTION INN, Foster-street, Darlaston, in the said county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper and Locksmith.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. George Baker, Solicitor, 63, Walsall-street, Willenhall, in the said county of Stafford, on the 30th day of May, 1879, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 14th day of May, 1879.

Geo. Baker, 63, Walsall-street, Willenhall, Solicitor for the said *Thomas Bradbury*.”

Wednesbury Herald 9/4/1881

“Mr. D. W. Lees has received instructions from the Mortgagee to offer for Sale by Auction the following valuable freehold Property on Tuesday, April 19th, 1881 All that Beerhouse known as the JUNCTION INN, situate in and being numbered 34 in Foster Street, Darlaston, with the Yard, Malthouse, and Outbuildings thereto belonging; now void, but when last tenanted produced a nett rental of £13 0s 0d per annum, and also.....”

JUNCTION

57, (22), Station Street, James Bridge, DARLASTON

OWNERS

James Barber

Joseph Barber [1928]

Twists Brewery Ltd.

Atkinsons Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Barber [1866] – **1914**)

Joseph Barber [1919] – **1945**);

Fred Williams (**1945 – 1951**);

William Harper (**1951 – 1955**);

Leslie Arthur Best (**1955 – 1957**);

Doris Victoria Beddow (**1957 – 1959**);

Ellis Blackham (**1959 – 1961**):

NOTES

22, Station Street [1880], [1881], [1891], [1901]

57, Station Street [1939], [1940]

It had an ante-69 beerhouse license.

It was built in 1862 by *James Barber*.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1866

“Messrs. Jesson, Adkins, Bagnall, H. Williams, Marshall, and Lewis sat at the West Bromwich Police Court, yesterday, to hear applications for new [spirit] licenses. There were forty applications.....
Mr. Slater applied on behalf of *James Barber*, Station Street, James Bridge Refused.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1867

“On Wednesday the adjourned licensing meeting for West Bromwich district was held in the Petty Sessions Room new applications [for spirit licenses].....
James Barber, Station Street, James Bridge, Darlaston, supported by Mr. J. T. Bayley. Refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/1/1870

“Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary) Elizabeth Griffiths, beerhouse keeper, James Bridge, was fined 20s and costs for having had her house open during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 16th inst; and *James Barber*, beerhouse keeper, Station Street, James Bridge, was fined 1s and costs, making 10s 6d altogether, for having had his house open at twenty-eight minutes past eleven o'clock on the night of Thursday last. The defendants had not brought their licenses with them, and they were ordered to produce them before the Stipendiary at his next sitting in this Court, under a penalty of £5 in each case.”

1871 Census

Station Street

- [1] *James Barber* (33), gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Ann Barber (32), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Joseph Barber* (8), son scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] Mary Ann Barber (2), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Emily Jane Barber (1 month), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] Margaret Dunn (16), domestic servant, born Birmingham
- [7] David Westwood (12), adopted son, born Darlaston:

James Barber, beer retailer, 22 James Bridge. [1880]

1881 Census

22, Station Street – Beer House

- [1] *James Barber* (43), gunlock maker, born Darlaston;
- [2] Ann Barber (42), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Joseph Barber* (18), son, gunlock maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] Mary A. Barber (12), daughter, house duties, born Darlaston;
- [5] Emily J. Barber (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Clara Barber (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Alice Barber (4), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

22, Station Street – JUNCTION INN

- [1] *James Barber* (54), gun lock maker, born Darlaston;
- [2] Ann Barber (53), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Joseph Barber* (27), son, gun lock stamper, born Darlaston;
- [4] Mary A. Allen (21), daughter, married, born Darlaston;
- [5] Emily Barber (20), daughter, born Darlaston;

- [6] Clara Barber (15), daughter, imbecile, born Darlaston;
[7] Alice Barber (14), daughter, born Darlaston:

1901 Census

22, Station Street – JUNCTION INN

- [1] *James Barber* (63), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
[2] Ann Barber (63), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Emily J. Barber (30), daughter, born Darlaston;
[4] Clara Barber (26), daughter, feeble minded, born Darlaston;
[5] Alice Barber (25), daughter, born Darlaston;
[6] Clarence B. Allen (5), grandson, born Hapton, Lancashire:

1904 Probate

“Ann Barber of the JUNCTION INN, Station Street, James Bridge, Darlaston, Staffordshire (wife of *James Barber*) died 20 October 1904. Administration Lichfield 3 December to the said *James Barber*, beerhouse keeper. Effects £268 10s 3d.”

1911 Census

22, Station Street – JUNCTION INN

- [1] *James Barber* (72), widower, gun lock maker and publican, born Darlaston;
[2] Clara Barber (35), daughter, feeble minded, born Darlaston;
[3] Alice Barber (34), daughter, housekeeper, born Darlaston;
[4] Eliza Timmings (14), domestic servant, born Walsall Wood:

1914 Probate

“*James Barber* of JUNCTION INN, Station Street, James Bridge, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 24 March 1914. Probate Lichfield 30 June to Mary Ann Allen (wife of John Allen) and Alice Barber, spinster. Effects £2,434 10s 9d.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 11/2/1928

“.....but he [**Superintendent Adams**] felt he must draw the attention of the Justices to the JUNCTION Beerhouse, Station Street, kept by *Joseph Barber*. These premises were very dirty and should be kept in a much cleaner condition. The attention of the licensee had been called to the fact which would be objected to on the grounds of redundancy.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 10/3/1928

“.....It was in bad structural condition, while the general character of the rooms was dirty. The stairs leading from the clubroom were rotted and a positive danger to the public. Every corner of the yard was filled with rubbish, and the premises were generally in a neglected state The trade was three and a quarter barrels per week, and four dozen bottled goods.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1928

“The principal meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday, when 14 licences which had been scheduled by the licensing justices, mostly from the South Staffordshire area, came under consideration. Of these three were renewed and the remainder were referred for compensation.....

A successful appeal for the retention of the license of the JUNCTION INN, Darlaston, an ante-'69 beerhouse, was made by Mr. A. J. Long, barrister, on behalf of the owner and licensee, *Joseph Barber*. Questioned by Mr. Godfrey, barrister, who appeared for the justices, Inspector Willett stated that since the justices' report the premises had been redecorated throughout and a quantity of 'rubbish' which had accumulated had been removed. The trade done was about 3¼ barrels a week exclusive of bottled goods. Replying to Mr. Long, witness said that there was no cause for complaint now as to the condition of the house, the matters in question having been put right. The licensee had been in the habit of attending local sales, and

collected a lot of goods, which he endeavoured to dispose of whenever possible.

Mr. Long said the circumstances of the case were unique in that it was a 'free' house and the property of the licensee, whose father built it in 1862. The father and son had conducted the house for 66 years without a single conviction or complaint. The house was regarded as a local club, and a petition in favour of the licence being renewed had been signed by 402 persons, of whom 382 were customers at the house. The signatories included six manufacturers, two County Councillors, seven District Councillors, a member of the Board of Guardians, and a District Council official. Counsel added that it was unfortunate that the complaint with regard to the cleanliness of the house had coincided with that application, but it was only fair to say the licensee's wife had been ill for a considerable period. Mr. Long added that there were very few 'free' houses in these days, and he hoped the committee would not reduce the number by taking away the licence of this house, where a really genuine trade was being done.

Mr. C. A. Clarke, of the firm of Messrs. Belcher & Sons, Darlaston, gave evidence on behalf of the owner and licensee, and spoke as to the value of the house from a rateable point of view.

The committee renewed the license."

Plans were approved for alterations including a water supply for the bar on 22nd May 1935.

1939 Register

57, Station Street

[1] *Joseph Barber*, date of birth 21/4/1863, beerhouse keeper, married;

[2] Elizabeth Barber, dob 31/12/1859, home duties, married;

[3] Joseph William Barber, dob 25/12/1900, carpenter, drop forging trade, single, ARP:

1949 Probate

"*Joseph Barber* of 36 Station Road, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 17 June 1948 at Manor House Hospital, Walsall, Staffordshire. Administration London 9 March to Elizabeth Hill Barber, widow, and James Victor Barber, tool maker. Effects £2,187 3s 9d."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 11/5/1946

"Plans put forward by Messrs. Twists, brewers, of Walsall, for alterations to the JUNCTION INN, Station Street, Darlaston, were approved by the Darlaston Licensing Bench on Wednesday.

For the brewers, Mr. S. W. Smith said that notice had been served by the local authority to have alterations done to the bathroom and another room, but they thought it wiser to suggest that the premises be modernised altogether. In the existing services there was no direct service or supervision and the sanitary accommodation was practically out of date. There was no outdoor department. With the permission of the magistrates, they hoped to get licenses to carry out the work required by the notice and would proceed with the rest of the work as soon as permitted.

Mr. T. McKay Galbraith, partner of Messrs. Scott and Clark, architects, Wednesbury, said the new proposals would meet every requirement of a modern house of its size.

Asked by the Clerk (Mr. L. A. Shirlaw) what were the prospects of completing the scheme as a whole, Mr. Galbraith said it would be at least 12 months or probably more before they could get a permit, but it depended on the housing situation at the time.

Superintendent J. H. Hall, who had made a report to the Justices, said the club room had not been used for that purpose for many years. The entrance had been from the outside by a wooden staircase, which no longer existed, as it was unsafe. He thought the premises were definitely unfit for a licensing business.

Mr. Galbraith disagreed with this latter point and said they had altered much worse houses than that in the Black Country. In reply to Superintendent Hall, he agreed that under the new plans and excluding the club room space the drinking space would be increased, but he did not think this was a very good argument.

The Chairman (Mr. H. B. Marston) said the magistrates approved the plans provided the work was done in a reasonable time and, if not, another application should be made after a certain period, which, on the suggestion of Mr. Smith, was fixed at three years."

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

Leslie Arthur Best – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, The Green.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 8th March 1961.

Staffordshire Sentinel 3/6/1961 - Notice

“The Licensing Act, 1953. Notice of Principal Meeting County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above area, will be held in the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday the 21st day of June, 1961, at 11 o'clock am.

And Notice is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the renewal of the licenses of the premises specified in the subjoined list, all those persons to whom under the Licensing Act, 1953, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the persons interested in any licensed premises in question and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District). List of Licensed Premises..... JUNCTION INN, Station Street, Darlaston. Beerhouse (Ante 1869). Licensee, *Ellis Blackham*.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 1/7/1961 - Notice

“The Licensing Act, 1953. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 21st day of June, 1961, to refuse the Renew of the Licenses of the premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of payment of the compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensees and the Registered Owners of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their claims before the 22nd day of July, 1961, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in the manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to compensation under the said Act in respect of the said premises..... JUNCTION INN, Station Street, Darlaston. Beerhouse (ante 1869). Licensee, *Ellis Blackham*. Registered Owners, Atkinsons Brewery Ltd.”

It closed on 31st December 1961.

Demolished

KINGS ARMS

12, Cross Street / 37, Cramphill, (Church Street), (Coopers Lane), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Thomas Coleman [1834]

Chester Brewery Company [1885], [1887]

Bloxwich Brewery Co. Ltd. [1918]

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Coleman [1834] – [1842]

Ralph Evans [1850] – 1857);

Simeon Evans (1857 – [1865])
L Evans [] – 1866);
Joseph Ensor (1866 – [1868])
Joseph Spittle [] – 1870);
John Brazier (1870 – [1879])
Lucy Brazier [1871]
Henry Tibbetts [1878] – [1883]
Perry Slater (1885 – 1887)
Thomas Chesters []
George Grainger [1891] – [1892]
William Adams Butler [1892] – [1897]
Mrs. Emma Nixon [1898]
William H Simmonds [1899] – [1901]
George Simmonds [1903] – [1907]
George Hopkins [1908] – [1908]
William Henry Lee [1911] – [1912]
Millicent ‘Millie’ Lee [1919] – 1922);
Albert Edward Hale (1922 – 1923);
John Thomas Lee (1923 – 1932);
George William Taylor (1932 – 1937);
Herbert Hayward (1937 – 1945);
Joseph Francis Leadbetter (1945 – 1952);
Thomas Warden (1952 – 1957);
John Taylor (1957 – 1958);
Phyllis Wilkinson (1958 – 1959);
Frank Nicholas Nicholls (1959 – 1960);

NOTES

Coopers Lane [1834]
Church Street [1851]
37, Cramphill Bank [1892]
37, Cramphill [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911]
12, Cross Street [1912], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/12/1834 - Advert

“Whereas a Fiat in Bankruptcy is awarded and is issued against *Thomas Coleman*, of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Nail Master and Victualler, and he being declared a Bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Commissioners in the said Fiat named, or the major part of them, on Wednesday, the twenty-fourth day of December instant, and Tuesday, the thirteenth day of January next, at two of the clock in the afternoon of each day, at the LION INN, Wolverhampton, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his Estate and Effects, when and where the Creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts at the first or second sitting, and to choose Assignees; and at the last sitting of the said Bankrupt he is required to finish his examination. All persons indebted to the said Bankrupt, or that have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to whom the Commissioners shall appoint, but to give notice to Messrs. Clarke and Medcalf, 20, Lincolns Inn Fields, London, or to Mr. Bennett, of Wolverhampton, Solicitor.
Craddocks Walk, 9th December, 1834.”

Birmingham Journal 27/12/1834 - Advert

“A Bankrupt’s Stock of Nails, Screws, Mercery Goods, Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, and

other Effects, at Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Wednesday, the 31st day of December, 1834, and Thursday, the 1st day of January, 1835, on the Premises of Mr. *Thomas Coleman*, nail-factor, screw-manufacturer, publican, mercer, &c, at Darlaston, in the county of Stafford (a bankrupt), the sale to commence at ten o'clock each morning, comprising about five tons of forged wrought iron nails of various descriptions, about 400 gross of screws, 100 gross of screw forgings, a quantity of saddle bars, sundry rod and round iron, scales and weights, shop bellows, anvils, screw engines, lathes, and various other tools and implements used in the manufacturing of screws; hackney horse, two useful carts, upwards of 1300 yards of printed cottons, muslins, ginghams, calicoes, Irish cloth, sheeting, flannel, &c, counters, shelves, nests of drawers, and other shop fixtures; a general assortment of parlour, kitchen, and bed-room furniture; beer-machine, iron-bound ale barrels, mashing, gathering, and working tubs, vats, furnaces, and other brewing utensils, and various other miscellaneous property and effects; particulars of which will appear in catalogues, to be distributed, and may be had on application at the Office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.

The Stock of Nails, Screws, &c will be sold on Wednesday morning; the Mercery on Wednesday afternoon; the household Furniture and other effects on Thursday.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/12/1834 - Advert

“Without Reserve. Desirable Freehold Property in Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by direction of the Assignee of *Thomas Coleman*, a Bankrupt), at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on Monday, the 12th day of January, 1835..... Lot I. All that new and substantially built Dwelling House, with extensive warehouses, workshop, brewery, and other out-buildings and appurtenances to the same belonging, known as the KINGS ARMS INN, situate in Coopers Lane, near the Church, Darlaston aforesaid, built by and at the present in the occupation of the bankrupt; together with an extensive lot of Land adjoining thereto, suitable for the extension of the buildings, and other purposes.”

London Gazette 20/6/1837

“The Commissioners in a Fiat in Bankruptcy, bearing date the 2nd day of December 1834, awarded and issued against *Thomas Coleman*, of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Nail-Master and Victualler, intend to meet on the 11th day of July next, at two of the clock in the afternoon, at the RED LION INN, in Wolverhampton, in the said county, to Audit the Accounts of the Assignee of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt under the said Fiat, pursuant to an Act of Parliament, made and passed in the sixth year of the reign of His late Majesty, King George the Fourth, intituled ‘An. Act to amend the laws relating to bankrupts;’ and the said Commissioners also intend to meet on the same day, at three in the afternoon, in the same place, in order to make a Further and Final Dividend of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt; when and where the creditors who have, not already proved their debts, are to come prepared to prove the same, or they will be excluded the benefit of the said Dividend. and all claims not then proved will be disallowed.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/2/1846

“George Giles will fight Obadiah Shore for either £10 or £15 a side. His money is ready at the KINGS ARMS, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850

“The annual licensing day for the hundred of Offlow South was held on Wednesday last.....

The old applications for renewal of licenses, numbering two hundred and twenty, were granted, but the following publicans having been fined during the current year for Sunday trading, were respectively admonished, and cautioned as to a repetition of this offence, and a notice to this effect was by order of the Court endorsed on the licenses.....

Ralph Evans, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“On Wednesday, the annual petty sessions for the Hundred of Offlow South was held.....

The following publicans were cautioned only.....

Ralph Evans, KINGS ARMS, Darlaston, open on Sunday.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1853

“In accordance with recent regulations, a Special Petty Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Barr, on Wednesday last.

Cases, in which the re-granting of old licenses in this district had been suspended, were gone into, with the following results.

Margery Nicholls, OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston, supposed to have had parties fighting in or near her house, was found on inquiry not to have so had these fellows, who came from the KINGS ARMS INN, where the fray originated, to her house; license restored.”

Birmingham Journal 7/2/1857

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, the license of the KINGS ARMS INN, Darlaston, was transferred from Mr. *Ralph Evans* to his brother, Mr. *Simeon Evans*.”

1861 Census

Cramp Hill – KINGS ARMS

[1] *Simeon Evans* (33), victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Evans (28), wife, born Essington;

[3] William Peadie (59), visitor, father-in-law, widower, retired traveller for a colliery, born Perthshire;

[4] Sarah Ann Cooke (18), general servant, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/8/1861

“On Thursday last Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the KINGS ARMS INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, on the body of a youth named Edward Hill, aged fourteen years. Deceased was at work in Messrs. Lloyd Foster’s colliery, Wednesbury, when a piece of ironstone fell with terrific force on his head, causing death instantaneously. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the jury unhesitatingly.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/3/1863

“An inquest was opened yesterday, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Darlaston, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the bodies of Richard Quigley and Joseph Wood, who lost their lives by an explosion at the Blue Flat Stone Pits, at Darlaston Green, on Friday morning last. Mr. Slater, solicitor, attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of Mr. Mills, the owner of the colliery. Mr. Baker, her Majesty’s Inspector of Mines; Mr. Smallman, ground bailiff to Mr. Mills; and the Rev. White, Incumbent of the parish, were also present. The Jury having returned from viewing the bodies, John Norton, a miner in the employ of Mr. Mills was called. He deposed that on Friday morning he descended the pit soon after six o’clock. The doggy, Benjamin Luckman, had preceded him in the first band, but had not examined the pit that morning. The two deceased went along the workings before witness, and at the time of the explosion were using naked candles, as was the custom in the pit. The violence of the explosion knocked witness down, and immediately afterwards a lad (John Morris) came down the workings, and told him to go to Quigley and Wood, who were badly hurt. He went up the workings some distance, and on his return met the doggy with a lighted lamp. The doggy told witness to follow him, but afterwards sent him on to the bank, where he remained for an hour and a half, and saw the bodies of the deceased brought up. Mr. Ransome, surgeon, was in attendance. The body of the lad was not much burnt, but was severely injured about the head and face.

By Mr. Baker: Had worked in the pit for two years. It had been regularly examined up till a fortnight before the accident. Since then it had not been examined. Had had the rules read to him, and knew it was the duty of some person to examine the pit before the men commenced work, but had never complained to anyone of the neglect in this respect. Had found gas in the pit previous to Christmas last. Considered the ventilation good. If a safety lamp had been taken round the pit on Friday morning, some gas would have been found, but could not tell whether or not life would have been saved.

John Morris, a lad twelve years of age, deposed that he worked in Mr. S. Mills’s pit, and had been employed there as a pitcher about two months. He went down the pit last Friday morning with the first band, in company with the doggy, Benjamin Luckman, and several others. When they got to the bottom they went to the

candle box, and the doggy gave them their candles. The doggy did not say anything to them about lighting them, and witness went to the bottom and lit his. The doggy told the loaders to keep back until he had served out the candles, and then he would try the sulphur. Quigley said, 'Come on, we can keep our candles down, and nothing will hurt me.' Quigley and some others went on up the road. Witness stayed about fifteen yards behind Quigley with another lad, and the wind came out of the works, and knocked him down. He got up, and called to Quigley and Wood, but as they did not answer he went towards the bottom, and called someone to bring a light.

Edward Jukes, a timber setter in the pit in question, deposed that he went into the pit on the morning of the accident soon after six o'clock. He went to a parting about 200 yards from the bottom, and was there when an explosion took place, and blew him about ten yards. Soon after he had recovered himself two men came out of the workings towards him, and called for a fire. He left Luckman at the candle box, about twelve yards from the bottom. Luckman saw him go off with a lighted candle, and did not caution him against doing so. The ventilation of the pit was generally very good, but he could not tell whether the furnace was alight on Friday morning. There seemed, however, to be a good draught of air. He considered the pit quite safe. He was present when the boy was found, about fourteen yards nearer the wall face than where he first felt the explosion. The boy was still alive, and lay on his right side, but died in three or four minutes afterwards.

By Mr. Baker: He could not read the special rules, and they had never been read over to him. Had been employed in the pit since 1858, and had never known an accident to occur there before.

John Davis, a sinker, in Mr. Mills's employ, said on Thursday evening he was working in the up-cast shaft of the pit where the accident happened. He left work at eleven o'clock, and the furnace was then lighted. He and his companions sent down fire half-an-hour before they left. A man named Buckley was at the bottom to receive it.

Benjamin Luckman, the doggy at the pit, deposed that he went down at six o'clock on Friday morning, with the first band. On reaching the bottom he went to the candle box and served out the candles. The men then went to their work as usual. He had not been round the pit each morning for a fortnight past, because on several successive mornings he found no traces of sulphur. He knew that by the Act of Parliament it was enacted that he should make an examination every morning, but he thought it was useless for him to do so. Mr. Glover, the butty, expected him to make the examination each morning. The explosion took place about ten minutes after he had served out the candles, and, upon hearing it, he immediately started to see what had happened to the men. He found both the dead bodies, and helped the injured men out of the pit. Quigley's bowels had gushed out, and witness did not believe there were many unbroken bones in his body. Quigley was about 100 yards from Wood.

By Mr. Baker: If he had gone round the pit with a lamp that morning he would have discovered the gas. Found gas in the pit a short time before Christmas, and had found gas once or twice since. He could not say whether or not the furnace was alight on Friday morning. Did not think of it. There was a man left in the pit to take charge of the fire, and witness gave him instructions to be careful to make it up, and see to the doors after the sinkers had done work.

By Mr. Slater: Remembered receiving a lamp from Mr. Glover, who instructed him to examine the pit every morning, and told him that a man named Stanton was to give out the candles while he was so employed. He received the lamp before Christmas, and Mr. Glover had frequently asked him if he had been round. He was regularly supplied with wick and oil, and the lamp was in good order.

Samuel Buckley said he was in the pit on Thursday evening. The doggy was the last person who left the pit. He told witness that the fire in the furnace would have to be let out, as the sinkers were coming. Witness raked out the fire, and after the sinkers had finished work about twelve o'clock they sent some fire down in an iron pan. Witness put it in the furnace, and put some wet slack on, but it did not light. Witness did nothing till the next morning, when the doggy came down. Witness told him that the fire was out, and he instructed witness to send some fire down from the bank.

By Mr. Baker: Knew the importance of keeping up the fire, but could not get materials to light it. The watchman came to the top twice in the night, but witness could not get materials down.

By Mr. Slater: Had lit the fire with chips on previous occasions when it had gone out, but had no wood in the pit on Friday morning. Did not tell the watchman that the fire was out when he came to the pit shaft.

At this stage of the proceedings the Coroner intimated that as the enquiry had assumed a more serious aspect

than was at first anticipated, he thought it desirable that an adjournment should take place, in order, among other things, that medical evidence as to the cause of death should be obtained. The enquiry was then adjourned till Thursday.”

[At the adjourned inquest a verdict of Manslaughter was returned against Benjamin Luckman, and Samuel Buckley was censured for not keeping up the fire. At Staffordshire Summer Assizes Benjamin Luckman was tried for the manslaughter of Joseph Wood; a verdict of not guilty was returned. For the manslaughter of Roger Quigley no evidence was offered and Luckman was acquitted.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/5/1864 - Advert

“Bloxwich. Valuable Freehold Mineral Property.

To be Disposed Of, by Private Treaty, about Six-and-a-half Acres of Freehold Land, situate in the parish of Bloxwich, in the county of Stafford, with the whole of the Mines and Minerals thereunder, except the top four feet coal which has been partially worked. The heathen coal will be found to be first-class quality, and near a yard in thickness. The other measures have been proved in close proximity, and are also of good in quality.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Peddie, KINGS ARMS, Cross Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/4/1865

“Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest on Tuesday, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Cramp Hill, on the body of a male child, the son of Phoebe Gibbons, a single woman, living in Bilston Street.

The only witness examined was Mary Gibbons, a widow, the grand-mother of the deceased child. Her evidence was to the effect that her daughter had had two children before the one whose death formed the subject of the enquiry. The father was Thomas Millington, a married man, living at Fallings Heath. On Thursday evening she returned home shortly before six o’clock, and on going into the upstairs room of her house, found her daughter lying insensible on the floor, with the dead body of a newly-born male infant beside her. Her daughter told her that the birth had taken place about a quarter of an hour. They had not expected it to take place until about the end of April. Her daughter fell down stairs about three weeks previously, and severely injured her side. Her daughter said she never saw the child move. The only persons in the house at the time were her daughter and her daughter’s two children.

The Coroner said the case disclosed a very bad state of morals, and he was surprised the witness allowed the intercourse to go on. He wished to know when the father of the children was last at the house. The witness replied that she had often spoken to her daughter on the subject, but could not prevent it. The father did not come to the house; her daughter went out to meet him. She (the daughter) formerly worked for him on the pit bank.

The Coroner ascertained from the constable in attendance that there was no suspicion of foul play, and he then left it with the jury to have an adjournment for the production of further evidence, if they should think fit; but, not deeming an adjournment necessary, they, on the Coroner’s recommendation, returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 21/10/1865 - Advert

“The Bankruptcy Act 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Walsall.

Simeon Evans, of Cramp Hill, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, Carpenter and Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 18th day of September, 1865, which said Petition and the proceedings thereunder were, on the 6th day of October, 1865, transferred to the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, a Public Sitting for the said Bankrupt to pass his Last Examination and make application for his Discharge, will be held at the said last-mentioned Court, on the 18th day of November, 1865, at the Court House, Goodall Street, Walsall, at Ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said Bankrupt to surrender. Frederic F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. John Glover, of Walsall, is the Solicitor in the Bankruptcy.

John Glover, Esq, Solicitor, Walsall.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/1/1866

“At the County Court, on Wednesday last, *Simeon Evans*, licensed victualler and carpenter, Darlaston, a bankrupt, came up for his last examination and order of discharge, supported by Mr. Glover, and opposed by Mr. Young, of the Oxford Circuit (instructed by Mr. Brevitt), on behalf of the assignees. The ground of opposition was the removal of goods with intent to defraud his creditors. This was proved from his own examination, and he also admitted that he had omitted to state in his schedule that he was heir to certain unencumbered freehold property on the death of his mother.

Mr. Young applied for the bankrupt's committal for trial, under the 159th section of the Act, on the charge of fraudulently removing his goods.

His Honour acceded to the application, leaving the bankrupt to elect between being tried at the Assizes, or before his Honour, either assisted by a Jury or alone. The Bankrupt chose to be tried by his Honour and a Jury.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/4/1866

“At Walsall County Court, on Wednesday, *Simeon Evans*, carpenter and licensed victualler, Darlaston, a bankrupt, surrendered to take his trial before A. M. Skinner, Esq, Judge, and a Jury, on a charge of having, within sixty days of his bankruptcy, and with intent to defraud his creditors, removed and concealed certain of his goods, of the value of not less than £10, viz, eight bags of malt, half a pocket of hops, three mahogany boards, four chairs, a night chair, a bed, and a mattress. Mr. C. R. Kennedy (instructed by Mr. Brevitt) appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Motteram (instructed by Mr. Glover) was retained for the defence.

On the 18th of September last, the defendant filed a petition in the Birmingham Court, and put upon the proceedings a document which purported to be a true statement of his property and affairs, but which made no mention of any of the articles specified in the charge. It was subsequently discovered that just prior to the filing of the petition, eight bags of malt and half a pocket of hops were taken from the bankrupt's premises, and placed in an unused room on the other side of the street; and it was proved that he gave instructions to a man named Thomas Giles to take the hops and two of the bags of malt from the schoolroom to the house of his brother, *Ralph Evans*. It was also proved that at the same time, and very early in the morning, the bankrupt assisted in carrying a bed and mattress from his house to the house of George Giles, a grocer, who alleged that he bought the articles, that five chairs were taken by his wife and one of his servants to the house of a neighbour named Ambrose Webster. These goods were all recovered and used for the benefit of the estate.

The Jury, after about half-an-hour's deliberation, found the prisoner guilty of having concealed the goods named, but recommended him to the merciful consideration of the Court. Mr. Kennedy said the assignees wished to support the recommendation. Mr. Motteram having previously intimated that he should move in one of the superior courts for the proceedings to be set aside, on the ground that the statement of charges supplied to the prisoner was bad, inasmuch as it had not taken the form of an indictment, his Honour said he should defer sentencing the prisoner until the first court in July. The accused was liberated on bail, himself in £50, and one surety in a like amount.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/6/1866 - Advert

“25th June, 1866. Re *Simeon Evans*, a bankrupt.

Sale of Freehold Property at Huntingdon, near Cannock.

To be Sold by Auction, by order of the Creditors' Assignee of the above-named bankrupt, at the Crown Inn, Cannock, by Mr. Enoch Bruerton, on Monday, the 25th day of June, 1866, at four o'clock in the afternoon (subject to conditions to be there and then produced).

All that Messuage or Dwelling House, formerly in the occupation of David Billemore, but now of Henry Saunders, situate at Huntingdon, in the county of Stafford, with the Outbuildings, Garden Ground, and Appurtenances thereto belonging; also all that the Moiety or equal half part 2 roods and 28 perches, or thereabouts, of a croft or close of Land, situate at Huntingdon aforesaid, and now in the occupation of the said Henry Saunders, and comprising the lowermost side of the said croft as devised to the said bankrupt, by the will of the late Mr. James Evans, deceased.

The above property is sold subject to the estate for life therein of Mrs. Sarah Evans, widow, aged 78 years or

thereabouts.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. Thomas Brevitt, Solicitor, both of Darlaston.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/7/1866

“On Wednesday, *Simeon Evans*, licensed victualler and carpenter, Darlaston, whose case has been before the Walsall County Court for twelve months past, came up for judgement, for having fraudulently removed and concealed goods a short time prior to his bankruptcy. Mr. Glover appeared for the bankrupt, and Mr. Brevitt for the creditors’ assignee.

Mr. Glover alluded to the facts of the case, and entreated his Honour to pass as lenient a sentence as possible, assuring him that the bankrupt had suffered severely on account of these proceedings, and bitterly regretted having perpetrated the crime he had been found guilty of. Mr. Brevitt, on behalf of the assignee, supported Mr. Glover’s appeal.

His Honour addressed the defendant as to the enormity of the crime he had committed, backed up as it had been, and as such frauds must necessarily be by perjury. Inasmuch, however, as the prisoner was recommended to mercy by the Jury, and also by the assignee, and particularly as it appeared that he had used the three months which had elapsed since the trial for the benefit of the estate, he should not impose the full penalty, which is three years’ imprisonment, but, on the contrary, a comparatively light sentence, namely, one month’s imprisonment.”

AND

Edinburgh Gazette 5/2/1867

“*Simeon Evans*, of Cramp Hill, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Carpenter and Licensed Victualler, adjudicated bankrupt on the 18th day of September, 1865. An Order of Discharge was granted by the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 23rd day of January, 1867.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/2/1867 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.....

In the Matter of *Simeon Evans*, of Cramp Hill, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Carpenter and Licensed Victualler, adjudged Bankrupt on the 18th day of September, 1865.....

A Meeting of the Creditors of each of the above-named Bankrupts will be held before the Registrar, at the County Court Office, Walsall, on the 25th day of February, 1867, at Twelve o’clock at noon, for the purpose of declaring a Dividend, and also whether any allowance shall be made to the Bankrupt. Proofs of Debts will be received, and Creditors who have not yet proved and do not then prove will be excluded the benefit of the dividend.

F. F. Clarke, Registrar.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/12/1866

“An inquest was held yesterday at noon, at the KINGS ARMS, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner, concerning the death of Lucy Williams, a child five years old, who had resided with her parents in Cross Street.

On Thursday last the deceased in her father’s workshop, and whilst taking the draw-plate from the fire her dress caught against the bars of the grate and ignited. Assistance was at once procured, and the flames were extinguished, but not till deceased had been severely burnt. She lingered, and on Saturday last died from the effects of the burns.

The Coroner commented upon the unsafe condition in which he found the shop where the deceased was burnt. Having called Mr. Williams into the room, the Coroner questioned him, and in reply Mr. Williams said the shop belonged to Mr. Harper, of Cox Street, and he (Mr. Williams) rented it from him. He had occupied the shop nearly three years, but he did not consider it safe. When he had the house of Mr. Harper, that gentleman promised to build him another shop, and he (Mr. Williams) intended leaving if he did not.

The Coroner intimated that Mr. Williams would have to be responsible if any death occurred from fire again in the shop, and that it was part of his (Mr. Hooper’s) duty to look after the safety of the neighbourhood.

Mr. Williams said he had risked his life by being in the shop.

The Coroner thought that Mr. Williams was not only risking his own life, but the lives of the whole neighbourhood. He gave him notice that if the shop was not removed, or put in secure order, either he or his

landlord would be summoned before the magistrates for a nuisance. Both of them were responsible, and the whole neighbourhood was in danger from the shop, there was no question about it. He (Mr. Hooper) hoped Mr. Williams understood him, and advised him to see his landlord about it that day.

In summing up, the Coroner said that the floor of the shop was covered with shavings, and there was a fire in the corner of it. The place might take fire, and set the whole street in flames. There was no doubt the deceased lost her life from the burns she received accidentally, but if the jury would like to have any further evidence, he (the Coroner) would be most happy to take it.

The jury did not consider further evidence necessary, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

In August 1868 *Joseph Ensor* was fined 1s and costs for serving during prohibited hours on a Sunday.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/3/1869 - Advert

“KINGS ARMS INN, Cross Street, Darlaston.

To Publicans, Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, on Monday Next, March 22nd.

The modern Household Furniture, comprising, massive Four-post and other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Flock ditto, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Bed Linen, Blankets, Sofa, eight-day Clock, Tables, Chairs, Engravings, &c; the Sale includes the Brewing Vessels, capital English oak Ale Casks, large Working Tubs, sixteen-bush-el Mash Tub, Ale Coolers, 129-gallon Wrought-iron Boiler, Two Four-pull Ale Machines and Piping, Tubs, Screens, Malt Crusher, Tables, Pewter Measures, Glasses, Jugs; quantity of Liquors, Ale, Cider, Gas Fittings, &c; powerful Grey Horse, 15½ hands high, Coal Cart, Harness, Anvil, &c, Licenses and Possession.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock am.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale, and at the Auctioneer's Office, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.

NB. The Licenses and Possession will be offered at the commencement of the Sale.”

Walsall Free Press 17/4/1869

“Walsall County Court Bankrupts.....

Joseph Ensor, formerly landlord of the KINGS ARMS, Darlaston, whose petition was supported by Mr. Ebsworth, and who was opposed on behalf of creditors by Mr. Brevitt, came up for his first examination, and Mr. Joseph Spittle, of Kings Hill, Wednesbury, having been appointed assignee, the final examination was fixed for the 5th of May.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/4/1869 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

Joseph Ensor, of Cross Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Scrap-iron Dealer, late Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 23rd day of March, 1869, a Public Sitting for the said Bankrupt to Pass his Last Examination, and make Application for his Discharge, will be held at the said Court on the 5th day of May, 1869, at the Court House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said Bankrupt to surrender. Fred-eric F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Thomas Brevitt, of Darlaston, is the Solicitor in the Bankruptcy.

F. F. Clarke, Registrar.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/6/1869

“At Walsall County Court, yesterday, before Mr. A. McLean Skinner, judge, *Joseph Ensor*, whose petition in bankruptcy was supported by Mr. Ebsworth, and opposed by Mr. Brevitt on behalf of the assignee, came up for final examination. It appears the bankrupt, who was formerly a licensed victualler in Darlaston, is now a dealer in scrap iron there, came up on a former occasion for final examination, but as there was some suspicious circumstances connected with the granting of a bill of sale by the bankrupt the final examination was adjourned to yesterday. As the person to whom the bill of sale had been given had proved that he had lent money to the bankrupt to the full amount of the value of the goods enumerated in the bill of sale, the bankrupt was allowed to pass his final examination and received his order of discharge.”

1871 Census

Cramp Hill – KINGS ARMS

- [1] *John Brazier* (52), wire plate worker, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Lucy Brazier* (46), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [3] *John Brazier* (18), son, iron forge man, born Walsall;
- [4] *Ebenezer Brazier* (16), son, steam hammer man, ironworks, born Walsall;
- [5] *Harriett Brazier* (13), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [6] *Lucy Brazier* (9), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1874

“Yesterday, Mr. Topham, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the KINGS ARMS INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, on the body of John Jones, aged fifty-two, brewer, of the same street. On Friday the deceased went to see his son-in-law, James Simpson, who was brewing at the CROSS KEYS, and while left alone in the brew-house for a few moments he fell into a tub of wort and was severely scalded on the left arm and side. He had fallen twice before that day through giddiness. He was taken home and every attention given to him, but he expired on the following day. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Henry Tibbetts = Henry Tibbits = Henry Tibbitts

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1878

“The licensing session for West Bromwich and Wednesbury districts took place yesterday.....

The following are the names of the persons convicted during the year in the Wednesbury division.....

Henry Tibbetts, KINGS ARMS INN, Darlaston, 20s and costs, for keeping open during prohibited hours.....

In no case was the license endorsed.

In cases where the amount of the fine was 40s or upwards the Bench withheld the licenses until the adjourned licensing day, to be held on 25th September.”

Wednesbury Herald 9/10/1880

“An enquiry was held on Thursday afternoon by Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), at the KINGS ARMS INN, Cross Street, as to the death of Jane James (30), the wife of Henry James, a groom, who died suddenly on Sunday morning.

The evidence showed that the deceased left her home in apparently good health at half past eight o'clock on Sunday morning for the purpose of going to the shop of Mr. Harrison for some sausages. On arriving at the shop she was seized with a fit and died immediately afterwards.

In reply to the coroner the husband said the deceased had never been ill, but ten days previous to her death complained of having a cold.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

1881 Census

Cramp Hill – KINGS ARMS

- [1] *Henry Tibbetts* (59), married, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *John Slater* (8), grand-son, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Caroline Humpage* (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 23/9/1882

“On Tuesday afternoon, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest on the body of Joseph Smith (42), of Eldon Street, formerly a gunlock filer. The mother of the deceased stated that he had not been in a good state of health for 12 years, as he was paralysed. On Wednesday morning, the 6th inst, he went into the shop by means of a chair, but had not been in many minutes before he called out, ‘mother,’ and it was found that he had fallen and dislocated his right shoulder. Medical aid was obtained, and he was at once removed to the Wolverhampton Hospital, attended to, and taken back home, but died the following Tuesday. Deceased had been properly attended to in every way possible. A verdict

was returned to the effect that deceased died from a shock caused by the fall.”

Portsmouth Evening News 6/12/1882

“At Wednesbury yesterday afternoon, Michael Flaherty, a labourer, was sentenced to four months’ imprisonment for committing a murderous assault on a policeman named Clarke. The prisoner was apprehended for assaulting a publican, and when in the police-station and being removed to the cells he kicked the officer and nearly cut out his left eye. Two other officers were injured in securing the prisoner.”

AND

Wednesbury Herald 9/12/1882

“Michael Flaherty, High Bullen, Wednesbury, was charged with refusing to quit the KINGS ARMS public house, Darlaston, and also with assaulting the landlord, *Henry Tibbits*, and Police-constables John Dunn, George Clarke, and George Watson; and James Flaherty, his brother, residing in Eldon Street, Darlaston, was charged with assaulting Police-constables Clarke and Watson.

Henry Tibbits stated that the previous night, about 10.15, Michael Flaherty and four other men came into his house and asked to be supplied with liquor. As the men appeared to be under the influence of drink he refused to supply them, and ordered them to leave his house.

One of the men, named Brannagan, then commenced to break a number of jugs, and witness caught hold of him and threw him out. Brannagan returned to the house, and he was thrown out again. Witness then caught hold of Michael Flaherty and attempted to put him out, when Flaherty struck him on the side of the nose, and knocked him down on his back. Ultimately, with the assistance of his son-in-law, witness succeeded in putting Flaherty outside. Police-constable Dunn then came to the door, and on his attempting to prevent Michael Flaherty from re-entering the house Flaherty struck him with his fist and knocked him down in the street.

Police-constable Dunn stated that when the prisoner Michael knocked him down in the street, he also kicked him on the back of the head several times. A crowd then gathered round, and Michael succeeded in getting away. Subsequently, witness apprehended him in Eldon Street, and brought him to the station, on the way to which he was very violent.

Police-constable Clarke, who went to the assistance of the last witness, in Eldon Street, stated that Michael kicked him several times on the abdomen, and other parts of the body, pulled a handful of his whiskers out, and knocked him down twice. They succeeded in getting him to the police station, where he struck witness a violent blow on the eye with his fist, inflicting a wound about half an inch long.

PC Watson said he apprehended the prisoner, James Flaherty, in Eldon Street, when he was attempting to rescue his brother from the custody of the other officers. James knocked his helmet off, and while witness was picking it up, he kicked him on the wrist, which was now disabled, and will be for some time. It was with great difficulty that he ultimately succeeded in bringing the prisoner to the station.

Police-sergeant Ainsworth said he was in Eldon Street during the disturbance, and in consequence of the immense crowd of persons who gathered round the officers, it was with considerable difficulty they managed to take the prisoners to the station. The prisoners broke the windows of their office at the station.

The Bench, after strongly condemning the conduct of the prisoners, ordered Michael Flaherty to pay a fine of 20s and costs, or a month, for refusing to quit and assaulting *Tibbits*; to be imprisoned for one month for the assault on Dunn, and two months’ imprisonment for assaulting Clarke.

James Flaherty was sentenced to one months’ imprisonment in each case for assaulting Clarke and Watson. The magistrates characterised the prisoners as being the most brutal that had come under their notice for some time.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883

“With a view of affording aid to the widows and fatherless, and of illustrating the spirit which permeates the Order of Free Gardeners, that of assistance in time of need, the whole of the lodges in Darlaston took part in a demonstration on Sunday afternoon, when a procession was formed at the house of Brother *Tibbits*, KINGS ARMS, Cross Street, each member of the various lodges wearing an appropriate rosette, in lieu of the more conspicuous regalia of the Order About 180 members perambulated the street of the town, to the strains of the Darlaston Havelock Brass Band. Considerable interest was shown by the townspeople, who thronged the streets through which the procession passed. The members afterwards attended Divine

service at the Parish Church. A collection on behalf of the Widows and Orphans Fund was made at the close of the service, and realised £12 13s.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1884

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, George Fessey, district secretary to the Bilston, Walsall, and Cannock District of the National United Order of Free Gardeners, held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Darlaston, was summoned for having unlawfully neglected and refused to receive the contributions tendered by Sarah Brookes, or on her behalf. Mr. Rose (of the firm of Messrs. J. Smith and Co.) appeared for the defendant, and Mr. J. E. Sheldon had been retained for the complainant, but, as she could not attend, it was arranged to adjourn the hearing for a fortnight, the Clerk remarking that it was a case which would require some very close argument.

The point in dispute was stated to be the interpretation to be put upon the 20th rule, which provides that a widow shall be entitled to be a member of a lodge to which her husband formerly belonged. In this case the lodge had seceded from the Bilston, Walsall, and Cannock district, and joined the Birmingham and Darlaston district; and whilst Mrs. Brookes desired to pay into the former district, the officials held that she must go to the district to which the lodge had been transferred.”

AND

Walsall Observer 12/7/1884

“.....By payment of 4s per annum, in quarterly subscriptions, the complainant, as a widow of a deceased member, was entitled to £4 to be paid upon her death to her representative from the district fund; the amount to be paid through the lodge to which the husband formerly belonged. Complainant had paid her subscriptions ever since her husband’s death, twenty-four years ago, to the Bilston, Walsall, and Cannock district, through the Darlaston Pride Lodge. Since the secession the Cannock district declined to receive the subscriptions any longer, alleging that the complainant must claim from the new district. On the other hand, the new district claim that the district which had received the subscription for twenty-four years should acknowledge the claim to membership.....”

[It was arranged that the case should be adjourned for a fortnight for arbitration proceedings.]

London Gazette 26/4/1889

“*Perry Slater*, late of the KINGS ARMS INN, Cramphill, Darlaston, Staffordshire, now of 163, Pleck-road, Walsall, Staffordshire, late Licensed Victualler, now Fitter.”

Walsall Observer 18/5/1889

“Walsall Bankruptcy Court.....

Perry Slater, now of Pleck Road, Walsall, and formerly of the KINGS ARMS INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, appeared for public examination. Mr. Wilkes (Wednesbury) appeared for him, and Mr. H. H. Jackson appeared for the secured creditor.

The statement of accounts showed liabilities £215 9s 8d, including a partly secured debt of £70. The assets were estimated at £10, and the deficiency, after allowing the value of the security, was estimated at £165 9s 8d.

The debtor attributed his failure to losses in carrying on the KINGS ARMS INN, and the Official Receiver reported as to the estate, ‘This is the bankrupt’s own petition. For the last 30 years he had held various situations as a fitter. He had a small business as a draper in Darlaston, managed by his wife, from 1871 to 1873. In April 1885, he took the KINGS ARMS, at Darlaston, from the Chester Brewery Company. He paid £55 10s 10d for goodwill, stock, and fixtures. He gave up the house in October 1887, at which time he owed the Chester Brewery Company £120 for goods supplied, and balance of the £55 10s 10d. They allowed him £40 for goodwill, stock and fixtures, crediting him with that amount. Since this date the bankrupt has not been on business, but has been working at his trade as a fitter. The bankrupt states he has no assets except a piano, which he estimates at £10. The whole of the furniture is claimed by his father-in-law, who has a bill of sale upon it, given by the bankrupt on 27th February last, for money borrowed at various times. The bankrupt was hopelessly insolvent at the time he gave the bill of sale. He has kept no books of account. He accounts for his deficiency by loss arising from carrying on business, and household expenses of self, wife, and six children.’

Debtor was examined by the Official Receiver and Mr. Jackson as to his trading, and especially as to the security given to his father-in-law, and the examination adjourned to the 19th June.”

Walsall Observer 19/6/1889

“Walsall Bankruptcy Court, this day.....

Re-examination of *Perry Slater*, of Pleck Road, Walsall, was closed.”

George Grainger = George Granger

1891 Census

37, Cramphill – KINGS ARMS

[1] *George Granger* (36), unmarried, publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Henry Granger (65), father, gun lock filer, born Pendeford;

[3] Matilda Granger (64), mother, born Darlaston;

[4] Edward Beer (23), boarder, clerk, born Liverpool;

[5] Annie Smith (20), domestic servant, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1891 - Advert

“Darlaston. Preliminary Announcement.

Messrs. Belcher & Son have received instruction to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, at an early date, all that Valuable Freehold Old-Established Full-Licensed Inn, known as the KINGS ARMS INN, situate at the junction of Cramphill and Cross Street, Darlaston; together with Two Dwelling Houses and Retail Shop adjoining.

Auctioneers’ Offices, Darlaston, and Bank Chambers, Wednesbury. Slater and Co., Solicitors, Darlaston.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 29/6/1891 - Advert

“Darlaston. Important Sale of Freehold Properties, including Old-established Full-Licensed Inn, Retail Shop, Bakery, and Dwelling Houses. Tomorrow (Tuesday), June 30.

Messrs. Belcher & Son will offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Darlaston, at Seven o’clock in the evening precisely, the following valuable Properties.

Lot 1. All that Old-established Full-Licensed Inn, known as the KINGS ARMS INN, situate at the corner of Cramphill and Cross Street, Darlaston aforesaid, and containing Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, two Kitchens, Club Room, two Bed Rooms, Cellaring, with Stabling, Coach-house, Outbuildings, and Draw-in-way, in the occupation of the Executors of the late *Thomas Chesters*; together with Two Dwelling Houses and Retail Shop adjoining. The whole now producing, at low rentals, £41 18s per annum.

Lot 2. Two Dwelling Houses, Nos.9 and 10, Cross Street, Darlaston aforesaid, together with the Bakehouse and Cart Shed at the rear thereof, let at rentals producing gross £24 14s per annum.

The Properties are situated in a populous neighbourhood, and are in good condition of repair.

For Plans and further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, Darlaston, and Bank Chambers, Wednesbury; or to Messrs. Slater and Co., Solicitors, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

George Grainger, KINGS ARMS, Cross Street.....

All these were for six days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1892

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *William A. Butler*, KINGS ARMS INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, was fined 10s and costs 12s for having allowed a drunken man to remain on his premises on the afternoon of the 30th ult. Mr. T. Green defended.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Mr. T. Green, for *William Adams Butler*, applied for the renewal of the license of the KINGS ARMS ale-house, Cross Street, which had been withheld owing to a conviction for permitting drunkenness. Granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1895

“Yesterday afternoon, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest on the body of Caroline Betby (61), wife of Charles Betby, baker, of the same locality. The evidence bore out the statement already published, that the deceased was taken ill on Friday night as she was returning from an entertainment at the Town Hall, and died before medical aid could be obtained. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Walsall Observer 13/3/1897

“At the County Police Court, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, Harriet *Butler* was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the KINGS ARMS INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston. Police-constable Horton said defendant was the wife of the landlord of the house. On the 9th ult he went and found her drunk in the bar attempting to serve customers. At a later hour the officer again went to the house in the company of Sergeant Williams. Defendant was still in the bar, and her husband, who was nursing the baby, was trying to persuade her to lie down. The husband remarked that he was ashamed of her. Defendant, who pleaded that she was not drunk but unwell, was fined 5s and costs.”

Walsall Observer 15/5/1897

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *William Adams Butler*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Camp Hill, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 1st April. Mr. J. G. Thursfield appeared to prosecute, and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended. It seemed that about 7.40pm on the date named Police-constable Birchall visited the KINGS ARMS, and there saw Philemon Gee drunk. At 8.5pm Birchall went to the house again and saw Gee still there. Sergeant Williams went to the house on the second occasion. For the defence it was submitted that drunkenness was not permitted. Drink was refused Gee, and once he was put out but returned. *Butler* was fined 20s and costs, and Philemon Gee, of Willenhall Street, Darlaston, was fined 10s and the costs.”

Dudley Herald 9/4/1898

“At Wednesbury County Police Court, on Tuesday – before Messrs. A H. Partridge and E. Hunt – *Emma Nixon*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises on the 21st ult; and John Taylor, Joseph Newman, and Philemon Gee were each charged with being drunk on the premises, Gee being also charged with refusing to quit the premises. Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) defended *Nixon* and Newman, and Mr. A. J. Glover watched the case in the interests of the owner of the house. Sergeant Williams stated that on the 21st ult he visited the KINGS ARMS, at 3.15pm, in the company of Police-constable Horne, and there found the three men – Taylor, Gee, and Newman– all drunk. Shortly afterwards Gee left the house and was accompanied home. At 3.25 witness saw Taylor leave the house drunk, and twenty-five minutes later Newman followed him, he being also under the influence of drink. The landlady was informed of the condition of the men, and when asked how she accounted for their presence in the

house replied, 'What can you do, they won't go.'

In defence it was urged that Newman was not drunk, and the landlady endeavoured to get Gee to leave, but he shuffled from her. Taylor was also asked to go.

The landlady was fined £5 and costs, Gee and Taylor 10s and costs each, and Newman 2s 6d and costs."

Walsall Observer 27/8/1898

"Wednesbury Brewster Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt reported.....

Since the last annual licensing meeting seven licensed victuallers and six beerhouse keepers had been summoned in respect of offences against the tenour of their licenses. Of the victuallers five were fined and two dismissed, and of the beerhouse keepers four were fined, one paid costs, and one was dismissed. Three of the convicted beerhouse keepers had since transferred their licenses. He had caused notice of opposition to the renewal of these licenses to be served upon the present holder of the license in each case where there had been a conviction during the year.....

Emma Nixon, KINGS ARMS, Darlaston.....

The consideration of objections was deferred until the adjourned sessions, to be held on the 28th of September."

Dudley Herald 1/10/1898

"The adjourned Licensing Session for the Wednesbury Petty Sessional Division (comprising Darlaston, Tipton, and Dudley Port) took place on Wednesday licensed victuallers whose applications for renewal had been deferred.....

Mr. T. Jones appeared for *Emma Nixon*, KINGS ARMS INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, there having been a conviction against the house.

Mr. J. A. Glover, who represented the owners, said that a new manager had been put into the house, which he was informed had been licenced for upwards of one hundred years.

Mr. Horton (magistrate) said his recollection was that the premises were used for a grocery and drapery business sixty years ago.

Mr. Glover remarked that he would modify his statement, and merely point out that it was an old license.

Mr. Jones explained that the new tenant was a very respectable man, who would see that the house was properly conducted.

The Magistrates refused to renew the license, but intimated that if an application for a new license were made at the next annual sessions it would be favourably considered.

Mr. Glover asked if he could definitely conclude from this that a new license would be granted, but the Clerk (Mr. Thursfield) advised the Bench that they had no power to give a pledge to this effect.

The license was accordingly refused unconditionally, and notice of appeal was given."

Dudley Herald 17/2/1900

"Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner for South Staffordshire) held an inquest at the KINGS ARMS INN, Darlaston, on the body of Mary Taylor (71), of 32, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, who was found dead in bed on Sunday, black in the face and apparently suffocated.

Evidence showed that deceased complained of pains in her side on Thursday and went to bed. A lodger going up to take her some rum found her crawling about the room on Saturday morning. That was the last time she was seen alive. On someone going up at half past two on Sunday afternoon, deceased was found lying on her face in bed quite dead.

Dr. Sydney Partridge, who made a post mortem examination deposed that he had attended deceased for eight or ten years for bronchitis and a weak heart. She was an enormously stout woman, and he attributed death to syncope.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

1901 Census

37, Cramphill – KINGS ARMS

[1] *William Simmonds* (31), publican, born Darlaston;

- [2] Annah Simmonds (29), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Elsie Simmonds (1), daughter, born Darlaston;x
[4] Mary A. Robinson (23), sister-in-law, nut screwer, born Darlaston;
[5] Dora Robinson (12), sister-in-law, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

KINGS ARMS, Camp Hill.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Tipton Herald 21/3/1903

“A concert of an interesting and successful character was given on Tuesday evening last at the KINGS ARMS INN (Mr. *Simmonds*), Cramp Hill. The proceeds were for the benefit of Mr. Joseph Stokes, who for a considerable length of time has been unable to follow any employment. Councillor B. W. Spittle presided over a large assembly.....”

Wednesbury Leader 13/7/1906

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary (Mr. N. C. A. Neville), *George Simmonds*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, was summoned at the instance of the Inland Revenue authorities with failing to make proper entries in his brewing book on the 13th of May. Mr. Turton defended.

The supervisor of the Inland Revenue (Mr. W. Sanders) explained that the authorities regarded it as a very serious case. The proceedings were taken under the Beer Duty Act, and under that defendant was bound to make entries of all the malt he used and all the wort that was produced from that malt. He had also to keep the book in which the entries were made in a special place ready for inspection by the officer. It was also, he urged, important that the entries in the book should be correctly made.

The Inland Revenue officer in charge of that part of Darlaston where the defendant lived had received information on more than one occasion that steam had been seen issuing from the back premises of the defendant on Sundays. He pointed out that there was nothing in the Act to prevent a brewer from brewing on Sundays,

but it should be entered in the usual way. On Sunday, May 13th, the officer paid a surprise visit to the house at six o'clock in the morning. He first of all took charge of the brewing book, and afterwards went down the cellar, the landlord accompanying him. Defendant made no remark, and when they returned up the cellar he said nothing, and the officer found the brewhouse door locked, which was a very suspicious circumstance. The officer had the brewhouse opened, and he then found that brewing was going on, and malt had already been mashed. There was no entry of the brew in the book, and as the case was a grave one he asked for the maximum penalty of £100 to be imposed.

The officer who visited defendant's premises (Lawrence Morton) bore out Mr. Sanders' statement, and said defendant admitted to him that he had brewed at five o'clock. Defendant should have given twenty-four hours' notice of his intention to brew, and he should have written this in the brewing book.

By Mr. Turton: Defendant made the entry in the book after witness visited the house. He only admitted that he had brewed when they got to the brewhouse, and when he could deny it no longer. Defendant also admitted that he had brewed two sacks of malt.

Mr. Turton, on behalf of the defendant, said he did not contend that the entry was made according to law, but the circumstances which caused the omission were exceptional. Mrs. *Simmonds* was seriously ill in bed at the time, and defendant was attending to her, and he really thought he had made the entry in the book. When the officer detected the omission defendant openly told him that he had brewed. Defendant had no intention to defeat the law, or defy the Inland Revenue authorities, and the offence, he pleaded, was due to a pure oversight entirely. He asked for leniency, as this was the first prosecution against the defendant.

The Stipendiary regarded this as a serious case, and said the penalty for such offences was so heavy because it was necessary the entries should be properly made in order that the right amount of duty could be assessed. If people neglected, as defendant had done, to make those entries, the Revenue might be cheated of duty, because no one could tell when a brewing had taken place. It was in order to prevent the Revenue from being defrauded that it was necessary for him to inflict upon the defendant what might appear a very heavy fine of £25 and costs."

Walsall Observer 27/10/1906

"Information was given at the fire station at 10-45 on Sunday night that a fire had broken out at the KINGS ARMS, Cramp Hill. The brigade quickly turned out with the steamer, under the command of Captain J. C. Joynson, and on their arrival found that an attic at the top of the house, used for the purpose of storing wines and spirits, was well ablaze. The brigade, after working two hours, were successful in extinguishing the fire."

Walsall Observer 9/2/1907

"The annual licensing sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday, Alderman Wilson Lloyd presiding. Superintendent Salt reported that there were 92 licenses, or one to every 158 persons of the population. Since the last sessions one beerhouse license had been surrendered, in consideration of the magistrates permitting the rebuilding of another licensed premises. No proceedings had been taken by the police against license holders during the year, but he opposed the renewal of the license of the KINGS ARMS INN, Cramp Hill, on the ground that the licensee had been fined for a contravention of the Excise Law.

Alderman Wilson Lloyd, on behalf of the magistrates, expressed satisfaction that the licensed houses had been better conducted, and also that there had been a considerable decrease in the number of transfers of licenses. They hoped that the sanitary and domestic arrangements of licensed premises would be kept in as good condition as possible, and they also wished it known that they were anxious that the rooms should be of sufficient size and well ventilated.

Mr. R. A. Willcock applied for the renewal of the license of the KINGS ARMS INN, but the magistrates deferred their decision until the adjourned sessions, which were fixed for March 6th."

London Gazette 19/3/1907

"Receiving Orders.....

George Simmonds, residing and carrying on business at the KINGS ARMS, Cross Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler. Date of Petition Filing March 14, 1907."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1907

“Bankruptcy Examinations. At the County Court on Tuesday, before Mr. Registrar Clarke, the following debtors appeared for public examination.....

George Simmonds, KINGS ARMS, Cross Street, Darlaston, licensed victualler. Mr. Glover appeared for the debtor and Mr. Goodwin for creditors. The statement of accounts showed liabilities £802 19s 6d and assets estimated at £58 17s 11d. The debtor was examined by the Official Receiver, and stated that in 1899 he received £350 under his father’s will and took the ANCHOR INN beerhouse at James Bridge. Subsequently he went to the KINGS ARMS, paying £350 to go in, but he now reckoned that he paid £200 too much. There was a big trade, but all the houses in that district gave the long pull and the competition was so keen that little profit was made. He brewed at his house and reckoned on about £2 profit on each brewing, which would be about 136 gallons. He admitted that he had brewed 720 barrels during the year, but he denied that he had made more than £3 a week profit. Both his wife and he had also been ill. The examination was adjourned to the 7th of May for a further information to be given.”

AND

Walsall Advertiser 11/5/1907

“The adjourned examination took place *George Simmonds*, licensed victualler, KINGS ARMS, Darlaston. In reply to the Official Receiver debtor admitted having before filing his petition been this year supplied with spirits to the value of £107, but denied that he could make 20 per cent profit by retailing such goods. He acknowledged having brewed fifty or sixty barrels of beer a month, but said it was impossible, owing to the long pull, to make more than 1s a gallon for it in Darlaston. The examination was further adjourned, and debtor ordered to file an amended cash account.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 30/5/1907

“At Walsall County Court today, *George Simmonds*, KINGS ARMS INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, appeared for his adjourned bankruptcy examination, by Mr. C. Houlton (Deputy Official Receiver) applied for an adjournment sine die, on the ground that the bankrupt had not complied with an order to file an amended cash settlement. An account had been received from him, but it was both incomplete and inaccurate, and showed no money received. The bankrupt had apparently done a fair business, but in 3½ years had incurred a loss of over £900, so that it was important he should show where the money had gone. Mr. A. J. Glover, for the debtor, asked that he should be given a further opportunity of complying with the order, but the Registrar adjourned the examination sine die.”

Walsall Advertiser 27/6/1908

“*George Hopkins*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS, Cross Street, was summoned for selling whisky and gin which was under proof. Mr. Van Tromp, inspector of food and drugs, prosecuted, and stated that the Public Analyst’s certificate showed that they were under proof, the whisky being 5.7 per cent, and the gin 9.5 per cent. The Bench imposed fines of 40s and costs on each charge.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/1/1911

“Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquiry at the KINGS ARMS INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, this (Tuesday) morning, touching the death of George Henry Page (32), nut cutter, of 38, Eldon Street, Darlaston, who was found dead in the yard at the rear of his house on Sunday morning.

Mary Page, widow, said her husband had been troubled with a cough for some time past, but seemed as usual when he went to bed on Sunday night. At seven o’clock next morning he complained of a pain in the chest, and got up. At about eight o’clock he went into the yard with the intention of going to wash himself, but suddenly fell. She went to him, and afterwards ran for a friend named Martha Dangerfield, but it was discovered he was dead.

Dr. Magrene deposed to being called to the deceased, and upon examination came to the conclusion he had suffered from a distended stomach. This, in his opinion, impeded the heart’s action, and caused syncope. Recalled, the widow stated that her husband had nothing to eat after his breakfast on Saturday morning. The doctor said this confirmed his theory. The stomach became distended by the accumulation of gas. It was a very bad habit to get into going without meals, and if encouraged tended to grow upon one. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned by the jury.”

1911 Census

37, Cramp Hill

[1] *William Henry Lee* (34), hotel manager, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Millie Lee* (25), wife, married 3 years, assisting in business, born West Bromwich:

William H. Lee, beer retailer, 12, Cross Street [1912]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1918

“At Darlaston Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the BRADFORD ARMS, which was adjourned until March 6 owing to the licensee having been convicted. The KINGS ARMS, Cramp Hill, and the ROYAL GEORGE, Station Street, were also adjourned to allow of notices being served on the ground of redundancy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1918

“The Adjourned Principal Meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Saturday.....

Mr. Graham Milward, barrister (instructed by Messrs. Slater and Co., of Darlaston) applied for the renewal of the full licence of the KINGS ARMS, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, on behalf of the Bloxwich Brewery Company.

At the request of the Court, counsel confined his case to the barrelage of the house, the Chairman saying that it depended upon these figures as to whether the house was redundant or not.

Mr. Milward stated that the trade for 1916 was 366¾ barrels, or about 7 a week; 1917, 322½ barrels (restricted output); and 1918, 217 barrels (which was all the house could be allowed). He also gave the figures as to the bottled goods sold, and said his clients bought the house only three years ago; it was a good house and one they were anxious to keep. The purchase was subject to a two-years' tied lease, so that they had had the house for one year exactly.

The Clerk of the Peace (Mr. Eustace Joy) said that the lease would be taken into account in the price paid for the house.

Mr. Milward said the property was on the market at the time and was sold to close an estate.

After consideration in private, the committee decided to renew the licence.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/1/1938

“Racing Pigeons Show.

There were 135 entries for the annual show of racing pigeons promoted by the Darlaston Invitation Flying Club, at the KINGS ARMS, Darlaston, on Saturday afternoon. The Judge (Mr. J. Ingram, of Walsall) had a difficult task in detailing the awards. Arrangements were made by Mr. S. B. Bryne (secretary). The award for the best bird in the show was won by Lovell Brothers, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, while the trophy for the best member was given to Mr. G. Taylor, of Darlaston.....”

1939 Register

Cramp Hill – KINGS ARMS

[1] *Herbert Hayward*, date of birth 8/7/1895, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Gladys Hayward*, dob 4/4/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *William Hayward*, dob 12/5/1890, motor driver, single:

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1943/4.

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division A, in 1948.

Plans were approved for alterations on 17th September 1952.

It closed on 11th April 1960.

Demolished

KINGS ARMS

Moxley, Cock Heath, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Lowe [1831] – [1835]

George Shotton [1841] – [1842]

David Rose [1846] – [1854]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 11/5/1870

“Local Notes and Queries. In resuming this series we beg to remind our readers that any facts relating to the general history of Birmingham, or the district around, will always be acceptable.....

Charles Moseley, a carpenter, was the man who attempted to shoot his sweetheart, about the 21st of June, 1831, on a Saturday night. She was slightly wounded, and the pistol burst, and wounded his own hand.

Moseley went off to Darlaston, and was seen at Mr. *William Lowe's*, KINGS ARMS, Moxley, on the Sunday with his hand tied up. Thence he went to Wednesfield Wake, and on the Sunday night a pistol shot was heard about twelve o'clock, on the Rough Hay Farm, between Willenhall and Darlaston, then occupied by Mr. Charles Green. On the Monday morning the body was found by some boatmen in the canal. An inquest was held, and the verdict was Found Drowned. It is a mystery how he got to the canal, after shooting himself, as he had to cross a brook 6ft wide, and to pass over about 300 yards, marked by tracks of blood, from where the pistol was found. Six young men carried him to the grave, and the bells rang a muffled peal.

Edward Jones, Potters Field, Dudley.”

[The inquest was held at the WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston – see Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/7/1831.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/2/1841 - Advert

“Valuable Road-Side House.

To be Let, the KINGS ARMS INN, Cock Heath, between Wednesbury and Bilston, with immediate possession.

The above House is well worth the attention of persons desirous of entering into the Public Business, being in a densely populated neighbourhood, surrounded by Coal and Iron-works, &c, and now doing a good trade.

For particulars apply to Mr. *Lowe*, on the premises; or to Mr. Corbett, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

1841 Census

Cock Heath

[1] *George Shotton* (55), victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Shotton* (40);

[3] Charles Shotton (9);

[4] Hellen Jevons (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/4/1843 - Advert

“By Isaac Allen. To be Sold by Auction, without reserve, on Tuesday, April 25, at six o'clock in the evening (unless sooner disposed of by private contract), in consequence of the proprietor declining the business, the Goodwill, Licenses, and Possession of that desirable Public House, known as the **KINGS ARMS**, situated at Cock Heath, on the direct road from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, and in the midst of the mining districts.

The Premises are in every way suited for the business, comprising commodious bar, two parlours, two tap-rooms, club-room, four bed-rooms, excellent ale vaults, brewhouse, Stable, Play-ground, Garden, and other conveniences.

The Brewing Utensils, Stock, Fixtures, part of the Household Furniture, and Effects, to be taken by valuation.

For other particulars apply to the Proprietor on the Premises, or at the offices of the Auctioneer, Smithfield, Birmingham.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/1/1845 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Road-Side House.

To Let, the **KINGS ARMS**, Cock Heath, situated on the turnpike road between Wednesbury and Bilston, surrounded by coal and iron works. An opportunity like this seldom occurs, as there will be no premium required for goodwill or furniture. Stock, &c, to be taken to.

Apply to Mr. John Dowler, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Journal 27/6/1846

On Saturday last, an accident, attended, we regret to say, with loss of life, occurred to a miner of the name of William Lawton, who was at work in one of Messrs. Cresswell and Son's pits, when a large piece of coal slipped off a heap which had just been dug out, and, falling upon him, killed him on the spot. An inquest was held on the body at Mr. *D. Rose's*, the **KINGS ARMS**, Moxley, and verdict of Accidental Death returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/1/1847

“On Wednesday night last, between five and six o'clock, an alarming and fatal accident occurred to an elderly gentleman, who was riding on horseback along the road between Wednesbury and Bilston. It appears that the gentleman's name is Russell, but beyond that nothing more is known. When he arrived at Cock Street, he was met by Mr Anslow's porter, who was returning to Bilston with a very spirited horse in his cart, where he had been delivering a load of grocery goods. On coming down a slight incline, between Cock Heath and the New Gate, he ran against Mr. Russell and caught his leg with the shaft of the cart, which inflicted a severe wound which bled very profusely. Mr. Russell was taken to the **KINGS ARMS**, the nearest public house, but they refused to admit him, and he was then conveyed to the **SWAN INN**, at Moxley, where he received every attention from the landlord and landlady. Mr. Rooker, surgeon, of Darlaston was immediately sent for, who arrived in a very short time and rendered every assistance in his power to stop the hemorrhage, but it was all in vain, and the deceased expired about nine o'clock the same night. He had £34 in money in his pockets. The police are making every inquiry, for the purpose of finding out where the deceased resided, there being only one document on his person, a watch paper, shewing that it had been repaired by a watch-maker at Knowle, in Warwickshire. An inquest was fixed to be held last night at Moxley, before George Hinchliffe, Esq.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/1/1847

“On Friday night, the 15th instant, an inquest was held at the **SWAN INN**, Moxley, on the body of Charles Pell Russell, aged 67.....

William Marlow spoke to the refusal of Mr. *Rose* to take in deceased, and to assisting to take him to Mr. Wells's at Moxley.....”

[For the full report see SWAN, Moxley.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/8/1849

“George Lowe and William Lowe were charged with assaulting Robert Rose, at Moxley. George Lowe was fined 60s, but the fine was subsequently reduced to 1s on his paying complainant 20s for the injury done him. There was a cross-summons charging Robert Rose and Enoch Aston with assaulting George Lowe. The case was dismissed as against Rose, but Aston was ordered to find sureties to keep the peace for six months. The landlord of the KINGS ARMS, where the fight took place, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house, but as it appeared he was from home at the time, he was ordered to pay the costs only.”

1851 Census

Cock Heath

- [1] *David Rose* (41), iron master, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Zibiah Rose* (39), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Henry Rose* (13), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *William Rose* (11), son, scholar, born Belgium;
- [5] *Elizabeth Rose* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *David Rose* (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Daniel Rose* (9 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Hannah Salt* (41), sister-in-law, born Sedgley;
- [9] *Eliza Clayton* (18), general servant, born Shrewsbury;
- [10] *Rebecca Harrison* (16), general servant, born West Bromwich:

KINGS HEAD

King Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Wilson [1818]
Elizabeth Wilson [1822]
Richard Butler [1828] – [1830]

NOTES

Edward Wilson was also a gunlocksmith. [1818]

Birmingham Chronicle 6/1/1820 - Advert

“Freehold Estate and Mines, Darlaston, near Wednesbury.
To be Sold by Auction, by Henry Gimblett, at the KINGS HEAD INN, in Darlaston (near Wednesbury), in the County of Stafford, on Tuesday, the 11th Day of January, 1820, at Three o’Clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions, and together or in the following or such other Lots as shall be fixed at the Time of Sale.....”

KINGS HEAD

Pinfold Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Coalbourn [1831] – [1834]

NOTES

William Coalbourn = William Colebourn

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1831

“Duke of Wellington’s Beer Bill.....

The cheapness of beer proves only an incentive to excess; while the grand object of the retailer is to multiply every vicious attraction which interest and ingenuity can suggest. We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured, and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.....”

AND

Birmingham Journal 3/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

In perusing your *Journal* of Saturday last, I find the following which is incorrect, but I have no doubt it is from misinformation. ‘We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.’

The fact, Sir, is this; there were eight bulls in the whole, and one of those was at a Beer House, in Wednesbury parish, and seven were in the parish of Darlaston. There are, in the latter parish, seventeen houses licensed under the old Act, and thirty-five under the new Act. Six of those bulls were baited at the houses of the licensed victuallers, and but one at the house of a retail brewer.

This, Sir, is a truth which cannot be contradicted. I can give you the names of the persons, and the signs of every house at which these bulls were baited, if required.

I am, Sir, Your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, August 31, 1831.....

AND

Birmingham Journal 10/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

Sir, Agreeable to your request I have given you the names of the persons, also their signs, at the houses where the bulls were baited at the late Darlaston wake.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, September 8, 1831.....

Licensed under the Old Act *W. Colebourn*, KINGS HEAD.”

LAMP

13, (13+14), Foundry Street, Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Downen

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Taylor [1859] – [1861]
William Downen [1880] – [1904]
Mrs. Jemima Downen [1911] – [1912]
William Downen [1916] – **1924**;
Sarah Ann Downen (**1924 – 1934**);
Samuel Harrison (**1934 – 1935**);
Henry ‘Harry’ John Humpage (**1935 – 1962**);

NOTES

13+14, Foundry Street [1881], [1891], [1911]
14, Foundry Street [1939]
13, Foundry Street [1904], [1912], [1916], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Reynolds Newspaper 6/11/1859

“Subscription on behalf of the Building Operatives.

The master builders having pushed matters to extremities with their workpeople, thereby driving them to a general strike, it is the incumbent duty of every trade society and individual operative in the United Kingdom to afford prompt assistance to the builders and continue that assistance until the dispute is brought to a triumphant conclusion.....

Thomas Taylor, LAMP TAVERN, Darlaston (2nd subscription), 8s.”

1861 Census

Foundry Street – LAMP

[1] *Thomas Taylor* (64), retail brewer, born Darlaston;
[2] Hannah Taylor (62), wife, born Darlaston:

1871 Census

Foundry Street

[1] *William Downen* (41), gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
[2] *Jemima Downen* (34), wife, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
[3] Mary Downen (1), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

Midland Examiner and Times 13/3/1875

“Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital.

Subscriptions Loyal Victoria Lodge, LAMP TAVERN, Darlaston £1 1s 0d.”

1881 Census

13+14, Foundry Street – LAMP TAVERN

[1] *William Downen* (51), gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
[2] *Jemima Downen* (44), wife, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
[3] Mary Downen (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[4] *William Downen* (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
[5] Sarah L. Povey (22), niece, general servant, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

13+14, Foundry Street

- [1] *William Downen* (61), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Jemima Downen* (54), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Downen* (16), son, pattern maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] Sarah Povey (32), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 30/1/1892

“Free Gardeners. On Saturday evening the members of the May We Flourish Lodge, No.1834, of the Birmingham and Darlaston District, to the number of thirty-five, sat down to their first anniversary dinner, which was served up in most excellent style by the host and hostess of the house, Mr. and Mrs. *William Downen*, LAMP TAVERN, Foundry Street, Darlaston. After the cloth was drawn, Bro. John Evans PDM and LB was voted to the chair and Bro. William Danks to the vice-chair.....”

1901 Census

Foundry Street – LAMP TAVERN

- [1] *William Downen* (71), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Jemima Downen* (64), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Downen* (26), son, wood pattern maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] Sarah Povey (41), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

William Downen, beer retailer, 13, Foundry Street. [1904]

William Downen died in the 1st quarter of 1905.

Walsall Advertiser 16/1/1909

“The 51st half-yearly meeting of the Darlaston and Willenhall District of National United Order of Free Gardeners was held at the LAMP TAVERN INN, Foundry Street, Darlaston, on Tuesday. The chair was taken by Bro. G. Payne, DM, who wished all a prosperous new year. Bro. W. Adey, senior auditor, gave the auditors’ report, which showed a gain on all funds of upwards of £22. The total worth of District funds was £822 18s 1d, and there were 978 members. Appeal grants were made to two members from the benevolent fund. It was decided to form a Convalescent Home Fund and to pay a levy of 6d a member to start this for the first year. Bro. B. Matthews, the Grand Master of the Order, attended, and was given a hearty welcome, this being the first time in the history of this district of the attendance of a Grand Master. Bro. B. Matthews addressed the delegates.”

1911 Census

13+14, Foundry Street – LAMP TAVERN

- [1] *Jemima Downen* (74), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *William Downen* (36), son, pattern maker, born Darlaston;
- [3] Mary Hodgetts (56), widow, domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Mrs. *Jemima Downen*, beer retailer, 13, Foundry Street. [1912]

Jemima Downen died in the 2nd quarter of 1912.

William Downen, beer retailer, 13, Foundry Street. [1916]

1924 Probate

“*William Downen*, of the LAMP TAVERN, Foundry Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 16 September 1923. Probate London 23 September to *Sarah Ann Downen*, widow. Effects £3,487 1s 5d.”

Rugeley Times 4/8/1934 - Deaths

“On July 22nd, *Sarah Ann Downen*, aged 49 years, of the LAMP TAVERN, Foundry Street, Darlaston.”

Rugeley Times 1/9/1934

“The license of one of the oldest public houses in Darlaston, which has been in the possession of the *Downen* family for over half a century, was transferred to *Samuel Harrison* temporarily. The house was the LAMP TAVERN in Foundry Street and it was transferred from the executors of the late *Sarah Ann Downen*.”

Dudley Chronicle 13/9/1934 - Advert

“Re *William Downen*, Deceased and *Sarah Ann Downen*, Deceased.

Darlaston. Messrs. Belcher and Son will offer for Sale by Public Auction at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, September 17th, 1934, at 7 o'clock in the evening precisely, the Freehold, Free of Tie, Seven Days, Ante '69 On-Beerhouse known as the LAMP TAVERN, Foundry Street, with Vacant Possession on completion of the purchase; together with the adjoining Freehold Dwelling House, No.15 Foundry Street. Also an Area of approximately 1,178 Square Yards of Land at the rear thereof, the whole to be sold as one lot.

Detailed Particulars and Permits to View may be obtained from: Messrs. Slater & Co., Solicitors, Darlaston, Tel.276, and at Lloyds Chambers, Park Street, Walsall, Tel.3650; or from the Auctioneers, Darlaston, Tel.151 and a Plan of the Property may be inspected.”

1939 Register

14, Foundry Street – LAMP TAVERN

[1] *Henry J. Humpage*, date of birth 11/2/1896, furnace cupola man, now keeping public house, married;

[2] *Hannah Humpage*, dob 31/5/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] *Beryl (Humpage) Weale*, dob 19/8/1925, draper's assistant, single:

Black Country Bugle 22/4/1999

'Darlaston Licensee Keeping The Family Tradition Alive'

“.....The old LAMP TAVERN, which stood about a hundred yards away from the current one [ALADDINS LAMP], in Foundry Street, was run by legendary Darlaston character *Harry [Humpage]* for 27 years up until its demolition The old LAMP was the sort of place where you felt as if you'd gone back in time as soon as you walked in It was all gas light and trestle tables, and the pulls were in the kitchen. The bar was about three feet wide, and right in the middle of the pub *Henry Humpage*, who died in 1983, some years after his retirement from the pub. When *Harry* called time he used to walk around all the tables saying 'Are you going to drink that?' And everything that wasn't drunk he'd drink himself They used to put roast potatoes or sandwiches on. There was a cupboard in the corner with blocks of salt in it – though you had to scrape the dirt off it first The beer was beautiful though – in summer he had to open the cellar doors to keep it cool They used to do an average of 18 hogsheads a week *Harry* wouldn't hear a word out of place though If anyone said as much as 'bloody' he would be going 'Hang on, hang on,' he didn't stand for any bad language.”

Plans were approved for alterations, including a supply of water to the bar, on 22nd May 1935.

Rugeley Times 19/6/1948

“Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers' Association have enrolled 12 more new members, which makes 26 within a month. They are.....

H. J. Humpage, LAMP TAVERN, Darlaston.”

The license was surrendered in respect of premises to be erected ALADDINS LAMP.

It closed on 14th March 1962.

Demolished

Check New Place.

LAMP

New Place, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Taylor [1834] – [1841]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Taylor, beer retailer, New Place. [1841]

Check Foundry Street.

LANE ARMS

Wolverhampton Road West / Bentley Road North, Bentley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Frank Joseph Yardley (1937 – 1939);
William Archibald Taylor (1939 – 1963);
George Lawrence Morgans (1963 – 1967);
Griffith Allen Steer (1967 – []
Tom Hayfield [1986]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/3/1936

“At the adjourned licensing sessions at Darlaston yesterday.....

The removal of the license of the SWAN HOTEL, Victoria Road, Darlaston, to a house and premises proposed to be erected by Messrs. Butler’s, of Wolverhampton, at the junction of Bentley Lane and Wolverhampton Road, Bentley, Darlaston, was refused.”

The license was transferred from the OLD CROWN, Cramp Hill.

Rugeley Times 13/2/1937

“Darlaston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the OLD CROWN, Cramphill.....

Mr. *Frank Joseph Yardley* applied, on behalf of W. Butler and Co. Ltd., Wolverhampton, for an order sanctioning the removal of the license held by Alfred William Gobsill in respect of the OLD CROWN, Cramphill, to premises proposed to be erected on land situate and fronting the Wolverhampton-Walsall Road, Bentley.

Mr. P. J. Slater, for the applicants, said the OLD CROWN INN was in a congested area. Wide developments were taking place at Bentley and vehicular traffic was heavy. He thought it would be the first substantial house of any kind to be erected in this area since Bentley Hall was built some hundreds of years ago.

Mr. Yardley said the Company were willing to surrender two other licenses – the FREEMASONS ARMS (beerhouse) and an off-license in Willenhall Street.

Mr. C. A. Clarke, of Belcher and Son, estate agents, Darlaston, said that within a radius of 440 yards of the OLD CROWN, there were 35 licensed houses. In that area there were 1,390 private houses and taking four persons per house, the population was 5,560. The number of persons to a licensed house was 150, compared with 256 for the whole of the town. At Bentley there were no licensed houses whatever in the area, the two nearest being 990 yards and 1,180 yards away respectively. There were already 52 private houses in the area and 11 others were nearer to the site than any other licensed house; altogether about 252 persons resided nearer to the site.

It was proposed to provide car park facilities, which would be the only one between the centre of Walsall and Neachells House, Wolverhampton Road, Willenhall, a distance of four miles.

It was stated that the total cost of the proposed premises would be £8,000.

After retiring, Alderman Joynson said the justices had decided to grant the application.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/5/1937

“Twelve applications for the confirmation of license removals remained to be heard by the Staffordshire Licensing Confirmation Committee when they resumed their sitting at Stafford on Tuesday.....

One removal in the Wednesbury Division was confirmed. This was for the removal of the full license of the OLD CROWN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, to premises proposed to be erected at the junction of Bentley Lane and Wolverhampton Road, Bentley.”

It opened on 4th May 1937.

Walsall Observer 14/1/1939 - Advert

“The LANE ARMS, Bentley, Walsall, has just been opened by W. Butler & Co. Limited.

Fully Licensed. Good Car Park.

Licensee – Mr. *W. A. Taylor*.”

1939 Register

Wolverhampton Road, Bentley – LANE ARMS

[1] *William A. Taylor*, date of birth 8/3/1897, licensed victualler, manager, married;

[2] *Ellen M. Taylor*, dob 25/8/1898, manageress, married;

[3] *Mary K. B. Brown*, dob 18/12/1910, barmaid, married;

[4] *Norman E. G. Brown*, dob 10/1/1935, under school age, single:

Walsall Observer 30/3/1940

“Darlaston’s newly-provided allotment plots are not being taken up as readily as members of the committee would like but those that have been let were the scenes of great activity last weekend. Mr. A. E. Pugh, Deputy Surveyor of Darlaston, who has been appointed secretary and publicity officer for the town’s ‘Grow More Food’ drive confessed to an *Observer* reporter this week that there are many vacant plots but added that the committee were hopeful that volunteers would come along. Efforts were being made to procure

more land so that there will be plenty at the disposal of those who require it.

Darlaston has launched the campaign very wholeheartedly from the official point of view; all that remains now is for the citizens to get on with the digging and the food producing. Everything possible is being done to interest them. The local allotments association are ready with advice and help to the fullest extent and they might well be the means of gardeners getting their seeds at a cheaper rate than otherwise. Mr. C. S. Dempster of the Staffordshire County Farm Institute has paid one visit to the town to talk on gardening essentials and he has promised to come along on April 11, when he is to address a meeting at the LANE ARMS, Bentley, in which area most of the allotment land is situated.....”

Walsall Observer 26/9/1942 - Advert

“Wanted, week-end Waitress; also Barmaid. Good wages.
LANE ARMS, Wolverhampton Road, Bentley.”

Walsall Observer 8/5/1943 - Advert

“2 Waitresses required, week-ends and 2 evenings.
LANE ARMS, Wolverhampton Road, Bentley.”

Walsall Observer 16/9/1944

“There was a good attendance at the monthly meeting of the Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers’ Society held on Thursday at the NEW INN, Willenhall. Mr. C. W. Garfield (president) occupied the chair.....
The next meeting will be held at the LANE ARMS, Bentley, on Thursday, October 12.”

Walsall Observer 14/10/1944

“At the LANE ARMS, Bentley, on Thursday, there was a good attendance at the meeting of the Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers’ Society. Mr. C. W. Garfield (president) occupied the chair and referred to the appeal being made on behalf of the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation for the prisoners-of-war effort. It was resolved to send Christmas gifts of £1 each to members serving in HM Forces and also gifts of 10s each to sons and daughters of members similarly serving.....”

“Walsall Observer 4/11/1944 - Advert

“Waitress required, evenings.
LANE ARMS, Wolverhampton Road, Bentley.”

A team from here took part in the Willenhall (Butlers) Darts League. [1946]

Plans for various alterations were approved on 19th September 1952, but were withdrawn on 4th February 1953.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/9/1962

“Charles II’s flight from Bentley Hall, Darlaston, is depicted in a water-colour which has been presented to Bentley West Primary School. The artist is Mr. Montague Smith, a Wolverhampton interior decorator, who is a friend of the headmaster, Mr. H. Thompson. Mr. Smith made a study of the historic event before starting the painting. Charles II, disguised as a groom, is shown escaping from the Hall on a strawberry roan with Jane Lane, daughter of the Lane family who lived at the Hall. When the crown was restored Charles allowed the Lane family to use a quarter of the Royal coat of arms on their own arms and added to it, as a crest, the head of a strawberry roan horse. This coat of arms of the Lane family can now be seen outside the LANE ARMS INN at Bentley.”

Walsall Observer 26/4/1963

“At the monthly meeting of the Walsall Licensed Victuallers’ Society, the chairman (Mr. W. Ruck) stressed the need for more liaison between neighbouring areas to cope with the changing trend of the trade. He also urged members to support the banquet, cabaret and dance being organised by the social section in Walsall Town Hall next Thursday. Mr. W. J. Wesson was elected vice-chairman in place of Mr. *A. W. Taylor* of the

LANE ARMS, Bentley, who has now retired from the trade. The next meeting of the society will be held on May 9 in the KINGS ARMS, Caldmore Green.”

Plans were approved for alterations on 14th April 1964.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1968

“Bentley Council House Tenants Committee plans to hold a series of Thursday night ‘surgeries’ where tenants can air grievances. They will begin tonight at the LANE ARMS public house.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/3/1976

“The British Productivity Council, responsible for the formation of the Productivity Association throughout the country, came into being in 1952. It was sponsored by the Board of Trade during the premiership of Sir Winston Churchill. The object was to assist British industry in a period when national recovery was the dominant theme. Some of the conclusions which were then made are still valid.....

The first informal meeting on ‘How to Market a New Product,’ has been arranged for March 25, starting at 6pm at the LANE ARMS, Wolverhampton Road, Bentley, near Walsall. The speaker will be Mr. Derek Jones, of Aston Management, Technical and Planning Service Ltd.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/6/1986

“Regulars at the LANE ARMS pub, Bentley, Walsall, have been counting the pennies to raise £1,000 for local blind people. For the last ten weeks they have been adding 1,2, and 5p pieces to the huge pile on the bar counter. Manager at the pub in Wolverhampton Road West, Mr. *Tom Hayfield*, his wife Christine, and barmaid Kay Yates, are keeping their fingers crossed that the pile of pennies will be a money spinner to the Walsall Society for the Blind. This year the pub has already raised over £500 for the society. They are in competition with other pubs in the area to raise as much money as possible in penny piles. The LANE ARMS came top in last year’s fund-raising effort for the blind, and they are hoping to repeat their success this year.”

AND

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/8/1986

“Regulars at a Walsall pub found themselves surrounded by coppers each time they popped in for a drink at their local. But it was all in the name of charity and not the long arm of the law with the coppers consisting of a massive pile of coins on the bar of the LANE ARMS, Bentley. Regulars spent ten weeks contributing to the growing mountain of pennies and beat more than 100 pubs to win a trophy for collecting the most for the second year running. They raised more than £1,130 in their pile, knocked over by radio and television celebrity Tony Butler. All the cash will be going to Walsall Society for the Blind which has run the contest for the past three years. The society’s appeals organiser Mr. Don Bagley said, ‘It was a marvellous sum of money for one pub to raise with the competition bringing in around £5,500. We are extremely grateful to all those people who have taken part.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/12/1988

“Young patients at a Walsall hospital can look forward to hours of fun – thanks to the fund-raising efforts of the LANE ARMS Gang. Regulars at the LANE ARMS pub in Bentley, Walsall, bought toys worth £250 for children on the Truro Ward at Walsall’s Manor Hospital. They also handed over a £1,000 cheque to buy medical equipment for the ward.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/7/1992

“A gunman blasted the bar window of a Walsall pub less than two hours after ten white and Asian youths had been fighting inside. Fortunately the bar was empty when glass and shotgun pellets smashed into the bar of the LANE ARMS, Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley, at 11.25pm on Saturday. Today police appealed for information about the gunman, and Det. Insp. Stewart Grogan said, ‘We are checking to see if there was a connection between the fight and the shooting. Even if the intention was to cause damage, recklessly discharging a shotgun could have potentially fatal results.’ The fight had broken out at 9.50pm, causing extensive damage to the bar and furniture. Three frosted glass windows were shattered and optics at

the rear of the bar were smashed. Mr. Grogan said when police arrived no complaints of assault were made, and it seemed the main culprits had left. One man was arrested outside the pub for possessing an offensive weapon – a spade handle – but later released after being cautioned.”

The Stage 4/5/2000

“Show Call. Who’s Where. Sunday, May 7 – Saturday, May 13.....
Dee D James, LANE ARMS, Walsall, West Midlands (13).”

[2000]

Closed [2007]

Express & Star 25/6/2008

“The LANE ARMS, in Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley, was more than a favourite watering hole for residents. It was also a community resource and is much missed by locals. Former landlords and regulars organised charity days, quizzes and football tournaments.

Bentley and Darlaston North representative Councillor Bill Madeley said the popular boozer shut down a few years ago when the licensee left. ‘It was a community pub and the people used for music entertainment and quizzes,’ he said. ‘It was a family pub. Friends of mine used to organise the weekly quiz which was a popular feature of the pub and brought customers in. People in the area keep asking me when it’s going to be reopened.’ He said he was aware efforts were being made by the owners to sell the property. ‘They keep telling us it is being left to market forces. If someone comes along and wants to reopen it as a pub or restaurant, or for housing development they are willing to let it go.’”

It was severely damaged in an arson attack in October 2009.

Express & Star 8/5/2012

“A long-term eyesore on a main route through Walsall is due to be completely demolished by the start of next month, council bosses have been informed. The vandal-hit LANE ARMS pub will finally be pulled down after Walsall Council approved the demolition notice put forward by site owners. The application proposes that work to bulldoze the empty building will begin on May 21 and be fully completed by June 4. There will be permanent hoarding around the site ahead of the work and demolition will be carried out using a 20-ton tracked machine. The former pub has been targeted by arsonists and there has been a long-running campaign to get the eyesore on a main route between Walsall and Willenhall pulled down. Some partial work to secure the building took place in 2010 but the site, which has been empty for a number of years, will be fully cleared. Planning bosses agreed to pursue enforcement action last November in a bid to make it either safe or knock it down. Now a notice of demolition has been approved, paving the way for work at the pub along Wolverhampton Road West. Checks will need to be carried out before works begin and after they are completed. Bill Madeley, of the Bentley Project Reference Group, has been campaigning for a number of years for action and said it was good news for the area. He said there have been concerns over children getting trapped inside the shell of the dilapidated building and there had been needs seen on the car park. There were once plans for a 150-seat restaurant on the site and hoped a similar scheme could come to fruition once the site is cleared.”

It was demolished in 2012.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Blakemore Lane, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Guest [1864] – [1865]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/4/1864

“Walsall County Court.....

Robinson v Guest. This was an action in which the plaintiff, who resides in Cox Street, Darlaston, to recover from the defendant, who is a beerhouse keeper in Blakemore Lane, in the same town, the sum of £40 for an assault committed under the following circumstances.

The defendant had a right of way through the plaintiff's yard, but some time ago the landlord of the latter put up two gates, thus closing the road between the two yards; and on the 19th of March last the defendant's daughter took a file and endeavoured to remove the fastening by which the gate was secured. The plaintiff's sons, seeing her do so, endeavoured to prevent her, whereupon a row ensued. Among other parties attracted to the scene of action was the defendant and the plaintiff's wife. Words passed between the latter, and ultimately defendant struck Mrs. Robinson a violent blow upon the chest, and also knocked out one of her teeth. His Honour, after hearing the case, gave judgement for £10.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1864

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *John Guest*, landlord of the LIVE AND LET LIVE beerhouse, Blakemore Lane, Darlaston, appeared before Mr. I. Spooner, Stipendiary, charged with having permitted gambling in his house on the 15th instant.

Police-constable Lynem deposed that he entered the house in consequence of hearing a disturbance on the premises, and in one of the rooms found men playing at cards. He saw the game played out, and saw one of the players pay for some ale. He was in plain clothes at the time, but some person entered the house and recognised him, and thereupon the players snatched up the cards and put them away. Two witnesses were called to rebut this statement, but their evidence was so unsatisfactory that the Stipendiary peremptorily ordered one of them to leave the witness box, and at once fined the defendant £5 and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1865

“*John Guest*, beerhouse keeper, Blakemore Lane, Darlaston, appeared before the Stipendiary, at the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, charged with having sold ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 5th November. The case was proved by Sergeant Fenner, and it was shown that, for an offence similar to the one now charged against him, the defendant was fined £5 last November. The Stipendiary stated that had this conviction been charged against the defendant, he should have imposed a fine of £10. As it was, the defendant would be fined £5. Mr. Spooner gave instructions to the police to charge previous convictions in all similar cases for the future.”

LORD NELSON

5, (4), (4+5), (3+4+5), Bentley Road, (Bentley Lane), DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Grainger [1868] – [1872]
John Payne [1878] – [1881]
William Oates [1891]
Benjamin Whitehouse [1901]
Simon Whitehouse [1904]
William Guttridge [1909] – 1925);
William Foster (1925 – 1951);
Thomas Foster (1951 – 1955);
George Peters (1955 – 1962):

NOTES

3+4+5, Bentley Road [1881]
4+5, Bentley Road [1891], [1911]
4, Bentley Road [1901]
5, Bentley Road [1912], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

John Grainger = John Granger

John Granger, beer retailer, Bentley Lane. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

Bentley Road – NELSON TAVERN

[1] *John Grainger* (57), builder and retail brewer, born Bilston;

[2] Jane Grainger (58), wife, born Bilston:

John Granger, beer retailer, Bentley Road. [1872]

Dudley Guardian 28/2/1874

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before Major Williams and Mr. W. Lloyd, George Oates, of the LORD NELSON INN, Darlaston, was summoned for selling ale without a license.

On the 10th inst Sergeant Breton visited the defendant’s house, and saw two men drinking ale. The landlord, on being questioned, said that the men were his own workmen. Sergeant Breton, in giving his evidence, said that the defendant in 1864 had been sentenced to two years’ imprisonment for stealing a large quantity of coal. The defendant pleaded that he had got his license transferred from a man named *Grainger*, but on the same evening as the transfer of license was said to have taken place, Mr. Holland found that it was the identical man who had been convicted of coal stealing. He told the defendant that, in consequence of this, he could not be permitted to hold a publican’s license. Notwithstanding this, the defendant continued to keep the house open, in consequence of which he was proceeded against. The defendant was fined £5 and costs.”
[At Staffordshire Spring Assizes in 1864, George Oates and John Oates, colliery proprietors, were found guilty of stealing from a certain mine in Darlaston, 4,945 tons of coal, the property of the Rev. Manton Hathaway, by running their workings under his property.]

John Payne (46), widower, miner, married Mary Oates (36), widow, on 13th December 1875.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1878 - Advert

“£5 Reward. Stolen or Strayed, from Short Heath, Willenhall, 12th instant, two brown Horse Ponies, one 11½, the other 12½ hands high, both aged and in good condition; one has white spot on forehead. The property of *John Payne*, LORD NELSON INN, Darlaston.”

John Payne, beer retailer, Bentley Road. [1880]

1881 Census

3+4+5, Bentley Road

- [1] *John Payne* (52), coal miner, born Rugeley;
- [2] *Mary Payne* (41), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *William Oates* (23), step-son, widower, bolt forger, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Grace Elizabeth Oates* (21), step-daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Arthur Job Oates* (12), step-son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *George Oates* (2), grand-son, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Anne Payne* (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Martha Payne* (9), daughter, scholar, born Chasetown;
- [9] *Mary Payne* (7), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

1891 Census

4+5, Bentley Road – NELSON INN

- [1] *William Oates* (33), bolt forger, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Oates* (29), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *George Oates* (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *William Oates* (3), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Bertha Oates* (2), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Herbert Oates* (6 months), son, born Darlaston:

1901 Census

4, Bentley Road

- [1] *Benjamin Whitehouse* (55), licensed victualler, born Willenhall;
- [2] *Ellen Whitehouse* (57), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Robert Whitehouse* (28), son, iron worker, born Willenhall;
- [4] *Simon Whitehouse* (20), son, iron worker, born Willenhall;
- [5] *Ellen Whitehouse* (15), daughter, born Willenhall:

Simon Whitehouse, beer retailer, 4+5, Bentley Road. [1904]

William Guttridge = William Gutteridge

Walsall Advertiser 6/2/1909

“The general annual Licensing Sessions for Darlaston were held at the Police Court on Wednesday morning.....

The licensees of LORD NELSON, Bentley Road (*William Guttridge*) were then called before the Court and informed that a notice of objection would be served on them on the ground that the licenses were not required. Each case would be dealt with at the Adjourned Sessions.”

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston were held on Wednesday.....

The license of the LORD NELSON beerhouse, Bentley Road, held by *William Guttridge*, was objected to on the grounds of redundancy. Mr. C. W. Wright appeared for the brewers, Messrs. Wm. Butler Ltd. Mr. Wright maintained that the house was doing a good trade, and gave certain figures showing the takings Renewed.”

1911 Census

4+5, Bentley Road – LORD NELSON INN

[1] *William Guttridge* (30), licensee, born Bradley;

[2] Mrs. M. Guttridge (31), wife, married 9 years, assistant in business, born Bradley;

[3] B. J. Smith (28), domestic servant, born Darlaston;

[4] Minnie Guttridge (2), daughter, born Darlaston:

William Guttridge, beer retailer, 5, Bentley Road. [1912], [1916], [1921]

Evening Despatch 10/2/1916

“At Darlaston, Superintendent Salt’s report stated that there were eighty-eight houses in Darlaston licensed, this number being the same as last year. During the year one licensed victualler was proceeded against, but no conviction was recorded. Sixty-one persons had been proceeded against for drunkenness, the lowest during the last six years.

All the licenses were renewed, with the exception of the LORD NELSON in Bentley Road, which would be considered at the adjourned licensing sessions with a view to compensation.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/1/1924

“At Darlaston yesterday William Lloyd, aged 53, ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours on 24 December. It was stated that the justices granted an hour’s extension on the nights of the 24, 26, and 31 December, but each licensee had to apply to the magistrates’ clerk for the necessary license. Defendant failed to do this.

Mr. A. J. Glover, for the defence, explained that he applied for the extensions on behalf of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers’ Society, and defendant seeing it in the paper that it had been granted came to the conclusion he was entitled to keep open.

A similar summons was heard against *William Gutteridge*, of the LORD NELSON INN, Bewdley [sic] Road, Darlaston, in respect of 31 December.

In dismissing the cases on payment of costs the Bench said that they quite believed the men thought they were doing right and what they did was done innocently.”

William Guttridge – see also VINE, Station Street.

Plans were approved for the provision of a bathroom and indoor sanitary accommodation on 26th May 1937.

1939 Register

Bentley Road – LORD NELSON

[1] *William Foster*, date of birth 23/3/1881, general labourer, married;

[2] Harriet Foster, dob 14/6/1881, household duties, married:

Plans were approved for slight alterations to the bar on 7th January 1942.

Rugeley Times 19/6/1948

“Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association have enrolled 12 more new members, which makes 26 within a month. They are.....

William Foster, LORD NELSON INN, Darlaston.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 7th March 1962.

It closed on 31st December 1962.

MINEBORERS ARMS

82, Catherines Cross, (115, Wolverhampton Lane), DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Moses Whitehouse []

William Smith [1861] – [1912]

John Henry Pitt [1914] – 1922);

Sarah Pitt (1922 – 1931);

Joseph Ernest Dangerfield (1931 – 1953);

James William Worthington (1953 – 1954);

Stanley Louis Hargreaves (1954 – 1957);

Florence Maud Hargreaves (1957 – [1958]:

NOTES

'The Folklore of the Black Country' by Roy Palmer (2007)

“Ruff Moey was the nickname of *Moses Whitehouse*, a fighting man, who kept the MINE BORERS ARMS at Darlaston.”

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Lane, Catherines Cross – MINE BORERS ARMS

[1] *William Smith* (30), mine borer and beer seller, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Smith (24), wife, born Darlaston:

William Smith, beer retailer, Catherines Cross. [1868], [1870], [1880]

1871 Census

115, Wolverhampton Lane – MINE BORERS ARMS

[1] *William Smith* (40), mine borer and beer seller, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Smith (35), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Margaret Smith (7), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Margaret Bould (75), mother, widow, born Oakengates, Shropshire;

[5] Mary A. Langford (14), domestic servant, born Great Bridge:

William Smith, beer retailer, 82, Catherines Cross. [1872], [1904], [1912]

1881 Census

82, Catherines Cross

[1] *William Smith* (50), mine borer, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Smith (45), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Margaret Smith (17), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] William Smith (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

82, Catherines Cross

- [1] *William Smith* (60), mine borer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Smith (54), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Margaret Smith (27), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] William Smith (19), son, carpenter, born Darlaston:

1901 Census

82, Catherines Cross – MINE BORERS ARMS

- [1] *William Smith* (70), brewer and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Smith (65), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Margaret Woodward (37), daughter, widow, housemaid, born Darlaston;
- [4] Wilfred Woodward (6), grand-son, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

82, Catherines Cross

- [1] *William Smith* (80), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Smith (75), wife, married 51 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] Wilfred Woodward (16), boarder, bricklayer's labourer, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1914

“The adjourned sessions for the parish of Darlaston were held yesterday, Mr. A. H. Partridge presiding. The principal business was to consider objections to licenses on the ground of redundancy. Mr. J. Pritchard (Bilston) applied for renewal in the case of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT beerhouse, The Green; Mr. G. N. Capner, in the case of the MINEBORERS ARMS beerhouse, Catherines Cross; and Mr. A. Mand in the case of the THREE CROWNS beerhouse, The Green. The Bench referred the three licenses to the compensation authority.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1914 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 11.15 o'clock am, on Wednesday, the 29th day of July, 1914.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District).

List of Licensed Premises.....

MINE BORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *John Henry Pitt*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1914

“At the Principal Meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority, held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Wednesday, 25 licenses which had been referred by justices from petty sessional divisions and boroughs came under review. Of these, no opposition to the refusal of the license was offered by the parties interested in 15 cases, eight which were opposed were refused renewal, and the remaining two were adjourned for evidence of the trade done at each house.....

In the case of the MINE BORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, Mr. Capner, on behalf of the owners, offered no opposition, but after hearing evidence as to the trade done, the committee decided to renew the license.”

1922 Probate

“*John Henry Pitt*, of MINE BORERS ARMS INN, 82 Catherines Cross, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 4

August 1922. Administration Lichfield 4 September to *Sarah Pitt*, widow. Effects £155 4s.”

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

“‘I would sooner hear of five men being convicted of drunkenness than one woman,’ said Alderman C. W. D. Joynson, presiding on Wednesday morning at Darlaston Brewster Sessions, when it was reported that no female had been convicted in the district for that offence during the past twelve months. The number of convictions for drunkenness increased from nine, in 1929, to thirteen last year, the lowest recorded being eight in 1928. The highest total in the last ten years was seventeen in 1921.

The police intimated that they should object to the renewal of the MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross, and the WHITE DOG, Bilston Street, on the grounds of redundancy. All other licenses were renewed with the exception of the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street, the WHY NOT, St. George’s Street, which were objected to because of alleged defective sanitary arrangements, and the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Pinfold Street, which was objected to on the ground that the premises had been ill-conducted. These licenses were referred for consideration on the adjourned day, March 4.

In his report, Police-inspector Adams stated.....

All the licensed premises in Darlaston, said the Superintendent, had been visited, and generally speaking were clean, though many urinals and lavatories required white-washing more frequently. The following instances were specially mentioned: MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross (‘a very poor house in accommodation, and the public sanitary arrangements needed alterations’); the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street (‘a small house with poor private accommodation and sanitary arrangements’); the WHY NOT, St. George’s Street (‘a small house with poor sanitary arrangements’); the BRITISH OAK, Willenhall Road (‘which requires internal renovation’); and the NAGS HEAD, the Green (‘good house, but dirty condition generally’). The Superintendent suggested that swing doors on some of the lavatories would be a great improvement.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1931

“At Darlaston adjourned Licensing Sessions yesterday, the license of the WHITE DOG, Bilston Street, was referred for compensation, and that of the MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross, was renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/2/1937

“‘Darlaston is a town noted for its sobriety and it is a great tribute to the general public to record the vast decrease in drunkenness in recent years,’ remarked Alderman C. W. D. Joynson, at the Sessions there yesterday.

Superintendent J. H. Hall reported that no proceedings had been taken against license-holders during the past three years, and the two males convicted for drunkenness were both non-residents.

All licenses were renewed with the exceptions of MINE BORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross, which were deferred to the adjourned sessions.”

Plans were approved for the improvement of the sanitary accommodation on 25th August 1937.

1939 Register

82, Catherines Cross

[1] *Joseph Ernest Dangerfield*, date of birth 29/1/1896, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Louise Mary Dangerfield, dob 16/6/1897, general duties in house and public, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Hilda M. (Dangerfield) Hilton, dob 30/3/1918, unpaid domestic help, home, single:

Rugeley Times 19/6/1948

“Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association have enrolled 12 more new members, which makes 26 within a month. They are.....

J. Dangerfield, MINEBORERS ARMS, Darlaston.”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/9/1956

“Mr. *Stanley Louie Hargreaves* died suddenly after a short illness at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, on Saturday at the age of 47. For two years he had been licensee of the MINEBORERS ARMS, at Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.

A native of Birmingham, Mr. *Hargreaves* was the first secretary of Birmingham Flying Club formed in 1947 and became managing director of Wheels and Wings, a private charter aircraft company which was later known as Hargreaves Airways.”

The license was surrendered on application for a Removal Order in respect to the RED LION, Church Street. It closed c.1959.

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 5/4/1964

“In many parts of Britain the local factory has its complement in the local public house.....

The Midland counties have, or have had, a number of rarer occupational signs, such as the MINE BORERS ARMS, Darlaston, and the BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Bilston (both de-licensed) Two more which have been de-licensed, the JAPANNERS ARMS, Wolverhampton, and the SHINGLERS ARMS, Dudley.”

Check BORERS ARMS.

MINEBORERS ARMS

Willenhall Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

[1840s]

Closed

Demolished

MOULDERS ARMS

69, (19), High Street, (19, Moxley), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Tart, pattern maker, Rotherham

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Mrs. Mary Tart [1851] – **1863**);
John Tart Snr. (**1863 – 1875**);
John Tart Jnr (**1875 – 1880**);
John Tart Snr. (**1880**)
Angelina Tart (**1880** – []
John Tart Snr. [1881] – **1882**);
Mrs. Ellen Tart (**1882** – [1901]
Thomas Ramsbottom [1903] – **1907**);
Charles William Garfield (**1907 – 1909**);
Samuel Nuttall (**1909 – 1911**);
George Kent (**1911 – 1914**);
George Vaughan (**1914 – 1923**)
Thomas ‘Tommy’ Warner (**1923** – [1940]
Moses Langford [1966] – **1971**):

NOTES

19, Moxley [1871], [1873]
19, High Street [1881], [1891], [1901]
69, High Street [1939]

Mary Tart = Mary Taft

1851 Census

Moxley

- [1] *Mary Tart* (50), widow, beer retailer, born Bilston;
- [2] Joseph Tart (26), son, moulder in iron, born Bilston;
- [3] Elizabeth Tart (25), general servant, born Bilston;
- [4] William Tart (8), grand-son, scholar, born Tipton:

Birmingham Journal 19/4/1851

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday last, before John Leigh, Esq, Mrs. *Mary Tart*, the keeper of a respectable beerhouse at Moxley, was charged by Police-constable Billington with refusing to open her door when requested to do so by him.

The officer stated that at a late hour a few nights previously, he heard some people in the house, and knocked at the door two or three times, but no answer was given, nor could he gain admission. He subsequently saw three men come out of the house, one of them the defendant’s own son, in consequence of which he had laid the information.

Mr. Leigh said there was no evidence to prove that the defendant heard the knocks, or was aware a policeman was at the door, as there was nothing to distinguish a policeman’s rap from any other person. He, however, thought the case suspicious, but still the summons must be dismissed, and the police must in future take care that they obtained an answer to their knocking, and must show that the persons within knew of their contiguity.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Mr. Underhill applied on behalf of Mr. Samuel Baggott for a house at the entrance to Moxley, near the Gas House, stating that there were only three licensed house in Moxley, and no license had been granted in that

place for a considerable number of years, whilst there had been a great increase of population, thirty-one houses having been built in Moxley within the last twelve months. In addition to these there had been erected, since the last license was granted, sixty-four houses, making altogether, ninety-five additional houses. There were 2,750 inhabitants.

Mr. Hayes opposed on behalf of Mr. Timothy Goodman, of the MOXLEY TAVERN, on the ground that there was no necessity for another licensed house in that particular part of Moxley.

Mr. Hayes supported an application made by Mrs. *Tart*, for a license to a house in the centre of Moxley, and in the most populous part of the village. The present population of Moxley was between 2,000 and 3,000, and no fresh license had been granted since the population was only 300, so that there had been an increase of more than 2,000 inhabitants since the last license was granted.

Mr. Underhill opposed Mrs. Hart's [sic] application on behalf of Mrs. Wells, of the SWAN, on the ground that Mrs. *Tart's* house was within twenty or twenty-five yards of Timothy Goodman's house.

The application of Mrs. *Tart* was granted. That of Mr. Baggott was refused."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

"The Annual Licensing Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and the adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

Mr. Underhill applied on behalf of William Whitmore, for a license to the SPREAD EAGLE beershop, at Moxley. The house, he said, was erected for the purposes of the trade. The premises were commodious, had a large yard at the back, and stabling for ten or twelve horses had been provided. The house was situate close to the Gas Works, and although it appeared to be near to a house already licensed, the locality demanded extended accommodation. The nearest house was from 30 to 40 yards distant, and the applicant's house was not, as had been represented, smaller than that of the person who, through Mr. Hayes, opposed the application, but larger. The population of the locality in which the house stood had greatly increased, and a number of new houses were now in course of erection near to the applicant's house.

Mr. Hayes opposed the application, and in doing so called the attention of the Bench to the fact that three years ago a license was granted to a house occupied by Mrs. *Tart*, only a short distance from the SPREAD EAGLE, and two years ago Mr. Baggott, who lived only four or five doors from Mr. Whitmore, obtained a license. He thought the Magistrates, therefore, would consider another licensed house unrequired. There were already seven public houses in Moxley, and the applicant had been twice fined as a beershop keeper. The Magistrates declined to grant the license."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/4/1858

"Joseph Tait of Bilston will match his pied cock against T. Beckett's or any one else, to fly 40 miles, for £5 or £10 a side, and will take 10s for choice of ground, or toss for choice. Money ready at the MOULDERS ARMS, Moxley, near Bilston, at any time."

1861 Census

Moxley – MOULDERS ARMS

- [1] *Mary Tart* (59), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *John Tart* (38), son, widower, moulder, born Bilston;
- [3] Joseph Tart (36), son, widower, brewer, born Bilston;
- [4] Matilda Tomas (23), general servant, born Bilston;
- [5] William Tart (18), grand-son, carpenter, born Tipton;
- [6] Sarah Tart (13), niece, general servant, born Bilston;
- [7] John Tart (11), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston:

Mary Tart died in the 1st quarter of 1863.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/5/1867

"At the Wednesday Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before the Rev. W. Kerr and Mr. T. Jesson, *John Tart*, a licensed victualler, at Moxley, was charged with having a larger quantity of gunpowder in his possession than was allowed by law. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the defendant. It appeared that on the 11th inst Sergeant

Tanner, and Police-constable Poynton found eleven kegs of gunpowder in the malt store of the defendant, each keg containing 28lbs, making 308lbs in all, which was 258lbs more than the quantity allowed by law. For the defence it was stated that the gunpowder belonged to a man named Richards, a butty miner, and a neighbour of the defendant. The Magistrates had the power to impose a fine of 2s for every pound of gunpowder in excess of the legal quantity, but under the circumstances they imposed a fine of 1d per pound with costs, and ordered the gunpowder to be forfeited.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/4/1868

“Yesterday, at West Bromwich Police Court, before J. Marshall, Esq, and Captain Williams, *John Tart*, a publican, of Moxley, was charged with permitting dog fighting in his house, and William *Tart* and William Primm, were also summoned for encouraging and aiding in the said dog fight. Mr. Sheldon appeared on behalf of the defendants.

Police-constable Humphries stated that about half-past eight o'clock on Monday night he was on duty at Moxley, and heard a noise in the public house kept by *John Tart*, as if two dogs were fighting. He went in, and as soon as he opened the door he saw William *Tart* standing by the kitchen screen, near the passage. The other two defendants were stooping down in the kitchen over two dogs that were fighting, and were hissing them on. Witness stood watching them for a minute, but when *John Tart* and Primm saw him they separated the dogs, and each took his own under his arm. Witness told them they had been guilty of an illegal act, and they replied that the dogs commenced fighting themselves, and they (defendants) had not forced them on in any way.

After hearing Mr. Sheldon in reply, the Magistrates dismissed the case.”

1871 Census

19, Moxley – MOULDERS ARMS

[1] *John Tart* (48), widower, victualler, born Bilston;

[2] John *Tart* Jr. (21), son, works in sheet mill, born Moxley;

[3] Sarah *Hitch* (31), housekeeper, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1875 - Advert

“‘Defensio, Non Provocatio.’ Caution.

The Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, Southwark Street, Borough, London.

This association, having prosecuted and convicted a Grocer, at Bradford, at the Leeds Assizes, under the ‘Merchandise Marks Act, 1862,’ and also prosecuted a man at Chester Assizes, who was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment for fraudulently counterfeiting and imitating their Trade Mark, and having obtained a decree for a perpetual injunction against a Tea Company (Limited), restricting the said Company from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, or not materially differing therefrom, or in any cover or wrappers which by their shape, size, colour, labels, writings, figures, inscriptions, trade mark, or general character should make it appear that the packets sold or exposed for sale were those of the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, and which decree on appeal was confirmed by the Lord Chancellor, notice is hereby given that all persons Counterfeiting or Imitating the Trade Mark of the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association will be forthwith Proceeded Against; and Licensed Victuallers, Grocers, Bakers, Confectioners and others are hereby warned from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by said Association.

Thompson and Son, 60, Cornhill, Solicitors for the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association.

Agents For Staffordshire.....

Wednesbury: *J. Tart*, MOULDERS ARMS, Moxley.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/10/1876

“John Moore (43), a pomade seller, of no fixed abode, was brought up charged with having been drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *John Tart*, at Moxley, and also with having threatened to stab the landlord’s father. Mr. Barrow defended.

Yesterday afternoon, the prisoner went into the MOULDERS ARMS at Moxley and called for a pint of

ale. When it was taken to him, the landlord's father took the ale away again, as the prisoner was drunk. He was then turned out of the house, and drawing a knife out of his pocket, he threatened to stab the landlord's father.

Police-constables Farmer and Reynolds arrested him shortly afterwards, and owing to his violence they had great difficulty in getting him to the police station at Wednesbury. He was fined 10s and costs, or 14 days each in the two cases."

1881 Census

19, High Street – MOULDERS ARMS

[1] *John Tart* (58), licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Ellen Tart* (48), wife, born Huddersfield;

[3] *Angelina Tart* (27), daughter, widow, born Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire;

[4] *Sarah Ellen Tart* (5), grand-daughter, born Moxley:

Ellen Tart = *Ellen Tarte*

Wednesbury Herald 23/2/1884

"On Monday morning, the adjourned inquiry into the death of John Dunn (54), a blast furnaceman, recently residing at 13, High Street, Moxley, was held at the MOULDERS ARMS, Moxley, before W. H. Phillips Esq, district coroner. Deceased was employed at Messrs. Rose and Sons' works, Moxley, and a week before Christmas received injuries while working a furnace with the 'robble' that, was alleged, finally resulted in his death. Dr. Larkin stated that he had attended the deceased, as a private patient, and found that he suffered from frequently recurring vomiting Deceased died on the 11th inst from starvation and exhaustion. A post mortem examination showed the presence of a large cancerous formation at the back of the stomach, and in his opinion that this was caused or accelerated by the injury received. The pathology of the cancer was very obscure, and no definite idea could be formed as to whether the cancer had been in existence prior to the injury or not. He was of opinion that it was caused by the injury. Dr. Smith (Bilston) stated that he saw deceased on the 1st January, and found no evidence of external injury, but considerable evidence of chronic stomach disease. A smart passage between the medical men here took place, Dr. Larkin alleging that without chronic symptoms the presence of chronic stomach disease was simply hypothetical. Dr. Vincent Jackson, senior honorary surgeon at the Wolverhampton Hospital stated that he had witnessed the post mortem, and considered it singular that deceased had lived so long. In his opinion cancer was the cause of death, and that this was in no way accelerated or caused by the alleged injury. After an enquiry lasting nearly two hours, the jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by a cancerous formation in the stomach accelerated by injuries received while at work."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1884

"Organ (self-acting); four barrels, eight tunes on each; mahogany case, in thoroughly good condition. £30; cost 80 guineas.

May be seen on application to *Ellen Tart*, MOULDERS ARMS, Moxley, Wednesbury."

1891 Census

19, High Street

[1] *Ellen Tart* (58), widow, licensed victualler, born Yorkshire;

[2] *Sarah E. Tart* (15), grand-daughter, born Moxley;

[3] *Thomas Silvester* (31), son-in-law, widower, colliery banksman, born Bilston:

1901 Census

19, High Street, Moxley

[1] *Ellen Tarte* (69), widow, licensed victualler, born Almondbury, Yorkshire;

[2] *Sarah Ellen Tarte* (25), grand-daughter, born Bilston;

[3] *Minni Round* (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1911 Census

High Street, Moxley – MOULDERS ARMS

- [1] *Samuel Nuttall* (42), joiner, born Rushall;
- [2] *Alice Nuttall* (37), wife, married 4 years, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Alice Shelton* (15), daughter, born Solihull;
- [4] *Cornilous Shelton* (14), son, school, born Solihull;
- [5] *Eliz May Shelton* (10), daughter, school, born Solihull;
- [6] *John Ross Nuttall* (4 months), son, born Moxley:

South Staffordshire Times 15/5/1920

“An interesting event took place at the MOULDERS ARMS INN at Moxley, on Saturday, when a presentation was made to Mr. R. Jones, of Moxley, for 28 years service to the National Order of Free Gardeners Society, of a framed emblem of the Order and a key for reference. The presentation was made by Councillor Vaughan, of Moxley, who was voted to the chair. He said receiver was a just and a first-class working man, which meant a great deal at the present. Mr. J. H. Farmer was appointed to the vice-chair and songs were rendered by Messrs. R. Jones, W. Aston, E. Jones, R. Jones, J. Fieldhouse, T. Bayley, and others.”

Dudley Chronicle 21/7/1932

“No solution to the mystery of how *Thomas William Warner*, aged 64, of 12, Foundry Street, Moxley, near Bilston, came to be in the canal near Moat Bridge, at Ocker Hill, Tipton, early on Monday morning, was forthcoming at the inquest held at the RISING SUN INN, Toll End, Tipton, on Tuesday afternoon, and Mr. J. F. Addison (Deputy Coroner for South Staffordshire) returned an open verdict.

Thomas Warner, licensed victualler, of the MOULDERS ARMS, High Street, Moxley, identified the body of his father, who, he said, had been out of work for about a year. He was formerly at the Monway Works, Wednesbury, and left because of a breakdown in health. He had been treated for neurasthenia. Witness thought his job got too much for him, and it preyed on his mind. He had never talked in such a way as to lead witness to believe that he would take his life, and although out of work he had no financial troubles. Witness' mother had told him that his father could not sleep during the hot weather, and at 2.30am on Monday he got up and said he was going downstairs. As he did not return she became anxious and got up and looked for him.

Witness was informed that his father was missing at about 7.45am, and he told the police, and following a communication from the Ocker Hill police that someone answering the description of his father had been found in the canal, he immediately journeyed to Tipton and identified the body. He could not suggest any reason why his father should take his life. He had been depressed, and had complained of having a nasty taste in his mouth, and also of his head at times, but that had passed off. He did not seem queer.

It was about two miles from where he lived to where his body was found, and there was a canal only about 500 yards from his home. He could not suggest why his father should go to Ocker Hill. He had an old uncle living at Princes End, but he was not in the habit of wandering off and saying nothing.

George Edward Bradley, of 4, Most East, Ocker Hill, Tipton, said he was on his way to work at about 5.35am on Monday, and when going up the bank to get on to the canal side near to the Moat Bridge, he saw a man he knew as *John William Owen*, who called him to assist to pull a man out of the water. The body, which was fully clothed, was right against the bridge, and they got it on to the canal side and sent for the police and a doctor. Witness declared that the Moat Bridge was supposed to be a healthy place. It was considered by doctors to be healthy to stand on the bridge.

The Coroner: A health resort. – Witness: A health resort that bridge is supposed to be.

Dr. A. B. Hamilton agreed that it was a very pleasant spot there.

Bradley added that it was a lovely morning on Monday – the sort of morning a man would take a walk if he had nothing else to do.

PC *Parton* said he received information that a man had been taken from the canal at 6am on Monday. He immediately proceeded to the spot, and applied artificial respiration. The doctor was sent for, and on examining the body he said life was extinct. Apart from two plain handkerchiefs there was nothing in the clothing on the body.

Dr. A. B. Hamilton, of Tipton, who was called to the canal side, said the deceased seemed a very healthy

type of man. Death was due to asphyxia by drowning.

Witness said the bridge was very steep, and he could quite understand a stout, heavy man falling into the water if he slipped whilst going up it.

The Coroner: It is difficult to account for the man being there at all. – Dr. Hamilton: If he knew the district he might have chosen to walk along that way, as it is certainly much more pleasant than going along the road.

At the conclusion of the evidence the Coroner said he was going to find an open verdict of Found Drowned. He thought that the only satisfactory conclusion he could come to, as there was no evidence to show how he came to be in the water

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/2/1937

“A licensee, his wife and 20 other persons were defendants in a case at Bilston, yesterday, in which police officers described how they watched a Moxley public house on four consecutive Sundays and found gaming and a lottery in progress. *Thomas Warner*, licensee of the MOULDERS ARMS, Moxley, was accused on four instances of allowing licensed premises to be used for gaming and in four other instances of permitting licensed premises to be used for a lottery. *Martha Warner*, his wife, was summoned for aiding and abetting. *Samuel Thompson*, of 4, Laurel Grove, Harrowby Road, Bilston, was accused in four instances of aiding and abetting, and for using licensed premises for a lottery.

The other nineteen defendants were: *Richard Woodfield*, *Alfred Aston*, *Albert Morris*, *Arthur W. Hayward*, *Arthur Hyde*, *Thomas Norwood*, *Bernard Warden*, *John Bagbee*, *James Harper*, *Albert Wolley* (all of Moxley), *Samuel A. James Roden* (of Darlaston), *Albert Smith* and *Arthur Johnson* (of Wednesbury), *John Shaw* and *Albert Evans* (of Cradley), *James Smith*, *George Calloway*, and *Joseph Green* (of Bilston), and *Davide Round* (of Coseley). They were accused of aiding and abetting *Samuel Thompson*.

Mr. L. W. Lee (chairman to the Bench) announced *Warner* would be fined £10 and eight guineas special costs for using licensed premises for conducting a lottery, but the Bench made no adjudication for using the premises for unlawful purposes. *Mrs. Warner* was fined £2 for aiding and abetting. *Samuel Thompson* was fined £5, and all the other defendants, with the exception of *Warden*, whose case was dismissed, were fined 7s 6d each.

For the prosecution, *Mr. E. E. Brown* said the cases related to the consecutive Sundays of 20 and 27 December and 3 and 10 January. In consequence of a complaint made to the police, *Warner's* premises, the frontage of which was on the edge of the Bilston Licensing Division, was visited on each of the four Sundays. *Warner* had been tenant of the public house since 1923, but there had been no previous complaints against him.

Thompson was what one termed a ‘handyman.’ On 10 January, when police officers entered the bar, some 40 men were there. *Thompson* went around with certain aluminium discs in his possession, which were consecutively numbered from 1 to 50. He indicated to the men that a game was about to start, and anyone wishing to buy a chance could do so. There was an earnest appeal to buy and each disc was valued 1d which brought in 4s 2d. *Thompson* went to the bar counter and there purchased a packet of cigarettes, sometimes being served by the licensee himself, and sometimes by his wife. He gave 6d, 4d of which was put on the shelf where the cigarettes came from and 2d in a *Father Hudson* box.

Inside the cigarette packet was a card bearing a number and this was taken out. Whoever held the disc bearing a corresponding number to that on the card was given the balance of the proceeds and the cigarettes. The discs were then collected and another round went on.

PC Moore said that on the three previous Sundays they visited the premises at 8pm, 12.40pm and 12.25pm, when the same thing occurred as on 10 January.

Warner was at the serving counter. When questioned by the police, *Warner* replied, ‘Well, sir, it has been done more for charity. I have never received a penny. That is all I have got to say.’ Later in the kitchen he said, ‘I am sorry, sir. I am an ex-Serviceman. Had the police told me it was wrong, I should have stopped it right away.’

Thompson said, ‘All as I have to say is I have done the same as *Mr. Warner*. It has been for charity.’

Mrs. Warner said, ‘No, at the time I was getting dinner.’

Mr. F. L. Stewart contended the original motive of *Mr. Warner* was in the interests of charity – the Sunday penny collection scheme.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1937

“Reference to a case at Bilston when a Moxley licensee was fined £10 and eight guineas special costs, was heard at the adjourned Bilston licensing sessions yesterday, when *Thomas Warner* applied for the renewal of his license. Mr. F. L. Stewart, for Mr. *Warner*, said the summons for allowing licensed premises to be used for the purpose of a lottery was a sequel to visits by a police officer on four consecutive Sundays. The lottery was conducted mainly for charity, and over £20 had been given to Father Hudson’s Home. There had been no previous offence by *Warner*, who had held a license for ten years. Supt. F. W. Orland said he did not want to deprive *Warner* of his living, and the license was renewed on *Warner*’s undertaking not to allow such a thing to be done again.”

1939 Register

69, High Street, Moxley

[1] *Thomas Warner*, date of birth 25/8/1895, publican, tenant, married;

[2] Martha Warner, dob 9/5/1890, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] (Martha) Ethel (Warner) Peace, dob 3/1/1923, viewer (aircraft parts), single;

[4] Thomas Warner, dob 15/5/1924, maker of steel tools (aircraft), single:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1971

“An elderly widow died and two others were seriously injured in a road accident on Saturday night as they left the Walsall public house where they drank together every night for more than 11 years. Last night the three widows should have attended a farewell party at the MOULDERS ARMS, in High Street, Moxley, when it closed its doors for the last time. The women were involved in a collision with a car shortly after leaving the public house. Before leaving they had presented Mrs. Mary *Langford* with a dressing table set and flowers of behalf of all the regulars.

The woman who died was Mrs. Mary Mason, aged 69, of Burns Road, Moxley. Her friends, Mrs. Susanna Bentley, aged 79, also of Burns Road, and Mrs. Annie Bates, aged 63, of Watson Road, are in Wolverhampton Royal Hospital. Last night a hospital spokesman said that their condition was ‘poorly.’ Both had head injuries and broken legs.

Mr. *Moses Langford*, aged 62, licensee at the MOULDERS ARMS, said, ‘The three of them came in here for a glass of mild or bitter almost every night while I’ve been here, and that is 11½ years. You could put your clock on by them.’

The farewell party at the public house, which is to be demolished shortly, was marred by the accident and there was a minute’s silence in tribute to Mrs. Mason. ‘All the customers are very cut up about the tragedy. It happened right outside the door and we heard the screech of brakes,’ said Mr. *Langford*.

The car involved in the accident, a Mini driven by Mr. Glen Alan Fuller, aged 23, of Leabrook Road, Wednesbury, was a write-off, said a police spokesman. Mr. Fuller and three passengers in his car were not seriously hurt.

Witnesses of the accident, which happened at 11.08pm at the junction of Moxley High Street and Sutton Road, were urgently needed, the police spokesman said.”

MOXLEY ARMS

47, (10), High Street, (10, Moxley), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

George Howell, goods agent, Bull Street, Birmingham

Charlotte Taylor, 81, High Street, Harborne

John Davenport and Son, Falconer Road, Bath Row, Birmingham (brewer)

Atkinsons Ltd. (acquired on 5th April 1929)
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Timothy Goodman [1840] – [1854]
Jabez Rubery [1854] – **1855**);
Joseph Onions (**1855** – []
John Roberts [1858] – [1861]
John Baggott [1861] – [1862]
Joseph Baggott [1863]
William Johnson [1863]
Mary Parker [1864] – [1865]
William Parker [1870] – **1874**);
Hannah Parker (**1874** – **1875**);
Paul Thompson (**1875** – **1877**);
John Johnson (**1877** – **1881**);
William Hartley Bacon (**1881** – **1883**);
Thomas Head (**1883** – **1884**);
Alfred Jukes (**1884** – **1885**);
Joseph Williams (**1885**);
Thomas Bromley (**1885** – **1887**);
Frederick Tinsley (**1887**);
Joseph William Martin (**1887** – **1895**);
Hannah Goodger (**1895** – **1899**);
Samuel Goodger (**1899**);
Alfred Ernest Hamblin (**1899** – **1902**);
Baron John Davenport (**1902** – **1904**);
Ralph Barnes [] – **1903**) manager
Thomas Kelly (**1904**);
John Savage (**1904** – **1911**);
Peter Lewis (**1911** – **1912**);
Edgar Askey (**1912** – **1915**);
Charles Hulse (**1915** – **1916**);
Matthew Stafford (**1916** – **1920**);
Edwin Yardley (**1920** – **1923**);
William Bowers (**1923** – **1934**);
John Thomas Wilkes (**1934** – **1936**);
Joseph Harold Skitt (**1936** – **1937**);
James Oseland (**1937** – **1938**);
Frederick Edwin Owen (**1938** – [1940]
William John Mackey [1966]
John Coleclough []
Cheryl Parton [1999]

NOTES

MOXLEY TAVERN [1841], [1849], [1850], [1851], [1854], [1862], [1864], [1880], [1896], [1904], [1911]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/11/1840 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Land and Mines to be Sold by Auction.....
Mr. *Timothy Goodman*, at MOXLEY TAVERN, will show the Property.....”

1841 Census

Moxley

- [1] *Timothy Goodman* (40), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Maria Goodman* (40), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Harriott Hokley* (20), servant, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Elizabeth Foster* (15), servant, born Staffordshire;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/6/1847 - Advert

“To be Let, a Foundry, situated at Moxley, near Bilston, on the banks of the canal, complete and fit for immediate work.

Apply to *Timothy Goodman*, Moxley, who will show the premises.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/10/1848

“On Tuesday last, a miner, named Edward Throw, was brought before the magistrates on the charge of stealing two cabbages from the garden of *Timothy Goodman*, at Moxley, and the case having been proved by police constable Roe, he was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 28/10/1848

“One of the most singularly distressing accidents which we have ever heard of occurred on the morning of Saturday last, to a woman named Ann Yates, wife of a coke burner named Richard Yates, residing in a house close to a place known as ‘The Fire-holes,’ on the turnpike road leading from Bilston to Tipton. About nine o’clock on the above morning, she had occasion to go up stairs to her bed room for something or other, and upon returning down stairs, just as she placed her foot on the landing in the kitchen, that portion of the flooring on which she stood gave way beneath her, and to the surprise and alarm of those of the family who were in the kitchen at the time, she instantly sank into the ground and disappeared from their sight. An alarm was instantly given, and a number of persons from an adjoining coalfield were quickly on the spot, but they were unable to render any assistance at the moment, even had such been possible, owing to the suffocating nature of the atmosphere which filled the house, and which their experience in such matters convinced them proceeded from an old coalpit into which the unfortunate woman had fallen. In order to give free vent to the foul air, the back walls of the house were pulled down, but it was nearly two hours from the time of the occurrence before it was considered safe for anyone to persevere in an attempt to ascertain the fate of the unfortunate woman. At the end of that time, however, a rope was attached to the waist of a man named John Spencer, and he having been lowered down the pit shaft (for such it turned out to be), at the depth of about eight yards he obtained footing on a scaffold which had been used in working the pit, and also found the body of Mrs. Yates there. Having attached the rope to her waist, she was pulled up by those above, and although she was quite warm, all attempts to revive her proved unavailing. She had evidently been suffocated by the foul atmosphere, as there were no bruises on her body sufficient to cause death.

The inquest was held on Monday, at the MOXLEY TAVERN, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, Coroner for the part of the county in which the melancholy accident took place. It appeared that the house in question had been built about the year 1800, before which time the shaft must have been closed. Previous to the occurrence of the accident, the tenants had no knowledge of the existence of the shaft. It was hinted in the course of the inquiry that a pit, the working of which was being carried on within eight or ten yards of the house, might have caused the accident, but nothing definite on this point was arrived at. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The deceased was fifty-two years of age.”

1851 Census

Moxley

- [1] *Timothy Goodman* (60), farmer, 6 acres, employing 4 men and 2 boys, born Kingswinford;
- [2] *Maria Goodman* (60), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Ann Deakin* (23), niece, visitor, born Longdon, Staffordshire;

[4] Mary Art (18), general servant, born Liverpool:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Mr. Underhill applied on behalf of Mr. Samuel Baggott for a house at the entrance to Moxley, near the Gas House, stating that there were only three licensed house in Moxley, and no license had been granted in that place for a considerable number of years, whilst there had been a great increase of population, thirty-one houses having been built in Moxley within the last twelve months. In addition to these there had been erected, since the last license was granted, sixty-four houses, making altogether, ninety-five additional houses. There were 2,750 inhabitants.

Mr. Hayes opposed on behalf of Mr. *Timothy Goodman*, of the MOXLEY TAVERN, on the ground that there was no necessity for another licensed house in that particular part of Moxley.

Mr. Hayes supported an application made by Mrs. Tart, for a license to a house in the centre of Moxley, and in the most populous part of the village. The present population of Moxley was between 2,000 and 3,000, and no fresh license had been granted since the population was only 300, so that there had been an increase of more than 2,000 inhabitants since the last license was granted.

Mr. Underhill opposed Mrs. Hart's [sic] application on behalf of Mrs. Wells, of the SWAN, on the ground that Mrs. Tart's house was within twenty or twenty-five yards of *Timothy Goodman's* house.

The application of Mrs. Tart was granted. That of Mr. Baggott was refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/8/1853 - Died

“August 8, after a lingering illness, aged 63, Mr. *Timothy Goodman*, of Moxley Tavern, near Bilson.”

Jabez Rubery = Jabez Ruberry

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1854

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing publican's licenses in the parish of Bilston and Sedgley was held on Friday last, in the Bilston Police Court.....

There were eleven applications for new licenses which were disposed of as follows.....

Mr. Hall, in making an application on behalf of Mr. Whitmore, of the ENGINEERS ARMS, Moxley, said that the neighbourhood was an increasing one, that large gas works had recently been put up, and almost palatial buildings had been raised there.

Mr. Underhill opposed for Mr. S. Baggot of the CROWN AND CUSHION and Mr. *J. Ruberry*, of the MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, and said that the only house at Moxley which had any pretention to the character of a palatial residence was that occupied by the Emperor of Moxley, Mr. Wells. (Laughter.) Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/3/1855 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton. 20th day of February, 1855.

Whereas a Petition of *Jabez Rubery*, at present and for one year one month and twenty days last past residing at Moxley, near Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, licensed retailer of spirituous liquors, ale, beer, and tobacco, locksmith and bag frame maker, previously of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, locksmith and bag frame maker, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Wolverhampton, and an Interim Order for Protection from Process having been given to the said *Jabez Rubery*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Jabez Rubery* is hereby required to appear in Court before the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the 27th day of March, 1855, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the Court House, Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Jabez Rubery*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Charles Gallimore Brown, the official assignee acting in the matter of the said petition, at

his office, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton aforesaid.
Edwin John Hayes, Attorney, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/11/1855 - Advert

“To Publicans, Capitalists, and Others. MOXLEY TAVERN.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all that old established and excellently situated Old Licensed Public House, called MOXLEY TAVERN, adjoining the Turnpike Road leading from Bilston to Wednesbury, now in the occupation of *Joseph Onions*. Also Seven other Messuages, a Workshop, Outbuildings, and a Plot of Building Land, near to the said public house. The whole of the Property forms a square, containing in area 2,750 square yards, and it may be purchased in one lot; or if not at once disposed of, one or more of eight lots into which the property can be divided, may be purchased separately.

For further particulars apply to Mr. James Wells, Solicitor, at whose office a plan of the property may be seen, and to Mr. John Corbett, Auctioneer, both of Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/6/1858 - Notice

“Pursuant to the Acts for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors in England, the following Prisoners, whose estates and effects have been vested in the Provisional Assignee by order of the Court, and whose Petitions and Schedules filed in the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors have been duly referred and transmitted to the County Court of Warwickshire, holden at Warwick, pursuant to the statute in that behalf, are ordered to be brought up before the Judge of the said County Court at Warwick aforesaid to be dealt with according to law, on Tuesday, the 20th day of July, 1858.....

Joseph Onions, late of Willenhall Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford (in lodgings), Engineer; previously of Hall Fields, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford (in lodgings), Engineer; formerly of Moxley, in the said county of Stafford, Engineer (in lodgings); before then of the MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley aforesaid, Licensed Victualler and Engineer, and part of the time being in Co-partnership with one John Lloyd, under the style of Onions and Lloyd, Engineers; before then of the Worcester Road, Bromsgrove, in the county of Worcester, Engineer, and part of the time in Co-partnership with one Benjamin Perry, under the style of or firm of Parry and Onions, as Engineers and Machinists; now a Prisoner for Debt in the Gaol of Warwick, in the county of Warwick.

Alfred Baldwin East, 45, Ann Street, Birmingham, Attorney for the Insolvent.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1858

“Warwick Insolvency Court. Yesterday.....

Insolvents Unopposed Discharged Forthwith.....

Joseph Onions, Willenhall Street, Darlaston, formerly of Moxley, engineer.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/1/1859

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Michael Bill, 43, miner, and Benjamin Crowther, 24, stoker, were indicted for uttering three counterfeit half-crowns, at Bilston, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. The prisoners went to the BULL AND MOUTH public house, in High Street, Bilston, and while they were there Crowther offered a bad half-crown in payment for three-pennyworth of gin. He was told that it was bad, upon which he began to abuse the landlord, and after some time was turned out of the shop. While the altercation was going on the prisoner walked away. A short time before their visit to the BULL AND MOUTH they had been at the BALLOON public house, where Crowther offered a bad shilling in payment for drink, but it was refused. When the prisoners left they were watched, and Bill was heard to say to Crowther, with an oath, ‘Go and try Masters’s,’ that being the name of the person who formerly kept the BULL AND MOUTH. On the following day the prisoners went to the WAGGON AND HORSES, at Sedgley, and Crowther called for a pint of ale, for which he tendered half-a-crown, which the niece of the landlady said was bad. The landlady, however, whose sight was defective, consented to take it, but the course of the day she sent her niece to a neighbour’s shop to make some purchases, giving her the half-crown in question, when the opinion of the niece that it was counterfeit was confirmed. Within an hour of leaving the WAGGON AND HORSES, the prisoners went to the BRIDGE INN, at the same place, where for some drink they offered another bad half-crown, but it was

not discovered to be bad until the evening of the same day. The men having got clear away, Bill went on the evening of the same day to a provision shop in the same place, and there attempted to pass a bad shilling. On being told that it was bad, he said that he was nearly blind (which appeared to be true), and that it had been given to him in his wages. He promised to bring the person who gave him the coin, but having once left with the shilling in his possession, he never returned. On the 18th of the same month, Crowther and the other prisoner were at the MOXLEY TAVERN, Bilston, where one of them offered a bad shilling in payment for a glass of gin. The police were by this time on their track, and shortly afterwards they were apprehended. Mr. Motteram dissected the evidence in detail for the purpose of showing that it was not conclusive against the prisoners, but the Jury returned a verdict of guilty. Bill was sentenced to six months, and Crowther to twelve months hard labour.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/8/1860 - Advert

“Moxley, near Bilston. By R. L. Courtney.

Unreserved Sale, at the MOXLEY TAVERN, on Tuesday Next, the 14th inst, at Eleven o'clock in the morning – six prime Store Pigs, Poney, Gig and Harness, Spring Trap, Public House Fixtures, Household Furniture, and other Effects.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale; or from the Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

1861 Census

Moxley

- [1] *John Roberts* (38), shoemaker, master, employing 7 men and 2 boys, born Condover, Shropshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Roberts* (40), wife, born Lilleshall, Shropshire;
- [3] *Margaret Roberts* (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Em Salt* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [5] *John Chedley* (17), apprentice, born Condover, Shropshire;
- [6] *William Bayley* (16), apprentice, born Birmingham:

John Baggott = John Baggot

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1861

“At the Wednesbury Public Office, yesterday, *John Baggot*, MOXLEY TAVERN, victualler, was charged with having kept his house open during the hours of divine service on Sunday week last. The police proved that the defendant served liquor at a quarter past twelve on the day in question, and a fine of 20s and costs was inflicted.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/4/1862

“A 10s sweepstakes to be shot for at Mr. *J. Baggott's*, MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, near Wednesbury, at sparrows, tomorrow (Monday), conditions as usual. Shooting to commence at twelve.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/5/1862 - Advert

“To be Let, the MOXLEY TAVERN, at Moxley, near Bilston, and Old-Licensed Public House by the Roadside. Nothing but the Fixtures to be taken to, at a fair valuation. Has only changed hands four times this last fifty years.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/7/1862 - Advert

“Moxley. Unreserved Sale by Auction of the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the MOXLEY TAVERN, with the Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Ale Barrels, and other Effects, upon the above-named Premises, which will be Sold by Auction, by R. L. Courtney, on Tuesday, the 8th day of July, 1862. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/12/1862

“To be shot for, at Mr. *J. Baggott's*, MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, near Wednesbury, about five minutes' walk from Moxley station, a large fat pig, weighing upwards of 30 scores, what is short he will be allowed

10s per score for, to be shot for, by 30 members at 10s each, on Dec 26, at 3 birds each, double guns 1½oz of shot, 19 yards rise, single guns 1¾oz, 21 yards rise, guns not to exceed ¾-bore. The best blue rocks provided.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/10/1863

“*William Johnson*, the landlord of the MOXLEY TAVERN, was summoned for having permitted gambling in his house, and having sold ale during illegal hours. *Johnson* did not appear, but a man named *Joseph Baggott*, who conducts the house for him, answered the summons. Mr. Bayley defended.

Police-constable E. Marlow, stationed at Moxley, said that at half-past eleven o’clock on the night of the 22nd of August, he went to defendant’s house, the MOXLEY TAVERN, and stayed outside for a few minutes. He heard men inside one of the rooms playing at ten-pins, and they were betting over it. They had just finished playing for a quart of ale, which *Baggott* had gone to draw, when witness walked into the room. A shilling and some coppers were lying on the table, but the minute he got into the room they were snatched off.

In cross-examination by Mr. Bayley the officer said that the name of *William Johnson* was on the sign, but *Johnson* did not live there. Mr. Bayley raised the objection here, that the evidence did not apply to *Johnson*, the person summoned, and therefore the case must be dismissed. The magistrate ruled that the defendant *Johnson* must be held responsible, as the landlord, for the misdoings of those he employed. Mr. Bayley again urged that this fact must be proved before the conviction could be made, but Mr. Spooner decided otherwise.

The next charge of selling ale during unlawful hours was then heard. Police-constable Fairbanks proved that on Sunday, the 30th of August, about three o’clock in the morning, he visited defendant’s house, and saw *Baggott* let a man out of the front door with three bottles in his hand. Witness asked the man to let him taste the contents, and he found it to be porter. Witness then went round to the back of the premises, and saw three men drunk.

The magistrate fined the defendant £2 10s and costs in each case, and requested Inspector Holland to inform the police at Bilston of the occurrence, as it is within their district.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1864

“Yesterday the magistrates sat in Special Sessions for the consideration of the applications for the renewal of old and the granting of new licenses to victuallers.....

The following houses and their landlords had been complained against and fined during the year.....

Wm. Johnson, MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley.”

London Gazette 22/3/1864

“*Joseph Baggott*, late of Moxley, in the county of Stafford, out of business, late a Prisoner for Debt in the Prison at Stafford, in the county of Stafford, having been adjudged bankrupt under an adjudication of Bankruptcy, made by a Registrar of the County Court attending at the Gaol of Stafford, and filed in Her Majesty’s Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on the 17th day of February, 1864, a public sitting, for the said bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make application for his Discharge, will be held before George Williams Sanders, Esq, a Commissioner of the said Court, on the 22nd day of April next, at the said Court, at Birmingham, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender. Mr. F. Whitmore, of No.17, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Messrs. James and Griffin, of Birmingham, are the Solicitors acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Journal 23/4/1864

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court. Friday.....

In re *J. Baggott*, late of Moxley, out of business. This was a meeting for the last examination and discharge, attended by Mr. Griffin for the official assignee. The bankrupt had neglected to attend the office of the official assignee to give information as to his accounts, and he was therefore adjourned for a month.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/6/1864

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court. Yesterday (Thursday).....

In re *J. Baggott*, Moxley. Last examination and discharge; attended by Mr. Griffin for the official assignees.

The case had been transferred from the Stafford County Court because the debts were put down at more than £300. Since then, however, it had been found that the bankrupt had not been credited with £60 realized under a bill of sale by a man named Johnson, who lived at Smethwick, but has since left the country. The debts were thus reduced to below £300, and the case was referred to the proper County Court.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/2/1866

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court. Yesterday (Thursday).....

In re *J. Baggott*, of Moxley. Meeting for last examination and discharge, attended by Mr. Griffin for the official assignee, and by Mr. Allenby for the bankrupt.

The bankrupt was briefly examined as to his accounts, his balance-sheet showing debts to the amount of £300 6s 9d. There being no opposition, and the bankrupt having been in gaol three months, he received his discharge.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 17/2/1866

“In re *J. Baggott*, Moxley, victualler.....

This bankrupt has been before the Court some eighteen months, and has passed some three months in prison. He had on one occasion been adjourned sine die for not having complied with the orders of the Court, in consideration of which latter fact the Commissioner granted the discharge.”

Morning Herald 6/12/1869

“There are now eight men lying dead in Wolverhampton and at Bradley, killed by the boiler explosion at the Britannia Ironworks, Bradley, belonging to Messrs. Brereton and Co. Of these six are lying at the South Staffordshire Hospital. One expired there on Friday afternoon shortly after his arrival. The remaining five died during Friday night and on Saturday. Out of the seven taken to that institution one only therefore survives.....

The deceased, their injuries, and their dependants are.....

James Parker, 19, Moxley, internal injuries and burns. Unmarried. Father a publican at Moxley.”

1871 Census

10, Moxley – MOXLEY TAVERN

[1] *William Parker* (51), victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Hannah Parker* (49), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *George Parker* (22), son, engine fitter, born Bilston:

William Parker died in the 2nd quarter of 1874.

William Parker – see also BLANKMAKERS ARMS, Bilston.

1881 Census

10, High Street – MOXLEY TAVERN

[1] *John Johnson* (53), licensed victualler, born Longton, Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Ann Johnson* (42), wife, born Gnosall, Staffordshire;

[3] *Elizabeth Johnson* (16), daughter, born Walsall:

John Johnson – see also DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Walsall.

William Hartley Bacon = *William Hateley Bawn*

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1881

“At Bilston Police Court, yesterday, the following licenses were fully transferred.....

John Hall, Wolverhampton (agent for *John Johnson*), MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, to *William Hateley Bawn*, licensed victualler.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/12/1882 - Advert

“Found, a bay Horse, aged, on Monday, the 11th of December. If not owned in three days will be sold to defray expenses.

Thos. Head, MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, near Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1885

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. T. Underhill and J. H. Pearson – Paul Jeffreys (19) was charged with embezzling 2d, the money of his employers, the South Staffordshire and Birmingham and District Tramways Company. Mr. Rose (Messrs. Smith and Co.) appeared in support of the charge.

The evidence showed that on the 20th February the accused was the conductor of a tram running from Walsall to Moxley, and had amongst his passengers Mr. *J. Williams*, of the MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, who got in at the Bridge, Walsall, and gave Jeffreys 1s, receiving 8d in change, and a ticket to the Pleck, the first of four 1d stages to Moxley. At Darlaston Mr. O. H. Sims, the sub-manager of the line, got upon the tram, and finding that Mr. *Williams* had not received tickets for the second and third stages, questioned the defendant. His explanation not being satisfactory, he was suspended, and on his money and tickets being examined a discrepancy of threepence was found.

His defence was that he had previously worked on another branch on which through tickets were issued, and had forgotten that he was dealing with separate stages.

Mr. Rose asked the Bench to deal as leniently as possible with the defendant on account of his youth and previous good character, and the Bench ordered him to pay 21s, the option being fourteen days’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/8/1885 - Advert

“Pigs. Fine healthy Store Pigs for Sale; 35s each.

MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley.”

Thomas Bromley issued tokens from here.

1891 Census

10, High Street

[1] *Joseph W. Martin* (36), licensed victualler, born Erdington;

[2] *Mary A. Martin* (37), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Edith P. Martin* (9), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham:

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/8/1900

“At the annual licensing meeting for Bilston division, Supt. Walters reported that there were 354 licensed houses in the division, which gave one to every 181 of the population. During the year, four licensed victuallers and two beerhouse keepers had been convicted. Compared with the previous 12 months, this was a decrease of one licensed victualler and three beerhouse keepers convicted. Since the last meeting 565 males and 82 females were proceeded against for drunkenness, 548 males and 75 females being convicted. As against last year, this showed an increase of 49 males convicted, and a decrease of four females.

Objections were made, on the ground of convictions, to the renewal of the licenses of.....

Alfred E. Hamblin, MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley.....

The Chairman said it was gratifying that there had been fewer charges against licensed victuallers, but he was sorry that there had been an increase in the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness.

Mr. R. A. Willcock referred to the ‘long pull’ question, and said notice of opposition to two license holders with respect to that matter had been served. After the attitude taken on the previous day by the Wolverhampton county magistrates, the Council of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association had decided to take no further action, and the notices of objection would be withdrawn. The licenses to which the police objected were renewed.”

1901 Census

High Street, Moxley

- [1] *Alfred Ernest Hamblin* (35), licensed victualler, born Willa, Nottinghamshire;
- [2] *Ann Elizabeth Hamblin* (30), wife, born Broadway, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Alfred Charles Hamblin* (11), son, born Broadway, Worcestershire;
- [4] *Annie B. Brock* (10), daughter, born Broadway, Worcestershire;
- [5] *Adelaide Mary Brock* (8), daughter, born Broughton, Wiltshire;
- [6] *George Ernest Brock* (5), son, born Cholmondeley, Cheshire:

Lincolnshire Echo 21/10/1903

“After getting helplessly drunk on champagne, a man was turned out of the MOXLEY TAVERN, Dudley, and was robbed of £25 and some jewellery. The license holder, a brewer, was on Tuesday fined £6 18s for permitting drunkenness.”

AND

Tipton Herald 24/10/1903

“John Davenport, a member of the firm of Messrs. Davenport^o, brewers, and the licensee of the MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the licensed premises on the 12th ult. The case for the prosecution was that *Ralph Barnes*, who managed the licensed house for the defendant, permitted a man named William Samuel Mansell to get drunk with whiskey and champagne on the night of the 12th ult, and that on the following morning he was turned into the street in a shocking condition. He was also robbed by someone of £23 16s, a silver watch and gold chain, and also a gold scarf pin. At four o’clock Mansell was found in a yard adjacent to his home by his mother, lying on his back and partially undressed. PC Horton stated he had failed to ascertain the perpetrator of the robbery, or to trace the bank notes, the numbers of which were known.

Mr. Willison said his client very much regretted the irregularity, and pointed out that at the time the offence was alleged to have been committed *Barnes* was under notice to leave, and was not now in defendant’s employ.

The Stipendiary said it was a bad case, and if he had had *Barnes* before him he should have fined him heavily. He fined defendant £6 16s. 6d.”

Walsall Advertiser 1/4/1905

“Thomas Hartshorn, no fixed abode, was charged with being found drunk on licensed premises, the MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, on the 25th March. Police-constable Savery proved the case. Ordered to pay 20s and costs, or one month in default.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun League. [1909]

1911 Census

High Street, Moxley – MOXLEY ARMS

- [1] *John Savage* (48), hotel keeper, born Shropshire;
- [2] *Eliza Savage* (46), wife, married 27 years, born Hereford;
- [3] *Jack Savage* (7), grand-son, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Elizabeth Rhodes* (19), servant, born Moxley:

Charles Hulse – see also ANGEL, Priestfield, Bilston.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 27/9/1924

“A [R.A.O.B.] raising ceremony was held on Friday of last week at the MOXLEY ARMS HOTEL.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1926

“At Bilston Adjourned Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

William Bowers, of the MOXLEY ARMS, applied for a music and dancing licence for an upstairs room. He said it was intended to teach dancing there.

Despite objection by Superintendent Higgs, who said it would create a precedent, the Bench granted the application by a majority. There was, however, a stipulation that no intoxicating liquor should be served in

the room during the dancing.”

1939 Register

47, High Street, Moxley (2 of 3)

[1] *Frederick E. Owen*, date of birth 29/12/1910, manager, licensed, married;

[2] Kathleen Bridget Owen, dob 18/5/1914, manageress, licensed, married;

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1964, 1967, 1991, 1994 and 1997.

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/2/1999

“Five Black Country pubs which between them have raised thousands of pounds for worthy causes are in the running for the Community Pub of the Year title. The COTTAGE in Wolverhampton Road, Walsall; the MOXLEY ARMS in High Street, Moxley; the HIGHGATE ARMS in Rowley View, Wednesbury; the ROYAL OAK in Blakenall; and the FOUNTAIN INN at Victoria Road, Quarry Bank, have all been nominated for the award.

The competition is organised by the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association and £21,000 in prize money is on offer, which goes to charities and good causes.....

Cheryl Parton at the MOXLEY ARMS raised more than £1,200 for Rainbow House Children’s Hospice in Walsall, the Families Aid Fund and Move Charity.

Regional judging panels will select 11 winners across the country, each of which will receive £1,000 to go to a charity or worthy cause of their choice. Regional winners will go on to a national final.”

[2003]

Closed [2005], [2007]

It was the subject of an arson attack in February 2008.

It was demolished in April 2008.

Express & Star 11/4/2007

“An eyesore pub in Moxley which has become a target for vandals, arsonists, drug addicts and fly tippers could be demolished and replaced by new homes. Fresh proposals are being put forward to redevelop the MOXLEY ARMS, in High Street, which has been derelict for up to 10 years. Cherryform Developments Ltd has put forward a scheme to build 15 homes in place of the rundown pub which has been a magnet for anti-social behaviour. The unsightly building has been a dumping ground for rubbish and residents claim it has been used as a drugs den and has been over-run by rats. A scheme to build three-storey apartments was put forward last year but residents objected on the grounds the homes would be too overbearing. Neighbours are now being asked their views on the latest plans and Councillor Paul Bott, who has led a campaign to clean up the site, has given his support. He said Moxley is a gateway into the borough and the pub is in a prominent location and getting rid of the unsightly building was much needed. There have also been a series of arson attacks on the pub. Councillor Bott said, ‘We have been asking for action at the pub for some time because it is a magnet for anti-social behaviour, fly tipping and fly posting.’”

Express & Star 24/4/2008

“It has been standing empty for more than a decade – a blot on the Moxley landscape for families who have had to put up with drug dealers and fly-tippers targeting the site. But today their prayers were answered when bulldozers finally moved in to tear down the MOXLEY ARMS pub.

James Dillon was among residents who watched the demolition work start in Moxley High Street this morning. He said, ‘I am glad to see the back of the pub, it has been derelict for a long time. It has created a nuisance with kids getting inside and starting fires on at least three occasions. The pub has looked a mess and it is a relief to see it coming down,’ the 65-year-old added.

Tanya Woodhouse, aged 23, agreed. She said, ‘I will be really pleased to see it go as it has brought down the appearance of the area. It has been closed for quite a few years and I don’t mind something else going in its

place.’

June Hughes, aged 60, said, ‘It has been a real mess with a lot of rubbish dumped on the site. I have only lived here for a few years and it has looked unsightly. Whatever goes there will be a lot better than before.’ The pub was targeted by arsonists in February with up to 20 firefighters called to tackle a blaze which caused severe damage to its downstairs. Police officers were forced to divert traffic away from the A41, the main route between Darlaston, Wednesbury and Wolverhampton, while it was put out. Metal thieves have also been getting up on the roof to strip off its lead. Demolition is expected to be completed within the next few days and planning permission for six houses and nine apartments on the site has already been approved by Walsall Council.”

NAGS HEAD

109, The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Susannah Asbury, Oxford Street, Pleck, Walsall
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1920]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns [1990s]

LICENSEES

Matthew Bailey [1818]
R Baddeley [1822]
Samuel Badderley [1828] – [1830]
Ralph Baddeley [1834] – [1835]
John Yardley [1841] – [1845]
Thomas Cockram [1849] – [1850]
Joseph Cochran [1851]
Joseph Spittle Bayley [1854] – **1857**);
James Baggott (**1857 – 1860**);
W Walker (**1860 – []**)
William Wilkes [1861] – **1862**);
Henry Roberts (**1862 – []**)
John Taylor (**1863 – [1870]**)
Henry Fenton [1871] – [1873]
George Wilkes Snr. [1874] – [1881]
George Wilkes Jnr. [1891] – [1892]
Mrs. Martha Maria Wilkes [1895] – [1904]
John Walsh [1908]
James Bradbury* [1911]
James Bradley* [1912]
Simeon Whitehouse [1916] – **1922**);
Harry Bassett (**1922 – 1924**);
Abraham Pinner (**1924 – 1925**);
John Arthur Tonks (**1925 – 1926**);
Arthur Morris (**1926 – 1931**);
Edward Howl Butler (**1931 – 1942**);

Mrs. Maud Eveline Butler (1942 – 1944);
Ernest ‘Ernie’ Morgan (1944 – 1966);
Thomas Foster (1966 – [1967])
N J Taylor [1983]
Patricia Joan Wylde []

NOTES

Joseph Cockram = Joseph Cockeram

Birmingham Journal 5/12/1846

“On Monday last, the friends of Mr. *Joseph Cockeram*, of the NAGS HEAD, Darlaston, dined together to celebrate his opening the house. The dinner was served up in excellent style, and a party of forty-nine friends and well-wishers of mine host, sat down to partake of the good things provided. After the cloth was drawn, Mr. John Wilkes was called to the chair, and the evening was spent in the utmost harmony and enjoyment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/1/1847

“Inquests before Georg Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner.....

On Thursday at Darlaston, at the NAGS HEAD INN, on the body of John Smith, aged 40 years, who was killed on Tuesday, by a quantity of stone falling upon him while at work in one of Mr. David Jones’s pits. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 25/10/1851

“An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of a boy two years of age, son of a married woman named Bucknall, whose husband has not been living with her for the last six or seven years. It appeared that on Friday afternoon he was left alone in the house for a few seconds, and on the mother’s return she found he had been drinking from the spout of a kettle of boiling water which stood on the table. The poor little fellow was in dreadful torture and died on Saturday afternoon.”

Joseph Spittle Bayley = Joseph Spittle Bailey

Staffordshire Sentinel 1/11/1856

“At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Thursday, Mr. Duignan applied to the magistrates, on the part of *James Baggott*, for the transfer of the license of the NAGS HEAD, Darlaston, from Mr. *Joseph Spittle Bayley*. The following facts will explain the nature of the application. *Baggott* formerly kept a beerhouse in Walsall, and more recently at the KINGS ARMS, at the Pleck within the borough of Walsall. At the last licensing day the bench refused the renewal of his license for the KINGS ARMS, but granted it to the proprietor of that house. Since then, Mr. Sill, from the office of Messrs. Duignan and Hemmant, applied to the Wednesbury branch for the transfer of the license of the Darlaston house to *Baggott*, and the magistrates adjourned the consideration of the application, in order that the reasons of the Walsall justices for having refused the renewal of the license of the KINGS ARMS might be ascertained. Yesterday, a letter from Mr. Darwell, clerk to the Walsall bench, was produced. It stated that among other offences, the applicant had been fined for permitting cock fighting on his premises.

Mr. Duignan assured the magistrates that Mr. Darwell was mistaken, for that he (Mr. Duignan) had appeared for *Baggott* on the occasion referred to, and the charge had been dismissed. He believed that Mr. Darwell referred to the case of another man, who bore the same name as his client. He called the latter, who positively swore that he had never been fined a half-penny for any offence against the laws during his lifetime. He subsequently admitted that he had paid two penalties for keeping his house open during prohibited hours, and Superintendent Cater of the Walsall force proved a conviction against him on the 6th of January last. Mr. Duignan requested a further postponement, for the purpose of proving that Mr. Darwell was in error respect-

ing the conviction for cock fighting; but Mr. Bagnall said the bench would not consent to the application. *Baggott* had evidently committed perjury, and the magistrates considered they would not be fulfilling their duty by entrusting a license to such a man.”

[The license was transferred on 03/10/1857.]

Birmingham Journal 22/4/1857 - Advert

“Public Notice.

I, Samuel Bayley, of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Agent for John Taylor Duce, of Wednesbury, in the said county, Wine and Spirit Merchant, hereby give Notice, that all Debts due and owing from any Person to the said John Taylor Duce, are to be Paid to him, or to Mr. *Joseph Bayley*, of Darlaston, Innkeeper, and not to my Wife, Isabella Bayley.

And I hereby give further Notice, I shall not be responsible for any Debt or Debts my Wife, Isabella Bayley, may contract after this Notice, she having left her home without any just provocation.

Samuel Bayley. Darlaston, April 20th, 1857.”

Birmingham Journal 7/10/1857

“At the Public Office, on Saturday last, the following transfers were allowed on application, by the Court..... NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston, from Mr. *J. S. Bailey* to Mr. *James Baggott*, manager of Mr. Mills’s brick works and colliery.”

James Baggott = James Baggot = James Bagot

Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1858

“Sarah Mainlove charged Emma Richards, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions yesterday, with assault. Mr. Bayley prosecuted, Mr. Sheldon defended.

Young Mrs. Richards is the daughter of Mr. *Bagot*, landlord of the NAGS HEAD, Darlaston, and Miss Sarah has been engaged as barmaid in the above-named hotel. She asserted that she left her situation on account of her master urging her, in addition to the ordinary duties of her situation, to receive young men as bedfellows. On the other hand, it was alleged that Mainlove was given to breaches of the eighth commandment, had stolen a collar from Mrs. Richards, nee *Bagot*, and that was the true reason of her dismissal. On last Monday week the complainant called at the NAGS HEAD relative to the alleged theft, and on leaving the defendant followed her, and as one of the witnesses said, after a preliminary calling of one another w—s, ‘set about her scandalous.’

Mrs. *Bagot* was called, and gave a third version of the cause of the dismissal, namely that about three o’clock in the morning of last Monday fortnight, having fallen out with her husband, she had gone to the girl’s room, with whom her little son slept, until Mr. *Bagot* should come to himself, and seeing a larger appearance in bed than her son would make, turned down the sheets and found Samuel Bird ‘lying snug and comfortable,’ both parties being in undress. She turned the girl away in the morning.

The magistrates fined the defendant 2s 6d and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday last.....

Applications for new licenses.....

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The usual meeting for the examination and passing of victuallers’ old licenses was held on Tuesday.....

These parties had been for the offences noted fined since the last annual licensing day.....

James Baggott, NAGS HEAD, Darlaston Green, refusing to admit the police, fined 2s 6d and costs.....

These parties were generally admonished or cautioned by the Magistrates.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/11/1858

“An inquest was held at the NAGS HEAD, Darlaston Green, on Thursday, before M. G. H. Hinchliffe, to inquire into the circumstances attending the death of Thomas Anson, a man 50 years of age, in the employ of

Messrs. Bagnall, as banksman at their Darlaston collieries. Some repairs were doing at the shaft of the pit at which the deceased was banksman, and on Saturday morning he was sending down material, and about four o'clock he shouted to say that some bricks were coming. Directly afterwards a quantity of bricks fell down the shaft, and those at the bottom were horrified to see the body of the poor fellow amongst them. One leg and one arm were cut off, and he died as soon as he was picked up. In the absence of any person at the top of the shaft who could have witnessed the accident, it is supposed that the deceased imagined the waggon to be over the shaft, and that under that supposition he pushed the load of bricks on the shaft, and the waggon not being on, the bricks and himself went down together. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1859

"At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before J. Leigh, Esq, a number of publicans were summoned for selling ale, &c, in booths erected beyond the limits of their licensed premises, at Darlaston Wake, a general warning having been previously given to publicans not to infringe the law in this respect.....

Mr. Slater, for the defendants, contended that a wake was like a fair, and that his clients had a right to sell on the days named.

Mr. Leigh decided otherwise, and a fine of £5, the lowest amount allowed by law, with 11s 6d costs, was inflicted upon each of those charged with one offence, charges for other offences being adjourned, in order for the promoters of the proceedings to consider whether they would withdraw them. The following were the persons fined.....

James Baggot, of the NAGS HEAD."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1860

"On Saturday afternoon, the body of a woman named Hannah Ward, aged 56, was discovered in the canal, near Messrs. Addenbrooke's Rough Hay Colliery. About half an hour previous to the body being found, she was seen by a man named Josh. Williams, who was working on the canal side, struggling in the water. Witness helped her out, and asked her if he could be of any further assistance. She replied that she was only going to the other bridge, and that she could manage without help. She had a walking stick with her, which was found some twenty yards from the place where she was found. The body was taken to the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston Green, where an inquest was held on Tuesday, and a verdict in accordance with the forgoing facts was returned."

Birmingham Journal 5/5/1860

"Wednesbury. Gaming in Public Houses. To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Magistrates and Chief-constable have deemed it their duty to take steps to put a stop to it. There can be no doubt that such steps have been adopted with due care. The police, after going round in their uniform and finding that they could not thus detect publicans in allowing the offence, recourse was had to sending constables round in private clothes, and the result has been the following convictions.....

James Baggott, licensed victualler, NAGS HEAD, Darlaston Green, for permitting gaming at pitch and toss, 40s and costs; also 40s and costs for suffering dog fighting in his house.....

In the course of the hearing of these cases, Mr. Leigh made some observations condemnatory of the practice of publicans and beerhouse keepers throwing all sorts of attractions and blandishments around their houses with the view of inducing husbands and sons to go and spend their time and money, and neglect the duties of life – the maintenance of their wives and families, and the other obligations which devolved upon them. It would be absurd to inflict light fines. The Act of Parliament said that for the first offence a fine of £5 should be inflicted. They had, however, materially reduced them, simply in consideration of any circumstances which might be deemed extenuating. Still it was necessary to put a stop to the practice."

1861 Census

The Green – NAGS HEAD

[1] *William Wilkes* (47), licensed victualler and screw forger, born Darlaston;

[2] *Sophia Wilkes* (45), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Susannah Wilkes* (14), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *William Wilkes* (12), son, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1862 - Advert

“The NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston Green, Staffordshire.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Old-Licensed Inn, well situated, in a populous neighbourhood, and in the immediate proximity of extensive Iron and Coal Works. Present Proprietor about giving up the public business. The Stock, Fixtures, Utensils, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

Application to be made to Mr. Samuel Baker, Jun., Auctioneer, Appraiser, &c, Walsall Street, Willenhall; or to the Proprietor, on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1862

“An inquest was held yesterday morning, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, at the house of Mr. *H. Roberts*, the NAGS HEAD INN, on the body of a child, two years of age, named John Foster, whose death resulted from severe scalds received on the 15th inst. The evidence went to show that the child slipped off a rocking chair and upset a kettle of boiling water which was on the fire. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1863 - Advert

“NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston Green.

To be Let, this excellent House of Business, situated in a densely-populated neighbourhood, and well worthy the attention of parties wishing to enter the Public Business. Rent £27. In-coming moderate.

Apply to Mr. Ashcroft, Auctioneer, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton; or on the Premises.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/10/1863

“Transfer of Licenses.....

NAGS HEAD, Darlaston (void) to *John Taylor*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/5/1864

“Mr. E. Hooper, the District Coroner, held an inquest yesterday, at the house of Mr. *John Taylor*, the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston, on the body of Thomas Springthorpe aged thirty-six, who was killed on Saturday night, through having been crushed by a wagon, which fell upon him.

James Baggott, brickmaker, Fallings Heath, said that the deceased was a horse driver, in Mr. Mills’s coal field. On Saturday night, about half-past eight o’clock, witness was passing Mr. Mills’s works in a trap, when a woman came and asked him to alight, as one of the horses belonging to Mr. Mills had shied and thrown a wagon over. Witness went, and found the horse lying on his back and the wagon upside down. Deceased was not the driver, but was helping to get the horse up. Witness, deceased, and several other men pulled the wagon on its side, and propped it up with an iron rail. Deceased proposed to hook the chain to the inside of the wagon, and they did so. They then used horses to right it, and deceased got his shoulder under the corner of the wagon, and witness cautioned him that, if the chain slipped, he would be cut to pieces. The horses were then started, and witness believed that the deceased’s foot must have slipped on a cinder. The wagon fell over and crushed deceased, the back part of whose head was knocked in. Mr. Latham, surgeon, was speedily in attendance, but the unfortunate man was quite dead.

Thomas Bradbury confirmed this statement, and the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/12/1864

“On Tuesday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an enquiry, at the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston Green, respecting the death of Percival Thomas, four years of age, the son of a blacksmith, at Darlaston Green. On Saturday afternoon the child was passing by a cart which was undergoing repair in his father’s yard when one of the wheels, which had been placed on the axle but not fastened, slipped off, and falling on the child killed him on the spot. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/3/1869

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *John Taylor*, of the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston Green, was, on the evidence of Police-constable Roberts, fined 5s and costs, for having had his house open during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 28th ult.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the West Bromwich district was held yesterday.....

The following list of victuallers brought before the magistrates during the year ending 25th August, was handed to the magistrates by Superintendent Woollaston.....

J. Taylor, NAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/6/1869 - Advert

“Found, a large Black Retriever Dog. If not owned in three days will be sold.

Apply, NAGS HEAD, Darlaston.”

1871 Census

The Green – NAGS HEAD

[1] *Henry Fenton* (43), licensed victualler / tinman, brazier and ironmonger, born Ironbridge;

[2] *Mary A. Fenton* (32), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] *Walter H. C. Fenton* (3), son, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Sophie Ashmore* (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/4/1874

“Alexandra Park Recreation Grounds, Rood End, near Oldbury.

The above beautiful grounds, which are available from all parts of England, being situated within a few minutes’ walk of Oldbury, Spon Lane, and the Smethwick stations on the Stour Valley Railway, and West-bromwich, Smethwick Junction, and Rood End stations on the Great Western Railway (Rood End in particular, being only 300 yards distant), are reopen to the public, and the proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Bradley, respectfully announce that they will give £15 to be contested for in an All England Foot Race, distance 135 yards, on Saturday and Monday, April 18 and 20. First prize £10, second £4, third £1. Entrance 1s 6d, no acceptance, to be declared on or before Tuesday, April 14. Wednesday morning’s letters will be in time. All entries to be made at the grounds, or at any of the following places.....

Wilkes’s, NAGS HEAD, Darlaston Green.....

Betting and gambling strictly prohibited. No one allowed to run unless in proper costume.”

Dudley Guardian 8/5/1875

“At West Bromwich Police Court, on Monday, before Mr. Isaac Spooner, Stipendiary, *William Wilkes*, aged 12, the son of *George Wilkes*, landlord of the NAGS HEAD, Darlaston Green, was summoned for having stolen £8, belonging to his father; and three married women of Darlaston, named *Clarey* (55), *Salt* and *Wooton*, were charged with being accessory before the fact, and also with receiving the money. Mr. Ebsworth defended the women.

The prosecution withdrew the charge against *Wilkes*, who was called to give evidence. On the 17th ult, the boy went to the house of the prisoner *Salt*, who told him that her husband had been out of work, and asked him if he could lend her any money. He went home, and having obtained possession of the key of the drawer, in which was deposited a sum of £30 in gold, he took out £8, and distributed it to Mrs. *Salt* and the other women. The boy was detected by his mother two days afterwards with a sovereign in his possession, which he had subsequently stolen. He then admitted having stolen the amount above mentioned.

The case was remanded to Wednesbury, no evidence having been given for the defence.”

Walsall Observer 14/8/1875

“On Tuesday night a fatal boiler explosion took place at the Providence Works, belonging to Messrs. Archer and Harper, coach nut and bolt makers, Darlaston, by which, beside the two persons immediately killed, nine were injured. One of these was so hurt that it is questionable whether he will recover. The inquest on the bodies was held at the NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston, yesterday, by Mr. E. Hooper, coroner for the district. Mr. Slater, solicitor, Darlaston, attended on behalf for the owners of the works.

The deceased were a woman named *Sarah Hartless*, 21, and the other an infant named *Martha Ward*, aged 7 months, and the facts appeared to be that the boiler, which was a horizontal one, 28ft long by 5ft, burst near

one end, which was driven a distance of about 200 yards, and falling through the roof of a house and upon the child, who was in bed at the time. The bed was knocked through the floor, and the front of the house forced out. The woman had been employed at the works, and was found dead under a quantity of bricks which had been knocked down from the chimney or wall, each of which was terribly knocked about.

The bodies were identified, and Mr. Thomas Harper, one of the proprietors, was called, and stated that the boiler had been in use one year and eight months only, and, at the time of the explosion, was under the sole charge of Edmund Pickering, the regular engineer being ill. Pickering, up to the previous Saturday night, had been engaged as a labourer elsewhere, but, when engaged, said he could manage the engine and boiler, which witness believed. In answer to Mr. Slater, witness said he noticed the boiler five minutes before the explosion, and the ball then showed that it contained plenty of water.

Mr. E. B. Marten, chief engineer to the company in which it was insured, produced models, and deposed that the explosion was due to want of water.

Pickering was also called, and said he was no particular trade until he went to Messrs. Archer and Co's, and that his duty there was to attend to the engine under the superintendence of Mr. Harper. He had never worked an engine before, but had been employed in boiler cleaning and about engines for years. He had tried the boiler, and found plenty of water five minutes before the explosion.

The Coroner, in summing up, expressed his opinion that the firm ought to have a person in charge who understood the engine; and the jury, after about half an hour's deliberation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death, with the addition that they 'Recommend that for the future Messrs. Archer and Harper do not employ any person to manage their engine or boiler before they are satisfied that such person is competent to perform such duties.'"

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/7/1877

"The feast of the A1 Permanent Money Society was held on Monday at Mr. *George Wilkes's*, NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston, and a goodly number sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the worthy host and hostess. After the cloth had been drawn Mr. Job Newton was unanimously voted to the chair. The health of the Queen and Royal Family was drunk, likewise that of the worthy host and hostess with musical honours. The Vice-Chairman (Mr. Elisha Cresswell) then delivered an excellent address in honour of the society. After various songs were given by the company, the Chairman sang 'Who deeply drinks of wine;' Mr. Edwin Durant (the hon. secretary), 'Burton Goose;' Brother Ford, 'Give me the man with an honest heart;' Brother Grooves, 'The Marble Arch,' with others too numerous to mention. A most enjoyable evening was spent until eleven o'clock."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/10/1877

"Yesterday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper, district Coroner, held an inquiry at the NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston, touching the death of Samuel George Tolley, aged three years and four months, who died on Friday from the effects of swallowing the bone of a plaice. The deceased resided with his parents in The Green, and on the 12th inst he and a playfellow purchased a pennyworth of fried fish. In eating it deceased swallowed a small bone, which scratched the lower part of the throat, thus causing irritation. Dr. Sutton was sent for, and found that an abscess had formed, and terminated in the child's death. The jury returned a verdict to that effect."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1878 - Advert

"Sale. Handsome Horse Pony, 12½ hands, 7 years; very fast, free, with capital action; warranted sound; quiet to ride and drive. £20.

George Wilkes, NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/7/1878 - Advert

"Superior Turnout. Extraordinary handsome high-stepping Pony, 11½ hands, 3 years, very fast, can trot two miles in eight minutes, or thirteen miles in one hour, with splendid action, very free, but remarkably quiet, is being driven by a lady; also excellent Trap and plated Harness, equal to new. The lot £35; or separate.

George Wilkes, NAGS HEAD, Green, Darlaston."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/4/1880 - Advert

“Horse-Pony (handsome thick brown) for Sale, 12¼ hands, rising 7 years, free, and very fast in harness, warranted in every respect; also, pretty Set of silver-mounted Harness, quite new; together or separate lot. 20 guineas.

George Wilkes, NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1880 - Advert

“Goats. Two capital young Goats, in full milk, 30s the pair; or separate, 16s each.

George Wilkes, NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston.”

1881 Census

109, The Green – NAGS HEAD

- [1] *George Wilkes* (47), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Susannah Wilkes (44), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *George Wilkes* (20), son, barman, born Darlaston;
- [4] William Wilkes (18), son, harness maker, born Darlaston;
- [5] James Wilkes (15), son, carpenter, born Darlaston;
- [6] Susannah Wilkes (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Sarah Green (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Evening Express 4/10/1881 - Advert

“For Sale, a Sow and 9 Pigs; also 10 Fowls.

Apply, NAGS HEAD, Darlaston Green.”

Walsall Observer 8/10/1881 - Advert

“To be Let or Sold, with immediate possession, ‘The Delves Cottage,’ situated at Delves Green, near Wednesbury, comprising three Bedrooms, Dining-room, Sitting-room, Kitchen, and other requisites, with Stable and Coach-house complete.

For further particulars, apply to *George Wilkes*, NAGS HEAD, Darlaston Green; or Mr. Pymn, Builder, Fullbrook, near the Premises.”

George Wilkes – see also CARRIERS ARMS and FREEMASONS ARMS.

Wednesbury Herald 4/3/1882

“On Wednesday, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston, on the body of a man named Shirley (34), of Wolverhampton, who was drowned in the basin of the canal at Rough Hay, Darlaston, on Friday last.

Mr. H. Shirley, a brother of the deceased, identified the body, and said it was brought about by him reading a description of the deceased published in the newspaper. He last saw his brother alive on February 3rd. The deceased had been subject to fits, and, no doubt, he fell into the water while he was in a fit.

Mr. W. Bigford, lock maker, also of Wolverhampton, who had employed the deceased to go errands, also gave evidence as to him having been subject to fits.

A verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

Wednesbury Herald 8/4/1882

“On Saturday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston, on the body of James Foster Carter (42), fitter, Church Street.

The deceased had for a considerable time worked at the factory of Mr. James Wiley, The Green, and in January he put a girl named Deeley, who was also in the employ of Mr. Wiley, out of the shop, because she would not supply him with certain things required in his work. She then took out a summons against him for assault, and rather than go before the magistrates he paid her £4 to settle the matter. Subsequently, however, other sums of money were extorted from him, and in addition he was ridiculed in public houses and elsewhere. This preyed upon his mind and produced depression, causing him during the last two or three weeks

of his life to be very strange indeed in his manners. On Thursday morning, however, he went to his work as usual, and at six o'clock was conversing with the engineer, Gabriel Carter (no relative), in an unconcerned manner, but at a quarter past he was found lying on the ground in an out-of-the-way part of the yard with his throat extensively gashed, on the left side, and quite dead. His clasp-knife, open and covered with blood, lay under him.

The jurors bore testimony to the quiet, respectable character of the deceased, and stated that he had been maintaining his father and mother, the former being afflicted. One of them also said he thought the persons should be censured who had so imposed upon and worried the deceased, their conduct having caused his mind to become unhinged, and driven him to commit suicide.

The Coroner said one difficulty in the way of carrying out the suggestion was that they were not present, but no doubt the opinion of the jury would come to their knowledge. It certainly did appear that they had been the cause of the death of the deceased.

A verdict of Temporary Insanity was then returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/3/1884

"During Sunday morning the body of a man named John Starkey, of Morfetal Lane, Willenhall, was found in a watercourse near to Mr. Addenbrooke's furnaces. It is known that about eleven o'clock on the previous night he passed near the spot on his way home from Darlaston, and it is assumed that he fell in. A large dog which was accompanying him on the previous night was found watching at the place where the discovery was made. The body was removed to the NAGS HEAD, Darlaston, to await an inquest."

AND

Widnes Examiner 8/3/1884

"At an inquest held on Wednesday, at Darlaston, respecting the death of John Starkey, locksmith, of Willenhall, it was shown that the deceased, accompanied by a terrier dog, walked across at night some pit banks on his way home and fell in a sewer brook which was 20 feet deep. His skull was fractured and his neck dislocated. The dog waited on the embankment for eight hours, and barked to call attention to what had happened."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/7/1885

"On Wednesday evening, the Deputy Coroner (T. W. Topham, Esq) held an inquest at the NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston, on the body of Lydia M. Bailey, aged 1 year and 7 months, the daughter of James Bailey, of Darlaston. The child was taken ill on Sunday morning, with convulsive fits, and expired about six o'clock on Monday morning. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/9/1885

"A remarkable incident of the explosion of gas occurred at the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday morning. It appears that Mr. *George Wilkes* had gone down the cellar, taking with him a lighted candle, for the purpose of cleansing the water channel connected therewith, and whilst so engaged it would seem that a rush of gas, which had by some means or other accumulated there, came in contact with the lighted candle he held in his hand, the result being an explosion of a somewhat serious character. Mr. *Wilkes*, who was the only person in the cellar, was brought to the ground by the terrific shock, and rendered unconscious for some time. Two barrels of beer which were also in the cellar were dislodged, and the roof of the cellar blown up. Mr. Benjamin Garrington, who was on the ground floor, immediately over the cellar, was lifted from the floor by the force of the explosion, his head coming into violent collision with the ceiling. Several valuable pictures were smashed, the counter moved from its place, many glasses and jugs were shaken off the shelves and smashed, and the landlady of the house, who was at the counter, was thrown to the ground and severely shaken. Much consternation has been caused throughout the neighbourhood, and many inquiries have been made respecting the victims, but we are pleased to be able to state that no serious bodily injury has been sustained. It is surmised that the gas accumulated from the numerous disused pits which ramify the vicinity."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/9/1885

"This morning, as some bricklayers were engaged in repairing the kitchen floor at the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston, which was considerably damaged by the gas explosion of Tuesday (already reported in these col-

umns), a well about six yards deep, and containing a quantity of water, was discovered. It is supposed that sewer gas has been accumulating in the well for some time. Mrs. *Wilkes*, the landlady, is still confined to her room.”

Morning Post 8/11/1889

“A meeting of the Wilson Lloyd Habitation was held on Thursday night at the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston. There was a good attendance. Mr. George Wiley presided, and among those present were Mr. Wilson Lloyd (Mayor of Wednesbury), Mr. E. A. Wilkes (Ruling Councillor), Mr. James Wiley, Mr. George Butler, Mr. G. Griffiths, and others.

On the motion of Mr. J. Wiley, seconded by Mr. George Griffiths, and supported by Mr. E. A. Wilkes, a vote of confidence in her Majesty’s Government was carried unanimously.

Mr. Job Meanly proposed, and Mr. G. Butler, seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson Lloyd for the invaluable services he has from time to time rendered to the Conservative cause, and pledging the meeting to strenuously use every legitimate effort to secure his return to Parliament whenever an opportunity presented itself. Mr. Wilson Lloyd responded in an effective speech.”

[The Wilson Lloyd Habitation was a local branch of the Primrose League, a Conservative organisation.]

George Wilkes (26), bachelor, licensed victualler, 211 High Street, Dudley, (father *George Wilkes*, deceased, licensed victualler) married *Martha Maria Lunn* (28), spinster, 3 Pinfold Street, (father Simeon Lunn, deceased, beerhouse keeper) on 7th August 1887.

Simeon Lunn – see THREE HORSESHOES, Darlaston.

1891 Census

109, The Green

[1] *George Wilkes* (30), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Martha Maria Wilkes* (31), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Simeon George Wilkes (2), son, born Walsall;

[4] Phoebe Lunn (54), mother-in-law, widow, living on her own means, born Darlaston;

[5] Elizabeth Burkeet (17), general servant, born Glasgow:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

George Wilkes, the NAGS HEAD Beerhouse, Darlaston, through Mr. A. Whitehouse, obtained a renewal of his license, opposition having been withdrawn.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1893

“On Saturday, Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston, on the body of Joseph Abbotts (5), son of a maltster, living at No.2, Perry Street, Darlaston Green.

On Thursday afternoon the deceased left home and went with some other children to a pool in the same neighbourhood, and whilst endeavouring to gather some rushes he fell into the water. The body was not recovered until about half an hour afterwards, when Mr. James Fellows brought it to the surface by means of a drag, and Mr. J. T. Rubery and Mr. C. Guy, members of the local branch of St. John’s Ambulance Association, did their best by artificial respiration to restore animation, but without success.

The pool was described by Police-constable Green and jurors as a very dangerous place, which persons passing along the road in the dark were very liable to walk into, and it was said that at one time measures were taken to fill it up, but for some reason the work was stopped. No one was able to say definitively who owned the property, and the Coroner directed Sergeant Willis to furnish him with information on the point, that he might make a communication asking for the pool to be made safe by fencing if it could not be filled up.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/10/1893 - Advert

“Sale, very useful and powerful Cart Mare, rising 7 years, 16¼ hands high; will draw any weight; quiet in all tackle.

Apply, *George Wilkes*, NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston.”

Wednesbury Herald 23/2/1895

“The ironworkers and millmen of the firm of Messrs. Tolley, Sons, and Bostock, the Green Ironworks, Darlaston, held their annual supper at the NAGS HEAD INN, on Saturday night, and invited their employers, with a few friends. Upwards of 60 sat down to an excellent repast admirably served up by Mrs. *Wilkes*, the hostess. After the cloth was drawn Mr. Mark Mason, a workman, was voted to the chair, and Mr. W. H. Bostock, vice chair.

Mr. Cox of the Wages Board, addressed the meeting, and paid a high tribute to the excellent relations existing between the employers and employed of the firm, and asked the men to be united and loyal to the Board, to do their level best to turn out a first class quality of iron, and at all times to avoid friction between masters and men.....”

Wednesbury Herald 28/2/1898

“The ironworkers and millmen of the firm Messrs. Tolley, Sons and Bostock, the Green Ironworks, Darlaston, held their annual supper at the NAGS HEAD INN, on Saturday night, and invited their employers, with a few friends. Upwards of sixty sat down to an excellent repast admirably served by Mrs. *Wilkes*, the hostess. After the cloth was drawn Mr. Mark Mason, a workman, was voted to the chair.....”

1901 Census

109, The Green

[1] *Martha M. Wilkes* (41), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Simeon George Wilkes (12), son, born Walsall;

[3] Arthur Samuel Wilkes (10), son, born Darlaston;

[4] Eliza Cornfield (23), barmaid, born Walsall;

[5] Lucy Fereday (18), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

1911 Census

109, The Green – NAGS HEAD

[1] *James Bradbury* (39), licensed victualler, born Cannock;

[2] Louisa Bradbury (35), wife, married 15 years, born Cannock;

[3] Edwin Bradbury (14), son, carpenter’s assistant, born Cannock;

[4] Eva Gladys Bradbury (11), daughter, school, born Cannock;

[5] Laura Bradbury (3), daughter, born Cannock;

[6] Rosa Robbins (16), domestic servant, born Walsall:

*possibly the same person

Walsall Observer 19/1/1924

“There was a sequel at the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday to festive celebrations held by a number of employees from neighbouring works at the NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston, just before Christmas, the licensee, *Harry Bassett*, being summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises on December 21st. The proceedings were heard before the Stipendiary (Mr. Bertram G. Grimley), who reserved his decision.

Prosecuting, Mr. J. S. Sharpe (West Bromwich) said that on the day in question several employees from the Holloware Company’s works in Booth Street went to the NAGS HEAD, which was only about 200 yards away. They had been having a sort of ‘breaking up’ celebration as they were not going to work again until after Christmas, and at the works they had been indulging in whisky and tea. Two of the girls by the time they arrived at defendant’s house, though not drunk, were getting on that way. The pair, a young married woman, Mrs. Camm, and Lily Green, remained in the house until just before nine, when they left, and a young man named Elmore was requested to see them home because they were quite incapable of going

home themselves. During the evening the beer was served out in gallons and a good deal was taken, the two women being the worse for drink at the time the landlord was serving behind the counter. The sequel was that they were seen by the police, locked up, brought before the magistrates and pleaded guilty to being drunk.

A man named John Kempton, who was in the house for an hour or so, very prudently went to the home of a friend nearby to recover, when he left, but evidently did not manage it sufficiently, for he was later found in the street by a police constable, and locked up, and he too appeared before the magistrates in due course.

The police then decided to visit the NAGS HEAD, and speak to the licensee about the matter. As they entered they saw a man in the passage, named Corbett, who slipped to the ground as they entered, and who was in a very drunken state. When the landlord's attention was called to this and he was asked to account for the man's condition, he very coolly replied, 'I don't think he is very drunk.' From these facts, submitted Mr. Sharpe, it would be seen that defendant was utterly regardless of the good conduct of the house.

Evidence was given by Lily Pretoria Green, 45, Green Croft, Bilston, a cooler employed by the Holloware Company, who said that on December 21st they had a small party at the works and two bottles of whisky were put into about a bucketful of tea, and this was shared between twenty of them. She left the works in company with several others, and they went to the NAGS HEAD, where they stayed from 7 o'clock to 8.30 or 8.45. She left when Mrs. Camm and the young man, Elmore, to go to the tram, but on the way they were taken into custody, by the police, for drunkenness. She was not as drunk as the police said she was.

Cross-examined by Mr. P. J. Slater, for the defence, witness said there were seventeen at the party, which visited the NAGS HEAD, only two of whom were men. They had had a gallon of beer, which was shared between the seventeen of them, and among other customers in the bar. A second gallon was afterwards disposed of in a similar manner. There was a good number in the bar at the time. She did not remember how many glasses she had. Mrs. Camm, she admitted, took away with her some whisky in a bottle, but witness denied that any of this was taken after they had left the public house.

Similar evidence, regarding what took place, was given by Phoebe May Camm, of 213, Oxford Street, Walsall, who said she was also an employee at the works. They had a sing-song at the public house, but the liquor she had 'did not affect her in the least,' but on going into the fresh air she felt a little giddy. The young man, Elmore, offered to see her to the car.

In reply to Mr. Slater, witness said the licensee did not bring the beer to the table where they were sitting, one of the party fetched it from the counter.

William Elmore, an unemployed labourer, of The Green, Darlaston, said that on the night in question he was at the NAGS HEAD and saw the party being served with beer by Mrs. *Bassett*. About a quarter to nine Mrs. Camm, who was a stranger to him, asked him to take her to the car. She was 'a bit intoxicated.' Lily Green left with witness and Mrs. Camm, and on the way to the tram they 'walked awkward.' They were singing, but not shouting.

Robert Corbett, another employee of the Company, who was one of the party, said that at the NAGS HEAD a man named Kempton called for the first gallon of beer, and the witness called for the second. The police arrived about 9.30, after the girls had gone. He had nothing to drink except his share of the two gallons, and he was not drunk. The reason he slipped in the passage was because he had steel tips on his boots. The fresh air overcame him slightly when he got outside.

Mr. Sharpe pointed out that in a written statement witness had said that they had three gallons of beer. Simeon Kempton, galvaniser, of Willcock's Buildings, Moxley, said that after the two gallons had been consumed they had a 'whip round' for a third, which was shared like the rest. During the whole of the time the landlord was behind the counter. Witness left at 8.45 and was not drunk when arrested by the constable at about 9.15.

Evidence regarding the visit of the police to the NAGS HEAD was given by Police-constable Heath, of Darlaston, who said that when they saw the two women at about 9.5 they were bundling Elmore from one side of the pavement to the other, and Mrs. Camm sank on to her knees and had to be helped up by Elmore. They went to the house to caution the landlord, and when they got there they saw Corbett fall to the floor. The landlord said he was 'not very drunk,' but, added witness, 'he could not stand.' When told that the women had been arrested for being drunk and disorderly, and had said they had been in his house since 7 o'clock, the landlord replied, 'I don't know. I was busy.'

Police-sergeant Bailey and Police-constable Steadman corroborated.

Police-sergeant Brooks, of Darlaston, who was in the police office when the four persons were brought in, said the two young women were drunk, and Kempton and Corbett were helpless. The last named at 5.30 the next morning was unfit to be bailed out.

Giving evidence on his own behalf, *Harry Bassett*, the licensee, said he had kept the NAGS HEAD for about two years. None of the party who came to the house on December 21st was one of his regular customers. They were quite sober when they came. His wife served them with all the drink they had, and he could not say how much it was. Shortly after eight he saw his wife drawing some beer, and when she told him it was for the party he told her she must not serve any more and that they must go. He did so because they filled the place and some of his regular customers did not appear to like the fact that they were singing and creating some noise. They left the house in a body. At 9.20 the police arrived. He had not served Corbett personally with drink, and did not see him fall down. Corbett did not appear to him to be drunk and seemed quite capable of looking after himself. Witness distinctly heard Police-sergeant Bailey say to Police-constable Heath, 'Do you think we had better take him,' referring to Corbett, and Heath replied, 'Yes.' The girls left his place on complaint from him, but there was no arrangement with Elmore to see them home. He could see practically the whole bar from the counter.

Mrs. Eliza *Bassett*, wife of the license, said she served the party with beer. They were perfectly sober when they arrived and apparently came there to have a 'jollification.' After two gallons of beer had been called for and shared amongst the party and regular customers of the house who were in the bar, there was a 'whip round' for a third gallon, and then, shortly after 8 o'clock, as the party were getting 'merry' and they wanted accommodation for their own regular customers, they advised them to go and they immediately did so in quite an orderly way.

Pressed by Mr. Sharpe regarding Corbett's condition at the time the police called, witness caused some amusement by declaring, 'I shouldn't say a man was drunk who could stand on one leg and show the policeman the steel tips of his boots.'

Doris May Yorke, 106, The Green, Darlaston, said that after leaving the NAGS HEAD at about 8.30, the man Kempton came to her house. He was not then drunk. He sat on the fire guard, added witness, 'and if he had been drunk he could not have done that without falling in the fire.' Laughter. She saw Corbett leave the NAGS HEAD about 8 o'clock but did not see him return.

Henry Yorke, 106, The Green, Darlaston, said Corbett called at the house shortly before 8 o'clock and was not then drunk.

A young woman, Rose Wilkes, said she saw Mrs. Camm and Lily Green outside the NAGS HEAD at 8.10 and they were quite sober, and Samuel Gutteridge, one of the customers at the house on the night in question, said that although Corbett had had some beer he was not drunk and the cause of his falling was that he slipped on the smooth quarries in the passage.

For the defence, Mr. Slater said Kempton was found at about 10 o'clock and he left the NAGS HEAD at ten minutes past eight. They had therefore one and a half hours to account for before he was found drunk by the police, and he submitted that this was no evidence against Mr. *Bassett*. So far as the two girls were concerned, much has been said about gallons of beer, but assuming that the number of persons who shared the beer amounted to twenty, it would be seen that what they had worked out at a very small proportion. There had been no evidence of riotous behaviour or any appearance of drunkenness in the bar. There was no evidence to show that anything wrong went on to the knowledge of either the landlord or his wife, and there was, further, no evidence that the landlord or his wife saw Corbett except round about 8 o'clock, when he was with the party, and the time between then and 9.30 had to be accounted for. There was no proof that Mr. *Bassett* knew Corbett was drunk.

Mr. Sharpe, in reply, pointed out that under the Act of 1910 it was a landlord's duty to keep his premises under observation.

The Stipendiary said as it was a case of some importance to both the owners of the house and the licensee, he would reserve his decision until this day fortnight (January 29th) and promised to give full consideration to the legal points involved."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/1/1924

"Giving his reserved decision in a case heard at Wednesbury Police Court a fortnight ago, in which *Harry Bassett*, licensee of the NAGS HEAD INN, The Green, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunken-

ness, the Stipendiary (Mr. Bertram Grimley) said yesterday he had come to the conclusion that all the persons were drunk on the premises.

In regard to the point raised that 'unless the landlord knew they were drunk no offence was committed,' he pointed out that the law had been amended placing the onus on the licensee who had to take all proper precautions to prevent drunkenness.

In his (the Stipendiary's) opinion what caused the people to be drunk was the mixture of the beer with the whiskey and tea.

Owing to the heavy costs which amounted to £6 13s he only imposed a penalty of 20s."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/2/1924

"Alderman Yardley, commenting on the police report at Darlaston Licensing Sessions, said theirs was becoming a very sober town. All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the NAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston."

South Staffordshire Times 15/3/1924

"The adjourned Brewster Sessions for the parish of Darlaston were held on Wednesday, when the justices sitting were Alderman Joseph Yardley, Mr. R. Mentz Tolley and Mr. W. Martin Wren.

The only case was that of the NAGS HEAD, The Green, the police objecting to the renewal of the license on the ground that the licensee had been convicted.

Sergt. Brookes gave evidence and stated that *Harry Bassett*, the then licensee had been fined £1 and £6 13s special costs at Wednesbury Police Court on December 29th last, for permitting drunkenness on the licensed premises of the NAGS HEAD on December 23rd. There were five persons concerned in the prosecution. Answering Supt. Sault, witness said that apart from this offence the house had been properly conducted and kept clean.

Mr. A. J. Glover appeared for *Bassett* and asked for the renewal of the license. He stated that after the conviction a temporary transfer was granted to *Abraham Pinner* in respect of the house, and it was intended to apply that day for a further temporary authority to carry on until the next sessions in June, and with that Mr. *Bassett* agreed. Although they were making application for a renewal to *Bassett*, at the present time he had no intention of going into a public house, in fact he might never go into one again. At the same time it might be that at some future date he would want to hold a license. Therefore he asked that the present license should be renewed to him. Mr. Glover then explained that the reason for this was that if Mr. *Bassett* went to some other place the Bench there might not be so conversant with the facts and details of the case. If the Bench agreed to the renewal of the license Mr. *Bassett* would not oppose the temporary license or the full transfer. He (Mr. Glover) was not present when the case for permitting drunkenness was heard at Wednesbury, but Mr. P. J. Slater, who represented the brewery that day, defended *Bassett* at Wednesbury, while he believed that Supt. Sault was also present. The Stipendiary, in fining *Bassett* only £1 and costs could not have thought it was a serious case or defendant would have been fined much more. The Stipendiary gave a considered judgement in the course of which he said that as the case might be brought before the licensing justices, he should like to say that he did not consider it was the beer alone which made the party drunk, but it was the whisky which they had had at the works previously. Only a small quantity of beer was consumed as there were 17 or 18 persons in the party and Mr. Glover agreed that the licensee should have exercised more observation and supervision, but he had suffered the penalty as he had lost the house. Mr. Glover then produced some testimonials from local gentlemen as to Mr. *Bassett's* character and said that the latter had lived in the town the whole of his life. Before he took a license, and it was the first one he had ever held, he was a dairyman and there had never been any complaint or conviction against him for any kind of offence whatever. He therefore asked the magistrates to say that under the circumstances the license would be renewed.

Supt. Sault said he agreed with what Mr. Glover had said and did not wish to press his objection any further. Mr. P. J. Slater, who represented the owners of the house, offered no objection and said that the point the Stipendiary took was that the people were drunk on the premises and that the licensee did not take proper precautions.

Mr. R. Mentz Tolley remarked that it was a most unusual application.

Alderman Yardley said that the justices had heard all that had been said. Mr. *Bassett* was well-known and it

was decided to renew the license.

Mr. P. J. Slater then applied for the temporary transfer of the license from *Harry Bassett* to *Abraham Pinner* and there being no objection this was granted.”

Abraham Pinner was also a sheet metal worker.

Walsall Observer 16/7/1927

“Henry Pitchford (21), of the back of 21, Garden Street, Walsall, was sentenced to three months’ hard labour for obtaining by false pretences seven packing cases, valued at 25s, belonging to Albert. W. Green, Lichfield Street, Willenhall. Prisoner, it was said, went to Green’s warehouse, and picking out the cases loaded them on a truck. When payment was mentioned he said he would probably want some more, and settlement could be made with his boss, Mr. *Morris*, of the NAGS HEAD INN, Darlaston. Mr. *Morris* told the Court that he employed accused as a carter two years ago, but he had no authority to obtain the cases in his name. When arrested by Police-sergeant Thorpe, prisoner denied the charge.”

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

“Darlaston Brewster Sessions.....

In his report, Police-inspector Adams stated.....

All the licensed premises in Darlaston, said the Superintendent, had been visited, and generally speaking were clean, though many urinals and lavatories required white-washing more frequently. The following instances were specially mentioned: MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross (‘a very poor house in accommodation, and the public sanitary arrangements needed alterations’); the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street (‘a small house with poor private accommodation and sanitary arrangements’); the WHY NOT, St. George’s Street (‘a small house with poor sanitary arrangements’); the BRITISH OAK, Willenhall Road (‘which requires internal renovation’); and the NAGS HEAD, the Green (‘good house, but dirty condition generally’). The Superintendent suggested that swing doors on some of the lavatories would be a great improvement.”

Plans were approved for alterations on 27th May 1939.

1939 Register

109, The Green – NAGS HEAD PH (3 of 4)

[1] *Edward Butler*, date of birth 21/1/1890, publican, married;

[2] *Maud E. (Butler) Rickuss*, dob 20/12/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Irene M. Butler*, dob 19/3/1920, civil servant, clerk to engineering department, Telephone House, single;

Edward Butler was married to *Maud Eveline*.

Rugeley Times 10/2/1940

“Darlaston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent J. H. Hall, in his report to the justices, said that the number of licensed houses in the town was 74; the same as last year, except that the license of the WHY NOT INN, The Green, had been altered from a beerhouse ‘on’ to a beer and wines ‘on.’ At the census of 1931, the population of the parish was 19,736, according to which there was one licensed house to every 267 inhabitants.....

The Superintendent also reported on alterations to houses, and referred to the fact that plans granted in respect of two houses in May, the VINE INN, Station Street, and the NAGS HEAD, The Green, had not yet been commenced.....

Regarding the plans for rebuilding, the justices understood the delay in the case of the BOAT INN, Bentley Road, for these plans had to be reconsidered and new plans were drawn. In the cases of the VINE INN and NAGS HEAD, where authority had been given for certain improvement to be carried out, they felt that there had been an unnecessary delay, and he would ask the Clerk (Mr. L. A. Shirlaw) to write to the owners calling attention to this, and asking them to proceed with the work with all possible expedition.”

Rugeley Times 9/4/1940

“At the Adjourned Darlaston Licensing Sessions on Wednesday, Mr. L. A. Shirlaw (Clerk) said he had written to the owners of the VINE NN and NAGS HEAD, Darlaston, and had received satisfactory replies that the work of repair and alteration at both houses was being proceeded with.”

1942 Probate

“*Edward Howl Butler*, of NAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 17 June 1942. Administration Birmingham 4 September to *Maud Eveline Butler*, widow, and Irene Maud Butler, spinster. Effects £1,649 9s 6d.”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

Plans were approved for alterations on 17th September 1952.

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘Working in Darlaston Green’ by C. C. (Derek) Dudley

“In 1957 I went to work for Mr. Fred Winkle who had a butcher’s shop next to the NAGS HEAD pub. *Ernie* and *Hilda Morgan* then ran the NAGS HEAD. Ernie would open the back gate so that Fred could nip round and have a pint before opening time.....

‘Rough Rowley’ was a well-known ex-boxer from Darlaston who frequented the NAGS HEAD. I’m not sure how he got his nickname ‘Rough,’ whether it was his style of boxing, his very gruff voice or the fact that he lived in Rough Hay. I rarely saw him sober.”

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

NAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.”

Walsall Observer 24/6/1966

“Although formed only last year the Darlaston Sunday Darts League had a magnificent display of trophies at their first annual presentations in the GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston, on Friday, a collection that was a tribute to the hard work put in by the officials during this inaugural year. Fourteen teams took part in the league, thirteen of which were from public houses in the Darlaston area.

A total of 67 trophies were presented. Five major trophies which were donated to the league and the remaining 62 miniatures were purchased by players in the league. Apart from the prize money which totalled £85 10s and the money for the trophies, the committee paid all other expenses to help achieve a first-class season. The presentations were made by Mr. C. Staite.

The most successful team was the BARREL INN who failed to win the league by nine legs with the same number of points as the champions (the NAGS HEAD), but who reached both semi-finals of the knock-outs and who received the Mitchell and Butlers Collection Shield.

An additional presentation was made to Mr. W. Thorpe of Bentley Sons of Rest of £17, which was the result of a collection among the players. Mr. Thorpe donated a cup on behalf of the Sons of Rest, which was won by the SWAN (Moxley) with the GREEN DRAGON runners-up.

Other winner were: the President’s Knock Out Cup, KINGS HILL TAVERN, with runners-up the SWAN.

League champions: NAGS HEAD, with runners-up BARREL INN.

Wooden spoonists: BOAT INN.

Supplementary league winners: BRADFORD ARMS, with runners-up ROYAL GEORGE.”

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1969.

London Gazette 1/3/1988

“*Patricia Joan Wylde*, 13 Oakfield Road, Bilbrook, Codsall, Staffordshire, Housewife, lately residing at the NAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston, West Midlands, and lately carrying on business as publican.

Court - Wolverhampton.

Date of Filing Petition - 5th February 1988.

Date of Bankruptcy Order - 5th February 1988.

Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition or Petition after Criminal Bankruptcy Order - Debtor's."

[2022]

NELSON

76, (76+77), Catherines Cross, (28, Wolverhampton Street), (119, Wolverhampton Lane), (Willenhall Lane),
DARLASTON

OWNERS

Ann Butler, Catherines Cross, Darlaston

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (leased 1930-1935) (acquired in 1935)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Enterprise Inns [1990s]

LICENSEES

Ralph Longmore [1818] – [1822]

Richard Cotterill [1828] – [1846]

John Cartwright [1847]

Henry Dale (1849 – 1850);

John Silvester (1850 – [1854]

Thomas Dolman [1860] – 1861);

Benjamin Fellows (1861 – [1870]

John Taylor [1871] – [1880]

Job Butler [1880] – 1900)

Mrs. Ann Butler [1901] – [1909]

Job Butler [1904]

Job Butler [1911] – [1912]

George William Newbould [1916] – 1922);

George Frederick Canadine (1922 – 1939);

Mrs. Lily Canadine (1939 – 1944);

John Shelton (1944 – 1950);

Colin Edwin Whitehouse (1950 – 1953);

Joseph Bernard Taylor (1953 – 1954);

James Philip Worthington (1954 – [1967]

Bill Bradley [1986] – [1987]

NOTES

Catherines Cross [1822]

Willenhall Lane [1828], [1830]

Wolverhampton Lane [1849], [1850], [1864], [1864], [1865], [1872], [1879], [1880], [1900]

76+77, Catherines Cross [1871], [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911]

76, Catherines Cross [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1932], [1939], [1940]

28, Wolverhampton Street [1990]

NELSON'S TAVERN [1818]

NELSON TAVERN [1868]

It had a beerhouse license.

Richard Cotterill = Richard Cotterell = Richard Cottrell = Richard Cottrill

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1831

“Duke of Wellington’s Beer Bill.....

The cheapness of beer proves only an incentive to excess; while the grand object of the retailer is to multiply every vicious attraction which interest and ingenuity can suggest. We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured, and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.....”

AND

Birmingham Journal 3/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

In perusing your *Journal* of Saturday last, I find the following which is incorrect, but I have no doubt it is from misinformation. ‘We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.’

The fact, Sir, is this; there were eight bulls in the whole, and one of those was at a Beer House, in Wednesbury parish, and seven were in the parish of Darlaston. There are, in the latter parish, seventeen houses licensed under the old Act, and thirty-five under the new Act. Six of those bulls were baited at the houses of the licensed victuallers, and but one at the house of a retail brewer.

This, Sir, is a truth which cannot be contradicted. I can give you the names of the persons, and the signs of every house at which these bulls were baited, if required.

I am, Sir, Your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, August 31, 1831.....

AND

Birmingham Journal 10/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

Sir, Agreeable to your request I have given you the names of the persons, also their signs, at the houses where the bulls were baited at the late Darlaston wake.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, September 8, 1831.....

Licensed under the Old Act *Cottrill*, NELSONS TAVERN.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 15/4/1839 - Advert

“Darlaston. Building Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. Corbett, on Monday the 29th of April inst at four o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of *Richard Cotterill*, known by the sign of the NELSON TAVERN, in Darlaston, subject to conditions.

21 lots of Freehold Building Land, each of which is now staked out and has a frontage of about 10 yards to a newly laid-out street near Catherines Cross, Darlaston, and contains about 150 square yards.

Th property is situate near the Iron-foundry and premises belonging to Messrs. Wilkes, is eligible for building upon, and will be sold with the Mines and Minerals under the same.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Hunt, Solicitor, Wednesbury; or to the Auctioneer, Bilston; or to Mr. Walter Horton, of Wednesbury, Builder.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/7/1839

“The following inquisitions have been held before H. Smith, Esq, Coroner.....

On the 11th instant, at Darlaston, on Edward Parkes, a child about six months old. The mother of the deceased had, it appeared, called on the preceding Monday night at her husband’s club, at the NELSON TAVERN, for the purpose of fetching him home, when she was induced to drink, and some rum was, it seems, put by some of the men into the ale of which she and other women there on the same errand partook. She

became intoxicated, and finding herself unwell internally, the next morning, about seven o'clock, she went to the privy, taking the child with her. In a little time she was heard screaming, 'Oh, my child, my child,' in great agony, and the child was found to have fallen through an aperture into the privy. The distracted mother, it was evident from the filth upon her arms, had attempted to rescue it, but without success. Some men at last extricated the child, but it died in a few hours afterwards. It is supposed that the mother of the child, who bears an excellent character for kindness towards her family, had fallen asleep, and the child slipped out of her arms. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Richard Cotterill, beer retailer, Wolverhampton Lane. [1841]

1841 Census

Catherines Cross

- [1] *Richard Cotterell* (45), miner, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Cotterell* (40), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Ralph Cotterell* (15), miner, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Uriah Cotterell* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Ellen Cotterell* (14), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Adelaide Cotterell* (8), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Susannah Cotterell* (6), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Sarah Cotterell* (2), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *Mary Dutton* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [10] *Job Smallwood* (20), apprentice, born Staffordshire;
- [11] *Edward Hill* (15), apprentice, born Staffordshire;
- [12] *Sarah Rigby* (12), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/7/1841

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

John Green was indicted for stealing a jacket, at Darlaston, on the 12th of July, the property of James Halton. Mr. Yardley appeared for the prosecution.

The prosecutor was dancing, at the NELSON public house, Darlaston, on the day in question, and feeling incommoded by his coat, had taken it off and placed it on a chair. The prisoner was seen to take the coat away, which had not since been found.

Guilty. To be imprisoned and kept to hard labour one calendar month."

Morning Chronicle 14/12/1841

"Darlaston. The enemies of monopoly in this town, undismayed by previous defeat, have taken the field with renewed spirit, to do battle against the oppressor in the good cause of free trade; and have issued an address, which, we believe, it is their intention to follow up at intervals, with others, on the same subject, written in the most simple and plain language. A large meeting was held at Mr. Hawl's, the BELL INN, on the 26th ult, and another on Wednesday last, at Mr. B. [sic] *Cotterill's*, the NELSON, Catherines Cross, to make arrangements for the coming campaign, when the sinews of war were liberally subscribed. We shall take an opportunity of publishing the address, No.1, next week. *Staffordshire, Examiner.*"

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/6/1845

"*Richard Cotterill*, a master miner of Darlaston, was summoned to show cause why Edward Hill, his apprentice, should not be released from his apprenticeship, under the recent Miners' Act, he being upwards of eighteen years old. The mother of the complainant proved that her son was twenty years of age last May, and as the Act clearly expressed that all existing indentures of apprenticeship should end at eighteen, the servant was declared at liberty, and the master directed to deliver up his apparel, which he detained, and pay the expenses."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/6/1846 - Advert

"Public House to Let.

To be Let, an old-established Public House, known by the sign of the NELSON TAVERN, situated at Cath-
erines Cross, Darlaston. Rent moderate.

For further particulars apply to Mr. *Richard Cotterill*, on the premises.”

Birmingham Journal 27/2/1847

“On Saturday morning a fatal accident occurred to a man of about fifty-two years of age, named Joseph Harris, in the coal pits of Messrs. Bills and Mills. It appeared that he and James Cresswell, the ‘butty,’ had been engaged in getting some coal from under a rock, but no danger was anticipated. He had not been long employed, however, and was in a stooping posture getting out the coal when the rock fell upon him, striking him on the head, and crushing him underneath it. Cresswell had a narrow escape, a piece of the rock striking him on the shoulder, but inflicting no serious injury. He immediately obtained assistance, and got the rock removed from the body of the unfortunate man Harris, when he was found fearfully mutilated and quite dead. On Monday an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *John Cartwright*, the NELSON TAVERN, Cath-
erines Cross, Darlaston, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 22/7/1848

“A fortnight ago we gave the particulars of an explosion which took place in one of the mines of Messrs. Russell and Co., whereby seven men, who were at work at the time, were badly burned. The occurrence took place in consequence of a fall of coal from the roof, allowing the escape of sulphur which had been pent up. This ignited from the flame of a candle which a miner named Meek held in his hand near the spot where the ‘shutt’ fell; and the consequence was that he and six others were severely burned. The sufferers were removed to their respective habitations, and every medical attention shown them, but unfortunately without any successful result so far as two of them were concerned. One man named Thomas Abberley died on Saturday, and another named Thomas Walker on the following day. An inquest was held on Abberley at the NELSON TAVERN, Darlaston, on Monday, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, when, after a minute investigation, it appeared that the occurrence was purely accidental, and a verdict to that effect was accordingly returned. Mr. Hinchliffe also held an inquest on Walker, at the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, when the jury returned a similar verdict.”

Birmingham Journal 6/1/1849

“License Transfers.....

NELSON TAVERN, Darlaston. In this case, Mr. *Henry Dale*, late of Stafford, had married the widow of the late landlord (*Caroline Cartwright*) and it was now transferred to *Dale*.”

John Silvester = John Sylvester

Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850

“The annual licensing day for the hundred of Offlow South was held on Wednesday last.....

The old applications for renewal of licenses, numbering two hundred and twenty, were granted, but the following publicans having been fined during the current year for Sunday trading, were respectively admon-
ished, and cautioned as to a repetition of this offence, and a notice to this effect was by order of the Court endorsed on the licenses.....

John Sylvester, Darlaston.”

John Silvester was also a miller. [1851]

1851 Census

Catherines Cross

[1] *John Silvester* (58), miller, provision dealer, victualler, born London;

[2] *Teresa Silvester* (55), wife, born Cheadle, Staffordshire;

[3] *Teresa Silvester* (21), daughter, born London;

[4] *John Silvester* (19), son, miller, born Cheadle, Staffordshire;

[5] *Elizabeth Silvester* (17), daughter, born Birmingham;

- [6] Sarah Silvester (14), daughter, scholar, born Edgbaston;
[7] Joseph Silvester (12), son, scholar, born Edgbaston;
[8] Maria Silvester (18), niece, servant, born Downton, Herefordshire;
[9] Mary Belcher (18), servant, born Darlaston;
[10] Barzillia Cotterill (20), lodger, engine fitter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“On Wednesday, the annual special sessions for renewal of licenses was held.....

The renewal of the old licenses, 219 in number, were granted, with the following exceptions, without remark.....

J. Silvester, Darlaston, license suspended.....

It will be noted that the further consideration of these suspensions will be again resumed at the adjourned special sessions, at Barr, on the 24th of September. The Court intimated that in these instances, if the delinquents brought testimonials of good and regular conduct during the intervening month, the licenses would be granted, and if otherwise, the withdrawal is extremely probable.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1851

“On Wednesday last, according to notice, the adjourned special sessions was held at Great Barr....

The several publicans whose licenses had been suspended were called in before the Court singly, and after receiving cautions as to their future conduct in the management of their houses, and upon their promises not to offend in future, their licenses were restored.”

Birmingham Journal 25/10/1851

“On Saturday, an inquest was held at Mr. *John Silvester*'s, the NELSON TAVERN, Darlaston, on the body of Samuel Watts, fourteen years of age, who was killed on the previous Tuesday, while at work in an ironstone pit in the adjoining parish of Willenhall, belonging to Philip Williams, Esq. He was driving a horse, when a quantity of soil gave way, bringing the props of the roof down with it, and completely burying the poor lad, who was quite dead when the mass of rubbish was cleared away. The place where the accident took place had been examined in the course of the morning, and then seemed quite safe. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/4/1853

“An inquest was held on Friday evening week, at the NELSON TAVERN, Darlaston, before George Hayes Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Richard Flowers, aged thirty-seven years. The deceased was employed in Mr. Bayley's coal pit, in the parish of Wednesbury, and on Tuesday had cut some coal previous to its being 'thrown' or taken down, having left a spurn or support under it. The next morning, after descending the pit, he went to the place and knocked on the coal, it appeared sound, and the butty furnished him with some prongs to take the spurn out without going under the coal, and a witness cautioned him, but instead of using the prongs he walked under the coal and struck the spurn, which was about six inches thick, with the pike; the blow broke it, and about six tons of coal instantly fell on the deceased, injuring him severely; he died immediately upon reaching home. It was stated in evidence that an additional support ought to have been left by deceased when he cut the coal; but without this, if deceased had used the prongs instead of striking the spurn with his pike, he would in all probability have been safe. The jury, considering that the deceased was the only person to blame, returned verdict of Accidental Death.”

John Silvester was also a shopkeeper. [1854]

Thomas Dolman = Thomas Dunovan

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1861 - Advert

“Nelson Was a Noted Man. The House is Always Full.

By Altree and Son. To be Let, the NELSON TAVERN, Darlaston, brewing the year round sixteen bushels weekly. Wines, Spirits, &c, in equal proportion. The House and Premises are roomy, and well adapted for

the large scope of business which has been done for many years. Rent and in-coming moderate. Apply to the Publicans' Valuers, Bilston."

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Lane, Catherines Cross – NELSON'S TAVERN

[1] *Thomas Dolman* (45), married, victualler and charter master, born Bilston;

[2] *Thomas Gilbert* (22), son-in-law, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;

[3] *Sarah Gilbert* (20), daughter, housekeeper, born Bilston:

Birmingham Journal 8/6/1861 - Advert

"NELSON TAVERN, Darlaston.

By Atree and Son. To be Sold by Auction, on the above Premises, at Eleven o'clock, on Tuesday Next, the 11th instant.

The Household Furniture, feather Beds, Sofa, large Oil Painting. 500 gallons prime Old Ale, three 300 gallon Barrels, twelve 60-gallon down ditto, and numerous Effects belonging to Mr. *Dolman*.

Auctioneers' Residence, 1, Bromsgrove Street, Smithfield, Birmingham."

Benjamin Fellows = Benjamin Fellowes

Benjamin Fellows, retailer of beer, Catherines Cross. [1862]

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/1/1862

"On Thursday, at the NELSON INN, Darlaston, Mr. E. Hooper held an inquiry touching the death of Edwin Martin, a labourer, aged 56, who died suddenly on the 17th instant. There being every reason to believe that deceased died a natural death, a verdict was returned accordingly."

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/4/1864

"Three publicans of Darlaston were convicted for offences against the statute.

John Severn beerhouse keeper, Catherines Cross, was fined £5 and costs for selling ale on Sunday morning week, when fourteen men were in the house.

Benjamin Fellows, of Wolverhampton Lane, was fined £3 and costs for keeping his house open the same morning. Three men were drinking in the yard, and two were seen coming out of the back door.

Charles Wilson [sic], BUSH INN, Darlaston Green, was convicted in a similar penalty to the last defendant for a like offence."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1864

"Renewal of Licenses.....

From the Superintendent's statement it appeared that there were but thirteen publicans who had been convicted since last licensing day, and but few of those who had been fined more than once. The list of convictions was as follows.....

Benjamin Fellowes, NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, open on Sunday, April 12th, fined £3 and costs.....

After the licenses of those persons who had not been convicted had been renewed, those landlords whose names appeared on the black list were called in, all of whom were severely censured and cautioned by the Bench."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1864

"The annual Petty Session for the renewal of publican's licenses in the Walsall, Wednesbury, and West Bromwich district was held yesterday, at the Scott Arms, Great Barr.....

The undermentioned persons were reported by the police to have been fined during the year for offences against their licenses. The fines, however, appeared to have exercised a salutary effect, as they had, with the exception of two innkeepers, whose licenses were suspended, all conducted their houses since the several convictions in a very orderly manner.....

Benjamin Fellows, NELSON TAVERN, Catherine Cross, Darlaston license renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1865

“An inquest was held yesterday by Mr. E. Hopper, District Coroner, at the NELSON TAVERN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on the body of John Durnall, aged 37 years, a miner in the employment of Mr. David Jones, at the Herbert Park Colliery, and who met his death, on Friday morning last, by a fall of coal. Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, was also present at the inquiry.

George Durnall, brother to deceased, said the latter was at work in a stall, about a yard and a half high, and five or six feet wide. Witness and the doggy of the pit suggested to deceased the advisability of timbering his work, but he neglected to do so, and shortly afterwards about two tons of coal fell upon him, and killed him. The pit had been examined by George Dunn, an ordinary workman, with a lamp, but not with a pike. Several of the men working near deceased also neglected to sprag or spern their work. Witness had worked for the proprietor on and off for thirteen or fourteen years, and was last engaged to work for him about a fortnight ago, and the rules were not then read over to or explained to him, and he was unable to read himself.

Mr. Hardhorn, who attended the inquest on behalf of the proprietor, said the rules were hung up in the office. The Coroner said they were useless there to men who could not read, unless explained to the men. It was the second case of a similar character which had been brought before him that day.

Witness said there was plenty of timber in the pit.

John Payne, chartermaster, admitted that he had not read over the rules to deceased and his brother, although he had given them copies.

Mr. Baker said he was not quite certain that sprags would have been of much service at the spot indicated, as there was a ‘break’ at the back of the coal which was being worked, and it was therefore dangerous for any man to hole under it, as the work might have been forced by wedging or blasted with powder. Witness was not down the pit at the time of the accident.

The Coroner read the rule applying to the management of the pit, which stated that the pit should not only be examined by a lamp but also with a pike.

The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death, and suggested the advisability of the proprietor seeing the rules enforced in all their integrity.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1867

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest yesterday afternoon, at the NELSON TAVERN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, concerning the death of Ellen Longmore (51), who had lived in Heath Mill Lane. The deceased, on the morning of the 1st inst, entered a brewhouse where there was a large vessel of boiling water, and the steam preventing her from seeing distinctly, she fell backwards into the vessel. Her screams brought assistance, and she was taken out of the water and found to be badly scalded over the right shoulder. Mr. Latham, surgeon, was sent for, and attended the deceased until Thursday last, when she died from the effects of the scald. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.’

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the West Bromwich district was held yesterday.....

The following list of victuallers brought before the magistrates during the year ending 25th August, was handed to the magistrates by Superintendent Woollaston.....

B. Fellows, NELSON TAVERN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston.”

1871 Census

119, Wolverhampton Lane – NELSON INN

- [1] *John Taylor* (52), beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Taylor* (50), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Job Taylor* (19), son, nut maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Harriet Taylor* (16), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Enoch Taylor* (14), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Mary Taylor* (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] Alfred Taylor (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Dudley Guardian 27/2/1875

“On Saturday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the NELSON INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, on the body of Stephen Cotton (36), who had lost his life through the fall of a piece of timber down the shaft of one of the Darlaston Steel and Iron Company’s pits, at Bull Piece. Mr. Pargeter was present on behalf of the company, Mr. Sheldon on behalf of the banksman, Thomas Small, and Mr. Gething on behalf of the Amalgamated Association of Miners.

A witness, named William Hespier, deposed that he and the deceased were working at the pit bottom. Some pumping had been going on, and when it was finished the witness called to the banksman to take the barrel off, and the banksman replied, ‘All right.’ They then proceed to cover the sump, and were putting the fifth plank over it when a piece of timber fell down the shaft, striking the deceased on the head, and killing him. The banksman, on being spoken to about it, said he did not know how it happened. Witness attached no blame to anyone.

Considerable difference of opinion was shown to exist among the jurors as to the meaning of the banksman’s ‘all right’ under these circumstances; but, after more witnesses had been called, a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

John Taylor and *Job Butler* appear in the same 1880 directory.

Wednesbury Herald 24/4/1880

“To be sold by auction by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the CASTLE INN, in Darlaston, on Tuesday, the 11th day of May all that very Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, known by the sign of the NELSON INN, together with Two Messuages, at the back thereof, situate at Catherines Cross, Darlaston. The inn contains Three Bed Rooms, Club Room, Tap Room, Kitchen, Back Parlour, Smoke Room, Parlour, Liquor Shop, Bar, Three Ale Cellars, Brewhouse, Stable, Hay Loft, Pigstyes, Yard and Outbuildings belonging thereto, now in the occupation of Mr. *Job Butler*.

There is a road from Mill Lane and Wolverhampton Lane to the back of the premises.”

1881 Census

77+76, Catherines Cross – NELSON TAVERN

[1] *Job Butler* (40), mill furnaceman, born Darlaston;

[2] *Ann Butler* (36), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Job Butler* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/12/1885

“At Wednesbury Court, today, *Job Butler*, licensed victualler, of the NELSON INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, was fined 10s and costs for keeping open during prohibited hours, and 5s and costs for unlawfully selling intoxicating drink on the 20th October.

George Page and Isaac Hickman, of Toll End, were fined 2s 6d and costs each for being on the premises.

Mr. Sheldon defended, and pleaded guilty to the charges. Police-constable Noble visited *Butler*’s premises at 8.40 on Sunday morning, the 20th of October, and found the men there drinking ale.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/4/1887

“Yesterday, Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on the body of Richard Mountford (65), labourer, of the same locality.

On the 28th ult the deceased was crossing the road at Kings Hill, when he was knocked down by a float, and badly injured about the side and front part of the body. At the moment the attention of the driver, a youth, was taken up with a child and a pig which he had in the float, and he was defending the former from the latter. Directly after the mishap he drove the deceased home, where the unfortunate men lingered until Monday. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1887

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper resumed an inquiry at the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, touching the death of John Dunning, one of the two men who lost their lives by an explosion of gas at Messrs. Grazebrook and Aston’s Gospel Oak Colliery on the 31st of August. The proprietors of the colliery were represented by their manager, and Mr. Pickering, assistant inspector of mines for the district, was also in attendance.

John Poulton, one of the men injured by the explosion; John Osbourne, the deputy; David Smithyman, the banksman; and John Smith, the engineman, were present, and their evidence was to the effect that safety lamps were used in the pit, and that those served out on the morning of the explosion were in good condition and locked. Neither of the men saw a naked light being used, nor did they see anyone smoking.

Osbourne further said that he examined the pit on the morning in question and found no trace of gas. When the explosion took place he was sixty yards away, and therefore he could not say what was the cause of it; but his opinion was that a fall of stuff from the roof fell upon some of the lamps and broke them, thus allowing the flame to come in contact with the gas brought down by the fall. He could not tell how it was that two lamps were found unlocked after the explosion, unless it was that the stuff burst them. The quantity that came down was six or seven tons. He had never heard the men express a wish to work with naked candles. In cross-examination by Mr. Pickering, he said he got as high as he could into a hole which there was in the roof, but he was not able to lift the lamp to the top. He knew that if firedamp was to be found anywhere it would be at the top of the hole, and he knew that he might have lifted the lamp up on the top of a staff, as was often done in such cases. He did not remember having told Mr. Pickering that he unlocked one of the lamps after the explosion, and put it back in the workings.

Mr. H. Pickering, deputy-inspector of mines, said he examined the pit on the 1st September. At the top of the way-end on the return side he found a fall of roof, and in the roof above the fall was a large cavity which contained firedamp. On one side of the place, on a prop, and partly buried by the fall, was a safety lamp, which was unlocked, and the gauze of which was broken from the outside, just above the glass. Osbourne told him at the time that he unlocked the lamp after the explosion, and put it back upon the prop. There was another lamp on the other side, also unlocked; and Osbourne said he could not account for that. That lamp was broken like the others. Neither lamp could have been unlocked by the fall. As to the cause of the explosion, he could only conjecture that naked lights must have been used. The fall no doubt broke the lamps, and put them out at the same time, and the gas would not go down upon them before they were extinguished. The discipline had been lax in the pit, and it was the duty of Osbourne to go to the top of the hole in the roof. He had been at the pit not long before, and had given directions for lamps to be used. He saw no traces of candles in the pit.

The widow of the deceased said her husband before his death spoke of the explosion as quite accidental, but did not say how it was caused.

The Coroner, in summing up, said the case was anything but a satisfactory one. It had been thoroughly investigated in connection with the other death by a neighbouring coroner, and although the jury in that case had returned a verdict of accidental death, it not need influence the jury then assembled. He must confess that there was a great want of care in the examination of the pit on the 31st of August. The man Osbourne told them very candidly that he did not put his lamp to the top of the hole as he might have done if he had put it upon a prop, and at the very least he was deserving of censure. There was no evidence to show how the lamps became unlocked, but Mr. Pickering told them that the explosion could not have occurred from the breaking of the lamps, and the only conclusion he could come to was that naked lights were used. There was no evidence of that, however, or he should advise the jury to return a verdict of manslaughter. With regard to the new Act, which he had carefully considered, and which would come into operation on the 1st January, he thought it would be the means of saving a great many lives in that district. It was one of the most important Acts that had been passed for many years, and when the public saw the working of it they would thoroughly appreciate it. In conclusion, he said he promised the jury when they met before that he would show them an electric lamp which was used by Mr. Scott, Mr. Pickering, and others in the examination of mines, and he had brought one with him. He then produced one, and it was examined by the jury and pronounced to be an invention of importance, giving the light of at least twenty candles.

The jury, after a brief deliberation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death, coupled with a censure of Osbourne for his negligence. The Coroner had Osbourne in, and conveyed the censure to him, telling him also that he had narrowly escaped having a verdict of manslaughter returned against him.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/4/1889

“Yesterday Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on the body of Richard Spink (50), a carter, who on Saturday was taken ill at the works of his employers, Messrs. J. Woodward, Dangerfield Lane and Catherines Cross, and died soon afterwards.
Verdict, Death from Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

76+77, Catherines Cross

- [1] *Job Butler* (49), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Ann Butler* (46), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Job Butler* (19), son, fitter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Dancing, music, and singing.....

Job Butler, NELSON, Catherine Cross.....

(the license in each of these cases being for six days, and the dancing to cease at ten o’clock at night).”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall.....
J. Butler, the NELSON, Catherines Cross.”

Walsall Advertiser 12/11/1892

“The monthly meeting of the Walsall Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Friendly and Protection Society was held on Saturday last at the house of Mr. William Wilson (hon. treasurer), DOLPHIN INN, George Street.....

Mr. *Job Butler*, NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, was unanimously elected a member of the Society.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1894

“On Saturday, Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on the body of Mary Ann Jones (41), 4, Foundry Street, who died in her bedroom on Thursday morning whilst her daughter was downstairs preparing a cup of tea, for which she had asked. She had been in her usual health previously. Verdict, Death from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1895

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest at the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on the body of Sarah Ann Allen Price, one year and ten months, who on Sunday sustained severe scalds at the house of her father, Charles Price, stamper, and died from the effects of her injuries on Monday. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wednesbury Herald 18/5/1895

“A young man named Frank Gould, of Darlaston, was charged on two summonses with being disorderly and refusing to quit the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, on the 4th and 5th inst. Mr. S. M. Slater prosecuted. It appeared defendant went to the NELSON INN about 5pm on Saturday, the 4th inst, and after being supplied with drink he insisted on drinking from the jugs of customers. On being remonstrated with he became violent, and refused to leave. He was, however, eventually persuaded to go, but he returned later with a brick in his hand, which he threatened to use on the landlord (Mr. *Butler*). Defendant went to the house again on the Sunday, when he created another disturbance. Fines of 5s and costs, with the alternative of fourteen days’ imprisonment in default, were imposed in each case.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/11/1898

“This (Tuesday) afternoon, Mr. H. A. Pearson, County Coroner, held an inquiry at the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on the body of George Flicker (59), of 5 Court, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, who was employed as a bricklayer’s labourer by Messrs. W. T. Lees, builders and contractors. Mr. S. G. Hooper, solicitor, of Dudley, was present on behalf of the employer. Mr. J. Jackson, of Walsall, Inspector of Factories, was also present.

Mary Ann Flicker, wife of deceased, said deceased had suffered from melancholia, but she had never known him giddy. On Friday morning, the 21st ult, he was brought home, and after being helped to bed he told her he had fallen from a second scaffold, but said there was no one to blame.

Daniel Nicholas (17), of 55, Foster Street, Darlaston, said deceased was carrying a board of mortar up a ladder, and when he had reached the scaffold he took two or three steps from the ladder and fell backwards to the ground. He cried out for help, and he (witness) went for Mr. Lees. There was no apparent cause for the fall.

John Nicholas, nut and bolt forger, of Foster Street, Darlaston, also deposed to seeing the accident.

Dr. Sidney Partridge, of Darlaston, said he found the deceased suffering great pain, particularly in the back. He attended deceased till his death, which was due to shock.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Walsall Observer 1/12/1900

“On Wednesday morning, at about five o’clock, Mr. John [sic] *Butler*, aged 59 years, landlord of the NELSON INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, died suddenly. The deceased, it is stated, was very jolly on Tuesday night with the people in the house, although he had been ailing for some time.”

1901 Census

76+77 Catherines Cross – NELSON INN

[1] *Ann Butler* (58), widow, brewer and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Job Butler* (28), son, brewer, born Darlaston;

[3] Emma Butler (24), daughter-in-law, born Darlaston;

[4] Jane Osman (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/12/1901

“On Monday afternoon, Mr. H. A. Pearson, Coroner, held an inquest at the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, concerning the death of a child named Sarah Ann Butler, aged 2½ years, daughter of John Butler, nut and bolt maker, of 35, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, who died on Sunday morning from the effects of burns sustained on the previous night.

Sarah Jane Butler, mother of the deceased, stated that when she (witness) left home at 6.35 the deceased and another sister, aged 3½ years, were in the house by themselves, and they had a book playing with. There was a fire, but there was no fire-guard round it. When she returned at 6.45 she found that the child was badly burnt. Witness had not left them in the house alone before.

William Gee said that on Saturday night he heard screams and he ran to the house, where he found the deceased enveloped in flames. He at once took off his coat and wrapped the child in it. The children were alone in the house.

The Coroner (to the mother, who was present during the whole of the inquiry): You ought to have thought it

necessary to ask someone to stay in the house with the children and to look after them whilst you were away. Dr. V. J. Magrane said that the child was very badly burnt about the head, face, and body. He had no hopes of the child's recovery from the first.

The Coroner said that it was one of those cases where the child's life had been practically thrown away for the want of a little forethought in providing a fire-guard, and if there had been any evidence of a culpable nature on the part of the parents he should have invited the jury to consider the advisability of returning a verdict of manslaughter. But it was not so. It was a case of gross negligence in leaving the children in the house alone and no one to look after them.

After other evidence, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The foreman of the jury said that they quite concurred with the remarks of the Coroner, and that the question of a fire-guard was a very trivial matter, as it would only cost 2s 6d for one. The father of the child, being a nut and bolt maker, could have made one himself.

Mr. Pearson said there had been a great number of similar cases during the last two years in this country, and this case appeared to be in line with them."

Walsall Observer 12/1/1907

"On Monday, Mr. Lewis, coroner, held an inquest at the NELSON HOTEL, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, touching the death of a child named Mary Alice Heaken, aged seven weeks, the daughter of William Heaken, of Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning. A verdict of Accidental Death from being overlain was returned."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/9/1909

"*Ann Butler*, licensee of the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, was charged on two summonses with selling whisky and rum which was diluted beyond the statutory limit. Mr. A. J. Glover defended.

Mr. Van Tromp (Inspector of Food and Drugs) said the dilution was rather serious. In the case of the rum it was 11.7 per cent beyond the limit, and in the case of the whisky 15.8 per cent.

Mr. Toy, assistant inspector, deposed to purchasing the spirit on the 22nd July, paying 1s 6d for three quartens of rum, and 1s 6d for a similar quantity of whisky.

Cross-examined by Mr. Glover, witness said he did not observe a notice hanging near the spirit stating that 'all spirits were diluted according to price,' nor did the defendant nor her daughter-in-law, who supplied him, call his attention to the notice.

Mr. Glover stated that the defendant had only had occasion to break down three quantities of spirits since Christmas, and on the last occasion she was in bed, and had to entrust that duty to her daughter-in-law.

In evidence, Mrs. *Butler* said the notice referred to was prominently displayed. Questioned by Mr. Van Tromp, she admitted that she generally broke her spirits down by the rule of thumb.

The daughter-in-law also gave evidence. In reply to the Bench she admitted she did not know what amount of water she put into the spirits.

A legal argument ensued with regard to the printed notice, which was exhibited in Court, but eventually the presiding magistrate said they thought it extraordinary that neither the defendant nor her daughter-in-law called the inspector's attention to the notice. They also considered that she conducted the breaking down of the spirits in a very haphazard manner. She had an instrument, but did not use it. A fine of 10s and costs in each case was imposed."

1911 Census

76+77, Catherines Cross – NELSON INN

[1] *Job Butler* (38), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Emma Butler (33), wife, married 13 years, born Darlaston;

[3] Job Butler (7), son, born Darlaston;

[4] Annie Butler (5), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Ann Butler* (66), mother, widow, born Darlaston:

Bilston and Willenhall Times 11/2/1928

"A most successful meeting of the Catherines Cross Ward Conservatives was held at the NELSON INN,

Wolverhampton Street, on Wednesday night, when Mr. George Wells presided over a large number of members and friends.....”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 21/7/1928

“Inspector Willetts, of the Darlaston police, will be glad to receive any information that may lead to the whereabouts of Marjorie Nellie *Canadine*, who is reported as missing from her home, the NELSON INN, Darlaston, since 1.30pm on Thursday, July 12th, 1928.

The missing girl is 18 years old, about 4ft 9in, or 4ft 10in, light hair (bobbed), fresh complexion, blue eyes, proportionate build, scar over left eye, occupation dressmaker. When last seen she was wearing a fawn check coat, fawn dress with hat to match, light brown sandals (or brown shoes) and light brown stockings. She was in possession of a brown dress-case.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/1/1931

“A verdict of Accidental Death was returned at the resumed inquest at Walsall, yesterday on Eric Andrews, aged five, son of a general labourer, of Pleck Road, Walsall, who died from a fractured skull as a result of a motor-car accident while he was playing with others at cowboys. John Graham *Canadine*, aged 18, a carpenter living at the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, who was driving the car, was warned to be more careful in future.”

London Gazette 12/7/1938

“John Graham *Canadine*, residing at the NELSON, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, and carrying on business at The Green, Darlaston aforesaid, Builder and Contractor.
Court – Walsall.

Date of Filing Petition – June 2, 1938.

Date of Receiving Order – July 5, 1938.

Whether Debtor’s or Creditor’s Petition – Creditor’s.”

AND

London Gazette 26/4/1955

“John Graham *Canadine*.....

Day Fixed for Hearing – July 7, 1955. 10.30 a.m.

Place – The Court House, Lichfield Street, Walsall.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 27/10/1955

“John Graham *Canadine* First and final dividend of 11s 8d in the pound, payable November 4.”

Walsall Observer 4/11/1939

“Darlaston licensing Bench, at a sitting on Wednesday, authorized the full transfers of the following local licenses.....

NELSON TAVERN, Catherines Cross, from *George Canadine* (deceased) to *Lily Canadine*.”

1939 Register

76, Catherines Cross

[1] *Lily Canadine*, date of birth 28/9/1890, licensee, public house, wines and spirits, widowed;

[2] John Graham *Canadine*, dob 21/1/1912, carpenter and joiner, single;

[4] Brenda Mary Perry (Turton) *Canadine*, dob 19/1/1915, teacher, nursery school, single:

1940 Probate

“*George Frederick Canadine*, of the NELSON INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 8 September 1939. Administration Birmingham 2 January to *Lily Canadine*, widow. Effects £475 18s 4d.”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

Rugeley Times 31/5/1952

“The Darlaston Darts League concluded the 1951-52 season with the playing-off of the final for the league president’s cup and the presentation of the prizes, by Mr. V. Dishman, of Atkinsons Brewery, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, King Street, on Friday. Mr. T. Malthouse (league Chairman) presided over a gathering that packed the room, and was supported by Mr. J. Tinsley.

Congratulating all who had taken part, Mr. Dishman said they had had a very successful season, and, from that angle, the main point was the contribution they had made to charity – a sum of over £45 to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. They were all to be congratulated also on the sportsmanship existing throughout the league and the important function it fulfilled in the general life of the public houses of the town.....

Mr. Dishman presented the prizes as follows.....

Archer Cross Cup, DOG AND PHEASANT; runners-up, NELSON INN.”

Colin Edwin Whitehouse – see also DARTMOUTH ARMS.

Plans were approved for alterations on condition to the provision of direct access to the children’s room, on 4th March 1953.

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

NELSON, Catherines Cross, Darlaston.”

Plans were approved for alterations on 14th April 1965.

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/4/1986

“Regulars of a Darlaston pub braved the elements over the Bank Holiday to raise £800 for charity – by walking to Telford. A welcoming pint was waiting for the 14 who trudged the full 28 miles to the Foresters Arms in Telford courtesy of Mr. Geoff Bradley, brother of their local’s licensee *Bill Bradley*. Thirty-four walkers set out from the NELSON, in Wolverhampton Street, with staging posts on the route ready with hot dogs and other refreshments. The fastest walker covered the distance in just under five hours. The sponsored hike was just one of the many fund-raising events regulars have turned their hand to in helping the Walsall Blind Appeal. Over £300 has also been collected in the pub’s ‘Nelson’s Column’ pile of 2p pieces. Mr. Roger Clark, a spokesman for the regulars, said the walk had been an enormous success despite being faced with hail and snow.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/1/1988

“A darts team run by Bloxwich Friends of the Mentally Handicapped lost 8-7 at the NELSON, Darlaston, but gained £52 for their charity to buy equipment for special schools and other establishments for the handicapped.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/7/1990

“More than £70 was raised at a charity darts match when Bloxwich Friends of the Mentally Handicapped lost 12-8 at the NELSON, Darlaston.”

[1997]

Closed

It was converted into housing.

NEW INN

131, The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Emily Lashford, Willenhall

LICENSEES

John Shingleton [1861] – [1880]
Mrs. Nancy Shingleton [1881]
John Shingleton [1891]
Mrs. Mary Ann Aston [c.1898]
William Bailey [1900]
James Henry Nicholls [1904] – [1905]
Mrs. Miriam Snape [1911] – [1913]
Annie Turpin [1919] – **1921**;
Frederick ‘Fred’ James (**1921 – 1925**);
Percival Watkins (**1925 – 1928**);

NOTES

It had a six-day ante 1869 beerhouse license.

John Shingleton, beer retailer and bricklayer, Green. [1860], [1865], [1868], [1870]

John Shingleton, beer retailer &c, Green. [1861]

John Shingleton, retailer of beer, The Green. [1862]

1861 Census

Green Highway – NEW INNS

[1] *John Shingleton* (40), bricklayer and beer seller, born Darlaston;

[2] *Nancy Shingleton* (42), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Mary Shingleton* (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 19/10/1861 - Advert

“To be Let, in Darlaston, a Double-Fronted Shop, situate in the main thoroughfare, and surrounded by a populous neighbourhood.

Apply to Mr. *John Shingleton*, Darlaston Green.”

Leeds Mercury 17/9/1868

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Henry Fratsley, Benjamin Bowater, Joseph Wilkes, and George Langford, alias Black Jack, butchers, all of Wolverhampton, were brought up on a warrant, charged with having feloniously assaulted Enoch Brevitt, cattle dealer, Wednesfield Heath, and with personal violence stolen the sum of £299 from him. The prosecutor was knocked down on Thursday night, just after he had left the NEW INN, Darlaston, and a bag, containing the sum named above, taken from one of his pockets. When the case was called on, Mr. J. T. Bayley, who appeared for the prosecutor, said that the four men in the dock had been taken into custody by the police, and he thought rightly so, on the charge of assault and robbery already read. He was, however, in this difficulty, that the prosecutor himself was quite unable to speak to the persons who assaulted and robbed him; and not only that, but he said the prisoners were not the men who attacked him. He (the speaker) had a lot of evidence showing that they were in close proximity at the time of the robbery; but the prosecutor, who knew them well, and who said they were at the public house

with him at the time of the outrage, adhered to the statement he had made. Under these circumstances he felt it would be a mere waste of time to put the complainant in the box. The prisoners were then discharged, Mr. Jesson remarking that they left the dock without any imputation upon their characters.”

1871 Census

The Green

- [1] *John Shingleton* (50), bricklayer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Nancy Shingleton* (52), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary Shingleton* (26), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Perkins* (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

John Shingleton, beer retailer and bricklayer, The Green. [1880]

Walsall Observer 2/4/1881

“Darlaston. Local Board Election.

Mr. James Slater (returning officer) has received the nominations of the following for the seven vacant seats on the Local Board *J. Shingleton*, publican, The Green.”

[He was elected.]

1881 Census

131, The Green – NEW INN

- [1] *John Shingleton* (60), bricklayer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Nancy Shingleton* (64), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Emma Smith* (25), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 4/3/1885

“At the usual monthly meeting of Darlaston Local Board, last night.....

Mr. *Shingleton* pressed the Board to arrange for the opening of a market along Church Street on Saturdays; but the Clerk said the Board had no power to authorise a wrong such as would be done if they countenanced an obstruction; and the matter was allowed to drop.”

1891 Census

131, The Green

- [1] *John Shingleton* (70), widower, brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Halias* (19), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 1/12/1900

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *William Bailey*, landlord of the NEW INN, The Green, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness and also for supplying a drunken man, named George Trysall, on the 12th inst. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted, and Mr. A. J. Glover defended.

Evidence was given that Trysall was seen in the street under the influence of drink, and was afterwards found in defendant’s house drinking from a cup of beer which, it was admitted, defendant’s daughter had supplied to him.

For the defence it was urged that the landlord had no knowledge of the man’s presence.

The case was eventually dismissed, but the man for being drunk on licensed premises was fined 10s and costs.”

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case

he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

NEW INNS, The Green.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5."

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act....." [Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

James H. Nicholls, beer retailer, 131, The Green. [1904]

Walsall Observer 10/12/1904

"At Wednesbury Police Court, *James Henry Nicholls*, landlord of the NEW INNS, The Green, Darlaston, and Samuel Stackhouse, jnr, of Bell Street, Darlaston, were charged with committing a breach of the peace by fighting in King Street, Darlaston, on the 1st inst. Mr. Stockdale defended, and on behalf of *Nicholls* pleaded that he was only acting in self-defence. The Bench bound each defendant over to keep the peace for three months. Samuel Stackhouse, senior, was fined 5s and costs for disorderly behaviour on the same date."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/2/1905

"Darlaston Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. R. J. Lawrence (instructed by Messrs. Hall, Pratt, and Pritchard) applied for the renewal of the NEW INN beerhouse, kept by *James Henry Nicholls*, which was opposed on the ground that *Nicholls* had been bound over for a breach of the peace. Evidence of good character having been given, the Bench granted a renewal, with a caution."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/6/1905

"A petition has been filed in the Walsall County Court by *James Henry Nicholls*, of the NEW INNS, The Green, Darlaston, beerhouse keeper. The usual receiving order was made appointing the Official Receiver (Mr. S. Wells Page) receiver of the estate. Mr. Enoch Evans, Walsall, is the solicitor acting on behalf of the debtor."

London Gazette 20/6/1905

"*James Henry Nicholls*, the NEW INNS, the Green, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper. Date of first meeting June 28, 1905, at 11.30am, at the Official Receiver's Office, Wolverhampton."

Birmingham Mail 1/2/1911

"At Darlaston annual licensing sessions today, Supt. Salt reported that there was one license to every 167.3 of the population, four licensed houses having been closed during the year owing to the operation of the

compensation clauses of the Licensing Act. Only one licensed victualler had been prosecuted, and the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness was 69, against 62 in the previous year.

The Chairman (Mr. F. H. Lloyd) characterised the report as a very gratifying one, but he urged licensees to pay special attention to the suppression of bad language on licensed premises, and said the magistrates were determined to deal in a sever manner with complaints of this description. Mr. A. H. Partridge added that it was a matter for satisfaction that there had been a diminution of drunkenness amongst females.

The Bench renewed all the licenses except those of NEW INNS, The Green, opposed on the ground of redundancy.”

Walsall Observer 4/3/1911

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

An objection to the renewal of the license of the NEW INNS, The Green, was withdrawn.”

1911 Census

The Green – NEW INNS

[1] *Miriam Snape* (62), widow, beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;

[2] Edward Snape (36), son, electrician’s labourer, born Pelsall;

[3] Harry Snape (29), son, engineer’s fitter, born Pelsall;

[4] Miriam Winyard (26), married, daughter, servant, born Pelsall;

[5] Elsie Snape (20), daughter, born Pelsall:

Mrs. *Miriam Snape*, beer retailer, 131, The Green. [1912]

County Express 19/7/1913 - Advert

“Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Fourteen Freehold Fully-Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, in and around Coseley, Bilston, Darlaston, Sedgley, and Tipton.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Tuesday, July 22nd, 1913, at 6.30 for 7 o’clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows.....

Lot 1. The SWAN INN, Darkhouse Lane, Deepfields, Coseley (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Davies, together with the Two Dwelling Houses adjoining, being Nos.10 and 16, Darkhouse Lane.

Lot 2. The PAINTERS ARMS INN, Avenue Road, Coseley (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Davies.

Lot 3. The RED LION INN, Castle Street, Coseley (Beerhouse-on), with large area of Land, as occupied by Mr. John Groves.

Lot 4. The IVY HOUSE INN, Ivy House Lane, Coseley (fully-licensed) as occupied by Mr. Cahill or his under-tenant, together with the Dwelling House, Numbered 23, Ivy House Lane, occupying a large area of land.

Lot 5. The SUMMER HOUSE INN, School Street, Roseville, Coseley (Beerhouse-on), as let to Mr. G. W. Davies.

Lot 6. The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston (Beerhouse-on), extending to and fronting Union Street, with large area of Land, as occupied by Mr. Eli Cresswell.

Lot 6a. Union Street. Two Unnumbered Dwelling Houses adjoining the above, with large walled-in Yard and Outbuildings, as let to John Beaton and David Lloyd.

Lot 7. The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mrs. Sarah Hughes.

Lot 8. The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston(Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. John Morgan, with the Five Dwelling Houses, being No.38, California Street, and Nos.1 to 7 (odd numbers), at the rear of same.

Lot 9. The PRINCE OF WALES, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. Thomas Burfoot.

Lot 10. The NEW INN, The Green (opposite Horton Street), Darlaston (6-day Licence Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mrs. *Snape*.

Lot 11. The MINERS ARMS INN, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal (fully-licensed), as let to Mr. Enoch Smart.

Lot 11a. Nos.90 and 91, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal. Two Excellent Cottages adjoining the above, with pleasant Gardens and the usual Outbuildings.

Lot 12. The SHAKESPEARE INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. Isaac Smart.

Lot 13. The CABIN INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (Beerhouse-on), as occupied by Mr. Joshua Bradley.

Lot 14. The BOAT INN, Boat Row, off Park Lane West, Tipton (fully-licensed), as occupied by Mr. John Johnson, with the Dwelling House, No.14 adjoining.

Auctioneers' Notes: The foregoing 14 Licensed Houses, 6 of which are Fully-licensed and 8 On-Beer-houses, form as a whole, one of the most important lots of Licensed Properties brought under the hammer in the district within recent years. They have been carefully acquired from time to time, and are situate in well-populated localities, for the most part within easy distance of the largest works in Staffordshire.

The Houses are held either on short tenancies or under management, and in most cases possession may be had of the goodwill of the various businesses upon completion of the purchases; a fine opportunity therefore presents itself to Brewers wishing to increase their barrelage, or to private individuals desiring to embark in the trade. The Houses as a whole are in good order, commodious, well arranged, and doing genuine trades. Further detailed particulars may be obtained from of Messrs. Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Solicitors, Bilston; or the Auctioneers, Dudley."

The license was not renewed at the Darlaston Brewster Sessions, on 8th February 1928, on the grounds of redundancy.

The renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1928

"The principal meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday, when 14 licences which had been scheduled by the licensing justices, mostly from the South Staffordshire area, came under consideration. Of these three were renewed and the remainder were referred for compensation.....

In the following cases no opposition was offered to the referring of the licences for compensation and the action of the justices in each case was confirmed.....

NEW INNS, Darlaston (*Percival Watkins*), ante-'69 beerhouse."

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1928 - Notice

"The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 16th day of July, 1928, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee, and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their claims before the 14th day of September, 1928, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to Compensation under the said Premises.....

NEW INNS, The Green, Darlaston. Beerhouse ante 1869 (6 days). Licensee, *Percival Watkins*. Owners, Mrs. Emily Lashford."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1929

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Licensing Compensation Awards.

At the Supplemental meeting the committee awarded a total sum of £15,230 in compensation, and considered that the amounts agreed upon were satisfactory both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. The amounts approved were as follow.....

NEW INNS, Darlaston, beerhouse, ante 1869 (six days), £900.

The amounts awarded had been apportioned between the interested parties and paid."

It closed on 29th December 1928.

NEW INN

42, (41), King Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Golcher [1866] – [1875]
Mrs. Ann Golcher [1880] – [1881]
John Wilkes [1886]
John Joyce [1891] – [1892]
Joseph Yardley [1891]
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Jones [1894] – [1896]
John Joyce [1901] – [1908]
Aaron Brocklehurst [1911] – [1912]
David Morris [1916]
James Loynes [1919] – **1920**;
John James Ball (**1920**);
Mrs. Lucy Ball (**1920 – 1921**);
Samuel George ‘Sam’ Bailey (**1921 – 1928**);
John Ray (**1928 – 1933**);
Walter James Dainty (**1933 – 1934**);
John Howell (**1934 – 1936**);

NOTES

41, King Street [1881]
42, King Street [1880], [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1932]

It had a bowling green

George Golcher was born on 9th January 1839, the son of Joseph (gun lock forger) and Sarah. He married *Ann* Smith on 17th July 1861.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1866

“The annual sessions for the granting of spirit licenses was held on Wednesday.....
George Golcher, King Street, Darlaston, opposed. Granted.”

George Golcher was described as also being a gunlock maker. [1868], [1872]
George Golcher was also a gunlock manufacturer. [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1871

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *George Golcher*, of the NEW INN, Darlaston, appeared before Mr. I. Spooner, Stipendiary, charged with having allowed gambling with dice in his house. Mr. W. H. Duignan, of the firm Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, and Lewis, appeared for the defence.

The evidence of Police-constables Holland and Bull was to the effect that at about ten o'clock on Thursday night they went back to the back of the defendant's premises, and on looking into a brewhouse there, saw three men, one of whom shook a dice-box, and threw the dice upon the table. They heard some one call out, 'Two, six,' and they also heard the barmaid, Miss Bird, asked to leave the room. She met them as they made their way towards the room, and pushed them back, at the same time calling out, 'Police.' They entered, however, and found in the room Mr. E. Fellows, surgeon, a man named Winsper, and a third man, whom they did not know. On the table they saw three half-sovereigns and a quantity of silver. They also saw Mr. Fellows put the dice and box into his pocket. Bull asked him what he had in his hand, and he said, 'Nothing.' They were in plain clothes.

The following witnesses were then called for the defence.

Mary Bird, defendant's barmaid, said Mr. Winsper, Mr. Bayley, and Mr. Fellows were in the cooking kitchen on the night in question, the latter having been there but a few minutes, and when the police came she had just been taking some bread and butter to them. No dice or dice-box was produced while she was there, nor were such things to be found in the house. There was money, both gold and silver, on the table, which she believed Mr. Fellows was paying to Mr. Bayley, or Mr. Bayley to Mr. Fellows. There was none, however, when the police entered, it having been taken up by Mr. Fellows, she believed. She was asked in a joke to leave the room. She did not push the police, although as they entered they said she did; nor had she seen any playing that night.

Mr. Fellows, assistant to Mr. Handy, surgeon, said he had been attending Mr. and Mrs. *Golcher* professionally; and after coming downstairs, had stepped into the cooking kitchen. He positively denied that he had been playing at dice that evening, or that any were produced while he was there. There were two half-sovereigns and a pound's worth of silver on the table, which Mr. Bayley was handing over to him in repayment of a loan. He never called out 'Two, six' that evening, and what he put in his pocket was the bottle of pomade produced. He should have told the police what it was, only that they asked him in a very insulting manner. Mr. Bayley took the money up again, and paid him the £2 on Monday.

By the Stipendiary: The pomade he had brought from Birmingham that day. Mr. Bayley took up the money from the table. The £2 he lent to Mr. Bayley in Walsall on Monday night, in the street – Park Street, he believed.

Thomas Winsper, nut and bolt maker, also positively denied that there was any playing with dice, or that dice were produced on the night in question. There was a settling between Mr. Fellows and Mr. Bayley, and there was some money on the table, which Mr. Fellows picked up and put in his pocket when the police entered. He was talking to Mr. Israel Millington, however, and did not know what the settling was about.

By the Stipendiary: The police said Mr. Fellows had put the dice into his pocket, but Mr. Fellows said it was money.

Henry Bayley also denied that any dice or dice-box was produced, or that there was any playing for money. On the table were four-half crowns and half-a-sovereign. He had put down 5s, and the other had put something. A short time before they had been out for a day, and one had paid all the money, so they were having a 'straightening up,' and putting their accounts right. When the police came in he put the money in his pocket. Since then – on Friday, he thought – he had paid Mr. Fellows something – half-a-sovereign, he thought. The Stipendiary looked enquiringly at Mr. Duignan.

Mr. Duignan said he could not reconcile the statements.

The Stipendiary added that those who heard the case had settled the matter, no doubt, if he had not.

Mr. Duignan contended that proof had not been given that there was gambling, or that, if there was, it was with the knowledge of the defendant or his servant.

The Stipendiary held that such proof had been given, and commented with some severity on the extraordinary evidence given, remarking that it was a sad tale to hear, and that if that there was a public prosecutor proceeding would certainly be taken against some of the parties. He would impose a fine of £5 and costs, and endorsed the defendant's license."

1871 Census

King Street – NEW INN

[1] *George Golcher* (32), victualler and gunlock manufacturer employing 12 men, 4 boys, 8 girls, born Darlaston;

- [2] *Ann Golcher* (29), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Joseph Golcher* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *George Golcher* (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Thomas Golcher* (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Annie Golcher* (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Mary Bird* (27), barmaid, born Walsall;
- [8] *Mary A. Partridge* (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Westmorland Gazette 23/9/1871

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Job and Phoebe Cotterill, husband and wife, and Ann Hewitt, a married woman, all living in Blakemores Lane, Darlaston, were placed before Mr. I. Spooner, stipendiary, charged with being concerned in the robbery of £111 10s from Job Haynes, cattle dealer, of the same place. Job Haynes deposed that on Tuesday the 12th inst he returned from Daventry fair, and reached Wednesbury at a few minutes after nine. At that time he had £111 10s in a bag in an inside breast pocket of his waistcoat. The money was in gold, with the exception of three £5 notes. On his way home he called at the FORTUNE OF WAR public house, Trowse Lane, and there saw the two women, whom he treated to sherry. He then went homewards, the women following, and joining him after he had gone some little distance. When they had gone about a quarter of a mile, Mrs. Cotterill pulled him into an opening, near the Quaker’s Works, leaving Hewitt standing in the road about five yards away. Cotterill then put her hand into his pocket, and took the bag containing the money, with which, after pushing him over, she ran away, Hewitt following her. At the same time he missed a pocket knife and two keys from his trousers pocket. He made his way home as well as he could, and the next day he sent information to the police. On Saturday Hewitt came to his shop for some liver, and, recognising her as one of the women who had robbed him, he watched her to her house in Blakemores Lane. About seven o’clock he went to the house, and, finding her outside putting up the shutters, said, ‘I suppose you know what I have come about?’ She replied she did not; but on his threatening to have her locked up if she did not tell, she said Cotterill had the money, and promised to meet him on the railway bridge and tell him all about it. Prosecutor with Mr. *G. Golcher*, went to the bridge at the appointed time, but did not find Hewitt. The same night they found her in the Market Place, Wednesbury, and took her into the DRAGON public house, and she then said that she saw Mrs. Cotterill take the money from his breast and run away. She also said that Mrs. Cotterill went to Bilston the same night, and had since told her that a Moxley policeman stopped her on the way, and frightened her vey much. Hewitt also said that she had only half-a-sovereign of the money. Sergeant Steele, who had in the meantime been sent for, then came in, and she was removed to the police station. Prosecutor, Steele and *Golcher* then went to Cotterill’s house, where they arrived at a little after twelve, and found Mr. and Mrs. Cotterill in bed. The door was opened, and Steele and *Golcher* went in and searched the place for about an hour before prosecutor entered. *Golcher* asked her where the money was, and at first she said it was not in the house, but afterwards she said she would find £70 if the prosecutor would not have her locked up, and that money to that amount was buried in the kitchen. After *Golcher* had searched without finding it, John Cotterill lifted a brick, and took out a rag, which they found, on examination, contained £66 10s in gold. The woman said she was ‘all of a tremble’ when she put the money there, and thought there was £70; and the husband said he could find some more in a quarter of an hour, but it was not in the house. Steele then took Mrs. Cotterill into custody. On Monday, a girl who lived at Hewitt’s brought the knife and keys to him.

George Golcher, licensed victualler, corroborated the prosecutor as to the conversation with Hewitt, the recovery of a part of the money, and the apprehension of the prisoners, adding that when apprehended Hewitt said she went to the prosecutor’s shop on Saturday with the intention of telling him of the robbery, but there being persons present she did not like to do so.

Sergeant Steele and Langdon proved the apprehension of the prisoners, who were then remanded until Monday, at West Bromwich.”

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions in October 1871, charged with stealing from the person of Job Haynes, and being found guilty, Phoebe Cotterill, who had a previous conviction, was sentenced to seven years’ penal servitude, Job Cotterill to one year’s imprisonment, and Hewitt to three months’ imprisonment.]

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1873 - Advert

“Lost, on Tuesday night, a large Blue-and-white Greyhound Dog, named ‘Will.’
Whoever will return him to *George Golcher*, King Street, Darlaston, shall be paid all expenses.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1875 - Advert

“‘Defensio, Non Provocatio.’ Caution.

The Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, Southwark Street, Borough, London.

This association, having prosecuted and convicted a Grocer, at Bradford, at the Leeds Assizes, under the ‘Merchandise Marks Act, 1862,’ and also prosecuted a man at Chester Assizes, who was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment for fraudulently counterfeiting and imitating their Trade Mark, and having obtained a decree for a perpetual injunction against a Tea Company (Limited), restricting the said Company from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, or not materially differing therefrom, or in any cover or wrappers which by their shape, size, colour, labels, writings, figures, inscriptions, trade mark, or general character should make it appear that the packets sold or exposed for sale were those of the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, and which decree on appeal was confirmed by the Lord Chancellor, notice is hereby given that all persons Counterfeiting or Imitating the Trade Mark of the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association will be forthwith Proceeded Against; and Licensed Victuallers, Grocers, Bakers, Confectioners and others are hereby warned from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by said Association.

Thompson and Son, 60, Cornhill, Solicitors for the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association.

Agents For Staffordshire.....

Darlaston: W. Foster, SCOTT ARMS, Blockall; *G. Golcher*, NEW INN, King Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser - Deaths

“After a short illness, in the 37th year of his age, *George Golcher*, gunlock manufacturer, of the NEW INNS, King Street, Darlaston.”

1881 Census

41, King Street – NEW INN

- [1] *Ann Golcher* (39), widow, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Joseph Golcher (18), son, gunlock manufacturer, born Darlaston;
- [3] George Golcher (17), son, mercantile clerk, born Darlaston;
- [4] Thomas Golcher (16), son, gunlock maker, born Darlaston;
- [5] Sarah Edmunds (21), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [6] Alice Holmes (13), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Joseph Golcher – see DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Darlaston, CASTLE, Castle Street, Dudley, and SEVEN STARS, High Street, Dudley.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/7/1885

“On Wednesday evening an inquest was held at the NEW INN, King Street, Darlaston, touching the death of William Carr, aged 53 years. The deceased, who was employed as a gun lock maker, and who resides at the back of the NEW INN, went on Monday night to Bilston Wake. He returned home late, but appeared quite well. He was taken ill, however, on Tuesday morning, and died suddenly. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1891

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *John Wilkes*, 18, The Green, Darlaston, carpenter and builder, formerly carrying on business as a licensed victualler, at the NEW INN, King Street, Darlaston, and lately as a licensed victualler at the OLD BUSH INN, Bush Street, Darlaston.

The public examination of this bankrupt took place at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court yesterday, before Mr.

Registrar Clarke, Mr. E. T. Slater (instructed by Messrs. Slater and Co, Darlaston) appearing on his behalf. His financial statement showed liabilities £221 19s, of which £188 11s was expected to rank for dividend; and assets £27, leaving a deficiency of £161 11s. He attributed his failure to bad trade, bad debts, loss on a contract to build a house, and illness. The examination was adjourned.”

1891 Census

King Street – Public House – NEW INN

[1] *John Joyce* (45), married, screw maker, born Darlaston;

[2] *John Joyce* (18), son, screw maker, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday..... Mr. A. Young mentioned two cases in which he was concerned objected to on the ground that the licensee was non-resident. He pointed out that under the Acts of Parliament residence was not necessary in the case of holders of alehouse licenses, though necessary in the case of beerhouse licenses. Mr. Elwell said the magistrates had given every consideration to this question, and had decided to renew all licenses where the holders were bona-fide owners or tenants. This decision affected the following cases.....
Joseph Yardley, NEW INN, King Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the district took place at Wednesbury yesterday..... Music and singing licenses were granted to *Mary Elizabeth Jones*, NEW INN, Darlaston.”

1901 Census

42, King Street – NEW INN

[1] *John Joyce* (28), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Florence Joyce* (27), wife, born Banbury, Warwickshire;

[3] *John W. Joyce* (11 months), son, born Darlaston;

[4] *Mary A. Fox* (20), domestic servant, born Walsall:

Walsall Advertiser 3/1/1903

“An inquest was held before Mr. H. A. Pearson, yesterday, at the Darlaston Town Hall, on the body of *Florence Joyce* (29), of the NEW INN, King Street, Darlaston, and late of Walsall.

John Joyce, the husband, said the deceased was not a sober woman, and this had caused some unpleasantness, though apart from this, they had lived happily together. About five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon deceased was the worse for drink, and was staggering about. Shortly afterwards he found the deceased lying upstairs on the landing asleep, and snoring. He carried her on to her bed, and lay her on her side. He had taken her many times to bed in the same way. Her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Page, of Walsall, came about half-past eight o'clock pm. Shortly after nine o'clock deceased's mother went upstairs, and raised an alarm. Witness found that the deceased was dead.

Mrs. Elizabeth Page stated that she went upstairs, lighted the gas in the bedroom, and then saw that deceased lay on the bed face downwards, with her face buried in the clothes and her hands behind her. Witness tried to awaken the deceased, but found that she was dead.

Dr. Sydney Partridge deposed that death as due to asphyxia. It might have been caused by the deceased's face being buried in the bed clothes.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1911 Census

42, King Street – NEW INN

[1] *Aaron Brocklehurst* (50), coal miner, born Summercotes;

[2] *Ann Brocklehurst* (61), wife, married 13 years, born Darlaston;

[3] *Edna Parsons* (19), adopted, born Pinxton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/7/1920

“As the result of a fall while alighting from a tram-car, the death took place yesterday of Mr. *John James Ball*, aged 56, the licensee of the NEW INNS, King Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/7/1920

“A verdict of Accidental Death was returned yesterday at an inquest on *John James Ball*, NEW INN, Darlaston, who fractured his skull after alighting from a tram-car while in motion.”

Mrs. *Lucy Ball*, BELL [sic] INN, 42 King Street. [1921]

Samuel George Bailey = Samuel George Bayley

Walsall Observer 10/4/1926

“On the Bowling Green.....

The green at the NEW INNS, Darlaston, the headquarters of the Darlaston Central League, was opened by Councillor N. Peach (president); that at the WHITE LION, Darlaston, by Councillor C. Foster (chairman of the Central Bowling Club); and that at the RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, by Councillor C. Simmonds.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/6/1926

“There is every likelihood of the *Evening Despatch* Shilling Fund for the feeding of the necessitous children of the Midland coalfields reaching the 30,000 shilling mark (£1,500) today. The Fund, to date, already totals 28,441 shillings.....

Collection made at the NEW INN, Darlaston, friendly bowling match, 25 shillings.”

Rugeley Times 30/5/1931

“Bowling Fixtures.....

Darlaston Central League. NEW INN v Ex-Servicemen.”

It closed on 1st May 1936, and the license was transferred to the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT.

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/5/1936

“Staffordshire Licensing.....

The committee confirmed grants in respect of the removal of the full license of the NEW INN, Darlaston to the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston, at present a beerhouse.”

Demolished

It was replaced by Burton's Tailoring shop and a billiard hall (since demolished).

NEW BRITANNIA

36, High Street, Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired in February 1894 for £800)

LICENSEES

James Broad [1848] – [1879]
John Atkinson [1880] – [1881]
Frank Brown (1889 – []
Patrick Flynn [1891]
Hannah Goodyer [1894] – [1895]
Joseph Morris Lofthouse [1895] – [1896]
Phillip Ford [1897] – [1898]
Frank Hare (1898 – [1899]

NOTES

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1848

“On Wednesday last, the annual licensing meeting was held.....

The following persons were reprimanded for offences committed against the tenor of their licenses during the past year.....

James Broad, Moxley, in Darlaston.”

James Broad was also a builder. [1851]

1851 Census

Moxley

[1] *James Broad* (35), victualler and carpenter employing 3 men, born Belbroughton;

[2] Sarah Broad (33), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Mary Ann Broad (30), visitor, born Belbroughton;

[4] Elizabeth Green (20), house servant, born Ellesmore, Shropshire:

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“A Special Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Great Barr, on Wednesday last, to determine with reference to sixty-three new applications for spirit licenses made in the division.....

James Broad, Moxley, Darlaston, supported by Mr. Duignan, opposed by Mr. Wells Refused.”

Birmingham Journal 29/8/1857

“Annual Licensing Day Sessions adjourned till Friday, the 25th day of September next, when forty-two applications from retail brewers in the division for wine and spirit licenses will be considered.....

James Broad, Moxley, Darlaston.”

[Refused at the adjourned sessions.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1858

“Applications for New [spirit] Licenses.....

The number of applicants for licenses was thirty. The following were the applications.....
Darlaston.....

James Broad, Moxley, was supported by Mr. Duignan, and opposed by Mr. Bayley for two licensed victuallers, Mr. Talbot and Mr. Williams Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1859

“A special licensing sessions was held on Wednesday, at the Scott Arms Inn, Great Barr.....

The number of applications [for spirit licenses] was 33 which were disposed of as follows.....

James Broad, of Moxley, supported by Mr. Duignan, opposed by Mr. H. Underhill, Wolverhampton, for Mr. Talbot and Mr. Williams, licensed victuallers Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1860

“The annual adjourned Special Sessions for transacting licensing business was held on Thursday.....

There were twenty-nine applications from retail brewers for wine and spirit licenses, with the following results.....

James Broad, Moxley, Darlaston Refused.”

1861 Census

Moxley – Public House – BRITANNIA

- [1] *James Broad* (45), carpenter and joiner, born Belbroughton;
- [2] Sarah Broad (42), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Elizabeth Broad (47), sister, born Belbroughton;
- [4] Mary A. Guttridge (17), domestic servant, born Tipton;
- [5] Thomas Cartwright (20), brewer, born Dudley Port;
- [6] Charles Gailey (17), carpenter’s apprentice, born Chaddesley Corbett:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/10/1861

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions applicants for wine and spirit licenses.....

James Broad, Moseley [sic], Darlaston, opposed Refused.”

James Broad, beer retailer, carpenter and wheelwright, High Street, Moxley. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 3/10/1864

“Adjourned licensing meeting.....

There were a great many applications, of which the following were granted.....

James Broad, NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley.”

James Broad was described as also being a carpenter. [1870], [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 2/7/1870 - Advert

“Peremptory Sale of Eligible Freehold Building Land, in Foundry Street, Moxley, near Bilston.

Davies and Halford will Sell by Auction (by order of the Mortgagees), on Monday, July 11, 1870, at the House of Mr. *James Broad*, NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, punctually at Six o’clock in the evening.....”

1871 Census

Moxley

- [1] *James Broad* (55), victualler and carpenter, born Belbroughton;
- [2] Sarah Broad (53), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Elizabeth Broad (56), sister, housekeeper, born Belbroughton;
- [4] Sarah Foster (17), domestic servant, born Alvechurch;
- [5] Mary Constable (20), general servant, born Willenhall;
- [6] George Purslow (19), apprentice to carpenter, born Belbroughton:

James Broad was also a joiner, wheelwright and blacksmith. [1873], [1879]

Midland Counties Evening Express 21/11/1874

“Last night Ellen Taylor (20), domestic servant to Mr. *Broad* of the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, near Bilston, was admitted into the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Hospital, suffering from severe burns. It appears that she went to bed on the previous night, but unfortunately left a burning candle on the dressing table. By some means unexplained, the table cover became ignited, and the flames extended to her clothing. Her legs were badly burnt and about her arms in endeavouring to put the fire out. She was afterwards removed to the Hospital where she is now progressing favourably.”

AND

Midland Counties Evening Express 25/11/1874

“Mr. H. Brevitt, deputy coroner, held an inquest this morning at the TRUE BRITON INN, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, touching the death of Ellen Taylor, a domestic servant of Mr. *J. Broad*.....

Deceased was afterwards taken to the Hospital, where she died from the injuries received on Sunday last. The bed clothes were found undisturbed, which confirmed the statement of the deceased whilst at the Hospital, that she was reading and fell asleep, leaving the candle alight. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Midland and Examiner and Times 31/3/1877

“*James Broad*, landlord of the NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, was summoned for permitting drunkenness at Moxley, on the 17th inst. The case was proved by Police-constable Steele. Superintendent Holland gave defendant a good character, and the Stipendiary imposed a fine of 10s and costs, without endorsing the defendant’s license.

For being drunk on *Broad’s* premises, John Nock was fined 10s 6d, or 14 days’ hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1877

“West Bromwich Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following reports as to the convictions of publicans during last year were made by Superintendents Woollaston and Holland, for the police divisions of West Bromwich and Wednesbury.....

James Broad, NEW BRITANNIA, Moseley [sic], permitting drunkenness, fined 10s and costs.....

All the old licenses were then renewed with the exception of those whose holders had been convicted in a penalty of 20s and upwards. The latter were adjourned until 26th September.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1878

“From last night’s *London Gazette* Liquidations by Arrangement.....

James Broad, Moxley, Staffordshire, licensed victualler and carpenter.”

London Gazette 3/1/1879

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *James Broad*, of the NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Carpenter.

Notice is hereby given, that a Second General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Messrs. Slater and Marshall, Solicitors, Butcroft, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on the 7th day of January, 1879, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 31st day of December, 1878.

Slater and Marshall, Darlaston, Solicitors for the said Debtor.”

1881 Census

36, High Street

[1] *John Atkinson* (30), licensed victualler, born Basingham, Lincolnshire;

[2] *Mary A. Atkinson* (29), wife, born Lincolnshire;

[3] *Herbert Atkinson* (3), son, born Burton on Trent;

[4] *Lenora Atkinson* (2), daughter, born Burton on Trent:

1891 Census

36, High Street – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *Patrick Flynn* (74), licensed victualler, born Tipperary, Ireland;

[2] *Mary Flynn* (60), wife, born Killarney, Ireland;

[3] *Ellen McDermott* (20), niece, barmaid, born Fenton, Staffordshire;

[4] *Annie McNamara* (18), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Hannah Goodyer = *Hannah Goodyear* = *Hannah Goodger*

Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1894

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury, *Arthur Baugh*, shingler, Moxley, was fined £10 for having, without provocation,

assaulted Samuel *Goodyear*, landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, and Benjamin Griffiths, a resident in the same locality.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1895

“Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Police Court – before Mr. Neville (Stipendiary) – *Hannah Goodyer*, the NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, appeared to answer three charges of allowing her house to be used contrary to the Betting Act. Mr. J. S. Sharpe (West Bromwich) prosecuted on behalf the police, and Mr. Rhodes jun. (Wolverhampton) defended.

In opening the case, Mr. Sharpe said that on the 25th November some conversation took place between the defendant’s husband and certain persons who were in the house, the result being that a man named John Round, in Mr. *Goodyer*’s employment, and another named Charles Archer were matched to run a race for £5 a side, *Goodyer* finding 5s as a deposit, and Archer and Albert Clark, a friend of his, 2s 6d each; a young man named Shortland, the landlady’s nephew, being made stakeholder; and the landlady being in and out of the room whilst the conversation was going on. *Goodyer* himself drew up an agreement between the parties that night and gave one copy to Clark, retaining a second copy himself. On the 1st December the deposits were increased, the payment being made in the house; and on the 22nd of the same month further instalments were paid, bringing up the total paid on each side to £3. That night a statement was made that the match would have to be off, as Round was lame, and Archer said if the race was not to be run he should claim the stakes. That gave rise to a quarrel, and Mr. *Goodyer* hit Clark, who afterwards brought the matter to the notice of the police. Witnesses were called, whose testimony bore out this statement.....

[Here follows a legal discussion about what constitutes betting.]

Mr. Rhodes said that knowledge of the transaction on the part of the defendant must be shown. On the first occasion she was not present, and all the way through she was absolutely ignorant that any match had been made. He asked his Worship, bearing in mind that the defendant had kept the house for some time, and had uniformly borne a good character, to say that this was not a case in which a heavy penalty should be inflicted. He called the defendant, who positively denied that she knew anything about the match, her husband, Shortland, Round, and others, whose testimony was in accordance with the advocate’s statement, and in contradiction in several respects of the evidence for the prosecution.

The Stipendiary said it was a question of credibility, and he thought the witnesses in support of the charge gave their evidence very well, which was more than could be said of some of those for the defence. There did not appear to be any recognised system of betting going on in the house; but it had been used three days with the knowledge, he believed, of the defendant for this one bet.

The defendant was fined 10s and costs in one case, and 1s and costs in each of the others, making £3 16s in all.

Samuel *Goodyer*, husband of the above named defendant, and John Round were then charged with having assaulted Albert Clark. The allegation was that when the dispute about the match took place *Goodyer* dealt Clark a blow on the face which knocked him down; also that he struck a man named Lloyd, who was leaving the place in consequence of the row. Round, it was declared, joined in the assault. On the other side, the statement was that Clark and others were merely asked to leave because they were behaving in a disorderly manner.

Goodyer was fined 40s and costs (10s) or one month’s imprisonment, and Round 10s and costs or fourteen days’ imprisonment.

Cross-summons against Clark and Lloyd for wilful damage were dismissed.

These cases lasted over four hours.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1895

“The adjourned licensing session for the parishes of Darlaston and Tipton took place at Wednesbury yesterday.....

The police objected to the renewal of licenses to the following persons.....

J. M. Lofthouse, NEW BRITANNIA beerhouse, Moxley The application of *Lofthouse* had had very serious consideration, but the license would be renewed.”

Walsall Advertiser 24/10/1896

“At the County Court on Thursday, Louis Benjamin Tuckman, 272, Monument Road, Edgbaston, sued *Frank Hare*, of the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, for £3 7s 6d, balance of the price of a ring (£3 10s) which he had purchased from his traveller Samuel Luxemberg. Mr. J. Peace was for the plaintiff, and Mr. S. M. Slater for the defendant.

It was contended for the defence that the ring was left on approval only, and no request was made for subsequent payments for six weeks; but his Honour held that the payment of 2s 6d was evidence that the transaction was a bona-fide sale, and gave judgment for the amount claimed with costs, payable within one month.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/10/1898

“At the Wednesbury Police Court today (Tuesday), before Mr. N. C. A Neville (Stipendiary), *Phillip Ford*, landlord of the NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 25th August. Mr. J. G. Thursfield appeared to prosecute, and Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) defended.

Police-constable Horton stated that at 3pm on the date named, from information which he had received, he went to the NEW BRITANNIA and there found two men named Felton and Flanagan drunk, and each with ale. A young woman named Esther Beswick served at the bar, and when spoken to respecting the condition of the men she replied they had gone drunk all at once. They were sober when she filled them their last pint. The men were eventually got away from the house.

In defence, Mr. Willcock said it was an unfortunate thing that Mr. *Ford* was away from the house at the time stated, and another unfortunate circumstance was that the girl Beswick had declined to come to give evidence. It was alleged that some port and brandy was stolen and drunk, and beer drawn from the machine, in the absence of the attendant.

The Stipendiary said he had not to deal with the question whether the men got drunk on the port and brandy or not. He had to consider the disgraceful way in which the house was managed on the occasion. It was really about the worst case of permitting drunkenness as could be.

A fine of £5 and costs was imposed, but there was no endorsement of the license.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1899

“Licensing Sessions. This was the annual licensing sessions for Wednesbury (County).....

The renewal of the following licenses was ordered to be considered at the adjourned sessions on objections from the police.....

NEW BRITANNIA, Moxley.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/9/1899

“Wednesbury County Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The renewal of the license of the NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, to William Butler and Co. Limited, was objected to, the chief grounds being that the license was not required, and also that there had been four convictions against the house for betting.

The Bench, after a short deliberation in private, renewed the whole of the licenses objected to with the exception of that of the NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, which was refused.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/10/1899

“The October Quarter Sessions for the County began on Tuesday and finished at mid-day on Wednesday..... There was only one appeal, and in this the Court confirmed the decision of the Wednesbury justices in refusing to renew the license to the NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, on the ground that it was a disorderly house.”

AND

“Licensing Appeal. Messrs. Butler and Co. (Limited) v The Justices of Wednesbury.

Mr. C. F. Vachell appeared for the appellants and Mr. Disturnal for the respondents.

Mr. Disturnal said he appeared for the respondent justices sitting at Wednesbury, and the house in respect of which the appeal was brought was a full-licensed house known and the NEW BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, and belonged to Messrs. Butler and Co. The renewal of the license was refused by the justices on two grounds. The first and more important ground was that the house was of a disorderly character, and the

second ground was that it was not required in the district. He had a body of general evidence to show that for a number of years this had been a disorderly house, and he should give evidence of a number of acts of disorder recorded against the house, resulting in the conviction of the licensees.

On January 8, 1895, the then licensee, *Hannah Goodger*, was fined 10s and costs for permitting gaming on November 25, 1s and costs for a similar offence on December 1, and 1s and costs for a like offence on December 22. On January 8, 1895, Samuel *Goodger*, the husband, was fined 40s and costs for an assault committed on his premises. On February 25, a man named Sheldon was seen by the police to come from the premises in a state of drunkenness. On December 6, 1897, a man named *Ford*, who was then the licensee, was cautioned by the police for keeping open after hours. On January 16, 1898, a man named Parker was fined 5s and costs for being drunk on the premises. On January 26, a serious row and assault was witnessed outside the house by some constables. On June 26, *Ford* was again cautioned for opening his house too soon, and on August 25, 1898, *Ford* was convicted and fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness. These offences showed that the house was of a disorderly character and had been a considerable trouble to the police for some time past. The appellants said there was some overwhelming necessity in the district for this house, but he should show that within a distance of 144 yards from the BRITANNIA INN there were as many as four other licensed houses, and in Moxley there was a public house to every 146 of the population. Within 6½ years the license to the house had been transferred no fewer than five times, which, he submitted, showed that the house had not been properly conducted.

Evidence as to the convictions recorded against the house having been put in, Supt. Salt gave evidence as to the other licensed houses in Moxley, and, in reply to Mr. Vachell, he said the NEW BRITANNIA INN was a good house and was situated in the centre of the district.

Evidence as to the way in which the house had been conducted was given by three police-constables, and this was the case for the respondents.

Mr. Vachell submitted that the evidence called on behalf of the respondents did not warrant the Court in refusing to grant a renewal of the license to the house in question.

Mr. G. T. Lawley, traveller in the employ of Messrs. Butler and Co., said the firm purchased the NEW BRITANNIA INN, in February, 1894, for £800, and since then they had spent £566 in altering and improving the house.

Frank Hare said he had been manager of the NEW BRITANNIA INN since October 25, 1898. It did a good and increasing business, and he had no difficulty in conducting it in an orderly manner.

The Rev. S. V. Thomas, vicar of Moxley, said while he admitted that they could very well spare several public houses in Moxley, he considered that the NEW BRITANNIA INN was one of the best houses in the village, and had good stabling accommodation.

Other witnesses having been called as to the character of the house, the Court dismissed the appeal, with costs.”

NEW JUNCTION

15, Forge Road, ((Great) Union Street), Herberts Park, (Catherines Cross), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Sarah Ann Povey, Foundry Street, Darlaston

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd. (leased)

Darby's Brewery Ltd. [1924]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1991)

Richmond Hill Brewery [2023]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Jane Ball [1863] – [1873]
James Carter [1879]
Jane Cartwright [1881]
Miss Sarah Ball* [1891] – [1892]
Mrs. Sarah Ann Ball* [1894] – [1895]
Miss Sarah Jane Ball* [1896]
William Winsper [1901] – [1911]
Samuel Wells [1912]
James Aston [1916] – 1925);
Harry Richard Aston (1925 – 1948);
Albert Edward Saxon (1948 – 1957);
Doris Saxon (1957 – 1958);
Jim Williams (1958 – 1961);
Derek Harold Fullard (1961 – 1963);
Anthony Corbett (1963 – 1966);
Barry Walter Tew (1966 – 1967);
Terence Hughes (1967 – []

NOTES

Great Union Street [1864]
Union Street [1863], [1868], [1870]
Forge Road [1872]
15, Forge Road [1904], [1908], [1912], [1932], [1940]

JUNCTION [1868], [1871], [1881], [1909]

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1863

“The adjourned licensing meeting for West Bromwich, Wednesbury and Walsall, was held yesterday.....

New applications for spirit licenses.....

Mr. Slater applied for a license for the house of *Jane Ball*, NEW JUNCTION INN, Union Street, Darlaston, which was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1864

“An inquest was held at the NEW JUNCTION INN, Darlaston, on Saturday, before Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, on the body of Henry Walker (19). Deceased was a collier, at the works of Mr. David Jones, of the Herberts Park Colliery. On Thursday morning, about seven o’clock, he was working in part of the pit, when five to six cwt of fire-clay fell on him. He received a severe blow on the forehead, and never spoke afterwards. Mr. Baker, HM Inspector of Mines for South Staffordshire, attended the inquest, and stated that he had examined the pit a short time previously, and, to all appearances, it was perfectly safe. He cross-examined the witnesses. The workings had been examined on the morning before deceased went to work. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Forge Road

- [1] *Jane Ball* (38), widow, publican, born Shropshire;
- [2] Margaret Ball (20), sister, unmarried, domestic servant, born Darlaston;
- [3] George Ball (16), son, coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [4] Joseph Ball (12), son, coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Sarah A. Ball* (15), daughter, born Darlaston:

1881 Census

15, Forge Road – JUNCTION INN

[1] *Jane Cartwright* (52), widow, licensed victualler, born Oakengates;

[2] George Ball (30), son, coal chartermaster, born Darlaston;

[3] *Sarah A. Ball* (28), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Margaret Bould (41), sister, unmarried, born Darlaston:

* probably the same person

1891 Census

15, Forge Road

[1] *Sarah Ball* (35), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] George Ball (38), son [sic], coal miner, born Darlaston;

[3] Margaret Bould (52), unmarried, domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 3/11/1894

“*Sarah Ann Ball*, of the JUNCTION INN, Darlaston, appeared before the Stipendiary, at the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, charged with permitting drunkenness on her premises; and four men, named George Coleman, William Bird, James Bird, and Charles Carpenter, were also charged with being on the premises. Mr. R. A. Willcock, Wolverhampton, appeared for the defence.

The evidence showed that on the night of Sunday, the 7th ult, Police-constables Bott and Needham heard shouts and cries of ‘Murder!’ proceeding from the defendant’s house, and on going to ascertain the cause they found Coleman and James Bird fighting, and the whole place in a condition of disorder. The defendant was behind the bar, however, supplying liquor to customers, and when spoken to she smiled and said, ‘That’s what they call enjoyment.’ At half-past nine the men were still there drunk.

Several witnesses were called for the defence.

The Stipendiary said that *Ball* and Coleman were condemned out of the mouths of their own witnesses, and there had not doubt had been a pack of concocted lying. The amount of perjury which took place in these cases of drunkenness on licensed premises was simply disgraceful.

Mrs. *Ball* was fined £5 and costs, and the men 10s each and costs, or 14 days’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1895

“The adjourned licensing session for the parishes of Darlaston and Tipton took place at Wednesbury yesterday.....

The police objected to the renewal of licenses to the following persons.....

Sarah A. Ball, NEW JUNCTION, Forge Road, Darlaston Renewed subject to structural alterations of the premises.”

South Wales Echo 2/6/1898

“A lamentable drowning case took place at Moxley, near Bilston, on Tuesday night. It appears that a young woman named Alice Richards (20), the daughter of James Richards, a locksmith, of Moffatts Lane, Willenhall, was keeping company with a man named Martin, who resides at the ROUND COUNTER INN, Bradley, Bilston, and on Tuesday night they went for a walk with a female friend. On reaching Moxley a quarrel occurred, and Richards took off a ring she was wearing and gave it to her female companion with the remark, ‘Keep this in remembrance of me.’ She then walked to the Birmingham Canal, a short distance away, and jumped in. So far as can be gathered, her companions did nothing to rescue her, and the body was taken from the water on Wednesday morning, after Martin had given information of the affair to the Willenhall Police. When questioned why he did not attempt to save the deceased, the excuse was given that he could not swim. The body was removed to the JUNCTION INN, Catherines Cross.”

AND

London Evening Standard 4/6/1898

“An inquest was held at Darlaston, at which it was shown that a young woman named Alice Richardson

had committed suicide under shocking circumstances. She was engaged to be married to Thomas Martin, a young man residing at Bradley. When out with her on Wednesday night he transferred his affections to her companion, Florence Ward, aged 15, and in the presence of the deceased was guilty of gross misconduct. The girl Richardson flew into a temper, threw down her engagement ring, and jumped into the canal and was drowned, Martin making no effort to save her.

A verdict of Suicide through jealousy was returned, and Martin was severely censured for his outrageous conduct.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/6/1898

“An inquest was held at Darlaston this afternoon respecting the death of Alice Richardson, 20, single, of Morfital Lane, Willenhall, who committed suicide by jumping into the canal early on Wednesday morning. On Tuesday night, she, with Florence Ward, a Bilston girl, came to the Wolverhampton Fair, where they met two young men, named Thomas Martin and William Smith, of Bradley. They had some drink at the LITTLE SWAN INN, missed their tram, and walked to Willenhall, where the deceased could not get into the house. They then went for a walk. Owing to something that took place between Martin and Ward, Richardson jumped into the canal, and the other two making no effort to save her. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane, and censured Ward, Smith, and Martin. The Coroner said Martin’s conduct was horrible.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 5/6/1898

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. H. A. Pearson (County Coroner) held an inquest at the JUNCTION INN, Cath-erines Cross, Darlaston, respecting the death of Alice Richardson (20), a single woman, residing in Walsall Street, Willenhall, who had committed suicide by drowning at Herberts Park under very distressing circum-stances.

John Richardson, the father, said deceased had a child 17 months old, and a young man named Thomas Mar-tin was alleged to be the father. Martin had promised to marry the deceased.

Thomas Martin, a miner, residing at Bradley, said he had known the deceased about three years. On the night of the 31st ult he accompanied the deceased and a young woman named Florence Ward, and in the presence of the deceased he was guilty of misconduct with Ward. Subsequently, on arriving at Herberts Park Canal, he saw the deceased throw off her hat and jump into the canal. He was unable to swim, and was consequently afraid to attempt to rescue her. He saw the deceased rise to the surface of the water twice, but he was unable to reach her.

Florence Ann Ward, who stated that she was 15 years of age and resided with her parents at Bilston, gave corroborative evidence.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide when of Unsound Mind.

At the request of the jury, the Coroner severely censured Martin for his horrible and despicable conduct in the presence of the deceased, and also for his unmanly behaviour in making no attempt to rescue the de-ceased.”

AND

Walsall Observer 18/6/1898

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, Thomas Holder, a gunlock filer of Eldon Street, Darlaston, was charged with being drunk and creating a disturbance at the inquest held on the 3rd instant on the girl Alice Richard-son, at the NEW JUNCTION INN, Herberts Park.

Police-constables Horton and Rowlands stated that a hostile crowd gathered near the inn, and it was feared that some of the witnesses would be molested, and defendant, who was drunk, endeavoured to incite some of the ringleaders to violence.

Defendant denied being drunk but admitted being near the house at the time stated by the police.

Fined 13s 6d, including costs.”

1901 Census

Forge Road – NEW JUNCTION INN

[1] *William Winsper* (33), publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Lizzie Winsper* (30), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Lucy Winsper (9), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Job Firm (21), brother-in-law, iron bolt forger, born Darlaston;

[5] Ellen F. Haynes (13), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Advertiser 23/1/1909

“An inquest was held at the NEW JUNCTION INN, Darlaston, on Wednesday, by Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner), respecting the death of the female child of William Hall, puddler, of 11, Heathfield Road.

A neighbour named Catherine Johnson deposed to being called to Hall’s house at 8.30 on Monday night. She found the mother and the child on the rug in the front room. Witness did what was necessary, and afterwards assisted in getting the mother and child to bed. The latter was very weakly.

William Hall, the father, said the child lived until 3.10 next morning, when she died on her mother’s arms.

Dr. Magrane attributed death to debility, owing to premature birth. The mother told him she had been assisting to lift another person on Monday evening.

A verdict in accordance with the medial evidence was returned by the jury.”

Walsall Advertiser 4/9/1909

“At the Darlaston Police Court, Mr. A. J. Glover mentioned a case in which Elizabeth Rhodes (34), of Herberts Park, Darlaston, was summoned for using abusive language to Elizabeth *Winsper*, of the JUNCTION INN, Herberts Park; and also by *William Winsper*, the licensee, for refusing to quit the licensed premises when requested to do so.

Mr. Glover stated that he represented the defendant, and he had seen Mr. and Mrs. *Winsper*, on behalf of his client, and had tendered apologies to them. They had therefore consented to the summonses being withdrawn on payment of the costs. He asked the magistrates to allow this course to be adopted. The presiding magistrate said they agreed to the application.”

1911 Census

15, Forge Road – NEW JUNCTION INN

[1] *William Winsper* (43), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Winsper (40), wife, married 19 years, born Darlaston;

[3] Lucy Winsper (19), daughter, born Darlaston:

William Winsper – see also CROWN AND CROSS GUNS.

South Staffordshire Times 6/3/1920

“Darlaston Police Court.....

Mr. R. A. Tench (solicitor) appeared on behalf of Mr. Job Wilkes Yardley, owner of a freehold premises at HERBERT PARK TAVERN, of which he had been the owner for sixteen years past. The application was for a spirit license, and an excellent character was put in, and also a petition, on which the signatures were voluntary given and numerous signed. The house was at present licensed for the sale of beer, ale and wine. Mr. E. W. Cave, barrister (instructed by Messrs. Caddick and Yates), opposed the application for the extended license for spirits.

Mr. J. W. Yardley was examined by Mr. Tench. He was the owner of the premises and licensee for 16 years. He had been asked for spirits thousands of times. He therefore applied for a full license. The nearest place was the JUNCTION INN (full license). If granted it would be a public convenience, and he had never had any complaint against him.

Cross-examined, witness declined to answer how much wine he sold on demand under his present license, unless magistrates demanded to know. There were some works about 400 yards away from his house, and there were some houses being built.

Mr. Cave: I am going to be quite nice to you, so please answer all my questions.

People who lived in the existing houses would only have to walk fifty yards further to obtain all they wanted? – Yes.

An excise officer asked a few questions of the applicant. He appeared on behalf of Customs and Excise.

Mr. Cave, as representing the owners of the other licensed premises in the neighbourhood, opposed the

license, and addressed the Bench. There had been a great shortage of spirits during the war, and if every one was now to come forward and ask for licenses to sell spirits there would naturally be far more full licenses granted than the Justices ever intended in any given locality. The existing conditions, he contended were ample to supply all the need of the district.

Mr. E. Ward, architect, West Bromwich, was called by Mr. Cave, and stated that he hardly regarded the premises fit for a fully licensed premises. The house was only cottage property.

Mr. Tench cross-examined at length.

Mr. *James Aston*, licensee of the NEW JUNCTION INN, was also called by Mr. Cave. He had not noticed any extra demand for, or difficulty in obtaining, spirits of late; in fact, he had more than he could sell for the past three months.

Mr. Tench: Then your customers drink more beer than spirits?

I consider my house and full license is enough for the demand created. I never refuse to supply spirits on a doctor's certificate.

Would you supply me with a bottle of spirits – a stranger? – Yes, if you had a doctor's certificate – (laughter) – not otherwise.

In reply to the Chairman, witness said his supply of spirits was mostly in cask, and very little in bottle, so he must safeguard the bottle part of his sales, or it would soon vanish.

After consulting for a time, the magistrates said, through the Chairman, that they had decided to refuse the application, as the facilities at present afforded were sufficient for the district.”

South Staffordshire Times 17/5/1924

“Three cases of alleged loitering for the purpose of receiving bets came before the County Magistrates (Messrs. C. H. Barrow and G. S. Peake) at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday. Two convictions were registered and the other case dismissed.

The first case against Peter Mathews (37), 15, Heathfield Lane, Darlaston, whose offence was stated to have been committed in Forge Road, Darlaston, on May 8th.

PC Wedge told the magistrates that at 1.20pm on the date in question he was in company with PC Stedman on plain clothes duty in Forge Road. They saw defendant standing outside the NEW JUNCTION INN, and they kept him under observation for twenty minutes, during that time they saw four men hand him what appeared to be betting slips. He went inside the inn, and five minutes later they followed him in. When he saw witness, defendant went out, and outside witness told him he had been seen loitering and taking bets, and that he would be arrested. Defendant replied, ‘All right, I know the game is up.’ He was taken to the Police Station, where he was charged with the offence, and in reply defendant said, ‘All right.’

When defendant was searched, eight betting slips were found in his possession relating to horses that were running at Newmarket on the date in question, a sporting paper, and 12s 9d in money.

Defendant, who pleaded guilty, was fined £5 or a month's imprisonment in default.....”

Rugeley Times 4/5/1928

“Our Sunshine League Corner, conducted by Uncle Hal.....

New Sunshine Leaguers.....

Joan *Aston*, NEW JUNCTION INN, Forge Road, Darlaston.”

Plans were approved for rebuilding on 8th March 1939.

1939 Register

Forge Road – NEW JUNCTION INN

[1] *Harry Richard Aston*, date of birth 1/4/1887, licensed victualler, manager, married;

[2] *Alice Aston*, dob 1/12/1886, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Harry Trafford Aston*, dob 18/10/1919, assistant surveyor, single:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1962

“Two men charged with breaking into two public houses and stealing spirits were committed at West Bromwich yesterday for trial at Smethwick Quarter Sessions. They were Derek Thomas Care (24), a road work-

er, of 66, Holland Road, Kensington, and Thomas Anthony Copson (26), a miner, of 213, Ebenezer Street, West Bromwich. The magistrates issued a warrant for the arrest of a third man, Robert Charles James (36), unemployed labourer, lodging at 13, Beeches Road, West Bromwich, who was jointly charged with the same offences and failed to surrender to his bail.

Care and Copson were charged with breaking into the EIGHT LOCKS INN, Ryders Green Road, West Bromwich, on September 23, and stealing bottles of whisky and rum worth £49 16s, and with breaking into the NEW JUNCTION INN, Forge Road, Darlaston, on the same day and stealing spirits and other property worth £59 16s 8d. They were also committed for trial on a charge of taking away a car belonging to Mr. Emanuel Jones, licensee of the HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Seager Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1964

“Firemen were called to pump flood water from the cellar of the NEW JUNCTION INN, Darlaston, on Saturday night. The flood occurred during licensing hours but the inn remained open.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/7/1991

“Banks’s Brewery has bought three Midland pubs from one of its fiercest Midland rivals. Deals with Bass, Britain’s biggest beer producer, have increased Banks’s trading presence in the West Midlands. Bass is having to offload many of its pubs to comply with government imposed rules which restrict the number of outlets major brewers can keep under direct control.....
NEW JUNCTION, in Darlaston.”

Express & Star 16/10/2019

“A man was left with facial injuries after he was assaulted in a Black Country pub. The man, in his 40s, suffered a minor facial injury following the attack at the NEW JUNCTION pub, between Rough Hay and The Lunt, Darlaston, on Tuesday night. West Midlands Police was called to the pub, on Forge Road, at around 8.40pm and found the man intoxicated. He declined medical treatment at the scene.....”

[2022]

NOAHS ARK

55, (35), Pinfold Street, Catherines Cross, (Woods Bank), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Banks and Co.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Jonathan Lowe [1834]
John Sivern [1861] – [1870]
Mrs. Elizabeth Sivern [1871] – [1872]
John Garner Parker [1879] – [1881]
Job Slater [1891] – [1896]
Walter S. Buxton [1901]
Walter Samuel Bedworth [1904] – 1919);
Thomas Bedworth (1919 – 1923);
George Bedworth (1923 – 1926);

Samuel Downen (1926 – 1927):

NOTES

35, Pinfold Street [1871]

55, Pinfold Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1921]

It had a beerhouse license.

John Sivern = John Sivorn = John Severn

1861 Census

Pinfold Street – NOAHS ARK

[1] *John Sivorn* (50), beer seller and poulterer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Elizabeth Sivorn* (50), wife, born Lichfield;

[3] John Sivorn (16), son, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;

[4] Joseph Sivorn (14), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] John Oakcroft (36), brother-in-law, iron caster, born Darlaston;

[6] William Oakes (26), son-in-law, engine tender, born Rowley;

[7] Diana A. Oakes (20), daughter, born Darlaston;

John Severn, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1861], [1864], [1865]

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/4/1864

“Three publicans of Darlaston were convicted for offences against the statute.

John Severn beerhouse keeper, Catherines Cross, was fined £5 and costs for selling ale on Sunday morning week, when fourteen men were in the house.

Benjamin Fellows, of Wolverhampton Lane, was fined £3 and costs for keeping his house open the same morning. Three men were drinking in the yard, and two were seen coming out of the back door.

Charles Wilson [sic], BUSH INN, Darlaston Green, was convicted in a similar penalty to the last defendant for a like offence.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/11/1864

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, *John Severn*, having been previously convicted was fined 10s and costs for having kept open his house for the sale of beer during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 16th ult.”

John Sivern, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1870]

1871 Census

35, Pinfold Street – NOAHS ARK

[1] *Elizabeth Sivern* (58), widow, beer seller and greengrocer, born Lichfield;

[2] Joseph Sivern (25), son, iron shearer, born Darlaston;

[3] Diana Oakes (31), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] John W. Oakes (9), grand-son, born Darlaston;

[5] Anne Oakes (7), grand-daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] Mary A. Oakes (5), grand-daughter, born Darlaston;

[7] Joseph Oakes (4), grand-son, born Rotherhithe, London;

[8] William Oakes (1), grand-son, born Darlaston:

Mrs. *Elizabeth Sivern*, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1872]

London Gazette 16/5/1879

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Wolverhampton. In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *John Garner Parker*, of the NOAHS ARK INN, Pinfold-street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Pawnbroker and Publican. Notice is hereby given, that a Second General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Joseph Edward Sheldon, 51, High-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on the 22nd day of May, 1879, at half-past eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely. Dated this 13th day of May, 1879. Joseph E. Sheldon, 51, High-street, Wednesbury, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

1881 Census

55, Pinfold Street – NOAHS ARK

- [1] *John G. Parker* (39), publican and pawnbroker, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Selina Parker* (35), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary A. Parker* (15), daughter, assistant, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Selina Parker* (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *John Parker* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Ellen Parker* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Clara Colton* (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

John Garner Parker – see also GREYHOUND.

1891 Census

55, Pinfold Street

- [1] *Job Slater* (45), nut and bolt finisher, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Esther Slater* (44), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Lucilla Slater* (25), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Joseph W. Slater* (13), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Alfred Matthews* (26), lodger, born Bromsgrove:

Job Slater was also a shopkeeper.
Check also ROSE AND CROWN.

1901 Census

55, Pinfold Street

- [1] *Walter S. Buxton* (32), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Louisa Buxton* (33), wife, born Cradley;
- [3] *Louise Buxton* (8), daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury). Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901. The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

NOAHS ARK INN, Pinfold Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

1911 Census

Pinfold Street – NOAHS ARK

- [1] *Samuel Bedworth* (61), publican, beerhouse manager, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Ann Bedworth (62), wife, married 41 years, home, born Darlaston;
- [3] Elizabeth Bedworth (26), daughter, home, born Darlaston;
- [4] Thomas Bedworth (18), son, moulder, born Darlaston;
- [5] George Bedworth (16), son, fitter’s labourer, born Darlaston;
- [6] Frank Jeavons (28), boarder, moulder, born Wednesbury:

Thomas Bedworth, beer retailer, 55, Pinfold Street. [1921]

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/5/1927

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford.
Notice is hereby given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, the 19th day of July, 1927, at 11 o’clock am.

And Notice is hereby also given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District).
List of Licensed Premises.....

NOAHS ARK, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Samuel Downen*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/7/1927

“.....at the principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Compensation Authority held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday.....

The Court refused to renew the licence of the NOAHS ARK, Darlaston. The closing of the house was not opposed by the owner.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1928

“.....at the Meeting of the Compensation Authority held on July 19, the Committee refused to renew 13 out of 16 licences referred to them. At the Supplemental Meeting the Committee fixed the compensation of the undermentioned 12 cases as follows.....

NOAHS ARK, Darlaston, beerhouse ante-1869, £2,000.

In all the before-mentioned cases the money had been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and would be paid on 24th of December instant.”

It closed on 31st December 1927.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 3/3/1928

“William Pearson, FSI, FAI, has received instructions to Sell By Auction at the TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.....

Lot 3. An important block of Property consisting of 55, Pinfold Street, formerly the NOAHS ARK INN (now delicensed), together with 56, Pinfold Street and No.20, New Place.....”

OAK TREE

7, Foster Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Harper
Millward Brothers, Wednesbury
Atkinsons Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Harper [1857] – [1875]
Mrs. Hannah Harper [1879] – [1881]
L P Ashcroft [1890]
Moses Harper [1891] – [1892]
George William Taylor [1895] – [1896]
William Cotterill [1904]
John Wardle [1908] – [1908]
John Henry Ward [1911]
Thomas Allen [1912]
Jesse Edwards (1912 – 1928);
Arthur Foster (1928 – 1939);
Charles Caswell (1939 – 1940);
Harry Norton (1940 – 1941);
Alfred ‘Alf’ Perkins (1941 – 1960):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/5/1857

“Edward Hitchel of Darlaston, will run James Hall of the same place, seven score yards level; or will give Joal Foster two yards start in the same distance, for £5 up to £20. Money ready at *William Harper’s*, OAK TREE, Darlaston.”

Sporting Life 4/7/1860

“J. Newton will run W. Watson, of Aston, 400 yards for £10 a side. Money ready any night this week at Mr. *W. Harper*'s, OAK TREE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston.”

William Harper, beer retailer, Foster Street. [1861], [1862]

1861 Census

Foster Street – OAK TREE INN

[1] *William Harper* (46), gun lock filer and beer seller, born Darlaston;

[2] *Hannah Harper* (44), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] John Harper (15), son, lock filer, born Darlaston;

[4] *Moses Harper* (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] ? Harper (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] George Foster (48), lodger, labourer, born Darlaston;

[7] Mary Smith (20), domestic servant, born Bromsgrove:

William Harper, beer retailer and gunlock manufacturer, Foster Street. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 25/5/1864

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, the following beerhouse keepers were fined in the sums appended to their names, for selling ale during unlawful hours.....

William Harper, OAK TREE, Foster Street, Darlaston, 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/3/1865 - Advert

“Found, a small Black and Tan Dog, white on the Breast. If not owned in three days it will be sold.

Apply to Mr. *Wm. Harper*, the OAK TREE, Foster Street, Darlaston.”

The Sportsman 24/2/1866

“Royal Albion Grounds, Wolverhampton. H. Lowndes, of Wolverhampton, and C. Hope, of Darlaston, run their 100 yards match, for £10 a side, this (Saturday) afternoon; on the mark between two and four. Mr. *Harper* of the OAK TREE, Darlaston, stakeholder; Mr. Whiston, of the RED COW, Wolverhampton, referee. Much interest is centred in the match.”

AND

The Sportsman 27/2/1866

“Considerable interest was evinced by the pedestrian public on Saturday in the match between H. Lowndes, of Wolverhampton, and C. Hope, of Darlaston, to run 120 yards, for £10 a side, at the popular Royal Albion Grounds, Wolverhampton. Shortly after three o'clock the men appeared on the grounds, both in fine fettle for their spin. Lowndes, as the older (and a well-known) pedestrian, was at once installed favourite, first at 6 to 4, and ultimately, just prior to the start, at 2 to 1. After some capering for the start they got away, Hope poaching a trifle; the favourite, however, drew himself together for the struggle, and at half distance passed his man, gradually making 'assurance doubly secure,' and went in a winner by a yard and a half. Mr. Whiston was referee. Upwards of 400 paid for admission.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1866

“The annual sessions for the granting of spirit licenses was held on Wednesday.....

William Harper, Foster Street, Darlaston, opposed. Granted.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/10/1866

“Britannia Grounds, Tipton. Monday next.....

J. Folcher, of the Pleck, and E. Barnsley, of Darlaston, run four score yards, for £5 a side. Mr. *Harper*, OAK TREE, Darlaston, the appointed stakeholder, has £2 a side.”

AND

Sporting Life 17/10/1866

“Britannia Grounds, Tipton. On Monday, there was a fair sprinkling to witness a couple of sprint match-

es.....

J. Folcher, of Walsall, and N. Barnsley, of Darlaston, 80 yards, for £5 a side. They got well away, and a close race resulted in favour of Barnsley by a yard; 6 to 4 laid on him.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/10/1868

“Mr. Thomas *Harper*, of the OAK TREE, Darlaston, was charged with assaulting Eliza Reader and her husband, Charles Reader, at that place, on the 10th inst. The case having been heard, defendant was ordered to pay 5s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment, for the assault on the husband; but Mr. Spooner thought the assault on the wife ‘a wicked, brutal, and cruel one,’ and ordered him to pay £2 and costs, or in default go to goal for two months.”

1871 Census

Foster Street – OAK TREE INN

- [1] *William Harper* (56), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Hannah Harper* (53), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Thomas Harper (25), son, gun lock manufacturer, born Darlaston;
- [4] Richard Harper (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elizabeth Johnson (19), niece, born Darlaston:

Midland Examiner and Times 31/7/1875

“The members of the A1 £100 Permanent Money Society met at the OAK INN Foster Street, Darlaston, on Monday last, to enjoy their annual dinner. After a most substantial repast of good English fare (which was served in excellent style by the host, *William Harper*), had been disposed of, and the cloth drawn, Mr. George Wilkes, of Walsall, was called upon to preside, the vice-chair being filled by Mr. B. Bowker. The usual loyal toasts were drunk, and during the evening some capital songs were ably rendered by Messrs. Bailey, J. Harper, M. Harper, B. Dutton, Job Newton, and other members of the club. The health of the worthy host and hostess having been sung with musical honours, the members separated at 11pm, after having spent a very pleasant evening.”

Western Daily Press 19/11/1875

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Rebecca Cresswell, a middle-aged woman, appeared to answer a charge of having defrauded a death society held at the OAK TREE INN, Darlaston, of £15. Mr. Edwards appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Ebsworth for the defence. The former said he would ask to be allowed to withdraw the charge against defendant, and to be granted a warrant against her daughter, Margaret Wilkes, who lived at Sheffield.

The mother and daughter had for some years been members of a death club, held at the OAK TREE INN, Darlaston. A few years ago the daughter went to live at Sheffield, but still continued to be a member of the club, her contributions being paid through her mother. Since the 30th June, 1874, she had been writing letters to her mother, stating that her children were dead, and by this means she obtained £15 out of the funds of the club, she having claimed in respect of six children, the rules providing for a payment of £2 10s on the death of each child. It turned out, however, that none of her children were dead. The mother; George Butter, the secretary to the society; and *Hannah Harper*, the wife of the keeper of the OAK TREE, were then examined in support of the above statement; and the letters written by Mrs. Wilkes to her mother were produced. In one of the last of the series the writer took all the responsibility of the fraud upon herself, pleading that she had committed the several offences through want, and asking to be allowed to repay the money by instalments. With each claim a certificate of death, apparently prepared by a medical man, had been sent, but these had been returned, on the representation that they would have to be sent to another society. The bench allowed the summons against Mrs. Cresswell to be withdrawn, but directed a warrant to issue against her daughter.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/12/1875

“On the 26th ult, Margaret Wilkes, of Sheffield, was brought before Mr. A. Elwell, at Wednesbury, on the charge of obtaining £15 by means of false pretences, from a Women’s and Children’s Death Society, held at

the OAK TREE INN, Darlaston. The evidence bore out the statements published in the *Advertiser* on the 20th ult, that the prisoner had, through her mother, obtained from the club – of which they were both members – an allowance of £2 10s each for her six children, whom she represented had died since June, 1874. It subsequently transpired, however, that none of her children were dead. When the prisoner was taken into custody she admitted her guilt, and made a statement to the effect that the ease with which she obtained the first £2 10s tempted her to go on with the frauds. The prisoner, who appeared very ill, and carried a child in her arms, pleaded guilty, and was committed for trial at the sessions, the Bench consenting to accept bail.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/1/1876

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Margaret Wilkes, 34, no occupation, pleaded guilty to an indictment which charged her with obtaining, by false pretences from *William Harper*, on the 30th June, 1874, at Darlaston, the sum of £15, the moneys of *William Harper* and others, with the intent to cheat and defraud them of the same.

The learned Chairman described the offence as a very serious one, and, taking into consideration all circumstances of the case, he should send prisoner to penal servitude for five years.”

[*William Harper* was treasurer of the club.]

William Harper died in the 1st quarter of 1878.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1878 - Advert

“For Sale a capital Nut and Bolt Works, in a good situation. Apply at the OAK TREE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston.”

Dudley Herald 20/9/1879

“On Monday morning, at about two o’clock, the premises, No.3, Foster Street, occupied by Mr. Fisher, newsagent, were found by the policeman on the beat to be on fire. The inmates of that house and the adjoining ones having been aroused, and a messenger despatched to the police station, another messenger was sent from thence for the Wednesbury (Royal) fire engine and brigade, which arrived on the spot at a quarter to three, or twenty-five minutes after the notice was received at the office of the brigade. By five o’clock the flames were mastered, but by that time the house in which the fire originated, and the adjoining one, No.4, were completely gutted; the two next, Nos.5 and 6, being also damaged. Mr. Fisher was injured in jumping from the bedroom window, and some of his furniture was burnt, but the occupiers of the other houses succeeded in removing their property before the flames reached their houses. The mischief was caused by some live coals having fallen from the grate in Fisher’s house, where the fire was ‘raked’ on Sunday night. The houses belong to Mrs. *Harper*, of the OAK TREE INN, and are not insured.”

Wednesbury Herald 10/7/1880

“On Thursday morning Edwin Hooper Esq, (District Coroner) held an inquest at the OAK TREE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston, relative to the death of Phoebe Simpson (42), the wife of an ironworker named George Simpson, residing in Foster Street, Darlaston.

The evidence showed that although the husband allowed deceased a good allowance of money to keep house with, she got into debt and other difficulties. On Monday she appeared to be troubled and procured some vermin killer from a chemist’s shop, and took it in some porter on arriving home.

It was from the effects of which she expired in the evening at seven o’clock.

It was stated that the husband was a very respectable man, but that the deceased had recently lived in a most extravagant manner.

After a lengthy consultation the jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide while in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

1881 Census

7, Foster Street – OAK TREE

[1] *Hannah Harper* (63), widow, innkeeper, born Darlaston;

[2] Richard Harper (17), son, apprentice saddler, born Darlaston;

[3] Jane Heeley (25), general servant, born Bloxwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/3/1888

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Messrs. Underhill and Lees, Isaac Manders, otherwise Yardley, nut and bolt maker, Darlaston, appeared on remand charged with having maliciously wounded William Elton, alias Reneff, alias Riley. Mr. Wilkes appeared for the accused.

The complainant described himself as a painter and paper-hanger, but said that since last summer he had been getting his living by legerdemain and ventriloquial performances, and since he had been in the ‘profession’ he had adopted the name of Reneff. He was also known in Darlaston as Riley because he had lived with his grandfather of that name. He had had no fixed address for some time, but from the beginning of February until the 18th of that month he was living in Mill Lane, Birmingham. On the night of the 18th he went into the OAK TREE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston, and was doing some juggling tricks, when the prisoner took up a tumbler and between 2s and 3s worth of coppers, which he was using, and went out of the room. He followed into the passage, and asked for the return of the money, but the prisoner refused to give it him and attacked him. They struggled, and the prisoner pulled out a clasp knife and wounded him in the thumb. Then they went into the yard, and the struggle being renewed, the prisoner struck at him with the knife more than once, cutting his coat collar through and inflicting a long wound along the left side of his neck and a smaller wound on his chin. He cried out ‘murder,’ and threw the glass at the prisoner, who had previously put the coppers into his pocket. Afterwards they went back into the tap room, where the prisoner again attacked him two or three times. Then he threw the prisoner down, and after a struggle some one took the knife from the prisoner. He was afterwards taken to Dr. Nolan, who stitched up his wounds, and then he walked to Birmingham, but had to stop through exhaustion and rest several times; and on the afternoon of Sunday he was admitted into the General Hospital, where he had been until that morning.

Corroborative evidence was given by William [sic] *Harper*, the keeper of the public house, Job Newton and his wife; Hannah Harper, a woman living at the back of the house; and Dr. Nolan. The last-named said the wound in the neck was six inches long, and was deep and nasty-looking. It was a clear cut, going almost down to the blood vessels. There had been profuse bleeding. He put in about eight stitches, and bandaged the complainant, who had been drinking, but was not drunk.

Police-sergeant Curtis said he saw Manders directly after the affray, and found that he had four contused wounds on his face.

Manders said he had given back about 2s 8d of 2s 4d which he took, and that he wished he had cut the man’s head off for serving him so badly. On the 22nd, a warrant having meanwhile been issued, the prisoner surrendered himself, and was admitted to bail. The defence was reserved.

The accused was committed for trial at the Assizes, the Bench consenting to accept bail, himself in £50, and two sureties in £25 each.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 13/3/1888

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

Isaac Manders (on bail) was indicted for feloniously wounding William Elton on February 18, at Darlaston. Mr. H. A. Pearson prosecuted, and Mr. Kettle defended.

Prosecutor stated that he was a painter by trade; but while out of work he went round to public houses juggling. On the date named prosecutor was at the OAK TREE INN, Darlaston, going through some tricks. In the course of the trick he dropped some coppers on the floor, and while he stooped to pick up these prisoner caught up the glass in which were some coppers which prosecutor had been using, and made off. Prosecutor followed him to the back yard, where, according to Elton’s evidence, prisoner struck him. Then, finding the prosecutor was the best man, prisoner drew a knife and struck him across the throat with it inflicting a severe gash. Prosecutor then retreated towards the house, and seeing prisoner following him up, he picked up the glass which prisoner had dropped, and threw it at the prisoner. The latter followed prosecutor into the house and renewed the attack on the prosecutor with the knife. Prosecutor threw prisoner down and he was disarmed by someone in the house.

The defence was that prisoner was assaulted outside the house by the prosecutor with the glass, and that he only drew his knife in self-defence.

Witnesses were called to show that prisoner had his knife when he returned to the house.

The jury acquitted the prisoner.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/8/1889

“To Let, a Large Room, hold 150 persons, good and clean; first-class ales and spirits of the finest quality. OAK TREE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston. Mr. Phillips, manager, Old Foresters Court 2015.”

Hannah Harper died in the 3rd quarter of 1890.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1890 - Advert

“Darlaston. Important Sale of Old-established Full-Licensed Inn, Thirteen Dwelling Houses, and Building Land. Monday Next, October 20.

Messrs. Belcher & Son have received instructions from the Trustees of the late *William Harper*, deceased, to Sell by Public Auction, at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, at Seven o’clock in the evening precisely.

All that Old-established Full-Licensed Inn, known as the OAK TREE INN, situate in Foster Street, Darlaston aforesaid, in the occupation of Mr. *L. P. Ashcroft*; also Thirteen Dwelling Houses and eligible Plot of Building Land.

Full particulars may be had from the Auctioneers, Darlaston, and Bank Chambers, Bridge Street, Wednesbury; or Messrs. Fowler and Langley, Solicitors, Wolverhampton.”

1891 Census

7, Foster Street

[1] *Moses Harper* (41), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Ellen Harper* (40), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Ellen Harper* (17), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *William J. Harper* (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Preston Herald 1/8/1891

“The Failure of Mr. William Ashcroft.

At the London Bankruptcy Court, on Wednesday, a sitting was held for the public examination of William Ashcroft, brewer, etc, formerly trading at Walsall, Blackburn, Manchester, and Birmingham, who applied to pass upon accounts showing total liabilities £23,925 16s 3d, of which £5,093 are expected to rank against assets valued at £2,628 3s 4d.....

In 1888 he went to Walsall, and traded there up to last July. He became acquainted with Mr. Robson, of Burton, a brewer, and took the BRITANNIA at West Bromwich, the Old Port Hotel at Landport, the OAK TREE at Darlaston. He also had the ROBIN HOOD at Willenhall, and the LION at Dudley. He surrendered Mr. Robson’s houses last December, and has since given up the others. He paid nothing to go into the houses, being put in on the understanding that he was to eventually pay for the loose effects. At present he had no interest in those houses, but his wife was acting as manageress for Mr. Robson at the Old Port Hotel, and his son had arranged to work the ROBIN HOOD. When he left Walsall to come to London his creditors knew where he was going.....

Eventually the examination was adjourned for further accounts.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Dancing, music, and singing.....

Moses Harper, OAK TREE.....

(the license in each of these cases being for six days, and the dancing to cease at ten o'clock at night)."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/6/1892 - Advert

"Darlaston. Monday Next, June 27.

Belcher & Son will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, upon the above date, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely, among other Properties –

All that Old-established and Full-Licensed, and Free Inn known as the OAK TREE INN, situate in Foster Street, Darlaston, now in the occupation of Mr. *Moses Harper*, as an annual tenant, at a rent of £35.

The Inn, which is old established and well known, is situate in a populous neighbourhood, in close proximity to several large works, and in fair condition of repair.

Full particulars of the Properties may be had from the Auctioneers, Darlaston, and Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, or Messrs. Fowler & Langley, Solicitors, Wolverhampton."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

"The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall.....

Moses Harper, the OAK TREE, Foster Street."

Wednesbury Herald 23/11/1895

"Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society. At the last monthly meeting of this society held at Mr. *George Taylor*'s, OAK TREE INN, Mr. F. Wood in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

That this society does not approve of pipe shows and other exhibitions on licensed premises on Sundays, and strongly appeals to the members of the trade to discontinue this practice."

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

"Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted of drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

OAK TREE, Foster Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5."

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....

There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act....."

[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Walsall Advertiser 27/6/1908

“*John Wardle*, licensee of the OAK TREE INN, Foster Street, was summoned for selling whisky which was diluted 6.6 per cent beyond the statutory limit. Mr. Sargeant (Wednesbury) appeared for the defence, and pleaded guilty. He said that his client informed him that the spirit was sold as it had been received. It was the last of a lot, and had no doubt depreciated in value through being kept. Fined 40s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/1/1961

“Mr. *John Wardle*, licensee of the VICTORIA INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, has died, aged 83. He was the oldest publican in the district, having kept the OAKTREE INN for five years before becoming licensee of the VICTORIA INN 56 years ago. Before the present house was rebuilt 23 years ago, Mr. *Wardle* carried on a business in the yard as an engineer’s blacksmith and was one of the few surviving Oliver bolt-making craftsmen. He was a Boer War veteran. He leaves a widow, a son and four daughters.”

Walsall Advertiser 9/1/1909

“There was evidence of lively proceedings at a supper held at the OAK TREE INN, Foster Street, Darlaston, on the 28th December, through a case of assault heard at the Police Court on Wednesday morning, the magistrates present being Messrs. A. H. Partridge, J. Yardley, and J. T. Rubery. The complainant was Eli Downes, of 1 Court, 2 House, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, the defendant Thomas Carter, a nut cutter, of Aldridge Street, Darlaston.

It appears that complainant was at the supper when a row occurred at the other end of the room. Complainant got up and defendant immediately gave him a blow in the mouth, knocking out a tooth, and loosening six other teeth.

Carter said Downes was going to hit his (defendant’s) brother, and he (defendant) pushed complainant back into his seat. The man fell and caught his mouth on the bench.

The magistrates considered the charge of assault proved, and ordered Carter to pay a fine of 5s and 12s 6d costs, or go to gaol for seven days.”

1911 Census

Foster Street – OAK TREE INN

[1] *John Henry Ward* (30), steel tube welder and beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] Elizabeth Ward (31), wife, married 9 years, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;

[3] John Ward (7), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[4] Earnest Ward (5), son, school, born Wednesbury:

South Staffordshire Times 17/9/1921

“Wednesbury Police Court. A case was clearly brought home to a defendant by the careful watching of two Darlaston police officers in which George James, of Willenhall Road, Darlaston, was charged with loitering with intent for purposes of receiving bets.

PC Thorpe stated that at 1.10pm on September 7th, in company with PC Lawrence, they watched, in hiding, the defendant for some ten minutes, and saw defendant standing in an opening in Foster Street. Two men went up to defendant and handed him betting slips. The officers came out, and PC Thorpe went to defendant, but he ran away and entered the OAK TREE INN. The police followed, but defendant slipped out at the back door, and they gave chase. Having come up with the defendant, Thorpe said he must detain him in custody for receiving bets. He replied, ‘You’ve caught me, but don’t lock me up.’ He was taken to Darlaston station and searched. Three betting slips were found on him, three paying-out slips, 24 football coupons, a book, and 9½d in money. He was cautioned and charged with receiving bets, and replied ‘That is correct; the bookmaker will pay.’

By Supt. Salt: From inquiries made, the defendant, when he passed through the OAK TREE INN, handed a man there a bag, which may have contained money, and that man lived at Walsall.

PC Lawrence gave corroborative evidence as he was with Thorpe at the time. The slips were found on defendant.

Defendant denied it, and said he was at work, only having time for his dinner, but, later on, admitted he had done a little in the betting way when he was out of work, but not since he got a job.

The Chairman: You had those slips on you at the time and the case is proved. As it is your first offence the fine will be £5, but it might have been much more. The articles found on defendant were destroyed.”

Jesse Edwards died in 1927.

[The change of licensee did not happen until the Licensing Meeting in January 1928.]

Arthur Foster – see also BIRD IN HAND.

1939 Register

7, Foster Street – OAK TREE INN

[1] *Charles Caswell*, date of birth 6/12/1889, steel strip shearer, married;

[2] *Daisy Caswell*, dob 24/7/1890, manageress public house, married;

[3] Charles B. Caswell, dob 5/8/1921, motor van driver, shop furnishing, single:

Rugeley Times 10/2/1940

“Darlaston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent J. H. Hall, in his report to the justices, said that the number of licensed houses in the town was 74; the same as last year, except that the license of the WHY NOT INN, The Green, had been altered from a beerhouse ‘on’ to a beer and wines ‘on.’ At the census of 1931, the population of the parish was 19,736, according to which there was one licensed house to every 267 inhabitants.....

He announced that all the licenses would be renewed, except those affected by transfers, the SWAN INN, Moxley; and the OAK TREE, Foster Street.”

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division A, in 1948.

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1954/5 and 1959/60.

It closed on 17th July 1960.

ODDFELLOWS ARMS

Cock Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

C Lewis [1861]

George Badley [1861]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/1/1861

“S. Hollies of Cann Lane, Bilston, will run Levi Homer of Birmingham two or three times round Aston

Cross Grounds, for £10 or £15 a side; or will run Williams of Dudley Port on the same terms; or he will run Rigby of Wolverhampton or Keates of Bloxwich their own distances; or he will run Mole of Walsall and give him three yards in 300, or run him 400 yards level, for the same sums; or he will run Jones (alias Brushey) of Birmingham 300 yards, or Malins 120 or 140 yards level, for the like amount. Either of the above matches can be made any night next week at *C. Lewis's*, ODD FELLOWS ARMS, Cock Street, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/1/1861

“W. Williams of Dudley Port and S. Hollies of Cann Lane, Bilston, are matched to run 440yards at Shelford Common, near Walsall, on Monday Feb 11, for £15 a side. £1 a side is down, and a further deposit must be made at Mr. *C. Lewis's*, ODD FELLOWS ARMS, Darlaston, of £3 10s a side, on Tuesday next. Mr. John Tailby of Birmingham to be final stakeholder.”

1861 Census

Cock Street – ODD FELLOWS ARMS

[1] *George Badley* (45), publican and retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Badley (44), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah Badley (15), daughter, servant, born Darlaston;

[4] Mary Badley (13), daughter, servant, born Darlaston;

[5] John Badley (9), son, bolt turner, born Darlaston:

ODDFELLOWS ARMS

Walsall Road, James Bridge, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Griffiths [1864]

Mrs. Elizabeth Griffiths [1868] – [1880]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/12/1864

“On Friday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an enquiry at the ODD FELLOWS ARMS beerhouse, James Bridge, touching the death of *George Griffiths*, aged 54, the landlord of the house in which the inquest was held. The evidence was to the effect that, on Wednesday morning, the deceased got up early, leaving his wife in bed, and, as was his custom, went out for a walk. He went to the house of Edward White, a neighbour, and, after he had been there a short time, Mrs. White left him alone in the house, sitting by the fireside, apparently in his usual health, while she went into the yard. She had been away but a very brief period, when she heard someone fall, and, on re-entering the premises, she found Mr. *Griffiths* a corpse on the floor. Mr. Partridge, surgeon, was called in, but his services were, of course, of no avail. The deceased, for some prior time to his death, had complained of pain in his chest and about the region of the heart. The Jury returned an Open Verdict.”

Elizabeth Griffiths = Elizabeth Griffith

Mrs. *Elizabeth Griffiths*, beer retailer, Walsall Road. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 26/1/1870

“Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary) *Elizabeth Griffiths*, beer-house keeper, James Bridge, was fined 20s and costs for having had her house open during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 16th inst; and James Barber, beerhouse keeper, Station Street, James Bridge, was fined 1s and costs, making 10s 6d altogether, for having had his house open at twenty-eight minutes past eleven o’clock on the night of Thursday last. The defendants had not brought their licenses with them, and they were ordered to produce them before the Stipendiary at his next sitting in this Court, under a penalty of £5 in each case.”

1871 Census

James Bridge – ODD FELLOWS ARMS

[1] *Elizabeth Griffiths* (59), widow, publican, born Darlaston;

[2] George Griffiths (22), son, brewer, born Darlaston;

[3] Tamar Leek (17), domestic servant, born Bloxwich;

[4] Elizabeth Taylor (15), niece, domestic servant, born Rushall:

Mrs. *Elizabeth Griffiths*, beer retailer, James Bridge. [1872], [1880]

Birmingham Daily Post 10/1/1877 - Advert

“Bicycles. 55 Racer, 53 Roadster.

Apply, George Griffiths, ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Walsall Street, Darlaston.”

Check STAR MUSIC HALL.

OLD BRITANNIA

31, High Street, Moxley, (Sandholes), DARLASTON

OWNERS

David Skidmore

Walter Showell and Co. Ltd. [1893], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921]

LICENSEES

Samuel Johnson [1828] – [1845]

Stirk [1846]

Richard Talbot [1854] – [1861]

Mary Talbot [] – **1863**);

John Mansell (**1863**);

Henry Perry (**1863 – 1868**);

John Skidmore (**1868 – 1869**);

John Boroughs Powell (**1869 – [1872]**)

Joseph Richards [1873]

Daniel Darby [1876] – [1891]

Miss Anne Darby [1896]
Thomas H Rhodes [1901]
Ernest Arthur Partridge [1911]
Joseph Onions [1913]
John 'Jack' Jones [1910s]
Phoebe Middleton [] – 1918);
William Middleton (1918 – 1922);
William Abel (1922 – 1923);
William Hobbis (1923 – 1924);
Richard Henry Greaves (1924 – 1925);
Alfred Charles Mason (1925 – 1928):

NOTES

Sandholes [1828], [1830]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/4/1825 - Advert

“Building Land, at Moxley, near Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Underhill, on Monday the 2nd day of May, 1825, at the BRITANNIA INN, at Moxley, near Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, at five o'clock in the afternoon.....”

1841 Census

Moxley

- [1] *Samuel Johnson* (60), victualler;
- [2] Sarah Johnson (50), born Staffordshire;
- [3] John B. Johnson (15), roll turner, born Staffordshire;
- [4] Phoebe Johnson (10), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Caroline Dee (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [6] Alice Wilkins (10), f.s.;
- [7] James Leake (30), pump maker;
- [8] Caroline Leake (20):

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/3/1845 - Advert

“Freehold Houses, Land, and Mines, at Moxley, Kingshill Field, Portway Road, in the parish of Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

By the direction of the representatives of mortgagee, with power of sale, on Friday, the 14th day of March, 1845, at the house of Mr. *Samuel Johnson*, the BRITANNIA INN, at Moxley, near Bilston, in the county of Stafford, at five o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/5/1845 - Advert

“At Moxley, near Bilston. An Excellent Road-Side Old Established Public House.

To be Let, at a low rent, of which a lease will be granted if required, and may be entered upon either immediately or at the convenience of the tenant, that old established Public House, known as the BRITANNIA, situate on the great Holyhead road, Moxley, aforesaid, at the junction of the roads leading to and from Bilston, Bradley, Wednesbury, and Darlaston, having one liquor and three capital ale cellars, an excellent tap room, bar, club room, parlour, and kitchen, on the ground floor; a large lodge room, and four convenient bed rooms, on the chamber story; an enclosed yard, with large soft water cistern, brewhouse, malt room, stable, piggery, and other outbuildings, and also a large garden.

The stock, which has been reduced, the barrels, brewing utensils, and public house fixtures, to be taken at a fair valuation; the proprietor, who has been carrying on the business, being advanced in years, is desirous of retiring into private life, will remove any part or the whole of the household furniture.

To treat apply to the proprietor, on the premises, who will show the same, or to Richard Corbett, auctioneer,

New Town, Bilston.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/7/1846- Advert

“Capital Freehold and Old-Licensed Public House and Premises, Excellent Retail Shop, Respectable Dwelling Houses and Gardens, on the Great Holyhead Road, at Moxley, near Bilston and Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker, Page, and Loveridge, on Thursday next, July 23, at six o'clock in the evening, at the BRITANNIA INN, at Moxley, subject to such conditions as will be then produced, and in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.

Lot I. All that excellent Freehold old-established and well-frequented Public House, called the BRITANNIA INN, now occupied by Mr. *Stirk*, situated at Moxley aforesaid, at the junction of the roads leading from Bilston to Wednesbury, Birmingham, Darlaston, &c, with the Garden and Premises thereto attached, and containing, including the site of the buildings, — square yards.

The House contains two parlours, bar and bar-parlour, tap-room, club-room, back kitchen, pantry, three excellent cellars, four sleeping-rooms, &c, there is also a large Brewhouse, with malt-room over, soft-water Cistern, Yard, capital Garden, and all necessary conveniences; also the comfortable Messuage or Dwelling Houses adjoining, and fronting to the said Holyhead-road, with a small Dwelling House, Brewhouse, and Piggery at the back thereof, the whole of which are in excellent repair, and to any person embarking in the public business present an opportunity seldom to be obtained.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/11/1850

“An inquest was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, on the 16th ult, on the body of Joseph Tranter, 13 years of age, who had been burnt by an explosion of sulphur in one of Mr. Bailey's pits at Willingworth. An inquest was also held on the 23rd ult, on the body of a boy named William Ward, who was burnt at the same time. The inquest was adjourned for the pit to be inspected.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/10/1860

“An inquest was held on Monday last before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, on the body of Daniel Holmes, aged one year and seven months. Deceased was left by its mother in a room alone on Saturday, the 29th of September, and through some unaccountable means the child's clothes caught fire. On his mother's return, after an absence of five minutes, she found the deceased under the table in flames. By the assistance of a neighbour the flames were extinguished, but the child sank under his sufferings, and died on Saturday last. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The coroner called the mother of the deceased into the room and severely reprimanded her for leaving a child of such tender years in a room with a fire in it and with no one to watch it.”

1861 Census

Moxley – BRITANNIA INN

- [1] *Richard Talbot* (56), bricklayer and licensed victualler, born Brewood;
- [2] *Mary Talbot* (55), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Thomas Talbot* (19), son, labourer, born Bradley;
- [4] *Henrietta Talbot* (14), daughter, born Bradley;
- [5] *Henrietta M. Southall* (4), grand-daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Frances E. Southall* (5), grand-daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Ann Gregory* (19), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Richard Talbot died in the 3rd quarter of 1862.

London Gazette 4/12/1863

“*Mary Talbot*, late of Moxley, in the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, but now in lodgings at the Butts End, Walsall, in the said county of Stafford, Widow, out of business, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, is hereby required to surrender herself to the Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 16th day of December instant, at twelve

o'clock, at noon precisely, at the Court-house, Lichfield-street, Walsall. Mr. F. F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Edward M. Warmington, of Dudley, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/1/1864

"Walsall County Court.....

In re *Mary Talbot*, licensed victualler, late of Moxley, and now of the Butts, Walsall.

The bankrupt came up for final examination, supported by Mr. Warmington, and was opposed on the part of a creditor named Bishop by Mr. Brevitt, of Darlaston. On the application of Mr. Brevitt the final hearing was adjourned for amendment of accounts to the 11th of February next."

Birmingham Journal 23/5/1863 - Advert

"The OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley.

To be Sold by Messrs. Hipkins & Thomas, by Private Contract, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above well-known Inn, and surrounded by the Ironworks and Collieries of Wells, Rose, Skidmore, and others. This is an opportunity rarely to be met with, and would doubtless prove a very successful undertaking to an enterprising Man.

For particulars apply to Messrs. Hipkins and Thomas, Burnt Tree and Horseley Heath, Tipton; or upon the premises as above stated."

Birmingham Journal 6/6/1863 - Advert

"Important Unreserved Sale at the OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Hipkins and Thomas, on Tuesday Next, the 9th instant (unless previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which due notice would be given).

The whole of the superior Brewing Plant, Fixtures, and Household Furniture upon the above-named Premises, belonging to Mr. *John Mansell*, who is declining the public business, comprising sixteen strong and well-seasoned Ale Casks, two wrought-iron Boilers and Underwork, Lead Pump, Vats, with lead piping and brass tap into cellar; Five-pull Beer Machine, Gas Fittings, Drinking Tables, Benches, Screens, and Seating round Rooms; Windsor, Cane, and Horse-hair-seated Chairs; mahogany Tables, Sofas, Chimney and Toilet Glasses, Prints, Eight-day Clock, superior Eight-day Clock, in mahogany case; Beaureau, superior Feather Beds, Bed Linen, Horse-hair and Straw Mattresses, iron and mahogany Four-post Bedsteads, mahogany Chest of Drawers, Wash Stands, Dressing Tables, Copper Kitchen, Knives and Forks, China, Glass, and other Kitchen requisites.

The Sale to commence at Ten o'clock.

Descriptive catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale; or at the Auctioneers.

Auctioneers Offices, Burnt Tree and Horseley Heath, Tipton.

Money Advanced on Goods for positive Sale."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/8/1863

"Yesterday morning an inquest was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, by Mr. Hooper, Coroner, upon the body of John Albert Vann, aged six years. Mr. A. W. Latham, surgeon, of Darlaston, was present at the enquiry, and Mr. Shipman, of Bilston, attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of Mr. Woolley, druggist. The first witness called was Ann Vann, mother of the deceased, the wife of James Vann, a roller in the employ of Messrs. Rose and Skidmore, living at Moxley. She said the deceased came into the house last Tuesday evening, about eight o'clock, and complained of stomach-ache. She sent her daughter to Mr. Woolley's, the chemist, for a pennyworth of tincture of rhubarb, and gave her a clean tea-cup for that purpose. The child returned with it in a few minutes, and witness told deceased to drink it. The boy tasted it and said it was very bitter, and then witness gave him some sugar which he put into the cup, and drank the whole off with the exception of a few spots. There was about a teaspoon in the cup at first. After he had drunk it, witness put him to bed, and saw nothing more of him until about half-past ten o'clock, when she heard a low moaning noise upstairs. She ran up, and found him lying in bed on his side, quite stiff, and his eyes set. He was alive, but insensible, and remained so for about a quarter of an hour, when he opened his eyes, and said, 'Oh, I'm so giddy, I can't see you at all; it's the stuff the man sent me made me so,' and then added, 'Oh, mamma, I shall die, and if I do, you hang that man.' He repeated this. Witness got him out of bed and

carried him down stairs and sent for Mr. Woolley, who soon arrived, and administered something to him. He then asked what they had given the boy, and witness's sister showed him the tea-cup, saying, 'It was laudanum.' Mr. Woolley replied, 'Well, I must acknowledge there is a little in.' He added, 'There is no danger, the lad will be all right in an hour.' He then left, and witness sent for Mr. Larkin, surgeon, of Bilston, in about two hours after, as the deceased appeared much worse. Mr. Larkin and Mr. Woolley came together, and saw the deceased. They shewed Mr. Larkin the tea-cup, and after tasting its contents, he passed it to Mr. Woolley, who also tasted it, but neither spoke. Mr. Larkin applied a stomach pump to the deceased, who expired during the operation at 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning. (Police-constable Fairbanks produced the cup in question, which he obtained from Mr. Vann's house directly after the boy's death, and witness identified it.)

Mary Amelia Vann, sister of the deceased, aged nine years, a sharp, intelligent girl, was next called, and proved that she fetched some medicine from Mr. Woolley's shop, on the Tuesday previous, for her little brother. She asked for a pennyworth of tincture of rhubarb, and having received the liquid from Mr. Woolley, took it home. The next day she went to the chemist's, accompanied by her aunt and the policeman, and she pointed out the bottle from which the medicine was poured. (This bottle was produced. It was labelled, in Latin, Tinct. opii., and on the other side, in English, Laudanum, or tincture of opium.) Mr. Woolley was in the shop, and when she pointed out the bottle he denied it, and reached down another, which he said was the one, but she affirmed that the former was the bottle from which the medicine was taken. The Coroner questioned her closely, but she positively affirmed that was the bottle.

The Coroner then inquired for Mr. Woolley, but police-constable Marlow replied that he was nowhere to be found. He warned him to be present at the inquest the night before.

The Coroner said it was very strange he was not present, but he must issue a summons for his appearance at the adjourned inquest. It would be necessary for Mr. Latham to analyse the contents of the deceased's stomach, and for that purpose he adjourned the enquiry until next Tuesday, at eleven o'clock."

AND

Chichester Express 8/8/1863

"A chemist at Moxley, near Wolverhampton, named Woolley, about 25 years old, has been seriously censured by the coroner for giving a child of six years old laudanum instead of tincture of rhubarb. The child's vomit not having been preserved, a verdict of manslaughter, he said, would be useless."

Birmingham Journal 9/11/1867 - Notice

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

Henry Perry, of the OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, in the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Iron Roller, having been adjudged Bankrupt, on the 21st day of October, 1867, a Public Sitting, for the said bankrupt to Pass his Last Examination and make Application for his Discharge, will be held at the said Court, on the 5th day of December, 1867, at the Court House, Goodall Street, Walsall, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said Bankrupt to surrender. Frederick F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee; and Mr. R. H. Bartlett, of Wolverhampton, in the Solicitor in the Bankruptcy.

R. H. Bartlett, Esq, Solicitor, Wolverhampton.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1867

"At the County Court, at Walsall, yesterday, *Henry Perry*, licensed victualler and iron roller, Moxley, appeared before Mr. A. M. Skinner, Judge, for his last examination, supported by Mr. London. Mr. Ebsworth attended for the assignee. It will be remembered that the bankrupt's examination was adjourned from last Thursday, for the purpose of enquiring as to the ownership of certain goods, which were removed from the bankrupt's premises a few days before he filed his petition. Mrs. Cooksey, the person to whom at that examination it was alleged the goods belonged, now attended, and swore that such was the case. The bankrupt passed, subject to his accounts being amended."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/3/1868 - Notice

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of *Henry Perry*, of the OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, in the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Retail Brewer, Dealer in Tobacco, and Iron Roller, adjudged Bankrupt on the 21st day of October, 1867. A Meeting of the Creditors of this Bankrupt will be held before the Registrar, at the County Court Office, Walsall, on the 16th day of April, 1868, at Twelve o'clock at noon, for the purpose of declaring a dividend, and also whether any allowance shall be made to the Bankrupt. Proofs of Debts will be received, and Creditors who have not proved, and do not then prove, will be excluded the benefit of the Dividend.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/12/1869

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, *J. B. Powell*, licensed victualler, of the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, was fined 2s 6d and costs for allowing playing for money at bagatelle, on the 1st inst. A witness named Thomas Nash, nut and bolt maker, and Sergeant Price proved the case.

The magistrates said that licensed victuallers were allowed the privilege of permitting the company in their house to use a bagatelle board, but they must not play for ale, cheques, or anything in fact. No beerhouse keeper was allowed to keep one.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/10/1870

“At the Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, before Mr. Skinner QC, judge, a case in which *John Burroughs Powell*, victualler, of Moxley, sued, Joseph Thompson, pig dealer, of Bridge Street, Bilston, for £3 10s, being the sum he claimed for the loss of a cow. Mr. Ebsworth, of Wednesbury, appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Fellows, of Bilston, for the defence.

Mr. Ebsworth said his client had a cow on the 4th of July, and it was taken away from him by defendant, put into the pound, and kept a fortnight. The cow was afterwards sold, and the plaintiff claimed the amount stated above.

Sarah Harper, wife of the pinner at Moxley, proved on the 4th of July the cow was brought to the pinfold by a boy in the employ of the defendant. She went to see Thompson with reference to the animal, and he said he should not charge any damage at all.

Harper, the pinner, was called, and said the cow was sold to a butcher to defray the expenses, which were £2 5s.

The Judge said it had been stated that the plaintiff had alleged the defendant once impounded his horse, and he said he would impound his cow in revenge.

Mr. Attwood, veterinary surgeon, Bilston, said he valued the cow at £12. He judged from the defendant's behaviour to him that he had impounded the cow.

Mr. Fellows, for the defence, said the defendant, and a man named Bruerton, owned some land adjoining that which belonged to the plaintiff, and for the last three years they had agreed that cattle belonging to each of them should run upon the land, and that a boy should impound any animals which trespassed. The plaintiff's cow came on to Bruerton's land, and they seized it and took it to the pound. It was not seized on Thompson's land, and he had had nothing to do with it. After the cow was taken to the pound his client gave notice of replevin, and summoned Thompson to that Court, but as he failed to produce any sureties, the animal was sold.

His Honour said it appeared that the defendant and a man named Bruerton were tenants of different landlords, and by an arrangement between themselves they were joint occupiers of a certain plot of land. If the cow had not been on trespass the claim of the plaintiff might have been substantiated, but he was of opinion that the boy simply did his duty in taking it to the pound. There would be judgement for the defendant, without costs.”

1871 Census

Moxley

[1] *John Boroughs Powell* (39), licensed victualler, born Saul, Gloucestershire;

[2] Ann Powell (33), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Amelia Powell (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] Peter Powell (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

- [5] John Sherwin (14), step-son, born Wheaton Aston;
- [6] Mary Ann Greensmith (11), step-daughter, scholar, born Wheaton Aston;
- [7] Florence Emily Greensmith (9), step-daughter, scholar, born Wheaton Aston;
- [8] Fanny Elizabeth Greensmith (5), step-daughter, scholar, born Wheaton Aston;
- [9] Ada Greensmith (12 months), step-daughter, born Wheaton Aston;
- [10] Eliza Wheat (16), visitor, born Wheaton Aston;
- [11] James Wait (29), lodger, excavator, born South Newington, Oxfordshire;
- [12] Samuel Wait (22), lodger, excavator, born South Newington, Oxfordshire;
- [13] John Kemp (20), lodger, excavator, born Stratford on Avon;
- [14] John Willett (22), lodger, excavator, born Milton, Oxfordshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/5/1874 - Advert

“Wagonette (good) for £17. Carries eight. Pole, bar, shafts, and brake.
OLD BRITANNIA, Moxley.”

County Express 22/7/1876 - Advert

“Walter Showell, Crosswells Brewery, Oldbury, Wholesale Wine & Spirit Merchant.....
A stock of the above Wines and Spirits is kept by the following Agents.....
Mr. *Daniel Darby*, OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley.”

Midland Advertiser 9/2/1878 - Advert

“Walter Showell, Crosswells Brewery, Oldbury, has the pleasure to inform his friends and customers at Oldbury and District, that he has given up the Agency of Messrs. W. A. Gilbey. He has been induced to do so in consequence in the rapid increase of business, which has far outgrown the limits to which agencies of this kind usually attach, and which has consequently rendered it necessary for him to purchase in the open market, in order to meet the requirements of his customers. In doing so he has confined his purchases to importers of the first-class only, and being in a position to obtain the most favourable terms, and finds himself able to offer an article very far superior to that he has been hitherto able to do in his capacity as Agent. In order to give every facility for the prompt execution of orders, he has arranged for a stock of each quality of Wines and Spirits to be kept at the ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, Wednesbury, where Mr. William Hupton will be happy to supply any orders that may be entrusted to him.
Wholesale and Family Orders forwarded to the Crosswells Brewery will receive prompt attention.
Agents Mr. *Daniel Darby*, OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1879

“An adjourned meeting of the Wednesbury Trades Council was held yesterday evening, at the BRITANNIA INN, Darlaston; Mr. Juggins presiding. Mr. Gill was received as the representative of the Birmingham Trades Council, in the place of Mr. Williams, resigned. A letter from Mr. A. Brogden, MP for the borough, was read, acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the resolution passed at the last meeting, praying Parliament to prohibit the employment of unqualified men as engine-tenters. He wrote, ‘When Mr. Macdonald’s motion comes before the House I will endeavour to get some amendments, either through myself or some other person, which, if they do not go to the extent of the resolution of the Council, will, at least, require that persons in charge of boilers should either be certified or should be persons under control.’ The consideration of the scheme for the federation of Trades Councils in the Midland Counties, proposed by the Birmingham Trades Council, was further adjourned.”

Wednesbury Herald 10/7/1880

“Yesterday morning, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the BRITANNIA INN, High Street, Moxley, relative to the death of John Thomas Lounds (15), who was killed on Wednesday, at the iron-works of Messrs. Molineaux, Ball’s Bridge.
The evidence showed that about half past nine o’clock on Wednesday morning, the deceased had occasion to go near to the rolls, and by some means his clothes became entangled in the spindle, and the deceased was dragged into the machinery and killed before the engine could be stopped. Before the body could be

extricated part of the clothes had to be removed from the body. The unfortunate boy's back, and right arm were broken, and his head was shockingly injured. No blame could be attached to any person, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1881 Census

31, High Street – OLD BRITANNIA

[1] *Daniel Darby* (37), licensed victualler, born Smethwick;

[2] Priscilla Darby (34), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] William Darby (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Ann Darby (8), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Daniel Darby (7), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] Mary Darby (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] Priscilla Darby (1), daughter, born Moxley;

[8] Sarah M. Darby (14), niece, barmaid, born Oldbury;

[9] Mary Partridge (10), nurse girl, born Deepfields:

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/12/1882

“At the Bilston Police Court, yesterday, four little girls, named Harriett Jones (15), Mary Ann Petley (14), Louisa Emberton (13), and Eliza Emberton (12), all of Bridge Street, were charged with stealing three dozen of scarves, value 10s, from the shop of John Nolan, general dealer, of Oxford Street, on the 15th ult. Prosecutor stated that the goods were safe in the shop at two o'clock on the day in question, but at six o'clock they were missing.

John Toole, bailiff, of Gozzard Street, said he bought eight of the scarves from Petley in the SADDLE public house for fivepence.

Daniel Darby, licensed victualler, of Moxley, said he bought two of the scarves from Petley for sixpence, thinking this a fair value for them. He had previously bought matches from the same child.

The landlord of the SADDLE spoke to the prisoners Jones and Petley offering the scarves for sale in his house.

William Matthews, manager of an Oxford Street public house, was called as a witness, but Chief Superintendent Longden stated that the witness had said he'd see the Court d— before he gave evidence. A summons, however, was issued to compel his attendance.

Detective Hayward said he arrested Petley and Jones. They denied the offence at first but afterwards said that Eliza Emberton stole them, and they shared the money. The prisoner Eliza Emberton told him it was the fault of a woman named Sarah Jones, or Folden, who beat her until she went into the shop and stole. He, unfortunately, could not connect the woman with this particular case, although there was no doubt that the woman was the instigation of the thefts.

The case was adjourned for seven days, to compel Matthews's attendance, and the children in the meantime to be sent to the workhouse. Louisa Emberton was discharged.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/12/1882

“Yesterday, at the Bilston Police Court – before E. Dixon, F. A. Homer, and H. B. Whitehouse, Esquires – three little girls, named Harriet Jones, 13 years of age, Elizabeth Emberton, aged 11 years, and Mary A. Pethley, aged 14 years, were charged with stealing three dozen scarves, from the shop of John Nowlan, Oxford Street, under circumstances reported in our last issue.

The witnesses called last week recapitulated their evidence, and in addition, William Matthews, publican, of Oxford Street (who appeared on a summons), said Pethley came into the MALT SHOVEL alone, and offered several scarves for sale, some of which he bought, but he declined to swear whether the scarves (produced) were those he bought. He was not certain of the price he bought the scarves at, nor did he refuse to give them up to Detective Hayward when requested. He knew the child as a general hawker, having bought other things from her at different times.

The mothers of the children appeared before the Bench, and gave several versions of the matter, concluding by an appeal for mercy.

Emberton was discharged, Pethley and Jones were each fined 5s and costs, or 21 days' hard labour.

Matthews and Tool, the witnesses, were called before the Bench.

Detective Hayward stated that Matthews objected to produce the scarves, and when told that he would have to appear as a witness, said he would see the Court d— first.

Matthews denied this, and said that the officer had a spite against him.

Witnesses were severely reprimanded, and their expenses disallowed, the Bench stating that both witnesses seemed to be encouraging rather than repressing theft.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1890 - Advert

“Freehold Residences, Old-Licensed House, Dwelling Houses, and Valuable Mineral Estate, at Moxley, in the parish of Wednesbury; and Beerhouse at Darlaston.

Mr. Thomas J. Barnett is instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. David Skidmore, to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, in Wednesbury, on Monday, March 31, 1890.....

At Moxley.....

Lot 2. The Old-established Fully-Licensed House, called the BRITANNIA INN, with extensive Out-offices, Yard, &c; and the Four adjoining Dwelling Houses and Appurtenances, the whole producing a gross rental of £63 7s per annum.

The Old-licensed House is Let on a Lease for fourteen years from March 25, 1886.”

1891 Census

31, High Street

[1] *Daniel Darby* (47), widower, licensed victualler, born Smethwick;

[2] *William Darby* (20), son, assistant, born Oldbury;

[3] *Ann Darby* (18), daughter, assistant, born Oldbury;

[4] *Daniel Darby* (16), son, butcher's apprentice, born Oldbury;

[5] *Mary Darby* (14), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Priscilla Darby* (11), daughter, scholar, born Moxley;

[7] *Mary Darby* (69), mother, widow, housekeeper, born Smethwick;

[8] *Elizabeth Jones* (22), domestic servant, born Moxley:

[Was *Anne Darby* the same person as *Ann Darby*, daughter of *Daniel* and *Priscilla*?]

Cheltenham Chronicle 2/1/1892

“Fog and Ice Fatalities. The thaw which set in on Christmas-day over the western and southern portions of the United Kingdom has become very general.....

An inquiry was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, on the body of *Richard Reynolds* (35), watchman, who had been found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, at Moxley. The deceased was employed at Messrs. Nock's Ironworks, at Moxley, and in going his rounds it was supposed that he walked into the canal during the dense fog on Wednesday night. An open verdict was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/7/1893

“Yesterday, Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, on the body of *Sarah Blackham*, aged six weeks, the child of *Joseph* and *Mary Blackham*, of 3, Old Moxley. The child had been found dead in bed on its mother's arm, and the jury found that death had resulted from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Tipton and Darlaston took place at Wednesbury, yesterday.....

Singing and music licenses were granted to Messrs. Showell and Sons, the OLD BRITANNIA, 31, High Street, Moxley, and to *Abraham Foster*, the BEEHIVE INN, 12, Walsall Street. An application for a like license was applied for by *Thomas Fox*, of the VINE INN, 11, Bell Street, Darlaston; but the notice was found to be insufficient.”

Wednesbury Herald 26/10/1895

“On Tuesday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, into the

circumstances connected with the death of a boy named Frederick Middleton, aged five years, son of Edmond John Middleton, widower of 1 Court 10 House, High Street, Moxley, who came to his death under painful circumstances on Friday last by drowning in a large water tub.

Mary Ann Middleton, grandmother, said the deceased boy and his father also lived with her (witness) at 10 House, 1 Court, High Street, Moxley. Witness said that at 5.20 on Friday afternoon the boy came home from school and asked her for a 'piece' after which he went out with it in his hand.

Frederick Middleton, grandfather of the child, stated that in a few minutes after the child had gone out of the house witness went out, and when he got to the back of the house he saw the deceased with his head downwards in a large water tub, and was quite dead. As soon as he found him the witness shouted, 'Murder,' and some of the neighbours came.

In answer to the Coroner, witness said he was very pleased to state that Police-constable Needham, stationed at Moxley, on his arrival at the spot rendered every means to restore animation.

The Coroner said that much credit was due to the police.

The jury expressed their opinion that the boy came by his death through a pure accident, and a verdict of Accidental Death by Drowning was returned."

Walsall Observer 1/9/1900

"The annual licensing sessions for Darlaston Tipton &c, were held at Wednesbury Police Court on Wednesday.....

The licenses of the WAGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston, and the OLD BRITANNIA, Moxley, were held over to the adjourned licensing sessions because there had been a change of ownership without a transfer."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1900

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Darlaston and Tipton were held yesterday at Wednesbury. Mr. Alfred Elwell, who presided, announced that in future Licensing Sessions would be held at Tipton and Darlaston. The magistrates dealt with the 'black list' and renewed the whole of the licenses with the exception of that of the CASTLE MILL beerhouse, Bell Street, Tipton, which was refused on a personal objection to the landlord, and also because the premises were in a dilapidated condition."

1901 Census

31, High Street – BRITANNIA

[1] *Thomas H. Rhodes* (32), manager of public house, born Cullingworth, Yorkshire;

[2] *Edith J. Rhodes* (26), wife, born Walsall;

[3] *Frederick J. Rhodes* (10 months), son, born Moxley;

[4] *Annie M. Colley* (31), barmaid, born Walsall:

Birmingham Mail 11/1/1904

"At Darlaston today, Harry Meade (27), ship's steward, was committed for trial charged with attempting suicide in the OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, by taking laudanum. Prisoner took poison enough to kill four people, but the police administered an emetic, and by walking him about in the open air averted fatal results. Prisoner was violent at first, and produced what he called his will, a paper in which he explained that he was hard up."

[Harry Meade appeared at Stafford on 3rd March 1904, charged with 'unlawfully attempting to kill and murder himself.' He pleaded guilty and was bound over under the Probation of First Offenders Act in his own recognisance of £5.]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun League. [1909]

1911 Census

Moxley – OLD BRITANNIA

[1] *Ernest Arthur Partridge* (31), licensed victualler, born Smethwick;

[2] *Beatrice Maude Partridge* (28), wife, married 6 years, assisting in business, born Bloxwich;

[3] Joseph Ernest Partridge (5), son, school, born Walsall;

[4] Ellen Page (20), bar general, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Mail 26/8/1913

“Samuel Finch (23) and Joseph Finch (20), brothers, of Church Street, Moxley, were summoned at Wednesday today, the former for refusing to quit the OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, and the latter for assaulting the licensee, *Joseph Onions*, and also a woman named Elizabeth Butler, who was passing the public house when the trouble arose.

It was stated that defendants visited the public house in company, and that Samuel became abusive. Joseph assisted the landlord to eject him, but in the doorway turned on *Onions* and struck him in the face. In the street he struck the woman Butler with a jug.

Samuel Finch now stated that they were all drunk, as there had been a free supper at the public house, but the landlord denied this allegation.

Samuel was fined 10s and costs or fourteen days' imprisonment, and Joseph 30s and costs or six weeks' imprisonment.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority in March 1927.

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/5/1927

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford.

Notice is hereby given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, the 19th day of July, 1927, at 11 o'clock am.

And Notice is hereby also given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District). List of Licensed Premises.....

OLD BRITANNIA, Moxley, Darlaston. Alehouse. Licensee, *Alfred Charles Mason*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/7/1927

“.....at the principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Compensation Authority held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday.....

Opposing the closing of the OLD BRITANNIA, Moxley, Darlaston, Mr. Tucker called witnesses to state that the house was used a great deal for the holding of meetings and social functions.

Mr. C. B. Godfrey (barrister) for the justices said within a radius of 500 yards there were five alehouses, five beerhouses, and an off beer licence. In the opinion of the justices the house was redundant. The application for renewal was refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1928

“.....at the Meeting of the Compensation Authority held on July 19, the Committee refused to renew 13 out of 16 licences referred to them. At the Supplemental Meeting the Committee fixed the compensation of the undermentioned 12 cases as follows.....

The question of the amount of compensation in the case of the OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley (alehouse) was referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, the Committee being unable to approve the amount submitted.”

It closed on 29th September 1928.

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1929

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Licensing Compensation Awards.....

In the case of the OLD BRITANNIA INN, Moxley, alehouse, referred in 1927, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue awarded £1,750.

The amounts awarded had been apportioned between the interested parties and paid.”

It became a fish and chip shop.

Demolished

OLD BUSH

15, (16), Bush Street / Owen Street, The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921], [1926]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Elizabeth Foster [1818]

John Davis Aldridge [1828] – [1835]

Mrs. Elizabeth Aldridge [1841] – **1851**)

Mary Ann Aldridge **(1851);**

Mrs. Ann Bayley **(1851 – 1857);**

Charles Wilkes **(1857 – []**

George Wilkes [1860] – [1861]

Charles Wilkes [1861] – [1878]

Henry Ashley [1880] – [1881]

Frederick Whittall [1887]

Henry Kirkham [1887]

John Wilkes [1889]

William Seaman [1891] – [1896]

William John Abbott [1901]

James Hinton [1904]

William Allen [1908]

Archibald Paul Penrice [1911] – [1912]

James Fellowes [1916] – **1923);**

Henry 'Harry' Keay **(1923 – 1927);**

Roland Jenkins **(1927 – 1948);**

George Peach **(1948 – 1950);**

Elizabeth Mary Leach **(1950 – 1952);**

Edward Victor Skidmore **(1952 – 1958);**

Walter Thomas Wright **(1958 – [1967]**

D S Howell [1976]

NOTES

15, Bush Street [1881], [1937]

16, Bush Street [1891]

BUSH [1851]

OLD BUSH Commercial Inn [1870]

OLD BUSH [1830], [1912], [1940]

John Davis Aldridge = John Devis Aldridge = John David Aldridge = John D. Alldridge

Black Country Bugle 11/8/2021

Article by Steve James

“In Bush Street, Darlaston, *John and Elizabeth Aldridge* kept the OLD BUSH INN. They not only brewed their own beer, but also made money by buying up adjoining pieces of land and selling building plots (hence Aldridge Street).”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/7/1830

“To the Freeholders of the Parish of Darlaston and the Neighbourhood.

The situation of one of the Coroners for the county of Stafford, having become vacant by the death of Mr. Dent, we, the undersigned principal Inhabitants, request your vote and interest on behalf of Mr. Gaunt.....

John Devis Aldridge.”

[Mr. Gaunt was not elected.]

John Davis Aldridge died on 19th January 1835.

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/8/1836

“Jethro Dooly, of Darlaston, charged Joseph Foster, and another man called Gipsy Tom, with an aggravated assault, at the BUSH public house, on Darlaston Green, between ten and eleven o’clock on Monday evening. Complainant’s brother was quarrelling with one of the Fosters, but himself was ‘as harmless as a dove.’ William Foster, who is a cripple, struck him with his stick, and Joseph Foster and Gipsy Tom followed him out, and broke his arm. Dooly’s father said he was sent for on the night in question, and found his eldest son on the ground apparently dead, and Jethro’s arm broken. Richard Benton and his wife, who were in the house at the time, proved an assault. The magistrates characterised it as a most brutal assault, and advised Dooly to indict the parties at the sessions. They retired, however, to endeavour to compromise the matter.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/1/1838

“John Nicholls charged Joseph Smith, George Smith, Peter Foster, and Joel Foster, with having violently assaulted him, in consequence of which he had lost four of his teeth, and had his jaw fractured. This was another Darlaston case, and occurred at the BUSH INN. The complainant stated that he was at the house in question on the occasion of a club meeting, when Joseph Smith came to him, challenged him to fight, but he declined, observing that he would rather treat Smith than fight him, and he paid for three pints of ale by way of treat, of which Smith partook. On going home he was purposely met by the defendants, and treated in the manner of which he complained. A witness named William Bird corroborated this statement respecting the proceedings in the public house, adding that the complainant was twice challenged by Smith, who afterwards partook of the ale, observing that he loved a drop of cheap ale.

The defence was that the complainant was the aggressor, and that he commenced the affray by fighting in the public house, but this the complainant most distinctly and solemnly denied, declaring ‘that he never hove a hand against any man.’

The defendants were consequently adjudged to pay a penalty of 20s each, and costs.”

1841 Census

Green

[1] *Elizabeth Aldridge* (60), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Aldridge* (20), born Staffordshire;

[3] Jane Dunn (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Elizabeth Aldridge was also a maltster. [1845], [1849]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/8/1846

“On Friday afternoon, an inquest was held at the OLD BUSH INN, Darlaston, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Enoch Haynes, aged 44 years. It appeared from the evidence, that on Wednesday night, the 22nd of July, the deceased came home about half-past ten o’clock, and had some words with his wife, in consequence of her going to her brother’s, and not returning until late. The deceased was in a violent passion at the time, and continued so until a quarter to eleven o’clock, when, after coming in from the yard, he staggered and fell upon the floor. He was picked up. He requested his brother-in-law to bleed him. A surgeon was sent for, and when he came rendered every assistance, but it was too late – he died in about two hours in a fit of apoplexy. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased Died of Apoplexy, produced by passion.”

Birmingham Journal 23/1/1847

“A young man named Charles Foster brought a charge against Samuel Wilkes, for assault. They were in the BUSH public house, in Darlaston Green, and it appears that the complainant charged Wilkes with robbing the BUSH club, or at least leaving it in debt, which was the same. This Wilkes denied, and the charge being reiterated he struck Foster, and the present complaint was the consequence. The Magistrates fined Wilkes in 5s and costs.”

1851 Census

Green

[1] *Elizabeth Aldridge* (72), widow, victualler and maltster, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Bailey (34), niece, house servant, born Darlaston;

[3] Eliza Dunkley (20), house servant, born Moor Croft, Staffordshire;

[4] Mary Wilkes (19), house servant, born Darlaston:

Elizabeth Aldridge died on 13th August 1851.

Ann Bayley = Ann Bailey

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/1/1855

“Walsall District Court.....

John Wilkinson v Ann Bayley. This action, which was tried before a jury, was brought by the plaintiff, a steel-filer, to recover £50 from the defendant, for an assault committed by her upon him, on the 8th December last, at the OLD BUSH, Darlaston, of which inn she is the landlady.

Mr. Smith, who appeared for the plaintiff, stated that the assault took place on the occasion of Wilkinson calling at the defendant’s house, in company with two other men, to have some ale. A quarrel ensued respecting payment, and the defendant struck the glass from which the plaintiff was drinking, inflicting by so doing a severe cut on his nose and face. The latter had in consequence been under the care of a surgeon up to the present time, and was still unable to perform his work as formerly.

The plaintiff was then called, and stated that while drinking a quart of ale, which he and his companions had between them, the defendant’s brother, Simeon *Bayley*, said he owed for a pint of ale. The defendant coming in, used bad language to him and challenged him to stand up before her, adding that if she was not able to manage him herself, she would find one in the house who she would compel to do it. As he was drinking from a glass, she struck the bottom of the glass, broke it, and he was severely cut, the wound bleeding profusely. After this she threatened to break his head with a poker if he did not quit the house. He earned weekly, at Mr. Mills’ of Darlaston Green, when he worked, from £3 5s to £3 10s. He had been unable to work, owing the injuries then received, for a week. George Gregory and John Green, the two men who were with him, confirmed the plaintiff’s statement in the chief particulars.

Mr. Alfred Latham, surgeon, gave evidence to the effect that he found Wilkinson bleeding profusely from a

small artery, which had been cut. He had since then been in a delicate state of health, owing to the loss of blood.

Mr. Duignan then addressed the jury for the defence, and afterwards called several witnesses in support of his statement. The defence was that the plaintiff had called at the house on a previous occasion, and in consequence of the improper manner in which he had conducted himself, had been directed not again to enter the house. On the night in question he was tipsy, and commenced by quarrelling with defendant's brother, and afterwards proceeded to make use of disgraceful charges against the defendant herself. The cut was said to have been caused accidentally, as the defendant was endeavouring to get Wilkinson out of the house.

Mr. Smith having replied, the judge summed up the evidence, and the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages 40s."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/4/1857

"At the Police Court, West Bromwich, the following licenses were transferred.....

OLD BUSH, Darlaston, executors of *Ann Bailey* to *Charles Wilkes*."

1861 Census

The Green – BUSH INN

[1] *Charles Wilkes* (34), unmarried, victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Gibson* (15), servant, born Darlaston;

[3] *Henry Cope* (28), brother-in-law, carpenter, born Essington;

[4] *Elizabeth Cope* (27), wife, born Darlaston;

[5] *Mary Wilkes Cope* (1), daughter, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1861 - Marriages

"On the 18th instant, at Moxley Church, by the Rev. P. Wilson, Mr. *Chas. Wilkes*, of the OLD BUSH INN, Darlaston, to Sarah, the youngest daughter of Mr. S. Downing, of the former place."

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/4/1864

"Three publicans of Darlaston were convicted for offences against the statute.

John Severn beerhouse keeper, Catherines Cross, was fined £5 and costs for selling ale on Sunday morning week, when fourteen men were in the house.

Benjamin Fellows, of Wolverhampton Lane, was fined £3 and costs for keeping his house open the same morning. Three men were drinking in the yard, and two were seen coming out of the back door.

Charles Wilson [sic], BUSH INN, Darlaston Green, was convicted in a similar penalty to the last defendant for a like offence."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1864

"Renewal of Licenses.....

From the Superintendent's statement it appeared that there were but thirteen publicans who had been convicted since last licensing day, and but few of those who had been fined more than once. The list of convictions was as follows.....

James Wilks, VINE, Bell Street, Darlaston, open on Sunday, fined £3 and costs, on April 12th.....

After the licenses of those persons who had not been convicted had been renewed, those landlords whose names appeared on the black list were called in, all of whom were severely censured and cautioned by the Bench."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1864

"The annual Petty Session for the renewal of publican's licenses in the Walsall, Wednesbury, and West Bromwich district was held yesterday.....

The undermentioned persons were reported by the police to have been fined during the year for offences against their licenses. The fines, however, appeared to have exercised a salutary effect, as they had, with the exception of two innkeepers, whose licenses were suspended, all conducted their houses since the several convictions in a very orderly manner.....

James Wilkes, VINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston license renewed.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1864

“At the licensing meeting at Great Barr, on Thursday, it was reported by the police, and consequently stated in this paper, the Mr. James Wilkes, BELL [sic] INN, had been fined for an offence against his license. It should have been *Charles Wilkes*, BUSH INN, Darlaston Green. Mr. James Wilkes, who is a most respectable man, desires us to make this correction.”

Charles Wilkes was also a brewer. [1868], [1870], [1872], [1878]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/10/1868

“Wednesbury Election.

Mr. Walker addressed the electors of the Moxley district at the SWAN INN, Moxley, on Wednesday evening Mr. Walker attended another meeting at a later hour, at the BUSH INN, Darlaston Green The room was crowded to excess, many failing to gain admission.....”

[Alexander Brogden was elected Member of Parliament for Wednesbury.]

1871 Census

Bush Street – BUSH INN

[1] *Charles Wilkes* (45), maltster and licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Wilkes (36), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Charles Wilkes (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Sarah Wilkes (3), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] Sarah Millington (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston;

[6] Harriet Duley (19), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Free Press 23/3/1872 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Retail Premises, at Darlaston Green, near the Green Church.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Farrington & Son, at the BUSH INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 15th day of April, 1872, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/12/1872

“Yesterday, Mr. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the BUSH INN, the Green, Darlaston, on the body of Richard Jones, aged three years, son of parents living in the same locality. On Saturday the child was left, with three other children, in the house while their mother went into the town, and during the latter’s absence deceased’s clothes caught fire, and he sustained such injuries as resulted in his death soon afterwards. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wednesbury Herald 16/8/1879

“An anniversary dinner of the Bricklayers’ Association was held on Saturday at the OLD BUSH INN. Mr. Thomas Dawson, the president of the branch, presided, and said he was glad that the branch of bricklayers established in Darlaston was thriving.....”

Wednesbury Herald 24/7/1880

“On Tuesday Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), held an inquest at the OLD BUSH INN, Darlaston, on the body of Josiah Bayley, aged six years, the son of Thomas Bayley, railway platelayer, residing in No.2 Court, The Green.

The evidence showed that the deceased and another little fellow went in the direction of the Darlaston Green Wharf, and when passing the basin adjoining the Staffordshire Nut and Bolt Works the deceased slipped and fell into the water, and was drowned before assistance could be rendered.

The Foreman of the jury said it was not safe for people to walk near the basin in question, and he considered that the Birmingham Canal Company ought to fence it at once. In fact, he was surprised that scores of children had not been drowned, for the basin was undoubtedly one of the most dangerous places in Darlaston.

About three years ago a woman was drowned at the same place.

The Coroner said he considered that the parents were to blame for allowing children of tender years to stray more than half a mile from home. The parents had a duty to perform as well as the canal company.

In reply to a question, a witness named Stockley said people were in the habit of trespassing on the canal company's premises.

A juryman said hundreds of children had to pass the basin every day, and he considered that the canal company ought to fence it at once.

William Stockley said that on several occasions he had had to assist in getting horses and carts out of the water which had accidentally fallen in.

The Coroner said he could not help but think that the parents of the deceased were to blame in allowing deceased to wander away from home. He would, however, call the attention of the canal company to the matter.

A verdict of Accidental Death was afterwards returned."

1881 Census

15, Bush Street – BUSH INN

[1] *Henry Ashley* (51), publican and bricklayer, born Lichfield;

[2] *Sarah Ashley* (41), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Fanny Tivey* (19), niece, servant, born Burton-on-Trent:

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/1/1887

"At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Bailey was charged with assaulting *Henry* and Charles *Henry Kirkham*, uncle and nephew, and with refusing to leave the OLD BUSH INN, Darlaston; and under cross-summons the Kirkhams were charged with having assaulted Bailey. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the latter, and Mr. Whitehouse for the Kirkhams. Their statement was that Bailey assaulted them in the OLD BUSH INN, and that he was got out with difficulty, but returned after closing time, and endeavoured, by calling out 'police,' to get the landlord, *Frederick Whittall*, to open the door. Instead of doing that it was alleged that *Whittall* went out the back way with the Kirkhams, and that Bailey attacked them all three with a knife. On the other side, Bailey declared that the Kirkhams assaulted him in the public house, but that the affair was settled and he went away quietly. Some time after he was standing outside talking to a friend, when the Kirkhams and *Whittall* came out and pounced upon him, the younger Kirkham using a cavalry-sword or cutlass, he could not tell which, against him, and with it cleaving through his hat to his head, which was injured.

The Stipendiary dismissed the summons against Bailey, and fined the elder Kirkham £5, and the younger one 20s and costs; *Whittall* was ordered to pay the costs."

Frederick Whittall's partner was *Mary Jane Kirkham*, daughter of *Henry Kirkham*.

1887 Probate

"The Will of *Henry Kirkham*, late of the OLD BUSH INN, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, who died 22 September 1887 at the OLD BUSH was proved at Lichfield on 21 November by *Frederick William Kirkham* of 147 Penn Road, Wolverhampton, in the said County, formerly Licensed Victualler, the Brother, one of the Executors. Personal Estate £457 4s."

Henry Kirkham – see also BARREL, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton, UNION TAP HOUSE, Wolverhampton, DOG AND PHEASANT, Darlaston, and THREE CUPS, Walsall.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/3/1889

"Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Police Court – before Mr. Neville (stipendiary) – *John Wilkes*, master carpenter and keeper of the BUSH INN, Darlaston, was ordered to pay £4 13s fine and costs for three assaults on his wife, *Mary Wilkes*, on the 11th inst; and on the application of the wife a judicial separation was granted, and an order made for her husband to contribute 15s a week towards her maintenance. No order was made with regard to the custody of a child nearly ten."

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1891

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *John Wilkes*, 18, The Green, Darlaston, carpenter and builder, formerly carrying on business as a licensed victualler, at the NEW INN, King Street, Darlaston, and lately as a licensed victualler at the OLD BUSH INN, Bush Street, Darlaston.

The public examination of this bankrupt took place at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court yesterday, before Mr. Registrar Clarke, Mr. E. T. Slater (instructed by Messrs. Slater and Co, Darlaston) appearing on his behalf. His financial statement showed liabilities £221 19s, of which £188 11s was expected to rank for dividend; and assets £27, leaving a deficiency of £161 11s. He attributed his failure to bad trade, bad debts, loss on a contract to build a house, and illness. The examination was adjourned.”

1891 Census

16, Bush Street

- [1] *William Seaman* (27), unmarried, nut and bolt forger, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary A. Seaman* (48), mother, widow, born Darlaston;
- [3] *George Seaman* (20), brother, nut and bolt forger, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Simeon Seaman* (15), brother, nut and bolt forger, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Harriet Seaman* (13), sister, barmaid, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Joseph Seaman* (10), brother, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Charles Seaman* (8), brother, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Florance Seaman* (7), sister, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Alice Seaman* (3), sister, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The application of *William Seaman*, OLD BUSH, Bush Street, was refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses..... The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for dancing, in addition, being abandoned.....

William Seaman, OLD BUSH, Bush Street.”

Sporting Life 23/1/1895

“Robin Hood Grounds, Willenhall. E. Horton and A. Rutter, for £20. Victory of Rutter.

On Monday afternoon a couple of races were decided, one being at the above grounds. The contending peds were Edward Horton, who hails from Darlaston, and young Arthur Rutter, representing Willenhall, who had entered into articles of agreement a few weeks previously to run over a distance of 70 yards, Rutter to receive a start of one yard, and the stakes to be £10 a side.

Both the above runners are no mean opponents at this business, particularly Horton, who is a smart-built fellow of twenty-four years of age, standing 5ft 6in, and scaled 10st 10lb. He has been running some years, his performances to hand being: Won Mr. John Dudley’s £9 5s 125 Yards Handicap, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, in 1889; was defeated at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, in 1890, by T. Richards, of Darlaston, in a match 120 yards, for £20, but being unwell, again met Richards on a subsequent occasion, and

turned the tables; ran second to J. Pickerill (alias Brogden), of Tipton, in Mr. J. Russell's 300 Yards Handicap at Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills, in 1891; also competed in all the recent handicaps given by the Midland Pedestrian Company without success. He was trained from the BUSH INN, Darlaston, by *W. Seaman*, an ex-ped.

A. Rutter is a very unassuming fellow, of promising sprinting abilities, and had never been fully extended. He is twenty-three years of age, stands 5ft 6in, and scaled in running condition 8st 6lb. He first came out as an amateur runner, but owing to the strictness of the A.A.A. turned his attention to professionalism. He won a handicap at the Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton, which he followed up by winning another at the Newtown Grounds, Bilston. His last success of any note was on Boxing Day, 1893, when he conceded T. Richards (alias Boiler), of Wolverhampton, 4 yards start in 100, for £10 a side, winning a good race by half a yard. He competed in the last Midland Company's Handicap at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, being unplaced in his heat. He was under the care of the experienced George Hendley, of Portobello, and Jack Russell, being trained from the latter's grounds, the Victoria Grounds, Wolverhampton, and was brought to the mark in splendid fettle.

Whilst the crowd were being checked in an attempt was made by both parties to measure the required distance, one party had a chain, the other a tape. The tape, which belonged to Rutter's party, was some twenty-six inches shorter in the distance than the chain, and after over an hour of up and down measuring it was decided to split the difference. This matter being settled the referee measured the yard start, and the peds began to disrobe. This caused brisk speculations to be indulged in. Horton was made a hot favourite, 7 to 4 on him being laid, and finally 6 to 4 on was accepted.

After the usual preliminaries the men obeyed the starter, and went to their marks, the referee at the other end creating amusement by requesting a burly policeman to keep guard over him in the event of a close race. The starter (Mr. Harry Tomlin, of Birmingham), appointed by the *Sporting Life*, despatched the peds to a splendid start. An exciting race ensued, and for forty yards it looked as though Horton was gaining, but Rutter running in splendid fashion, stalled off all Horton's efforts, and finally broke the worsted a winner by one yard.

Mr. Thomas Pike (appointed by the *Sporting Life*) officiated as referee, and we shall forward a cheque, less expenses, to address given to the latter."

Dudley Herald 23/6/1900

"Yesterday, Mr. A. A. Betham, deputy-coroner, held an inquiry at the OLD BUSH INN, Bush Street, Darlaston Green, on the body of Joseph Seaman, aged five months, the infant son of George Seaman, nut and bolt maker, of Ten House Court, St. Georges Street, who died suddenly on the Tuesday morning.

Matilda Seaman, the mother, deposed to finding the child in good health at 8.15am. About an hour later she discovered that something was the matter with it, as its face had an unnatural tinge. Witness, in reply to the Coroner, said she was afraid to touch the child, so called in a neighbour, who declared that life was extinct. She had been in the habit of regularly giving the child the breast.

Mary Poston, the neighbour who was called in, said that when she arrived on the scene the child was dead. She came to the conclusion on looking at its face.

The Coroner told witness that, as a mother of children, she ought to have known that there was, perhaps, a chance of restoring animation, and she ought to have taken the proper steps to this end.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

1901 Census

Bush Street

[1] *William John Abbott* (45), publican, born Antrim;

[2] *Annie Abbott* (27), wife, born Northamptonshire;

[3] *Edward James Abbott* (11), son, born Dublin:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

"Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the pro-

portion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

OLD BUSH, Bush Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

[A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. \[1903\]](#)

1911 Census

Bush Street – YE OLD BUSH INN

[1] *Archibald Paul Penrice* (30), brewer and innkeeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Emma Penrice* (29), wife, married 4 years, born Hednesford;

[3] *Charles Henry Penrice* (3), son, born Darlaston;

[4] *Fanny Penrice* (2), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Archibald Paul Penrice* (5 months), son, born Darlaston;

[6] *Polly Hadley* (42), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Archibald Paul Penrice was the son of *Charles* and *Fanny Penrice* of the WOODMAN.

James Fellowes = James Fellows

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

“Darlaston Licensing Sessions The OLD BUSH.

Mr. A. Slater, solicitor, Wolverhampton, referred to the case of the above. The plans had been before the magistrates previously. After explaining what had been done, the plans were approved of by the Bench.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 25/10/1924

“Mr. Alfred Blakemore, SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, applied to the magistrates on Wednesday for an occasional license for November 20th, for the Darlaston Moto Cycle Club ball, from 8pm to 1pm. The Bench granted the extension from 8 to 12.

Mr. Nicholls, DUKE OF YORK INN, Catherines Cross, was granted a similar license for November 13th, the occasion of a dance of the special effort on behalf of the Walsall Hospital and Darlaston Nurses' Home, and Mr. *Henry Keay*, of the OLD BUSH INN, Bush Street, for one on November 6th, when a dance is to be held in aid of the renovation of the Roman Catholic Church School.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 14/11/1925

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Mr. *Harry Keay*, of the BUSH INN, Darlaston, applied for an occasional license for a dance to be held in the Darlaston Town Hall, on November 23rd, on behalf of the funds of the Darlaston Company of the Church Lads Brigade. Mr. A. E. Horton (the presiding magistrate) said, ‘We are of the opinion that it is a somewhat unusual application to make on behalf of the Church Lads Brigade, but we have decided to grant it.’”

Walsall Observer 21/11/1925

“Alleged to have received wages for playing a piano at a public house while drawing out-of-work pay, Ernest Clarke (50), described as a storekeeper, of 4, Gordon Street, Darlaston, was summoned at Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday, for obtaining unemployment benefit by false pretences. Mr. Ernest Brown (Wednesbury) prosecuted on behalf of the Ministry of Labour, and Mr. S. W. Smith (Wednesbury) defended. Mr. Brown stated that on Friday, September 11, defendant received a week’s unemployment pay for the week ending September 8, which included the days September 4, 5, and 7. Clarke was married, so that he not only received his own benefit but allowance for dependents. As a consequence of information which came to Mr. J. Salmon, the manager of Darlaston Employment Exchange, enquiries were instituted, and it was discovered that for a period of eight months Clarke had been engaged by Mr. *Henry Keay*, licensee of the OLD BUSH INN, Bush Street, Darlaston, to play the piano on Friday, Saturday, and Monday evenings for 4s a night. It was also alleged that he gave piano lessons to *Keay*’s two daughters on Wednesday of each week. When seen by the manager and deputy-manager and asked whether this was true, Clarke admitted that he played the piano at the public house, but said he received payment in kind, such as beer and tobacco. Defendant also said that when he was short he had simply to walk into the OLD BUSH INN and obtain 2s 6d or 3s 6d, or anything he asked for. He admitted giving instruction to the daughters of the licensee, and stated that he was under the impression that he could receive 10s a night for services rendered and at the same time draw unemployment benefit.

Mr. Brown said defendant had paid £1 6s 1d in contributions, and had drawn £184 11s 2d in benefit.

On September 11, Mr. Salmon and his assistant, Mr. Sennett, went to the OLD BUSH INN, where they found Clarke playing the piano, and Mr. *Keay* then signed an official question form in which, it was alleged, he stated that out of his own pocket he had paid Clarke 4s a night for playing the piano and 2s on Wednesday nights for teaching the two daughters. The prosecution submitted that Clarke had in respect of three nights each week for the past eight months fraudulently received £17 16s 6d in unemployment benefit.

Evidence was given by John Salmon, Henry Sennett, Bertie Lowe, and Robert Ernest Dyer, all engaged at the Darlaston Employment Exchange.

Mr. Smith then read characters which he said defendant had received from Messrs. Martin Winn and Messrs. E. C. & J. Keay by whom he was formerly employed.

Henry Keay (licensee of the OLD BUSH INN) said he did not engage Clarke to teach his daughter, but he took her on himself. Anyone played the piano who came into the house, but Clarke had played there on and off for six or seven months.

Mr. Brown: How much have you paid him for his services? – Witness: I have never given him any money at all. Sometimes when he has dropped in at night I have given him a drink or a bit of bacca.

Asked if he had signed a form stating that he paid Clarke, witness said that when Mr. Salmon asked him if he gave defendant 4s a night, witness denied it. Mr. Salmon then said, ‘Will you sign it if I cross that out, because I am in a hurry?’ and witness consented.

Replying to Mr. Smith, witness said he had never paid defendant any money, nor was there any contract of service between them.

The magistrates decided that the case must proceed, and Clarke, in evidence, said that prior to the war he was employed by Messrs. E. C. & J. Keay and after his Army service by Messrs. Martin Winn. He had never received payment from the licensee of the BUSH INN. When he asked *Keay* if he might bring friends to the public house to play, *Keay* consented and said, ‘I’ll see you don’t go without a drink of beer or a bit of bacca.’ There was no obligation on him to go to the ‘public.’

Cross-examined, he said he had never earned his living with music, but had given lessons occasionally for pocket money prior to the death, in 1911, of his father, who kept him while he was out of work.

The Bench (Messrs. C. Foster and F. Hassack) said the case had not been proved to their satisfaction and would be dismissed.”

Walsall Observer 30/1/1926

“When Mr. J. Robinson, licensee of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Darlaston, applied at the Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants from 7.30pm till midnight at the dance and social to be held in connection with the Darlaston Labour Party, at the Town Hall tonight (Saturday), Police Inspector Willetts said he objected to an extension until midnight on Saturdays. The license was therefore granted only from 7.30pm until 11, the magistrates intimating that they thought 11pm was quite late enough on Saturdays.

At the same court the Bench granted an application of Mr. A. Blakemore, of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants on the occasion of the Police ball at the Darlaston Town Hall from 7.30pm until 12 midnight on Thursday, February 25. A similar license was granted to Mr. *H. Keay* of the OLD BUSH INN, to sell intoxicants at the dance in the Darlaston Town Hall, on February 4, in aid of the All Saints’ C.L.B.”

Walsall Observer 17/4/1926

“The bowling green at the BUSH INN, Darlaston, was officially opened for the season on Saturday by Councillor C. H. Hall, in the presence of a good muster of players and friends. At the conclusion of the ceremony the host, Mr. *Harry Keay*, kindly entertained the company to a knife and fork tea, and prizes were afterwards presented by Councillor Hall as follows. Gold medal (given by Mr. *Harry Keay*) for the best average, Mr. T. Satchwell; leather case (given by Mr. Clarke), Mr. T. Satchwell; pair of woods (given by Messrs. W. Butler and Co.), Mr. John James. A review of the past year was given by the hon. secretary (Mr. Bradley), and Councillor H. Hemmings, JP, subsequently proposed a vote of thanks to the licensee for the excellent repast provided. This was seconded by Councillor Hall, and suitably acknowledged by the genial host.”

Roland Jenkins had worked as a buyer, and railway and shipping officer, at John Spencer Ltd, Globe Tube and Engineering Works, Wednesbury, for 29 years prior to becoming a publican. He was chairman of the Darlaston and District Bowling League. [1930s]

Rugeley Times 12/3/1932

“Delegates from the various clubs of the Darlaston and District Butlers Bowling League attended the fifth annual meeting at the headquarters, OLD BUSH INN, Darlaston, last Thursday evening..... Officers elected were treasurer, *R. Jenkins*.”

Plans for alterations comprising the extension of the Smoke Room and a re-arrangement of the Serving Counter were approved on 7th November 1934.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/8/1935

“A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned at Wednesbury yesterday on Elizabeth Ann O’Dowd, aged 75, a widow, who died at the PRINCE REGENT HOTEL, Victoria Street, Wednesbury, on Thursday. She was well-known in the licensing trade in Wolverhampton, Willenhall, and Dudley. One of her daughters is the wife of the licensee of the PRINCE REGENT, and another of the licensee at the BUSH INN, Darlaston.

Harry Short, licensee of the PRINCE REGENT, said his mother-in-law had lived with them at Wednesbury for six years. One day this week she felt unwell. He heard a noise and found her lying on the landing. Dr. E. A. Dingley stated that death was caused by heart failure due to pneumonia.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/3/1937

“Nominations were received yesterday in connection with the triennial Elections in the Midlands..... Darlaston Urban (20 seats).....

The Green Ward *Roland Jenkins* (Con.), 15, Bush Street, Darlaston, licensed victualler.”

[He was not elected.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/6/1937

“Candidates nominated yesterday for the vacancy on the Darlaston Urban District Council (No.3 Ward) caused by the death of Councillor Hampton, were:

Albert Edward Cotterell (Lab.), mechanical engineer, of 49, King Edward Street, Darlaston; and *Roland Jenkins* (Con.), licensed victualler, OLD BUSH INN, Bush Street. Darlaston.

Polling day is 21 June.”

[*Roland Jenkins* was elected by 620 votes to 480.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/8/1937

“Keen play was seen in the individual merit competition held at the BUSH, Green, Darlaston, on Saturday under the auspices of the Wednesbury, Darlaston, and District Bowling League. The tournament was won by the youngest competitor, T. Benton (Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds), a 22-year-old player.....”

1939 Register

Bush Street – OLD BUSH INN (2 of 3)

[1] *Roland Jenkins*, date of birth 23/9/1882, iron and steel stockholder’s manager, married;

[2] Evelyn Jenkins, dob 13/6/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;

George Peach died on 13th December 1949.

Plans were approved for alterations on 4th February 1953.

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

OLD BUSH, The Green, Darlaston.”

[1982]

Closed [2007]

It was converted into a retirement home.

OLD BUSH

Cross Street, Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

[1911]

OLD CASTLE

92, Pinfold Street / Great Croft Street, (66, Church Street), (King Street), Bull Stake, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Miss Brevitt

Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. [1892]

LICENSEES

Thomas Smith Adams [1835] – [1842]

John Stokes [1845] – **1851**);

James Slater (**1851 – 1860**);

George Perry (**1860 – [1870]**)

Thomas Tongue [1871] – [1882]

Henry Frank Chadwick [1885]

George Norton [1885] – [1901]

Mrs. Amelia C Norton [1904]

Alban William Watts [1908]

Henry H Ormonde [1911]

Arthur Smith [1912]

Henry Anslow [1916] – **1919**);

George Carradine (**1919 – 1922**);

George Valentine Turton (**1922 – 1924**);

Francis John ‘Frank’ Ellis (**1924 – 1933**);

Egerton Harry Clifford ‘Harry’ Foxall (**1933 – 1941**);

James Evans (**1941 – 1947**);

Albert Victor Herbert (**1947 – 1949**);

Vivian John Bright (**1949 – 1952**);

Norman Holt (**1952 – 1953**);

Albert Harris (**1953 – 1954**);

James Frank Paxton (**1954 – 1955**);

James Edward Ellis (**1955 – 1957**);

Leonard Lester (**1957**);

William Brisco Clews (**1957 – 1958**);

Jack Rudge (**1958 – 1961**);

Susy Harrison (**1961 – 1962**);

William Smith (**1962 – [1967]**)

NOTES

King Street [1835], [1842], [1861], [1880]

66, Church Street [1921]

Commercial hotel [1851], [1868], [1870], [1892], [1904]

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘The Bull Stake and Town Centre’ by Alan Pitcher, JP

“The CASTLE INN was a high building by Darlaston standards and stood on the right-hand corner of Great

Croft Street. It has long since been demolished, but I remember the days when my father and his workmen would call there for a tot of rum before starting painting work at 8am on a cold frosty morning. Incidentally, in later years the Rotary Club of Darlaston, sponsored by their Mother Club of Wednesbury, held their luncheon meetings there. It was considered by businessmen and industrialists of the town to be an honour to be invited into such an august and respected society. Indeed, many noted men of Darlaston have since been members although they have not met at the CASTLE for many long years.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/8/1836

“Commitments to Stafford Gaol....

Benjamin Blount, charged with stealing two carpenter’s planes, the property of *Thomas Smith Adams*, at Darlaston.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/10/1836

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions To be Imprisoned Three Days....

Benjamin Blount, for stealing two carpenters’ planes, the property of *Thomas Smith Adams*, at Darlaston.”

Staffordshire Gazette 11/4/1840 - Advert

“Darlaston Operative Conservative Association.

The First Annual Dinner of the above Association is intended to take place on Tuesday, April 21st, 1840, at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston.

Dinner on the table precisely at half-past Three o’clock.

Tickets, 2s 6d each, may be had from the Secretary.

George Blevitt, Secretary.”

North Wales Chronicle 5/5/1840

“The First Annual Dinner of the Operative Conservative Association of Darlaston took place on Tuesday evening last, at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, when upwards of 250 Conservative members of the Darlaston and other Associations sat down to an excellent repast, provided for the occasion.”

Staffordshire Gazette 28/11/1840

“Committed to Stafford County Gaol....

Joseph Rowton, for of stealing two pieces of timber, the property of *Thomas Smith Adams*, at Wednesbury.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1841

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Joseph Rowton pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing two pieces of timber, the property of *Thomas Smith Adams*, at Wednesbury. To be imprisoned three calendar months.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/12/1840 - Advert

“Freehold Building and Land in Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by direction of the mortgagee, under a power of sale), on Monday the 21st day of December, 1840, at Mr. *Thomas S. Adams*’s, the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, at five o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.....”

1841 Census

Pinfold Street

[1] *Thomas Adams* (30), timber dealer, born Staffordshire;

[2] Hannah Adams (40), born Staffordshire;

[3] Hannah Hill (15), born abroad;

[4] Rebecca Cutter (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[5] Alfred Taylor (15), born Staffordshire:

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 18/11/1843

“The Colliers’ Movement South Staffordshire.

A public meeting of Miners was held at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, Nov. 8. Several resolutions were adopted, which were ably spoken to by Messrs. Wilde, from Wakefield; Pyle, from Newcastle, and several other speakers.”

John Stokes was also a gunlock maker. [1845], [1849], [1850]

Birmingham Journal 24/7/1847

“Lodge Anniversaries. On Monday last, upwards of 450 members of various lodges sat down to excellent dinners provided for them at the following public houses: Mr. Joseph Yates’s, SCOTTS ARMS; Mr. George Wilkes’s, GREEN DRAGON; Mr. *John Stokes*’s, CASTLE INN; Mr. Thomas Simkins, JOLLY CRISPIN.”

1851 Census

Pinfold Street

[1] *James Slater* (49), printer and victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Nancy Slater (45), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] Martha Hartley (24), barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[4] Jane Parker (24), servant, born Bilston;

[5] Elen Parker (16), servant, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/9/1852 - Advert

“Wanted, an industrious sober Man (none other need apply), as Brewer and Ostler, and to make himself generally useful about the house.

Apply at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston.”

James Slater was also a stationer of King Street. [1854]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/7/1854

“On Tuesday morning, information was given at the police station that the dead body of a man was lying in a shed, containing a baking oven, belonging to Mr. Obadiah Yates. Sub-inspector Went proceeded to the spot and recognised the body as that of John Sharron, a barber, about 45 years of age, and well known in the vicinity from his intemperate habits. It appears that the unfortunate man had been in the habit of what is termed in that locality ‘rodneying’ (sleeping) in the shed. On the previous night he betook himself thither in company with another rodney, one John Sideway. The latter stated that the deceased was taken ill during the night, and after groaning a great deal died. Mr. E. S. Barnett, assistant to J. H. Thornhill, Esq, surgeon, was sent for, and in the shed discovered a bottle containing some mixture of a poisonous nature, a portion of which it is supposed the deceased had drunk. The unfortunate man had formerly been in good circumstances, but having lost his wife, gave himself up for some time past to intemperate courses. He has left a family, all of whom are grown up and married.

The inquest was held on Thursday, at the house of Mr. *James Slater*, the CASTLE INN, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, and a respectable jury, when J. H. Thornhill, Esq, surgeon, said he had made a post mortem examination, and that the cause of death was congestion of the lungs of long standing, accelerated by neglect, and want of proper medical treatment. Several of the jury here stated they required no further evidence, as the drunken habits of the unfortunate man were well known to them. The Coroner remarked that it had been stated to him that a bottle containing poison had been found close by the body, and therefore felt it necessary to hold the inquiry.

Verdict, Died from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

Many of the shops and houses were brilliantly illuminated.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off during the course of the night two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Mr. *Slater*, of the CASTLE INN, illuminated, and Mrs. Bayley, of the WAGON INN, had some fine transparencies in her windows. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order.”

Birmingham Journal 13/11/1858 - Advert

“Eligible Freehold Dwelling Houses and Land, at Darlaston.

Mr. Greaser will Sell by Auction, at Mr. *Slater*'s, known by the sign of the CASTLE INN, in Darlaston, on Thursday, November the 25th, 1858, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then read.....”

Birmingham Journal 20/11/1858 - Advert

“Postponement of Sale of Property, at Darlaston.

Notice is Hereby Given, that the Sale of Freehold Messuages, Workshop, Buildings and Gardens, situate near the Wesleyan Reform Chapel, at Green Croft, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, advertised to be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Greaser, at the CASTLE INN, in Darlaston aforesaid, on Thursday, the 25th day of November, is Postponed.

Hawksford and Parkes, Solicitors, Wolverhampton. 16th November, 1858.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/12/1859

“An inquest was held at the house of Mr. *James Slater*, CASTLE INN, Darlaston, on Saturday, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Thomas Lawrence, who kept a beerhouse at Darlaston. It appeared that deceased, who was of rather intemperate habits, was taken ill on Friday morning, and medical assistance being sent for, Mr. Partridge, surgeon, was speedily in attendance, and was informed by deceased that he had taken poison, a small portion of which remained in a jug by the bedside. A verdict of Temporary Insanity was returned. No cause is assigned for the rash act.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1860 - Advert

“Hooper for Coroner.

The Committees for conducting Mr. Hooper's Election sit daily at the following Places.....

Darlaston, at the CASTLE INN.....

By order. Hodgson and Allen, G. S. Watson, Agents for Mr. Hooper. 14th August, 1860.”

[This election followed the death of George Hayes Hinchliffe. Edwin Hooper, Deputy Coroner, was elected Coroner.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/2/1861 - Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Property, at Park Lane and Factory Street, Catherines Cross, Darlaston.

Mr. Benton Davis has received instructions from the Mortgagee, to Offer by Public Auction, on Tuesday, February the 26th, at the CASTLE INN, Bull Stake, Darlaston, subject to conditions then to be read.....”

1861 Census

King Street – CASTLE

[1] *George Perry* (35), innkeeper and stock taker at ironworks, born Darlaston;

[2] *Nancy Perry* (31), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Betsy Osborn* (28), house servant, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Jane Colclough* (23), house servant, born Birmingham;

[5] *Hannah Rubery* (22), house servant, born Darlaston;

[6] *Ellen Waurman* (21), house servant, born Darlaston;

[7] *Ann Bould* (19), house servant, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/10/1862 - Advert

“Darlaston Green. Desirable Freehold House Property, Workshops, and Building Land. By Messrs. Aston and Sollom.

To be Sold by Auction, on Monday, the 10th day of November, 1862, at five o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *George Perry*, the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, subject to conditions of sale.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1863

“On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the CASTLE INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, on the body of a child, two years of age, named William Gasser. The evidence went to show that on the morning of the 6th inst, the child was severely scalded about the breast by a jug of hot water falling upon him, and that he sustained such injuries as resulted in his death on the following morning. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/11/1863

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, Thomas Whitehouse, a mechanic, appeared to answer a charge of having stolen a handkerchief, value 6d, the property of a man named Belton. It seemed that the two men met in the house of Mr. *Perry*, the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, and the defendant borrowed a handkerchief belonging to the complainant, and refused to return it, but struck the complainant when he was asked for it. The Stipendiary leant to the opinion that it was a drunken freak, and taking into account that the defendant had been in prison three days, he discharged him with a caution.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1864

“At the Petty Session, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, before Messrs. J. Haines and J. Solly, a man named Daniel Middleton was charged with having assaulted Samuel Ensor, at Darlaston, on the night of Monday week; and, under a cross summons, Ensor was charged with assaulting Middleton, at the same time and place. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for Ensor, and Mr. Bayley for Middleton. It seemed that on the day named the parties were at the house of Mr. *Perry*, the CASTLE INN, Bull Stake, Darlaston, and upon leaving some words took place between them, which ended in an interchange of blows. After hearing the evidence, the Bench fined Ensor 5s, but dismissed the counter summons.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1865

“Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an enquiry on Tuesday, at the CASTLE INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, touching the death of Reuben Tyler, a child five weeks old. On Friday last the mother of the deceased left her child at home, in the care of a girl eight years old, while she went to her parent’s house. The little girl followed her within two minutes after her arrival at her mother’s, and said the baby was on fire. She hastened home, and found the infant lying on the floor in the middle of the room, with its garments in flames. The girl told her that she took the child out of the cradle because it cried, and that as she sat by the fireside with the infant on her knees, a cinder fell from the grate and ignited its clothes. The flames were promptly extinguished, and the child’s injuries were duly dressed, but death took place on Sunday. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The Coroner recommended the mother to procure a fire-bow, and she promised to attend to the recommendation.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/2/1866

“On Sunday night last a case of sudden death occurred under very singular circumstances in Blakemore Lane, Darlaston. The facts are briefly these: Two men named James Bendall and Richard Wilkinson were quarrelling and fighting – it is said, about a woollen ‘muffler’ – in Blakemore Lane, opposite the house of Mrs. Sarah Aldridge, where Wilkinson lodged with his sister, an unmarried woman of about 40 years of age. Wilkinson demanded admission, and knocked loudly, the door being locked, and some of the inmates gone to bed, it being about half-past one o’clock. The landlady said he should not come in to create a disturbance, and the two men then burst open the door. As soon as the men got into the house they renewed the contest. During the affray Bendall seized the poker, and Maria Aldridge, the landlady’s daughter, interfering, he struck her a violent blow with the formidable weapon. Mrs. Aldridge called out in great alarm to Mary Wilkinson, sister to one of the men, to come down stairs and quiet her brother. The sister, who was in an upstairs room with two little children, having retired for the night, got out of bed, came down stairs, went into a back room where the parties then were, and sinking to the floor exclaimed, ‘Oh! Brother, brother!’

and instantly expired. The two men were shortly after taken into custody on the charge of being drunk and committing a breach of the peace. The poor woman whose life has thus suddenly thus terminated was of pale and emaciated appearance, and common report says that her sickness was brought on by want of food, but the general impression appears to be that the sudden shock occasioned by the row and fight in the house was the more immediate cause of her death. The two men were brought before Mr. Isaac Spooner, Stipendiary Magistrate, at the Police Court, Wednesbury, yesterday, and remanded till Monday next. The inquest has been fixed by Mr. E. Hooper, the Coroner, for this (Wednesday) morning, at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, at ten o'clock."

[At the inquest regarding the death of Mary Wilkinson a verdict of Died by the Visitation of God was returned.]

[At the Police Court, charged with being drunk and creating a disturbance, Bendall was discharged; Wilkinson was fined 20s and costs, or in default 21 days' imprisonment.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/9/1867

"On Tuesday Mr. W. H. Philips, deputy coroner, resumed an inquiry at the OLD PARK TAVERN, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Thomas Bayley, who had been found dead in the Darlaston road during the night of the 26th inst, without coat, vest, or hat, and with his pockets empty.

Lucy Penrice, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, said the deceased was well known to her. On the Monday in question he was at her house about two hours, leaving at eleven o'clock. He had two or three pints of ale. She noticed that he frequently went in and out of the house, as if there was something wrong. She saw in his possession a half-sovereign and a half-crown.

Mr. C. W. Iliffe, surgeon, who had examined the deceased about an hour after death, said he noticed an old rupture on his right side. On Friday he made a post mortem examination of the body. There were marks on the left arm, as if the deceased had been held there, and there was a bruise on the left shoulder. There were no marks on the head. The brain and lungs were much congested. He considered that death resulted from apoplexy, the result of natural causes. The marks on the arm, he believed, were received previous to death. The Coroner: If the deceased had been in his usual health, though tipsy, and his death had been occasioned by his being attacked and robbed, do you think you would have found greater marks of violence? – Witness: I think so.

By a Juror: Witness was inclined to think that drinking was the cause of the apoplexy.

The Coroner here remarked that there must be some direct evidence of violence before the jury could return any verdict but that the man died from natural causes. The fact of the deceased being robbed was most extraordinary.

A juryman thought it was probable that deceased had himself thrown off his coat.

The Coroner said that even if they assumed the deceased had thrown away his coat they could hardly suppose he removed his money.

Sergeant Steele said he had some information as to the disposal of a coat corresponding to the one worn by the deceased. He then called John Stych and Edward Humpage, two miners, who spoke to the deceased having accompanied them and two other companions to the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, on the night in question, and having left the inn, followed by two men referred to.

Ellen Wardman, barmaid at Mr. *Perry's*, the CASTLE INN, said she knew the deceased, who was in the habit of calling at the CASTLE. She last saw him alive at about half-past eleven o'clock on the night in question, in their liquor vault. He was 'fresh,' but talked sensibly, and was able to take care of himself, she thought. He treated a woman at the time. She saw silver and copper in his hand which amounted to about a sovereign. He left alone. He had called several times during the day, and once she believed Mr. *Perry* had ordered him out in consequence of a disturbance. She believed that Mr. *Perry* did not take hold of him.

The Coroner considered that as there was a possibility of obtaining further evidence it would not be well to return a verdict that day. The jury concurred, and the inquest was adjourned until Thursday week."

[At the resumed inquest the coroner considered that the jury could return no other verdict than that 'The deceased was found dead, having died from apoplexy, but that whether it arose from natural causes, excitement, or violence, there was no evidence to show.' The jury returned a verdict to that effect.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/2/1868 - Advert

“Sale of Extensive Freehold Manufactories at Darlaston; and Freehold Residence, Cottages, and Land at The Pleck, near Walsall.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Enoch Bruerton (by order of Trustees under Deed of Assignment), at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 2nd day of March, 1868, at Six o'clock in the evening.....”

George Perry – see also WHITE LION.

1871 Census

Bull Stake – CASTLE INN

- [1] Sarah Tongue (49), hotel keeper's wife, born Wales;
- [2] Mary Ann Tongue (20), daughter, born Blaina, Monmouthshire;
- [3] Ann McNally (20), cook, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Mary Jones (21), domestic servant, born Blaina, Monmouthshire;
- [5] Elizabeth Fletcher (19), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/3/1872 - Notice

“County of Stafford. Weights and Measures, District C, or South Staffordshire.

Notice is hereby given, that I shall attend at the undermentioned times and places for the purpose of Comparing and Examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to me for that purpose, and Stamping such of them as shall be found correct.....

At the CASTLE INN, at Darlaston, on Thursdays, April 11th, May 9th, and May 30th, 1872, at ten o'clock am.....

All persons residing in the said District desirous of having their Weights and Measures stamped should bring or send them to any of the above places for adjustment, as shall be most convenient, upon the days and at the hours mentioned.

Persons within any local jurisdiction for which a separate Inspector is appointed cannot have their Weights and Measures Examined or Stamped by the County Inspector.

J. George Horder. Inspector of Weights and Measures for District C, or South Staffordshire.
Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton, March 16th, 1872.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1873

“Yesterday, at the Guildhall, a respectably-dressed young woman, named Anna Constable, was charged with having attempted to commit suicide. On Saturday night, about ten o'clock, a young man named William Cotterell, found her in the Meadows brook, by the side of the railway, and got her out, despite her entreaties to be 'let be.' To her shawl was pinned a piece of paper, on which was written, 'Whoever finds this please take it to my father, and tell him that he has got his wish at last, for I am under the water. His address is John Constable, the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, Wednesbury; and my last wish is that I should like to be put by the side of my mother.' Her father, who was in Court, said he had had a few words with her about her not returning home from work promptly. The girl, who expressed sorrow for what she had done, and promised not to offend again, was handed over to her father.”

[John Constable was a brewer.]

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1873

“A meeting of the master gun-lock makers, and a deputation appointed by the workmen now on strike, was held at the CASTLE INN, Queen Street, Darlaston, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of conferring together with the object of coming to some arrangement to terminate the strike in that branch of the gun trade, which has lasted upwards of nine weeks. At the request of the committee of the local branch, a deputation, consisting of the chairman, secretary, and three other members of the Executive Council of the Birmingham Gun Trade Protection Association, also attended. After some conversation it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until the following evening. The following resolution was unanimously passed, 'That we refuse to pay anything for machining store or common birding locks, as we do not want any machining done.' As all the other masters except Mr. J. Corbett had agreed to pay the list price in full, the following resolution was

also agreed to, 'That the workmen now present, on behalf of the general trade, beg to tender their thanks to all those employers who have so generously conceded the demand, and that the men resume work at the beginning of next week.' This brought the business to a close. The men have accepted these terms, and consequently the strike may be considered at an end."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1873

"On Saturday morning, Mr. Charles Frederick Empson, surgeon's assistant, was found dead in bed by his employer, Mr. W. H. Wells, surgeon, Darlaston, and there is too much reason to fear that his death may be traced to immoderate use of stimulants. Mr. Wells has recently taken to the practice of Dr. Cropp, and deceased was managing it for him."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 10/6/1873

"Yesterday afternoon, Mr. F. W. Topham, deputy coroner, resumed an enquiry at the CASTLE INN, Bull Stake, Darlaston, on the body of Charles Frederick Empson, surgeon, who was found dead in bed on the 24th ult, under circumstances already reported in these columns.

Several letters from persons who had known the deceased were read, all tending to show that he had led an irregular life for years. One was from Mr. W. Smith, 18, William Street, Regents Park, London, in which the writer stated that in 1867 he bought the deceased's practice at the address named, and gathered that the deceased had previously been in practice at Selby, in Yorkshire, and that he had been of unsteady habits for a long period. His first wife had then died, and he was living with his second in Albany Road, Regents Park, where he left her, and eloped to America with his cousin, a girl of 18, whom he had induced to leave school. The writer heard nothing more of him until three years after, when he called to borrow half-a-crown, and the last time they met was about three months ago.

Mr. Johnson, surgeon, deposed to having made a post mortem examination of the body in compliance with the Coroner's directions. He was not of opinion that death had resulted from chloroform, there being no trace of poison in the body; but on the contrary had no doubt that death had been caused by drink. The conclusion he came to was that death had resulted from syncope, induced by failure of the action of the great sympathetic nerve; or in other words, by paralysis of the heart.

The Jury found that death had resulted from Excessive Drinking."

Birmingham Mail 27/3/1875 - Died

"On the 22nd inst, at Darlaston, aged 21 years, Rachel, daughter of *Thomas* and Sarah *Tongue*; deeply lamented."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/1/1877

"A banquet and public meeting, in connection with the Darlaston Liberal Association, took place yesterday evening, the public meeting being made available for the delivery, by Mr. Brogden, of his annual address to his constituents. At the banquet, which took place at the CASTLE INN, Bull Stake, Mr. Brogden presided....."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/1/1880

"Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the CASTLE INN, King Street, Darlaston, on Saturday, relative to the death of Simeon Paulton (68), a miner.

Mary Paulton, widow to the deceased, said he was taken ill on Christmas day. On Tuesday her son came home and said he had been discharged from his employment. This made deceased uncomfortable, and he remarked 'that the trouble he was experiencing was enough to make a man go and hang himself.' About four o'clock on Wednesday morning deceased dressed himself and said to witness, 'I am going down the yard.' As he did not return she shouted for him, and as he did not reply she requested her son John to go and see where he was. For some time he refused to go, and ultimately he went into the yard, and on returning to the house he said, 'He is straight enough.' Witness said, 'What do you mean?' and he replied, 'Why, he is hanging by a rope.' Information was conveyed to the neighbours and the police, and deceased was cut down. Deceased had never threatened to commit suicide.

John Paulton (35), the son of the deceased, said he went in search of his father, and on passing the brew-

house he found the door unlocked. Near to the window he found a candle and some matches, and on lighting the candle he found his father hanging by a rope suspended from the beam.

The Coroner: Was he alive or dead? – Witness: He was straight.

The Coroner: Was he warm? – Witness: I don't know. I did not touch him.

The Coroner: Didn't you attempt to cut him down? – Witness: No. I looked at him. I felt so strange I could do nothing else but look at him.

The Coroner: Perhaps if you had cut him down when you went into the place you might have saved his life. – Witness: He was quiet enough when I went in.

The Coroner: How long did you allow him to hang after you found him? – Witness: About half an hour. We sent for the police and Police-sergeant Ainsworth cut him down.

The Coroner: Is it true that you were discharged from your situation? – Witness: I was discharged but I have been set on again.

In answer to further questions witness said he told deceased that he had been discharged, but he did not afterwards inform him that he should be employed again.

A Juryman: It appears to me that your conduct was somewhat strange. – Witness: I could not tell him anything after he was dead.

The Coroner said it appeared to him that the witness was not overburdened with common sense.

A Juryman said he believed the witness had not long left the Workhouse.

The Coroner said it was evident that the deceased had experienced a great deal of trouble, and that he committed suicide when of unsound mind.

A Juryman said that the deceased had of late been considerably reduced in circumstances.

The jury afterwards returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide when of Unsound Mind.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/3/1880 - Advert

“The CASTLE INN, Darlaston.

E. B. Scholefield has received instructions to Sell by Private Treaty – the Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above well-known (free home-brewing) Old-Licensed Inn, with large and convenient Business Premises. This important and respectable House of business has been most successfully carried on for the past thirty years, and is now to be disposed of in consequence of the present Proprietor retiring from business. A new Lease will be granted, if required.

Auctioneer's Offices, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

1881 Census

92, Pinfold Street – CASTLE

[1] *Thomas Tongue* (61), hotel keeper, born Clydach, Breconshire;

[2] *Sarah Tongue* (60), wife, born Pontcawd Ivor, Breconshire;

[3] *Jane E. Tongue* (24), daughter, born Blaina, Monmouthshire;

[4] *Janet P. Tongue* (19), daughter, born Blaina, Monmouthshire;

[5] *Frances Tongue* (16), daughter, born Blaina, Monmouthshire;

[6] *Charles S. T. Fellows* (3), grand-son, born Darlaston;

[7] *Elizabeth Harvey* (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston;

[8] *Mary Whitehouse* (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 4/9/1881

“To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, by directions of the Trustee of the Will of the late Miss Brevitt, at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 17th day of October, 1881.....

Lot 1. The Freehold, Goodwill, and Possession of all that old well-established Full Licensed Inn, called, or known as the CASTLE, situated fronting the Bull Stake, Darlaston, aforesaid, and occupied by Mr. *Thomas Tongue*.

The house contains Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, large Liquor Vault, Commercial Room, Kitchen, Brewhouse, Malt Room, with large and well-ventilated Cellaring, Four Bed Rooms, Large Club Room, together with Yard, Stabling, Carriage-house, and the usual Outbuildings.

The purchaser will have to take to the Trade Fixtures, Stock, Licenses and Effects at a valuation to be made

in the usual way.

An extensive, respectable, and profitable business has been for a long time carried on upon the above premises. The house has changed hands twice only during the last 30 years, and is well known throughout the district.”

[This advertisement was repeated on 29th April 1882.]

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1883 - Advert

“The OLD CASTLE HOTEL and Vaults, the only commercial house, and doing the largest trade in Darlaston, to be Let on lease at a low rent.

For particulars, apply to the Proprietor.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/8/1885

“Today (Friday), at Bilston Court, Charles Horton, landlord of the WHITE HORSE INN, Wolverhampton Street, Walsall, was charged with stealing four bottles of liquor and other articles from the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston. The evidence for the prosecution tended to show that a sale was recently held at the hotel, at which defendant attended and bought certain articles. After the sale the place was locked up, but on the manager going into the wine cellar some time afterwards he found the door had been forced, and a puncheon containing brandy removed from its place. Defendant was subsequently found in a house in Cock Street with two bottles of liquor in his possession, and when charged with the theft said he was under the influence of drink.

The case was remanded for a week, and Mr. J. Sheldon, who defended, in applying for bail, said his client bore a good character, that he was a licensed victualler at Walsall, and was formerly a manufacturer at Bloxwich, and the liquor, he should contend, was obtained without felonious intent. Bail was allowed.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/9/1885

“Charles Horton, licensed victualler, Wolverhampton Street, Walsall, was charged with stealing a quantity of brandy and cordial, value 50s, belonging to *Henry Frank Chadwick*, manager of the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston. Mr. Green, of Darlaston, prosecuted, and Mr. Sheldon, of Wednesbury, defended. The facts of the case have already received publicity. The Bench committed defendant to take his trial at the Stafford Sessions, and allowed bail. Mr. Sheldon reserved his defence.”

[Charles Horton did not appear at Staffordshire Quarter Sessions in October 1885. The recognizances of the prisoner and of his bail to be estreated.]

Walsall Observer 29/6/1889

“A new lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows was opened at the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, on Monday night by John Want, GM, James Kimberley, DGM, and A. J. Gillie, CS, of the Bescot Bridge district. A large number of members attended from nearly every lodge in the district. Up to now there has not been a lodge of this important society in Darlaston, which seems rather strange when the population of the town is considered, and also when it is remembered that the Manchester Unity has lodges in nearly every town in England, Scotland, and Wales, many in Ireland and the Colonies, numbering in all 638,000 members, with a capital of nearly £7,000,000.

The opening ceremony was read by A. J. Gillie, CS, on behalf of the district officers, after which the officers of the new lodge were duly elected and took their seats. There were four candidates initiated, and there had previously been initiated in the St. George’s Lodge, Wednesbury, seven, on behalf of the new lodge. There were also five more proposed to become members, making in all 16.

Success to the new lodge was proposed by A. J. Gillie, in an able speech. He congratulated them on having such a grand opening. He gave great credit to Bro. *G. Norton* and Bro. *F. Bridgwater* for their energy in getting sufficient candidates to open a new lodge, and spoke of the great benefits of the society.

Brother *G. Norton*, who is the host of the house, and who was elected secretary of the new lodge, suitably responded, thanked the officers and brothers for attending the opening, and pressed the new members to work in the cause of Oddfellowship, and so make the Norton Pride Lodge a great success.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/10/1889 - Advert

“Darlaston, Staffordshire, within a few yards of James Bridge Station (LNWR).

Freehold Land and Blast Furnaces, with underlying Mines and Minerals.....

Henry Hendriks is instructed to Sell the above by Auction, at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, on Tuesday, the 12th day of November, 1889, punctually at Four o'clock p.m. (railway time).....”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/7/1890 - Advert

“Tricycle, suit Boy or Girl eight to twelve; 36in; new rubbers. £2 12s 6d.

Norton, CASTLE, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1891 - Advert

“General Wanted, age 20; must have good character; under-girl kept.

Mrs. Norton, CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston.”

1891 Census

92, Pinfold Street – CASTLE HOTEL

[1] *George Norton* (35), public house manager, born Childs Ercall, Shropshire;

[2] *Amelia C. Norton* (41), wife, public house manageress, born London;

[3] *George Norton* (9), son, scholar, born Stafford;

[4] *Amelia Norton* (8), daughter, scholar, born Stafford;

[5] *Ada M. Peters* (14), domestic servant, born Darlaston;

[6] *Harriet Mountford* (14), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George's, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints', another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Dancing, music, and singing.....

George Norton, CASTLE HOTEL, Pinfold Street.....

(the license in each of these cases being for six days, and the dancing to cease at ten o'clock at night).”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1892 - Advert

“Housemaid. Wanted, a respectable Person, age 18 to 20, and to assist in the bar occasionally. Good reference will be required. No register office need apply.

Mrs. Norton, CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall.....

The Holt Brewery Company, CASTLE HOTEL, Pinfold Street.”

Walsall Observer 1/9/1894

“On Monday Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest at the OLD CASTLE INN, Pinfold Street, concerning the death of a child named Betsy Whitehouse, the daughter of George Whitehouse, of Great Croft Street. It was shown that the child died very suddenly on Saturday morning. In reply to the Coroner, the mother stated that she gave the child some magnesia taken from a box which was not labelled. The Coroner said it was very dangerous to give children mixtures taken from boxes which were not labelled.

The shopkeeper (Mrs. Gaunt), who sold the article, was sent for, and upon attending the court she was told by the Coroner if she sold medicines without labelling the packets or boxes she would be prosecuted. His experience was that greater care ought to be exercised.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Wednesbury Herald 23/2/1895

“Smoking Concert. On Monday evening the Assembly Room at the CASTLE HOTEL was crowded with gentlemen who had gathered there at the invitation of Mr. *George Norton*, the host. The chair was occupied by Mr. Walford Green, who was supported by many townsmen and visitors.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/4/1895

“Mr. Topham (deputy coroner), on Wednesday evening, held an inquest at the CASTLE HOTEL, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, on the body of Eli Winfield (12), son of parents living in L Court, Great Croft Street. Evidence was given bearing out the statement which has already appeared, that on Monday evening as the deceased was pushing a perambulator, in which were two children, along the Walsall Road, an oil-tank wagon, belonging to the Anglo-American Oil Company, was driven round the corner of a street, and the wagon colliding with the perambulator overturned it, the younger children being thrown wide of the wheels, but the deceased falling immediately in front of one of them, and sustaining injuries which resulted in his death soon after. The wagon was at the time in charge of a boy named Charles Henry Marsh, the driver having stopped behind to make a settlement with the last customer.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, at the same time blaming the driver for having allowed the wagon to be in charge of a youth of only fifteen years of age.

The Coroner promised to make a representation to the company on the subject, and expressed a hope that they would deal generously with the friends of the deceased.”

Walsall Observer 27/7/1895

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *George Norton*, keeper of the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. Ansell, Birmingham, appeared for the defence.

Police-constables Horton and Burton deposed that on the night of the 1st July they were called to the defendant’s house to Daniel Downen and John Hare, who had come from Bilston in a vehicle belonging to Richard Sheldon, and who were quarrelling as to who should pay the fare. The officers deposed that the men were drunk, and a couple of boys who were in charge of Sheldon’s vehicle were of the same opinion, and said they would have kept the men out of the vehicle had they been strong enough to do so.

The defence was that the men were not drunk, and were simply engaged in a playful dispute about the payment of the fares.

After a long hearing the case was dismissed. Summonses against Downen and Hare were also dismissed.”

Wednesbury Herald 10/8/1895

“At the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, on Monday, July 29th last, Messrs. Belcher and Son conducted a successful sale of freehold dwelling houses....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/9/1895

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Wednesbury County Division.....

Objection was lodged to the renewal of the license to *George Norton*, of the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, on the ground that the landlord had been convicted, and that the requirements of the locality did not necessitate the continuance of the license. Mr. A. Whitehouse, who represented *Norton*, urged that the license should be renewed, the hotel being one of the best in the town, and the landlord having only been convicted once, and then of a technical offence. The Bench renewed the license.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/9/1898

“Wednesbury and District Football League for ‘non-association’ teams. Cup and gold centre medals for winners; silver medals for runners-up. Entrance fee 10s; 5s refunded on fulfilment of fixtures. Entries close

September 30th. Meeting and fixtures same evening at 7.30pm. Applications to Secretary, OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/12/1898

“On Saturday night a meeting was held at the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, of workmen from the Old Park Ironworks, for the purpose of presenting to one of their foremen, Mr. James Kidman, on his leaving that firm to take up a better situation, a gold chain and seal, suitably inscribed, as a token of the respect in which he was held by the workmen under him.....”

Walsall Advertiser 11/2/1899

“The 46th banquet of the Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Friendly and Protection Society was held on Thursday evening at the STORK HOTEL. There was a large attendance, quite 200 partaking of an admirable repast Among those present were.....
George Norton, Darlaston (vice-president).”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/9/1899

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the borough of Wednesbury were held today.....
Mr. Slater applied on behalf of Annie Lunn, of the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Bull Stake, Darlaston, for a licensed victuallers license in place of an existing beerhouse ‘on’ license. He pointed out that there was a great demand in the locality of the premises for a full license, and said the house was situated near the tram terminus at Darlaston, although it was just within the borough of Wednesbury. He handed in a petition, largely signed by the inhabitants of the district, in favour of the application.
Mr. *Norton*, of the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, opposed the application, and said his premises were only twenty yards away.
Mr. Belcher spoke in support of the application, which, however, the Bench declined to grant.”

1901 Census

92, Pinfold Street

[1] *George Norton* (45), hotel manager, born Market Drayton, Shropshire;

[2] *Amelia C. Norton* (50), wife, born Middlesex;

[3] *George Norton* (19), son, wood pattern maker, born Stafford;

[4] *Amelia Norton* (18), daughter, born Stafford;

[5] *Richard Baker* (20), nephew, barman, born Stafford;

[6] *Nellie Hartshorn* (22), waitress, born Oakengates, Shropshire;

[7] *Elizabeth Small* (15), kitchenmaid, born Sedgley:

Wednesbury Leader 9/11/1901

“The members of the Darlaston Licensed Victuallers’ and Beer Retailers’ Protection Association held their annual banquet on Thursday night at the CASTLE HOTEL. Mr. J. E. Chambers (of the Holt Brewery Company Limited, Birmingham) occupied the chair, and Councillor B. W. Spittle, the vice chair.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/2/1902

“Yesterday Mr. *George Norton*, the landlord of the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, and the hon. secretary of the Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association, died somewhat suddenly after an attack of rheumatic fever. The deceased was one of the most popular members of the licensing trade in the town, and his very premature death is very much regretted by a large section of the community.”

Walsall Observer 12/3/1904

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the parish of Darlaston took place on Monday.....
Mr. W. Clulow applied for the renewal of the license of the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, which had been objected to by David Tyler, said to be the representative of a theatrical company. Mr. Tildesley appeared in support of the opposition, and explained that Tyler was in court and prepared to give evidence at the annual licensing meeting, but since then he had been compelled to leave the district through business engagements,

and was at present in Edinburgh. Mr. Clulow suggested that, as the actual objector was not present, the objection could not be proceeded with, but the Bench decided to hear any other evidence which might be tendered.

Mr. Tildesley stated that on January 28th Tyler and his wife went into the hotel whilst waiting for a tramcar. They entered the smoke-room, and Tyler had occasion to leave for a few minutes. During his absence a man was pushed into the smoke-room and the door held closed, thus preventing either Mrs. Tyler or the man, who were the only persons in the room, from making their exit. The landlady's daughter was alleged to have meanwhile opened a little window, and to have giggled at the couple. The husband on his return demanded an explanation and an apology, but neither was forthcoming, and under the circumstances he opposed the renewal of the license as a public duty.

Police-constable Colley was called, but was only able to speak as to the complaint made by Mrs. Tyler, and the Bench intimated that the evidence was insufficient, and that they considered the objector showed lukewarmness in not being present. The license was formally renewed."

Walsall Advertiser 4/7/1908

"John Shaw, of Walsall Street, Darlaston, was summoned at Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, with stealing a glass from the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, and was bound over under the First Offenders' Act. During the hearing of the case, Mr. A. E. Pritchard (magistrate) severely censured two witnesses named Thomas Horton and Joseph Bott, of Darlaston, for making contradictory statements relative to the case, and disallowed Bott's expenses, stating that the conduct of the witnesses was such as might get them into serious trouble."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/11/1909

"The members of the Loyal Norton Pride lodge of Oddfellows attended in large numbers at the lodge house, the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, on Wednesday evening for the 20th anniversary dinner. The chairman was Councillor S. P. Robinson, but during his temporary absence at another engagement Bro. F. H. Bridgewater, CS, occupied the position.

Grand Master H. Mason proposed, 'Success to the Manchester Unity and the Loyal Norton Lodge.' He said the Norton Pride was one of the best lodges in the district. It was one of the youngest, yet was one of the soundest in its financial aspect. For that lodge to accumulate £800 during its short history showed good management. This was in large measure due to the industrious manner in which the secretary (Mr. Salisbury) looked after the work. Replying to the toast, Mr. Salisbury said the lodge had 300 members....."

1911 Census

Pinfold Street – CASTLE HOTEL

- [1] *Henry H. Ormonde* (48), widower, hotel keeper, born Enville;
- [2] *Edith Riley* (28), cook, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *James E. Roden* (20), hotel waiter, born West Bromwich:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/11/1912

"The members of the Loyal Norton Pride Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows held their 23rd anniversary dinner on Wednesday at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston. Bro. F. H. Bridgewater, CS, presided....."

Walsall Advertiser 18/1/1913

"On Tuesday evening last at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, Mr. A. C. Fraser Wood, FAI, in conjunction with Mr. Arthur R. Wootton, sold by auction a freehold estate belonging to the Staffordshire Financial Co. Ltd. (in liquidation)....."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/11/1914 - Advert

"Barman, about 22; thoroughly experienced; must have good reference.
Anslow, CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston."

South Staffordshire Times 11/6/1921

“The half-yearly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers was held Tuesday evening at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, when the President, Alderman J. H. Sheldon, occupied the chair It was decided to have the annual outing to Ledbury in July, while the next place of meeting was fixed for the BULLS HEAD, Tame Bridge, on July 5th.”

South Staffordshire Times 29/10/1921

“Arthur Handley (29), of Old Union Street, Wednesbury, was summoned on three counts, the first being drunk on licensed premises at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Darlaston; secondly with assaulting PC Thorpe; and thirdly with doing damage to a copper urn at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston.

Mr. Darby (Sharpe and Darby) prosecuted and opened the case, and, instructed by the Hope [sic] Brewery Company, took the last case first. Defendant entered the CASTLE HOTEL, last Saturday night, and asked for beer, and being drunk was refused by the landlord. He then damaged a copper urn, and the damage was 20s. The defendant left the CASTLE HOTEL and entered the WAGGON AND HORSES and was charged with being drunk on those licensed premises, and he was also charged with assaulting PC Thorpe.

Mr. R. A. Tench appeared for the owners of the WAGGON AND HORSES, and also for the landlady, who refused defendant any drink.

PC Thorpe said at 7.30pm last Saturday night, he went to the CASTLE HOTEL, and saw the copper urn (produced), which was damaged. He went to search for the defendant, and found him in the WAGGON AND HORSES, in King Street, where he was being refused a drink. He got defendant outside, and to the Police Station, and also on the way the defendant kicked him, and also PC Webb, tore witnesses clothes, and acted like a madman. It took three officers to hold him down, and his shoes were removed. He also struck witness in the face. Later he charged defendant with damaging the copper urn, the property of the Holt Brewery Co, Birmingham, and he replied that he did not know much about it all.

George Carradine, licensee and manager of the CASTLE HOTEL, bore out the statement given by Mr. Darby. Defendant demanded drink, and when refused he damaged the urn, the cost of such damage being 20s. Defendant, addressing the magistrates, expressed his great regret at what had occurred and apologized to the police officer for the assault. It should not occur again. He had served in the army a considerable time. He added that he was not aware what he was doing at the time. He was now doing a little work each week. The Chairman said defendant would be fined 40s for the offence, and 20s for the damage, or £3 in all, or one month. Time was allowed to pay.”

South Staffordshire Times 14/4/1923

“Darlaston and District Poultry Society. The monthly meeting took place Thursday last at the headquarters, CASTLE HOTEL, Bull Stake.

A lecture on chicks and chick rearing was given by Mr. S. Saunders, of Dorsett Road Poultry Farm. . . .”

South Staffordshire Times 9/2/1924

“Alderman *Sheldon* presided over a well-attended meeting of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association members on Tuesday at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston. . . .”

Dudley Chronicle 17/4/1924

“The monthly meeting of the Darlaston and District Poultry Society was held on Thursday last at the headquarters, CASTLE HOTEL, Bull Stake. At the conclusion of the meeting the members had the pleasure of listening to a very interesting lecture by Mr. A. Hackett, of Walsall, on Diseases of Poultry. . . .”

Dudley Chronicle 4/9/1924

“Poultry Notes. . . .”

Darlaston Fanciers’ monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, September 4th, at eight o’clock, at the CASTLE HOTEL, Bull Stake. New members will be welcome.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 3/1/1925

“The sixth annual prize distribution in connection with the Darlaston and District Utility Poultry Society took place on Thursday evening at the CASTLE HOTEL, when the trophies won at the show held on De-

ember 13th were presented to the successful exhibitors.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/2/1925

“In the first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers’ billiard handicap this week, Mr. S. Taylor, of the JUNCTION INN, Wednesbury (rec.175), defeated Mr. *F. Ellis*, of Darlaston, a previous holder (rec.80), by 400 to 347.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 7/3/1925

“In the third round of the Birmingham and District Managers’ and Tenants’ billiard handicap, Mr. *Frank Ellis*, of the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, played a fine game on Wednesday, and won his heat. He was playing Mr. J. Powell, of Harborne, last year’s winner, who had to owe 100, while very keen, the holder making several breaks between 20 and 30, Mr. *Ellis* played a cool, consistent game, and eventually ran out the winner, the closing score being 400 to 260. Mr. *Ellis*’s highest break was 29.”

Walsall Observer 11/7/1925

“For causing an obstruction at the junction of King Street and Pinfold Street, Darlaston, on June 22, by leaving his van on the highway there – an action which, it was stated, might have resulted in a serious accident – Percival Gerald Hingley, of ‘Holmside,’ 15, St. James Road, Dudley, was ordered to pay 5s 6d costs at the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday.

Police-constable Lockley said that at 1pm on the date named he saw the van standing at the junction of the two streets, and when he returned to the spot at 1.40, the vehicle was still there. On the first occasion he took no notice of the van because there was little traffic about, but on his second visit he found there was a string of six vehicles held up because a tramcar had stopped just by defendant’s car, and oncoming traffic had to go over to the wrong side of the road to pass. This block of the highway might have resulted in a serious accident. He found defendant in the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, and, when questioned, he said, ‘I was having lunch, and I always leave the van there.’

Defendant’s version was that he asked the constable what the obstruction was, and the officer replied that it was holding up one motor lorry. There was room for at least two motor lorries to pass between the tramcar and the van. Defendant added that he had left his vehicle in exactly the same position outside the hotel once a month for the last twelve months on the instructions of the licensee, and he had never received any complaints from the police previously.

The Magistrates’ Clerk (Mr. L. A. Shirlaw): But trams don’t always stand in the same place. – Defendant: No, I’m sorry, sir.

The presiding magistrate (Mr. C. W. D. Joynson) reminded Hingley that if left the van in the same place again he would still be liable to be reported. There were plenty of other places in the town where one could have lunch and at the same time have a place to park the car. ‘No doubt,’ he added, ‘the police will tell you where you can go.’”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/4/1927

“The first annual snooker pool handicap of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers’ Billiards Association concluded yesterday at the Wagon and Horses Hotel, Birmingham, when *F. Ellis*, CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston (rec.14) beat F. Stringer, Stag Hotel, Coventry (rec.12) by 329 to 284. He won three games to two.

It was a capital struggle, especially in the opening two games, in which *Ellis* proved the strongest in snookering and his opponent clever in solving many of the problems. *Ellis* won the opening game on the black, 57-48, but Stringer took the second at 68-41, taking the last three colours.

The turning point came in the evening session, for in the third game *Ellis* snookered so cleverly and received so many concessions that he won by 101-39. Stringer made a big effort in the fourth game, and reduced the deficit to 27 by winning 75-58, but *Ellis* played on safety lines, and won the last game 72-54.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/10/1933

“*Harry Foxall*, the well-known ex-Cradley Heath and former Portsmouth footballer, was involved in a serious accident in Lawrence Lane, Old Hill, yesterday. He was riding his motor-cycle combination from the di-

rection of Cradley Heath, and when in the vicinity of the Council House he suddenly mounted the footpath. Two pedestrians, Mrs. F. Butler, aged 24, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, and David Hill, aged 44, of 26, Riddins Street, Old Hill, were knocked down by the machine and received extensive bruises in addition to injured arms and legs.

Foxall collided with a wall, and had his skull fractured, while his right ankle was crushed by the footrest on his machine. He is detained in the Guest Hospital, Dudley, in a grave condition, but the other two persons were able to proceed home after being medically treated.

Foxall had been licensee of the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, but on Monday gave up possession in order to take over the CASTLE HOTEL, Bull Stake, Darlaston.

Foxall, who was one of the best centre-half backs the Black Country has produced, was with Cradley Heath when he was signed on by Portsmouth. He captained them for two seasons, and it was during that period that they gained promotion to the First Division of the Football League. Subsequently he returned to Cradley Heath and was captain until the beginning of last season when he retired from the game.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/11/1934

“A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned by the Coroner for South Staffordshire (Mr. Frank Cooper) at a Darlaston inquest last night on a Walsall man who died suddenly in a local hotel on Sunday. The man was William Joseph Haughton, aged 70, a time clerk, employed at Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Darlaston, who lived at 30, Darlaston Road, Pleck, Walsall.

Mr. W. J. Haughton, of 9, Stafford Road, Darlaston, said his father was in the habit of visiting his house every Sunday with his daughter. He left about 9.45pm, and, as usual, went to the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, to have a drink before going home.

Mr. H. R. *Foxall*, son of the licensee of the hotel, said Haughton entered the smoke room just before 10pm and ordered a glass of whiskey. Witness gave him the whisky and change, but before he touched the drink Haughton fell sideways, and was found to be dead. Dr. O. L. Hewson said death was due to heart failure.”

Dudley Chronicle 21/3/1935

“First Division Clubs in Search of Talent.....

Harry Foxall, who followed Weston as captain of the Associates, and left to become the celebrated Portsmouth half-back captain, who saw the team rise from the Third Division to the Second, and thence to the First Division, and is now ‘mine host’ at the CASTLE HOTEL, Bullstake, Darlaston.....”

Walsall Observer 23/9/1939

“‘I’ll stand to lose everything, I want to go down the rails as they call it,’ declared *Egerton Harry Clifford Foxall*, manager of the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, when fined £2 for an alleged breach of the lighting restriction regulations.

He was one of several defendants who appeared before Messrs. A. E. Horton and A. E. Cotterell, at Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday and in his case evidence was given by Police-constable Sharkey, who said that at 9.30pm on Tuesday, September 12, he saw a white beam of light shining across Great Croft Street, from an entrance to the hotel. He kept observation for some minutes and the light shone across the road at frequent intervals as customers were entering or leaving. He informed *Foxall* who said, ‘I am sorry. It is the reflection from the mirror. I will have it altered if I can.’ The light was emitted from a single clear glass electric bulb in a passage leading to the exit. Half of the light facing the door was shaded by brown paper but on the passage side a large mirror reflected a strong light across the street when the door was opened. Replying to the Chairman defendant said the mirror was part of a fixture on which bottled goods were placed. It could be covered over. ‘I think it’s very unfair, very paltry,’ he said.

The Chairman: The regulations are there for you to observe and you ought to know the vital importance of them. It is not a question of unfairness at all; everybody has to do it.

Special-constable Nangreave corroborated the constable’s evidence and in reply to Police-superintendent J. H. Hall, said that had the globe had been fully shaded all round the light would not have hit the mirror.

When told he would be fined £2 *Foxall* said, ‘I shall have to go down gentlemen. You will have to take me. I am innocent of it.’

The Chairman: We will give you a little time to think that over.

When at the end of the Court *Foxall* was called forward and told he would be given fourteen days in which to pay the fine, he asked, 'Don't you think it would be better for me to go now?'

The Chairman: Certainly not. These regulations are for the safety of everybody.

Foxall again protested that he would 'sooner go down,' but the Chairman said, 'You have done something inadvertently which is likely to cause danger to other people. Try to be a man and admit your fault.'

Foxall: I have played the game all my life. I will stand to lose everything. I want to go down the rails as they call it.

Finally defendant was handed a notice requiring him to pay the fine in fourteen days, but persisted that he wanted to go down."

1939 Register

Bull Stake – OLD CASTLE HOTEL

[1] *Egerton Harry C. Foxall*, date of birth 12/11/1893, licensee, public house, married;

[2] *Florrie Foxall*, dob 12/11/1894, assists in public bar, unpaid, married;

[3] *Harry Richard Foxall*, dob 12/1/1915, barman, single;

[4] *Florence Dora (Foxall) Chapman*, dob 5/8/1916, shorthand typist (nuts and bolts), single;

[5] *Arthur Thomas Foxall*, dob 18/12/1919, tool setter, aero department, construction, single;

[7] *David Thomas*, dob 18/8/1893, labourer, erector, heavy worker, married;

[8] *Mary Jane Thomas*, dob 21/11/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Walsall Observer 15/3/1941

"How a Short Heath man, driving a car along King Street, Darlaston, on the night of February 17, ran a zig-zag course and bumped into the kerb, was described to the Wednesbury magistrate on Tuesday, when Ewart Carter (32), of 'Haytor,' Ravenscroft Road, was fined £10 with £8 12s 6d costs and had his license suspended for three months, for driving while under the influence of drink.

Mr. Frank Cooper (prosecuting) said the night was one of the darkest he could remember, and Alfred Thomas Southern, of Heathfield Lane West, Darlaston, walking along Great Croft Street, bumped into a stationary car which had no rear light. He suffered three severe wounds to his leg and he went for attention to the Ex-Servicemen's Club, where a meeting of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was being held. Returning he saw the car still there and then noticed that it had no front lights. When defendant appeared and he told him what had happened, Carter asked him to get into his car and said he would drive him to the Ex-Serviceman's Club. In doing so he hit the kerb several times. When Southern said he was going to get out, Carter remarked that it did not look as if he could drive a car. Mr. Cooper added that Carter was afterwards taken to the police station, where Dr. Lockhart Lowe certified him as being under the influence of drink.

Police-constable Sharkey said when he charged defendant, he said, 'Do not make it hard for me if you charge me. I know I am drunk.'

Mr. A. V. Haden (defending) pleaded not guilty and explained that defendant had a number of boot and shoe shops in the district. On this particular day he had his dinner, and from then until 7.30 was occupied with his business. Then he went to the OLD CASTLE INN, Darlaston, where he had to attend a meeting, where he had two drinks.

Defendant insisted that there were lights on his car. In a statement which he made to Sergeant Dobson, he had said, 'I am afraid I have been drinking. I have been to a farewell party to a Mr. *Foxall* at the CASTLE. It was to do with the comforts fund.'"

Bilston and Willenhall Times 12/1/1946

"Medical evidence that the condition which caused death was not a consequence of injuries received in a fall, resulted in a verdict of Death from Natural Causes being returned at an inquest, at Burton House, Sedgley, on Friday of last week, on Robert Evans (67), formerly a painter and decorator, of 19, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, who died in Burton House on New Year's Eve.

A son, *James Evans*, licensee of the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Bull Stake, Darlaston, said his father had been attended by a doctor for the past ten years and his health had gradually got worse. He had to cease work about the middle of November, since when he had spent most of his time in bed.

On Friday, December 15th, he was called to his father's house and found his father lying on the bedroom

floor, in his night attire, unconscious and bleeding very badly from a cut on the back of his neck. He was removed to hospital, where he told witness that he got out of bed, went giddy and fell backwards. He had apparently caught his head on the handle of a dressing table drawer, as there was blood on it.

Dr. W. Tweddell, medical officer at Burton House, said Evans was admitted from Walsall General Hospital on Christmas Eve, with a fairly deep cut at the back of the head and a smaller wound two inches higher. There was no evidence of a fractured skull, and Evans was not suffering from shock. He had a weakened heart. On December 31st he had a cerebral hemorrhage and died very quickly. Witness did not consider that the cerebral hemorrhage was a consequence of the injuries, but was due to Evans's general condition."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/8/1946

"Among 655 Australian wives of British Servicemen expected to arrive in Plymouth next Tuesday evening in the aircraft-carrier *Victorious* are many who are coming to the Midlands. They will travel by special trains on Wednesday. Relatives and friends will not be allowed on board the *Victorious*, but may meet passengers after they leave the Customs sheds at Millbay Docks. They are warned that there is lack of overnight accommodation in Plymouth. Among the brides are.....

Catherine Evans, CASTLE HOTEL, Bull Stake, Darlaston."

Plans were approved for alterations on 16th September 1953.

Plans were approved for the removal of a screen in the clubroom on the first floor on 28th April 1954.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/9/1954

"Two Darlaston police officers denied an allegation at Wednesbury yesterday that a 42-year-old woman had wrongly confessed to stealing £6 because she was upset by continual questioning and threats of arrest. Annie Maud Cresswell, of 135, Lime Road, Wednesbury, was put on probation for a year for stealing the money from *James Frank Paxton*, the 37-year-old licensee of the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston. She pleaded not guilty.

Defending, Mr. V. D. Royston maintained that her statement had not been freely made.

Inspector Peter Plumbley said that the money had been left in a glass behind the bar. The only people in the house when it was stolen were the licensee, his wife and niece and two cleaners, one of whom was Cresswell. Both these women went to the police station on the following day and Mrs. Cresswell made a statement admitting the offence. The next day she went to the station with her husband and said that her previous statement was untrue. At the same time she complained about the way she had been treated by the police. Cross-examined by Mr. Royston, Sergeant Bentley denied saying to the woman, 'You might as well admit it. I have seen people like you in here before trying to get tough and it does not pay.' The officer also denied saying to her, 'As soon as you get out of here I shall get a warrant for your arrest.' He agreed that he mentioned the word 'warrant' but said he meant a search warrant. When he told Mrs. Cresswell that he would make enquiries about money she had spent at a shop she replied, 'Don't, I'll tell you. I bought a suit for the boy.'

Ex-policewoman Joyce Heighton also denied that she had threatened or promised the woman anything as an inducement to confess to the theft.

The other cleaner, Mrs. Edith Mary Wildman, of 71, Hall Street East, Darlaston, told the court that she had no complaints to make about the interview by the police.

Mr. Royston said that Mrs. Cresswell felt that the only course open to her was to falsely admit to the theft. The threat of a warrant and the repeated questioning had upset her."

Walsall Observer 12/1/1968

"County Borough of Walsall.

The Highways Act 1959 and The Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act 1946.

The Walsall (King Street Darlaston By-Pass) Compulsory Purchase Order 1967.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Walsall County Borough Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by the above-mentioned Acts on the 22nd December 1967 made a Compulsory Purchase Order entitled The Walsall (King Street Darlaston By-Pass) Compulsory Purchase Order 1967, which is about to be

submitted to the Minister of Transport for confirmation, authorizing them to purchase compulsorily for the purpose of the construction of new highways in Darlaston in the said County Borough the land described in the Schedule hereto.....

In Pinfold Street, Darlaston the OLD CASTLE HOTEL.”

Closed

It was demolished and Darlaston Library was built on the site.

OLD CROWN

15, (15½), Cramphill (Cramp Hill Bank) (Crown Bank) / Bilston Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Thomas Cartwright [1873], [1875]

Jeanette Norwood, 19, Bilston Street, Darlaston

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (leased from 1930) (acquired in 1937)

LICENSEES

Stephen Pedley [1818]

Thomas Butler [1828] – [1851]

Job Butler [1845] – [1846]

Job Foster [1849] – [1851]

Joseph Foster [] – **1851**;

John Nicholds (**1851** – []

Margery Nicholls [1853]

Enoch Bruerton [1856] – [1862]

Margaret Bruerton [1861]

John Foster [1862] – [1865]

William Canlett [1865] – **1866**;

Charles Branfill* (**1866** – [1870]

Charles Barnfield* [] – **1868**);

Thomas Cartwright (**1868** – []

Albert Clarke [1871] – [1873]

Thomas Cartwright [1872] – [1880]

Samuel Stanton [1875] manager

James Dawson [1880]

Albert Clarke [1881] manager

William Horton [1891]

Arthur Wright [1891] – [1892]

Joseph James Sims [1892]

William Jones [1894]

Hezekiah Wood [1896]

George Whitbrook [1901]

Edwin Toole [1904]

Samuel Harper [1908] – [1909]

Lucy Harper [1911]

Richard William Whitehouse [1912] – [1915]

Thomas Leeson [1916] – 1924);
Harry Thomas Guy (1924 – 1925);
Mrs. Maud Amelia (Robinson) Bailey (1925 – 1930);
James Fellows (1930 – 1932);
Alfred William Gobsill (1932 – 1939):

NOTES

Crompt Hill Bank [1818]
Cramp Hill Bank [1849], [1850], [1851]
Cramphill Street [1851]
Cramp Hill [1841], [1862], [1865], [1868]
Bilston Road [1866]
Bilston Street [1828], [1830], [1879]
15, Cramphill [1881], [1891], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1932]
15½, Cramphill [1901]
Crown Bank [1882], [1891]

CROWN [1818], [1846], [1847], [1850], [1856], [1861], [1873], [1873], [1875], [1881], [1882], [1885],
[1891], [1892], [1901], [1915]

THREE CROWNS [1828], [1830], [1866]

Stephen Pedley was also a padlock manufacturer. [1818]

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1831

“Duke of Wellington’s Beer Bill.....

The cheapness of beer proves only an incentive to excess; while the grand object of the retailer is to multiply every vicious attraction which interest and ingenuity can suggest. We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured, and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.....”

AND

Birmingham Journal 3/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

In perusing your *Journal* of Saturday last, I find the following which is incorrect, but I have no doubt it is from misinformation. ‘We have heard that at the late Darlaston wake, no fewer than thirteen bulls were procured and baited at thirteen distinct retail breweries.’

The fact, Sir, is this; there were eight bulls in the whole, and one of those was at a Beer House, in Wednesbury parish, and seven were in the parish of Darlaston. There are, in the latter parish, seventeen houses licensed under the old Act, and thirty-five under the new Act. Six of those bulls were baited at the houses of the licensed victuallers, and but one at the house of a retail brewer.

This, Sir, is a truth which cannot be contradicted. I can give you the names of the persons, and the signs of every house at which these bulls were baited, if required.

I am, Sir, Your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, August 31, 1831.....

AND

Birmingham Journal 10/9/1831 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Journal*.

Sir, Agreeable to your request I have given you the names of the persons, also their signs, at the houses where the bulls were baited at the late Darlaston wake.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, W. Duffield. Darlaston, September 8, 1831.....

Licensed under the Old Act *T. Butler*, OLD CROWN.”

1841 Census

Cramp Hill

- [1] *Thomas Butler* (45), gunlock forger, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ellen Butler* (40), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Job Butler* (20), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Thomas Butler* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *James Butler* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Ellen Butler* (13), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Moses Butler* (11), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Stephen Butler* (6), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *John Butler* (4), born Staffordshire;
- [10] *Fanny Butler* (2), born Staffordshire;
- [11] *Nancy Cook* (15), f.s, born Staffordshire;
- [12] *Job Foster* (30), gunlock forger, born Staffordshire:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/1/1842

“Canine Fancy. If Simcox, of West Bromwich, should like to give a pound with the Blue Dog, and make a match for £10 a side with a dog not exceeding 14 months old, he may, by applying at the OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston, find a customer.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/4/1843

“William Butler will fight James Parker, Tass Parker’s brother, of Westbromwich, from £5 up to £25 a side. His money is ready at the OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/12/1843

“George Holden of Walsall, and Edward Martin, alias Whiteheaded Bob, of Darlaston, are matched to fight for £20, according to new rules, £4 a side were deposited on Tuesday last at Mr. B. Abnett’s, WINDMILL TAVERN, Walsall; a further deposit, of £3 a side, is to be put down on Tuesday next, at Mr. *Thomas Butler*’s, OLD CROWN, Darlaston; and the third and final deposit, of £3 a side, to be put down at Mr. B. Abnett’s, on Tuesday, the 12th inst. The fight to take place on the 19th inst, within 24 miles of Walsall. Holden not to exceed 8st 8lb, and Martin not to exceed 8st 7lb, on the morning of fighting.”

[The fight took place on 19th December 1843, near the Tyburn Tree (Perry Barr), in Birmingham, in front of between three to four thousand people; it lasted 25 minutes (14 rounds) when George Holden knocked Whiteheaded Bob out.]

Job Butler = Job Buttlers

Job Butler was also a gunlock manufacturer. [1845]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/8/1845

“Isaiah Gough of Darlaston will run Joseph Powell of Bloxwich 120 yards, for £10 a side; or Granger of Wolverhampton 120 or 140 yards; or *Job Buttlers*’ man of the OLD CROWN 100 or 120 yards, if he has not ran for more than £10; or any man within six miles of Darlaston, for £10 a side. His money will be ready any night next week at Mr. Wm. Burn’s, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/2/1846

“Obadiah Shore will fight Thomas Penrice, catchweight for £10 a side; and meet him any night next week at the OLD CROWN, Darlaston, to make the match.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/2/1846 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Public House, and Dwelling Houses and Premises, in Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, in Darlaston aforesaid, on Tuesday the 10th day of February, at five o’clock in the afternoon, by direction of the mortgagee.

The undermentioned Freehold Premises, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the

time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be read.

Lot 1. All that old licensed and well established Public House, known by the sign of the CROWN, situated at Cramp Hill Bank, in Darlaston aforesaid, with brewhouse and malt room over the same, stable, pigsty, pump of excellent water, and large yard thereto belonging, now in the possession of *Job Butler*; also all those three large Workshops, situated at the back of and adjoining the above premises.....”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/5/1846

“Daniel Cooper of Darlaston wishes to run John Thomas (the Little Welsh Collier) of Tettenhall, one mile, for £10 a side. His money is ready at the OLD CROWN, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 31/5/1846

“Butler’s dog Mack can be backed against Fox’s brindled dog, 32lb or 33lb, for £10 a side. The money is ready at the OLD CROWN, Darlaston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/1/1847

“Annual Dinner of the Members of the Lockfilers Association, at Darlaston.

On Monday last, the members of this society, which numbers about 340 members, assembled to celebrate their annual festival. The members dined at three houses, namely Mr. *Butler*’s, the CROWN INN; Mr. Wilks’s, the VINE INN; and Mr. Jones’s, the RED LION INN. After the members had done ample justice to the good supply of roast and boiled, and the cloth removed, Mr. Francis Humpage was called to the chair; Mr. J. Harper occupied the vice-chair.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/6/1847 - Advert

“Whereas *Thomas Butler*, at present and for nine years past residing at Cramphill, Darlaston, in the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, and being for five years last past a Gun Lock Forger, and for fourteen years previous thereto a Gun Lock Forger and Victualler, having duly filed a petition for protection from process in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, under the provisions of the statutes now in force for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, the said *Thomas Butler* is hereby required to appear before John Balguy, Esquire, one of her Majesty’s Commissioners acting in the matter of the said petition, on the third day of July next, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, at the District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes, and the Creditors present at such sitting are then to choose an Assignee or Assignees. All persons indebted to the said *Thomas Butler*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Richard Valpy, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, the Official Assignee nominated in that behalf by the Commissioner acting in the matter of the said petition.

Augustus Yeates, Solicitor, Birmingham.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/7/1847

“Bankruptcy Court, Birmingham. Saturday.....

In re *Thomas Butler*, of Darlaston, gun lock forger.

The insolvent passed his first hearing. Solicitor, Mr. Yeates.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/7/1847

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court. Saturday.....

In re *Thomas Butler*, of Darlaston, Gun Lock Forger.

The insolvent received his final order without opposition.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/7/1847

“Benjamin Badger has a lad he will back to run any other lad his age (16), from 80 yards to one mile, for from £2 to £10 a side. He will run young George Taylor of Butcroft, Darlaston, or Gough’s Novice, and give three yards in 80, and 40 in a mile. The boy will be ready at the OLD CROWN, Darlaston, the first four nights next week, prepared to make the match.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/8/1850

“Staffordshire County Court. Walsall District. Before N. R. Clarke, Esq.

Butler v Swift. In this case the plaintiff is the landlord of the CROWN INN, Darlaston, and the defendant, his son-in-law, a gun-lock maker, residing at the Pleck. The defendant had married *Butler's* daughter in June, 1849, and lived very comfortably with her up to Christmas, when she came to her father's house, bearing marks of violence, and complained of her husband's ill-treatment of her. She remained with her father until January 21st 1850. In the meantime the defendant gave up housekeeping, sold his furniture, and went to live with his father. On the day above mentioned, the plaintiff, accompanied by his daughter and a police officer, went to the residence of the defendant's father, and requested to know if defendant would find a home for his wife. He refused to do so, and his father pushed the wife out of the house with great violence. On the 3rd instant the young woman died from consumption, brought on, it is inferred, from anxiety of mind and her husband's unkindness. The present action was brought to recover the sum of £17 4s for the expenses incurred in her maintenance and medical attendance.

The defendant, for whom Mr. Wilkinson was employed, endeavoured to show that his wife had left him without his consent, and that there had always been a home for her; but his witnesses stated the very reverse. His Honour gave a verdict of £10 and costs. Mr. W. H. Duignan appeared for the complainant.”

Job Foster = Job Forster

London Gazette 24/1/1851

“Whereas a Petition of *Thomas Butler*, of Cramp-hill-bank, Darlaston, Staffordshire, Gunlockfiler, and also carrying on the business of a Licensed Victualler for his own benefit, but in the name of *Job Forster*, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Walsall, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Thomas Butler*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Thomas Butler* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 31st day of January instant, at twelve of the clock at noon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors' assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *Thomas Butler*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Frederic Fuhrmann Clarke, Clerk of the said Court, at his office, in Mountrath-street, Walsall, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

1851 Census

Cramp Hill Bank

- [1] *Thomas Butler* (55), gunlock forger, born Darlaston;
- [2] Ellen Butler (54), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Moses Butler (21), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [4] Stephen Butler (18), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [5] John Butler (14), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Job Foster* (41), brother-in-law, unmarried, gunlock forger, born Darlaston;
- [7] Fanny Butler (12), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] Elizabeth Hobbins (17), house servant, born Darlaston;
- [9] Joseph Needham (17), apprentice gunlock forger, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1853

“In accordance with recent regulations, a Special Petty Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Barr, on Wednesday last.....

Cases, in which the re-granting of old licenses in this district had been suspended, were gone into, with the following results.....

Margery Nicholls, OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston, supposed to have had parties fighting in or near her house, was found on inquiry not to have so had these fellows, who came from the KINGS ARMS INN, where the fray originated, to her house; license restored.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/9/1856

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, Sarah Nicholls, step-daughter of *Enoch Bruerton*, landlord of the CROWN INN Darlaston, was charged with concealing the birth of her male infant. Mr. Sill, from the office of Mr. Duignan and Hemmant, appeared for the prisoner.

Mr. Charles Edward Handy, surgeon, of Darlaston, deposed he visited the prisoner on the evening of the 2nd instant, when he found her suffering from fever, and prescribed medicine for her. He visited her again twice on the following day; on his first visit his strong suspicions were excited that she had given birth to a child, which a discovery at the second visit convinced him of, but she denied it. It appeared that this gentlemen was sent for at the prisoner’s own request. Afterwards the dead body of a full-grown male child was found in a drawer of a bureau in the prisoner’s bedroom, by her mother. She said the child was still-born, but on making a post mortem examination Mr. Handy found that it had breathed.

Mr. Went, sub-inspector of police, found clothes for an infant in a drawer in prisoner’s bedroom.

Mr. Sill contended, first, that it was necessary to show that there had been permanent disposal of the body of the child; and, second, that it must be the concealment of a dead body, whereas the evidence did not prove that it was dead when put into the drawer. The fact of the prisoner’s sending for the surgeon and preparing clothes was opposed to the idea that she intended permanent concealment, and her conduct went rather to prove that she acted under the influence of distraction, induced by shame. The magistrates, after consulting, decided to commit the prisoner for trial, but consented to take bail for her appearance in two sureties of £50 each.”

[At the Staffordshire Lent Assizes, in March 1857, Sarah Nicholls was discharged.]

1861 Census

Cramp Hill – CROWN INN

[1] *Margaret Bruerton* (45), married, victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] John Nicholas (17), son, labourer, or carter, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah Mark (22), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Janet Mark (1), grand-daughter, born Darlaston:

John Foster, retailer of beer, Cramp Hill. [1862]

John Foster was also a china and earthenware dealer. [1864], [1865]

William Canlett = William Candlett

Birmingham Journal 21/10/1865

“On Tuesday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, *William Candlett*, keeper of the OLD CROWN INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, was convicted of having allowed gambling in his house at three o’clock on the morning of the 11th inst, and was fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a hard-working, honest, Girl.

Apply by letter, or in person, to *W. Canlett*, Crown Bank, Darlaston.”

Shrewsbury Free Press 12/5/1866

“At the Police Court, Darlestone, on Tuesday, *William Canlett*, landlord of the THREE CROWNS INN, Bilston Road, pleaded guilty to having sold ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 29th of April. The defendant was fined 10s and costs on the 17th October last for a similar offence; and 20s and costs on the 20th March, for a second offence of like description. The Stipendiary fined the defendant £10 and costs. The fine was paid.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1866 - Advert

“To be Let, the well-known Old-Licensed Inn, known as the OLD CROWN, Cramp Hill Bank, Darlaston. Coming-in, including Stock and Fixtures, about £180.

Apply to present Proprietor.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/8/1866 - Advert

“The OLD CROWN INN, Cramphill, Darlaston.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the Licenses and Possession of the above Old-established Public House. Rent and In-coming moderate.

For further particulars, apply to Enoch Bruerton, Auctioneer, Darlaston; or Mr. George Wilkes, Maltster, Walsall.”

Birmingham Journal 30/3/1867 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, the OLD CROWN, Cramp Lane, Darlaston.

Apply to Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Wednesbury.”

*probably the same person

Dudley Herald 25/7/1868

“Unreserved clearing out sale at the OLD CROWN INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, 4th August the whole of the public house fixtures, brewing plant consisting of a capital mash tub, pair of cooling vats, 110 gallon copper boiler and 60 gallon ditto, coolers, ale casks, drinking tables, rail back benches, 4-pull beer machine, 9-pull spirit fountain and piping, spirit barrels, ale and spirit measures and numerous other effects to be sold without the slightest reserve, in consequence of extensive alterations to be made to the premises.”

Albert Clarke = Albert Clark

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/1/1871

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), a man named William Duffy, labourer, Darlaston, was summoned for being disorderly, and refusing to leave the house of *Albert Clarke*, OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston. On the 15th inst the defendant went to complainant’s house, in company with another man. They had not been in the house long before the defendant became very noisy and quarrelsome, and as he refused to leave when requested he was summarily ejected.

In reply to Mr. Spooner, complainant said defendant was not drunk when he came to his house, but he had had some beer. Defendant and his friend had ‘something to drink’ at complainant’s house, but the liquor was not served to the defendant.

The Stipendiary said he was determined to put a stop to the practice of serving men with more liquor when they had already had enough by making them pay the costs of the case they brought forward, instead of punishing the men who were summoned. They were the real persons to blame. He should dismiss the case, and saddle the complainant with the costs. He (the Stipendiary) was determined to see if he could not do away with the wicked practice he had referred to.”

1871 Census

Cramp Hill

[1] *Albert Clark* (32), engine fitter and turner and publican, born Gloucester;

[2] Sarah Ann Clark (27), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Sarah Clark (4), daughter, born Walsall:

Walsall Observer 8/2/1873

“At Wednesbury Stipendiary’s Court, on Tuesday, Mary Ann Burns, and John Burns, her son, were brought up in custody, charged with having assaulted Mary Ann Clarke, at the OLD CROWN INN, on the night of the 25th ult. There were also other charges against the prisoners of having assaulted Sarah Maddox, Police-sergeant Brereton, and Police-constable Kinley.

Sarah Ann *Clarke*, keeper of the OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston, deposed to the female prisoner going into the house about ten o’clock, and acting in a riotous manner. She requested her to leave, and as she refused to do so she sent for a policeman. Prisoner then went away, but returned again in a short time and commit-

ted an assault on the witness, threw down the machine, and afterwards tried to pull witness over the counter. Prisoner also assaulted the servant, Mary Ann Maddox, and was assisted by her son. Sergeant Brereton was again sent for, and at this time there were in the house besides the two prisoners several members of the same family, and the whole of them were fighting with the other people in the house. He took one of them – Anthony Burns, who has been dealt with by the Tipton magistrates, having been fined 20s and costs or a month for assaulting the sergeant, 10s for being drunk, and 10s and costs for damaging the officer's clothing – into custody, and whilst taking him to the station he was knocked down several times by a number of Irish by whom he was surrounded. It required four constables to take Anthony to the station.

The Stipendiary said he should sentence the prisoner to six months' hard labour. The female prisoner was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for the assault on Mrs. *Clarke*; one month for the assault on Maddox, and three months for the assault on the police-sergeant – in all five months' imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/4/1873

"Yesterday evening, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston, on the body of Matthew Baggerley, aged 47, whose death took place on Sunday morning under the distressing circumstances reported in yesterday's *Post*. Superintendent Holland and Sergeant Brereton were present on the part of the police. At the outset, the Coroner reminded the Jury that they had nothing to do with the charge of burglary which was mixed up with the case.

Julia Baggerley identified the body as that of her father, who was aged 47, and formerly was a schoolmaster in Ireland, but latterly had been working as a labourer. About a quarter past twelve o'clock on Saturday night, Police-constable M'Kinley came to her father's house, and told witness's mother that he had brought some drink, and they were to come and have some of it. He then took a bottle out of his pocket and poured out some brandy, which he offered to her. She refused it, but her mother, her sister Elizabeth, and her father partook of it, as did also the policeman. All the brandy was drunk without water. When the bottle was empty the policeman went away, and her father, mother and sister were getting intoxicated, the drinking having lasted about an hour. He returned in about ten minutes, saying he had brought some more, and produced a bottle of gin from his pocket, and they all drank of the contents, witness excepted. Her sister, Elizabeth went into the yard to fetch some water, and, being nearly drunk, fell down. M'Kinley fetched her in, but she fell down again, and he then placed her upon a chair. Her father tried to get him out, but he refused to go, and afterwards produced a bottle of whisky, and told her sister to stand up and have some of it, but she was too drunk to do so. Her mother and father drank of the whisky, and before the bottle was quite finished a neighbour took it away. The policeman lay on the floor drunk for the remainder of the night, and so did her sister; her mother and father, too drunk for her to get them upstairs, sat in chairs. M'Kinley, after much trouble, he being drunk and quarrelsome, was got out of the house at about half-past five in the morning. When he brought the bottles in he said his brother had sent them to him from France. He had been to the house before to see her sister, whom he had known in Dublin, but had never brought spirits before. About the time he left her father fell out of the chair where he had been sitting, with his head back, and she placed a pillow on the floor for his head to rest on. His face was then black – from dirt as she thought. She then left him for half an hour, when, seeing a change in his appearance, she called in some neighbours, and found he was dead. During the night he had thrown up something like water. He had had no food that day.

Mr. Latham and another gentleman afterwards attended. No water was mixed with any of the spirits, nor did she see the policeman put anything into the glass before he poured out the spirits. The policeman had been on good terms with her sister and father, except the latter wanted to get him away. Her mother was not lying on her father on the ground, but her foot rested on his face.

Elizabeth Baggerley, sister of the previous witness, gave corroborative evidence, but differed from her sister in some few minor particulars. She fixed the time of M'Kinley's first visit as between half-past twelve and one, and said that about a pint of water was drunk with the first bottle of spirits. She was conscious when M'Kinley went away to fetch some, and remembered him saying that he had seven more bottles; but beyond that she recollected nothing until she found herself in bed the next morning. She first became acquainted with him in Dublin, but had only known him in Darlaston about six weeks. He had never brought drink to the house before. He had never taken liberties with her before she became unconscious. Her father had nothing to eat before he went to work on Saturday, but when he returned in the evening he had tea, bread and butter, and eggs. The bottles were fastened down with wax, and covered with a white substance when

brought into the house.

The Coroner left it to the Jury to decide whether there should be an adjournment, for the purpose of an analysis of the deceased's stomach; at the same time remarking that he had never met with a clearer case of death from excessive drinking, and it was a wonder the whole family had not died.

The Jury considered an adjournment unnecessary, and returned a verdict the death had resulted from Excessive Drinking of spirits.

The wife of the deceased was much better last night, and her daughter Elizabeth had almost entirely recovered. M'Kinley will be brought up today at Wednesbury on the charge of burglary."

Bromsgrove & Droitwich Messenger 19/4/1873

"On Tuesday, before the Stipendiary Magistrate at Wednesbury, a case of an appalling character was heard. Michael McKinley, a young policeman in the Staffordshire County Constabulary, was charged with burglariously breaking into the CROWN INN, at Darlaston, and stealing several bottles of spirits, wine, and cigars. The prisoner was stationed at Darlaston, and between twelve and one o'clock on Sunday morning, he called upon a man named Baggalley, whose daughter he was in the habit of visiting. McKinley brought with him several bottles of brandy, whiskey, and gin, with which he 'treated' the Baggalley family, until several of them were insensibly drunk, and the mother and one daughter, on coming to their senses, found Baggalley himself quite dead, as subsequently proved from the excessive drinking of raw spirits. The spirits, it was discovered, had been stolen from the CROWN INN, which had been burglariously entered, and the prisoner was seen on the premises shortly before the theft. The disclosures made by the witnesses were exceedingly revolting. The accused was remanded for completion of the depositions."

Worcester Journal 26/7/1873

"At the Stafford assizes, on Tuesday, M'Kinlay, a policeman, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for breaking into the CROWN INN, Darlaston, on the 12th of April last, and stealing a quantity of brandy, whiskey, and cigars. The prisoner, after committing the robbery, took the spirits to the house of a man named Bagalley, who died from the effects of the drink."

AND

Dudley Herald 26/7/1873

"*Thomas Cartwright* burgled by PC Michael McKinley given 7 years penal servitude."

Midland Examiner and Times 16/1/1875

"On Friday afternoon, Mr. F. W. Topham, deputy-coroner, held an inquest at the OLD CROWN INN, Bilston Road, Darlaston, into the cause of death of William Ward Wilkes, aged 64, a clerk, employed at the Whitehall Colliery, Greets Green, West Bromwich, who died on Tuesday in last week. Deceased lived in Bilston Street, Darlaston, but had lodgings near the colliery, and Susannah Bayley, with whom he lodged at the latter place, deposed that on Thursday evening last he returned to his lodgings about a quarter to six o'clock the worse for drink, and fell down at the door. She assisted him into the house, and he slept in a chair until eight o'clock, when he wrote a letter, which he took to the Post Office, refusing an offer of his landlady to take it for him. About twelve o'clock he returned in a cab. He was covered with blood, had two black eyes, and four bruises on his legs, which he asked her to rub with spirits, besides a wound on one of his fingers. He told her that he had been knocked down by a trap, but the next morning he said two men whom he should know again, had knocked him down.

Joseph Greenhill stated that about nine o'clock the same night he found the deceased lying in the road at the Junction, having been attracted thither by hearing a cry. A trap belonging to Mr. Watts, of Snow Hill, Birmingham, was also there. He and Mr. Watts's man assisted him to the hospital, where a wound on one of his fingers was dressed, and they removed him home in a cab. Deceased told them that he had fallen down, and could not get up again.

James William Lewis, the engineer at the colliery, deposed that the deceased told him he had been knocked down by two men, who did not work at the colliery, but whom he should know again, and whilst on the ground the trap went over him. In answer to the deceased's son witness said he never heard that on one occasion a workman put his fist in deceased's face, and threatened to 'do' for him. Witness further stated that deceased was given to drinking heavily, and when under the influence of drink was very abusive.

The inquest was then adjourned for a post mortem examination to be made.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/1/1875

“At an inquest held on the body of William Ward Wilkes, an old man who was found lying in the street in an unconscious condition under circumstances reported last week, Mr. Johnson, surgeon, stated that he found various bruises on the body of the deceased, and the heart, liver, lungs, and kidney very much diseased. In his opinion the deceased must have had a heavy fall, and the injuries he had received in consequence, coupled with drunken habits, and the bodily disease under which he suffered, had caused death. A verdict was returned in accordance with the evidence.”

Yorkshire Post 16/6/1875

“A fatal fight has taken place at Darlaston. Two men – Joseph Parker, a nut and bolt maker, and Joseph Johnson, a miner – had been drinking at the CROWN INN, when the wife of the former came in to fetch her husband home, upon which Johnson put his arms round her and kissed her. The result was that Parker became incensed, and the two retired to the yard, where they fought several rounds, after which Parker put on his coat, and Johnson gave him a foul blow behind the ear. Parker was immediately conveyed home, but death had taken place before medical assistance arrived. Johnson was subsequently apprehended.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/6/1875

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, opened an enquiry at the CROWN AND CROSS GUNS INN, Darlaston, on the body of William Parker, aged 35, nut and bolt forger, whose death was alleged to have resulted from a blow inflicted by Joseph Johnson, a miner, in the course of a public house quarrel, on Monday night. Johnson was present in custody. Mr. Ebsworth watched the proceedings on behalf of the prisoner, and of Mr. Cartwright, the owner of the house where the affray begun; and Superintendent Holland and Sergeant Breton were in attendance on behalf of the police. The street in the vicinity of the inn was thronged with thousands of persons.

Mary Parker, widow of the deceased, identified the body.

Benjamin Butler, gun-lock forger, Eldon Street, deposed that on Monday he went to the CROWN INN, at about half-past seven in the morning. Parker was there then, in the liquor vaults, with several others, drinking. They all left, saying they were going to the DOG, and at about nine o'clock Johnson (the prisoner) entered the CROWN. At about a quarter to ten Parker and the others returned, and at about eleven o'clock Mrs. Parker entered the house. Her husband asked her what brought her there, and she said she had come to take him home. She called for three half-pints of porter, which were supplied, and after the liquor had been drunk, Mrs. Parker, her husband, and the others left the house, and were away about two hours, or until about four o'clock. Then they returned, and stayed in the house till a few minutes before five o'clock. Mrs. Parker was then the worse for beer. Parker and Johnson had a word or two, what about he did not know, and they went out to fight. Parker challenged Johnson. They went out of the side door into the back yard. No one went with them. When they had been out a few minutes, Mrs. Lloyd a woman who lived in the yard, ran in, saying Parker and Johnson were fighting. All the people moved out as well as they could, and witness saw Johnson knock Parker down twice with his fist. They were both fighting at the time. Some one said the police were coming. Parker then put his jacket on, saying he had done; he wouldn't fight anymore. Johnson did not want him to fight again. When he said that he was leaning against the window of the CROWN. He had tried to get into the CROWN, but could not, because the door was fast. When it was said the police were about, Johnson ran into Lloyd's house; but about five minutes afterwards, when he saw Parker against the window, he ran out again, went straight up to him, and hit him on the right side, by the ear. Parker fell to the ground. Mike Farrell went and picked him up, and he died directly. Johnson then ran out of the yard. Parker was drunk, but Johnson was sober, although he had had some beer. Witness could not tell at all what was the cause of the disagreement between the two. He was there all day because he was 'at play.' There was nothing to draw at the pit.

By Mr. Ebsworth: Although he was in the house from 7.30 till five, he was not drunk. He spent but eight-pence all day. The yard where the fight took place was a common yard, used by the occupants and perhaps a dozen houses, and with an opening into the street. Parker must have seen Johnson coming towards him, but did nothing in self-defence. He was too drunk. Before Johnson left Lloyd's house he said he would go and

give Parker another blow.

Mary Ann Capewell, a married woman, living in the yard at the back of the CROWN, deposed that at about five o'clock on Monday she saw Johnson and the deceased strip in the yard, and begin to fight. Johnson knocked Parker down, and before the latter could get up again Butler pushed Johnson away, saying Parker was too drunk to fight. Johnson picked up his coat to go away, but Parker would go up to him again, and they fought again, Parker being knocked down by Johnson a second time. He fell on his back. Johnson went away to Mrs. Lloyd's house, and Parker got up. A man went up to him, to wipe his nose and put on his coat, but he would not let the man do it. The man went away, saying if Parker was so stupid he should take his chance. They all then left Parker, who, after trying unsuccessfully to get into the CROWN again, went, and reared himself up against the door, cursing and swearing. Johnson then left Lloyd's and went up to Parker, saying, 'I was by myself yesterday, all but this lad; but are you man enough now?' Parker replied, 'Yes, but I am rather too drunk.' Johnson then struck him on the neck, and he 'twirled' round and fell over, but raised himself up a little and then fell over again, with his mouth and nose on the cellar steps. Parker could see that Johnson was going to hit him. Both were drunk, but Parker was worse than the other. Nothing was said as to what they were fighting about.

By Mr. Ebsworth: Did not hear Parker say when he put on his coat that he would fight no more. Did not hear him say anything about Johnson when he was by the window; he was swearing at the landlord for having 'made' the door. Johnson did not run out of Lloyd's house and strike Parker without warning, but spoke to him first and sparred before him. It was then Parker said he was too drunk.

The enquiry was then adjourned till three o'clock on Saturday for a post mortem examination of the body." [At the adjourned inquest, the jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Joseph Johnson, who was committed for trial, bail being allowed.]

Dudley Guardian 26/6/1875

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), Joseph Johnson, miner, Camp Street, Darlaston, was charged with causing the death of William Parker (35), nut and bolt forger, during the quarrel which took place on Monday evening, the 14th inst. In addition to the witnesses who were examined at the inquest, and whose evidence appears above, Michael Farrell, a resident of Cross Street, Darlaston, was called. He deposed that the deceased, Johnson, Samuel Corbett, and Charles Pedlar, had been drinking at the CROWN INN, from half-past seven in the morning until half-past eleven. They went away and returned again. In the afternoon the deceased and Johnson began to 'haggle,' the result being that they both went into the yard and commenced fighting. Johnson went up to Parker and struck him on the right ear. He fell to the ground; when witness helped pick him up he was to all appearances dead, and blood was flowing from his mouth.

Police-sergeant Breton said he apprehended the prisoner at his own house. When he charged him with causing the death of Parker he replied, 'It's a bad job; but it can't be helped now.' Prisoner was then remanded to Bilston, on Friday, in order that the depositions may be completed.

Immediately after the hearing of the above case, *Thomas Cartwright*, owner of the CROWN INN, Bilston Street, at the rear of whose premises the fatal affray took place, was summoned for permitting drunkenness. Mr. G. L. Underhill (instructed by Mr. Ebsworth) defended.

Benjamin Butler gave similar evidence to that at the inquest respecting the death of Parker.

In cross-examination by Mr. Underhill, the witness said that he should not perhaps have thought anything about the affair had not the police come to him. He could not swear that Johnson kissed Parker's wife; but he was positive that when the policeman served him with the summons to give evidence that day, he (witness) said, 'I cannot swear that these men got drunk in this house, nor that they came in drunk.'

James Lunn said he went to the defendant's house about four o'clock and saw Parker and Johnson. He considered the former to be drunk, and the latter the worse for drink.

Mr. Underhill said that in order to prove the offence with which the defendant was charged, it was essential to show that either the owner of the house, or some person who was acting on his behalf and managing the business, had the opportunity of seeing, and did see that the men were drunk, but in this instance there was not a tittle of evidence to show this.

Mr. Spooner: Supposing they shut their eyes – (laughter)? The defendant is answerable for the conduct of his house. There is plenty of evidence to convict twenty times over.

Mr. Underhill said his client was a very respectable and straightforward person, and if this fatal fight had not taken place they would not have heard of a single thing about this offence. The evidence of Butler was contradicted by Lunn with regard to the time of the commencement of the quarrel; and the whole of the evidence went to show that no drink was served to either Parker or Johnson after four o'clock.

Samuel Stanton, the manager at the CROWN INN, was called and stated that Johnson was not tipsy, but had had beer; and that in the morning he had served the parties with ale. The deceased and Parker had had drink several times during the day.

The Stipendiary said there was no doubt in his mind that the prisoner, and the party who were with him, had been drinking from early in the morning until late at night; and he quite disagreed with the evidence of *Stanton* that just before the fight the men were not drunk. The result of this drunken quarrelling had a lamentable termination, and although he did not wish to connect the two cases, it was difficult not to do so. One thing was painfully obvious throughout, and that was that there appeared to be a reckless supplying of liquors to the men during the whole of the day. He could not personally attach blame to Mr. *Cartwright* – except that he kept two houses instead of one, and therefore could not give undivided attention to the one in which the drinking took place. He fined defendant £10 and costs, and his license to be endorsed.”

Midland Examiner and Times 3/7/1875

“On Tuesday, at the Bilston Police Court, before Mr. Isaac Spooner, stipendiary, the man Joseph Johnson, who was brought up last week at Wednesbury, charged with manslaughter of William Parker, was formally committed to the Assizes. Bail was accepted, the prisoner in £100, and two others in £50 each.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 21/7/1875

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Joseph Johnson, 25, miner, was charged with the manslaughter of William Parker, on the 14th of June at Darlaston. Mr. Boughey prosecuted; prisoner was not defended. The facts simply were that on the date named, the men after drinking together, went into the yard of the CROWN INN at Darlaston, stripped and fought. Prisoner gave the other man a blow under the ear, and the man fell dead. Prisoner was found guilty and was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Mail 29/9/1875

“The Adjourned Licensing Session for the West Bromwich Division was held today at West Bromwich Police Court.....

The suspended licenses, 14 in number, were all renewed. In the case of Mr. *Cartwright*, owner of the CROWN INN, Darlaston, who had sustained a conviction, Mr. Ebsworth, who appeared for Mr. *Cartwright*, stated that the manger had allowed two men to get drunk there, and they afterwards went out to fight, and one lost his life in the encounter. The Stipendiary, in fining Mr. *Cartwright* £10, said he did not attach any personal blame to Mr. *Cartwright*. Superintendent Holland (Wednesbury) stated that Mr. *Cartwright* had conducted his house in an exemplary manner, and he had dismissed his manager.”

Thomas Cartwright – see also OLD PARK, Wednesbury and NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE (LYNDON HOUSE), Walsall.

Wednesbury Herald 20/12/1879

“On Saturday, Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the OLD CROWN INN, Bilston Street, relative to the death of James Spurr, aged 5 years, who had died from the effects of burns. The deceased was left in the house by his mother on Tuesday, in charge of a baby, and when she returned she found the deceased shockingly burnt from head to feet, his clothes having been ignited by the fire. Death ensued a few hours after the occurrence. It was stated that deceased admitted that his clothing became ignited when attempting to reach a pothook which was placed over the fire-place.

The Coroner said he considered the parents guilty of negligence in not providing a fire-guard. The mother was also to blame for leaving children of such tender years in a house by themselves, and he trusted she would take more care in future, for the probability was that she would get into trouble.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Dudley and District News 5/6/1880

“Thomas Graney was brought up on the three separate charges of being drunk on the licensed premises of *James Dawson*, the OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston, on the 29th ult; of being drunk and riotous in the street; and also of wilfully damaging the windows of the cell in which he was confined.

Mr. *Dawson*, the publican, and PC Commerford proved that prisoner was drunk and refused to quit the public house. When taken into custody he made use of bad language, and threatened the landlord. When confined in his cell he broke the window, and on PC Commerford going to him and asking why he had done it, prisoner said, ‘I will break your — face the same way.’

Defendant was fined 30s including costs for the first offence, no fine being inflicted on the other charges.”

Wednesbury Herald 15/1/1881

“An inquest was held at the CROWN INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, on Monday, before Edwin Hooper Esq, coroner, relative to the death of Daniel, aged five years, son of Joseph Harper, nut and bolt maker, Cramp Hill, Darlaston. It appeared that the child was sent upstairs to bed, and after standing before the fire for a while his clothes ignited, and he was severely burnt about the body. The child lingered in great agony till Thursday last, when he succumbed to the injuries received. The parents of the deceased, from the date of the accident till the child’s death, failed to call in the services of a medical man, and used no remedy to alleviate the deceased’s misery beyond pouring treacle over the parts which were burnt. The Coroner severely censured the parents for not sending for a doctor, and told if another child of theirs met with a similar accident he would commit them on a charge of manslaughter.”

1881 Census

15, Cramp Hill – OLD CROWN

[1] *Albert Clarke* (42), manager of public house, born Gloucester;

[2] *Sarah A. Clarke* (36), wife, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 1/7/1882

“On Thursday, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), held an inquest at the CROWN INN, Crown Bank, Darlaston, respecting the death of Joseph Johnson (12), who was drowned whilst bathing in the Birmingham Canal, on the 26th ult.

William Johnson deposed that he was the brother of the deceased, and on Monday, witness, deceased, and two other boys went to Rough Hay for the purpose of bathing. Deceased got into the Birmingham Canal, and after being in the water about five minutes deceased appeared to be seized by cramp, and went to the bottom, and witness and a boy named Turner jumped into the water after him, but were unable to save him. An alarm was raised, and a man named Heeley came up to their assistance.

Benjamin Heeley stated that he saw a number of boys bathing in the water. He heard an alarm and went up to the canal and saw deceased struggling in the water. He jumped in after him, but upon bringing him to the surface he found that the boy was dead. No surgeon was sent for as it was not considered necessary.

The Coroner said he considered a surgeon ought to have been sent for.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1884

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, John Burke, ironworker, Portway Road, Wednesbury, was convicted of being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting Police-constable Wright, on the 25th ult, by kicking him violently near the groin and striking him. The assault took place whilst the officer was endeavouring to quell a disturbance at the OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston, among several persons who had come to the wake, and was so severe that the officer was confined to his bed for five days, and at the time of the hearing was still unable to go on duty. In consideration of the prisoner’s previous good character he was fined only 20s and costs, or twenty-one days’ imprisonment with hard labour, for the assault; and 5s and costs, or seven days’ imprisonment with hard labour, for being drunk and disorderly.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/1/1885

“The Novel Movement in the Nut and Bolt Trade.

A meeting of the men employed by Messrs. Horton and Son, Alma Works, and Messrs. J. Simpson and Sons, Acorn Works, was held at the OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston. The objects of the meeting were to ascertain the conditions of membership as specified in the nut and bolt makers’ rules, and to hear an address from Mr. R. Juggins. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Chambers. Mr. Juggins explained at some length the action taken by the Employers and Workmen’s Associations in this matter, together with the conditions of membership appertaining to the Workmen’s Association. The result of the meeting was very satisfactory, as over sixty persons gave in their names to become members forthwith.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/10/1885

“This (Thursday) morning Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the CROWN INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, touching the death of George Turley (46), an ironworker, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, who was found dead in bed, on Tuesday morning last.

Martha Turley, deceased’s sister, identified the body as that of her brother, and stated that he left her mother’s house, Pinfold Street, before nine o’clock on Monday night, apparently in good health.

Sarah Doughty, a married woman, Cramp Hill, stated that she met the deceased and a woman, named Ann Darcy, at the DRAGON INN, and deceased was under the influence of drink. Darcy and deceased afterwards went to her (witness’s) house, and Darcy asked permission to remain in the house all night, to which she consented. Witness and her husband went to bed, leaving Darcy and deceased downstairs, that latter standing near the door as if he was going to bed. Shortly after four o’clock Darcy shouted out that Turley was ill, and her (witness’s) husband went into the room and found that he had died. Darcy left the house, and witness did not see her afterwards.

Ann Darcy was called, and stated that she met deceased at the DRAGON INN on Monday night, and went to Doughty’s house with him, where he produced half a pint of brandy, and they enjoyed themselves. Shortly after two o’clock Mr. and Mrs. Doughty went to bed, and deceased complained of being unwell, and of pains in his chest. She recommended him to go to bed, and he did so. She lay down on the sofa in the kitchen. About four o’clock she heard him make a noise in his throat, and went upstairs and found he was dangerously ill. Mr. Doughty came into the room, and said he should send for a doctor and the police. She left, as she was anxious to get home to her husband, he being unwell, and to see the lad before he went to work. She worked very hard herself.

George Doughty deposed to going into the room and sending for a doctor, who, upon arrival, pronounced Turley to be dead.

The inquiry was adjourned till 10.15 on Wednesday next for a post-mortem examination.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/10/1885

“This (Wednesday morning) Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an adjourned inquest at the CROWN INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, touching the death of George Turley (46), ironworker, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, who was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning, the 29th ult. The inquest was adjourned on Thursday morning last for a post mortem examination.

Mr. Vincent John Magrane, surgeon and physician, now stated that he was called to see deceased about five o’clock on the morning of the 29th ult, in bed in a back room. He was dead, and had been dead upwards of a hour. On the 1st instant he made a post mortem examination of the body. There were no external marks of violence, and no trace of poison of any kind. He should think deceased had been a tippler. The cause of death was heart disease. He attended deceased eight or nine months ago for spasms, and then considered he had heart disease.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with medical testimony.”

1891 Census

15, Cramp Hill – CROWN

[1] *William Horton* (50), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Harriet Horton* (49), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] *Mary A. Horton* (21), daughter, barmaid, born Darlaston;

[4] *Emma Horton* (19), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston;

- [5] Amelia Horton (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [6] Jane Horton (15), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [7] Catherine Horton (13), daughter, nurse, born Darlaston;
- [8] Annie Horton (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [9] Enoch Horton (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [10] Sarah Hayes (75), mother-in-law, widow, living on her own means, born Willenhall:

Birmingham Daily Post 18/11/1891

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Mr. Neville (stipendiary) – *Arthur Wright*, keeper of the CROWN INN, Crown Bank, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 31st ult. Mr. W. S. Smith defended.

The evidence was to the effect that a man named John Fletcher saw two men and a woman, all being in a drunken condition, drinking in the defendant’s house on the afternoon of the day named, and one of the two men being a police constable – Police-constable Handley. Fletcher communicated with Police-sergeant Curtis, who, with Police-constable Edwards, found the constable and the woman still there, both being drunk.

The constable was not on duty, and defendant said he had not served him anything.

A fine of £5 and costs was imposed, the Stipendiary stating that the penalty would have been heavier but for the defendant’s previous good character.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1892

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Joseph James Sims*, of the CROWN INN, Darlaston, appeared to two summonses, the one charging him with having sold liquor during prohibited hours on the morning of Sunday, the 20th ult, and the other with having kept his house open during prohibited hours. Mr. Lawrence appeared for the defence, and called evidence to show that in one case liquor was served to a man for his wife, who was ill. That case was dismissed, and in the other a fine of 10s and costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Mr. Lawrence, for *Joseph James Sims*, applied for the renewal of the CROWN alehouse, Cramp Hill. The tenant had been convicted for keeping open during prohibited hours, and ordered to pay costs in another case. Granted.....

Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall.....

Joseph James Sims, the OLD CROWN INN, Camp Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the district took place at Wednesbury yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses were granted to *William Jones*, OLD CROWN INN, Darlaston.”

Wednesbury Leader 26/1/1901

“At Wednesbury, on Tuesday, Thomas Corbett, ironworker, Church Street, Darlaston, was summoned for assaulting Samuel Brittan, pianist, of Wednesbury, in the OLD CROWN public house, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, on the night of the 12th inst. Brittan had an engagement to play at the public house, but upon entering the tap-room defendant viciously attacked him, and dealt him a violent blow in the face. Defendant now pleaded that it was an accident, and explained that he mistook complainant for another young man with whom he had previously been quarrelling, and who assaulted him. The Magistrates regarded the assault as a very serious one, and as the defendant had a bad record they fined him 20s and costs, with the alternative of a month’s imprisonment.”

1901 Census

15½, Cramphill – CROWN INN

- [1] *George Whitbrook* (53), publican, born Shropshire;
- [2] Sarah Whitbrook (43), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Edwin Whitbrook (21), son, coal miner, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury). Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

OLD CROWN, Cramp Hill.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/9/1909

“*Samuel Harper*, licensee of the OLD CROWN INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, was charged on two summonses with selling brandy and whisky not of the quality demanded, the same being diluted beyond the statutory limit. Mr. Slater defended.

Mr. H. Van Tromp (Inspector of Food and Drugs), who supported the prosecution, mentioned that two samples of spirits were taken by an assistant inspector at the defendant’s house, one of brandy and one of whisky. He attached the greatest importance to the brandy, as it was frequently used for medicinal purposes. This was diluted 9.8 per cent beyond the statutory limit, and the whisky was found to be diluted 5.2 per cent beyond the limit laid down by the Food and Drugs Act. A common defence was that the more whisky was diluted the better for the purchaser; but he pointed out that they were purchasing water at the price of spirit. Mr. S. H. Toy, the assistant inspector, deposed to purchasing three quartens of brandy and three quartens of whisky at the OLD CROWN INN on the 22nd July, paying 1s 9d for each.

Mr. Slater did not dispute the facts, but explained that the day before the visit of the inspector the defendant and his wife paid a visit to Wolverhampton with some friends, leaving a daughter-in-law in charge of the house. When the licensee left there was neither brandy nor whisky in the house, but a quantity of each spirit was delivered during the day. The daughter-in-law expected that some would be required for the customers, and knowing that she was allowed to dilute them to some extent, but not having any precise knowledge of the statutory limit, she diluted a quantity of brandy and whisky beyond that limit.

The magistrates said they thought the defendant ought to have left a more competent person in charge of the house, and imposed a fine of 10s and costs on each charge.”

1911 Census

15, Cramp Hill

[1] *Lucy Harper* (46), married, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Ann Harper* (22), daughter, born Darlaston;

[3] *Samuel Harper* (16), son, heater at bolt forge, born Darlaston;

[4] *William Harper* (11), son, born Darlaston;

[5] *Daniel Harper* (29), brother, bolt forger, born Darlaston;

[6] *Annie Harper* (30), sister-in-law, born Darlaston;

[7] *Pollie Harper* (3), niece, born Darlaston;

[8] *William Harper* (11 months), nephew, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/8/1915

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Richard William Whitehouse*, CROWN INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness and supplying ale to a drunken person.

It was stated that a man named *David Jones* was in the defendant’s house on July 18 until 9pm. He then left, but was discovered lying in the street, and carried home by his brother-in-law. The man went to sleep on the sofa, and was found dead next morning, having been suffocated by vomited matter.

Lance-corporal Lawrence, brother-in-law, denied that *Jones* was drunk, or that he carried him home on his back. *Jones* was able to walk

The Stipendiary dismissed the case.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/2/1934

“After a hearing lasting nearly seven hours, the Darlaston magistrates yesterday dismissed a summons against the licensee of YE OLDE CROWNE INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, for selling intoxicating liquor during non-permitted hours.

Summonses against *Thomas Clarke*, 39, Blackall, Darlaston; *Annie Clarke*, of the same address; *Albert Edward Turner*, 49, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston; and *Florence Gobsill*, wife of the licensee, for aiding and abetting, were also dismissed.

Alfred William Gobsill, the licensee was cheered by a crowd outside the court as he left after the Bench had dismissed the summonses.

Giving the decision of the Bench, the Chairman said that the evidence as to whether or not the liquor consumed was paid for was conflicting.

Police evidence was to the effect that watch was kept through a window and that at 12.25am on 21 January beer was taken into the living-room and a coin placed on the table by *Clarke*. It was alleged that *Gobsill* picked up the coin and took it into another room.

Giving evidence on his own behalf, *Gobsill* stated that the other defendants were friends and his guests.

He declared that the money put down *Clarke* was refused by *Mrs. Gobsill* and that *Clarke* picked it up and placed it in his pocket.

Each of the defendants agreed that no money was taken for drink after closing hours.”

Rugeley Times 13/2/1937

“Darlaston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the OLD CROWN, Cramphill.....

Mr. Frank Joseph Yardley applied, on behalf of *W. Butler and Co. Ltd.*, Wolverhampton, for an order sanctioning the removal of the license held by *Alfred William Gobsill* in respect of the OLD CROWN, Cramphill, to premises proposed to be erected on land situate and fronting the Wolverhampton-Walsall Road, Bentley.

Mr. P. J. Slater, for the applicants, said the OLD CROWN INN was in a congested area. Wide developments were taking place at Bentley and vehicular traffic was heavy. He thought it would be the first substantial house of any kind to be erected in this area since Bentley Hall was built some hundreds of years ago.

Mr. Yardley said the Company were willing to surrender two other licenses – the FREEMASONS ARMS (beerhouse) and an off-license in Willenhall Street.

Mr. C. A. Clarke, of *Belcher and Son*, estate agents, Darlaston, said that within a radius of 440 yards of the OLD CROWN, there were 35 licensed houses. In that area there were 1,390 private houses and taking four

persons per house, the population was 5,560. The number of persons to a licensed house was 150, compared with 256 for the whole of the town. At Bentley there were no licensed houses whatever in the area, the two nearest being 990 yards and 1,180 yards away respectively. There were already 52 private houses in the area and 11 others were nearer to the site than any other licensed house; altogether about 252 persons resided nearer to the site.

It was proposed to provide car park facilities, which would be the only one between the centre of Walsall and Neachells House, Wolverhampton Road, Willenhall, a distance of four miles.

It was stated that the total cost of the proposed premises would be £8,000.

After retiring, Alderman Joynson said the justices had decided to grant the application.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/5/1937

“Twelve applications for the confirmation of license removals remained to be heard by the Staffordshire Licensing Confirmation Committee when they resumed their sitting at Stafford on Tuesday.....

One removal in the Wednesbury Division was confirmed. This was for the removal of the full license of the OLD CROWN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, to premises proposed to be erected at the junction of Bentley Lane and Wolverhampton Road, Bentley.”

Alfred William Gobsill - see also PRINCE REGENT, Wednesbury.

It closed on 10th January 1939.

The license was transferred to the LANE ARMS, Bentley.

Demolished

OLD ENGINE

17+18+19, (18+19), (19), Bull Street / Tilley Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.

Frank Myatt Ltd. [1921]

Ansells Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Wilkes [1869] – [1871]

Uriah Hallden [1880] – [1881]

Charles Thomas [1891] – [1901]

Samuel Horton [1904]

Arthur Lester [1911] – **1921**);

John Shayler **(1921 – 1938)**;

Arthur James Yates **(1938 – 1939)**;

James Samuel Wedgbury **(1939 – 1944)**;

George Bertram Edwards **(1944)**;

Florence Joan Guest **(1944 – 1945)**;

William Henry Chancellor **(1945 – 1949)**;

Arthur Lawton **(1949 – 1951)**;

George Frederick Mountney (1951 – 1954);
William Ernest Cooling (1954 – 1964);
Caleb Davies (1964 – 1965);
John Walker (1965 – 1966);
Gilbert Gerald Johnson (1966 – 1967);
Mary Ann Langley (1967 – []
M Townsend [1976]

NOTES

It was originally ENGINE.

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/1/1869

“*John Wilkes*, Bull Street, Darlaston, was charged with having had his house open at improper hours. On the evidence of Sergeant Price and Police-constable Hodson, defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

1871 Census

19, Bull Street

[1] *John Wilkes* (42), bricklayer and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] Emma Wilkes (42), wife, born Darlaston:

Uriah Hallden, beer retailer and furniture broker, Bull Street. [1880]

Dudley Herald 4/8/1880

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, William King and Samuel Wallace were charged with stealing a chain, value 11s, the property of *Uriah Hallden*, a beerhouse keeper. The chain was stolen from a field at Darlaston, on the night of the 24th instant, the prosecutor having used it for the purpose of tethering his horse to a stake. King, who was in the field at the time this was done, afterwards sold the chain to George Adams, a hawker, at the Pleck, for 2s 6d. He was fined £3, with the option of two months’ imprisonment; and Wallace, who had merely helped to put the chain into a cart, was discharged, the Bench giving credence to his statement that he believed the property belonged to Jones.”

1881 Census

19, Bull Street – ENGINE

[1] *Uriah Hallden* (32), publican and broker, born Darlaston;

[2] Lucilla Hallden (34), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] George T. Hallden (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Isaac W. Hallden (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Alfred Hallden (1), son, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

19, Bull Street – ENGINE INN

[1] *Charles Thomas* (56), beerhouse keeper, born Stourbridge;

[2] Ellen Thomas (43), wife, born Bridgnorth;

[3] Ada F. Thomas (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] Beatrice M. Thomas (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 21/3/1896

“The annual dinner of the Darlaston Lodge of the Birmingham Equalised Order of Druids Friendly Society was held on Saturday evening, at the lodge house, host *Charles Thomas*, ENGINE INN, Bull Street.

Amongst those present were Bros. C. F. Hulley (district corresponding secretary), J. A. Latham (district deputy grand master), J. Braden, J. Law, &c. About thirty sat down to dinner, which was got up in host *Thomas's* usually grand style. The cloth having been drawn, Mr. Wilson Lloyd was elected chairman and Councillor R. Reynolds vice-chairman. Speeches were made by various members during the evening. A long and miscellaneous programme was gone through in a capital manner, and the usual vote of thanks brought a most successful gathering to a close."

Ada Florence Thomas married Frederick James Lenthall in the 1st quarter of 1900.

1901 Census

18+19 Bull Street – ENGINE INN

- [1] *Charles Thomas* (66), beer seller, born Stourbridge;
- [2] Ellen Thomas (50), wife, born Shropshire;
- [3] Ada F. Lenthall (23), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Beatrice M. Thomas (18), daughter, tailoress, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Beatrice I. Lenthall (6 months), grand-daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

"Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

ENGINE INN, Bull Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5."

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act....."

[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Samuel Horton, beer retailer, 19, Bull Street. [1904]

Walsall Advertiser 9/10/1909 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General, about 20; good reference. Apply, ENGINE INN, Bull Street, Darlaston."

1911 Census

17+18+19, Bull Street

- [1] *Arthur Lester* (30), beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Susan Lester* (28), wife, married 8 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Fred Chell Lester* (8), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Arthur Lester* (5), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Hilda Lester* (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *William Lester* (2), son, born Darlaston:

Arthur Lester, beer retailer, 19, Bull Street. [1912]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/3/1937

“Nominations were received yesterday in connection with the triennial Elections in the Midlands.....
Darlaston Urban (20 seats).....

All Saints Ward *John Shayler* (Lab.), 17, 18 and 19, Bull Street, Darlaston, licensee.”

[He was not elected.]

Plans were approved for re-building on 25th August 1937.

Arthur James Yates – see also FORGE.

1939 Register

Bull Street – ENGINE INN

- [1] *James S. Wedgbury*, date of birth 3/6/1912, public house manager, married;
- [2] *Edna M. Wedgbury*, dob 30/11/1911, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] *Florence Nixon*, dob 21/11/1907, warehouse despatch clerk, single:

Walsall Observer 22/7/1944

“*Florence Joan Guest* (26), of the ENGINE INN, Bull Street, Darlaston, and *William Clifford Johnson* (33), 91, Cobden Street, Wednesbury, were fined £2 each for permitting unscreened lights on July 3 and 10 respectively.”

Florence Joan Guest – see also THREE CUPS, Walsall and STARTING GATE, Walsall.

A full license was confirmed on 14th April 1948.

John Walker – see also GREEN ROCK TAVERN, Walsall.

OLD ENGINE [2007]

[2022]

OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN

Bilston Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Lowe [1852] – [1855]

Edward Nightingale [1861] – [1862]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/9/1852

“Samuel Bowen will accept the challenge of George Green (the Shoemakers Pet) to run one mile at Lichfield, half way between home and home. If he will send a deposit to us, and articles to *B. Lowe's*, the OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, Bilston Street, Darlaston, the match can be made. To run in five weeks from the first instalment.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/1/1853

“Samuel Bowen of Darlaston is ready to make a match with S. Peaton of Shrewsbury to run a mile, half way between home and home, for from £10 to £25 a side; or he will run Hadley of Bloxwich on the same terms as before, for a like sum; or W. Hill of the Lye Waste, one mile round Aston Cross, Birmingham, for the same sum. A match can be made by sending £5 deposit to *Bells Life*, and articles to Bowen, at *Benjamin Lowe's*, the OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, Bilston Street, Darlaston. Bowen is surprised at Peaton causing him to make a long journey to meet him, and then not coming to any terms.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

One sheep was roasted at Mr. *Benjamin Lowe's*, the OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off during the course of the night two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order.”

1861 Census

Bilston Street – OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN

[1] *Edward Nightingale* (46), publican, forger and retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Charlotte Nightingale* (41), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Jane Nightingale* (18), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *James Nightingale* (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Ellen Nightingale* (6), daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] *Phebe Griffiths* (68), mother-in-law, born Darlaston;

[7] *Mary Pool* (15), maid of all work, born Wednesfield:

Edward Nightingale, retailer of beer, Bilston Street. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/1/1862

“A returned convict, named Jacob Smith, was brought up at the Petty Sessions, yesterday, and committed to Stafford for twenty-one days, for using insulting and abusive language to Mrs. *Charlotte Nightingale*, beer-house keeper, Darlaston.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/1/1862

“A Returned Convict. A man of this class, named Jacob Smith, was committed to Stafford for twenty-one days for wilful damage at the house of Mr. *Nightingale*, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, and also for a most unprovoked assault on *Moses Butter*, at the same place.”

Edward Nightingale – see also BRITANNIA, Eldon Street.

OLD GEORGE

33, Wolverhampton Street, (33, (161), Wolverhampton Lane), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Lloyds Banking Company

LICENSEES

Peter Worsey [1864] – [1879]

John Morriss [1881]

Christopher George Merchant [1890] – **1891**):

NOTES

161, Wolverhampton Lane [1871]

33, Wolverhampton Lane [1881]

33, Wolverhampton Street [1891], [1892]

OLD GOUGH [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 3/10/1864

“Adjourned licensing meeting.....

There were a great many applications, of which the following were granted.....

Peter Worsey, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/2/1866

“*Peter Worsey*, landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, appeared to a summons, before the Stipendiary, at the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, charging him with having permitted gambling in his house on the 26th ult.

Police-constable J. Evans said he went into the house, and saw several persons gambling with a ‘Billy Playfair.’ There was drink on the tube and more drink was subsequently brought to the players.

Mr. Ebsworth, who defended, did not consider that the parties could have been gambling, as the instrument ‘Billy Playfair’ was incomplete, there being no tube nor pea to it. A man named Ridge had bought it at Birmingham, and was showing it to his companion.

A man named Shadrach Speke and other witnesses were called for the defence, but there was some discrepancy in their statements as to the time they had been playing and the quantity of drink brought in.

The Stipendiary thought the instrument was sufficiently perfect for the purpose of gaming, as the colours could be easily turned round by inserting the finger into the closed box.

Mr. Ebsworth said there was a large card with ‘no gambling permitted’ hanging up in the house. Defendant had been in the house two years, and this was the first time a charge had been preferred against him.

The Stipendiary fined defendant 1s and costs, with an intimation that if he was again found guilty of such an offence within eighteen months he would be fined in the full penalty of £10.”

Peter Worsey was also a contractor and steerer. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Journal 6/6/1868 - Died

“On the 17th ult, after a protracted illness, aged 40 years, Mrs. *Peter Worsey*, of Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/11/1869

“On Tuesday morning, about half-past nine, a boatman named Cornelius Wood found the body of a man in the Birmingham Canal, at Darlaston. The deceased was taken to the OLD GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, and in the evening of the same day he was identified by his wife as a man named William Turner, a nut and bolt maker, 49 years of age, of Monmore Green, Wolverhampton. Deceased left home on the 20th ult, and had not been heard of since that time. His wife states that he had been in a depressed state of mind for many weeks. When found the body was in a very advanced state of decomposition.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/1/1870 - Advert

“Wanted, immediately, a clean industrious Servant Girl, to take the management of all household work. Apply, personally, to Miss *Worsey*, OLD GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1871

“*Hickens v Worsey*. In this action, which was tried at the County Court yesterday before Mr. Rupert Kettle, the plaintiff, Henry Hickens, baker, of Great Bridge, sought to recover £15 from the defendant, *Peter Worsey*, publican, of Darlaston, for damages sustained in consequence of the defendant’s servant driving into the plaintiff’s horse, and causing the death of the animal. Mr. Stokes conducted the case of the plaintiff, and Mr. Young (instructed by Mr. Sheldon) that of the defendant.

William Hompage said that on the 9th of December he was at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Wednesbury, when the defendant came in and said he was too late for his train. Some time afterwards he was outside, when a horse and gig were standing there, belonging to Mr. Griffiths. The defendant said to him, ‘Come, jump up, and drive me to the station.’ He drove him to a public house near the Dudley Port Station, and defendant gave him a shilling and some beer. On his way home he drove into the plaintiff’s horse, which was afterwards destroyed.

In cross-examination by Mr. Young, witness said that when he went out Mr. Griffiths called him to the side of the gig, and then *Worsey* asked him to jump up. At the time he did so Griffiths, the owner of the gig, was with the defendant, close by.

In his address for the defence, Mr. Young said that the real question was whose servant was Hompage at the time he was driving. Upon the evidence of that man an action on a former occasion against the owners of the horse and gig had failed. The evidence that day, however, in his opinion, tended to show that Hompage was the servant of Griffiths. He was the man who called Hompage to the gig for the purpose of driving, and believing him to be a servant of Griffiths it was a reasonable thing for the defendant to make use of the expression, ‘Come now, jump up.’

Upon being examined defendant said that Griffiths promised to drive him to the station. When, however, the gig was brought out he declined, and asked the ostler to drive. Upon his refusing he called Hompage, and said, ‘Drive Mr. *Worsey* to the Dudley Port Station.’ When they were ready he said, ‘Come, jump up, else I shall be too late for this train.’

The learned Judge considered that the turning point of the case was the payment of the shilling, and after a brief summing up gave a verdict for the plaintiff.”

1871 Census

161, Wolverhampton Lane – OLD GEORGE INN

- [1] *Peter Worsey* (40), widower, contractor and beer seller, born Tipton;
- [2] Arthur Worsey (15), son, works with boat, born Darlaston;
- [3] Ernest Worsey (13), son, works in ironworks, born Darlaston;
- [4] Horace Worsey (12), son, works with boat builder, born Darlaston;
- [5] Anne Worsey (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Joseph Worsey (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] George Worsey (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Bernard Worsey (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

- [9] Beatrice Worsey (3), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[10] Sarah Worsey (46), sister, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/5/1871

“Darlaston Local Board of Health.....

The Clerk announced that he had advertised for tenders for the removal of night-soil, and had received replies from Messrs. Joseph Harris (late contractor to the Shrewsbury Board), £260 per annum *Peter Worsey*, £500 It was decided to accept the tender of Mr. Harris.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/11/1871

“On Wednesday night, about half-past six, Messrs. Shelley and Wilson, agents, St. Peter’s Churchyard, were driving along Chapel Ash in a trap, when one of the wheels came into contact with the kerb stone. The horse darted off, and both men were thrown out. Happily, they escaped with very slight injuries. Mr. *Peter Worsey*, landlord of the GEORGE INN, Darlaston, who happened to be passing at the time, was knocked down, and his left arm was fractured, and he was badly cut on the forehead. A servant girl, in the employ of Mrs. Ridge, of Newbridge, was also knocked down and injured somewhat severely. She had a child in her arms at the time, but it was not hurt. Mr. *Worsey* was removed home in a cab. The runaway horse was stopped near Trinity Church, Compton Road.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 21/11/1874

“*Peter Worsey*, landlord of the OLD GEORGE TAVERN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness and gaming in his house on the 15th of October. Mr. Underhill defended. Sergeant Briton said on the 15th of October, about 20 minutes to seven o’clock, from complaints he received he went to Mr. *Worsey*’s house, and there saw a man named Phillip Williams drunk in the passage as he went through the door. He went into the room on the right-hand side, and sat down to a cup of beer. I followed him into the room, and saw two men sitting with their legs on either side of the bench, tossing. A man, who gave the name of Jones, said he had lost two quarts of ale, and he got up to tell the landlord to fill one quart. The landlord filled the beer, and Jones paid for it. I spoke to the landlord about the gaming, and told him he should not allow the tossing or drunkenness. He said he did not see it until just as he (witness) spoke and said he did not think they had tossed for anything. Phillip Williams got up and asked me to drink. I told the landlord that the man Williams was drunk, and he said that Williams had been at work all day long. He said he certainly had too much, but was not all that drunk, and then ordered him out of the house. He was a few minutes before he went out. I advised him to go and followed him to the end of the street, where I left him. The landlord was behind the bar, and would have been able to see what was going on in the room. The officer said he heard them say, ‘Head or tail.’ Jones also said to the other man, ‘I have lost two quarts.’ I told Mr. *Worsey* that I should have to report him for drunkenness and gaming, and he said, ‘Do not this time.’ Mr. Underhill: How many men were there in the room? – Witness: There were four men drinking. Mr. Underhill: Which of the men were tossing? – Witness: I really cannot say. The landlord said he had not been in long. He works at Tipton, and no doubt he had but just come in. Mr. Underhill: Will you undertake to say whether the landlord could see all that was going on? – Witness: I cannot say. The landlord said he did not see anything of what was going on until he, the policeman, had told him.

Police-constable Peter O’Brien, of Darlaston, said that he visited the house in company with Sergeant Briton, and when there he saw them fill a quart of ale, and saw Dean pay for it. The Sergeant spoke to the landlord about allowing gambling, and the landlord said he had not seen any. He was behind the bar at the time. I also heard the mistress say that the man Griffiths was not drunk.

Mr. Underhill said he denied the facts of the case, and said the charge made by Sergeant Briton was utterly without foundation.

The landlord (*Peter Worsey*) was next called, and stated that the Sergeant told him that there was a man there drunk. I ordered the man out, he had been at work all day long. In reference to the charge of gambling, he said he never saw nor heard any, and also said that he did not say to the policemen that he did not see it (the gambling) until he spoke.

Ellen *Worsey*, wife of defendant, said her husband came about five minutes before the police, and said she

did not see anything like tossing, and denied that anyone was drunk.

A Mr. Grundy said he gave his word for the men to go to the house, and have one gallon of ale, in his name, because they had no money.

Phillip Williams, the party that was said to be drunk, said he had been working from 6am to 4.45pm, he had had only one pint of ale, and that was in the morning. The policeman came in the house and said that I had had plenty of beer; thereupon Mr. *Worsey* said I had better go out. The witness said he could walk as well then as he could at the present moment. There was no tossing, that he saw, for beer. We had had three quarts between four of us.

Superintendent Holland elicited, in reply to a question, that he was not perfectly sober.

Henry Whitehouse, one of the men who were there at the time, said neither of them had any money, they therefore asked Grundy to stand some beer in consequence.

Noah Butler said that Williams was not drunk. He said he did not see any gambling.

Thomas Ellis said neither of them were gambling, for they had no money to gamble with. He heard the Sergeant say that he should report the landlord for allowing drunkenness.

Sarah Ellis said she saw Phillip Williams at her house on the 15th of October, in the evening and he was quite sober.

The magistrates, after retiring for a few minutes' consultation, dismissed the case."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/1/1875

"On Saturday night an inquest was held at the OLD GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, on the body of a girl, aged about 17, named Hannah Price, who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near Herberts Park.

It seems that the deceased, who had been in the service of Mr. Twigg, boot and shoe maker, Bilston, left her master's house very early on Thursday morning without telling any one what she intended doing. About half-past eight o'clock on the same morning a man named Frederick Evans discovered the body of the girl. A crowd of people assembled on the banks of the canal, and one of the number, a man named Baker, with uncontrollable grief, said he identified the body as that of his wife, from whom he had been separated a long time. In the midst of his grief at the deplorable end of his wife, the two brothers of Baker's wife came up. Singularly enough they also agreed that the body they saw was that of their sister. More grief was shown; but whilst the three were shedding tears the separated wife herself, Mrs. Baker, unmistakably alive, walked up to the scene of the discovery. The feelings of the husband can be better imagined than described; and, after mutual avowals of future forbearance, the separated couple went away happy and rejoicing. In the meantime the body of the poor girl Price was taken to the public house at which the inquest was held. It was not shown that the deceased intended to commit suicide, neither was there evidence enough to say that the girl met her death accidentally. An open verdict of Found Drowned was therefore returned."

1881 Census

33, Wolverhampton Lane – OLD GEORGE

[1] *John Morriss* (49), general labourer, unemployed, born Bridgnorth;

[2] *Elizabeth Morriss* (39), wife, born Bishops Castle;

[3] *John Morriss* (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] *Mary Hunt* (18), lodger, born Much Wenlock;

[5] *Benjamin Hunt* (22), lodger, galvaniser, born Great Bridge:

Birmingham Daily Post 18/3/1882 - Advert

"The Herberts Park Estate, Darlaston, Staffordshire.

Freehold Ironworks and Blast Furnaces with complete Fixed Plant, Six Colliery Pumping and Winding Engines, the OLD GEORGE INN Licensed Public House, various Dwelling Houses and Tenements, Brickworks, Agricultural, Wharf, Building, and Accommodation Land, Canal Basins, &c, the whole late of the well-known Firm of David Jones and Sons, and comprising an area of Seventy Acres of Freehold Land, with the Mines and Minerals thereunder. To be Sold by Auction....."

1891 Census

33, Wolverhampton Street

[1] *Christopher G. Merchant* (29), publican;

[2] Mary A. Merchant (45), wife;

[3] Walter J. Dume (13), son, bolt heater;

[4] Ivor G. Dume (10), son, scholar;

[5] Sydney Merchant (1), son:

Birmingham Daily Post 15/5/1891

“At the OLD GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Road, Darlaston, yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest on the body of Davis Duddell (14), son of William Duddell, gun-lock filer, 1 house, 1 Court, Eldon Street.

On Tuesday evening the deceased and some other boys of about the same age went to bathe in the canal. His companions contented themselves with dabbling at the margin of the water, but the deceased ventured farther in, saying, ‘No,’ when his friends asked him to come back. Suddenly he went under, and at first they thought he was at play; but when they discovered that he was struggling in grim earnest they slipped on their clothes and fetched some bigger boys from another part of the canal. The water was, however, too deep for either of the latter to ‘bottom,’ and about half an hour elapsed before the body was recovered. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/10/1891

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Mr. N. C. A. Neville (stipendiary) – *Christopher George Merchant*, of the OLD GEORGE INN, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting, or suffering, a place or room in his house to be used for the purpose of dog fighting; and the undermentioned were summoned for that they did unlawfully use a room at the OLD GEORGE INN, at Darlaston, for the purpose of fighting two dogs, and did encourage, aid, and assist in the fighting of such dogs – John Richards, Noah Davies, Henry Parsons, William Nock, Benjamin Carter, Enoch Brettle, and John Payne, all of Bilston; William Rochall and Thomas Alcock, both of Darlaston; and Alban Victor Martin, of Tipton. Mr. R. T. Colam, barrister at law, appeared in support of the charges on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and Mr. A. Whitehouse for the defence. The latter, at the outset, said the summonses were taken under the 12th and 13th Vic. Sec.3, where keeping a room and aiding or assisting at a fight were specified as trivial offences, but in the summonses before the Court the two were worked into one. He submitted that this was fatal to the summonses.

Mr. Colam agreed that it was simply a statement of one offence in two ways; but if his worship thought it was irregular, the summonses were open to amendment.

The Stipendiary held with Mr. Whitehouse that the section relating to the information being laid within a month precluded him from amending the summonses, and give himself jurisdiction.

Mr. Colam said that under these circumstances, the point being important, he should ask for a case; and the Stipendiary replied that he should grant one.

The defendants, all but *Merchant*, were then dismissed, and Mr. Colam opened the case as against *Merchant*. Police-constable Edwards deposed that on the 4th September he went to the defendant’s house, and in the tap room found a man making a great noise upon the piano. He asked for the clubroom, and went upstairs to that room. The door was closed, and on pushing against it he found that Benjamin Carter was standing on the other side, and trying to keep it shut. He forced it open, and saw about twenty men in the room, and two dogs fighting in an enclosure formed by a form having been turned down across the floor. The dogs were standing upon their hind legs fighting, and two men were behind them to help them. The men made a rush for the door, and he resisted, trying to keep them in. They called out, ‘Throw the — down the stairs,’ and they pushed upon him, compelling him to go down the stairs by jumps of a few steps (about five) at a time, to save himself from being knocked down and trampled upon. When he reached the bottom they pushed him into the kitchen and fastened the door. He went into the street by another way, and having got some other policemen with him, they pursued the men, who had meanwhile run off, but they all escaped, taking the dogs with them. In half an hour witness returned to the house, and asked him how he accounted for the dog-fight there. His reply was that he did not think there was any harm in having ‘a bit of a box.’ One of the dogs had the skin of its nose torn off, and both of them were covered with blood. In cross-examination, the

witness said he had heard before he went to the house that here was to be a dog-fight there.

Police-constable Fairbanks deposed to going in pursuit of one of the men with a dog; and to having found, on going into the clubroom, sponges, a pail of water, and bloody rags on the floor.

Thomas Henry Dugmore spoke to seeing a man run past Baggott's Bridge with the dog already named as having part of its nose torn off.

Police-sergeant Curtis said he went on the 5th September to see the defendant, who told him that a number of men came to his house with a dog, and that soon after another lot came with another dog. They were downstairs for some time, and then asked for a room where they could enjoy themselves. Her directed them to the clubroom, and on going to take some drink into the clubroom he noticed that two of the men had boxing gloves on, and said he hoped nothing would come of it. On going in again some little time later with some more drink he found that the two dogs were fighting, and heard someone say, 'They had started themselves; let them fight it out.' They were fighting for twenty minutes before the police came in.

Mr. Whitehouse submitted that the evidence of one dog-fight was not sufficient to justify a conviction for keeping a place for dog-fighting; but the Stipendiary overruled the objection.

Mr. Whitehouse then said his instructions were that the defendant knew nothing whatever of the fight; and he would add that the defendant had kept the house for two years without complaint.

The Stipendiary said in his opinion this was a most disgraceful case. One was sorry to think that in 1891 such a ruffianly exhibition could be got together in Staffordshire. That such a thing might have taken place in some savage uncivilised land was possible. But that at this time, and with the state of general education which this country showed, a lot of men should gather together in the defendant's house for such a vile, filthy purpose, was almost past belief. It was idle for the defendant to say he did not know what was going on; and it was useless in such a case to inflict a fine. The defendant must go to prison for two calendar months.

Mr. Whitehouse gave notice of appeal, and pending that the Stipendiary allowed the defendant to go at large, himself in a surety of £200 and two sureties of £100 each."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 22/10/1891

"At the Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, Mr. A. Whitehouse made an application to the stipendiary (Mr. Neville) for a reduction of the amount of bail in the case of *Christopher George Merchant*, formerly landlord of the OLD GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, who on the previous day was sentenced to two months' hard labour, at Wednesbury, for permitting a room in his house to be used for a dog-fight. Notice was given after the decision of the magistrate that it would be appealed against, and bail was granted, the prisoner in £200 and two sureties in £100 each. Mr. Whitehouse now stated that the bail was too heavy for a man in *Merchant's* position, as he was turned out of the house by the owners as soon as the charge was preferred against him. Mr. Neville said he did not want to keep *Merchant* in prison if he was going to appeal, and he would reduce the bail to two sureties of £50 each."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1891

"The appeal on behalf of *Christopher George Merchant*, late of the OLD GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, who on Tuesday was convicted by the Stipendiary for allowing a dog fight in his house, has apparently been abandoned, *Merchant* having been removed to the county gaol at Stafford to undergo his term of two months' imprisonment."

AND

Croydon Times 5/3/1892

"At Wolverhampton, William Nock, Enoch Brettle, and John Payne have been summoned for aiding and assisting at a dog-fight which took place at the OLD GEORGE INN at Darlaston, on September 4th last. It was stated that the defendants had been summoned by an officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on a previous occasion, and that the summonses had been dismissed upon a legal technicality, whereupon the society had taken the matter to the Court of Queen's Bench, and had obtained the judge's decision in their favour. Evidence was given shewing that the defendants, who were dog-trainers, had been present on the occasion of the fight, when one of the dogs had its nostrils bitten away by its antagonist. The magistrate, Mr. Neville, fined each of the defendants £3 and 19s 6d costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... In the case of the OLD GEORGE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, the former tenant of which, *George Christopher Merchant*, was convicted in October last for suffering a room in the house to be used for dog-fighting. Mr. G. Rose applied for the renewal of the license in the interest of Lloyds Banking Company, the owners of the premises. He said that *Merchant*, after his commitment to prison, absconded, taking the licenses and other papers with him. Superintendent Walters objected to the renewal because of the conviction already named, and because the house had not been used as an alehouse during the past twelve months. He also called evidence to show that the house was not needed. The Magistrates’ Clerk said that there having been no temporary transfer, and no notices having been served, he did not see there was anything upon which to base an application for renewal. Refused.”

OLD HALL

Churchill Road, Bentley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Henry Wright **(1956 – 1967)**;
George Henry Tame **(1967 – []**
Jackie Kevin Yeates []

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1955

“The 65th annual general meeting of W. Butler & Co. Limited was held yesterday at Wolverhampton, Mr. F. J. Yardley (Chairman and Managing Director) presiding.....

Since the relaxation of building restrictions work has commenced on six new houses and it is expected that contracts will be let in respect of 11 others before September, 1956. The capital expenditure involved in respect of all the above houses is estimated at £318,000.

The new houses in the course of erection, together with their approximate dates of opening are as follows.....

OLD HALL, Bentley, Darlaston, January 1956.”

It opened on 28th March 1956.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1956

“The annual general meeting of W. Butler & Co. Limited will be held on December 31 at Wolverhampton. The following is an extract from the circulated statement of the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. J. Yardley.....

Six new houses have been opened during the year.....

OLD HALL, Bentley, in March.....

They are all doing good business and in a full year should fully justify the capital outlay involved and make a valuable contribution to earnings.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/7/1986

“Royal wedding fervour swept the Black Country.....

At the OLD HALL pub, Bentley, 97 children tucked into a special cake iced in red, white and blue, with the initials of Prince Andrew and Sarah piped on top.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/3/1988

“Construction worker Stephen Hammond had a hair-raising experience to help the handicapped in Walsall. Regulars at his local pub, the OLD HALL, in Bentley, sponsored him to have a 5in high, pink Mohican haircut, with proceeds going to the Walsall Enterprise Trust, which runs canal trips for the handicapped.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/5/1994

“Daredevil bungee jumpers are raising cash for Walsall children’s hospice Rainbow House today. The OLD HALL pub in Churchill Road, Bentley, has organized the event which starts at 5pm.”

It was renamed HIGHGATE HALL [2005]

Closed [2007]

Demolished [2009]

Housing was built on the site.

OLD HOUSE AT HOME

44, Bell Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited [1908]

LICENSEES

Daniel Wilkes [1868] – [1872]

Sylvia Wilkes [1871]

Joseph Johnson [1880] – [1881]

Joseph Ross [1886]

Henry Pomford [1891]

Thomas Pumford [1891]

John Aston [1892]

Thomas Hingley [1901] – [1908]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Daniel Wilkes, beer retailer, Bull Street. [1868], [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1869

“*Daniel Wilkes*, a beerhouse keeper, of Darlaston, was summoned at the Police Court, on Tuesday, for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 15th August. The defendant admitted the offence, and as he had not been previously convicted, he was only fined a shilling and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/9/1869

“Interesting Case under the new Beerhouse Act.

At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before Mr. G. L. Underhill and Mr. Marshall, James Bagnall, William Stannaway, Edward Dooley, Samuel Grainger, and Joseph Robison, all of Darlaston, were charged under the new Beerhouse Act, 1869, that *Daniel Wilkes*, of Bell Street, Darlaston, was, on the 24th August, duly convicted for having, on the 15th August, being Sunday, unlawfully sold to various persons one pint of beer at fifteen minutes past twelve in the afternoon, the same not being travellers.

Mr. Thursfield, magistrates’ clerk, said that as this was the first proceeding under the Act at Wednesbury, it might be as well to read the section having reference to the matter. The Act in question came into operation in July last, and the section provided that any person licensed to sell beer, cider, or wine by retail, or who was convicted of keeping his house open for sale, or of selling any excisable liquor, or of suffering the same to be drunk in his house at any time during which such house was ordered by law to be closed, or any person (other than the servants or inmates of such house) present in the house should, unless able to account for his presence to the satisfaction of the justices, be liable to a penalty not exceeding 40s in each case.

Police-constable S. Billingsley proved the case, and that the men summoned were on the premises at the time the offence was committed, but the only person he saw having a vessel containing beer in his possession was Grainger.

The Magistrates said that as this was the first occasion on which the Act had been put in force at Wednesbury, and the other defendants were not found actually inside the house, or with any drink in their hands, the case against them would be dismissed, they having given them the benefit of the doubt. Grainger would be fined 2s 6d and costs, making 14s, which was paid.

Mr. Underhill said it would be well for the public to bear in mind that persons drinking in licensed houses after the hour allowed by law would be liable to be fined as well as the landlords.”

1871 Census

Bell Street – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

- [1] *Daniel Wilkes* (47), screw forger, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sylvia Wilkes* (41), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary Wilkes* (20), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Job Wilkes* (19), son, nut forger, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Comfort Wilkes* (17), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Faith Wilkes* (12), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Jemima Wilkes* (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Elizabeth Wilkes* (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Daniel Wilkes* (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [10] *Sylvia Wilkes* (1), daughter, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1875

“William Foster, Bell Street, Darlaston, was charged with savagely assaulting Solomon Hackett, axle filer, Foster Street. Mr. Ebsworth defended.

The prosecutor stated that on the afternoon of Boxing-day he went into the OLD HOUSE AT HOME beerhouse, and sat down to drink a pint of beer which he had ordered. Foster, who was present, and who appeared half-intoxicated, remarked, ‘I have got the best — dog in England.’ Witness replied, ‘I am no dog fancier.’ Whereupon prisoner, using a very foul expression, wanted to know what he was. Prosecutor, desiring not to have anything more to do with the prisoner, left the house; but when he got into the yard, the prisoner, after challenging him to ‘have a round,’ knocked him down and fell upon the top of him purposely, and whilst in that position bit his nose through. He said, ‘I could bite your — head off.’ Afterwards the prisoner ran away, and prosecutor had his nose ‘doctored,’ as he called it. Before he left the public house he showed the wound to the landlady, who said that was one of his (the prisoner’s) old games.

There were some discrepancies in other evidence which was given as to how the quarrelling originated, and the case was adjourned for a fortnight to give time for inquiries.”

Dudley Guardian 6/2/1875

“On Tuesday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner, stipendiary, William Foster, nut and bolt maker, Darlaston, again appeared to answer a charge of having assaulted Solomon Hackett, of the same town. It will be remembered that, on the 2nd ult, the defendant picked a quarrel with the complainant in a public house, and having followed him into the yard, threw him down and nearly bit his nose off. Enquiries which the police had made strengthened the complainant’s case, and, in addition, a list of eight previous convictions – principally for deeds of violence – was put in against the defendant, who was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment, the Stipendiary remarking that his antecedents seemed to show light fines were no check upon his lawlessness.”

Joseph Johnson, beer retailer, Bell Street. [1880]

1881 Census

44, Bell Street

[1] *Joseph Johnson* (37), nut and bolt forger, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Johnson* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *George Foster* (17), son, iron rivetter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Charles Foster* (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/11/1886

“George Foster, of Darlaston, was charged with assaulting *Joseph Ross*, a nut and bolt forger and landlord of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Darlaston.

The complainant said he went home on Saturday night, and found the defendant, who was his step-son, asleep in the house. He did not live there, and witness’s wife (defendant’s mother) requested him to leave. Foster refused, and he was ejected by his brother. Later on he came in with half a brick, and struck witness on the forehead with it. A fight occurred among the family, and he interfered, with the result that Foster got witness’s finger in his mouth and bit it to the bone. A certificate was put in to show that the man’s finger was seriously injured.

For the defence, Foster said he was kicked in the eye by his father-in-law [sic], and whilst on the floor *Ross* got a knife to him, and it was then he bit his finger to make him drop the weapon.

Dr. Underhill said the defendant had been sadly beaten, and he wanted further evidence. The case was remanded until today at Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/11/1886

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, George Foster, a young man, was brought up on remand, charged with unlawfully wounding his step-father, *Joseph Ross*, keeper of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, beerhouse, Bell Street, Darlaston. Mr. T. Green appeared for the defence.

The evidence in support of the charge was to the effect that on Saturday night, when the complainant returned home, he found the defendant asleep on the sofa. At closing time his mother directed another brother to get him to leave. As he refused to go, he was turned out. In a minute or two he returned with a brick, with which he struck his step-father on the temple. Then a struggle took place between the defendant and his brother Joseph, the wife of the former also participating in it, and on defendant [sic] going to take the woman away the defendant bit his finger severely.

In cross-examination the complainant admitted that he took up the crane from the grate with the intention of striking the defendant with it, and that he would have done so had it not been taken from him.

Ultimately the Bench dismissed the case.”

1891 Census

44, Bell Street

[1] *Henry Pomford* (30), coal miner, born Bloxwich;

- [2] Mary Pomford (25), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] William Hayward (27), lodger, coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [4] Samuel Hayward (21), lodger, coal miner, born Darlaston:

Thomas Pumford = Thomas Pamford

Birmingham Daily Post 24/6/1891

“At the Bilston Police Court yesterday, *Thomas Pamford*, landlord of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Bell Street, Darlaston, was charged with moving two pigs into a swine fever infected district. Sergeant Curtis stated that on the 22nd March last swine fever broke out on the premises of Frank Duly, adjoining those of defendant. Two of Duly’s pigs died on the 22nd March, and two more on the following day. Another pig remained affected until the 24th of April, when it also died. Three days afterwards the defendant brought two pigs on to his premises, and put them in a sty adjoining Duly’s. On the 10th June swine fever broke out on the defendant’s premises, and one pig died on Friday last. The Stipendiary said these offences must be put a stop to, and defendant would be fined £5 10s 6d, including costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday..... *Thomas Pumford*, the OLD HOUSE AT HOME beerhouse, Bell Street, Darlaston, applied for a renewal of his license. The objections were that the applicant had been convicted of drunkenness, and that there were structural defects in the premises. Mr. Lawrence, for the owners, said they would make any structural alterations desired, or if Mr. *Pumford* was not considered a proper person to hold the license they would get rid of him Refused, unless the applicant chooses to take out a six-day license, and had the door and adjacent houses blocked up.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 5/12/1891 - Advert

“To Let, Beerhouse, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Bell Street, Darlaston; ingoing and rent low; immediate possession. Apply, Park Brewery, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Music and singing licenses..... The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for dancing, in addition, being abandoned..... *John Aston*, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Bell Street.”

1901 Census

- 44, Bell Street – HOUSE AT HOME
- [1] *Thomas Hingley* (38), boat builder, born Dudley;
 - [2] Emily Hingley (37), wife, born Darlaston;
 - [3] Joseph Hingley (13), son, born Darlaston;
 - [4] Horace Hingley (11), son, born Darlaston;
 - [5] Arthur Hingley (8), son, born Wednesbury;
 - [6] George Spruce (67), father, coal miner, born Oakengates;
 - [7] Emma Spruce (66), mother born Wednesbury:

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Lichfield Mercury 26/6/1908

“The principal meeting of the members of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall, Stafford. There was a full attendance of the members of the committee, Lord Hatherton presiding. The business before the committee was that of hearing and determining applications for the renewal of licenses

in those cases which had been referred to the committee by the justices in petty sessions for compensation. The list contained forty public houses. There was a large attendance of barristers and solicitors, but in none of the cases were any objections raised to the reports of the justices concerning the houses referred, and the committee refused to renew the licenses in each of the forty cases which came before them. The following are the houses, the licenses of which were refused.....

OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Bell Street, Darlaston, ante-1869 beerhouse (six days).”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1908 - Notice

“The Licensing Act 1904. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 18th day of June, 1908, to refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, All Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 20th day of July, 1908, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules 1904, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act in respect of the said Premises.....

OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Bell Street, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869 (six days license). Licensee, *Thomas Hingley*. Registered Owners, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited.”

Lichfield Mercury 8/1/1909

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The Licensing Committee presented a report for the year 1908. They stated that the number of licenses referred from sixteen divisions and boroughs in the county was seventy-four, and the committee, having regard to the limited funds at their disposal, decided to proceed upon forty only.....

The committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants.

The amounts awarded as compensation were as follows.....

OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Bell Street, Darlaston, £650.”

OLD HOUSE AT HOME

Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Teece [1851] – **1860**)

Edward Teece [1861] – [1868]

Mrs. Ellen Teece [1871]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Teece issued tokens from here.

1851 Census

Catherines Cross

- [1] *Thomas Teece* (43), beer seller and shopkeeper and miner master employing 8 men, 2 boys, 2 girls, born Darlaston;
- [2] Harven Amelia Teece (41), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Thomas Teece (20), son, higgler born Darlaston;
- [4] Edwin Teece (16), son, puddler born Darlaston;
- [5] Martha Standley (21), general servant, born Darlaston;
- [6] Eliza Jevans (11), general servant, birth place not known;
- [7] George Turner (23), lodger, coal miner, birth place not known;
- [8] Henry Asson (20), lodger, coal miner, born West Bromwich;
- [9] Michael Colins (15), lodger, coal miner, born Warrington, Lancashire;
- [10] William Robinson (13), apprentice coal miner, born Wednesbury;
- [11] Charles Fielden (13), apprentice coal miner, birth place not known:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1854

“On Thursday last, John Vaughan, aged ten years, was driving a horse in a gin on a pit bank, and whilst the skip was descending the pit, the banksman turned round to load some coal. In a few minutes he heard some one call up the shaft, and on turning round missed the deceased. A man who was at the bottom of the pit heard something fall down the shaft whilst the skip was descending, and on going to the bottom found a large piece of board. When the skip had reached its destination, the deceased was found lying on his back quite dead. An inquest was held upon the body on Friday last, at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Darlaston, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, when the banksman stated that the deceased had been in the habit of kneeling at the mouth of the pit on the piece of board which was put as a sort of protection between two posts. After the accident the piece of board was found to be broken away, and one part of it had fallen to the bottom of the pit, so that it is supposed the board gave way whilst the deceased was leaning upon it and he was precipitated down the pit. The deceased had been many times cautioned not to go so near to the pit on account of the danger. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/4/1856 - Marriages

“On the 7th inst, at St. Martin’s church, Birmingham, Mr. Thomas *Teece*, eldest son of Mr. *T. Teece*, of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Darlaston, to Ann, only daughter of the late Mr. Kirkham, of Droitwich, and of the present matron of the Stafford Union Workhouse.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/6/1857 - Advert

“To Farmers and Others. Sale at Catherines Cross, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Enoch Bruerton, on Monday next, June 22nd, upon the premises, sign of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, a capital four-horse Thrashing machine, with bolting box, loose box, legs and wheels for removing, and made by John Shutt; capital 6 and 4½-inch wheel Carts, strong Spring and Covered Carts, light Spring Trap, with cushions; several sets of Harness and other Cart Tackles, a new Chaff-cutting Machine, several two and one handed Chaff Boxes, two Gin Wheels, Gin Rope about 40 yards, capital Bean Mill, two Seg Pigs, three Gilts in pig, upwards of 20 Store Pigs, and other miscellaneous effects, the property of Mr. Thomas Lees, who is declining farming.....”

Birmingham Journal 8/9/1860 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall. The 15th day of August, 1860.

In the Matter of the Petition of *Thomas Teece*, at present and for seventeen days last past residing in lodgings in King Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, in no business or occupation, previously and for five years and upwards residing at Catherines Cross, Darlaston aforesaid, Licensed Retailer of Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and Butty Miner, an Insolvent Debtor.

Notice is hereby given, that the Court will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, on Saturday, the 29th day of September, 1860, at Ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

Joseph Edward Sheldon, Attorney, Wednesbury.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1861 - Advert

“To be Sold, a bargain, a Pony, 11 hands high, a good goer, and quiet in Harness.
Apply to Mr. *E. Teece*, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Darlaston.”

1861 Census

Catherines Cross – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

- [1] *Edward Teece* (26), beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Ellen Teece* (25), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Sarah Harper (14), house servant, born Bilston:

Edward Teece, beer retailer and poulterer, Catherines Cross. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 17/8/1864

“Thomas Grove was charged with assaulting Parish-constable Howl. On Saturday night the constable apprehended the prisoner on a warrant for areas of bastardy, and was conveying him to the lock-up, when he asked to be allowed to enter a public house to have a jug of ale. The constable permitted him to go into the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, public house, at Catherines Cross, and the prisoner at once became violent, and, after refusing to go to the lock-up, struck the complainant. Several men who were in the house aided the prisoner, and the landlord placed the front and back doors open to allow of his escape. The assistance of Parish-constable Jones was obtained, and Grove was then got to the police cells. He was fined 40s and costs, or in default two months’ imprisonment, with hard labour, for the assault, and for non-payment of arrears under a bastardy order he was sentenced to three months’ imprisonment.”

Edward Teece, beer retailer and greengrocer, Catherines Cross. [1868]

1871 Census

Catherines Cross – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

- [1] *Edward Teece* (36), poultry dealer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Ellen Teece* (35), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [3] Lydia Teece (9), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] John Teece (7), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] William Selman (16), poulterer’s apprentice, born Bilston:

OLD WOODMAN

(Upper) Blakemore Lane, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Guest [1861]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/9/1860

“J. Cotton of Darlaston will fly a pigeon against any one in the same town, or any other within three miles of

Stafford, and give and take a reasonable time for distance, for £5 a side. Money ready at the WOODMAN, Blakemores Lane, Darlaston.”

1861 Census

Upper Blakemore Lane – OLD WOODMAN

[1] *John Guest* (40), gun lock filer and retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Hannah Guest* (40), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Phebe Guest* (18), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *John Guest* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Lucy Guest* (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] *Joseph Guest* (2), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] *Lydia Foster* (14), servant, born Darlaston:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/3/1862

“N. Robertson of Darlaston will fight C. Horton, J. Panck, or Young Hockey at catch weight, for £10 or £15 a side, or his own sum, to come off in two months from first deposit. Money ready a *J. Guest*’s, WOODMAN INN, Darlaston, any night next week.”

John Guest – see also BRITISH QUEEN, Albert Street.

ORPHAN CHILD

4, Cross Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Firm [1851] – [1864]

Israel Carter [1868] – **1871**;

Mrs. Sarah Carter (**1871** – [1872])

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/8/1849

“Change Ringing.....

The established society of St. Lawrence’s Youths, Darlaston, are ready to ring the dissenting society of St. Lawrence’s Youths of the same town, on their handbells, according to their own challenge, any two or three tunes they choose, for £1 a tune. The money to be ready at the ORPHAN CHILD, Cross Street, Darlaston; to play within 14 days from the 27th instant.”

1851 Census

4, Cross Street

[1] *William Firm* (35), furnace man, born Darlaston;

[2] *Fanny Firm* (37), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Ann Pope* (11), house servant, born West Bromwich:

1861 Census

Cross Street – ORPHAN CHILD

[1] *William Firm* (44), publican and retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Frances Firm* (47), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Ann Firm* (21), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Frances Robinson* (16), niece, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1864 - Advert

“By R. L. Courtney, on Monday Next, the 19th instant.

All the Household Furniture and other Effects, at the ORPHAN CHILD INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, belonging to Mr. *William Firm*, who is declining business.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1866 - Advert

“The ORPHAN CHILD INN, Cross Street, Darlaston, to be Disposed Of. It has only changed hands once in twenty years. Rent only £20 per annum. Coming-in about £100.

Apply to R. L. Courtney and Son, High Street, West Bromwich.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1868

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Israel Carter*, landlord of the ORPHAN CHILD INN, Darlaston, was summoned by Superintendent Holland, for selling liquors during prohibited hours, on Sunday week.

The case was proved by Police-constable Cannon, who visited the defendant’s house at about four o’clock on the day named, and found drink being consumed there. This was the defendant’s second offence, and the Magistrates imposed a fine of 40s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1871

“Transfer of licenses.....

ORPHAN CHILD, Darlaston, from *Israel Carter* to *Sarah Carter* (widow).”

1871 Census

Cross Street – ORPHAN CHILD

[1] *Sarah Carter* (33), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Frederick Carter* (7), son, born Darlaston;

[3] *Joseph Carter* (5), son, born Darlaston;

[4] *Horatio Carter* (3), son, born Darlaston;

[5] *Edward Carter* (5 months), son, born Darlaston;

[6] *James Taylor Smith* (26), boarder, tip forger, born Darlaston;

[7] *Louisa Gilbert* (22), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Sarah Carter, beer retailer, Cross Street. [1872]

1881 Census

4, Cross Street – ORPHAN CHILD

Uninhabited

Walsall Observer 7/7/1883 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at ORPHAN CHILD INN, Cross Street, Darlaston. Wednesday, July 11th, 1883.

Messrs. James Belcher & Son have received instructions to Sell by Auction, on the above Premises and Date, the Brewing Utensils, Public House Fixtures, and Effects, comprising Excellent Copper Boiler, Mash Tub, Cooler, Four-pull Beer Machine, 14 Strong Ale Casks, Tables, Benches, Screens, Wood Trestles, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock prompt. Conditions as usual.

Auctioneers’ Offices – Park Hall House, Walsall; and Darlaston.”

PAUL PRY

Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Holmes [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

PLOUGH

Church Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Griffiths [1858]

Lydia Griffiths [1861]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1858 - Died

“On the 2nd inst, awfully sudden, Mr. *Joseph Griffiths*, of the PLOUGH INN, Darlaston; much regretted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1858

“On Friday night last, Mr. *Joseph Griffiths*, landlord of the PLOUGH INN, Darlaston, who had been in his usual health up to eleven o’clock, was suddenly taken ill, and although medical aid was promptly obtained, he expired in forty minutes afterwards.”

1861 Census

Church Street – PLOUGH

[1] *Lydia Griffiths* (69), widow, retail beer seller, born Darlaston;

[2] *Lydia Parker* (15), grand-daughter, general servant, born Darlaston;

[3] *Benjamin Edwards* (16), grand-son, servant and nut maker, born Northampton:

PLOUGH

Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Elizabeth Rose [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

QUEENS HEAD

Blakemore Lane, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

J Guest [1866]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/3/1866

“T. Hickman and W. Laban (both of Darlaston) have signed articles to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, at the Aston Cross Grounds on April 2. Mr. *J. Guest*, QUEENS HEAD, Blakemore Lane, Darlaston, stakeholder, to whom a further deposit must be made on Monday.”

QUEENS HEAD

44, (43+44), King Street, (Church Street), (Cock Street), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Northampton Brewery Company [1892]
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Bayley [1834] – [1841]
Mark Read [1861] – [1881]
Septimus Newcombe [1885] – [1887]
Alfred Paget [1888]
Frederick Warren [] – **1888**);
Richard Bates (**1888** – [] temporary transfer
Mrs. Elizabeth Devey [1889] – [1890]
Richard E Shazell [1891] – [1892]
Gerrard Carrol [1893]
W H Deakin [1895]
Richard Harper* [1896]
Richard Andrew Harper* [1898]
Pearson [] – **1898**) manager
Ernest Greenway [1901]
Frederick William Plant [1904]
Arthur Aston [1908] – **1922**);
John Lacey (**1922** – **1924**);
Henry William Kent (**1923**) temporary transfer
Frank Bell (**1924** – **1925**);
Edwin George ‘Teddy’ Smith (**1925** – **1960**);
Ann Elizabeth Smith (**1960**):

NOTES

43+44, King Street [1881]
44, King Street [1891], [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1932], [1939], [1940]

QUEENS ARMS HOTEL [1888]
QUEENS ARMS INN [1852], [1898]
QUEENS HEAD INN CONCERT HALL [1911]
QUEENS HOTEL [1919]
QUEENS HEAD HOTEL [1909], [1922], [1924], [1925], [1926], [1932]

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Bayley, beer retailer, King Street. [1841]

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/11/1852

“On Friday, the 29th ult, after an adjourned inquest, held before J. Phillips, Esq, coroner, at the QUEENS ARMS INN, Darlaston, a verdict of manslaughter was returned against an engineer, named Noah Butler, and David Westwood, his fireman, under the following circumstances.

On the morning of the 22nd ult, a sinker of Willenhall, named George Jones, and a fellow-workman, were ascending from a lime pit in Mr. Addenbrook’s field, at Darlaston, Jones, in a ‘bowk,’ and his companion in a second carriage of a similar description, when, on arriving at the mouth of the pit, it became evident from the continual working of the engine by whose power they were being lifted, that the ‘bowk’ must go over the pulley. Jones’s companion leaped out and clung to the frame-work of the pit, which Jones himself attempting to do, his head struck a portion of the machinery, and he was dashed back into the pit, to the fearful depth of 170 yards. A man who was working at the time upon a scaffolding twenty yards from the floor of the pit, heard something descending, and jumped into a projection in the brickwork. In another instant Jones’s body fell through the scaffolding, sweeping the timber with it. In about twenty minutes afterwards

deceased was discovered frightfully mutilated, with his skull smashed, and, of course, quite dead. It was the duty of Butler, as engineer of the pit, to have superintended the elevation of the 'bowk' on the morning in question, he, however, was not in the engine house, but had left his fireman, Westwood, in charge, who, it was said, had on a previous occasion, permitted the 'bowk' to be drawn over the pulley. They were both committed, under the coroner's warrant for trial at the next assizes. Deceased had left a wife but no family."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/3/1853

"Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Enoch Butler, 31, and Daniel Westwood, 18, were indicted for the manslaughter of George Jones, at Darlaston. Mr. Jenkins prosecuted; Mr. Scotland defended Enoch Butler, and Mr. Kettle the prisoner David Westwood.

The prisoners worked at a limestone pit, at Darlaston, belonging to Messrs. Addenbrook, Butler being the engineer, and Westwood the fireman; and the deceased appeared to have met with his death on the morning of the 22nd of October, by being drawn up to the pulley and thrown down the shaft, at the time the fireman was at the gears of the engine. One of the witnesses having stated, on cross-examination by Mr. Scotland, that the head engineer had employed Westwood in a similar way to what Butler had permitted, the learned Judge directed the jury, who acquitted Butler. Other evidence was given against Westwood, when the bankman stated that he did not hear the usual signal by the men on coming up the pit; upon which his Lordship stopped the case, and the prisoner was acquitted."

Mark Read, beer retailer, Cock Street. [1861]

1861 Census

King Street

[1] *Mark Read* (29), innkeeper, gun lock filer and retail brewer, born Willenhall;

[2] Ann Read (28), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah Read (4 months), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Ann Buller (18), house servant, born Wednesbury;

[5] Hannah Baggott (10), nurse, born Darlaston:

Mark Read, beer retailer, King Street. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1865

"A special sessions for the granting of licenses was held on Wednesday There were forty-three applications, nine of which only were granted. They were as follows.....

Mark Read, King Street, Darlaston, applied for by Mr. Slater."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/2/1869

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, John Evans, a vagrant, was charged with having stolen a hand bell, the property of *Mark Read*, of the QUEENS HEAD INN. The prisoner solicited alms at the prosecutor's house on the 3rd inst, and after he had left the bell in question was missed. The next day Police-constable Walters saw the prisoner offering it for sale at Wednesbury, and, after questioning him, took him into custody. The prisoner, a wretched-looking individual, almost naked, and suffering severely from the itch, pleaded that he took the bell for the three-fold reason – that he was drunk, that he could get no more to drink, and that he had no food. It was stated that he had torn up his clothes while in the cell. Sentenced to one month's imprisonment, with hard labour."

1871 Census

King Street – QUEENS HEAD INN

[1] *Mark Read* (39), victualler, born Willenhall;

[2] Ann Read (38), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah Read (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Mary Read (3), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Annie Read (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] Clara Read (2 months), daughter, born Darlaston;

[7] Charlotte Howle (30), domestic servant, born West Bromwich;

[8] Catharine Dean (13), nurse, born Willenhall:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/4/1871 - Advert

“Found, on Sunday last, a Dark-brindle Whippet Dog. If not owned in three days will be Sold to pay expenses.

Apply to Benjamin Read, back of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/10/1871

“The Darlaston lock-makers are now on strike. This unhappy position of affairs has been brought about owing to a section of the masters having determined on a reduction in the price of ‘store’ locks, which had hitherto been paid at the rate of 11d each, but which some of the masters wished to reduce to 10½d. This being so, the men generally – those who were even receiving the standard price being among the number – ceased work last Tuesday evening. It is expected that the strike will not be a protracted one; and that the whole of the men will be again at work at the end of another week. Last night, a meeting of the men was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston, at which it was announced that the Darlaston Nut and Bolt Society would give pecuniary assistance to them while they were out.”

Bolton Evening News 15/12/1871

“On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Thomas Halliday, of Little Lever, the president of the Amalgamated Association of Miners, addressed a large meeting of delegates from the South Staffordshire miners, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, and the following resolutions were carried unanimously.

- (1) That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is needful that the miners of South Staffordshire join in union in order to secure and maintain a fair day’s wages for a fair day’s work, shorten the hours of labour, and get passed a satisfactory Mines Regulation Bill, and also to get redressed the grievances of the miners of this part of the country.
- (2) That this meeting pledges itself to assist the Amalgamated Association of Miners in securing the objects they are aiming to obtain, and expresses its fullest confidence in the said association.
- (3) That this meeting pledges itself to commence and continue an agitation with a view of reducing the hours of labour, and further pledges itself not to rest satisfied till such reduction of hours is obtained, and calls upon all miners in South Staffordshire to join us in obtaining so desirable an object
- (4) That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Government should pass, at the earliest opportunity, a satisfactory Mines Regulation Bill, and we quite agree with the resolution passed at the Conference recently held in Manchester.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/1/1872

“A meeting of the South Staffordshire miners was held last night at the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston, to receive the report of the deputation appointed to meet the coalmasters at Wolverhampton on the previous day.

Mr. Carter, who presided, said the deputies were received very courteously and kindly by the employers, who paid great attention to their statements, and gave them affair hearing. (Hear, Hear.)

Mr. W. Lloyd corroborated this statement, and described the mode in which the employers agreed to affect a reduction of eight hours per week in the bandsmen’s time, one condition on which great stress was laid being that a full day should be made on Monday. As to the pikemen, the employers considered that they could not entertain their grievances, they being under contract with the butties, with whom the question would have to be settled. He regretted that the deputation could not put themselves forward as representing more than 1,200 out of the 20,000 colliers in the district, for if the colliers would only become united they could get their demands in every point that was reasonable and just. (Applause.) In conclusion, he pressed his hearers to apply themselves diligently to the task of educating themselves.

Mr. Gething also bore testimony to the kindly and courteous manner in which the deputation was received by the employers. He said that last week the reduction of eight hours was offered and accepted in the Dud-

ley district, and perhaps that paved the way for the hours of the miners in that side of the district which he and those represented being reduced eight per week, instead of twelve as they asked for. They had not, it was true, got all they desired, but they had got two-thirds, which was a very sensible and suitable piece – (hear, hear) – and in accepting it they were no further from getting the other third. If, on the other hand, they had rejected the offer, they would not only have lost all they had got but have driven future advances further off. It was stated that in the Wolverhampton district – and instances were adduced – men were working on an average not more than 45 hours per week. If that was general in the Wolverhampton district, the men there were far more irregular than those with whom that meeting had to deal – (hear, hear) – and it was only right to say that if a number of men broke the week in such a manner when coal was wanted, they not only injured themselves by loss of wages, but injured their fellow labourers and the masters too. (Applause.) Referring to the question of ‘stint’ – a matter which, he said, urgently required looking to – he expressed an opinion that the stints quoted by the employers overrated the working capabilities of all but exceptional men; adding his belief that, looking at the amicable way in which the reduction of hours had been secured, all the rest might be secured in a like spirit. (Applause.) They had simply to state what they wanted, appoint a deputation to meet the employers, as they had done in this instance, and he was sure their arguments would be calmly considered; and if the man did not get all they asked for, a large concession would be granted. (Applause.)

The new arrangement was to come into operation on Monday next, and he hoped the men would show their appreciation of the concession which had been granted by faithfully observing the stipulation to work all day and continuing to work the whole of the nine hours every Monday.

Mr. Lloyd suggested that the men should arrange for their dinners being sent after them, so as to lessen the temptation to make but half a day. (Hear, hear.)

The following resolutions were then put and unanimously carried:

(1) That this meeting having heard from the deputation the concession of the masters in the reduction of hours of labour, is pleased to accept it.

(2) That although this meeting agrees to accept the reduction of the hours of labour, it is of opinion that the pikemen should share in the benefit thereof by a proportionate reduction of stints. (Applause.)

Similar resolutions were passed at a large meeting of miners at Willenhall, on Wednesday night.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1872

“At a meeting of the Darlaston miners, who recently struck work on a question of hours and stints, held at the QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston, yesterday, it was agreed to resume work on the following terms. The bandsmen to work nine hours a day instead of ten four days in the week, and ten on the other two, which the butties had previously offered; and the pikemen to be granted a reduction of one-seventh in the stints. Their original demand was for a deduction of one-sixth and the butties offered one-eighth.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1872

“A large meeting of the gun-lock filers of Darlaston and district was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston (Mr. S. Brown presiding), for the purpose of promoting the proposed amalgamation of the gun-lock filers of the district with the birding gun trade of Birmingham. A deputation from the last-named town attended. After considerable discussion, all in favour of amalgamation, delegates were appointed to confer with the Birmingham committee with the view to carrying out the project. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Birmingham delegates.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/6/1872

“South Staffordshire General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

At a meeting of the Weekly Board, held on Tuesday Donations.....

Mr. *Mark Read*, QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston, 10s.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1872

“A large meeting of miners was held on Friday evening, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, the following places being represented, Wednesbury, Darlaston, Tipton, Willenhall, Bilston, Walsall, Bloxwich, Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Brownhills, and Lane Head. Mr. Fullford presided.

Mr. Carter said the object of the meeting was to further the agitation for an advance of the miners' wages and a reduction of the hours of labour, and as their wages had always gone up with the wages of the ironworkers, who had almost got their business settled, the step they were taking was quite justifiable. (Applause.)

Mr. Getting, miners' agent, expressed a like view. It had been said that the men did not deserve the concessions they asked, because all that they got was wasted in the public house; but, admitting that some miners spent their time and their money foolishly, there was no more reason that the great majority of the men should be made to suffer, than there would be to say that the masters were not entitled to profits because some of their number wasted their money at the gaming table, and got into the Bankruptcy Court. (Applause.)

At present the men were not getting an equal share of the profits with the employers, and before those profits would be divided, six to one and half a dozen to the other, the men would have to understand the market and the laws regulating it, as they must never ask for more than belonged to them – an equal share. (Hear.) Hitherto capital and labour had been at variance, but labour had taught capital one lesson – that it wanted a reduction of the hours of work, and that capital was able to grant it – and the time had arrived for another lesson. (Applause.) They did not wish, however, to be considered the enemies of the employers, but desired that employers and employed should regard each other as friends. (Applause.) In the past much misery had resulted from the misunderstandings between capital and labour, and that for the future they wished to avoid. (Applause.) At the same time it should not be concealed that they were never so strong as at the present time. The three lodges of Darlaston and district, Cannock Chase, and West Bromwich numbered 6,800 members between them, while the North Staffordshire lodges had 7,000, making nearly 14,000 in all. (Applause.) In conclusion, the speaker urged upon his hearers the duty of acting up to their increased privileges. The following resolution was then enthusiastically carried, on the proposition of Mr. Cotterell, seconded by Mr. Carter, 'That this meeting, considering the advances that have been made in the price of coal and iron since any advance has been made in wages, is of opinion that the miners in this district are entitled to an advance of ten per cent in wages, and a reduction of one hour per day.'

The meeting ended with the usual vote of thanks."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/7/1872

"On Friday evening, the 12th instant, the first meeting of the Darlaston, Wednesbury, and Willenhall branch of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Amalgamated Boiler Makers and Smiths' Protection Society, was held at the QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston. There was a large attendance, and the rules of the central society were adopted unanimously, with one slight amendment. The proceedings were very enthusiastic."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1873

"The ordinary monthly meeting of Walsall Trades Council was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday evening; Mr. S. Welsh, president, in the chair....."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/5/1874

"Last night, a meeting of miners on strike was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston..... The following resolution was proposed, seconded, and carried with great heartiness, 'That this meeting cannot accept the reduction of wages proposed by the masters, but is still willing to refer the matter to arbitration.'"

Cannock Chase Examiner 12/5/1876

"A large meeting of Darlaston miners was held on Friday night, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, to consider the position of the South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire miners, who at present are unemployed. The chair was occupied by Mr. Carter, and among those present were Mr. James Uppersdine and Mr. Thomas Bayley, who attended as deputations from the distressed miners. There are 11,599 to be supported, in addition to 326 widows, 611 children, and eight aged parents. The meeting decided to grant £21 towards the relief fund."

Wednesbury Herald 15/11/1879

"On Thursday night, a large meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, King

Street, Darlaston, to take into consideration the emigration scheme and the advisability of seeking an advance in wages.....”

Wednesbury Herald 6/12/1879

“A large meeting of nut and bolt makers was held on Thursday night at the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston, to take into consideration the wages question.

Mr. Joseph Horton, who presided, said that although the secretary to the Nut and Bolt Makers’ Association (Mr. Juggins) had sent notice to the employers to request them to meet the men, they neglected to meet them on Tuesday night, as was arranged. Mr. Chamberlain’s award was bad enough, without 10 per cent being taken off it. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Juggins, the secretary, said the employers had been called five times to meet the men to discuss the question, but for some reason the majority of them had not met the men to address the question in any manner, and consequently they had now put the operatives on their metal. In no town, except Darlaston, had 10 per cent been taken off Mr. Chamberlain’s award. Mr. Horton and one or two other employers in Darlaston had paid wages in accordance with the award.

After a lengthy discussion, it was received that a meeting of Mr. Simpson’s men be held on Friday night with a view of giving Mr. Simpson notice to pay wages in accordance with Mr. Chamberlain’s award. In the event of the men having occasion to strike that each man receive 20s a week as long as the dispute lasts.”

Wednesbury Herald 20/12/1879

“A meeting of the operatives engaged in the nut and bolt trade, was held on Wednesday night, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston, when Mr. Joseph Horton presided. Addresses having been given by Mr. Juggins and Mr. C. E. Bowkett, secretary to the Birmingham Trades Council, the following resolution was carried, ‘That this meeting regrets to learn that the employers in the nut and bolt trade in this town have failed to meet a deputation of nut and bolt makers, although invited five times by circular to do so, with a view to adjust the present grievance, and to avoid an unpleasant dispute; now leaving the men no alternative than to demand their rights by giving notice for the same.’

It was further received to give the masters notice on Saturday for an advance of 10 per cent.”

Wednesbury Herald 10/1/1880

“On Thursday night a meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston, to take into consideration the wages question. Mr. Joseph Horton presided.

The Chairman said that Messrs. Simpson and Wood had promised to give the increase on the 1st of February. (Hear, hear.)

Two delegations also stated that Messrs. J. and R. Rose and Mr. G. Wilkes had promised to give the 10 per cent. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Richard Juggins (the general secretary) was pleased to say that Messrs. F. and W. Cotterill would pay wages this week in accordance with Mr. Chamberlain’s award. (Hear, hear.) The majority of the employers had promised not to violate the award after the 1st of February, and, as the association was in a flourishing state, he expected the whole of them would shortly return the ten percent, that had been taken off. (Hear, hear.) The employers who had promised to give the ten percent were Messrs. James Simpson, Acorn Works; Clark and Pitt, Anchor Works; Butler and Richards, Lion and Oak Works; B. Perkins and Sons, Hope Works; J. and R. Rose, London Works; R. Aston, Providence Works; Butler and Morton, Phoenix Works; Simpson and Wood, Grand Junction Works; and T. Winsper, Victoria Works. (Applause.)

A resolution was unanimously passed that the reports presented be considered satisfactory.....”

Wednesbury Herald 23/10/1880

“A large meeting of the National Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston, on Wednesday night for the purpose of adopting measures to increase the number of members.

Mr. J. Horton, the chairman of the branch association, presided, and said he regretted that the trade still remained in a somewhat precarious state, the consequence being that some of the employers were desirous of violating the agreement that was arrived at some time ago. At the present time the men had to contend

with innumerable difficulties, and he considered that the time had arrived when they should adopt measures to resist the action of the employers. (Hear, hear.) He was fully convinced that trade would not be improved by wages being further reduction. (Applause.)

Mr. Richard Juggins, the general secretary, addressed the meeting at great length.....

After considerable discussion, the following resolution was carried unanimously, 'That this meeting believes that the time has arrived when trades unions should be more firmly established, seeing that many of the employers are ever ready to take advantage of the bad state of trade by reducing wages; and is also of the opinion that it is only by a strong organisation the working man's rights can be provided.'

Evening Express 17/2/1881

"In consequence of notice being posted up in several nut and bolt works in town to the effect that the workmen must insure or contract themselves out of the Employers' Liability Act, a mass meeting of employees was held at the QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston, on Wednesday evening for the purpose of considering what steps they should take under the circumstances....."

1881 Census

43+44, King Street – QUEENS HEAD

[1] *Mark Read* (49), licensed victualler, born Willenhall;

[2] *Ann Read* (48), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Sarah Read* (20), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Mary Read* (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Annie Read* (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] *Clara Read* (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] *Maria Ford* (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Evening Express 13/8/1881

"A meeting of the nut and bolt makers of the Darlaston branch of the Amalgamated Society was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, on Friday evening, for the purpose of hearing the reports from the delegates appointed to confer with the masters in assigning the new list of prices. There was a very large attendance....."

Evening Express 1/9/1881

"A largely-attended meeting of the employees in the Darlaston district of the National Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers was held at the QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston, on Tuesday evening, to hear the report of the delegates who attended the conference of employers and workmen at the Queens Hotel, Birmingham, in the nut and bolt trade, and to decide what steps should be taken with those employers who refuse to accept the new list of prices and sizes as agreed to by the same on August 17th 1880.

Mr. John R. Osborne, of Birmingham, occupied the chair, and in the course of a somewhat lengthy speech urged those present to unite themselves into a compact body, in order that they might obtain their just and legitimate rights.

Mr. Juggins, operative secretary, having expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing such a large gathering of nut and bolt makers, said there appeared to be no difficulty in their movement except in the Darlaston district. All his fears up to the present time with regard to that district were as to whether they would be sufficiently strong and loyal to carry out those principles that were being carried out, and would be accomplished, in other parts of the district. They would bear in mind that there had been on their part no effort lost to bring about a friendly relationship between employer and employed. Speaking to the employers individually, as it had been his privilege to do, he invariably found them to express one opinion, namely, that the list of prices and sizes of 1877 needed a radical alteration. He, therefore, regretted that they (the employers) had been unable to deal in a conciliatory way with those employers who had admitted the reasonableness of their demands. He (Mr. Juggins) did not know in what way the operatives looked upon such conduct, but so far as he was concerned he looked upon it in a very grave light indeed. He thought there was no period in the history of their association that demanded more serious consideration and determination from the men than at the present time. One thing appeared very evident to him that if there was the slightest giving way on the part of the men, owing to the action the employers have already manifested, the result would be that they would

once more go back into the old system, which meant that they must accept whatever wages the employers were inclined to pay, and the standard list of prices in the district would be nothing more or less than nominal. Therefore, if they did not wish to see that state of things that meeting must be unanimous, and every member of the society in the district should be determined, now that the climax had come, to insist upon their demands, and if they were actuated by the same spirit as in 1872 and 1877, these should be conceded to them. (Hear, hear.).....

Mr. Juggins concluded by moving 'That this meeting pledges itself to demand wages in accordance with the new list of prices, 1881, when such has been submitted, and in case any employer refuses to pay according to the same, we at once cease work.'

This motion was seconded and enthusiastically carried.

Two workmen present said the employers for whom they worked had each received a copy of the new list of prices, and had agreed to give the matter their serious consideration.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting."

Evening Express 24/9/1881

"A well-attended meeting of the operatives of Darlaston district was held at the QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston, yesterday (Friday) evening, for the purpose of coming to a decision as to what work the men should be withdrawn from in consequence of the masters still refusing to pay the new list of prices.....

It was moved and seconded by two employees of Messrs. Cottrell that the men employed at those works come out on strike on Saturday week unless the new list of wages be paid.

Mr. Juggins said it would be advisable for a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held on an early day, for the purpose of considering the question of emigration, which, if carried out, would enable the society to keep out those men who were usually termed blacklegs. It was further resolved that a levy of 6d per week be paid on and after Saturday next, to assist the men on strike."

Evening Express 8/10/1881

"At a large meeting of nut and bolt makers, held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston, Mr. Juggins stated that he had received a letter from the Secretary to the Employers' Association, in which he stated, 'I am directed to inform you that the sizes and prices are under consideration, and that as soon as the association has finished its deliberations the result will be communicated to you, most probably by Saturday, October 8th.' The operatives decided on Friday to withdraw their notice and resume work at once."

Evening Express 2/12/1881

"A mass meeting of the employees engaged in the nut and bolt trade at Darlaston was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, on Thursday evening, to hear the report of the deputation who had met the employers, they having now completed the arrangements of the Darlaston list of prices and sizes which will take effect at an early date.

One of the delegates who attended the conference occupied the chair, and expressed the pleasure he felt that a settlement had ultimately been come to between the employers and employed.....

It was unanimously resolved that the list of prices agreed upon between the Darlaston masters and their employees, and which is to come into operation on the 15th inst, be accepted.

A hearty vote of thanks to the delegates terminated the proceedings.

We understand that the operatives propose to hold a reunion on an early day, at which the employers will be invited to attend."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1882

"On Tuesday night a meeting of miners of Darlaston and neighbourhood was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, for the purpose of forming a district of the union. Mr. G. Carter presided, and introduced Mr. W. Brown, of North Staffordshire, who pointed out the advantages and necessity of unionism. A resolution was heartily passed, expressive of the willingness of all present to join other lodges in forming a district of the Miners' Association."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1882

“A meeting of the nut and bolt makers was held last night at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, for the purpose of considering the steps to be taken consequent upon the notice which had been forwarded to the Darlaston employers that an advance of 15 per cent would be required.

Mr. Juggins, who was voted to the chair, mentioned that the award of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, MP, in 1877, reduced the men’s wages to the enormous extent of from 10 to 50 per cent; but the hon. gentleman, with the view of encouraging the workmen, distinctly stated that when there was an improvement of trade the operatives would, or should, have it in their power to demand back from the employers the rates of pay which his award had reduced. Since then several meetings with the employers had taken place, and at the present moment they had two employers’ associations to deal with, the one being formed of the Smethwick section and the other of the Darlaston section. The former had conceded an advance upon small bolts equal to 10 per cent, fully expecting that the Darlaston operatives would demand a corresponding advance from their employers, who made far more of the small bolts than the Smethwick makers. On 6th July a notice was sent to the Darlaston employers that an advance of 15 per cent was required, and, supposing that to be gained, the average rate of pay would be 15 per cent below that of 1877; and the men considered this very reasonable, trade having vastly improved, the nut and bolt trade in Darlaston probably never having been more brisk than it was at that moment. The employers had, however, so far, merely acknowledged the receipt of the notice. He then strongly complained of the discourtesy shown by the Darlaston Association towards the men’s association, and also of the reintroduction of the discharge-note system, by which each employer bound himself not to employ any man who did not bring a discharge-note from his last employer.

Mr. S. W. Maddocks (president of the Brassworkers’ Association) addressed the meeting, emphatically advising the men not to take the extreme step of a strike to enforce the demand unless they were thoroughly organised.

The Chairman explained that the operatives’ association was not going in for a strike, but for conciliation and arbitration. As illustrating the briskness of the nut and bolt trade, he also stated that every man in the trade was fully employed, and situations were open for more men if they could be found.

Mr. W. B. Church, secretary of the Trades Council, Birmingham, next spoke, also urging complete organisation.

Two resolutions were unanimously passed, the one recognising the reasonableness of the demand for an advance of 15 per cent in Darlaston, and the other condemning the discharge-note system as being unjust and tyrannical.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/9/1882

“Last evening a meeting of the miners in the Darlaston district was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, for the purpose of considering the conditions of the Employers’ Liability Assurance Corporation. A resolution approving of the scheme and advising its adoption was carried.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/10/1882

“A meeting of store gun-lock filers was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, on Monday evening, to consider the question of wages. When it was reported that in reply to the application of the workpeople for an advance of 1½d per lock (viz, from 7½d to 9d), the employers had offered to pay 8d per lock. The meeting unanimously agreed to adhere to the original demand, and further resolved that in the event of the advance not being conceded by Monday next, a general strike of the workmen engaged in the trade should take place. Since then a notice in accordance with the decision of the meeting has been served upon the employers (seven in number) in Darlaston and Wednesbury. The men engaged in this branch of the trade do not exceed 200, it is stated.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/1/1884

“We regret to have to record the death of Mr. *Mark Read*, the genial landlord of the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston. Deceased was a man who was highly respected in his own business and among a large circle of friends, and one whose loss will be deplored by many in the humbler walks of life, because to these his aid was always ready in any time of trouble or distress. Although in no sense a public man, the deceased was known as a moderate and consistent Liberal and a Wesleyan. Although solicited, he several times refused to be nominated as a member of the local governing body of the town, his brief experience

of office not having accorded with his independent spirit. In business matters, he is spoken of as the 'Soul of honour,' and his straightforward conduct and social qualities gained for him the lasting respect of the businessmen with whom he associated. For upwards of twelve years he acted as treasurer of the Darlaston Miners Association, refusing any compensation for the trouble he took, or for the use of the room regularly granted during that period. In consideration of this, the Association recently presented him with his portrait and that of his wife.

For some time Mr. *Read* had been suffering from an internal disease, and had been attended by Dr. Partridge. He calmly passed away on Tuesday night, in the 52nd year of his age. The funeral took place on Friday, at the Darlaston Cemetery, and was conducted by Mr. C. Bishop, undertaker, several intimate friends and representatives of the Licensed Victuallers Association attending as a last mark of respect.

At a special meeting of the Darlaston Miners Association, held on Thursday evening, it was unanimously resolved to forward a vote of condolence with the family to Mrs. *Read*."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/9/1885 - Advert

"10s Reward. Lost or Stolen, on the 18th instant, a White Bull-Terrier Bitch, answering to the name of Rose. Anyone bringing the above to Mr. *Newcombe*, QUEENS HEAD, King Street, Darlaston, will receive the above reward."

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/4/1887

"*Septimus Newcombe*, landlord of the QUEENS HEAD INN, New Street, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness. Mr. Thursfield defended. The case was dismissed."

Staffordshire Chronicle 7/7/1888

"Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

John Griffiths (on bail), a respectably dressed young man, was charged with stealing a horse and trap, value £20, the property of Thomas Morris, at Darlaston, on April 1. Mr. Harvey was for the prosecution.

It seemed that the prosecutor had sent the trap to the QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, King Street, Darlaston, where his brother-in-law, *Alfred Paget*, the landlord, left it for a short time in an opening adjoining the hotel. When he returned it was gone, but subsequently the prisoner was found in possession of the horse and trap by the prosecutor. The trap was then a good deal damaged, and prosecutor regained it after a struggle.

Prisoner contended that the affair was a joke.

The Assistant-Chairman asked if the jury thought there was any intention to steal.

Prisoner was acquitted, and was advised by Sir Rupert Kettle to compensate the prosecutor for the damage to the trap."

Walsall Observer 11/8/1888

"At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before H. P. Parkes and W. S. Harding, *Frederick Warren*, keeper of the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston, was charged with keeping open his premises during prohibited hours. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared to defend, and Mr. C. A. Loxton (Walsall) watched the case on behalf of the landlord.

Police-constable Rowbotham deposed that he visited defendant's house shortly after midnight on Saturday, the 21st ult, and found five men in a room at the back of the bar, all of whom had glasses before them. He ascertained that their names were Henry Matthews, Walhouse Street, Walsall; Frederick Smith, Mill Street, Walsall; Joseph Cotterell, King Street, Darlaston, and two others named Bishop and Potts, who said they were respectively bailiff and sheriff's officer. Potts produced a paper, which he said was his authority for being in the house, and Matthews and Smith explained their presence by saying they had brought some sale bills. Witness spoke to the landlord, who said he did not know that Cotterell was there.

Mr. Smith, for the defence, called evidence to show that the defendant was not responsible for what took place. The bailiffs had levied an execution, were in receipt of the takings, and admitted the other men without the knowledge of the landlord.

Defendant was ordered to pay costs.

The Bench subsequently granted a temporary authority to sell at the house to *Richard Bates*, of Station Street, Walsall."

The Era 16/11/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, at Once, Young Lady Pianist and Vocalist. Permanency to suitable person. Send Photo, *E. Devey*, QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston, Staffs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1890

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, John Grainger, of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Church Street, was summoned by Mrs. *Elizabeth Devey*, of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Church Street, for refusing to leave her house. Mr. W. Smith appeared for the complainant, and Mr. S. M. Slater for the defendant.

The evidence went to show that the defendant went to the QUEENS HEAD, became very abusive, and when desired to leave threatened Mrs. *Devey*.

The defence was that the defendant went to the house to endeavour to obtain settlement of an old debt due to him.

The Stipendiary told him that whatever his object he had no right to go there and create a disturbance, and imposed a fine of 40s and costs, or one month’s imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1890 - Advert

“Wanted, respectable young Person as General Servant; capable of assisting in the bar. QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston.”

The Era 15/11/1890 - Advert

“Wanted, Known, the Sisters Devey, Duettists, appearing with immense success at Gaiety, Wolverhampton. Vacant dates on application.

All communications, *J. Devey*, QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston.”

Richard E. Shazell = Richard E. Shazel

1891 Census

44, King Street – QUEENS HEAD

[1] *Richard E. Shazel* (51), married, public house manager, born Tavistock, Devonshire;

[2] Ernest E. Shazel (4), son, scholar, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/4/1892 - Advert

“By Messrs. Belcher & Son, This Day (Monday), April 11, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston, at Half-past Seven o’clock in the Evening precisely.

Sale of the Full-Licensed Inn known as the QUEENS HEAD, King Street, Darlaston, and of Business Premises adjoining.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses..... The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for dancing, in addition, being abandoned.....

Northampton Brewery Company, QUEENS HEAD, King Street.”

Gerrard Carrol = Gerald Carroll

Lloyds Weekly 8/10/1893

“At the County police court today, John Monckton and Charles Davies were charged with stealing three bottles of whiskey belonging to *Gerrard Carrol*, landlord of the QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston. It was alleged that prisoners went into the hotel, took the whiskey, and afterwards went to a private house and consumed it along with a quantity of port wine. Both men were subsequently found drunk. Prisoners were remanded until Tuesday.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1893

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, John Monckton (23), Victoria Road, and Charles Davis (29), Albert Street, were charged with stealing three bottles of whisky, the property of *Gerald Carroll*, keeper of the QUEENS HEAD INN, King Street, Darlaston. The evidence was to the effect that they were in the house alone for a short time, and that after they had left the bottles of spirits were missed. The men then went to the BULLS HEAD INN, and after trying to dispose of a bottle of the liquor for 1s 6d, tapped it, and distributed its contents among the persons in the house. Their defence was that they bought a large bottle of whisky from a tramp and his wife, and emptied it into smaller bottles. They were each fined 20s, including costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.

They were further charged with having stolen three bottles of curacao, the property of James Pritchard. In this case they took the bottles from a rack in the prosecutor’s vaults, and, having forced their way in a drunken condition into a house occupied by a Mrs. Mansfield and her daughters, there wasted some of the liquor, drinking the remainder. They were each fined 20s, including costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/9/1895 - Advert

“Situation Wanted, to Manage either a Full-license or Beerhouse; Good references and security. Direct, *W. H. Deakin*, QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston.”

*probably the same person

Walsall Observer 22/1/1898

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Richard Andrew Harper*, the license holder of the QUEENS ARMS INN, King Street, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on the 30th December, and also for selling intoxicating liquor to a drunken man named Monckton. George Penrice, Smith Street, and John Monckton, Victoria Terrace, both of Darlaston, were charged with being drunk on the premises. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

Mr. Sharp explained that Mr. *Harper* did not live on the premises, but had the house under the management of a man named *Pearson*. On December 30th Sergeant Williams found Penrice and Monckton drunk on the premises and it seemed that Monckton had been supplied by the wife of the manager with drink. When asked if he had any questions to ask, Penrice said it was no use saying anything against Mr. Williams; he was a sergeant. He wanted to know how much he had to pay, so that he could get away (laughter).

Mr. Willcock said Mr. *Harper* had never previously had anything against one of his houses. He was strict in his management, and had discharged the manager of the QUEENS ARMS.

Mr. *Harper* was fined 20s and costs in each case against him, and Monckton and Penrice were each fined 10s and costs.”

Walsall Observer 27/8/1898

“Wednesbury Brewster Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt reported.....

Since the last annual licensing meeting seven licensed victuallers and six beerhouse keepers had been summoned in respect of offences against the tenour of their licenses. Of the victuallers five were fined and two dismissed, and of the beerhouse keepers four were fined, one paid costs, and one was dismissed. Three of the convicted beerhouse keepers had since transferred their licenses. He had caused notice of opposition to the renewal of these licenses to be served upon the present holder of the license in each case where there had been a conviction during the year.....

R. A. Harper, QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston.....

The consideration of objections was deferred until the adjourned sessions, to be held on the 28th of September.”

Dudley Herald 1/10/1898

“The adjourned Licensing Session for the Wednesbury Petty Sessional Division (comprising Darlaston, Tipton, and Dudley Port) took place on Wednesday licensed victuallers whose applications for renewal had been deferred.....

Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) appeared on behalf of *Richard Andrew Harper*, licensee of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, against which house a conviction had been recorded during the year. It was pointed out that a manager who was in charge of the house at the time the breach of the law occurred had been removed, and the Bench granted the renewal, but advised the licensee that he must be very careful in future.”

1901 Census

44, King Street – QUEENS HEAD

[1] *Ernest Greenway* (40), licensed victualler’s manager, born Brierley Hill;

[2] *Ellen E. Greenway* (36), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Albert E. N. Greenway* (2 months), son, born Darlaston;

[4] *Emma Fearn* (65), mother-in-law, widow, living on own means, born Birmingham:

Walsall Advertiser 30/5/1908

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, *Arthur Moreton* (21) and *William Henry Burt* (20), who gave their address as a lodging house in Wolverhampton, were charged with attempting to rob a till at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Darlaston, on May 21st.

Arthur Aston, the landlord, heard the latch of his bar door raised on the afternoon of the day in question, and on jumping over the counter he saw Moreton on his knees with his hands on the till drawer. He ran away, and another man also ran off in the opposite direction. The landlord overtook Moreton, who admitted that his companion was Burt.

Both prisoners were committed to the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions for trial.”

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Session on July 2nd, *Ernest Henry Moreton* and *William Henry Burt*, both with previous convictions, were charged with attempting to steal 15s, the moneys of *Arthur Aston*. They were found guilty, Moreton, who pleaded guilty, received 2 months’ hard labour, and Burt 3 months’ hard labour.]

Birmingham Mail 9/3/1909

“A remarkable affair is reported from Darlaston today. A drayman in the employ of Messrs. W. Butler and Co., Wolverhampton, named *Edward Fellows*, of Priestfield, was engaged in unloading a dray at the back of the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, King Street, Darlaston, when the ground underneath him suddenly gave way, revealing a well about 20 feet deep, the existence of which no one had previously suspected. Fellows had a remarkable escape, retaining his hold of a barrel, and was eventually extricated uninjured.”

AND

Walsall Advertiser 13/3/1909

“Some alarm was caused on Monday, when a portion of the yard at the rear of the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, King Street, Darlaston, gave way, and a disused well was discovered.

Edward Fellows, drayman, John Street, Priestfield, in the employ of Messrs. W. Butler and Co., Springfield Brewery, Wolverhampton, was about to lower a barrel of beer into a cellar when the yard gave way, and although a portion of his body fell into the cavity, he was soon rescued, being little the worse for his adventure.”

1911 Census

44, King Street – QUEENS HEAD INN

[1] *Arthur Aston* (38), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Catherine B. Aston* (40), wife, married 15 years, born Darlaston;

[3] *Ronald J. H. Aston* (6), son, school, born Darlaston:

South Staffordshire Times 30/9/1922

“The temporary transfer of the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, King Street, Darlaston, to Mr. *John Lacey*, of Wednesbury, from Mr. *Arthur Aston*, of Wednesbury, was applied for and granted.

Superintendent Dix: Mr. *Lacey* has served an apprenticeship for twenty years, so I won’t oppose. (Laughter.)”

Walsall Observer 6/12/1924

“This year is the sixtieth of the existence of the Court Herberts Park Royal Rangers (Darlaston), of the Ancient Order of Foresters, and the diamond jubilee was happily celebrated by members at a dinner at the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Darlaston, on Saturday evening. There were 45 present, including several visitors.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 14/2/1925

“Upwards of 40 friends of Mr. George Jarvis, of Catherines Cross, Darlaston, entertained him to dinner at the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, King Street, Darlaston, on Thursday evening, when occasion was taken to make two presentations to him. Mr. Jarvis, who has been employed at the Patentshaft and Axletree Co. Ltd., Wednesbury, for some years, is leaving for America, and the gathering had been arranged as a send-off. Mr. Harry Berry occupied the chair, and he was supported by Mr. Fred Bayley and Mr. J. Hales, the latter two gentlemen having had charge of the arrangements. Mr. and Mrs. Betts, the host and hostess, had prepared an excellent repast and at the close of the dinner the loyal toast was duly honoured.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 28/11/1925

“When *Edwin George Smith*, licensee of the QUEENS HEAD, Darlaston, asked for an occasional license from five to six o’clock, on the occasion of the annual dinner of the Ancient Order of Foresters today (Saturday), Inspector Willetts said he had been instructed to object, because it was thought that it was not necessary. The licensee said the idea was to get the dinner over to enable him to deal with his usual Saturday night custom. The application was for club members only, and it was desired that drinks should be served with the dinner. The Chairman (Mr. C. W. D. Joynson) said the explanation made was a fairly reasonable one, and in the circumstances the application was granted.”

Walsall Observer 20/2/1926

“The members of Court Herberts Park Royal Rangers of the Ancient Order of Foresters spent a most enjoyable evening at the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Darlaston, on Monday, when, after the usual business had been disposed of, the meeting was thrown open to visitors and friends for an entertainment. Mr. D. Wallis, CR, presided, and Mr. F. Humpage had charge of the arrangements. The programme included the following: Songs, ‘Just a dream of sunset’ and ‘Sing of old Virginia,’ Mr. Keene; Jap violin solos, ‘The lost chord’ and ‘My blue-eyed Nellie,’ Mr. J. Tranter; song, ‘English rose,’ Mr. E. Belcher; song, ‘In the depths of the coral caves,’ Mr. F. Humpage; duets, ‘Watchman, what of the night?’ and the ‘The battle eve,’ Messrs. F. Humpage and E. Belcher; song, ‘The general shop,’ Mr. E. Hall. Proposed by Mr. J. Harper, PDCR, and seconded by Mr. Wassall, a vote of thanks was accorded to artistes and visitors.”

Walsall Observer 26/3/1932

“At a special meeting of Court Herberts Park Royal Rangers of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held at the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, King Street, Darlaston, it was announced that the Valuation disclosed a ratio of solvency of 31s to the £ with a surplus of £2,095. The Management Committee recommended the appropriation of £850 of the surplus to be divided amongst the members included in the valuation on a length of membership basis, the members to draw on their shares to reduce their contributions, and the balance, if any, to be added to their funeral benefit. The scheme was unanimously adopted, and the Committee and Secretary were thanked for their work on the scheme. The relief in contributions will vary from 4s to about 30s per year, which will be appreciated in these hard times.”

1939 Register

44, King Street

[1] *Edwin G. Smith*, date of birth 21/1/1892, licensed victualler, manager, married;

[2] *Ann E. Smith*, dob 2/10/1890, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] *Mary E. Smith*, dob 1/11/1926, at school, single:

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘Darlaston’ by A. E. Pitcher, JP

“.....The QUEENS HEAD pub was licensed by Mr. *Teddy Smith*, a big man with an enormous tummy, who kept a good barrel of bitter, at six pence per pint. Mind you, landlords in those days preferred one to call for a mixed mild and bitter, or ‘half and half,’ for since the mild was a penny cheaper per pint the landlord would make an extra farthing on each half pint, perhaps more if he was less generous with the bitter than the mild.”

It closed on 28th August 1960.

QUEENS HEAD

18, Queen Street, Old Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Mrs. Sarah Wheale
Henry Mills and Florence Maria Mills

LICENSEES

David Wheale [1880] – [1891]
Mrs. Sarah Wheale [1895] – [1914]
Alfred James Wheale [1920]
George Ernest Clarke [] – **1922**);

NOTES

QUEENS HOTEL

It had a beerhouse license.

Moxley White Star FC had its headquarters here.

David Wheale, beer retailer, Old Moxley. [1880]

1881 Census

Old Moxley

- [1] *David Wheale* (51), brewer, born Tipton;
- [2] *Sarah Wheale* (49), wife, born Dudley Port;
- [3] Keturah Rogers (16), domestic servant, born Tipton;
- [4] William Wheale (26), lodger, iron roller, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Emily Wheale (28), wife, born Tipton;
- [6] *Alfred Wheale* (2), son, scholar, born Moxley:

[Darlaston Weekly Times 5/12/1885](#)

“On Saturday evening last a complimentary dinner to the members of the Rose of the Village Lodge No.1283 United Order of Free Gardeners Friendly Society took place at the house of Brother *Wheale*, QUEENS HEAD, Moxley. The chair was taken by Brother W. R. Price and the vice-chair by Brother A.

Owen. The toast of the Queen and Royal Family was heartily drunk with musical honours, the Army and Navy being replied to by Mr. S. Tinsley's song 'Tom Bowling.' Songs were also given by Brothers W. Wheale, A. Owen, and J. Southall. Brother Hancox spoke favourably of the progress of the lodge lately, and the Friendly Societies. The usual vote of thanks brought a pleasant evening to a close."

1891 Census

18, Queen Street

- [1] *David Wheale* (61), beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;
- [2] *Sarah Wheale* (59), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] William Wheale (36), son, iron worker, born Moxley;
- [4] Emily Wheale (38), daughter-in-law, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Alfred J. Wheale* (12), son, born Moxley;
- [6] Mary Gibson (55), widow, visitor, born Bilston;
- [7] Hannah Clark (17), domestic servant, born Moxley:

1894 Probate

"*David Wheale* of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Queen Street, Old Moxley, Moxley, Staffordshire, beerhouse keeper, died 8 June 1894. Probate Lichfield 4 July to *Sarah Wheale*, widow. Effects £295 15s."

1901 Census

18, Queen Street

- [1] *Sarah Wheale* (69), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] William Wheale (46), son, widower, brewer, born Moxley;
- [3] *A. J. Wheale* (22), grand-son, baker, born Moxley;
- [4] Ann Fenton (23), niece, chamber maid, born Bilston;
- [5] Emily Fenton (20), niece, domestic, born Bilston:

Mrs. *Sarah Wheale*, beer retailer, Old Moxley. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

18, Queen Street

- [1] *Sarah Wheale* (80), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Alfred James Wheale* (32), grand-son, brewer, born Moxley;
- [3] Ann Wheale (33), grand-daughter-in-law, born Bilston;
- [4] Emily Lee (25), niece, single, barmaid, born Moxley:

Sarah Wheale died in the 3rd quarter of 1914.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1915 - Advert

"Re *Sarah Wheale*, Deceased.

Important Sale of Freehold Home-Brewing Ante '69 Beerhouse, and Nine Dwelling Houses, situate at Moxley, in the Parish of Wednesbury, Monday Next, March 8.

Belcher & Son, FAI, are instructed by the Trustees under the will of the late Mrs. *Sarah Wheale* to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, upon the above date, at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, at 7.30 o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions, the Following Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. Nine Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, situate and being No.19 in Queen Street, Moxley, in the parish of Wednesbury, and Nos.1 to 8 in Court No.2 at the side thereof, fully occupied, at weekly rentals producing gross £64 11s 4d per annum.

Lot 2. The Freehold Home-Brewing Ante '69 Beerhouse and Premises, known as the QUEENS HEAD INN, situate in Queen Street, Moxley, aforesaid, for many years and until recently in the occupation of the late owner, Mrs. *Sarah Wheale*.

The House is situated in a thickly-populated district, and for a considerable period has done a large and increasing trade.

The Whole of the Trade Fixtures will be included in the Sale.

Full particulars of accommodation, &c, may be had upon application to the Auctioneers, Darlaston, and Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, or to Slater & Co., Solicitors, Darlaston.”

London Gazette 17/9/1920

“Debtor’s Name - *Alfred James Wheale*.

Address - QUEENS HEAD, Moxley, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford.

Description - Beerhouse Keeper.

Court - Walsall.

Date of Filing Petition - Sept. 14, 1920.”

South Staffordshire Times 23/10/1920

“*Alfred Wheale*, of the QUEENS HEAD, Moxley, appeared for public examination at Walsall Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday morning. The deficiency was estimated at £259 3s 10d, and the causes of insolvency, as alleged by debtor, were the war restrictions on brewing, the high cost of material for production, the high cost of living and the very heavy excise duties. In reply to the official receiver (Mr. Sam Wells Page), debtor said he was a tram driver before he became manager of the public house on the death of his father, in 1909. The examination was adjourned to a date to be fixed.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority, in February 1922, on the grounds of redundancy.

South Staffordshire Times 4/3/1922

“Wednesbury Police Court. Before Mayor (Ald. Bebbes), Mr. C. W. D. Joynson, Mr. C. Southern, Mr. Amos Tonks, Mr. T. J. Withers, Mr. E. Austin, and Mr. Richards.

QUEENS HEAD, Moxley, this being the adjourned licensing sessions, the license of the house came up and opposed on the grounds of redundancy.

Mr. Beavon, of Wolverhampton, was for the present license holder, and PS Thorpe gave evidence.

Cross-examined: There were about 331 people, mostly adults, who would require beer for their dinners and suppers, and those people would be disappointed if this particular license was not granted.

PS Thorpe contended that other houses in the locality were within near proximity.

Mr. Bevan maintained that the house was an old-established one and the license was required. It was the nearest house to the football ground at Moxley, and if the license was taken away the residents would have to go to the BRITANNIA INN, some little distance away. The tenant had served his country, and was married, but he gave up a job on the tramways to run the QUEENS HEAD, and he was doing a fair amount of business or else he would have kept on his job. To take away the license would only be adding to unemployment.....

The magistrates retired and upon returning the Mayor said would be referred for compensation, renewal refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/8/1922

“County Of Stafford. Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 20th day of July, 1922, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

QUEENS HEAD, Old Moxley. Beer on, ante 1869. Licensee, *George Ernest Clarke*. Registered owners, Henry Mills and Florence Maria Mills.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/10/1922

“A Supplementary Meeting of the Staffordshire Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1910, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, Lord Hatherton, CMG, in the chair. The Committee approved the following awards of compensation in respect of the under-mentioned houses, the licenses of which were refused renewal at the Principal Meeting of the Authority on July 20 last.....

QUEENS HEAD, Old Moxley, beer on (ante 1869 so far as can be ascertained), £1,550.”

£1,550 compensation was paid.
It closed on 31st December 1922.

RAILWAY TAVERN

Cemetery Road / James Bridge, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Bloxwich Brewery Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1924]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Williams [1845] – [1849]
George Jenkins [1858] – [1873]
Benjamin Oliver [1880] – [1901]
Joseph Yates [1911];
Mrs. Jennett Yates [1919] – **1923**);
Arthur Ernest Alcock (**1923 – 1929**);
Gus Gillman (**1929 – 1932**);
Arthur James Bishop (**1932 – 1941**);
Benjamin George ‘Benny’ Dawes (**1941 – 1950**);
Thomas ‘Tom’ Millard (**1950 – 1982**);
Brian Millard (**1982 – [1986]**)
Jim Wells (**1987 – [1992]**)
Stephen Dicken [2007] – [2008]

NOTES

It was originally called the JAMES BRIDGE HOTEL. [1845], [1849]

It was known locally as “The ‘Ole”.

It had a beer and wine license.

It had a bowling green.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1858

“Applications for New [spirit] Licenses.....

The number of applicants for licenses was thirty. The following were the applications.....
Darlaston.....

George Jenkins, Darlaston Green, supported his own application Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1859

“A special licensing sessions was held on Wednesday, at the Scott Arms Inn, Great Barr.....

The number of applications [for spirit licenses] was 33 which were disposed of as follows.....
George Jenkins, James Bridge, supported by Mr. Slater..... Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1860

“The annual adjourned Special Sessions for transacting licensing business was held on Thursday.....
There were twenty-nine applications from retail brewers for wine and spirit licenses, with the following results.....
George Jenkins, James Bridge, Darlaston Refused.”

1861 Census

James Bridge – RAILWAY INN

- [1] *George Jenkins* (33), publican, plate layer and retail brewer, born Deuxhill, Shropshire;
- [2] Mary Jenkins (27), wife, born Tettenhall;
- [3] Jane Jenkins (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Eliza Jenkins (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] William Jenkins (24), boarder, blacksmith, born Darlaston;
- [6] Jane Tyler (16), house servant, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/8/1861

“The following beerhouse keepers were charged with violating the terms of their licenses: Joseph Bagott, Westbromwich, fined 1s and costs; Edward Jones, Darlaston, fined 1s and costs; *George Jenkins*, Darlaston, fined 2s 6d and costs; Joseph Elliott, Tipton Green, fined 20s and costs, for selling ale in prohibited hours.”

London Gazette 6/12/1861

“*George Jenkins*, of James Bridge, in the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper and Labourer, having been adjudged bankrupt, under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 15th day of November, 1861, a public sitting, for the said bankrupt to pass his Last Examination for his discharge before the Judge of the said Court, on the 29th day of December instant, at the said Court, Goodhall-street, Walsall, at ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender. Mr. Frederick Fuhrman Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Joseph Edward Sheldon, of Wednesbury, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/1/1862

“County Court Insolvency and bankruptcy petitions.....
In re *George Jenkins*, James Bridge, Darlaston, beerhouse keeper. This was a meeting under the new Bankruptcy Act, for the last examination and discharge of the bankrupt. Mr. Sheldon appeared in support of the bankrupt, who passed and received his discharge without opposition.”

Birmingham Journal 7/6/1862

“An adjourned inquest was held a few days since, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, at the RAILWAY TAV-ERN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, touching the death of a female child, which had been found in a bag in the Birmingham Canal. The Coroner stated that in consequence of important information which he had received, he should further adjourn the inquest until Thursday afternoon, the 12th instant.”

1871 Census

James Bridge

- [1] *George Jenkins* (46), beerhouse keeper, born Vauxhall, Staffordshire;
- [2] Mary Jenkins (36), wife, born Tettenhall;
- [3] Jane Jenkins (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Ann Jenkins (10), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Mary Ellen Jenkins (3), daughter, born Darlaston:

Walsall Free Press 26/7/1873

“On Monday afternoon, as John Woolley, a carter in the employment of *George Jenkins*, RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, was assisting his employer, who was engaged brewing, he accidentally fell into a bucket full of boiling water, and scalded himself so severely that it was found necessary to remove him to the Cottage Hospital at Walsall, of which institution he is now an in-patient.”

Benjamin Oliver, beer retailer and cowkeeper, James Bridge. [1880]

1881 Census

James Bridge – RAILWAY TAVERN

- [1] *Benjamin Oliver* (38), beerhouse keeper, born Medartey Marvill, Shropshire;
- [2] Hannah Oliver (41), wife, birthplace not known;
- [3] Benjamin Oliver (6), son, scholar, born Heath Town:

Blackcountryman (Autumn 1984)

‘A Mystery of the 1881 Census’

“.....James Bridge is recorded on the 1881 Census, but the only place listed is the RAILWAY TAVERN alongside the one time James Bridge Railway site, which was also on the 1871 Census and is in fact still there.....”

Walsall Observer 16/6/1883 - Advert

“To Builders, Contractors, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction (Without Reserve), by Messrs. Watkins and Powell, at Mr. *Oliver*'s, the RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, near Walsall, on Tuesday, the 19th day of June, 1883, in consequence of the completion of Contracts in the Locality, 158 Planks, 13 Horse Boxes, Poling Boards, Centres and Laggings, Hand-cart, Picks, Tool Boxes, 15 Wheelbarrows, Office (on wheels), Shovels, Riddles, Posts, and the whole of a Contractor's Plant, in Lots to suit purchasers.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock precisely.

Catalogues may be obtained from the Auctioneers.

Auctioneers' Offices, Bridge Street, Walsall.”

Leigh Chronicle 1/1/1886

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, David Manns, of the ACORN INN, Bilston, was fined 20s and costs for being on licensed premises during prohibited hours. It was stated that the defendant was found on the premises of the RAILWAY INN, James Bridge, after closing hours.”

1891 Census

James Bridge – RAILWAY TAVERN

- [1] *Benjamin Oliver* (48), beer retailer, born Marvil, Shropshire;
- [2] Hannah Oliver (50), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [3] Benjamin Oliver (16), son, assistant, born Wednesfield;
- [4] Fanny Bullock (68), mother-in-law, widow, birthplace not known:

1901 Census

James Bridge

- [1] *Benjamin Oliver* (58), beerhouse keeper, born Bridgnorth;
- [2] Hannah Oliver (60), wife, born Bridgnorth;
- [3] Benjamin Oliver (26), son, barman, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/10/1901

“The Wednesbury county magistrates were engaged for several hours yesterday afternoon on a charge of permitting drunkenness against *Benjamin Oliver*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, James Bridge, near Darlaston, on the 14th inst.

It was alleged by the police that George Griffiths was found drunk on the licensed premises, and that he was supplied with drink.

Mr. R. A. Willcock, who defended, said Griffiths went into the house in a drunken condition and was refused drink. He was urged to leave, but refused to do so, and defendant, being a little man, did not attempt to engage in a struggle with Griffiths, who was a tall man of fine physique.

Witnesses, however, admitted that the defendant did not attempt to eject Griffiths, neither did he send for the police to eject him.

The Bench held that the defendant had permitted a drunken person to remain on his licensed premises, and fined defendant £4 4s 6d, including costs.”

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....

There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”

[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Walsall Advertiser 6/6/1903 - Advert

“Sale by Messrs. Belcher and Son.

1901. M. No.2297. In the High Court of Justice. Chancery Division. Mr. Justice Byrne.

Mills v Slater.

Valuable Freehold Properties, consisting of....

In the Parish of Darlaston.....

Two Old-Established Beerhouses, known as the ROSE AND CROWN in Cock Street, and the RAILWAY TAVERN at James Bridge.....”

1911 Census

James Bridge – RAILWAY TAVERN

[1] *Joseph Yates* (73), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Jennett Yates* (60), wife, married 35 years, born Darlaston;

[3] *Beatrice Kemp* (19), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Joseph Yates died in the 4th quarter of 1914.

Joseph Yates – see also GREEN DRAGON and WHITE LION.

Jennett Yates = Jeanette Yates

Black Country Bugle 27/4/2006

Letter from Mrs. Rose Lowe

“.....I was also born in 1920 in James Bridge and now live at Bentley. I lived at No.1 Cemetery Road, the end one of two houses that were joined to the RAILWAY TAVERN public house. What is now the pub’s car park / play area was a smallholding that was shared by the two families. It was parted off from James Bridge station by a wire fence.....”

South Staffordshire Times 19/2/1921

“*Jeanette Yates*, RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, Darlaston, was summoned for allowing children in a public bar during opening hours.

Mr. Ernest Brown, solicitor, appeared for the police and opened the case. The Children’s Act was passed for the benefit of young children and keeping them out of public houses. The police found two children on the premises at the time of their visit. This Act was being rather relaxed of late, and this case was brought as a warning to others.

Inspector Adams, called, said on Thursday, January 27th, he visited the RAILWAY INN at 7.25pm. He was with PC Willis. He found a man drinking beer, and there were two children on the premises. In the smoke room was a woman and she had a boy of six with her and a baby in her arms. Mrs. *Yates* was serving and had full view. He spoke to her and she said she was sorry.

Mr. A. J. Glover, for the defence, said Mrs. *Yates* had held the license for six years, and no previous summonses had ever been issued against her late husband or herself.

Sergeant Willis said he was in company with the last witness, and he corroborated that evidence.

Mr. Glover contended that the evidence of the police was very fair, and he accepted it; but the Children’s Act was passed to prevent women taking young children into public houses. When the woman went into the house to get outdoor supper beer she carried the baby inside and left the boy outside. She could not leave the child at home. The man in the smoke room was her brother, and called his sister inside and the little boy also ran inside to his uncle, and the defendant did not know or see the child go in. Did Mrs. *Yates* use due diligence to remove that child from the premises? She had not been called to the smoke room for some ten minutes, and therefore ignorant of the child’s presence. The child in question had not been there two minutes when the inspector entered.

Mrs. *Yates* was then called, and she said she was 68 years of age, and had held the license for the last six years, since her husband died. She had been serving in the bar on the evening of January 27th, at the outdoor department. Mrs. Phillips may have come in, but she did not see her. She afterwards saw Mrs. Phillips come out of the smoke room. Witness Mrs. Phillip’s brother was in the smoke room. She did not know any child of six was with her, but she was carrying a baby in her arms. Witness was attending to people in the tap room and serving at the outdoor window. She much regretted what has occurred. She served Mrs. Phillips at the outdoor department with a bottle, but nothing to drink in the smoke room.

The Chairman stopped the case and said the magistrates thought the case should have been brought, but what had been brought out by the defence lessened the gravity of the offence, and put it down to ignorance, so they would dismiss the case.

Mr. Brown argued that he ought to have an opportunity of cross-examining the defendant, but as their decision was given, he could not proceed.”

Walsall Observer 10/4/1926

“On the Bowling Green.....

The green at the NEW INNS, Darlaston, the headquarters of the Darlaston Central League, was opened by Councillor N. Peach (president); that at the WHITE LION, Darlaston, by Councillor C. Foster (chairman

of the Central Bowling Club); and that at the RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, by Councillor C. Simmonds.”

Walsall Observer 28/8/1926

“With the Bowlers.....

RAILWAY TAVERN (James Bridge) and GLOBE will meet in the final of the Forsyth Hospital Cup on the new green at the TROOPER, INN, Harden, on Saturday, September 4; referee, Mr. W. Preston, MP; measurers, Messrs. J. Morrell and A. Longmore.”

Tipton Herald 24/12/1927

“The members of the RAILWAY TAVERN Bowling Club, James Bridge, held their annual dinner and presentation of prizes on Thursday of last week, when Mr. W. Reynolds presided, being supported by Councillors W. H. Sproat and G. J. Garrington and Mrs. G. Smith (secretary).

The report stated that the club had had an active season, being the runners-up for the Forsyth Cup of the Walsall Hospital competition, and semi-finalists in the competition arranged for the Walsall Football Club. In the Staffordshire Association Challenge Cup they were defeated in the third round by Willenhall Liberal, whilst they were, in addition, members of the Wednesbury and District League. It was also considered that by winning 16 games out of 18 and gaining 32 points out of a possible 36 in the Walsall and District League the club had set up a record among clubs of the district.....”

Rugeley Times 15/6/1928

“Bowling.....

Darlaston Central v RAILWAY TAVERN. Played at Darlaston on Monday.....

Darlaston Central 215, RAILWAY TAVERN 208.”

Plans were approved for the provision of a bathroom and indoor sanitary accommodation on 26th May 1937.

1939 Register

RAILWAY TAVERN

[1] *Arthur James Bishop*, date of birth 1/4/1899, license holder, single;

[2] Cassie Bishop, dob 18/12/1875, domestic worker, widowed:

Walsall Observer 21/9/1940

““This is a serious case, for you allowed a light to be visible to the sky in the vicinity of a railway junction and works engaged on work of national importance,’ said Mr. Horton, when *Arthur James Bishop* (35), of the RAILWAY TAVERN, was fined £2 with 5s costs for a black-out offence. When War Reserve Constable Smith told defendant of the unscreened window, he said, ‘Do you think that I am a — mug. If you report me I shall — bost you.’”

Arthur James Bishop was fined £10 and £10 10s 0d special costs, on 16th September 1941, for selling intoxicants during prohibited hours.

Walsall Observer 20/9/1941

“How a Darlaston police-sergeant was able to look into the bar of a blacked-out public house and see drinks being served 50 minutes after closing time was explained to the Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. B. G. Grimley) at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, when *Arthur James Bishop*, licensee of the RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, appeared to answer three summonses for selling intoxicating liquor during non-permitted hours, and six summonses for aiding and abetting in the consumption of intoxicants after hours. Appearing along with him, each summoned for consuming intoxicants, were Reginald Dummelow, 94, Willenhall Street, Darlaston; George Richard Humpage, 284, Darlaston Road, Walsall; Jessie Evelyn Norman, 74, Moxley Road, Darlaston; Leonard Bayley, 119, Cobden Street, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury; Frank James, 349, Darlaston Road, Walsall; and Sarah Ann Brookes, 96, Willenhall Street, Darlaston. These six had also to answer three summonses each for aiding and abetting in the consumption. All the defendants were repre-

sented by Mr. S. W. Smith and pleaded not guilty, and Mr. Ernest E. Brown conducted the prosecution. Police -sergeant Lovatt described how he went to the house at 10-30 on August 30, and despite an excellent black-out, was able, by inserting a mirror under a cowl which covered the upper part of one of the bar windows, to see the servery. After he had listened to voices in the smoke-room, he heard a man ask 'George' to bring 'Four beers and a small stout,' and he went again to the bar window and through the mirror saw Humpage fill four glasses with beer and one with stout and take them out of the bar. He also saw Humpage pull two glasses of beer, for which James put money on the counter. When he went into the house, after 11 o'clock, added the witness, he found in the smoke-room *Bishop*, Dummelow, Norman, Bayley, and Brookes, all of whom denied that any drinks had been served since before ten o'clock. He interviewed Humpage and James in the bar and one said he was the barman and the other described himself as the gardener.

The defence was a complete denial of the police evidence, and each of the five defendants who were in the smoke-room said that *Bishop* brought the last drinks into the room that night a few minutes before 10. Humpage and James also said that the last drinks were served before 10 o'clock.

After the Magistrate had intimated that he accepted the police evidence in the cases against *Bishop*, which had been taken separately, Mr. Smith said that the other defendants were prepared to change their pleas to guilty on the consuming summonses.

Mr. Brown said that the prosecution were prepared to withdraw the cases against Humpage. Announcing his decisions in all the cases, the Stipendiary said that *Bishop* would be fined £10 with £10 10s costs on one of the selling charges, and would have to pay 4s costs on each of the others. The other defendants, with the exception of James, were each fined 10s for consuming, and ordered to pay 4s costs on the other summonses, James being fined 5s and ordered to pay like costs."

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

A full license was confirmed in April 1955.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1960

"Floods.....

At the RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, Darlaston, on Sunday lunch-time customers stood on beer-bottle boxes to keep their feet dry. Water did not get into the beer barrels, which are kept at ground level."

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

"Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, Darlaston."

Plans were approved for alterations on 7th January 1963.

Plans were approved for alterations on 15th April 1964.

It was flooded on 21st August 1966.

Walsall Observer 26/8/1966

"An attitude, reminiscent of war-time, was adopted by the local people affected by the floods after last weekend's violent storm which turned roads into rivers, railways into canal, and wrecked houses, forcing the occupiers to seek temporary refuge elsewhere.....

At the RAILWAY TAVERN, off Darlaston Road, the licensee Mr. *T. Millard*, mopped up the aftermath of nearly six feet of water which had swept through the public house. Equipment and fittings which had survived the ordeal of the flood, were ruined by thick, grey slime. 'I am sure it is clay from the motorway,' Mr. *Millard* told a reporter, looking out of the bar window towards the incomplete section of the M6. 'I have been here 17 years and although we have had water in before, it has never been this bad.' The water came from a nearby stream which had overflowed, flooding the surrounding area. 'The trouble is, the stream only takes an eyeful of water and overflows quite easily,' the licensee added.....

The customers who usually 'flood' into the bar of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Darlaston, were kept away last weekend as 3½ feet of water lapped around the tables on Sunday evening. The licensee, Mr. *T. Millard*, lost over £100 worth of stock and a Sunday night's trade. The beer in the cellar had to be returned to the brewery."

Walsall Observer 20/10/1967

"A short thunderstorm and torrential rain caused flooding of many houses and roads in Walsall..... At James Bridge, the RAILWAY TAVERN, in Cemetery Road, was completely surrounded by water and the premises had to be closed until the water subsided. The licensee, Mr. *Thomas Millard*, had to carry some of his customers to dry land as the water began to rise to a depth of nearly 3 feet in the bar. By 8 o'clock on Monday evening the nearby fields adjoining the brook running alongside Bentley Mill Lane had started to flood. Mr. *Millard* carried about five or six customers out on his back, and he and his wife Rose retreated to their upstairs living accommodation."

Walsall Observer 12/7/1968

"Walsall came through Wednesday night's record downpour – 1.42 inches – fairly well, the Deputy Borough Engineer, Mr. V. F. Binion, said yesterday (Thursday).....

Mr. Binion said there was up to two feet of water in Bentley Mill Lane and Bentley Road, though heavy lorries were getting through. Water reached the sills of downstairs rooms in the RAILWAY TAVERN, Bentley Mill Lane."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1968

"Walsall firemen received several calls during the day to help pump away floodwater from business premises and homes Water rose to window level at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Bentley Mill Lane."

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/1/1986

"Award-winning licensee *Brian Millard* is quitting his famous Black Country pub, a victim of the recession that has devastated Darlaston. The RAILWAY INN at James Bridge has been run by his family for the past 30 years, but he has decided to move out after giant factories have shut down and the thirsty workers have either gone to other areas or no longer earn the cash to spend on beer. Ironically 30-year-old *Brian* has just been presented with the CAMRA plaque after his ancient inn won the Campaign for Real Ale 'Pub of the Year' contest for the second year in succession. He took over three years ago when his father, *Tom*, retired, but he found the days of heavy drinking workers and double-scotch directors had gone with the demise of major firms. Now the crash of hammers and roar of the furnaces is a thing of the past, and the only noise comes from passing traffic on the road into Walsall and the occasional train on the nearby railway line. The RAILWAY, nick-named 'The 'Ole' because it is in a dip, almost hidden from view, will soon have a new tenant as *Brian* and his wife, Pam, move to live in Penkridge. Mr. *Millard*, a former welder, said, 'I have no job to go to yet, but I am young enough to try something new.'"

It re-opened in December 1988 after a £200,000 refurbishment.

It had been closed for 10 weeks.

Jim Wells was married to Shirley.

Check also GREYHOUND AND PUNCHBOWL, Bilston.

The house was flooded in June 2007.

Stephen Dicken was born c.1964.

He was married to Anita.

They were declared bankrupt in January 2008.

[2008]

Closed [2009]

Demolished [2011]

RAILWAY JUNCTION

Pinfold Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Hannah Foster [1861] – [1862]

NOTES

1861 Census

Pinfold Street – RAILWAY JUNCTION

[1] *Hannah Foster* (62), widow, beer seller and greengrocer, born Darlaston;

[2] *William Glover* (37), son-in-law, iron miner, born Darlaston;

[3] *Ellen Glover* (38), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Fanny Glover* (6), grand-daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Moses Glover* (2), grand-son, born Darlaston:

William and Ellen Glover – see STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT.

Hannah Foster, retailer of beer, Pinfold Street. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Post 29/6/1866 - Advert

“To be Let, the Old-established Retail House, RAILWAY JUNCTION INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston. Coming-in about £30.

Apply on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1866

“At the West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, before Mr. Kenrick, and Major Elwell, Joseph Cotterill was charged with passing counterfeit coin at Darlaston.

On Tuesday night the prisoner went into the MANCHESTER ARMS, Pinfold Street, and called for a glass of ale, for which he tendered a shilling, and received the change. He afterwards paid for another glass of ale with another shilling, both of which were subsequently discovered to be counterfeit. The prisoner afterwards went to the RAILWAY JUNCTION INN in the same street and paid for a glass of ale with a bad six-pence. This was discovered, and the police were sent for, and took the prisoner into custody. A counterfeit florin was found in his pocket.

The prisoner denied all knowledge that the coins were counterfeit, but was committed for trial.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/7/1866

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Joseph Cotterill, 36, blacksmith, was indicted for uttering two counterfeit shillings and a counterfeit six-pence at Darlaston, on the 10th instant, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Leighton conducted the prosecution, and Mr. George Browne defended the prisoner.

The evidence showed that on the evening in question the prisoner uttered three counterfeit coins at two different public houses at Darlaston, and that on being apprehended the same evening he dropped a shilling which was also counterfeit.

Mr. W. Parker, chemist, of Darlaston, who was one of the jury that tried the prisoner, was sworn as a witness and gave him a good character for honesty.

The jury, after some deliberation, found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy on account of his previous good character, and his Lordship sentenced him to six months' imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1866 - Advert

"To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the Retail Beerhouse, RAILWAY JUNCTION, Pinfold Street, Darlaston. Coming-in low."

RED COW

17, Dale End, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

G Pedley [1849]

James Simpkins [1868] – [1870]

William Atkins [1878] – [1891]

S Foster [1892]

John Allen [1901] – [1911]

George Henry Wilkes [1919] – **1922**);

Sidney Ridgway (**1922 – 1925**);

Abraham Pinner (**1925 – 1928**);

Leonard Cross (**1928**):

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/12/1848

"On Monday last, an inquest was held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, at the RED COW INN, Darlaston, upon the body of Jane Blakemore. On Saturday night last, the deceased, who was very deaf, was crossing the street at the time a horse and cart were passing. The driver of the cart called out to the deceased, but she did not hear him; and before he could stop the horse and cart, which was going at a quick rate, the deceased was knocked down, and the cart wheel went over her loins, and so seriously injured her that she died a few hours afterwards. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/1/1849

"James Harper of Darlaston will run Causer or Tinsley of Darlaston, or Jack Rhoades of Gospel Oak, if he will give 20 yards start in a mile, for £10 side. The money ready at Mr. G. Pedley's, the RED COW INN, Darlaston."

James Simpkins = James Simkin

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/11/1868 - Advert

“Freehold Houses and Land, in Dale End, Bilston Street, and Cramphill Bank, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Enoch Bruerton, on Tuesday, the 15th day of December, at the RED LION INN, Church Street, Darlaston, at Six o'clock in the Evening.....

Lot 1. All that Messuage, Tenement, or Public House, called the RED COW INN, with the Brewhouse, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at Dale End, Darlaston, and in the occupation of *James Simkin*. Also, all that other Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House, with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate near to the last described Messuage, and occupied by Thomas Hayes. Also, all that Piece or Parcel of Land, or Garden Ground (containing by admeasurement, 274 square yards or thereabouts, be the same more or less), situate at the rear of the last described Messuage, together with the Shopping, and other Buildings erected thereon. This lot is estimated to produce a yearly rental of £23 7s 4d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1870

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *James Simpkins*, the RED COW INN, Darlaston, was fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment, for having been open during prohibited hours on Sunday morning.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/7/1879

“Reuben Speak (25), miner, New Road, Willenhall, was brought up charged with having embezzled three sums of money belonging to John Jeffcoat, lemonade and ginger beer manufacturer, Portobello. Mr. Clark appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Cresswell defended.

The prisoner entered the service of prosecutor as salesman on the 2nd of August, 1878, and left on the 19th of October of the same year. His duties were to take out in a cart ginger beer, soda water, &c, supply the customers, enter the sales in a book kept for the purpose, and hand over the money received to his employer the same evening. On the 10th October his book showed that he had supplied Mr. F. Edge, of the Malt Shovel Inn, Church Heaton, with four dozens of ginger beer at 1s a dozen on credit. On the 17th of the same month his book showed that he also sold on credit three dozens of ginger beer to William Bourne, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, and one dozen to Mr. *Atkins*, of the RED COW INN, Darlaston. Those sums of 4s, 3s, and 1s had not been paid over by the prisoner. On the 19th of the same month he left his employment without giving notice, and his accounts being found to be wrong, a warrant was issued for his apprehension. In cross-examination the prosecutor stated that prisoner gave no receipts to the customers. The prisoner had sold ginger beer at 15d and 18d a dozen, but he (prosecutor) was satisfied if he received 1s a dozen. The regular price was 1s a dozen, but the trade was ‘run down,’ and sometimes the prisoner had sold at 11d a dozen.

Mr. F. Edge spoke to buying four dozen of ginger beer from the prisoner on the last occasion of visiting the house. He could not tell the date when the transaction took place. He paid him 4s for the beer. He always paid ready money for ginger beer.

Mr. Bourne also swore that he never received ginger beer on credit, and he always paid the prisoner when he purchased ginger beer from him.

Sarah Ann *Atkins*, wife of *William Atkins*, of the RED COW INN, Darlaston, made a similar statement.

Police-constable Bailey stated that he apprehended prisoner at Wolverhampton on the 28th June last, he made no reply to the charge.

Mr. Cresswell, for the defence, contended that no evidence had been produced to show that the witnesses who had been called to prove the sales were the persons to whom the ginger beer had been sold. In the prisoner's book was the word ‘Edge,’ but there was no name of a place attached to it, and the Edge who bought the beer might have lived in any other part of the district. The same remark applied to every other name in the book.

The Bench held that a prima facie case had been made out, and the prisoner was committed to take his trial, bail being allowed.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/7/1879

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Reuben Speak (25), miner, was indicted for embezzling 12s, the money of John Jeffcoat, at Willenhall, in October, 1878. Mr. Spearman prosecuted.

Prisoner was in the employ of the prosecutor, who is a ginger beer and soda water manufacturer, at Portobello. It was his duty to deliver the beverages to customers and to account each evening for the money received by him during the day.

For the prosecution it was alleged that the prisoner had drawn various sums, amounting altogether to 12s, from his employer's customers and had not accounted for the money. He absconded in the month of October, and was apprehended in Wolverhampton on the 20th of June, under a warrant, by Police-constable Bailey. The prisoner said the money was not received by him. He allowed certain persons to have ginger beer on credit, and shortly afterwards went to work in Yorkshire, and when prosecutor put a new man in his place it was easy for the customers to say that they had paid for all they had had.

The Judge, in summing up, said it would be difficult to find a set of books kept in a more muddled state than those of the prosecutor, but the jury had simply to say whether they believed the prisoner or a witness who had sworn to paying him 4s of the money he was charged with.

The jury acquitted the prisoner.

The Judge (to the jury): Well, gentlemen, that's your verdict, not mine. To the prisoner: You are in luck; you can go.”

1881 Census

17, Dale End – RED COW INN

- [1] *William Atkins* (42), beer retailer, born Rowley;
- [2] Sarah Atkins (41), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] William Atkins (13), son, bolt blower, born Darlaston;
- [4] Joyce Atkins (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Isaac Atkins (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Henry Atkins (4), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Emma Atkins (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] Joseph Atkins (9 months), son, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1884

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *William Atkins*, keeper of the RED COW public house, Dale End, Darlaston, was, on the evidence of Police-constable Mannering, convicted of his having his house open during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 13th inst, and was fined 10s and costs, making £1 16s altogether.”

1891 Census

17, Dale End

- [1] *William Atkins* (52), born Rowley;
- [2] Sarah A. Atkins (51), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] William Atkins (23), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] Joyce Small (20), daughter in law, born Darlaston;
- [5] Thomas Small (20), son, born Darlaston;
- [6] Isaac Atkins (19), son, born Darlaston;
- [7] Henry Atkins (14), son, born Darlaston;
- [8] Emma Atkins (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [9] Joseph Atkins (10), son, born Darlaston;
- [10] William Small (4 months), son, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Music and singing licenses..... The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for danc-

ing, in addition, being abandoned.....
S. Foster, RED COW, Dale End.”

1901 Census

17, Dale End – RED COW INN

- [1] *John Allen* (34), nut and bolt works warehouseman, born Warwickshire;
- [2] *Mary A. Allen* (31), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Daisy W. Allen* (2), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Gladys V. Allen* (2 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Sarah J. Bagley* (13), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

17, Dale End

- [1] *John Allen* (44), bolt and nut warehouseman, born Longford, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Mary Ann Allen* (42), wife, married 21 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Clarence Barber Allen* (15), son, apprentice, pattern making, born Hapton, Lancashire;
- [3] *Daisy Winifred Allen* (12), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Gladys Victoria Allen* (10), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Oliver Ford* (47), cousin, hewer, coal mine, born Longford, Warwickshire:

Abraham Pinner – see also NAGS HEAD.

The trade in 1927 was four barrels and 11 dozen bottled goods per week.

The license renewal was refused at the Darlaston Brewster Sessions, on 8th February 1928, on the grounds of redundancy.

It was referred to the Compensation Authority.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1928

“The principal meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday, when 14 licences which had been scheduled by the licensing justices, mostly from the South Staffordshire area, came under consideration. Of these three were renewed and the remainder were referred for compensation.....

In the following cases no opposition was offered to the referring of the licences for compensation and the action of the justices in each case was confirmed.....

RED COW INN, Darlaston (*Leonard Cross*), ante-'69 beerhouse.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1928 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 16th day of July, 1928, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee, and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their claims before the 14th day of September, 1928, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to Compensation under the said Premises.....

RED COW INN, Dale End, Darlaston. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licensee, *Leonard Cross*. Owners, W. Butler & Co. Ltd.”

It closed on 29th December 1928.

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1929

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Licensing Compensation Awards.

At the Supplemental meeting the committee awarded a total sum of £15,230 in compensation, and considered that the amounts agreed upon were satisfactory both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. The amounts approved were as follow.....

RED COW, Darlaston, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,900.

The amounts awarded had been apportioned between the interested parties and paid.”

RED LION

67, Church Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Charles Wilkes, Church Street, Darlaston

Bloxwich Brewery Co. Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Jones [1818] – 1836)

James Jones [1841] – 1878)

Charles Jones [1861]

Charles Wilkes [1880] – 1881);

John Grainger (1881 – []

George Perry/Parry [1882]

John Court [1884] – [1885]

G Wild [1885]

John Dace [1887]

Harry Derry [1891] – [1892]

Gerrard Carroll [1892]

William Eaden [1896] – [1901]

John Wood [1904]

Charles Wilkes [1908] – [1912]

Albert Watts [1916]

Mrs. Eliza (Wells) Hickinbottom [1919] – 1922);

William Henry Lee (1922 – 1924);

William Thomas Willmore (1924 – 1925);

Edward Butler (1925 – 1926);

Charles Gwilt (1926 – 1929);

Leonard Cross (1929 – 1933);

William George Baggott (1933 – 1934);

Samuel Farrington (1934 – 1935);

William Stafford ‘Billy’ Shorthouse (1935 – 1959);

Brian Anthony Dorsett (1959 – []:

NOTES

James Jones was also a carpenter’s tool maker [1818]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/7/1836 - Died

“On the 14th instant, aged 93, Mr. *James Jones*, of the RED LION, Darlaston. He was beloved and respected by all who knew him.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/6/1839 - Died

“On the 15th instant, aged 73, Mrs. *Jones*, relict of the late Mr. *James Jones*, of the RED LION, Darlaston.”

James Jones, beer retailer, Church Street. [1841]

1841 Census

Church Street

[1] *James Jones* (35), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] Elizabeth Debney (35), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/1/1845

“On Monday week the first half-yearly meeting of the Gun-lock Filers Society was held at the RED LION INN, Darlaston, for the purpose of examining the accounts, and taking into consideration the propriety of suspending work for a fortnight, in order to keep down the accumulating stock, said to be at present in the hands of the Birmingham masters. There were upwards of 200 present, and a deputation was appointed to wait upon the masters, to know if they were willing to keep them on at regular work; and if they could not, whether there would be any objection to their ‘playing’ a fortnight. The masters replied to the deputation, that there was no occasion for the men to suspend work, as they had plenty of orders, and they were wanted. After the receipt of this answer, it was unanimously agreed to ‘play’ one week in each quarter, to keep down the stock, and for the purpose of keeping the supply rather below than above the demand.

A delegate from London, named Porter, attended the meeting, and gave some intelligence about the means taken to reduce the wages of the men. He mentioned a contractor under the East India Company, who, he said, had run down the trade, and reduced the workmen’s wages very low.

The gun-lock filers have only been in society six months, and, after spending the sum of £25 11s 6d in establishing their society, they have £65 in hand, accumulated by a weekly payment of 2d from each member.”

Birmingham Journal 11/10/1845

“On Monday last, a meeting of the Darlaston nailers was held at Mr. *Jones*’s, RED LION, Darlaston, to consider the best means to be adopted for securing and obtaining an advance of 10 per cent upon the prices at present paid by the masters. After the state of the trade, and the necessity for an advance had been alluded to by several speakers, the meeting came to an unanimous resolution that they would cease work immediately, if the masters refused to give them 20s. During the proceedings it was stated that one of the masters had been receiving an advanced price for a fortnight, without raising the wages of his workmen. The truck system was unanimously condemned, and a general determination was expressed to put an end to it.”

AND

“On Tuesday evening last the gun lock filers held a meeting at the RED LION, Darlaston, when from 150 to 200 of the men attended. A resolution was passed with a view to put down the iniquitous truck system, every workman being prohibited from making locks for any master who gives him ‘tommy’ in exchange. The society was stated to be in a very prosperous state, and its funds to amount to more than £200, all of which is to be devoted to the benefit of the trade.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/1/1846

“A match has been made between Edward Smith and Ralph Lowe, both of Darlaston, to run one mile, for £5 a side, within five miles of home, on the 26th inst. We understand that they meet tomorrow night at the RED LION, Darlaston, to sign articles and make a further deposit.”

AND

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/1/1846

“Pedestrianism. Matches to Come.....

Jan 26. E. Smith and Lowe, both of Darlaston, one mile, £5 a side, within 5 miles of home – off.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/1/1847

“Annual Dinner of the Members of the Lockfilers Association, at Darlaston.

On Monday last, the members of this society, which numbers about 340 members, assembled to celebrate their annual festival. The members dined at three houses, namely Mr. Butler’s, the CROWN INN; Mr. Wilks’s, the VINE INN; and Mr. *Jones*’s, the RED LION INN. After the members had done ample justice to the good supply of roast and boiled, and the cloth removed, Mr. Francis Humpage was called to the chair; Mr. J. Harper occupied the vice-chair.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/1/1848

“On Monday last, the members, of the Gun-Lock Forgers, Filers, and Lock-Stampers Association, to the number of between 70 and 80, assembled at the house of Mr. *Jones*, the RED LION INN, Darlaston, to celebrate their second anniversary. After partaking of good old English cheer, roast beef, &c, Mr. Francis Humpage was called to the chair, and Mr. Martin Foster to the vice-chair.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/8/1848

“Great excitement and no little gossip has prevailed in the neighbourhood of Darlaston, from the circumstance of a man named Dooley having stated that he murdered an old man named William Garrington, on the 2nd of January, 1845.

On Tuesday last he was brought up at the Wednesbury Police Office, before the sitting magistrates, charged with the commission of the crime, and it appeared from the evidence of the deceased’s nephew and other witnesses, that Dooley had been drinking at the RED LION INN, Darlaston, on the 15th of July last, and that in the course of the conversation, he said, ‘I am the man who killed old Snorch,’ meaning the deceased; upon being requested to hold his peace, he repeated the words, adding, ‘I knocked him into the canal, and then fetched him put, and put him on the bank. I know where his stick is now, and could fetch it in five minutes.’ (The deceased was lame, and always walked with a stick, which was never heard of.) The body was found upon the bank of the canal at the time, and an inquest holden, when a verdict of Found Dead was returned. Mr. Holland, who appeared on the prisoner’s behalf, said that if the statement was made at all, it was made when the prisoner was drunk, and that he now denied it. The magistrates, after some deliberation, ordered the prisoner to enter into bail to answer any charge which might be preferred against him.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/5/1849

“On Wednesday last, at the Public Office, Wednesbury, *James Jones*, of the RED LION, Darlaston, was fined 40s and costs for having his house open on Sunday morning last.”

1851 Census

Church Street

[1] *James Jones* (50), unmarried, victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] E. Delaney (50), widow, housekeeper, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“On Wednesday, the annual special sessions for renewal of licenses was held.....

The renewal of the old licenses, 219 in number, were granted, with the following exceptions, without remark.....

James Jones, Darlaston, cautioned.....

Those cautioned had that remark written on the back of their license.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/5/1860

“South Staffordshire General Hospital. At the Weekly Board, held yesterday, the secretary announced the following contributions in aid of the funds of the institution.....

Donations Mr. *James Jones*, Darlaston (sum subscribed at his house), 10s.”

1861 Census

Church Street – RED LION

[1] *James Jones* (60), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Elizabeth Debney* (61), widow, housekeeper, born Darlaston:

1871 Census

Church Street – RED LION INN

[1] *James Jones* (70), bachelor, innkeeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Betsy Thomas* (39), unmarried, domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1878 - Died

“On the 26th ult, in the 78th year of his age, *James Jones*, of the RED LION INN, Church Street, Darlaston; much respected by all who knew him.”

1881 Census

67, Church Street – RED LION

[1] *John Grainger* (47), butcher and licensed victualler, born Toll End;

[2] *Nancy Grainger* (47), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Montagu Grainger* (18), son, saddler, born Toll End;

[4] *Oliver Grainger* (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Mary Butler* (22), step-daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] *Maud Butler* (11), step-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] *Annie Grainger* (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[8] *Thomas Butler* (17), step-son, saddler, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/9/1882

“We regret to announce the death of Mr. *Geo. Perry*, which took place at his residence, the RED LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Wednesday evening last. The deceased gentleman was a prominent member of the Local Board, and was greatly respected by all who knew him. Mr. *Parry* was in his 63rd year, and was a Conservative in politics.”

John Court = John Cort

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/3/1884

“On Thursday, by special permission of the Grand Executive, a new lodge of the Order of Caledonian Corks was opened at Brother *Noah Hingley*'s, ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Darlaston. A procession was formed at the house of Brother *Court*, RED LION INN, the home of the chief Darlaston Lodge, and headed by a brass band, the members of the Order, wearing regalia, paraded the town, and finally halted at the lodge house, where the ceremony was performed in a very successful manner, and the proceedings closed with the usual social harmony, and vote of thanks to the presiding officers and visitors.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1884

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Mr. N. C. A. Neville, deputy stipendiary – *John Court*, landlord of the RED LION INN, Church Street, Darlaston, was summoned at the instance of Samuel James Juggins, secretary of a lodge of the Independent Order of Caledonian Corks, held at the defendant's house, for having withheld money to the amount of £6 14s 7d, which he held as treasurer of the lodge. Mr. J. E. Sheldon appeared on behalf of the society, and Mr. T. Green for the defendant.

It seemed that when the lodge was formed the defendant took upon himself to engage a band for the purpose, as he said, of creating a stir and attracting the people, and he also provided refreshment for the bandsmen. After a time a disagreement took place between the defendant and the other conductors of the lodge, and objection was taken to a charge of £2 1s 1½d which he had made in respect of the band and their refreshments.

Mr. Green said the simple question was whether these charges could be allowed, and Mr. Sheldon rejoined that the auditor had disallowed them.

The Deputy Stipendiary said that clearly the charges could not be allowed.

Mr. Green urged that the orders for the engagement of the band and the provision of refreshments were given by members of the lodge, and the Deputy Stipendiary replied that even in that case the charges could not be allowed, but the defendant would have his remedy against the individuals in the County Court.

An order was made for payment of the sum claimed in a fortnight.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/1/1885

“*John Cort*, keeper of the RED LION INN, Church Street, Darlaston, and treasurer to the Caledonian Corks Friendly Society, Darlaston, was charged with neglecting to comply with an order by the magistrates to pay £6 14s 7½d, the money of the society, and £2 3s 6d costs. The defendant said he was unable to pay. The deputy-Stipendiary ordered a distress warrant to be issued, and said that if there were not sufficient goods to cover the amount, defendant would be imprisoned for one month, with hard labour.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/12/1885

“The annual dinner of the Free Gardeners Flower Lodge, Darlaston, was held on Saturday evening last, at the RED LION INN. About thirty members sat down to an excellent repast provided by Brother *G. Wild*. The chair was occupied by Brother *T. Harper* and the vice-chair by Brother *W. Holder*. The evening was devoted for the most part to harmony, the speeches given being short and of a complimentary character. Nearly every member contributed his share towards the enjoyment of the hour, and general satisfaction was expressed with the success of the gathering. A vote of thanks to the host and hostess, and to the chairman, for their able services, brought a pleasant evening to a close.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/3/1886

“On Monday evening, a miscellaneous concert was given at the RED LION INN, Church Street, Darlaston, in aid of the funds now being raised for the purpose of purchasing new regalia for the officers of the Gardeners Flower Lodge of National United Order of Free Gardeners. There was a crowded attendance and Brother *T. Harper* presided. An interesting programme was creditably gone through, Mr. *A. Carter* accompanying.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 8/7/1887

“*John Dace*, landlord of the RED LION INN, Church Street, Darlaston, and late of TURKS HEAD INN, Walsall, died rather suddenly on Monday evening. Deceased suffered from heart disease, and some time ago had a fit.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1889 - Advert

“To Let, the RED LION INN, Church Street, Darlaston; doing excellent trade; immediate possession. Apply, Trent Valley Brewery Company (Limited), Lichfield.”

1891 Census

Church Street – RED LION

- [1] *Harry Derry* (29), iron turner, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Frances Ann Derry* (32), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Susan Dora Derry* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Mabel Derry* (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Thomas James Derry* (2), son, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The application of *Harry Derry*, RED LION, Church Street, failed through the necessary notices not having been given.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/12/1892

“Birmingham County Court. Yesterday. Before His Honour Judge Chalmers.

William John Seal, of Union Street, Birmingham, auctioneer, sued *Gerrard Carrall*, of the RED LION public house, Darlaston to recover £9 7s for expenses incurred in advertising a public house for sale and for work done in trying to sell it. Mr. Tanner appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Harton for the defendant. In February last defendant called on plaintiff and instructed him to take steps to sell the BLUE BALL INN, Brades, Oldbury, of which at the time defendant was owner. Plaintiff advertised the house from that time until September last, and sent particulars to many applicants. One applicant, who went to Oldbury in September to see the house, returned to complain that when she got there she was informed the house was sold. Plaintiff then sent his account to the defendant, and defendant refused to pay on the ground that the house had been sold by a Mr. Hackett, of Oldbury, in May last, and that he had sent Mr. Seal notice to that effect at the end of May.

Plaintiff denied that he had received such a letter, and stated in cross-examination that he did not take business in consideration of being paid commission if he sold, and only out-of-pocket expense if he did not sell. The defendant said he sent a letter to Mr. Seal in May saying that the house had been sold by Mr. Hackett. He did not instruct Mr. Hackett to sell the house, nor tell Hackett that the house was for sale; but Mr. Hackett came to him and said he could find a purchaser for it. Mr. Hackett afterwards brought the customer and received the commission.

His Honour said he thought the right sum to give judgement for was £8 10s.”

1901 Census

67, Church Street – RED LION INN

- [1] *William Eaden*, away;
- [2] Mary A. Eaden (56), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] John Eaden (29), son, labourer, boiler works, born Elsicar, Yorkshire;
- [4] Elsie Eaden (13), daughter, born Elsicar, Yorkshire;
- [5] George Dangerfield (29), son-in-law, nut and bolt forger, born Darlaston;
- [6] Esther Dangerfield (25), daughter, born Elsicar, Yorkshire;
- [7] Elsie Dangerfield (7 months), grand-daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] Sarah Brown (35), daughter, widow, nurse (monthly), born Brownhills:

1911 Census

Church Street – RED LION HOTEL

- [1] *Charles Wilkes* (48), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Mary Wilkes (52), wife, married 12 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] Mary Wilkes (11), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Annie Groves (28), general servant, born Willenhall:

Eliza Wells married William Henry *Hickinbottom* on 13th September 1919.

William Thomas Willmore – see also STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT.

Charles Gwilt – see also FORTUNE OF WAR.

Walsall Observer 31/8/1929

“Licenses for the sale of intoxicants at Darlaston’s first three home matches – today, September 7, and September 14 – were granted to *Leonard Cross*, the licensee of the RED LION.”

A football team from here played in the Wednesbury & District Welfare League. [1933]

A football team from here played in the Wednesbury, Darlaston & District Butlers League. [1938]

1939 Register

Church Street – RED LION (4 of 5)

[1] *William S. Shorthouse*, date of birth 17/12/1886, engineer's (constructional) electrician, maintenance, married;

[2] Lillie Shorthouse, dob 3/10/1891, domestic duties, married;

[3] *William S. Shorthouse*, date of birth 26/1/1917, electrician, maintenance, constructional engineer, single;

[4] Marjorie (Shorthouse) Coles, dob 27/1/1919, general duties, bar and housework, single;

Walsall Observer 24/8/1940

“Miss Marjorie Shorthouse, daughter of Mr. and Mr. *William Stafford Shorthouse*, of the RED LION HOTEL, Darlaston, was married at St. Lawrence's Parish Church, Darlaston, on Wednesday, to Mr. John Alfred Coles (serving with HM Forces), son of Mr. and the late Mrs. Frances Coles, of 'Bowness,' Lichfield Road, Walsall. The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by the Rector of Darlaston (Dr. A. B. Lavelle), and the hymns 'The Voice that breathed o'er Eden' and 'O Perfect Love' were sung, while Mr. Whitehouse at the organ played special bridal music.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a crinoline of white silk lace and net, over white taffeta, trimmed with orange blossom and a white tulle veil. She also wore a necklace of pearls and carried a sheaf of lilies and white heather. The only bridesmaid, Miss Dorothy Shorthouse (sister of the bride), wore a crinoline of blue georgette over taffeta and carried a bouquet of roses. The best man was Mr. Bernard L. A. Thomas, solicitor, of Walsall. The bride's mother was dressed in floral silk marocain and a wool georgette coat.

After a reception at the A.F.S. Pavilion, Darlaston, the happy couple left for an unknown destination, the bride travelling in a black tailored costume with double silver fox furs.

The groom's gift to his bride was an oak linen chest and the reciprocal gift was an ebony cigarette case. To the bridesmaid the groom gave a vanity case.”

Lily Shorthouse died in the 4th quarter of 1940.

'Stories of Darlaston'

'Darlaston' by A. E. Pitcher, JP

“.....The RED LION pub was run by Mr. *Billy Shorthouse*, assisted by his daughters Margorie and Dorothy (Marge and Dot). It was a very popular drinking place, selling Butler's 'Springfield' bitter. I feel I must relate the following anecdote although I admit it took place just after the war. It was a bitterly cold January night when, well after closing time, a group of us were enjoying that illicit pint when I had reason to visit the Gents at the rear of the premises, leaving the pub by the rear entrance through a very draughty entry. On my return I latched and bolted the door and as I turned away there came a loud knock on the door. On opening the door I was confronted by a police inspector and sergeant. In panic I slammed the door and slid the bolt, entered the bar and informed Dot Shorthouse, who calmly replied, 'Let the buggers in, they'll catch pneumonia out there.'”

An application was made, by W. Butler and Co Ltd, for a provisional order to remove the license to new premises proposed to be erected at the corner of Wolverhampton Road and Warwick Avenue, Bentley Garden Village, on 13th March 1946. It was refused.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 4/5/1946

“The engagement is announced of Captain A. S. Bird, R.E.M.E. (M.E.F.), only son of Mr. and Mrs. Gavin Bird, of Walsall, to Dorothy, younger daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. *Shorthouse*, RED LION, Darlaston.”

The Final Order for the Removal of the license to new premises erected at the junction of Warwick Avenue and Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley [RED LION] was granted on 9th December 1958.

It closed in 1959.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1960

“Mr. *William Stafford Shorthouse*, a former well-known licensee in Wednesbury and Darlaston for nearly 40 years, died yesterday in New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. He was 74.

He lived in the delicensed RED LION INN, Church Street, Darlaston, of which he was licensee from 1935 until it was closed about a year ago. Before going to Darlaston he was licensee of the OLD CROWN INN, Albert Street, Wednesbury.

He was for six years president of the local Licensed Victuallers' Association."

Demolished

RED LION

123, (22), Moxley Road, (123, Darlaston Road), (22, Wood Bank), (Wood Lane), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Wood [1869]

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.

Frank Myatt Ltd.

Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Wood [1869] – [1871]

James Hall [1879] – [1892]

George William Collins [1891] – [1894]

Alfred Rowney [1901]

Horace Brown [1904]

Edward Richards [1908]

Joseph Maloney [1911] – **1919**);

Arthur Granger (**1919 – 1920**);

Mrs. Swindonia (Granger) Lowe (**1920 – [1940]**)

Roland Oliver Aston [1948] – **1949**);

James Oliver (**1949 – 1951**);

Frederick Noakes (**1951 – 1954**);

William Isaac Whitehouse (**1954 – 1956**);

Bert Walker (**1956 – 1957**);

Samuel Ernest Hayward (**1957 – 1960**);

Annie Hayward (**1960**);

Ronald Walton (**1960 – [1967]**)

Wendy Ann Arnold [2018]

NOTES

Wood Bank [1869], [1881]

Wood Lane [1870]

Woods Bank [1871], [1881], [1891], [1892]

22, Wood Bank [1881]

Darlaston Road [1891], [1894], [1901], [1911]

22, Moxley Road [1901]

123, Moxley Road [1939]

123, Darlaston Road [1912], [1940]

LION [1879]

It had a beerhouse license.

William Wood = William Woods

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/9/1869

“The adjourned licensing sessions for victuallers was held yesterday, at the Police Court, West Bromwich.....

Mr. Brevitt made an application on behalf of Mr. *William Wood*, of the RED LION, Wood Bank, whose house was rated at about £22. There was one bedroom, and the club room was 50 feet by 15 feet. There was stabling for three horses. Refused.

The Chairman said the Bench were of opinion that there was a sufficient number of licensed houses already; and while it was their duty to renew licenses where they were needed, and to grant fresh licenses where the population seemed to require them, they must refuse all applications for licenses unless the application appeared to be justified by the claims and character of the neighbourhood.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1869

“The annual Sessions for the hearing of applications for new licenses to sell spirits, was held at the West Bromwich Police Court, yesterday Mr. Sharpe intimated to the solicitors that the houses of all the applicants had been visited by some of the Magistrates, who had reported to the Bench on them, and it would, therefore, be advisable for all speeches to be as brief as possible. The following applications were then made.....

William Wood, Darlaston, applied through Mr. Brevitt. House own property, rated at £22 15s; 400 yards from nearest licensed house. No opposition. Application refused.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions at West Bromwich.....

The applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

William Wood, RED LION, Wood Lane. No opposition. Refused.”

1871 Census

Woods Bank – RED LION

- [1] *William Woods* (47), brickmaker and beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] Catharine Woods (47), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Mary Woods (22), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] William Woods (20), son, works at brickyard, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elizabeth Woods (17), daughter, works at brickyard, born Darlaston;
- [6] Sarah Woods (14), daughter, works at brickyard, born Darlaston;
- [7] Catharine Woods (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Mary Freeth Woods (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

William Wood died on 27th October 1873.

Catherine *Wood* married *James Hall* in January 1879.

James Hall = James Hull

Wednesbury Herald 12/4/1879

“*James Hall*, the landlord of the LION INN, Moxley, was summoned for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the 20th ult. Mr. M. H. Thorne, of Wolverhampton, appeared for the defendant.

Police-constable Head said that on passing the defendant's house between eleven and twelve o'clock of the morning of the 20th ult, he saw a man in the kitchen with a jug of ale before him. He subsequently went into the house and found a man sitting in the kitchen or tap room, but the jug had been removed. The defendant informed him that the man was his son, and he (witness) found the jug in a cupboard.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said he could call other witnesses if it was thought necessary.

Mr. Thorne said he did not think it was necessary inasmuch as he admitted that a man was found in the kitchen. The facts of the case were that the defendant's son was in the habit of going to his father's house on a Sunday morning and having lunch with him, but on the morning in question Mr. Hall. jun. had not been in the house more than a minute or two, when the officer arrived, and had not partaken of anything. He certainly thought that it would be very bad if a son could not visit his father at any time he thought proper to go, and commanded that as no offence had been committed the case should be dismissed.

James Hall jun. said he was in the habit of visiting his father's on a Sunday morning, and shortly after he arrived at the defendant's house on the morning in question the officer came, and he was positive that at that time he did not partake of anything to drink.

Mr. Selly: Do you pay for your ale on weekdays? – Witness: Yes sir, but I don't pay for it on Sundays.

Mr. Selly: I suppose you have a score? – Witness: I have no reason to have a score.

Mr. Solly said there was a doubt in the case, and the Bench would give the defendant the benefit of it. They would, however, take the opportunity of warning the defendant that if he ever came up again on a similar charge he would be heavily fined, and they would advise the son to stay away from defendant's house during prohibited hours."

1881 Census

22, Wood Bank – RED LION INN

[1] *James Hall* (64), publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Catherine Hall* (57), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Elizabeth Wood* (27), daughter, at home, born Darlaston;

[4] *Catherine Wood* (22), daughter, at home, born Darlaston;

[5] *Freethy Wood* (16), daughter, at home, born Darlaston:

Wellington Journal 26/11/1881

"On Saturday morning it was discovered that a horse belonging to Mr. *Hall*, of the RED LION INN, Woods Bank, Darlaston, had been subjected to gross cruelty whilst grazing in a field. The animal was noticed to be in great pain, and upon being examined it was found that its tongue had been cut out. The horse was at once slaughtered."

1891 Census

Woods Bank – RED LION

[1] *James Hall* (75), publican, born Moxley;

[2] *Catherine Hall* (66), wife, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/6/1891

"A meeting of sheet-mill workers and other iron men was held at the RED LION INN, Darlaston Road, Moxley, on Saturday night, to consider the report of the committee appointed to secure an average uniform rate of wages in the sheet trade. Mr. Aucutt, Mr. Cox, and others addressed the meeting, and a resolution was passed by which the meeting pledged itself to use every means for the enforcement of the schedule of prices to be decreed by the Wages Board, and abide by whatever arrangement may be ultimately arrived at. A number of men attending the meeting joined the association."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

"The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Mr. Willcock applied for the renewal of the license to *James Hall*, of the RED LION beerhouse, Woods Bank, whose license had been suspended owing to a conviction for selling during prohibited hours. Superintendent Walters said that since the conviction in December last the house had been well conducted. Grant-

ed.....

Music and singing licenses. The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for dancing, in addition, being abandoned.

James Hall, RED LION, Woods Bank.”

George William Collins was also a carpenter and coffin maker.

He was married to Elizabeth, who brewed the beer.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/1/1894

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Elizabeth Birch (20) was charged with hawking without a license and with stealing a tumbler, the property of *George William Collins*, keeper of the RED LION beer-house, Darlaston Road, Moxley. It seemed that she went into the house selling small articles of wearing apparel for a Mrs. Burke, of Willenhall, and whilst the landlady’s back was turned she took a glass from the bar. It was missed, and Police-constable Bott was sent for, and then, after a time, the prisoner produced and gave up the glass. She was fined 10s and costs, or seven days’ imprisonment.”

1901 Census

22, Moxley Road – RED LION

- [1] *Alfred Rowney* (47), publican, born Redditch;
- [2] *Elizabeth Rowney* (48), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Alfred Rowney* (14), son, bobbin maker, born Bilston;
- [4] *Melvina Rowney* (12), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Fanny E. Collins* (11), step-daughter, born Moxley;
- [6] *Harry Rowney* (10), son, born Bilston;
- [7] *Edwin Collins* (9), step-son, born Moxley;
- [8] *Sidney Collins* (6), step-son, born Moxley;

Walsall Advertiser 25/5/1901

“*Alfred Rowney*, a publican, of Darlaston Road, Moxley, sued the London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Assurance Company Limited, for £22 4s. Mr. Dorsett was for the plaintiff, and Mr. James F. Addison for the defendant.

Mr. Dorsett stated that the action was brought to recover £22 4s due upon a policy of assurance effected upon the life of Charles Trotman. Plaintiff had an insurable interest in Trotman’s life. The policy was effected in April, 1899, and continued in force until Trotman’s death.

Mr. Addison, for the defence, indicated that they relied upon misrepresentation, particularly in the proposal, and they also alleged that there was no insurable interest.

The plaintiff stated that he lent the deceased a sum of money, and asked him for security, and deceased agreed to insure his life. Cross-examined, witness said he was a publican at the time the insurance was effected, but he described himself as a carter. He did not know he was described as a son-in-law of the deceased on the proposal form. He was no relation. He should not have insured the deceased only that the company’s men begged and prayed of him for a month to insure him. He did not know that the deceased was of intemperate habits.

It was in consequence of the report of an inquest on the body of Trotman which led to the defendants making inquiries. The man had been in the workhouse, and, it was urged, was not a gardener as described, but a man who did odd jobs about a public house. Moreover, the man was not physically fit for insurance.

The Judge, in summing up, considered that plaintiff had an insurable interest in the life of Trotman, and after reviewing the alleged misrepresentations, he came to the conclusion that the plaintiff was entitled to a judgement for the full amount claimed, and gave a verdict to this effect with costs.”

AND

“At the Walsall County Court on Wednesday His Honour Judge Roberts gave judgement in a case for the full amount claimed with costs. The case had reference to a claim by *Alfred Rowney*, a publican, of Moxley, against the London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Assurance Company. Upon taking his seat on Thursday, the Judge, addressing Mr. J. F. Addison (who represented the Assurance Company) said he was satisfied he had

made a mistake in giving judgement for more than £9 10s, the amount of plaintiff's insurable interest at the time the policy was effected. After that intimation he must leave the parties to take what course they thought fit."

1911 Census

Moxley Road – RED LION

- [1] *Joseph Maloney* (28), brewer and publican, born Walsall;
- [2] *Mary Maloney* (29), wife, married 1 year, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Mary Maloney* (5 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Jane Graham* (67), mother-in-law, widow, born Birmingham:

Joseph Maloney, beer retailer, Darlaston Road, Moxley. [1912]

Swindonia Granger married *Joseph Lowe* on 10th March 1923.

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/11/1935

"Death of Mr. John Wesley. A licensee bearing the honoured name of John Wesley, who held the licence of the TRAVELLERS REST, Walsall Wood, for over 30 years, has just died. He formerly held the licence of the Queens Hotel, Chasetown, for nine years. Deceased, who was interested in all forms of sport, leaves two sons and five daughters. The husbands of two of his daughters are licensed holders, Mrs. C. Nicholls, WHITE LION, Darlaston, and Mrs. J. Lowe, RED LION, Moxley. Mr. Wesley's wife died some thirteen years ago."

Tipton Herald 16/1/1937

"Darlaston Licensing Justices, on Wednesday approved plans for the rebuilding of the RED LION INN, Moxley, which were submitted on behalf of the Holt Brewery Co, by Mr. Ernest E. Brown. Mr. Brown said it was a very old house, but was doing a very good trade, and it was part of a scheme adopted by his clients, who had turned their attention to all their houses in Darlaston, to improve the standard of the buildings both from the point of view of the licensee, and secondly, the customers. It was their intention entirely to remodel the premises."

Closed

Demolished

It was rebuilt in 1938.

Reopened

1939 Register

123, Moxley Road

- [1] *Swindonia Lowe*, date of birth 9/6/1894, manageress public house, married;
- [2] *Joseph Lowe*, dob 11/12/1883, baker, married:

A full license was confirmed on 14th April 1948.

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/3/1950

"While her husband, Mr. Joseph Lowe, licensee of the Railway Tavern, Wolverhampton Road, Penkridge, was in hospital, Mrs. *Swindonia Lowe* died at home on Tuesday, aged 55. Her husband was taken to hospital a week ago, and Mrs. *Lowe* was taken ill on Friday. A native of Chasetown, Mrs. *Lowe* was formerly tenant of the RED LION INN, Darlaston. The Rev. Stackhouse (vicar) officiated at the funeral which took place yesterday (Friday) at St. Peter's Church, Walsall Wood."

Express & Star 26/5/2008

"Hot on the heels of the Flying Dorito and Inverted Meat Dish, spaceship spotters have been contacting the Express & Star in their droves to share their strange stories of the skies....."

Tales have included a ‘hyperspeed bright light’ darting across the Moxley skyline and three bright oranges orbs hanging silently over Bloxwich. Thomas Lloyd, aged 69, of Great Bridge Road, Moxley, said he was converted into a believer after seeing a bright light in the sky. Mr Lloyd, a retired upholsterer, spotted the object two years ago outside Moxley’s RED LION pub. He said, ‘It was too bright to be a star and definitely wasn’t a plane. It started off quite slowly but then suddenly went into hyperspeed. It stopped for a moment, came down and formed a triangle shape. Then it sped away again. It was a single bright light, and it was moving too fast to be anything of this earth. The way it moved and changed speeds and direction was very odd. I told my drinking buddies in the pub but they just looked at me like I’d had one too many, but I’d only had a few shandies. I know what I saw was not of this world.’”

The Gazette 21/11/2018

“*Wendy Ann Arnold*, Employed, of the RED LION, Moxley Road, Darlaston, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 7RL formerly of the WINDMILL, 116 Coronation Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 0TW and formerly of the RED LION, Moxley Road, Darlaston, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 7RL.

Bankruptcy order date: 14 November 2018.

Whether Debtor’s or Creditor’s Petition – Debtor’s.”

[2022]

RED LION

Wolverhampton Road West / Warwick Avenue, Bentley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Voyager Pubs [2004]

Hungry Horse [2014]

LICENSEES

Brian Anthony Dorsett **(1959 – 1964);**

Enoch James Joseph Bedson **(1964 – [1967]**

Lee Bywater [2011]

Joe Martin [2011]

NOTES

It was built in 1958.

The license was removed to here from the RED LION, Church Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1958

“The annual general meeting of W. Butler & Co. Limited will be held on December 30 at Wolverhampton.

The following is the circulated statement of the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. J. Yardley.....

Three more new houses will be opened before Christmas.....

RED LION, Bentley, near Willenhall.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/12/1959

“The 69th annual general meeting of W. Butler & Co. Limited will be held on December 28 at Wolverhampton. The following is the statement by Mr. Frank Yardley (Chairman and Managing Director) which has been circulated with the report and accounts.....

Further progress has been made with the building of new properties, and the following were opened during the financial year.....

RED LION, Bentley, Darlaston – 9th December, 1958.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/6/1962

“A thief who broke into the RED LION, Bentley, Darlaston, in daylight stole £97 from tills while the licensee was in his flat upstairs.”

Walsall Observer 29/5/1964

“Maintaining a fine record of gifts to the town’s old folks, Willenhall Darts League presented donations totalling £100 to the Committee for the Willenhall Old Folks Treat and Willenhall Old Peoples Welfare Committee at its annual prize presentations, held in the RED LION public house, Bentley, on Thursday last.....”

Walsall Observer 5/6/1964

“More than £130 in prize money was handed out to successful competitors in the Willenhall Butlers Friendly Domino League at the annual presentations on Thursday last. Councillor D. A. Davies, chairman of Willenhall Urban Council, presented the trophies at the Yale and Towne Social Club. Mr. A. J. Pearson presented a £71 5s cheque to the Wolverhampton, Dudley and District Institute for the Blind, who also received a further cheque for £125 from the RED LION, Bentley.....”

Plans for alterations were approved in June 1964.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/8/1965

“Darlaston police are making inquiries about a man who slashed a 19-year-old youth in the face with a beer glass at the RED LION public house, Bentley, on Friday. John Geoffrey Westley, of Hawkley Road, Wolverhampton, was taken to Walsall General hospital, and 24 stitches were inserted in his wound.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/5/1967

“Spirits, cigars and cash were stolen by a thief who broke into the RED LION public house, Wolverhampton Road West, Willenhall.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/12/1987

“Walsall magistrates have banned a man from a Willenhall pub for a year after he resisted police efforts to remove him. Lee Lewis (20), of Stepping Stone Close, Walsall, had already been banned from several Willenhall pubs, said Mr. Colin Malloy, prosecuting at the town magistrates court. Police were called to the RED LION in Wolverhampton Road West, on November 16, by the relief licensee who could not persuade Lewis to leave. He became aggressive and the police asked him to put down a glass he was holding. Diane Stanton, of the same address, tried to help Lewis resist the police.

Lewis and Stanton both pleaded guilty to provoking violence. Lewis was fined £250 and ordered to pay £10 costs as well as being banned from the pub for 12 months. Stanton was fined £50 and ordered to pay £10 costs.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/2/1988

“A 26-year-old man was stabbed in the stomach after an argument in a Walsall pub last night. He was taken to Walsall General Hospital where his condition was today described as poorly. Police have appealed for witnesses of the attack outside the RED LION in Wolverhampton Road at about 9.45pm.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/3/1993

“Bon Appetit Pub Grub.....”

RED LION, Wolverhampton Road West, Willenhall.”

Daily Mirror 4/6/1998

“Free Pint of Carling.

With just six days to go before the World Cup kick-off your soccer-loving *Mirror* is buying you a drink. We’ve a Free pint of Carling to get you into the mood for the great Vive Le Football pub opening parties across the nation. Our friends at Bass Leisure Retail are offering every reader over 18 a free pint of Carling to get things off to a flying start today.....

Where to get your Free pint.....

RED LION, Wolverhampton Road West, Willenhall.”

Express & Star 5/2/2012

“Pubs illegally showing Premier League football matches on foreign decoders and satellites will continue to face prosecution, despite a European Court ruling they believed offered them protection, it can be revealed today. The RED LION pub in Willenhall was this week hit with a £4,000 fine and investigators today warned they are continuing to monitor others across the region.

Landlords across Staffordshire and the Black Country believed a recent ruling from a top European judge opened the gates for them to be able to show games through cut-price networks. But although that ruling is likely to become law in the UK following a High Court hearing on February 24, it currently remains illegal to show games unless it is through a Sky or ESPN subscription package. Convictions can be appealed, but the cost of doing so would see venues having to pay thousands of pounds in legal fees.

Wolves today welcomed the conviction of Willenhall’s RED LION pub, which was fined on Tuesday for showing a game through an Albanian-based TV firm. Club chief executive Jez Moxey has criticised the use of foreign decoders, saying attendances at Molineux were 2,500 down last season because of the problem. Spokesman Matt Grayson said today, ‘It has been clear all along that the use of foreign equipment not only breaches copyright law, but also contravenes the 3pm closed window on a Saturday that states no broadcaster can legitimately show games at that time. We welcome the fact that the Premier League continues to closely monitor those people illegally broadcasting football matches.’

West Bromwich Albion chief executive Mark Jenkins said, ‘We wholeheartedly support the Premier League’s efforts to stamp out the illegal screening of matches because it is unfair on the fans who attend the club’s fixtures.’

Landlords today said they feel they have been ‘left in limbo’ following the prosecution of the RED LION. Ian Scott, who has managed Bar Sport in High Green, Cannock, for 12 years, said showing games through foreign decoders brought a lot of custom to the bar, ‘It’s heaving on a Saturday, especially for Wolves games,’ he said. ‘In the RED LION case, it seems very harsh that the authorities have been so heavy-handed over something that will be legal next month.....’

Express & Star 21/2/2012

“The former boss of a Willenhall pub has been banned from playing music at any premises he runs – after putting on songs without a licence. *Joe Martin* was caught playing copyrighted tracks at the RED LION in Wolverhampton Road including ‘Superwoman,’ ‘Broken’ and ‘Us Against The World.’

Inspectors from Phonographic Performance Ltd visited the premises last October where music was heard despite no licence being in place. The case against the former general manager of the pub was taken to London’s High Court yesterday and faces a £1,725 legal bill to be paid within 14 days. *Martin*, who did not appear at the court, was banned from playing recorded music at any premises he runs in future until the licence is brought up to date.

The ruling came from High Court judge Mr Justice Norris and *Martin* faces a heavy fine or prison if he disobeys the order. It comes weeks after *Martin* and ex-landlord of the RED LION pub *Lee Bywater* were hit with a bill of more than £4,190 between them for showing a football game illegally through an Albanian service. Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard how the RED LION had breached copyright law by showing a game between Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United on March 19. They were prosecuted separately through Media Protection Services Ltd. The music ban comes after the inspection on October 7 last year. Ben Longstaff, counsel for PPL, said that solicitors had sent letters to the premises informing *Martin* that

playing sound recordings without a licence is an infringement of its copyright, and invited him to acquire a licence.”

It closed in September 2014.

Express & Star 13/10/2014

“Around 60 new jobs are being created over the coming months as a landmark pub is transformed into part of the Hungry Horse chain. The 20th Century Willenhall pub, formerly known as the RED LION, is currently undergoing a major refurbishment before it re-opens in December – in time for the Christmas season – as the KEY MASTER, renamed in tribute to Willenhall’s ties to the lock-making industry. Horse is part of the Suffolk-based Greene King brewing and pubs chain, which has bought the RED LION.

The company, which says it is making a ‘substantial investment’ in the project, is now advertising for 60 full and part time workers for the pub, on Wolverhampton Road West, including bar and waiting staff, assistant manager and kitchen managers. At least 20 will be full-time posts

Matt Brown, business unit director for Hungry Horse, said, ‘We are very excited about this addition to Hungry Horse and to be bringing our fun, great value and family friendly pub to Willenhall. ‘Changing the name was not just to show that this is a fresh start for the pub but also because being part of the local community is important to us, so it is vital the name reflects this. We have made changes to the property itself and are now in the process of building a new team from people in the local community. We pride ourselves in creating a welcoming and atmospheric environment in all of our pubs and I am sure the KEY MASTER will be no different.’

Work inside the pub, which began a month ago, includes knocking through the old function room to create a spacious open plan area offering a contemporary look throughout and will include HD TVs, leather booth seating areas complete with their own TVs and a play area for children. The company says the pub will aim to offer ‘great value’ on its range of soft drinks, wines, lagers and real ales and on the Hungry Horse food menu, renowned for its sizeable Big Plate Specials. Also inside the pub will be a pool table and darts board and there are plans for regular quiz nights and light entertainment. An experienced husband and wife team has been appointed to run the new Hungry Horse.

Greene King, founded in 1799 and based in Bury St Edmunds, currently employs 23,000 people across its breweries – producing well-known ales such as Greene King IPA, Abbot Ale and Old Speckled Hen – and 1,900 pubs. It is considered a major rival of Wolverhampton-based Marston’s, which has around 1,800 pubs and five breweries nationwide.”

It reopened as the KEY MASTER in December 2014.

[2022]

ROLLING MILL

62, Willenhall Road, (62, Bentley Road), The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Edward Glover
Hinckesman’s Brewery Company, Shifnal (acquired in 1898)
Mrs. Askey

LICENSEES

Francis Jones [1861] – [1862]
William Hunt [1871] – [1881]
Edward Glover [1895] – **1898**;
John Charles ‘Charley’ Harper (**1898** – [];
Carr [1899]
William Butler Slater [1901]
R Harper [1906]
Frank Corns [1909]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

The Green – ROLLING MILL INN

- [1] *Francis Jones* (37), publican and retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Cathraine Jones (38), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Francis Jones (13), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Rebecca Jones (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Ann Jones (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] William Jones (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] David Jones (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] John Jones (5), son, born Darlaston;
- [9] Jane Jones (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [10] Sarah Jones (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [11] Rachel Martin (62), mother-in-law, born Wolverhampton:

Francis Jones, retailer of beer, the Green. [1862]

1871 Census

Willenhall Road – ROLLING MILL INN

- [1] *William Hunt* (38), blacksmith in iron works and innkeeper (beerhouse), born Princes End;
- [2] Patience Hunt (39), wife, born Princes End;
- [3] Jane Hunt (29), sister, born Bradley;
- [4] Eliza Baker (19), sister-in-law, born Princes End;
- [5] Harry Nicklin (14), visitor, born Tipton:

William Hunt, beer retailer, Willenhall Road. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1874 - Died

“On the 11th inst, aged 43 years, Patience, the beloved wife of *William Hunt*, of the ROLLING MILL INN, The Green, Darlaston; deeply lamented.”

1881 Census

62, Bentley Road – ROLLING MILL INN

- [1] *William Hunt* (49), widower, sheet iron worker and beer seller, born Princes End;
- [2] Jane Hunt (43), sister, born Princes End:

Sporting Life 9/10/1895

“In answer to Fred Bruton’s (of Dudley) challenge to run C. Horton (of Darlaston) Mr. *E. Glover* of the ROLLING MILL INN, The Green, Darlaston, will match Horton to run Bruton 120 yards off a mark, for £25 or £50 a side. The *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder and appoint referee. A deposit to the *Sporting Life*

and fair articles of the MILL INN will at once ensure a match, as business only is meant.”

Walsall Observer 9/1/1897

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Edward Glover*, landlord of the ROLLING MILL INN, The Green, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on December 12th. Mr. G. Rose prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

Police-constable Horton stated that at 10.25am a man named Joseph Smith came out of the house the worse for beer. He threatened his wife, and witness went into the beerhouse to advise the landlord not to supply him with any more beer. Whilst speaking to Mrs. *Glover*, her husband was away, he heard a disturbance in the taproom, and on going in found a man named Elihu Green, of Bilston Street, drunk. Mrs. *Glover* expressed surprise at his condition, as she had only supplied him with two half-pints of beer. With assistance she ejected Green, who fell down on the footpath, and witness, seeing his helpless condition, assisted him home.

Mr. Willcock, for the defence, stated that on the morning in question the man Green was in the house between nine o'clock and half-past, during which time he had two-half pints of fourpenny. He never came into the house again until shortly before eleven o'clock, when he returned, accompanied by a man named Cotterill. Both applied for drink, but were refused, and requested to leave. Cotterill went, but Green sat down and lit his pipe. Mrs. *Glover* then sent for her husband, who was out at the time, but before his arrival Police-constable Horton came.

Several witnesses were called, among them being William Cotterill, who said that the drink Green and himself had had that morning they had had in the works; and Samuel Preston, timekeeper at Messrs. Richards works, swore that Green was in the works from ten o'clock until about a quarter to eleven.

Eventually the case against *Glover* was dismissed, the Stipendiary believing that Green had not been long in the house.

Green, for being drunk on the premises, was fined 10s and costs.”

Boxing World and Mirror of Life 30/6/1897

“‘Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight.’ Lovers of pedestrianism in the Black Country will hear with regret the sad news of the death of Edward Horton, which took place at the residence of his backer, Mr. *E. Glover*, of the ROLLING MILL INN, Darlaston, on the morning of the 22nd instant, after a somewhat lengthy illness, in which Bright's disease and dropsy ended a most promising career. Deceased was a stable-companion of *Charley Harper* (Champion of England), both being backed by that erstwhile sportsman Mr. *E. Glover*. Horton was a safe quarter-second man, and, under the mentorship of *Harper*, was rapidly developing towards evens, and till his illness was without a doubt the fastest runner ever turned out of Darlaston. A touching circumstance in connection with Horton's death was that for a long time he had been eagerly looking forward to the opening ceremony of the New Central Athletic Grounds, Darlaston, owned by Mr. *Glover*. The grounds were opened with great success in the presence of 10,000 spectators on Jubilee afternoon, only a few hours after poor Horton's death. Horton was twenty-six years old, stood 5ft 7½in in height, and was a perfect specimen of an athlete, scaling in condition 10st 10lb. He beat H. Nicholls, of Darlaston, 100 yards for £10 at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury. Won Mr. John Dudley's £9 5s 125 yards foot handicap at the same grounds. In 1890 he was defeated by T. Richards, of Darlaston, in a match of 120 yards for £20 at the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury; but being unwell, again ran Richards over a similar distance for £20 at the Robin Hood Grounds, Willenhall, this time winning. Ran second to J. (Brogden) Pickerill, of Tipton, in Mr. J. Russell's 300 yards handicap at Victoria Grounds, Wolverhampton. Competed in all the Midland Pedestrian Company's handicaps without success. Beat E. Ball, Willenhall, 120 yards for £10 at Robin Hood Grounds, Willenhall. Beaten in a match when conceding A. Rutter, of Willenhall, one yard start in 70, for £20, at the same grounds. Shortly after he again ran Rutter, conceding half a yard start in 100 yards, for £20, winning easily, and the same day won an All-England 130 yards foot handicap, at Willenhall, in easy fashion. His last performance of any note was on November 25, 1895, at the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, when he easily defeated Fred Bruton, of Dudley, in a 100 yards match, for £20. A few months ago he was sent to Blackpool to train for the big sweepstakes at Manchester, where he caught a cold from which he never recovered. His funeral took place on Friday afternoon last, and the high esteem and respect in which he was held was fully shown by the hundreds of spectators that lined the route to St. George's Buri-

al Ground, where he was interred. Among those who attended to pay their last tribute to their late comrade were Mr. *E. Glover*, Mr. W. Hammonds, Ben Burns, Jem Read, T. Winsper, and *Charley Harper*, the champion contributing a beautiful wreath to the many laid on his coffin.”

Dudley Herald 16/4/1898

“At Wolverhampton Police Court on Wednesday before Mr. N. C. A. Neville (stipendiary), Arthur *Glover*, described as a publican’s son, of the ROLLING MILL INN, The Green, Darlaston, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and with assaulting Police-constable Dale.

The officer said that the previous night he found *Glover* drunk in Church Street, Darlaston. Defendant refused to give his name and address, and dealt witness several blows on the face, causing his nose to bleed. Defendant said the officer was drunk and commenced the bother by going up to him and giving him ‘a good shove.’

Police-sergeant Williams said that the defendant’s father went to the police-station, said the policeman was drunk, and asked for a surgeon to be sent for to examine Dale. The surgeon was sent for, and in the presence of the father said the policeman was perfectly sober.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs or seven days’ imprisonment for being drunk and disorderly, and 20s and costs or one month’s imprisonment for the assault.

Ephraim Roberts, also a publican’s son, from Horseley Heath, Tipton, who had attempted to release *Glover* when the latter was in custody, was fined 20s and costs.”

Dudley Herald 24/9/1898

“Champion Runner Becomes A Boniface. At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, on the application of Mr. A. J. Glover, the license of the ROLLING MILL INN, Darlaston, was transferred from *Edward Glover* to *John Charles Harper*, who was described as the champion sprinter of England at 200 yards.”

Sporting Life 24/9/1898

“*Charley Harper* (champion sprinter of England) is married, and is now settled down amongst the Black Country knights, having taken possession of the ROLLING MILL INN, The Green, Darlaston, formerly kept by his backer Mr. *E. Glover*, who is now retiring from business. It is the intention of *Harper* to pay strict attention to pedestrians, not only as a trainer, but organising pedestrian handicaps at the newly-made Central Grounds in the town; and as *Harper* is and has been for a long time very popular in the Black Country, he is sure to do a good trade, and his services as a trainer will be in strong demand. We wish the champion much happiness and success in his new business.”

Bridgnorth Journal 31/12/1898

“On Tuesday, at the Wednesbury County Petty Sessions, *Edward Glover*, of the Green, Darlaston, was charged with using threats to James Hodgekin Phillips, of Shifnal, on the 23rd inst. Mr. T. Gatis (Wolverhampton) appeared in support of the summons, and Mr. A. J. Glover (Wednesbury) defended.

It was stated that complainant was a director of Hinckesman’s Brewery Company, of Shifnal, who recently purchased the ROLLING MILL INN, Darlaston Green, from the defendant, and in connection with that transaction an action was pending. Complainant had occasion to visit the public house on the day named, and on leaving was accosted by the defendant, who violently abused and threatened him, and offered to ‘let him have it’ if he would return to the house. Complainant having been called, the Bench suggested that the parties should endeavour to arrange their difficulties, as if the magistrates adjudicated the existing bitterness would probably be increased. Mr. Glover remarked that his client denied using any threat to complainant. The Clerk (Mr. Thursfield) said one of them would have 5s 6d costs to pay, and suggested that they should toss up to decide who paid it. Mr. Gatis: We shall be in the dock directly. (Laughter.) A consultation between the parties took place, and it was afterwards announced that there would be no necessity to further trouble the Bench with the proceedings.”

Wellington Journal 25/3/1899

“At the Birmingham Assizes on Saturday, before Mr. Justice Phillimore, the hearing of the action Hinckesman’s Brewery Company, Shifnal v *Glover* concluded. This was a special jury action in which the plaintiffs,

a limited company carrying on business at Shifnal alleged fraudulent misrepresentation against *Edward Glover*, The Green, Darlaston, and claimed damages. Mr. A. R. Jelf, QC, and Mr. Kettle appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. C. F. Vachell and Mr. J. S. Sparrow defended.

Mr. Jelf stated that on June 8, 1898, the company agreed to buy the defendant's licensed house, the ROLLING MILL INN, at Darlaston Green, for £1,550. The representations on which the agreement was based were that the house was held on a lease, with 13 years unexpired, and that during the last 12 months the sales had averaged 25 barrels weekly, and the weekly takings averaged £60. These representations were, however, false. Defendant might have disposed of that quantity of beer, but it was on the long-pull system, and a large portion of it was therefore given away.....

The present tenant of the house (*Carr*) said that during his occupancy the highest takings had been £9 3s 3d, and the lowest £4 17s 11d. Mr. William Hutton, accountant, gave evidence as to the result of the trading at the house since it passed into the possession of the company. During the time of *Harper* [?], the first tenant, which was a period of five weeks, the company reaped a profit of £6 8s 6d. During the nine weeks *Harper* was manager they lost £16 18s, and during the management of *Carr* the loss of 11½ weeks had been £32 17s.

For the defendant, Mr. Vachell said that his client had been a popular man in Darlaston. He brewed his own excellent ale, and did a flourishing business, the takings of which averaged £44 per week. Compared with the beggarly £8 or £9 subsequently taken there certainly was a falling off, and it was due to the quality of the beer. Indeed people found it so bad that they feared it might make them ill if they drank it. Others threw it on the fire, and many who used to go to the house for beer ceased to do so.....

Defendant gave corroborative evidence. He said that the business was a flourishing one. He had to borrow money to take to it, and he had not only been able to pay that off, but to expend about £1,000 in the creation of recreation grounds.....

John Charles Harper, who became plaintiff's tenant, said that for the first fortnight while the home-brewed lasted he did a good trade. Subsequently, with the exception of the bitter ale, the stuff got worse, until people would not drink it, and they said such insulting things about it that he gave notice and left.

Six more witnesses were called for the defence, and stated that when *Glover* was the proprietor of the house the beer was very good, but that after he left the beer became unsatisfactory, and one witness, in his evidence, stated that the beer was 'only fit to poison the devil'.....

The jury found for the plaintiffs, with damages of £250."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/10/1903

"Bankruptcy Examinations.....

Edward Glover, The Green, Darlaston, haulier and haberdasher.

The statement showed gross liabilities £1,096 11s 5d, of which £505 3s 8d was expected to rank for dividend, and the assets were estimated at £167 17s 11d.

In his examination, the debtor stated that his wife carried on the haberdashery business and he attended to the hauling. He had taken the ROLLING MILL INN on a lease for 14 years, and sold it to a brewery company for £1,550. He was sued for £2,000 for misrepresentation in the sale, and £250 damages were obtained. That and the costs amounted to about £650, and out of the £900 he had left of the purchase money he paid his debts, leaving him about £20. He bought 3½ acres of land near The Green, and spent between fifteen and sixteen hundreds in laying it out as a running ground. It did not pay, so he spent about £200 in laying it out for building. He sold a number of lots, but through having to borrow money for it and other things it had cost more than it brought in. He admitted that the furniture and stock which was estimated at £100 for his creditors' meeting was only put now at £55, and had only realised £23 at the sale, but he positively denied that any of it had been removed between the meeting and the filing. He also denied that he had persuaded the brokers not to buy at the sale, or that he had given them £1 to divide among them on condition that they did not bid. The whole of the examinations were adjourned to the 17th of November."

1901 Census

62, Willenhall Road

[1] *William Butler Slater* (26), publican, born West Hartlepool, Durham;

[2] *Elizabeth Slater* (23), wife, born Bradley;

[3] William Butler Slater (2), son, born Darlaston;

[4] Harriet Freeman (14), domestic servant, born Lea Brook:

William Butler Slater was the grand-son of William and Harriet Butler of the FOUNTAIN, Walsall Road.

Wellington Journal 18/5/1901

“To Brewers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, and Others.

Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of the Shifnal Brewery, about 12 Miles from Wolverhampton, together with Four Freehold Fully-Licensed Public Houses, and a Leasehold Beerhouse.....

The ROLLING MILL, Darlaston, near Wednesbury, a Leasehold Beerhouse, having about 11 years unexpired, at a rental of £31 6s, and let upon tenancy to Mr. *Slater* at a rental of £25 per annum.”

Wellington Journal 15/6/1901

“At the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, Mr. A. W. Dando offered for sale by auction the Shifnal Brewery, together with four freehold fully-licensed houses – the Royal Oak, Church Eaton; the Hare and Hounds, Wheaton Aston; the Queens Head, Iron-Bridge; and the Bulls Head, Bridgnorth; also the leasehold beerhouse the ROLLING MILL, Darlaston. Eventually the property was withdrawn; but it is stated that a sale has since been effected by private treaty. The solicitors for the vendors were Messrs. Knowles and Littlewood, Wellington; and Messrs. Stratton and Son, Wolverhampton.”

Pearsons Weekly 5/7/1906

“Ideas that Caught the Eye of the Mysterious Millionaire In each case he gave cash or gifts in exchange for the copies Copies Exchanged For.....

Mr. *R. Harper*, ROLLING MILL INN, Darlaston, Staffs, silver-mounted briar pipe.”

[This was a gimmick to sell more copies of the newspaper.]

Franks Corns = Franks Cornes

Walsall Advertiser 6/2/1909

“The general annual Licensing Sessions for Darlaston were held at the Police Court on Wednesday morning.....

The licensees of ROLLING MILL INN, The Green (*Frank Cornes*) were then called before the Court and informed that a notice of objection would be served on them on the ground that the licenses were not required. Each case would be dealt with at the Adjourned Sessions.”

Walsall Observer 6/3/1909

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

In the case of the ROLLING MILL INN, The Green, Mr. A. Slater represented the owners, the trustees of the late Mrs. Askey, and Mr. J. E. Underhill appeared for the lessees.

Superintendent Salt stated that there were 16 other licensed houses within 500 yards.

The license was referred to the Compensation Authority.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1909

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1904, by the Compensation Authority for the County of Stafford, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 10.30 o'clock am, on Friday, the 11th day of June, 1909.

And Notice is Hereby also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list.....

ROLLING MILL, The Green, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Frank Corns*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/6/1909

“The adjourned meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee was held yesterday at the Shirehall, Stafford. Of the five houses referred by the justices of the Wednesbury Petty Sessional division, there was

opposition in only one case The houses in regard to which there was no opposition were.....

ROLLING MILL, the Green, Darlaston.....

The committee refused to renew the licences of all the houses.”

Lichfield Mercury 7/1/1910

“The Quarter Sessions of the peace for the county of Stafford commenced on Tuesday at the Shirehall, Stafford.....

The principal meeting of the Compensation Authority was held on the 11th June, and by adjournment on the 12th and 17th June, when the Committee, after careful consideration of each case referred, refused to renew 62 licenses.

The Committee, at a supplemental meeting, went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants. The Committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. In the following 60 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

ROLLING MILL, The Green, Darlaston, £700.

.....the money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/2/1910

“Darlaston licensing sessions were held on Wednesday.....

Superintendent Salt reported.....

With regard to the ROLLING MILL beerhouse, The Green, and the BROOK TAVERN beerhouse Bentley Road, which were referred for compensation and extinction last year, he had received notice that compensation would be paid to the parties on the 5th inst, and that the licenses would expire on the 12th inst.”

ROSE AND CROWN

5, High Street, (5, Cock Street), (Blakemore Lane), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Bloxwich Brewery Co. Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1924], [1926]

LICENSEES

Joseph Orton [1854]

Edward Jones [1861]

John Knowles [1868] – **1872**;

John Jones (**1872** – []

Job Slater [1881]

Foster [1881]

Joseph Hingley [1885] – [1891]

Lucy Hingley [1891]

John Wood [1895] – [1901]

Eli Taylor [1904]

Hannah Parker [1911] – **1926**;

NOTES

5, Cock Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911]
5, High Street

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/8/1854 - Advert

“Freehold Property, in Blakemore Lane, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, at the CASTLE INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 14th day of August, 1854, precisely at seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

The Freehold House situate in Blakemore Lane, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, known as the ROSE AND CROWN retail Beerhouse, together with the Workshop, Outbuildings, large Garden, and appurtenances belonging thereto, in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Orton*.

Also the Freehold House and premises adjoining, in the occupation of Samuel Hancock.

Any further particulars may be obtained of Mr. Bolton, solicitor, Darlaston, or of the Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

1861 Census

Cock Street – ROSE AND CROWN

[1] *Edward Jones* (46), military gunlock filer and retail brewer, born Walsall;

[2] *Mary Jones* (48), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *William Dermody* (20), step-son, greengrocer, born Tynemouth;

[4] *Clara Dermody* (17), step-daughter, born Ireland;

[5] *Mary Milner* (20), visitor dressmaker, born Smethwick;

[6] *James Milner* (22), visitor, wheelwright, born Smethwick:

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/8/1861

“The following beerhouse keepers were charged with violating the terms of their licenses: *Joseph Bagott*, Westbromwich, fined 1s and costs; *Edward Jones*, Darlaston, fined 1s and costs; *George Jenkins*, Darlaston, fined 2s 6d and costs; *Joseph Elliott*, Tipton Green, fined 20s and costs, for selling ale in prohibited hours.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/5/1864

“Pigeon Flying. *W. Canlett* of Darlaston will fly his Slasher cock pigeon against any other within 10 miles of that place, for £10, £15, or £20 a side, from Paddington Station, at London, and he will give or take time for the distance the birds are to fly from each other at home. A match can be made any time at the ROSE AND CROWN, Cock Street, Darlaston.”

John Knowles, beer retailer, Cock Street. [1868], [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

Cock Street – ROSE AND CROWN

[1] *John Knowles* (35), gunlock filer and licensed brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Felicia Knowles* (32), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Clara Jane Knowles* (10), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Felicia M. Knowles* (7), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Susanna M. Knowles* (2), daughter, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/7/1876

“The Darlaston Bold Venture £100 Permanent Money Society.

On Monday afternoon the members of this society met at the ROSE AND CROWN, Cock Street, Darlaston, for the purpose of enjoying their third annual dinner. About 85 members partook of the good cheer which was served up in excellent style by the worthy host.

After dinner Mr. Thomas Mitchell, of Wednesbury, presided. The secretary, Mr. Thomas Wilkes, congratulated the members upon the steady increase the society continued to make, and said although the youngest of its kind in Darlaston, the society would bear good comparison with any kindred society in the district. The interest paid to all financial members during the past year amounted to over 30 per cent, and the increase of members during the same period was on a par with the dividends, viz 30 per cent. The way such successes had been obtained was owing to the confidence reposed in the society by its members.

After several complimentary toasts had been drunk, the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, Mr. Thomas Cotterill, a member of the society, ably presiding at the piano. Mr. William Slater rendered some beautiful solos upon the cornet. Messrs. J. Mallboy, E. Mitchell, W. Small, and several other members sang some capital songs; and Mr. R. Foster and Mr. E. Reed amused the company with several well-delivered recitations. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a conclusion with the usual vote of thanks to the worthy president for the able manner in which he had conducted the evening's proceedings."

1881 Census

5, Cock Street – ROSE AND CROWN

- [1] *Job Slater* (35), fitter and worming grinder, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Esther Slater* (34), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Lucilla Slater* (15), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Joseph W. Slater* (2), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Sarah Forster* (25), boarder, born Darlaston;
- [6] *John Harper* (29), lodger, nut and bolt forger, born Darlaston;
- [7] *George Foster* (60), lodger, latch and handle forger, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 25/6/1881 - Advert

"ROSE AND CROWN, Cock Street, Darlaston. Edward Ellis has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on the above premises, on Monday, June 27th, 1881, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above Beer House, in the occupation of Mr. *Foster* (under a Bill of Sale &c), also the Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, &c, comprising 4-Pull Beer Machine, cross leg and other Tables, Lot of Benches, Screens, Pint and Quart Jugs, Glasses, a Trolley, 8 Bushel Mash Tub, 100 Gallon Boiler &c, a Quantity of Ale Casks from 18 Gallons to 90 Gallons, Iron Stove, Large Wood Shed, Parlour Grate, Malt Crusher, and other effects....."

Joseph Hingley – Joseph Hingsley

Darlaston Weekly Times 24/12/1885

"Last week, to commemorate the coming of age of Mr. *Job Cresswell*, son of Mr. *Elisha Cresswell*, of Woods Bank, Darlaston, a dinner was provided by Mr. *Joseph Hingsley*, of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Cock Street, to which a number of Mr. *Cresswell's* friends were invited....."

Sporting Life 24/2/1886

"Mr. *William Blewitt*, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Willenhall, and Mr. *Joseph Hingley*, of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Darlaston, are matched to shoot at fifteen pigeon each, from five traps, five yards apart, 25 yards rise, 60 yards boundary, 1¼oz shot, double guns, use of both barrels, for £10 a side, on Monday, March 1. To trap and find birds against each other. First bird in trap at one o'clock sharp."

The Sportsman 2/1/1886

"Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Yesterday (Monday) snow fell heavily here. However, a goodly number of the admirers of the gun put in an appearance, the attraction being the pigeon-shooting match between Mr. *J. Hingsley*, of Darlaston, and Mr. *J. Blewett*, of Willenhall, who shot at fifteen pigeons each, from five traps five yards apart, 25 yards rise, and 60 yards fall, double guns, the use of both barrels, to find birds and trap against each other. The match, notwithstanding the smallness of the stake (£20), created a great amount of excitement amongst the Black Country knights of the trigger. *Blewett* was the most fancied, and prior to the first bird being trapped the betting was evens, *Blewett* for choice. *Hingsley*, to the surprise of the *Blewettites*, on going on brought

down six right off the reel, when the quotations were £10 to £5 on *Hingsley*. Mr. Blewett, on the other hand, performed very indifferently by missing his first four birds, this owing probably to his gun, which was a total stranger to him, but after getting used to it he greatly improved, but too late. Mr. *Hingsley*, 11 out of 15; Mr. Blewett, 9 out of 15.”

1891 Census

5, Cock Street – ROSE AND CROWN

[1] *Joseph Hingley* (34), boat builder and beer retailer, born Dudley;

[2] *Lucy Hingley* (37), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] *Lucy Ash* (16), niece, born Willenhall;

[4] *Louisa Fisher* (22), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

Lucy Hingley, ROSE AND CROWN, Cock Street.....

All these were for six days.”

Wednesbury Herald 26/1/1895

“Through the instrumentality of Messrs. *John Wood* and J. Sirdifield, about 60 old men and women were, on Thursday night, entertained to an excellent dinner of roast beef and roast and boiled mutton, at the ROSE AND CROWN INN which was well catered for by the Host and Hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Wood*).....”

Wednesbury Herald 28/2/1895

“On Thursday evening the first annual dinner in connection with the Mason Cycling Club was held at the headquarters, ROSE AND CROWN INN, Cock Street. After justice had been done to the good things provided, the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony. Mr. Joseph Smith was voted to the chair and Mr. W. Molineux to the vice-chair. Members and friends numbering about 30 were present. Mr. J. G. Wood, the secretary, read the report, which was very satisfactory. Mr. George Amos was the pianist, and rendered several marches at intervals. The vocalists, who contributed capital songs, were Mr. Levi Walleth (comedian), who undoubtedly added to the enjoyment of the evening, Messrs. Hampton, Foulkes, Smith jun, Dixon, Holmes, Molineux, and others.”

1901 Census

5, Cock Street

[1] *John Wood* (36), beerhouse keeper, born Brierley Hill;

[2] *Mary A. Wood* (35), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Justina Wood* (9), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Jack Wood* (5), son, born Darlaston;

[5] *William Wood* (2), son, born Darlaston;

[6] *Polly Wood* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[7] *Elizabeth A. Proverbs* (21), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Sarah A. Tracy* (16), nurse, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Leader 20/7/1901

“N.U.O. Free Gardeners. Darlaston and Willenhall District.

A special meeting of Engine Lodge, No.1709, was held on Wednesday evening at the ROSE AND CROWN, Cock Street, Darlaston, to present testimonials to Bros. George Phillips, E. Bayley, J. Powell, and T. Cunningham, for long service to the Lodge. Upwards of 30 sat down to an excellent repast, provided by Mr. and Mrs. *Wood*.....

After the cloth was drawn Mr. A. U. Yardley was voted to the chair. He remarked that he was pleased to be with them to assist in giving honour to whom honour was due, and to help to forward the good work friendly societies were engaged in for the benefit of working men in times of sickness and distress. He was pleased to hear of their progress, and wished them success in their efforts. He then gave the loyal toasts.....”

John Wood – see also WHITE LION.

Walsall Advertiser 6/6/1903 - Advert

“Sale by Messrs. Belcher and Son.

1901. M. No.2297. In the High Court of Justice. Chancery Division. Mr. Justice Byrne.

Mills v Slater.

Valuable Freehold Properties, consisting of....

In the Parish of Darlaston.....

Two Old-Established Beerhouses, known as the ROSE AND CROWN in Cock Street, and the RAILWAY TAVERN at James Bridge.....”

Eli Taylor, beer retailer, 5, Cock Street. [1904]

1911 Census

5, Cock Street – ROSE AND CROWN

[1] James Basnett Parker (39), born Wednesbury;

[2] *Hannah Parker* (42), wife, married 4 years, innkeeper, born Swan Village;

[3] Annie Taylor (20), step-daughter, born Tipton;

[4] Martha Taylor (19), step-daughter, born Tipton;

[5] Alice Maud Taylor (14), step-daughter, born Tipton;

[6] Harold Taylor (10), step-son, school, born West Bromwich:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 29/11/1924

“Mr. and Mrs. *J. Parker*, of the ROSE AND CROWN, High Street, Darlaston, invited a number of their friends to supper on Wednesday evening, and an appetising repast was provided, which was fully enjoyed by the guests. A concert was subsequently held, over which Mr. Bould presided. Some excellent singing was heard, Mr. Jabez Howl rendering ‘The Wolf,’ and ‘In Happy Moments.’ He also joined with Mr. Bould in the duet ‘Excelsior,’ while Mr. A. Burras gave a humorous item, ‘Love, Marriage and Divorce.’ Mr. Bould and Mr. Bob Tilley contributed to the programme, the latter being the accompanist.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 5/12/1925

“A meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held at the ROSE AND CROWN, High Street, Darlaston, on Tuesday afternoon, when Alderman J. H. Sheldon presided.....”

Walsall Observer 13/2/1926

“On the ground of redundancy three licenses – the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, the Leys; the ROSE AND CROWN, High Street and the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green – were objected to at the Darlaston Brewster Sessions on Wednesday.....

Alderman Yardley announced that all the licenses would be renewed except those of the DUKE OF WELLINGTON, the Leys; the ROSE AND CROWN, High Street, and the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, which, on the grounds of redundancy, would be referred to the adjourned licensing sessions on March 10.”

Walsall Observer 13/3/1926

“Alleging redundancy, the police objected to the renewal of three Darlaston licenses at the adjourned Brewster Sessions for that town, held on Wednesday.....

An ante-'69 house, the ROSE AND CROWN, High Street, was next considered, Mr. P. Slater appearing for the owners, Messrs. W. Butler & Co., and the licensee.

Withing 500 yards, said Police-inspector Willetts, were 19 fully-licensed houses, 27 'on' licensed beerhouses, and three 'off' licensed houses.

Handing in figures of the trade, Mr. Slater said that if the Bench decided to refer the license he would deal with the issue in full at Stafford.....

In all three cases the question of renewing the licenses was referred to the Compensation Authority.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/7/1926

“No fewer than 34 licensed premises were scheduled for consideration at the Principal Meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday. In 23 cases the authority decided to refer licenses for compensation, four were renewed, and the remaining seven were adjourned to be dealt with on July 12.....

The following licenses were referred for compensation.....

ROSE AND CROWN, Darlaston.”

[Nothing further than this was reported.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/7/1926 - Notice

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 28th day of June and the 12th day of July, 1926, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

ROSE AND CROWN, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Hannah Parker*. Registered Owner, W. Butler and Co. Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/12/1926

“The Licensing Committee for the County have fixed the following sums as compensation in the case of licences, the renewal of which was refused at the Principal meeting of the authority at Stafford, on June 28 and July 12 last.....

ROSE AND CROWN, Darlaston, ante '69 beerhouse, £1,075.”

It closed on 31st December 1926.

ROSE AND CROWN

9, (4), High Street, (4, Moxley), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Samuel Baggott
Samuel Whitmore
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Samuel Baggott [1852] – [1861]
Samuel Baggott [1871] – **1872**);

Leah Baggott (1872 – 1874);
Leah Green (1874);
John Young (1874 – 1875);
Samuel Whitmore (1875);
Mrs. Elizabeth Bromley (1875 – 1880);
Charles Branson (1880 – 1881);
George Broomhall (1881 – 1886);
William Jones (1886 – 1887);
Samuel Whitmore (1887 – 1888);
Simeon Archer (1888 – 1898);
Arthur McKenzie Melton (1898);
Frederick William Palfrey (1898 – 1899);
Abraham Atkiss (1899 – 1906);
William Edwards (1906 – 1911);
Edward Cholmondeley (1911 – 1924);
Jabez Wilson Baker (1924 – 1927);
Joseph Albert Skinner (1927 – 1928);
William Latimer Hadley (1928 – 1931);
Elisha Egginton (1931 – 1932);
Thomas Hawkins (1932 – [1942])
Ruth Helen Hadley [] – 1966);
Edna May Bytheway (1966 – [])

NOTES

4, Moxley [1871], [1873]
4, High Street [1881]
High Street [1884], [1911], [1932]
9, High Street [1940]

Samuel Baggott = Samuel Baggot = Samuel Bagot

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Mr. Underhill applied on behalf of Mr. *Samuel Baggott* for a house at the entrance to Moxley, near the Gas House, stating that there were only three licensed house in Moxley, and no license had been granted in that place for a considerable number of years, whilst there had been a great increase of population, thirty-one houses having been built in Moxley within the last twelve months. In addition to these there had been erected, since the last license was granted, sixty-four houses, making altogether, ninety-five additional houses. There were 2,750 inhabitants.

Mr. Hayes opposed on behalf of Mr. Timothy Goodman, of the MOXLEY TAVERN, on the ground that there was no necessity for another licensed house in that particular part of Moxley.

Mr. Hayes supported an application made by Mrs. Tart, for a license to a house in the centre of Moxley, and in the most populous part of the village. The present population of Moxley was between 2,000 and 3,000, and no fresh license had been granted since the population was only 300, so that there had been an increase of more than 2,000 inhabitants since the last license was granted.

Mr. Underhill opposed Mrs. Hart's [sic] application on behalf of Mrs. Wells, of the SWAN, on the ground that Mrs. Tart's house was within twenty or twenty-five yards of Timothy Goodman's house.

The application of Mrs. Tart was granted. That of Mr. *Baggott* was refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/7/1854

“At Bilston Petty Sessions, on Tuesday last, Thomas Pearce, the keeper of a house of ill-fame in Bilston, was committed for stealing a fowl of a Polish breed from Mr. *Samuel Baggott*, of the ROSE AND CROWN, Moxley.”

AND

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Pearce was acquitted on the charge of stealing a chicken, at Bilston, the property of Mr. *Bagot*. Prisoner said he found the chicken, and was prepared to give it up when he discovered the owner.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1854

“The annual meeting of Magistrates for granting and renewing publican’s licenses in the parish of Bilston and Sedgley was held on Friday last, in the Bilston Police Court.....

There were eleven applications for new licenses which were disposed of as follows.....

Mr. Hall, in making an application on behalf of Mr. Whitmore, of the ENGINEERS ARMS, Moxley, said that the neighbourhood was an increasing one, that large gas works had recently been put up, and almost palatial buildings had been raised there.

Mr. Underhill opposed for Mr. *S. Baggot* of the CROWN AND CUSHION [sic] and Mr. J. Ruberry, of the MOXLEY TAVERN, Moxley, and said that the only house at Moxley which had any pretention to the character of a palatial residence was that occupied by the Emperor of Moxley, Mr. Wells. (Laughter.) Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

“The Annual Licensing Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and the adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

Mr. Underhill applied on behalf of William Whitmore, for a license to the SPREAD EAGLE beershop, at Moxley. The house, he said, was erected for the purposes of the trade. The premises were commodious, had a large yard at the back, and stabling for ten or twelve horses had been provided. The house was situate close to the Gas Works, and although it appeared to be near to a house already licensed, the locality demanded extended accommodation. The nearest house was from 30 to 40 yards distant, and the applicant’s house was not, as had been represented, smaller than that of the person who, through Mr. Hayes, opposed the application, but larger. The population of the locality in which the house stood had greatly increased, and a number of new houses were now in course of erection near to the applicant’s house.

Mr. Hayes opposed the application, and in doing so called the attention of the Bench to the fact that three years ago a license was granted to a house occupied by Mrs. Tart, only a short distance from the SPREAD EAGLE, and two years ago Mr. *Baggott*, who lived only four or five doors from Mr. Whitmore, obtained a license. He thought the Magistrates, therefore, would consider another licensed house unrequired. There were already seven public houses in Moxley, and the applicant had been twice fined as a beershop keeper. The Magistrates declined to grant the license.”

Birmingham Journal 13/12/1856

“On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the ROSE AND CROWN, Moxley, before T. M. Phillips, Esq, coroner, on the body of William Hargrove Richards, seven years old, who died on the 7th instant, from the effects of severe burning. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday last.....

Applications for new licenses.....

Mr. Waterhouse applied on behalf of Mr. William Whitmore, of Moxley, for a license for the SPREAD EAGLE public house, of which the latter is the owner and occupier. Mr. Waterhouse stated that he made the appeal with considerable confidence, feeling certain, from the evidence which he should submit, that the Bench would deal favourably with the application. Some few years ago, said Mr. Waterhouse, two houses were erected at Moxley for the purpose of being used as public houses, one the house of the present applicant, and the other occupied by Mr. *Baggott*. Both Mr. *Baggott* and Mr. Whitmore applied for licenses at the same time, but for some reason the Magistrates at the last annual licensing meeting thought fit to grant Mr.

Baggott a license in preference to Mr. Whitmore. Since the last application was made the population in that neighbourhood had very much increased, forty-one new houses having been erected in the immediate vicinity of the applicant's house. Eighteen of those newly-built houses were the property of Mr. Whitmore, all of them being substantial houses, and several of them were large and commodious shops.

Mr. E. J. Hayes opposed for Mr. *Baggott* and Mr. Roberts, both of whom are occupiers of licensed houses in the immediate neighbourhood. Mr. Hayes contended that no stronger argument in favour of the application had been adduced than was shown at the last meeting. This was the sixth or seventh application which had been made by Mr. Whitmore, and the magistrates had invariably refused to entertain it. It was true that a few houses had been recently erected in that neighbourhood, but there was already ample accommodation afforded for the increased population by the houses of the two opposing publicans. The application was refused.”

Birmingham Journal 29/1/1859 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Land and Gardens, with the Erections Thereon, and the Ungotten Mines and Minerals Thereunder, situate at Moxley, near Bilston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Friday, the 18th day of February, 1859, at Six ‘clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Samuel Baggott*, the ROSE AND CROWN INN, at Moxley aforesaid.....”

1861 Census

Holly Head Road – ROSE AND CROWN INN

- [1] *Samuel Baggott* (57), innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] Sarah Baggott (63), wife, born Kings Norton;
- [3] *Samuel Baggott* (25), son, joiner, born Bilston;
- [4] Sarah Tafft (16), general servant, born Bilston:

Sarah Baggott died in the 2nd quarter of 1861.

Samuel Baggott (58), widower, victualler, married *Leah* Fullwood (53), widow, on 24th December 1861.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/1/1862 - Marriages

“On the 24th ultimo, at Brewood, by the Rev. A. B. Haden, Mr. *Samuel Baggott*, of Moxley, near Bilston, to Mrs. *Leah* Fullwood, widow of the late Mr. Emanuel Fullwood, of Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/12/1862

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Moxley, before Mr. W. H. Phillips, deputy coroner, on the body of a male infant found in the ‘Fiery Holes’ on Sunday. It appeared, from a post mortem examination made by Mr. Hancox, that the child was still-born, and verdict to that effect was returned. The birth was premature.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1864

“Elias Cartwright, William Hammond, and Moses Martin, three puddlers, and, so far as their physiognomies went, not very favourable specimens of their class, were, on Saturday, brought up on remand at the West Bromwich Police Court, on the charge of having committed a brutal and cowardly assault upon Police-constable Fairbanks. The officer, who, judging from the injuries visible on his head and face, seemed to have been seriously maltreated, deposed that on the previous Monday night he had been sent for to the house of Mr. *Baggott*, the ROSE AND CROWN, to expel Hammond, who had been misconducting himself there. After he had got him outside he was knocked down and savagely kicked by the brutal ruffians, who would have probably murdered him had not a young man come to his assistance. The latter, named Thomas Brown, with the landlord of the house, having given corroborative evidence, Inspector Phair stated that Hammond and Martin had been previously in trouble. Having, in the first instance, endeavoured to brazen out the charge by asking the witnesses whether they were not ashamed to swear to the facts stated by them, the cowardly vagabonds fell back on the plea of having been ‘fresh.’ This did not avail them, and they were severely sentenced. Hammond and Martin to pay a fine of 40s each, including costs, and in default six weeks’ imprison-

ment, and Cartwright to a penalty of 20s, including expenses, or three weeks to hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1865 - Advert

“To be Let, a Blacksmith’s and Wheelwright’s Shop, together or separately. In full work. Tools to be taken to at a valuation.

Apply to *S. Baggott*, ROSE AND CROWN, Moxley.”

Samuel Baggott gave evidence in the trial, held at Wolverhampton Police Court on 28th March 1866, of John White and John Thompson, regarding a scandalous and defamatory libel concerning William Riley Taylor, surveyor to the Township Commissioners of Bilston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/6/1866

“At the County Court, on Monday, the Judge (A. M. Skinner, Esq, QC) gave judgement in a case heard before him on Saturday.

The plaintiff, *Samuel Baggott*, publican, of Moxley, sued John Plant, of the same place, for £6 15s 6d. Defendant’s wife was the ‘Noble Grand Chairwoman’ of a sick and funeral club, called the Reformed Order of Odd Women, which until recently held its meetings at defendant’s house. The funds, however, were not considerable, and Mr. *Baggott* lent to Mrs. Plant from time to time on behalf of the society the sum of £6 15s 6d. Subsequently the exchequer again became empty, and money was required to bury a deceased sister, and pay the doctor’s bill. Application was again made to the plaintiff for another loan, this time of £13. He, however, refused to advance that sum, because the first loan had not been paid, and therefore the members of the club showed their resentment by moving to the house of a rival publican. The plaintiff subsequently applied on several occasions for the repayment of his money, but without success. He then applied for advice to Mr. Waterhouse, solicitor, who, finding that the club was not enrolled, decided to sue the husband of the ‘Noble Grand’ individually for the debt which his wife, as the head of the society, had contracted.

The defendant admitted that his wife was a member of the society, and that she occupied the dignified position of chief officer. He further confessed that if anything had happened to the Noble Grand he should have claimed the benefits which by the rules of the club he would have been entitled to receive; but at the same time he could not see why he should be called upon to pay the whole of the society’s debts.

The Judge said no doubt it was a hard case that defendant should be made wholly responsible, and as he had no solicitor to appear for him he would take his time to consider his judgement. On Monday, his Honour, in giving his decision, said he should be obliged to make an order upon the defendant; but he thought that it was only fair that the whole of the society should pay. He would therefore make an order for payment in three months, so that the members might have time to subscribe the amount claimed.”

Samuel Baggott died in the 4th quarter of 1869.

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 11/12/1869 - Adverts

“Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, Building Land, &c. Tuesday Next, December 14.

Mr. T. Skidmore has been favoured with instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. *Samuel Baggott*, to Sell by Auction, at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Moxley, at Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions of sale to be then produced – the following undermentioned Freehold Properties, in the following or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of Sale.

Lot 1. All that well-frequented Old-licensed Freehold Corner Public House, called the ROSE AND CROWN, late in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Baggott*, deceased, with the small Dwelling House adjoining, situated at Moxley, near Bilston, on the Birmingham and Wolverhampton Road, and having a frontage of 11 yards, and 44 yards depth to an intended new Street, the whole containing, with the sites of the buildings, 484 square yards of Land, or thereabouts.

The Public House contains Tap Room, Parlour, Kitchen, Bar, Club Room, 48 feet long, two Bed Rooms, large Attic, four capital arched Cellars; Brewhouse with Malt-room over, Wash-house, two Stables, Coach-house, Petties, Pigstyes, large Yard with Entrance Gates; Soft Water Pump with large Cistern; all conveniently arranged, having been built expressly for the public business.

The small House adjoining contains Kitchen, Bed Room, Attic, and Cellar.

Lot 2. All those Freehold Premises, comprising Wheelwright's Shop, with Paint Shop over; Blacksmith's Shop, with three Hearths; Shoeing Forge, Stable, with Loft; large Yard, having a frontage of 24yds 1ft 6in to Hartshorn Street, leading out of High Street, Bilston, and containing, with the site of the Buildings, 372 square yards or thereabouts, in the occupation of J. Conway, Wheelwright, and producing, at a low rental, £12 per annum.

Plans may be seen, and particulars obtained upon application to Mr. J. E. Fellows, Solicitor, Oxford Street, Bilston; or to the Auctioneer, 2, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton."

AND

"ROSE AND CROWN INN, Moxley, near Bilston.

Unreserved Sale of Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, and Public House Effects, on the Premises as above, on Thursday and Friday Next, December 16 and 17.

Mr. Thomas Skidmore has received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. *Samuel Baggott*, to Sell by Auction the whole of the useful Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, and Public House Effects, comprising set of tent Bedsteads, Palliasses, Blankets, Quilts, Washstands and Tables, Toilet Glasses, Carpets, mahogany hair-seated Chairs, mahogany-framed Sofas, Chimney Fenders, Fireirons, 150 gallon wrought iron Boiler, 120 gallon ditto, 14 bushel Mash Tub, pair Vats, 8ft 6in by 3ft; 32 feet lead Piping and brass Tap, Mash Rule, and Ladder, waterworks Piping and 5 Taps, 30 prime cooperage made and other Barrels, from 18 to 300 gallons; large oval Coolers, large Receiving Tub, Round and Gathering Tubs, 10 Spirit Casks, capital 4-pull Ale Machine, Piping and Barrel Taps, 5 Spirit Barrels, pewter Measures, Jugs, Cups, Glasses, Decanters, Spirit Cruet, patent Coin Detector, Tap Table, two Drawers, metal top; ditto, ditto; Sofa, covered with leather; Windsor Chairs, Arm Chairs, glass Shelves, gauze Blinds, Drinking Tables, wood Benches, Seating round Tap Room, capital mahogany-framed Bagatelle Board, slate bottom, 11ft 6in by 4ft, with balls, cues, and marking Board; Knives and Forks, Spittoons, Pipe Racks, Dinner Ware, Malt Crusher, Tables with trestles, 20½ Bushels of Malt, two Pockets of Sussex and Worcester Hops, quantity of Ale, Wines, and Spirits, 2-knife Chaff Engine, Hay Racks, Corn Chests, capital Dog Cart, with Seats and Cushions; set of brass-mounted Pony Harness, Horse Collar, with numerous other Effects.

Sale punctually each day at Eleven o'clock am.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale; at the Offices of Mr. J. E. Fellows, Solicitor, Oxford Street, Bilston; or from the Auctioneer, 2, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/12/1869 - Advert

"By T. Skidmore, at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Moxley. This Day, at Seven pm.

Freehold, Old-Licensed corner Public House, the ROSE AND CROWN, at Moxley, and Freehold Premises, Hartshorn Street, Bilston."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/12/1869 - Advert

"By Thomas Skidmore, at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Moxley, near Bilston, This Day and Tomorrow, at Eleven am.

Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, and Public House Effects, Stock of Malt, Hops, Wines, Spirits, &c."

1871 Census

4, Moxley – ROSE AND CROWN INN

[1] *Samuel Baggott* (31), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Elizabeth Nash (16), born Bilston;

[3] Sarah Griffiths (21), born Bilston:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/11/1871

"Pigeon Shooting. To be shot for at Mr. *S. Baggott's*, the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Moxley, on Monday, November 13, a fat pig, value £5, by 20 members, at 5s each, handicapped from 17 to 21 yards rise and 60 yards fall, 1¼oz of shot, guns not to exceed ¾in bore, 3 birds each, the winner to take the pig or money. Shooting to commence at 1 o'clock."

Samuel Baggott died in 1872.

Leah Baggott (64), widow, married *Samuel Green* (58), widower, mine surveyor, on 30th October 1873.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/7/1874 - Advert

“Wanted, a General Servant; age from 20 to 30.
Apply, ROSE AND CROWN, Moxley, near Bilston.”

1881 Census

4, High Street

- [1] *George Broomhall* (44), platelayer, born Wrenbury, Cheshire;
- [2] *Mary Ann Broomhall* (42), wife, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Mail 29/3/1887

“At Wednesbury, today, *William Jones*, of the ROSE AND CROWN, Moxley, was fined £10 for allowing drunkenness in his house, and 10s for being drunk; his license not being endorsed because the defendant had given up possession. The police made three visits to the house one night and found the defendant, his wife, mother-in-law, step-son, and other persons drunk, and much quarrelling going on. A warrant was issued for the wife, who had been summoned, but did not appear.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/4/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, a Stamper.
Apply, *Simeon Archer*, ROSE AND CROWN INN, Moxley, any evening after six o’clock.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/11/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, good General Servant; good character indispensable.
Apply, ROSE AND CROWN INN, Moxley.”

1891 Census

High Street

- [1] *Simeon Archer* (32), fitter, steam engine maker, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Eliza Archer* (28), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Samuel W. Archer* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *William F. Archer* (1), son, born Bilston;
- [5] *Simeon Archer* (71), father, widower, retired blacksmith, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Sarah Rudge* (18), domestic servant, born Warrington:

Dudley Herald 15/1/1898 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, Capitalists & others.

Important Sale of Fully-licensed Properties in Walsall, Bilston, Moxley, and Tipton.

To be Sold by Auction by Messrs. Bill & Son, on Monday the 24th day of January, 1898 at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, at Six for Seven o’clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. The very valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Public House known as the ROSE AND CROWN, situate at Moxley, on the main road from Wolverhampton to Birmingham, together with the bowling green and small model brewery at the rear, now for the last 10 years in the occupation of Mr. *Archer*. The property, which is in a splendid state of repair, is fairly worth a rental of £60, and must rapidly increase in value. Together with the dwelling house adjoining, let at a weekly rentals producing £10 8s per annum. The ROSE AND CROWN is a well-known calling house, does a large trade all the year round, and altogether forms a most desirable property.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/10/1898 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable Young Girl, about 15, to assist with two children and light housework.
Apply, ROSE AND CROWN, Moxley.”

1901 Census

High Street

- [1] *Abraham Atkiss* (39), licensed victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Lois Atkiss* (40), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *May Atkiss* (12), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Lillie Bunn* (27), sister-in-law, barmaid, born Quarry Bank:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/6/1901

“Forestry at Moxley.

Court Star of the Forest 3655 held their 40th anniversary at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Moxley, when about 40 members and friends sat down. Bro. W. Wright, DCR, occupied the chair, and Bro. Small, DSCR, the vice-chair. Letters of apology were received from Mr. Walford Green, MP, Rev. Vosper Thomas, Dr. Magrane, Messrs. James Slater, E. Horton, &c. ‘The King,’ ‘The Lodge,’ &c, having been honoured the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony, and an excellent programme was gone through by the following gentlemen: Messrs. W. Rubery, Evans, Spittle, Smith, W. Mansell, Hayward, and Blincoe. A vote of thanks was accorded the chairman.”

Abraham Atkiss was also a painter of Darlaston Road. [1904]

1911 Census

High Street – ROSE AND CROWN

- [1] *Edward Cholmondeley* (50), iron worker, born Bilston;
- [2] *Emily Cholmondeley* (51), wife, married 28 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Bernard Cholmondeley* (21), son, publican, born Bilston;
- [4] *Walter Cholmondeley* (15), son, iron worker, born Bilston;
- [5] *Harry Cholmondeley* (12), son, school, born Bilston:

It had a bowling club. [1929]

Thomas Hawkins was the auditor for Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers’ and Beer Retailers’ Friendly and Protection Society. [1934]

1939 Register

9, High Street – ROSE AND CROWN

- [1] *Thomas Hawkins*, date of birth 27/12/1885, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Edith A. Hawkins*, dob 20/10/1887, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Arthur T. Hawkins*, dob 27/8/1916, radio engineer, single;
- [4] *Edith H. (Hawkins) Riseley*, dob 4/7/1923, at school, single:

Walsall Observer 7/11/1942 - Engagements

“The Engagement was announced on October 31, 1942, between Arthur Thomas (R.A.F.V.R.), only son of Mr. and Mrs. *T. Hawkins*, ROSE AND CROWN, Moxley, and Marjorie Lorraine, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Dainty ‘Pendenis,’ Cannock.”

Walsall Observer 24/12/1942

“Walsall Licensed Victuallers’ Society. The Duke of Gloucester’s Red Cross Fund.

Donations *T. Hawkins*, ROSE AND CROWN INN, High Street, Moxley, near Wednesbury, assisted several members with gifts.”

Walsall Observer 15/1/1944

“Walsall Licensed Victuallers’ Society.

Appeal on Behalf of the Merchant Navy Fund, The Duke of Gloucester’s Red Cross Fund, and The Aid to China Fund.

List of Subscriptions.....

ROSE AND CROWN INN, High Street, Moxley. £1 1s 0d.”

ROSE AND PUNCHBOWL

Cramphill Bank, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Childs [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

ROUGH HAY TAVERN

Rough Hay Road, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.

Frank Myatt Ltd. [1947]

LICENSEES

Garnet Wesley Cornwell (1937);

Charles Gordon Lewis (1937 – 1938);

David Davis (1938 – 1944);

John ‘Jack’ Perry (1944 – 1947);

John Whitehouse (1947 – 1949);

Wilfred Peake (1949 – 1952);

Leslie Leopold Freedman (1952 – 1953);

Albert Green (1953 – 1957);

Leslie Alfred Whitehouse (1957 – 1961);

Louisa Charlotte Mills (1961 – 1966);

John Thomas Dutton (1966 – [1967])

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/3/1936

“At the adjourned licensing sessions at Darlaston yesterday.....

The Justices approved an application on behalf of the Holt Brewery Co. for the removal of the license of the BOAT INN, Hurst Hill, Bilston, to new premises proposed to be erected in Rough Hay Road, Darlaston, to be known as the ROUGH HAY TAVERN. It was stated that the company were prepared to surrender the license of the WOODMANS INN, Blakemores Lane, and an off-license, Catherines Cross.”

It opened on 19th May 1937, with the license from the BOAT, Hurst Hill, Coseley.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/7/1938

“Wedding at St. Martin’s, Birmingham, yesterday, of Mr. *Garnet W. Cornwell*, outside manager of the Holt Brewery Co., and Miss Edna Hawkesford, of Selly Oak, Birmingham.”

Rugeley Times 22/7/1939

“At the monthly meeting of the Walsall Licensed Victuallers Society, held on Thursday, at ROUGH HAY TAVERN, Darlaston, there was a good attendance of members.....

Commander Neate, of the National Trade Defence Association, gave an interesting address on general licensing trade questions, and thanks were tendered to him.....”

1939 Register

Rough Hay Road – ROUGH HAY TAVERN

[1] *David Davis*, date of birth 4/9/1890, licensed manager, married;

[2] Elizabeth Davis, dob 18/1/1891, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Walsall Observer 7/12/1940

“Walsall Licensed Victuallers’ Society.

Motor Ambulance Effort on behalf of Walsall and District branch of the British Red Cross Society.

First List of Subscriptions.....

ROUGH HAY TAVERN, Rough Hay Road, Darlaston, £2 5s 0d.”

Walsall Observer 1/3/1941 - Advert

“Wanted, at once, Bar-General, or Girl willing to learn, good home and top wages paid.

Apply, *David Davis*, ROUGH HAY ROAD TAVERN, Darlaston.”

Walsall Observer 16/8/1941

“Motor Ambulance Effort on behalf of Walsall and District Division of the British Red Cross Society.

Third List Of Subscriptions.....

ROUGH HAY TAVERN, Rough Hay Road (second donation). £2 15s 0d.”

Walsall Observer 15/1/1944

“Walsall Licensed Victuallers’ Society.

Appeal on Behalf of the Merchant Navy Fund, The Duke of Gloucester’s Red Cross Fund, and The Aid to China Fund.

List of Subscriptions.....

ROUGH HAY TAVERN, Darlaston. £5 0s 0d.”

Jack Perry was known as “The Mad ‘Un” due to his fiery temper.

John Whitehouse was married to May Irene.

He died in 1949.

Plans were approved for alterations on 8th June 1967.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1968

“King, a two-year-old Alsatian watchdog, was taken into Walsall Magistrates Court yesterday and sat quietly while the justices passed on him a suspended death sentence. King’s owner, Mrs. Patricia *Sutton*, wife of the licensee of the ROUGH HAY TAVERN, Darlaston, agreed to an order being made that she should keep the dog under proper control. Her husband, who brought the dog on a lead into the court-room at the request of the magistrates, was told that if the animal got into further trouble it would undoubtedly have to be destroyed. King killed a poodle and later attacked another dog.”

[1983]

Closed

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/10/1986

“Bilston firemen dealt with a fire which caused smoke damage to rooms at the ROUGH HAY TAVERN in Rough Hay Road, Darlaston. The pub was unoccupied and boarded-up to await refurbishment.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/2/1988

“Plans to transform a disused Walsall pub into a community centre, with help from a £70,000 grant, will be discussed by a council committee next month. This follows a survey carried out by Rough Hay Community Association. Under the proposals the ROUGH HAY TAVERN would be arranged and refurbished to suit the needs of everyone from pensioners to toddlers.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/11/1990

“A vandal-hit former Walsall pub which could have become a community centre may soon be bulldozed – because of lack of cash. The ROUGH HAY TAVERN, Darlaston – to be bought by Walsall council for £60,000 – had been earmarked for possible conversion to a community centre. But a council report said there was unlikely to be enough cash available for the £185,000 conversion of the eyesore building about which many local residents have complained. Councillors will discuss the dilemma at tomorrow night’s meeting of the policy and resources committee.”

Demolished

ROYAL EXCHANGE

89, The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Lydia Lucas, 89, The Green, Darlaston

Twists Brewery Ltd. [1951]

Atkinsons Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Powis [1848]

Samuel Johnson [1860] – [1862]

Henry Ashley [1871]

Noah Hingley [1879] – [1884]

Mrs. Emma Hingley [1886]

Joseph Spink [1889] – [1891]
George Lucas [1901] – **1941**);
Lydia Lucas (**1941 – 1942**);
Simeon Guest (**1942 – 1957**);
Leslie Arthur Best (**1957 – 1962**);
George Cheshire (**1962 – [1967]**)

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1848

“*James Powis*, landlord of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, at Darlaston, was charged by Major M’Knight with allowing a play to be acted on his premises, entitled ‘Jack Shephard,’ not being duly licensed. It appeared that on Wednesday night, the 3rd instant, police constables Keen and Myatt were on duty, and they went to a booth which was erected in the defendant’s yard, and saw a play, entitled ‘Jack Shephard,’ performed. They went to the defendant, and told him about the complaints they had received from different persons against him and the showmen. The defendant said he would speak to the showmen about it, but he had let the ground for two months, and the performers must have a living some where, as they had a large family. On Monday last, when the defendant was served with the summons, he said he could not get the showmen away until the two months were up. Mr. Golcher proved that when the booth was being erected the defendant was present, and had it put up close to the back part of his house; he had also seen ale drunk upon the stage. The rabble which congregated there frequently prevented him from having a road in and out of his own yard. The defendant said he had nothing to do with the booth, nor was he present when the play was performed. He had only let the ground to them.

The Bench informed him under the old law he would have been liable to a very heavy penalty, but a recent act reduced that penalty to £20; and as they had power to mitigate to one fourth, they should fine him £5 and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1860

“To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Magistrates and Chief-constable have deemed it their duty to take steps to put a stop to it. There can be no doubt that such steps have been adopted with due care. The police, after going round in their uniform and finding that they could not thus detect publicans in allowing the offence, recourse was had to sending constables round in private clothes yesterday about twenty-three summonses were returnable. The Magistrates expressed a very strong opinion upon the subject, and marked by the severity of the fines their sense of the importance of the movement, and the determination they had come to put down practices which had so corrupt and demoralising an influence upon the community. The following cases were heard.....

Samuel Johnson, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, was charged with allowing ‘nick and brick’ and ‘push penny’ on two different occasions, the first on the 26th of March, and the latter on the 27th of March. Police-constable Hollis proved the cases, the latter being taken part in by defendant. Mr. Sheldon said the only defence he had was that his client was ignorant that he was doing wrong. Fined 40s and costs in each case, total £4 10s. In the course of the hearing of these cases, Mr. Leigh made some observations condemnatory of the practice of publicans and beerhouse keepers throwing all sorts of attractions and blandishments around their houses with the view of inducing husbands and sons to go and spend their time and money, and neglect the duties of life – the maintenance of their wives and families, and the other obligations which devolved upon them. It would be absurd to inflict light fines.....”

1861 Census

Green – EXCHANGE

[1] *Samuel Johnson* (26), publican (crossed out), retail brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] Nancy Johnson (26), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah Johnson (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Richard Johnson (2), son, born Darlaston;

[5] Mary Ann Johnson (1), daughter, born Darlaston:

Samuel Johnson, retailer of beer, the Green. [1862]

1871 Census

The Green – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] *Henry Ashley* (41), bricklayer and beerhouse keeper, born Lichfield;

[2] *Mary Ashley* (39), wife, dressmaker, born Darlaston;

[3] *Mary Bird* (71), mother-in-law, widow, born Darlaston;

[4] *Ellen Gotheridge* (21), cousin, domestic servant, born Lichfield;

[5] *Ann Robinson* (15), niece, domestic servant, born Burton on Trent:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/7/1872

“A large meeting of ironworkers was held on Monday, at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Darlaston Green, principally with reference to the five-heat question. Mr. Morgan presided.

Mr. Thomas Ray said the workmen at Darlaston Green had been working five heats per turn for some weeks past, but it appeared, at the recent meeting of masters, it was resolved that the six-heat system should be adhered to; first, because the masters’ contracts were made up to December, on the present basis; and, secondly, because the adoption of the five-heat system would cause a great waste of fuel, and, as he understood from one of their representatives at the Council, Mr. Aucott, the men were bound by the agreement to continue six heats until the end of the year, the present rate of wages being, in fact, based upon that understanding. He regretted that the question should have not been taken up until after the deputation had waited upon the employers, and should have been glad had a meeting of the ironworkers of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire been held to discuss it thoroughly before the conference took place. No doubt the ironworkers were as justly entitled to a reduction of the hours of labour as the men engaged in other trades; but the alteration should be brought about in a straightforward and honourable way, so that the trade should not in any way be injured, and he could not too strongly impress upon his hearers that to be satisfactory where the five-heat system must be adopted throughout the United Kingdom. If it were not, the employers where the five-heat system was in vogue would never be able to compete in the market with those whose men were working six heats.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1873 - Advert

“Lost, a young white Bull-and-Terrier Dog, with a brown patch on left eye.

Anyone returning him to the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Darlaston Green, will be Rewarded.”

Wednesbury Herald 22/2/1879

“*Noah Hingley*, landlord of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Darlaston Green, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises. On the 8th inst, a little before eleven o’clock at night, Police-constable T. Steele visited the house kept by defendant. In the taproom he saw a man named Perry, sitting on a form, drunk. He asked the man to stand up, and in doing so he staggered against the table. Witness called the landlord’s attention to the condition of the man, asking him how he accounted for supplying the man with beer. The landlord said he did not know the man was drunk, or he would not have allowed the servant to fill him any ale.

In cross-examination, the constable said there was beer on the table, but there were other men in the room. The statement of the constable was denied and it was contended by Mr. Barrow, who appeared for the defendant, that the man had not been supplied with anything to drink. There were other men in the house, and the beer which was on the table was for them and not for the man Perry. Seeing that the constable would not state that defendant had drunk any beer, he asked the magistrate to give his client the benefit of the doubt and dismiss the case.

The magistrates inflicted a penalty of £1 and costs.”

1881 Census

89, The Green – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] *Noah Hingley* (44), publican, born Dudley;

[2] *Emma Hingley* (44), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Sarah Barnett (21), servant, born Princes End:

Darlaston Weekly Times 29/3/1884

“On Thursday, by special permission of the Grand Executive, a new lodge of the Order of Caledonian Corks was opened at Brother *Noah Hingley*’s, ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Darlaston. A procession was formed at the house of Brother Court, RED LION INN, the home of the chief Darlaston Lodge, and headed by a brass band, the members of the Order, wearing regalia, paraded the town, and finally halted at the lodge house, where the ceremony was performed in a very successful manner, and the proceedings closed with the usual social harmony, and vote of thanks to the presiding officers and visitors.”

Birmingham Mail 10/3/1885

“Yesterday a meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Darlaston Green, for the purpose of considering the position of affairs in the trade owing to a Darlaston employer declining to join the Masters’ Association, and his workpeople, about twenty-five in number, refusing to join the men’s association. Mr. J. Wood occupied the chair.

Mr. Juggins said he had to meet the employers in Birmingham that afternoon, to state what should be done in regard to the firm and workpeople who still held aloof. The employers stated that if these men could be brought out, and kept out until the firm joined the association, they would not enforce the reduction of 10 per cent; and was it at all reasonable that these twenty-five men should dictate the terms upon which thousands of men should work?

A resolution having been passed to take proceedings against the employer in respect of statements in his letter affecting certain men named by him, another resolution was passed to the effect that the meeting could not, in the strict sense of the term, regard Mr. Juggins as being an employer. It was also resolved to instruct Mr. Juggins to appeal to the employers, at their meeting to be held at the Queens Hotel, Birmingham, for a further extension of time before the 10 per cent reduction is enforced, as the association was still doing their best to get out the men.

A resolution was also passed condemning the action of the employer in obtaining the services of the police. After some discussion, a further resolution was passed, to the effect that the meeting instructed Mr. Juggins to ask the employers to prevail upon Mr. E. Horton, Mr. Keen, and Mr. Harley, with others, to wait upon the employer in question; and requested Mr. Granger and Mr. Haddleton to endeavour to arrange a meeting with the men in that gentleman’s employ, with the view of prevailing upon them to adhere to the society and the present movement.

In the afternoon Councillor Granger, Mr. Haddleton, and Mr. Juggins attended the meeting of employers which was being held in the Queens Hotel, Birmingham. After some conversation it was agreed by the employers present that the consideration of giving notice for a 10 per cent reduction in wages should be postponed till Thursday, the 19th instant. Hopes were expressed that by that date the few dissenting employers and workmen would have given their adhesion to the proposed scheme of the employers’ and workmen’s associations, and the necessity for the reduction in wages be thereby avoided.”

1885 Probate

“13 August. The Will of *Noah Hingley*, formerly of Addenbrooks Farm, near Willenhall, in the County of Stafford, Contractor, but late of 89 Darlaston Green, Darlaston, in the said County, Beer Retailer, who died 3 June 1885, at 89 Darlaston Green, was proved at Lichfield by Samuel Canlett of the WHITE SWAN INN, Pardoes Lane, Darlaston, Innkeeper, the surviving Executor. Personal Estate £107 14s 6d.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/9/1885 - Advert

“Found, a white Bull-terrier Bitch; will be sold in three days.
Apply, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Darlaston Green.”

Emma Hingley married *Joseph Spink* in the 2nd quarter of 1887.

Joseph Spink = Joseph Spinks

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1889 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted.

Apply, *Joseph Spink*, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Darlaston.”

1891 Census

89, The Green

[1] *Joseph Spink* (45), brewer and retail beer seller, born Darlaston;

[2] *Emma Spink* (55), wife, born Woodside, Dudley;

[3] Elizabeth Maybury (10), adopted daughter, scholar, born Bradley;

[4] Kate Wall (17), niece, domestic servant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1891

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Joseph Spink*, the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Darlaston Green, was summoned for threatening his wife, on the night of the 13th inst, and also for being drunk on licensed premises on the following morning. Mr. T. Green appeared for the complainant, and Mr. W. S. Smith for the defendant. The former said the complainant had kept the ROYAL EXCHANGE for about fourteen years, and since about four years ago, when she married the defendant, her life had been a most miserable one, her husband having habitually ill-treated her, and being very seldom sober. The particular offence charged under the first summons was that he entered his wife’s bedroom – she had slept apart from him for some time – in a drunken condition, and with a table-knife in his hand, with which he threatened to kill her. She called the servant, who took the knife from him. The complainant and her servant gave evidence to this effect; and the Bench ordered the defendant to be bound over, himself in £10, and two sureties in £5 each, to keep the peace for six months.

The police proved finding the defendant drunk in his house on the following morning, and for that offence he was fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment, with hard labour.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/12/1891

“*Joseph Spinks*, landlord of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, The Green, Darlaston, was charged with threatening to murder his wife, and also with being drunk on his licensed premises. On the 13th inst the defendant went to his house drunk and threatened to murder his wife by cutting off her head. He held a knife in his hand, which, with great difficulty, was taken from him by a servant girl. On the 14th inst he was found drunk on the licensed premises by Police-constable Johnson.

Mr. W. S. Smith defended, and said *Spinks* was sorry that he should have been guilty of such bad conduct. The magistrates ordered the defendant to find sureties to keep the peace for threatening his wife, and fined him 10s and costs – in all £2 5s – for the second offence.”

1901 Census

89, The Green, Darlaston

[1] *George Lucas* (32), beerseller, born Darlaston;

[2] *Lydia Lucas* (29), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *George Lucas* (5), son, born Darlaston;

[4] *May Coruso*, (6), orphan, born Darlaston;

[5] *Alice Lucas* (21), sister, domestic servant, born Darlaston;

[6] *Joseph Lucas* (29), brother, iron turner, born Darlaston;

[7] *Rachel Lucas* (25), sister-in-law, born Darlaston;

[8] *Richard Lucas* (1), son, born Darlaston:

George Lucas, beer retailer, 89, The Green. [1904]

Birmingham Mail 30/9/1908

“At Darlaston today, the police court proceedings took place in connection with the alleged maiming outrage. Great interest was aroused, and a large crowd assembled. The prisoners, Thomas Jones (17) and Benjamin Ford (16) were charged with maliciously maiming a mare belonging to Thomas Springthorpe, haulier, The Green, Darlaston.

Prosecutor gave formal evidence as to turning his horse out to graze on Saturday night, when it was uninjured, and to be called to the field next morning and finding the animal bleeding from a severe wound on the left side. It was destroyed by his instructions. There was blood in a shed in the field, and also on the grass some distance away.

Joseph Kimberley, rivetter, related how he observed the horse's condition early on Sunday morning, and Mr. Pickworth, veterinary surgeon, said the wound was sixteen inches long and must have been caused by a sharp instrument. A razor now shown him by the magistrates' clerk would have produced such an injury. Sidney Antil, bolt maker, and Albert Morgan, polisher, having spoken to seeing the prisoners in company at The Green on Saturday night, *George Lucas*, ROYAL EXCHANGE beerhouse, The Green, said he had a garden at the back of his house, and about a month back told Ford he (witness) had heard he intended fetching some turnips, but if he did and was caught he would hear further about it. Witness rented the field in which Springthorpe's mare was, and occasionally turned his own horse out there.

Police-inspector Williams said as a result of enquiries he went to the Grand Junction Nut and Bolt Works, and there saw prisoners. When told he was enquiring into the maiming case, and asked to account for their movements on Saturday night, Ford replied that he was in an ice-cream shop. Witness arrested and cautioned them, saying he had reason to believe they knew something about the affair.

Jones afterwards said: Ford came to me and asked me to go with him into the field to cut *Lucas's* pony. I went with him. It would be about a quarter to eight on Saturday evening last. We went into the shed. I called the mare out of the shed, and held her mane with one hand and her nose with the other. Ford then went to the side of her, and a moment afterwards said, ‘Right.’ I noticed he had a bright thing in his hand, and that he drew it along the horse's side. We then went over the gate into the road.

Ford said Jones's statement was quite right. Mr. *Lucas* accused him of having stolen carrots out of the garden. He (Ford) denied having done so, but Mr. *Lucas* called him a liar, so he thought he would ‘get his own back.’

I didn't think about it till Thursday or Friday (he continued), when I saw something in the paper about the Wyrley Gang. I spoke to Jones about coming with me, and he said, ‘Yes, any time you like.’ On Saturday morning Jones said, ‘Tonight will be the time, when they are all in the public houses.’ I took a razor out of a drawer in our front room, and went with Jones to the field. I touched the horse with the razor along its side. Jones said, ‘You haven't touched,’ but I said, ‘Well I don't want to injure it too much.’

Witness added that he afterwards found the razor at Ford's house.

Prisoners were committed to the Quarters Sessions, bail being granted.”

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 20/10/1908

“County Quarter Sessions.....

Benjamin Ford (16), beater, and Thomas Jones (17), labourer, pleaded guilty to having, on September 26th at Darlaston, wounded a mare belonging to Thomas Springthorpe. Mr. Lewis prosecuted, and Mr. Millward appeared for Jones.

Mr. Lewis said the horse was aged, and worth £5. About a month before the offence, Ford had words with a man named *Lucas*, into whose field the horse was turned, and on September 26th Ford appeared to have made up his mind to get his own back, as he termed it. He asked Jones to go with him to cut *Lucas's* horses. They went and injured the horse, but it was one which belonged to Springthorpe. Jones held the horse while Ford wounded it with a razor. The animal had to be destroyed.

Jones was given a good character and as he had been drawn into the affair by the other he was bound over. Ford was committed for two years, with a view to being treated under the Borstal system.

It was stated by counsel that when arrested Ford said he had been reading about the ‘Wyrley gang.’”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/9/1909

“Mr. Gerald C. Lewis (Coroner) held an inquiry at the Town Hall, Darlaston, on Wednesday evening, con-

cerning the death of William Lucas (72), engineer, of 2 house, 2, court, The Green, whose dead body was found in an arm of the Birmingham Canal at Bentley Road on Monday evening.

George Lucas, licensee of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, The Green, said the deceased, who was his father, went for a drive to Brewood on Monday with his wife. Witness and his wife, and about forty-four friends in brakes also went. They started back about 6.30 in the evening, everyone being sober. A stoppage was made at the Ball Inn, Coven, on the way home, and witness and his father left their traps and respectively partook of glasses of whisky and brandy. The brakes left the inn first, but some distance along the road witness passed the other, and led the way. When near the NAVIGATION INN, Wednesfield Road, where witness said there was a nasty curve, another vehicle passed them. His father took the curve a little bit too wide, with the result that he collided with the other trap, and his wife was thrown out. Witness heard screams, went back, and picked his mother up, bandaged her, and drove her home. The deceased seemed much upset as the result of the accident. At ten o'clock witness heard that his father had gone to attend to the fires at the Staffordshire Nut and Bolt Company's works, and had been away longer than usual. Consequently he and others went in search of him, and his dead body was found in an arm of the canal which he would have to pass.

Annie Dunn, a married daughter of the deceased, said she saw her father when he arrived home. He was perfectly sober, but much put about owing to the accident and the injury which his wife had received. Shortly afterwards he changed his clothes, gave her his watch, which he said he would wind up when he returned, and left the house to go and see to the fires at his work.

Thomas Simmonds, landlord of the BOAT INN, thought he was the last person who saw the deceased alive. He called in his house at 9.30 and partook of a glass of whisky. He was then quite sober. Witness asked him how he had enjoyed himself, and he replied, 'Not very well. We have had an accident, and the old lady was thrown out of the trap.' He left there to go to works.

Police-constable Gratage deposed to being called to the canal side at eleven o'clock and seeing the deceased there, his body having just been recovered from the water. He removed it to the mortuary. There was no trace of violence upon it.

The Coroner put it to the jury that the old man might have been so distressed at having been the cause of the accident to his wife that he put an end to himself, and to some extent the question of how much drink he had partaken of might have had some bearing upon whether he was sufficiently able to form a proper judgement. They had heard, however, that he was quite sober when he returned home, and went out to his work as usual. At that time there did not seem any intention on his part of committing suicide.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was Accidentally Drowned."

1911 Census

89, The Green – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *George Lucas* (42), beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Lydia Lucas* (39), wife, married 20 years, born Bilston;
- [3] *George Lucas* (15), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Richard Lucas* (11), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Archibald Lucas* (7), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Victor James Lucas* (5), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Lydia Lucas* (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Sunnah Mable Lucas* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [9] *May Lucas* (16), adopted daughter, born Darlaston:

Rugeley Times 23/7/1932 - Marriages

"At the Darlaston Green Wesleyan Church, on Saturday, July 9th, by Rev. A. J. Perry, Mr. *Victor James Lucas*, son of Mr. and Mrs. *G. Lucas*, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, The Green, Darlaston, to Miss *Rosannah Sullivan*, daughter of Mrs. P. Sullivan, of 76, Willenhall Road, Darlaston."

1939 Register

89, The Green – ROYAL EXCHANGE PH

- [1] *George Lucas*, date of birth 20/10/1868, licensed beer retailer and brewer, married;

[2] *Lydia Lucas*, dob 2/8/1871, unpaid domestic duties, married:

George Lucas died in the 3rd quarter of 1940.

Birmingham Daily Post 30/5/1942 - Advert

“By direction of Mrs. *Lydia Lucas*, who is retiring.

Messrs. Skelding & Boucher will Sell by Auction, on June 18, the very Valuable Freehold Beerhouse and Brewery, known as the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Darlaston, Staffs, occupying an important corner position. Printer particulars from the Auctioneers’ Offices, 81, High Street, Stourbridge (Tel.5355).”

It was sold in June 1942 for £4,000.

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1951.

Dennis Powell ran a boxing gym upstairs.

Leslie Arthur Best – see also JUNCTION, Station Street.

Walsall Observer 21/10/1966

“At Walsall’s Magistrates’ Court on Monday, Christopher Robin Brain (18), of 149, Friary Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, was fined £20 and ordered to pay £12 5s 6d court costs after Mr. Wignall, defending, had succeeded in getting a charge of dangerous driving altered to one of driving without due care to which Brain pleaded guilty.

Mr. B. Pearce, prosecuting, said Brain took a sharp turn too fast at the junction of Willenhall Road and The Green, Darlaston. His mini car went on the pavement nearly hitting three people standing outside the ROYAL EXCHANGE public house. Mr. Jack Carter, of 28, Richard Street, Darlaston, one of the pedestrians, stated that he was standing with his sister and brother-in-law outside the public house when the car came around the corner, mounted the footpath and drew to a halt some distance along the road. The driver got out and apologised, telling them he was a stranger to the district and had misjudged the bend.

Mr. *George Cheshire*, licensee of the ROYAL EXCHANGE said it was he who reported the matter as he thought the accused had endangered the three people’s lives. Mrs. Florence Carter said that she and her husband told the accused to drive on because they both regarded the matter as trivial.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/11/1966

“When Christopher Robin Brain (18), of Friary Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, appealed at Walsall Quarter Sessions yesterday against a £20 fine, with £12 15s 6d costs, for careless driving, the costs were reduced to £3 17s 6d.”

ROYAL EXCHANGE

41, Wolverhampton Street, (18+19, (18), Catherines Cross), (84, Wolverhampton Lane), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.

Frank Myatt Ltd. [1921]

Ansells Ltd.

Enterprise Inns [2007]

LICENSEES

Thomas Price [1871] – [1881]
Mrs. Mary Price [1889] – [1891]
Samuel Wells [1901] – [1904]
John Joyce [1911]
Frederick William Burrows [1916] – **1922**);
Edward Percy William Mooney (**1922**);
Reuben Canadine (**1922 – 1923**);
William Lloyd (**1923 – 1924**);
Joseph Tate Hawley (**1924 – 1925**);
John Lloyd (**1925 – 1926**);
Thomas Rice (**1926 – 1928**);
James Seedhouse (**1928 – 1929**);
Sam Wells (**1929 – 1930**);
George Bingham (**1930 – 1931**);
Mrs. Mary Louisa Jesse (**1931 – 1938**);
John Henry Newton (**1938**);
Mrs. Mary Cross [1932] ?
James Evans (**1938 – 1941**);
Garibaldi Tapper (**1941 – 1943**);
Thomas Booth (**1943 – 1946**);
Ivy Florence (Booth) Edwards (**1946 – 1952**);
Albert Daniel Peace (**1952 – []**)
Joy Florence Peace [1954] – **1957**);
Alice Lester (**1957 – 1958**);
Edmund Betts (**1958**);
Alfred Henry Squire (**1958 – 1963**);
John Thomas Farnell (**1963 – [1967]**)
J Singh [1988] – [1989]
Gary Brennan [1993] – [1996]

NOTES

It was built c.1870.

It was known locally as “The Widders”.

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

84, Wolverhampton Lane

- [1] *Thomas Price* (42), beer dealer, born Beguildy, Radnorshire;
- [2] *Mary Price* (40), wife, born Billingsley, Shropshire;
- [3] Sarah A. Price (15), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] Alfred Price (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Thomas Price (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] John Price (8), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] Henry Price (4), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Mary J. Price (1), daughter, born Darlaston:

1881 Census

18, Catherines Cross – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] *Thomas Price* (52), beer seller, born Beguildy, Radnorshire;

[2] *Mary Price* (50), wife, born Billingsley, Shropshire;

[3] Sarah A. Price (25), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] Henry Price (14), son, born Darlaston;

[5] Alice Price (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] James Price (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Thomas Price died in the 4th quarter of 1887.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1889

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Mr. Neville (stipendiary) – *Mary Price*, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Darlaston, was summoned for having allowed drunkenness on her premises. Mr. E. A. Wilkes defended.

In support of the case, evidence was adduced to show that a woman named Dangerfield was allowed to remain in the house for four hours whilst drunk, and that eventually she had to be removed to her home in a wheelbarrow.

For the defence, it was admitted that the woman was drunk, but it was pleaded that she did not have the drink in the defendant’s house, and that she could not be persuaded to go home.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed, the Stipendiary reminding the defendant that she might have sent for a policeman to remove the woman.”

1891 Census

18, Catherines Cross – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] *Mary Price* (61), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Billingsley, Shropshire;

[2] Henry Price (24), son, barman, born Darlaston;

[3] James Price (18), son, labourer, born Darlaston:

1901 Census

Catherines Cross – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] *Samuel Wells* (27), unmarried, boot maker, born Darlaston;

[2] Joseph Bayley (63), boarder, coal miner, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted of drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, Catherines Cross.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act..... The license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Catherines Cross, where the premises are difficult of police supervision, was renewed on the promise that several alterations suggested by the Bench should be made.”

Samuel Wells, beer retailer, 18, Catherines Cross. [1904]

Walsall Observer 16/6/1906

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, Mr. R. A. Willcock applied, on behalf of Messrs. J. and J. Yardley and Co., brewers, Darlaston, for permission to re-build the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Catherines Cross. Mr. Willcock explained that at the annual meeting the magistrates informed the owners that unless the house was put in proper order it would in all probability be scheduled under the Compensation Act. The license was renewed on the understanding that before the court that day the owners deposited plans for the re-building of the house entirely, and at the same time surrendered an ante-'69 license. Mr. Willcock then handed over the license of the BRITANNIA INN, an ante-'69 house in Eldon Street. The application was approved.”

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston were held on Wednesday..... An application was made by Mr. Willcock, on behalf of General Greaves Cox, for a license to sell intoxicating liquors at the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Pinfold Street, at present a beerhouse..... Mr. N. C. Wright opposed the granting of the license on behalf of the ROYAL EXCHANGE beerhouse. The Bench refused the license on the ground that an additional license was not required.”

1911 Census

18+19, Catherines Cross – ROYAL EXCHANGE INN

- [1] *John Joyce* (38), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Annie Joyce* (29), wife, married 3 years, assisting in business, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *John William Joyce* (10), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Helen Muriel Joyce* (2), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Florence Gertrude Joyce* (1), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/1/1924

“At Darlaston yesterday *William Lloyd*, aged 53, ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours on 24 December. It was stated that the justices granted an hour's extension on the nights of the 24, 26, and 31 December, but each licensee had to apply to the magistrates' clerk for the necessary license. Defendant failed to do this. Mr. A. J. Glover, for the defence, explained that he applied for the extensions on behalf of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers' Society, and defendant seeing it in the paper that it had been granted came to the conclusion he was entitled to keep open. A similar summons was heard against *William Gutteridge*, of the LORD NELSON INN, Bewdley [sic] Road, Darlaston, in respect of 31 December. In dismissing the cases on payment of costs the Bench said that they quite believed the men thought they were doing right and what they did was done innocently.”

South Staffordshire Times 19/4/1924

“*Joseph Tait Hawley* applied for the temporary transfer of the license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Catherines Cross, Darlaston from *William Lloyd*.”

The magistrates granted the application.”

Walsall Observer 6/3/1926

“*Thomas Rice*, a member of the Darlaston Urban Council, was granted the transfer, at Wednesbury Police Court on Wednesday, of the license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Catherines Cross, from *John Lloyd*, to whom the license of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, was transferred from Leonard Woodall. In reply to the magistrates, *Lloyd* stated that he was aware of the fact that the renewal of the license of the house he was taking over had been objected to.”

Walsall Observer 30/7/1927

“At a gathering in the ROYAL EXCHANGE HOTEL, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on Thursday of last week, the prizes for the Darlaston Allotment Association were presented. The President (Councillor G. Partridge) congratulated the winners on the excellent results obtained, despite the adverse weather conditions, and expressed the hope that the annual show, which had been defunct for some time, would be revived.....”

Mary Louisa Jesse – see also BRITISH OAK.

1939 Register

18+19, Catherines Cross – ROYAL EXCHANGE Public House (2 of 3)

[1] *James Evans*, date of birth 27/1/1902, decorator, married;

[2] *Annie M. Evans*, dob 21/4/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Thomas Booth died in 1946.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division A, in 1948.

Ivy Florence Booth married *Joseph Edwards* on 17th December 1949.

Plans were approved for alterations to the smoke room on 22nd July 1953.

Edmund Betts was the brewery’s supervisor of licensed houses.

John Thomas Farnell – see also BOAT.

Walsall Observer 17/1/1969

“A native of Walsall who has not seen or heard from his wife since he emigrated to Canada more than 40 years ago, has written to the Mayor of Walsall, Alderman F. Watkins, asking him to help find her. The appeal has come from Mr. Edward Mooney, of RR2, Flesherton, Ontario. He married a Miss *Lowie Rice*, of 89, Dorset Road, Darlaston, on January 21, 1918, and some time later emigrated to Canada. She joined him, but stayed for only three weeks before returning to England. That was the last Mr. Mooney saw of her..... ‘She was a sister to *Elsie*, who, I believe, married someone from Catherines Cross (the name may have been *Thurston*), and had a sister called *Lily* who was married to a *Will Lawrence*, who at that time kept a butcher’s shop at 10, Catherines Cross.’ He says she also had three brothers, *Jim*, *Will*, and *Tom*, who was a Darlaston councillor for a time. ‘For a while, my wife and I ran the ROYAL EXCHANGE at Catherines Cross, but we sold out and I returned to Canada.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/12/1989

“A High Court judge has banned two West Midland pub landlords from playing copyright music at their premises without a public performance licence. Mr. Justice Warner granted injunctions against Mr. Julian Harvey Chandler of the Wellhead Tavern in Franchise Street, Perry Barr, and Mr. *J. Singh* of the ROYAL EXCHANGE in Catherines Cross, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston. The applications were made by the Performing Right Society, which looks after the copyright interests of authors, composers and publishers of music and collects royalties by issuing licences to premises where music is played for public entertainment.

Mr. Edmund Skone James, counsel for the society, told the court the court in London investigators visited the Wellhead Tavern in August 1988 and heard music being played on tape although Mr. Candler held no current PRS licence. Investigators visited the ROYAL EXCHANGE in August 1988 and heard music being played on a juke box, but Mr. *Singh* had no current PRS license.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/11/1991

“Bloxwich Friends of the Mentally Handicapped raised £45 while losing a darts match 9-7 at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Darlaston.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/12/1993 - Advert

“Best Wishes to Mom and Dad from *Gary* and Carol.

The ROYAL EXCHANGE, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston.”

[*Gary Brennan's* parents, Pat and Helen, had completed the refurbishment of the Aston Hotel, Witton, Birmingham.]

[2009]

Closed [2010], [2012]

It was converted into housing. [2014]

ROYAL GEORGE

26, Hughes Road, Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1983]

LICENSEES

Harry Etherington (1958 – 1960);

Stanley Frederick Church (1960 – 1966);

Joseph Lewis Hallard (1966 – [1967])

NOTES

It opened in March 1958.

The license was transferred from the ROYAL GEORGE, Station Street, James Bridge.

[1983]

Closed [2012]

It was converted into housing. [2014]

ROYAL GEORGE

54, (17), Station Street, James Bridge, DARLASTON

OWNERS

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

LICENSEES

John Morris [1870] – [1881]

William Pettifer [1879]

Charles G Tofte [1891]

Samuel Robinson [1901]

John Thomas Brindley [1911]

James Ernest Plant [1919] – **1922**;

Job Dooley (**1922 – 1923**);

John Harold Beardmore (**1923 – 1926**);

Thomas Butler (**1926 – 1928**);

Frank Wyers (**1928 – 1933**);

Frank Pressdee (**1933 – 1945**);

Sarah Elizabeth Pressdee (**1945 – 1958**);

NOTES

17, Station Street [1881], [1901]

54, Station Street [1932], [1939], [1940]

It had a beer and wine license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions at West Bromwich.....

The applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

Mr. Slater applied on behalf of *John Morris*, ROYAL GEORGE, Station Street. Mr. Ebsworth opposed the application. Refused.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Meeting at West Bromwich.....

New applications *John Morris*, ROYAL GEORGE It was stated that the house would be a great accommodation to the James Bridge Station. Refused.”

1871 Census

James Bridge – ROYAL GEORGE

[1] *John Morris* (43), blacksmith and licensed brewer, born Wednesfield;

[2] Mary Ann Morris (40), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] John O. Morris (15), son, office boy, keeper of weighing machine, iron works, born Darlaston;

[4] Mary A. H. Morris (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Letitia F. Morris (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] Nancy Gasser (14), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

John Morris, beer retailer and blacksmith, James Bridge. [1872]

John Morris, beer retailer, James Bridge. [1880]

1881 Census

17, Station Street – Beer House

- [1] *John Morris* (53), nut and bolt maker, born Wednesfield;
- [2] *Mary A. Morris* (50), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *John H. Morris* (25), son, clerk in gas office, born Willenhall;
- [4] *Mary A. Morris* (22), daughter, pupil teacher, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Letitia F. A. Morris* (19), daughter, pupil teacher, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Letitia Horton* (71), mother-in-law, widow, annuitant, born Tipton:

Sporting Life 5/9/1883

“Vaughan, of Darlaston, is surprised at J. Lowe offering him a start, knowing he is matched with Partridge, of Great Bridge, but after this match is decided he will take one yard start in 120 of Vaughan, for £25 a side. A match can be made at the ROYAL GEORGE, James Bridge, at any time.”

1891 Census

Station Street – ROYAL GEORGE

- [1] *Charles G. Tofte* (40), publican, born Norway, naturalised British subject;
- [2] *Mary A. Tofte* (40), wife, born Abergavenny;
- [3] *Grace F. Tofte* (17), daughter, born Newport, Monmouthshire;
- [4] *Hannah Bate* (19), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Walsall Observer 5/5/1900

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, James Askey and William Adams, both of James Bridge, Darlaston, were charged with assaulting William Winn, also of Darlaston, on Saturday night, the 28th ult. Adams was further charged with assaulting Edward Winn, the brother of the last complainant, who resides in Forge Lane, Wednesbury, on the same date. Mr. Glover, who appeared to prosecute, said the assault upon William Winn in particular was a very unprovoked and brutal one.

The evidence showed that about 10.30 on the night of the 28th ult the brothers Winn were in the ROYAL GEORGE INN, Station Street, Darlaston. There they met the two defendants. Whilst in the house the man William Winn was struck by Adams, and the two defendants also followed him outside, and it was alleged both again assaulted him several times. The result of the defendants’ violence was that William Winn’s face was badly disfigured, both eyes were discoloured, and he was rendered unconscious, in which condition he remained for some time. The man William Winn was still under the doctor’s hands, and it was stated that he would be unable to resume work for some fourteen days.

Askey challenged Edward Winn to make a bet on a dog fight, but this he declined to do, and subsequently Adams struck him a severe blow under the jaw.

As there was a doubt in Askey’s case he was discharged.

The defendant Adams then admitted assaulting both William and Edward Winn, and inflicting the injuries upon them, but he pleaded provocation.

Adams was fined £1 and costs, or one month, for the assault on William Winn, and also 10s and costs, or fourteen days, for the assault on Edward Winn.”

1901 Census

17, Station Street – ROYAL GEORGE

- [1] *Samuel Robinson* (42), bolt and nut maker and beerhouse manager, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Robinson* (40), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Phoebe Robinson* (20), daughter, barmaid, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Samuel Robinson* (16), son, iron bolt machine fitter, born Darlaston;

[5] Alice M. Robinson (13), daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] Betsy A. Robinson (9), daughter, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Leader 24/8/1901

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before Colonel Smith and Mr. A. H. Partridge, *Samuel Robinson*, landlord of the ROYAL GEORGE beerhouse, Station Street, Darlaston, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 3rd inst, and also with selling ale to a drunken person on the same date. Mr. Armstrong appeared for the defence.

Inspector Williams stated that on Saturday the 3rd inst he visited the defendant’s premises about 7.30pm in company with PC Smallman. In the bar room he saw a man named Charles Blakemore drunk and staggering about. At a table in the room there were two other men, and one, James Askey, was drunk, and was drinking from a jug containing beer. Ten minutes later Askey, Blakemore, and another man came out of the house, and witness stopped them and asked them for their names and addresses. Askey was very abusive, and had to be locked up.

In reply to Mr. Armstrong, witness said he did not make any complaint to the landlady at the time he saw the men in the house. Defendant had held a license for 13 years.

PC Smallman corroborated.

For the defence Mr. Armstrong submitted that there was no evidence of supply in the case. He admitted that the man Blakemore was under the influence of drink, but explained that he visited the house in search of his brother, and no drink was supplied to him. Defendant had borne an irreproachable character for 25 years. Several witnesses were called for the defence, but defendant was fined 10s and costs for permitting drunkenness, and the other case was withdrawn on payment of costs.

Charles Blakemore, of Northbrook Street, Birmingham, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk on the premises.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/10/1901

“Darlaston adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

The police opposed the renewal of the license to *Samuel Robinson* of the ROYAL EXCHANGE [sic] INN, Station Street, on the ground that he had been convicted of permitting drunkenness. Mr. Armstrong, who represented the applicant, produced an extensively-signed memorial in favour of the license being renewed, and remarked that the applicant was a man of excellent character. The license was renewed.”

Indenture 28/10/1909

“All that piece or parcel of land situate in and having a frontage of 19 yards to Station Street in the Parish of Darlaston in the County of Stafford and adjoining on one side for a distance of 32 yards to land now or formerly of James Slater on the opposite side thereof for a distance of 21 yards 2 feet to land now or formerly of Samuel Mills and for a distance of 10 yards 2 feet to a small piece of land next described and at the back for a distance of 14 yards 2 feet 10 inches to land now or formerly of Samuel Mills and containing in the whole 561½ square yards or thereabouts. And all that small piece of land and having a frontage of 2 yards 1 foot to Station Street aforesaid adjoining on the one side thereof for a distance of 10 yards 2 feet to the piece of land hereinbefore described on the other side for a distance on 10 yards 2 feet 6 inches to lands generally of the said Samuel Mills but now or formerly of Carter Ford & Co and running to a point at the back thereof and containing in the whole 12½ square yards. Together with the messuage (formerly two messuages) now used as an indoor beerhouse and known as the ROYAL GEORGE and the manufactory shopping and out-buildings erected on the said piece of land or on some part or parts thereof.”

1911 Census

Station Street – ROYAL GEORGE

[1] *John Thomas Brindley* (34), publican’s manager, born Tamworth;

[2] *Elizabeth Fanny Brindley* (34), wife, married 9 years, born Aston, Birmingham;

[3] *Fred Brindley* (9), son, school, born Tamworth;

[4] *Joseph Owen* (29), boarder, iron worker, bridge and girder works, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Elizabeth Mayo* (16), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1918

“At Darlaston Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the BRADFORD ARMS, which was adjourned until March 6 owing to the licensee having been convicted. The KINGS ARMS, Cramp Hill, and the ROYAL GEORGE, Station Street, were also adjourned to allow of notices being served on the ground of redundancy.”

Rugeley Times 3/7/1937

“Angling.....

The first contest of the ROYAL GEORGE Society, James Bridge, Darlaston, was fished at Donnington on Sunday, 28 members competing. Bream, roach and perch were weighed in.....”

1939 Register

54, Station Street

[1] *Frank Pressdee*, date of birth 17/7/1874, public house manager, married;

[2] *Sarah Elizabeth Pressdee*, dob 21/5/1880, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1940

“At the annual meeting of the ROYAL GEORGE Angling Society, James Bridge, Darlaston, it was decided to discontinue the activities of the club for the duration of the war.”

A team from here competed in the Red Cross Darts Tournament. [1942]

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield. [1944/5], [1946/7], [1951/2], [1955/6], [1956/7]

Frank Pressdee died in the 3rd quarter of 1945.

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League, Division A. [1948]

Rugeley Times 19/6/1948

“Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association have enrolled 12 more new members, which makes 26 within a month. They are.....

Mrs. *S. Presdee*, ROYAL GEORGE, Darlaston”

Rugeley Times 31/5/1952

“The Darlaston Darts League concluded the 1951-52 season with the playing-off of the final for the league president’s cup and the presentation of the prizes, by Mr. V. Dishman, of Atkinsons Brewery, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, King Street, on Friday. Mr. T. Malthouse (league Chairman) presided over a gathering that packed the room, and was supported by Mr. J. Tinsley.

Congratulating all who had taken part, Mr. Dishman said they had had a very successful season, and, from that angle, the main point was the contribution they had made to charity – a sum of over £45 to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. They were all to be congratulated also on the sportsmanship existing throughout the league and the important function it fulfilled in the general life of the public houses of the town.....

Mr. Dishman presented the prizes as follows.....

A Division Championship Shield, ROYAL GEORGE; runners up, DOG AND PHEASANT; third, HERBERTS PARK TAVERN.”

The license was transferred to the new ROYAL GEORGE in Hughes Road in March 1958.

Closed

Demolished

ROYAL OAK

9, (9+10), (10), Booth Street, (Darlaston Green), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Taylor [1871]
Mrs. Emma Taylor [1881]
John Taylor [1891]
William France [1892] – [c.1898]
William Nightingale [1901] – [1912]
Richard Oakley [1919] – **1922**);
Frank Victor Price (**1922 – 1924**);
John Smith (**1924**);
James Davies Emery (**1924 – 1925**);
Sydney Arthur Higgs (**1925 – 1927**);
Ernest Wilkes (**1927 – 1963**);
Ernest Jarvis (**1963 – 1965**);
Albert Reginald Bennett (**1965**);
Benjamin Beards (**1965 – [1967]**)

NOTES

10, Booth Street
9+10, Booth Street [1881], [1891], [1901]
9, Booth Street [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

Booth Street – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *John Taylor* (33), engine fitter and publican, born Gospel Oak;
- [2] *Emma Taylor* (35), wife, born Elmdon, Warwickshire;
- [3] Thomas Taylor (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Henry J. Taylor (3), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Frank W. Taylor (2), son, born Darlaston;
- [6] Sarah Perks (16), niece, born Gospel Oak:

1881 Census

9+10, Booth Street – Public House

- [1] *Emma Taylor* (45), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Elandon [Elmdon?];
- [2] Thomas Taylor (15), son, clerk (mercantile), born Wednesbury;
- [3] Henry John Taylor (13), son, fitter (tube trade), born Wednesbury;
- [4] Frank W. Taylor (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Edward G. W. Taylor (4), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] Susannah Powis (22), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

1891 Census

9+10, Booth Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *John Taylor* (53), bolt machine fitter, born Tipton;

[2] *Emma Taylor* (55), wife, born Elmdon, Warwickshire;

[3] Edward Taylor (14), son, born Darlaston;

[4] Elizabeth Taylor (13), niece, scholar, born Birmingham;

[5] Rebecca Taylor (22), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses..... The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for dancing, in addition, being abandoned.....

William France, ROYAL OAK, Booth Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1893

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Joseph Woolley, ironworker, The Green, was charged with assaulting Henry Worrall. Mr. S. M. Slater appeared for the defence.

On the 30th ult, the men were at the ROYAL OAK INN, The Green, and during a game at ‘tip it’ they quarrelled and exchanged blows.

The defence was that Worrall acted in self-defence. But on the other side evidence was adduced to show that the complainant was struck on the head with a poker, and was kicked and beaten again with a poker whilst on the floor.

A fine of 10s and costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1893

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday.....

James Beech, Joseph Woolley, Edward Keay, and Henry Worrall, four young men, were charged by *William France*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK, Darlaston, with being disorderly in his house. Mr. G. Thursfield appeared in support of the complaint, and Mr. S. M. Slater for Woolley. The latter, who was shown to have been attacked, and to have merely acted in self-defence, was discharged. Keay and Worrall were fined 10s each and costs, and Beech was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

William France – see also GEORGE, Church Street, Darlaston.

1901 Census

9+10, Booth Street

[1] *William Nightingale* (25), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Nightingale (26), wife, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 27/12/1902

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before E. Hunt and J. Yardley, Esqrs, Thomas Riley, miner, of Rushall, was charged with being upon the enclosed premises of the ROYAL OAK INN, Booth Street, Darlaston, for an unlawful purpose on Monday night.

It appeared that at 11.20pm, having turned out the lights and locked the doors, the landlord of the house (*William Nightingale*) went into the yard to have a final look round. He was accompanied by a dog, which began to bark and ran into a corner of the yard, where the landlord found prisoner lying on the ground, keeping the dog off. He could give no explanation of why he was on the premises, and was handed over to Police-sergeant Biddulph. Prisoner had been drinking, but was not drunk.

The police knew nothing of his antecedents, and the Bench discharged him, with a caution to keep away from the drink in future.”

William Nightingale, beer retailer, 9, Booth Street. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

Booth Street – ROYAL OAK INN

- [1] *William Nightingale* (35), publican, beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Ann Nightingale (36), wife, married 10 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] Hannah Elizabeth Nightingale (9), daughter, school, born Darlaston;
- [4] William Nightingale (7), son, school, born Darlaston:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 4/4/1925

“A Saturday afternoon a party of 100 friends and customers from the ROYAL OAK, Booth Street, Darlaston, visited the Cape Hill Brewery of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers. On arrival the party split into three sections, each one having the service of a guide, who explained the various stages through which the malt and hops passed before reaching the consumer. The hygienic conditions under which the beer is brewed and the extreme and minute cleanliness in every direction greatly impressed the party. The power house, pump room and fire stations afforded considerable interest, and especially the exhibition of diplomas and honours won by the firm’s fire brigade in open competition in various parts of the country. An excellent repast was afterwards provided by the firm, to which everyone did full justice. The arrangements for the outing were carried out in an excellent manner by Mr. *James Emery*, licensee of the ROYAL OAK, to whom the thanks of each member of the party are due.”

James Emery was married to Adelaide.
See also PARK, Tipton.

Sydney Arthur Higgs = Sidney Arthur Higgs

Walsall Observer 31/12/1927

“Embezzlement of £72 was the charge on which *Sidney Arthur Higgs*, whose address was given as the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, appeared before the Mayor (W. H. Wesson) and Dr. H. C. Crew. Mr. Herbert Willison, of Birmingham, appeared on behalf of Mitchells and Butlers Limited, and Mr. E. E. Brown, on behalf of defendant, pleaded guilty.

Alfred Over Parsons, of Mary Road, Stechford, an inspector of licensed houses for Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, explained that defendant, as licensee of the house, had each Monday to complete a weekly sheet, showing the takings, etc, of the house, which the Company received on Tuesday, and he had to bank the balance of the week’s takings after certain payments had been made. On December 13, the Company received defendant’s sheet, showing that there was £73 8s to bank, but it was found he had absconded with the money. £1 8s was later found in the house.

It was stated that *Higgs* had held the license of a smaller Darlaston house for the Company for two years without complaint.

Detective-constable Nixon said that he cautioned and charged defendant at Wednesbury Police Court on December 20, and he replied, ‘I can’t say any more than I did it. I don’t think there was £72. I am very sorry.’ He had £18 11s 8½d in his possession.

In answer to Mr. Willison, Detective Nixon said defendant had been to Ireland, and taken with him a young barmaid, a girl of 20. He admitted to Mr. Brown that defendant had always borne a good character in Wednesbury.

Mr. Willison said that his clients regarded the matter as a very serious one. Defendant received £3 6s per week, and had not to pay rent or for coal, lighting, or service bills, so that he had not the excuse of poverty. The man at first put the blame upon his wife, who, he said, had tried to ruin him. Most of the money had been spent upon clothing for himself and the girl. He apparently did not appreciate his position, for he also wrote to ask whether he could not be re-instated.

Mr. Brown made a moving appeal to the Bench, pointing out that there were many extenuating circumstances, and that the man came back repentant. The robbery had not been systematic, and something must have

happened suddenly to make him act as he did. He was bearing the brunt alone, though it had been his, the speaker's, unfortunate experience that sometimes even a girl of twenty was not free from blame. *Higgs* was married, and had two children, and there was domestic unhappiness. There had now been, however, a happy reconciliation.

Defendant was fined £25, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment, and he was given four weeks in which to pay.

On the application of Mr. Willison an order was made for payment to Mitchells and Butlers Limited of the money which defendant brought back from Ireland."

Sydney Arthur Higgs – see also THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 8/2/1930

"Darlaston Brewster Sessions on Wednesday.....

The Bench deferred the renewal of the BRADFORD ARMS, Bilston Street, the ROYAL OAK, Booth Street, the VICTORIA INN, Butcroft, and the DARTMOUTH ARMS, High Street, to see if certain structural alterations are carried out."

Plans were approved for alterations to the premises, including sanitary accommodation, on 5th March 1930.

1939 Register

9, Booth Street – ROYAL OAK (4 of 5)

[1] *Ernest Wilkes*, date of birth 6/10/1894, manager of licensed house, married;

[2] *Elsie Wilkes*, dob 15/2/1897, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Christopher Wilkes*, dob 9/2/1918, template maker (motor chassis and aircraft), single, Darlaston AFS;

[4] *Freda May (Wilkes) James*, dob 12/6/1926, at school, single;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/2/1941

"When *Christopher Wilkes*, aged 22, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Booth Street, Darlaston, appeared at Wednesbury yesterday accused of absenting himself from employment for four days for which his firm claimed £10, the youth brought the money and £1 2s 6d costs. It was stated that *Wilkes* was a template maker and a very useful employee, but he stayed away whenever he liked."

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1949.

Ernest Wilkes died in the 1st quarter of 1963.

Plans were approved for alterations on 3rd February 1965.

Walsall Observer 10/3/1967 - Weddings

"Mr. D. Mitchell and Miss M. Beards, ROYAL OAK, Booth Street, The Green, Darlaston. The Rev. D. Richard conducted the ceremony.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a full-length gown of heavy satin with a lace coatee forming a train. A short veil was held in place by a diamante studded leaf head-dress and she carried a bouquet of red carnations. Her attendants were Misses Margret and Sharon Beards (sisters), Helen Beards (niece), Margaret Mitchell and Mavis Nightingale. The senior bridesmaids wore dresses of lemon brocade with head-dresses of coronets of flowers. The junior bridesmaids wore dresses of nylon net over blue satin. They all carried posies of pink carnations. The small attendant wore a white dress.

Mr. Brian Mitchell (brides-groom's brother) was the best man."

[1976]

Closed

Demolished

ROYAL OAK

3, (2+3), (Great) Croft Street, (Little Croft Street), DARLASTON

OWNERS

James Pritchard and Sons

LICENSEES

Daniel Tyler [1871] – [1891]

George May [1900]

Sidney Fieldhouse [1901]

Alfred Fisher [1911]

Samuel Downen [1919] – **1920**):

NOTES

Little Croft Street [1871]

2+3, Great Croft Street [1881]

3, Croft Street [1891]

3, Great Croft Street [1901]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Daniel Tyler = Daniel Taylor

1871 Census

Little Croft Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *Daniel Tyler* (29), nut forger and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] Mary Tyler (28), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Stephen W. Tyler, (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Joseph Tyler (4), son, born Darlaston;

[5] James Tyler (3 months), son, born Darlaston:

Daniel Tyler, beer retailer, Great Croft Street. [1872]

Wednesbury Herald 31/7/1880 - Advert

“Mr. John Belcher has been favoured with instructions to offer for sale by public auction, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday, the 19th August, 1880.....

All that old-established beerhouse known by the sign of the ROYAL OAK, situate in Great Croft Street, in the parish of Darlaston, and now occupied by Mr. *Daniel Taylor*. The house comprises Bar, Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Club Room, Bed Room, and Cellaring, and a good business is being done in it. The property is situated in a thickly populated neighbourhood, and is let to the present tenant at £20 per annum.”

1881 Census

2+3, Great Croft Street

- [1] *Daniel Tyler* (39), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Tyler* (38), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Stephen W. Tyler* (16), son, office clerk, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Joseph Tyler* (14), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *James Tyler* (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Mary Tyler* (4), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Hannah Tyler* (2), daughter, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 28/1/1882

“*Daniel Tyler*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK public house, Great Croft Street, Darlaston, was charged with supplying drink during prohibited hours. Mr. Topham appeared for the defendant.

Police-sergeant Ainsworth stated that at 11.45, on the night of the 13th February, he was standing a few yards from the back door of the defendant’s public house, when he saw a woman come out of the house, accompanied to the door by Mrs. *Tyler*, who told the woman to be careful. Witness stopped the woman, and the landlord, in answer to his question, said he did not sell the beer to the woman, he gave it to her to take into a neighbour’s house, where they had been enjoying themselves.

For the defence it was contended that the defendant had been in a neighbour’s house, named Mrs. Cooper, who told the defendant it was her birthday, and he consented to give her a jug of beer, which was brought from the house by the defendant’s sister-in-law.

The Stipendiary said he did not think it would be safe for him to convict in this case, but he thought it was right to bring it before the Court.

The case was dismissed.”

1891 Census

3, Croft Street – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Daniel Tyler* (49), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Tyler* (48), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *James Tyler* (20), son, trunk maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Mary Tyler* (14), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Hannah Tyler* (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

Walsall Advertiser 3/11/1894

“Free Gardenry. Upwards of fifty members of the Mistletoe Bough Lodge met at their club house, the ROYAL OAK INN, Great Croft Street, Darlaston, on Saturday evening to make presentations to Bro. *Daniel Tyler*, for his past services as treasurer since the formation of the lodge, and also to Bro. Samuel Blakemore, Past Lodge Master. The presentations consisted of beautifully framed certificates of the Order.

After full justice had been done to a substantial meal, Bro. Frederick Millington was voted to the chair, and Bro. James Tyler to the vice-chair. A letter of apology for absence was read from Honorary Bro. E. A. Wilkes.

‘Success to the Wolverhampton and Willenhall District of Free Gardeners’ was given by Bro. Fallow, DM. Bro. John Lloyd, who gave ‘Success to the Mistletoe Bough Lodge,’ said the financial position of the lodge showed funds amounting to £278 4s 11d, with 69 financial members.

Brother Fallon (District Master) made the presentations, and short congratulatory speeches were given by Bros. Griffiths, Thomas, and Meansley. Bro. *Tyler* having responded, the remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony.”

Walsall Observer 18/3/1899

“On Wednesday Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Great Croft Street, Darlaston, touching the death of Thomas Humpage (57), nut and bolt maker, of 29, Blakemore Lane, who died on Monday morning.

Dr. Sydney Partridge said that in making a post mortem examination of the body he found a bruise on the right cheek, which was due to a fall. The body was very much diseased, and he gave it as his opinion that death was due to heart disease. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with this.

Dr. Partridge said that he had experienced great difficulty in making the post mortem examination. The jury and coroner strongly recommended the need of a public mortuary, and concurred with the doctor's remarks."

Walsall Observer 4/8/1900

"The members of the Mistletoe Bough Lodge of the National United Order of Free Gardeners held their annual dinner at the Lodge House (ROYAL OAK, Great Croft Street, Darlaston) on Saturday, when over forty members and friends sat down to a splendid repast, provided by the host, Bro. *George May*. After doing justice to the good things provided, the cloth was drawn, and Bro. Richard Guy, PDM, was elected to the chair and Bro. J. Tyler to the vice chair.

The Chairman proposed the toast of the Lodge, which was heartily responded to by the members.

The Secretary (Bro. John Lloyd) was called upon to give his report for the year. He said he could not give as good a report as he would like, as the sickness for the last six months was so very heavy that they had been paying out all they had been receiving.....

Songs and recitations were given by several of the members, and, the usual votes of thanks being passed, a very enjoyable meeting was brought to a close by singing the National Anthem."

1901 Census

3, Great Croft Street

- [1] *Sidney Fieldhouse* (29), warehouseman and publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Milian Fieldhouse* (31), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Dora Fieldhouse* (4), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Sarah Ann Wiles* (18), domestic servant, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Harriet Wiles* (20), boarder, nut and bolt screwer, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

3, Great Croft Street

- [1] *Alfred Fisher* (37), unmarried, crane driver, iron works, born Willenhall;
- [2] *Charles Fisher* (34), brother, crane driver, iron works, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Florence Fisher* (32), sister-in-law, born Darlaston;
- [4] *David Fisher* (12), nephew, school, born Darlaston;
- [5] *William Fisher* (11), nephew, school, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Annie Fisher* (7), niece, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Wilfred Fisher* (5), nephew, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Alfred Fisher* (4), nephew, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1919

"At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, Harry Wistance, 24, Great Croft Street, Darlaston, was fined £1 and £1 1s special costs for consuming beer on licensed premises after 10pm.

Summonses against *Samuel Dowen*, licensee of the ROYAL OAK INN, Great Croft Street, for permitting the consumption and for failing to have Liquor Control Board Orders displayed on his premises, were withdrawn on payment of costs."

South Staffordshire Times 7/2/1920

"Darlaston Police Court.....

The next matter was to consider the adjournment of any, if any, licenses. Two of these, the TRAVELLERS REST, and the ROYAL OAK, would be adjourned, and all the others would be renewed. In addition, the license of Mr. Statham (GEORGE INN) was put back till the adjourned sessions, as his name had been associated with a police court case recently."

South Staffordshire Times 6/3/1920

"Darlaston Police Court.....

Superintendent Salt opposed the renewal of the license of the ROYAL OAK INN, Great Croft Street, on the ground of redundancy.

Inspector Cooper described the dimensions and conditions of the house, and said that in his opinion it was no way needful for the requirements of the district, and the premises were not suitable for a licensed house as were other houses in the vicinity.

After hearing further evidence, the Chairman said the Bench had decided to refer the house for compensation on the grounds of redundancy.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.

South Staffordshire Times 17/7/1920

“The following licenses were refused at the principal meeting of the compensation authority for the county held at Stafford on Thursday.....

ROYAL OAK, Darlaston.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/12/1920

“An adjourned supplemental meeting of the County Licensing Committee, acting as Compensation Authority, was held at the County Buildings, Stafford, on Saturday, Lord Hatherton, CMG, presiding.

The following sums were approved by the Committee as compensation in cases where the licences have not been renewed.....

ROYAL OAK, Darlaston, beerhouse ante 1869, £1,100.”

It closed on 31st December 1920.

South Staffordshire Times 5/2/1921

“Licensing Sessions At Darlaston.....

Superintendent Salt, in his report, stated that the number of houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor in the parish of Darlaston was 87, against 88 last year. The reduction had been brought about by the license of the ROYAL OAK Beerhouse, Great Croft Street, having been referred for compensation and extinction at the adjourned Licensing Sessions last year. The house was closed on 31st December last.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 18/7/1925

“Mr. A. D. Belcher (Messrs. Belcher and Son, FAI) held a property sale at the BELL HOTEL on Monday, when there was a good attendance. In all nine lots were put up for auction, and five of them were disposed of. The first lot was the dwelling house and premises, formerly known as the ROYAL OAK INN (now de-licensed), situate in Great Croft Street, Darlaston. Bidding started at £200, and eventually the property was knocked down for £250.....”

ROYAL OAK

79, (24), High Street, (24, Moxley), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Sarah Ann Tart, Moxley
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Mrs. Sarah Ann Tart [1868] – **1883**);
William Heighway (**1883** – **1884**);

Job Ecclestone Jnr. (1884);
John Silvester (1884 – 1889);
Elizabeth Evans (1889 – 1891);
James Chattam (1891 – 1896);
James William Bayley (1896 – 1897);
William Cox (1897);
Charles Vincent Walker (1897 – 1903);
John Henry Pitt (1903 – 1905);
Elizabeth Allen (1905 – 1908);
John Henry Marrion (1908 – 1927):

NOTES

24, Moxley [1871]
High Street
24, High Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1904]
79, High Street [1912]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/7/1868

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Sarah Ann Tart*, a beerhouse keeper of Moxley, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 21st ultimo. Mr. Ebsworth defended. PC Pointon stated that on the day in question he visited the house of the defendant about 10 minutes past 3 o'clock pm. He saw 6 or 7 men leaving the house, and also met one man with a bottle of ale. On Friday last defendant's brother offered him half-a-sovereign not to say anything about it. The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant 2s 6d and costs.”

1871 Census

24, Moxley – ROYAL OAK
[1] *Sarah Ann Tart* (48), widow, beer seller, born Shropshire;
[2] Benjamin Whitehouse (45), visitor, born West Bromwich:

Mrs. *Sarah Ann Tart*, beer retailer, Moxley. [1872]

1881 Census

24, High Street – ROYAL OAK
[1] *Sarah Ann Tart* (49), widow, publican, born Dawley, Shropshire;
[2] Benjamin Whitehouse (55), lodger, engine tender, born West Bromwich:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/5/1885

“Alfred Howells (24), engineer, living at Church Street, Moxley, was charged with assaulting *John Silvester*, keeper of the ROYAL OAK public house, Moxley.

Complainant stated that on returning home on Monday evening he found defendant drinking in the house, and he remained there until half-past ten. He was then requested to go home, having had a lot of beer, but instead of complying he picked up a spittoon and attempted to throw it at another customer. When remonstrated with he kicked a bench over. On being put out by complainant, defendant became very violent, and as *Silvester* turned to re-enter the house Howells struck him a heavy blow across the face with a long piece of wood, repeating the blow shortly afterwards. Complainant fell twice, and his face was terribly cut and bruised.

The Deputy-Stipendiary, said he had great doubts as to whether he ought to send defendant to prison without the option of a fine, but in consideration of his previous good character he would be fined 40s and the costs;

in default one month's imprisonment.”

1891 Census

24, High Street

[1] *Elizabeth Evans* (55), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] George E. Page (19), son, bucket maker, born Bilston;

[3] Mary A. Jones (14), domestic servant, born Bilston:

James Chattam was convicted on 29th May 1894 for permitting drunkenness.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1894

“The annual licensing sessions for Bilston division were held yesterday....

Notices of opposition had been served on the occupiers of the.....

WHITE CHIMNEYS INN, Gornal Wood; BULLS HEAD, Gornal Wood; WOOD CROSS INN, Coseley;

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Bilston; ROYAL OAK, Moxley.....

The licenses of the ROYAL OAK, Moxley, and the WHITE CHIMNEYS INN, Gornal Wood, were renewed.”

Dudley Herald 23/6/1900

“On Tuesday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, before the Stipendiary (Mr. N. C. A. Neville), *Charles Vincent Walker*, of the ROYAL OAK beerhouse, Moxley, was charged with permitting gaming to take place on his licensed premises on the 7th and 8th of May last.

Mr. A. Turton (Wolverhampton), who appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Chief-constable, explained that on the 7th of May, about five o'clock, the witnesses whom he would call went into the back yard of the defendant's premises, and there saw four men playing at marbles on a 'marble alley' for a pint of ale. Betting on the games was taking place, and money was paid in the presence of the landlord, who also fetched in the ale. Altogether seven games were played. On the following day there was more marble playing, and money was lost and drink brought in by the defendant. Mr. Turton, in the interests of the police and all concerned, asked for an adjournment of the case.

The case was resumed at Wolverhampton on Wednesday. It was stated on the previous day for the prosecution that there were four men playing at marbles on a 'marble alley' for a pint of ale. It was contended for the defence that the alley was not part of the licensed premises, and the case was adjourned till Wednesday for evidence to be called on that point.

Mr. Turton prosecuted, and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

Mr. Willcock now read a letter from Mr. T. F. Waterhouse, the solicitor to Mr. and Miss Tart, the owners of the premises. It was to the effect that the marble alley was not on the premises leased to the brewery company.

Mr. Turton, replying, said that the alley had been used by the defendant as part and parcel of his licensed premises.

PC Wolford stated that he visited the public house on the 7th May. He went to the rear of the premises, and in the marble alley saw men playing marbles for a pint of beer a game. They were also betting on the results of games. The landlord was present, and at the conclusion of the games the losers paid for the beer. The following day he again went to the house, and saw games of marbles being played for beer.

That was all the evidence as to the actual gaming.

Mr. Willcock contended that it was for the prosecution to show that the alley was part of the licensed house.

Mr. Neville said he did not know of any case like it. It appeared to be a licensed house under the extraordinary circumstances of having a common yard attached to it for which the license holder, as a matter of fact, made use of for his customers, and he should say *prima facie*, he had a right to do so.

The Stipendiary said he would not decide that day whether the part of the premises in question was in the licensed area.

Mr. Willcock produced the lease of the premises to the brewery company, and remarked that he supposed it was indefinite as these things generally were.

Mr. Neville: I suppose you drew it – (laughter).

Eventually it was agreed that the licensed premises should be fenced off from the common yard and the alley destroyed.

On these conditions the case was withdrawn.”

1901 Census

24, High Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *Charles Vincent Walker* (34), beerhouse and hairdresser, born Redditch;

[2] *Louisa Walker* (28), wife, born Wednesbury:

Charles Vincent Walker was fined £2 and costs, on 19th May 1903, for permitting drunkenness.

Charles Vincent Walker was also a hairdresser of 46, High Street. [1904]

The Tewkesbury Register and Agricultural Gazette 19/1/1952

“Leaning over the gate of their white-painted cottage at Great Wolford are Mr. and Mrs. *Charles Vincent Walker*, who 60 years ago today (Saturday) were united at Moxley Parish Church, Staffordshire. The *Register* congratulates them on reaching their diamond wedding Mr. *Walker* will be 85 on January 24 and his wife is 79 They held the license of the ROYAL OAK, Moxley, for over 20 years after their marriage, at the same time keeping a hairdressing shop on the opposite side of the road, and afterwards went into the grocery business in Palfrey, Walsall. In February 1922 they came to Great Wolford and took over the Fox and Hounds in August of the same year.

Mr. *Walker* recalls, humorously, that when he first held a license he sold the kind of beer elections were fought on at 3d a pint, and that when he retired a pint of bitter was 8d compared with 1s 4d today. They have no children of their own but when Mrs. *Walker*'s eldest sister died they adopted her baby. He is Mr. Wolford Williams, living in Walsall. Mrs. *Walker* is the only surviving member of a family of four girls and one boy, and Mr. *Walker* and his youngest brother, living at Redditch, are the only ones left of a family of 14, of which Mr. *Walker* was the eldest.....”

John Henry Pitt, beer retailer, Moxley. [1904]

Elizabeth Allen was fined 10s and costs, on 10th July 1906, for permitting drunkenness.

John Henry Marrion = John Henry Marion

1911 Census

High Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *John Henry Marrion* (40), brewer and beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Maud Edith Marrion* (39), wife, married 10 years, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Clara Emmeline Marrion* (6), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Laura Dorothy Marrion* (5), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Jack Marrion* (8 months), son, born Moxley;

[6] *Selina Perry* (14), general servant:

John H. Marrion, beer retailer, 79, High Street, Moxley. [1912]

John Henry Marrion was fined £1 5s 6d for each case, on 30th April 1919, for supplying intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours, and permitting intoxicating liquor to be consumed during prohibited hours.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/5/1919

“For offences under the Liquor Control Board regulations, selling intoxicating liquor and permitting it to be consumed on licensed premises after closing hours, *John Henry Marion*, licensee of the ROYAL OAK INN, High Street, Moxley, was at Darlaston Police Court yesterday fined £1 and costs in each case.

Mr. Cooper, for the defence, said his client was under the impression that he could entertain friends or rela-

tions after closing hours.”

South Staffordshire Times 7/2/1920

“Bilston Licensing Sessions....

Mr. J. F. Addison (Walsall) applied for the renewal to *John Henry Marrion*, of the ROYAL OAK, Moxley, the applicant having been convicted during the year.

The license was renewed.”

The license was refused by the Compensation Authority on 4th March 1927.

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/5/1927

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford.

Notice is hereby given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, the 19th day of July, 1927, at 11 o'clock am.

And Notice is hereby also given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District). List of Licensed Premises.....

ROYAL OAK, Moxley. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *John Henry Marrion*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/7/1927

“.....at the principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Compensation Authority held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday.....

The licence referral of the ROYAL OAK, Moxley, was unopposed by the owner, and was not renewed.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1928

“.....at the Meeting of the Compensation Authority held on July 19, the Committee refused to renew 13 out of 16 licences referred to them. At the Supplemental Meeting the Committee fixed the compensation of the undermentioned 12 cases as follows.....

ROYAL OAK, Moxley, beerhouse ante-1869, £1,200.

In all the before-mentioned cases the money had been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and would be paid on 24th of December instant.”

John Henry Marrion – see also WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE.

Compensation of £1,200 was paid on 24th December 1927.

The license was extinguished on 31st December 1927.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 3/3/1928 - Advert

“William Pearson, FSI, FAI, has received instructions to Sell By Auction at the TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.....

Lot 4. No.79, High Street, formerly the ROYAL OAK INN (now delicensed).....”

ROYAL OAK

Wolverhampton Lane, Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Slater [1861] – [1862]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/4/1857 - Advert

“Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. F. Altree, This Day (Wednesday, April 29th, 1857), on the premises, the ROYAL OAK, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, all the modern Household Furniture, screens, seating, gas and other fittings, four-pull ale machine, French and other bedsteads, feather beds, mattress, washstands, dressing tables, toilet and pier glasses, mahogany chest of drawers, mahogany loo and other tables, sofas, chairs (in hair seating), quantity of mugs, jugs, china and glass, two tumps of prime Hops, useful Pony, twelve hands high, four-wheel Phaeton, Spring Cart, set of brass-mounted Harness, and numerous other effect, the whole of which will be sold without reserve.

The sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning precisely.

Catalogues at the Auctioneer's Offices, 73, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Lane – ROYAL OAK

[1] *Samuel Slater* (48), gunlock filer and beerseller, born Darlaston;

[2] *Emma Slater* (48), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Reuben Slater* (21), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;

[4] *Samuel Slater* (19), son, screw maker, born Darlaston;

[5] *Edwin Slater* (17), son, screw maker, born Darlaston;

[6] *Thomas Slater* (12), son, screw maker, born Birmingham;

[7] *Mary Slater* (15), daughter, born Darlaston;

[8] *Thomas E. Partridge* (53), lodger, bolt manufacturer, born Darlaston:

Samuel Slater, retailer of beer, Catherines Cross. [1862]

SCOTT ARMS

29, Blockall / Foster Street, Darlaston Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Samuel Allsopp and Co. Limited (acquired in 1890)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Yates [1834] – **1863**);

William Foster (**1863** – [1884])

Joseph Lappage [1891] – [1892]
Mrs. Louisa Maria Stedman [1896]
Ben Binns [1899]
Isaac Morris [1901] – [1904]
William Hakesley [1908] – [1912]
Martin Perry Foster Jnr. [1916] – 1921);
Jack Pascall Voyce (1921 – 1923);
George Benjamin Cooper (1923 – 1925);
Horace Wilfred Horne (1925 – 1937);
Harry Parker (1937 – 1958);
William Edward Wade (1958 – 1961);
Arthur Charles Amiss (1961 – [1967]

NOTES

Joseph Yates = Joseph Yeats

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/9/1837

“David Hyde was charged with stealing a number of knives and forks, the property of *Joseph Yates*, a publican, at Darlaston. Darlaston wake, it appeared, was celebrated on Monday, and the prosecutor’s house was full of company. The prisoner was among them, and before going out he opened a corner cupboard in the room and took from it eleven table knives, four forks, and some other articles. As he was going out of the house one of the knives dropped from his pocket; it was picked up by a man named Small who gave it the prosecutor, and the prisoner was taken into custody. Committed.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/10/1837

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Trials of Prisoners.....

David Hyde, for stealing eleven knives and four forks, the property of *Joseph Yates*, of Darlaston.

The prosecutor is a publican, and on the 28th August, being Darlaston wakes, the prisoner, with twelve other persons, went to his house about half-past eleven o’clock at night, and called for a jug of ale. After drinking that, they called for a second, which being refused them, they began to dance and sing, and make a great noise, and during the confusion which they had thus created, the prisoner forced open a cupboard and took out the knives and forks which formed the subject of the indictment. On leaving the room, one fell from his pocket, which was picked up by an apprentice of the prosecutor.

The defence set up was that it was a lark, and that there was no intention to commit a felony. The jury took a more serious view of the case, and found the prisoner guilty; and the Court sentenced him to be imprisoned six calendar months.”

1841 Census

Blockall

[1] *Joseph Yates* (40), gun lock maker, born Staffordshire;

[2] Elizabeth Yates (35), born Staffordshire;

[3] Mary Yates (13), born Staffordshire;

[4] Tamar Yates (9), born Staffordshire;

[5] Emma Yates (6), born Staffordshire;

[6] Joseph Yates (3), born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 29/11/1845

“Joseph Young, of Darlaston, challenges Harry Dickin to run him from six to ten score yards, for any sum up to £10. Young will accommodate him on his own terms, and will met him at Mr. *Joseph Yates*’s, the SCOTTS ARMS, to complete the match.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 31/5/1846

“Daniel Mauposs of Darlaston informs Edward Marshall of Darlaston Green that he will run him half a mile, for his own sum, for from £1 to £20. He will meet him at Mr. *J. Yates*’s, the SCOTTS ARMS, Darlaston, to make a match.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/3/1847

“On Friday last, an inquest was held at the SCOTTS ARMS, Darlaston, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Joseph Sivern, aged forty-seven years. It appeared that the deceased was at work in the colliery belonging to Messrs. Addenbrooke and Sons, at Darlaston, on Wednesday, the 24th ultimo, when a quantity of coal suddenly gave way, and killed the deceased. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 24/7/1847

“Lodge Anniversaries. On Monday last, upwards of 450 members of various lodges sat down to excellent dinners provided for them at the following public houses: Mr. *Joseph Yates*’s, SCOTTS ARMS; Mr. George Wilkes’s, GREEN DRAGON; Mr. John Stokes’s, CASTLE INN; Mr. Thomas Simkins, JOLLY CRISPIN.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/9/1847

“Inquests held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner.....

On Thursday last, at the SCOTTS ARMS, Darlaston, on the body of John Edwards. It appeared that on Wednesday morning the deceased was near to the mouth of one of the pits in Messrs. Bills and Mills’s Colliery, and as he was passing along accidentally fell into the pit. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/9/1847

“On Thursday, an inquest was held at the SCOTTS ARMS, Darlaston Green, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of John Edwards, a boy nine years of age. He was employed at Mr. Millington’s pit, and it appeared that about two o’clock on Wednesday, while the men were having their dinner, the deceased took hold of an empty skip, and shoved it towards the mouth of the pit, when the waggon, or platform, not being over, it fell down the shaft, taking the boy along with it. On being brought up, he was quite dead, his body being mutilated in a most dreadful manner. Evidence having been given to show that the death of the deceased attached no blame to any person, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 6/11/1847

“On Monday last, an inquest was held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, at the SCOTT ARMS, Darlaston Green, on the body of Thomas Dangerfield, a fine boy aged nine years, under the following singular and melancholy circumstances. George Hall, a little keen-looking fellow, only nine years old, said that he was at play with Tommy Dangerfield by the side of the canal; they had a large stick, which they made swim on the water. Tommy tried to get the stick, when it went away from the side, and he fell in; his intrepid little companion (who has been much praised for his conduct) instantly got hold of the stick, and held it out to the deceased; he took hold of it, and little Hall was able to draw him to the side, but not having sufficient strength, and no one being near, the poor lad sunk. He again rose, and once more did his little playmate hold out to him the stick, but he had now grown too weak to grasp it, and sunk to rise no more. The boy Hall now made an alarm, and some persons coming up, the lifeless body was ultimately got out. The Jury, who expressed themselves both pleased and surprised at the very unusual degree of sense and courage displayed by the lad Hall, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 30/12/1848

“On the morning of Monday last, it was discovered that a miner named Enoch Beards, residing in Darlaston, had committed the dreadful act of self-murder by hanging. The deceased had lodged for fourteen years past at the house of a miner named Thomas Beech, for whom he worked, and on Sunday night he retired to rest at the usual hour, being in the habit of sleeping with Beech’s son. He was in bed at three o’clock on the following morning, but upon young Beech getting up about half-past seven, he found the door to the room fastened so that he was unable to get out. He called from the window to a neighbour, Mr. Richard Adams, who, upon coming into the house, found the deceased hanging outside the door, being suspended from a

hook in the ceiling by a strap tied to his shirt, which was twisted round his neck. He had evidently stood upon a bench until he made the necessary arrangements, and had afterwards thrown himself from it. On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the SCOTTS ARMS, Darlaston Green, before George Hincliffe, Esq, when it appeared that the unfortunate man had never been altogether right in his mind, and was sometimes unable to count his wages when he received them. He had been also observed to be rather worse lately. The Jury accordingly returned a verdict of Suicide in a state of Insanity. The deceased was twenty-three years of age.

1851 Census

Blockall

- [1] *Joseph Yates* (50), lock manufacturer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Elizabeth Yates (46), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Louisa Yates (18), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Emma Yates (15), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elizabeth Yates (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 14/8/1852- Advert

“The Darlaston Committee for promoting the Election of George Hayes Hinchliffe, Esq, to succeed his lamented Father, as one of the Coroners of the County of Stafford, having arrived at the conclusion that his qualifications for the office must necessarily surpass that of either of the other candidates (on account of his long experience as Assistant to his Father, and subsequently as Deputy Coroner, coupled with his acknowledged good abilities and unsullied personal character), have much pleasure in cordially recommending him to the unanimous support of the Freeholders of Darlaston.....

Committee Room, SCOTT ARMS, Darlaston, August 10th, 1852.”

[He was elected.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“On Wednesday, the annual petty sessions for the Hundred of Offlow South was held.....

The following publicans were cautioned only.....

Joseph Yates, SCOTT ARMS, Darlaston, open on Sunday.”

Joseph Yates was also a shopkeeper. [1854]

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1858

“On Thursday night, as Mrs. Ann Robinson, wife of Mr. Thomas Robinson, of Darlaston, was returning home from Hill Top, in a phaeton, the horse, which is a very spirited animal, took fright, and ran furiously down Holloway Bank. Near the bottom of the hill the vehicle came in contact with a team of horses which were ascending the bank. Mrs. Robinson was thrown out, her arm was broken, and she was otherwise injured. From the fright and the severity of the injuries which she sustained, the unfortunate lady expired on Saturday morning last. An inquest was held on the body on Wednesday, at the SCOTT ARMS INN, Darlaston, kept by Mr. *Joseph Yeats*, before G. H. Hincliffe, Esq, coroner, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The deceased, who is 62 years of age, was the fourth wife of Mr. Robinson, to whom she was but recently married.”

Joseph Yates was also a gunlock maker. [1860], [1861]

1861 Census

Forster Street – SCOTTS ARMS

- [1] *Joseph Yates* (60), licensed victualler and farmer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Elizabeth Yates (56), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Emma Yates (24), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1861

“Yesterday (Monday), an inquest was held before Edwin Hooper, Esq, Coroner, at Mr. *Joseph Yates*’s, the SCOTT ARMS INN, Darlaston Green, on the body of a boatman, named William Henry Watts. It was stated that deceased was in the act of attending to his vessel, when he accidentally overbalanced himself, and falling headlong into the canal was drowned before assistance was at hand. When the body was discovered, Mr. Latham, surgeon, who was sent for, did all that medical skill suggested, but without avail. The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/2/1862

“At the weekly Board of the South Staffordshire General Hospital, held yesterday, the following additions to the funds were announced Increased Annual Subscriptions.....
Loyal Benevolent Fellows Lodge, held at the SCOTT ARMS INN, Darlaston, from £2 2s to £4 4s.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1862

“An inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Joseph Yates*, Darlaston Green, on the body of an old man named Benjamin Small, who retired to rest in his usual health on Saturday evening and was found dead a few hours afterwards. A verdict in accordance with this evidence was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/8/1867

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

William Bowen, 47, miner, was indicted for unlawfully and maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm upon James Boffey, Amos Baggott, and Thomas Green, at Darlaston. Mr Jelf conducted the prosecution. On the night of the 22nd of June, Green and Boffey were at the SCOTT ARMS INN, at Darlaston, where the prisoner also was. About twelve o’clock Baggott went to the house to fetch away the two first-named men, who were his friends. Baggott asked who the prisoner was, and Green, in reply, said he was not acquainted with his name, but they knew him by a nickname (mentioning it). Upon that the prisoner struck Green, who either struck him or endeavoured to do so, but was prevented by the landlord. It being then closing time the people drinking in the house left it. The prisoner was standing outside when Baggott (as he said) went up to him and told him to go home and have no bother; he had struck a man and he had not said anything about it. The prisoner, who appeared to have had a large clasp knife in his hand, then struck Baggott, who felt the knife enter his thigh. Baggott called out that the prisoner had a knife, and Green, for the purpose of restraining him from further violence, rushed upon the prisoner. A struggle took place, and during it the prisoner stabbed Green, who then threw him to the ground. Boffey was standing near and the prisoner seized hold of his leg and cut him with the knife, after which he ran off.

Mr. E. W. Latham, surgeon, to whom the prosecutors went to have their wounds dressed, described the injuries. Baggott had two wounds, one in a dangerous place on the lower thigh. Green’s wound, which was in the groin, was also in a dangerous place. Boffey had two wounds, one an incised one, eight inches in length, near the knee. The men had now recovered.

The prisoner said in defence that the three men began ill-treating him first, and that they were all savagely assaulting him at the same time. He was obliged to do what he did in self-defence. (The prosecutors denied the prisoner’s statement.)

The jury found the prisoner guilty, saying, however, that they thought he received some little provocation. The prisoner was sentenced to nine months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1867

“The annual licensing meeting for the West Bromwich district was held in the Public Office, West Bromwich.....

The following publicans, against whom convictions were recorded, were reprimanded, but had their licenses renewed.....

William Foster, SCOTT ARMS, the Green, Darlaston, allowing gambling.”

William Foster was fined £5 and costs for permitting gaming in June 1868.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/6/1868

“Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, before I. Spooner, Esq, Samuel Stokes, a beerhouse keeper of Darlaston, was summoned for permitting gambling in his house. It appeared from the evidence that at about nine o’clock on the evening of Saturday week Police-constable Heath visited the defendant’s house and found several men there playing for ale.

The Stipendiary commented upon the mischief and misery created by the practice of gambling, but as this was his first offence, he fined the defendant 1s and costs; and warned him that if he came there again he should most certainly inflict the full penalty of £10 and costs.

William Foster, a licensed victualler, of the same place, was also summoned for a similar offence committed on the 18th ult, and having been previously convicted he was fined £5 and costs, Mr. Spooner remarking that the attention of the Magistrates ought to be called to those places where gambling could be proved to be permitted, and the licenses should be stopped. He had received many anonymous letters written by persons complaining – and justly so – that licenses were granted to such houses. He always himself fined persons heavily for these offences; but although he wished it to be understood that he did not wish to interfere at all with the issuing of licenses he did think that Magistrates ought to take such matters into their serious consideration. The law itself was stringent upon the point and if fully carried into effect it would be attended with the greatest possible benefit to the neighbourhood.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/1/1869

“*William Foster*, licensed victualler, of Foster Street, Darlaston, was charged with having had his house open, on the 27th ult, at ten minutes to one in the morning. Mr. Ebsworth defended in this case, and it was dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the West Bromwich district was held yesterday.....

The following list of victuallers brought before the magistrates during the year ending 25th August, was handed to the magistrates by Superintendent Woollaston.....

W. Foster, SCOTT ARMS, Foster Street, Darlaston.”

1871 Census

Blockall – SCOTT ARMS

- [1] *William Foster*, (53), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Mary A Foster (50), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Richard Foster (23), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [4] William Foster (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Phebe Foster (31), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] Jannet Foster (18), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] Mary A. Foster (16), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] Nancy Foster (14), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [9] Sarah Slynn (29), visitor, daughter, born Darlaston;
- [10] Margery Slynn (1), visitor, grand-daughter, visitor, born Blackheath;
- [11] William Slynn (5 months), visitor, grand-son, visitor, born Blackheath:

Bee-Hive 16/12/1871

“On Friday evening a well-attended meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the SCOTT ARMS INN, Darlaston, to consider the question of, and if possible secure, a uniform list of prices for those engaged in the trade. Mr. Tyler presided.

Mr. Richard Juggins explained the present position of the men. The speaker having read over a list of prices that had been drawn up by the men, it was, on the motion of Mr. Fittle, seconded by Mr. Hemmingsley, resolved that copies of the list should be sent to the various employers. It was further resolved, on the motion of Mr. Juggins, that the employers should be requested to inform the men of any disapproval they might entertain to the list, and appoint a time when a deputation of the men might, if thought necessary, meet them. If no reply was received from the employers, it was agreed that notice should be given on the 16th inst for wages to be paid in accordance with this list.”

Bee-Hive 6/1/1872

“On Friday night a meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the SCOTT ARMS INN, Blackhall, Darlaston, to consider what steps should be taken with regard to the list of prices that had been prepared and forwarded to the men by their employers. Mr. Mark Ashley took the chair.

Mr. Juggins (the Secretary) read a copy of the list prices prepared by the masters, which showed a very considerable reduction in the prices quoted in the men’s list, in one case a reduction as great as 6s per gross.

Mr. John Hemmingsley moved, ‘That the list of prices received from the Employers’ Association by the Nut and Bolt Makers’ Association be discountenanced and rejected with contempt by this meeting.’

Mr. Samuel Leman seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. John Gibbons moved, ‘That the Secretary be empowered to inform the Masters’ Association that their list could not be accepted.’

Mr. Basnett seconded the motion, which was also agreed to.

A further resolution, rejecting the rules of the masters as well as their list of prices, was carried unanimously.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1872

“Yesterday afternoon another large meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the SCOTT’S ARMS INN, Blackhall, Darlaston. Mr. E. Wood was voted to the chair, and, after the ‘Nut and Bolt Makers’ Song’ had been sung, he said that after the concessions which the men had made they were fully justified in holding fast to their present position.....

A resolution to continue ‘out’ was carried with great enthusiasm.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1872

“Last night a large meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the SCOTT’S ARMS INN, Darlaston; Mr. J. Robinson presiding. Addresses were delivered by the Chairman, Mr. Juggins, Mr. D. Wood, Mr. J. Hemmingsley, Mr. Harper, and others, some of whom made statements to the effect that, although most of the employers are now on the most cordial terms with their workpeople, and are faithfully adhering to the agreement made at the recent conference, a few are displaying a different spirit, and departing from the agreement, more particularly by refusing to employ society hands. Under these circumstances, the duty of strict union was insisted upon, and it was stated that, in all probability, an amalgamation for South Staffordshire and Lancashire would soon be brought about. The importance of education was also enlarged upon. The main business of the gathering was, however, to acknowledge the kindness of the several trade societies and the public generally, which was done in the following resolution, ‘Resolved, that the nut and bolt makers beg to tender their heartiest thanks to the trade societies and the public generally for the timely and generous aid rendered to them in their protracted struggle. The contributions amounted to the noble sum of £3,000, which greatly assisted in the attainment of the object for which the struggle was maintained, viz, the delivery of the men from the tyranny under which they had so long been placed.’”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1873

“An ordinary meeting of Walsall Trades Council was held on Tuesday evening, at the SCOTT’S ARMS INN, Darlaston; Mr. S. Welsh, president of the Council, in the chair.....”

Walsall Free Press 16/8/1873

“On Monday evening the committee appointed by the Trades Council to inquire into and report upon the condition of the gun-lock trade met at the SCOTT ARMS, Darlaston, Mr. Welsh, president of the Council, in the chair. The deputation from the gun-lock filers society reported that they had done all in their power to induce their employers to meet the men, and come to some arrangement to prevent the repeated reduction which had been from time to time made in the wages of the filers, but every effort to get the employers to come to terms had failed, and instead of adhering to the resolution come to by the masters and men some time ago, the employers had gradually reduced the wages from 11d to 8½d per lock. The committee, after hearing the report of the deputation, recommended that the Council be requested to inaugurate a movement for the establishment of a co-operative general lock factory.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1874

“A special meeting of the nut and bolt makers of Darlaston was held last evening, at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Darlaston, principally to consider the present position of miners on strike in the district.....

Mr. Juggins expressed the sympathy of the nut and bolt makers of the town towards the miners, and said the executive of the former workmen had already voted them £40, and he desired that private subscriptions should be given to the miners until the next meeting of the executive, who would see what further they could do.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/8/1874 - Advert

“£300 to be Advanced, on good freehold security, from the Loyal and Benevolent Fellows, SCOTTS ARMS, Darlaston.

For particulars, apply to Mr. George Butler, Secretary, Bull Street, Darlaston.”

Midland Counties Evening Express 19/12/1874

“Yesterday evening a meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Blockall, Darlaston, the principal object in view being to impress on the workmen the necessity of strongly supporting their union. Mr. J. Vale presided over a numerous audience. He was pleased to find that it was almost impossible for the association to increase in Darlaston, as they had now 500 members in that town, who comprised nearly the whole of the nut and bolt makers in the place.....

The meeting resolved that they had heard with regret of men being out of work in different parts of the country, and pledged itself to support them.....”

[Men in Middlesbrough had been on strike for 10 months.]

Midland Examiner 23/1/1875

“Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital.....

Workmen’s Subscriptions and Others.....

Loyal Benevolent Lodge, SCOTTS ARMS, Darlaston, per Mr. *William Foster*, £2 2s 0d.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 13/2/1875 - Advert

“Independent Order of Oddfellows.

Lodge No.16 is held the first Tuesday in every month at the BELL INN, Church Street, Darlaston.

No entrance fee for admission to new members. Graduated scale of payments according to age. Special advantages now offered to members joining. Funded stock of the Lodge now at interest £1,000.

Full particulars to persons wishing to join on application to the Secretary, Mr. Thomas Wilkes, Block Hall; or to Messrs. *W. Foster*, SCOTTS ARMS, or Japhet Howl, 41, Cramp Hill, Darlaston.”

Midland Examiner and Times 20/2/1875

“The members of Sanctuary 4435, Woodman’s Shelter, of the Ancient Order of Shepherds, held their second anniversary on Thursday evening last, at their house of meeting, the SCOTS ARMS, Darlaston. A capital supper was provided by the host, Mr. *W. Foster*, after which Brother Isaac Glover was voted to the chair, and Pastor R. Foster to the vice-chair. After customary loyal toasts, the Chairman proposed ‘Success to Shepherdry,’ which was responded to by PPWA Fisher, who urged the members the desirableness of using their best efforts for the spread of the principles of the order in this district. The toast of the evening, ‘Success to the Sanctuary Woodman’s Shelter,’ was acknowledge by Scribe C. Cooper, who gave a financial report. During the evening songs, readings, and recitations were given, the entertainers being the host, PPWA Fisher, and Pastor R. Foster. A thoroughly enjoyable meeting was brought to a close, after the healths of the host and hostess and the chairman had been duly honoured.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1875 - Advert

“‘Defensio, Non Provocatio.’ Caution.

The Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, Southwark Street, Borough, London.

This association, having prosecuted and convicted a Grocer, at Bradford, at the Leeds Assizes, under the

‘Merchandise Marks Act, 1862,’ and also prosecuted a man at Chester Assizes, who was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment for fraudulently counterfeiting and imitating their Trade Mark, and having obtained a decree for a perpetual injunction against a Tea Company (Limited), restricting the said Company from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, or not materially differing therefrom, or in any cover or wrappers which by their shape, size, colour, labels, writings, figures, inscriptions, trade mark, or general character should make it appear that the packets sold or exposed for sale were those of the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, and which decree on appeal was confirmed by the Lord Chancellor, notice is hereby given that all persons Counterfeiting or Imitating the Trade Mark of the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association will be forthwith Proceeded Against; and Licensed Victuallers, Grocers, Bakers, Confectioners and others are hereby warned from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by said Association.

Thompson and Son, 60, Cornhill, Solicitors for the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association.

Agents For Staffordshire.....

Darlaston: *W. Foster*, SCOTT ARMS, Blackall; G. Golcher, NEW INN, King Street.”

Midland Examiner and Times 7/8/1875

“A special meeting of the Executive Council of the Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers was held on Tuesday night, at the SCOTT’S ARMS INN, Darlaston. Mr. Richards, Smethwick, occupied the chair. There was a full Council present. The first principal business transacted was the consideration of the Middlesborough strike in connection with the association, which had now been on for over eighteen months, the men during that time having been supported by the association. Considering the complaint was only that the men themselves had shown very little disposition to obtain employment, and complaints were read by the General Secretary from masters in other places where some of the men had been sent, of their idle and intemperate habits, which compelled them to get rid of them, when they came back to Middlesborough and the funds of the association again. The General Secretary stated that there was no hope of the men obtaining the terms that they asked of the Middlesborough masters. It was resolved that a month’s notice be given to the men to return to work, and upon the masters refusing to employ them, that situations be found for them elsewhere, and that the strike be brought to an end.....”

Midland Examiner and Times 7/8/1875

“Ancient Order of Foresters. On Monday, August 2nd, 1875, the members and friends of Court Woodman’s Shelter, No.4435, held at the SCOTT’S ARMS INN, Blackall, Darlaston, celebrated their 11th anniversary, when about 50 of the members and friends sat down to an excellent repast of good old English fare, after which they, together with about fifty juveniles formed themselves into procession, headed by the Darlaston Brass Band, paraded through the principal streets, returning to the Court House at half-past five o’clock. The juveniles sat down to a substantial tea, after which they were let into a field, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Joseph Hingley, to enjoy themselves with football, cricket, &c, the members returning to the Court room. Brother William Hooper was called upon to preside. Brother William Cooper occupied the vice-chair. After the loyal and patriotic toasts were given the chairman gave ‘The health of Court Woodman’s Shelter,’ when the secretary, Mr. George Wilkes, responded by reading a very favourable report. He said that in April 1871 the financial worth of the court was £173 5s; and on the half year ending June 26th, 1875, the worth of the court, including £30 that the trustees had invested since that date, was £489 2s 7d, showing a saving in the four years of £315 17s 5d. In April 1871, there was 80 financial members. At the present time they numbered 170, showing a gain of 90 members in the four years. He said the very favourable report of the progress had not been made without some effort, diligence, faithfulness and courtesy by the brothers of the court. He could safely say, and that without fear of contradiction, that the brothers had been up and doing something towards the promotion of this progress and flourishing position on which the court now stands. I am proud to tell that your labours have not been in vain, but it must be gratifying to you as well as me to know that your labours have been crowned with a grand and abundant success – (applause). The evening was enlivened by some excellent songs by brothers Hooper, Cooper, Bayley, Harper, Hedge, and the host. The secretary was called upon to sing the ‘Old Sexton,’ which he gave in his usual good style. In responding to the encore he was requested to give the ‘Holy Friar,’ which he gave in the same good style.

During the evening the chairman presented to Brother James Harper his PCR ribbon and medal with some very appropriate remarks. After the healths of the chairman, vice-chairman, the host and hostess, visitors, past and present officers, and to Mr. Joseph Hingley for the use of the field for the juveniles were given, the brothers separated at 11 o'clock, after spending one of the most agreeable evenings ever spent in a Foresters' court room."

Midland Examiner and Times 21/8/1875

"A public meeting was held on Thursday evening at the SCOTTS ARMS, Darlaston, to take into consideration the advisability of rendering immediate help to the men who have been thrown out of employment by the late explosion. Mr. Thomas Harper presided. A resolution was passed asking the working men to contribute towards the support of the men. It was also resolved that a special appeal be made to the whole of the branches connected with the Amalgamated Nut and Bolt Makers, asking for aid, the whole of the men thrown out of employment being members of that society."

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1876

"The members of Court Woodman's Shelter, AOF, sat down on Monday evening to an excellent supper provided by Host *Foster*, of the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Darlaston. The chair was occupied by the Rev. W. W. Heeley, and the vice-chair by SCR Glover. After the loyal toasts, the Chairman spoke at length on the prosperity of their order, and especially of their court, which he said was now the largest in the district. At the same time he urged every member to do his utmost to make the court still more successful in the future. The Vice-Chairman afterwards proposed 'Success to Court Woodman's Shelter,' which was drunk with enthusiasm. A very enjoyable evening was spent, several songs and complimentary toasts being given."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/5/1876

"Last night, a crowded general meeting of nut and bolt makers, in connection with the Darlaston Branch of the National Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers, was held at the SCOTTS ARMS, Darlaston.....

Mr. Dawson, a member of the Executive Council, said that the Darlaston branch of the Amalgamated Association was in a very flourishing condition, as was proved by the fact that it started with an indebtedness of £80; whilst now it had £70 to the good. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Middlesborough strike had absorbed a good deal of the funds of the organisation.....

It had been said that the nut and bolt makers would have to submit to a reduction in wages because of the depression in the iron and coal trades....."

Cannock Chase Examiner 19/1/877

"On Monday the quarterly meeting of the Executive Council of the National Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers was held at the SCOTT ARMS INN, Blockall, Darlaston. Mr. John Richards in the chair. There was a very lengthy programme. The General Secretary's report showed that there was a greater number of disputes at the present time than had been for some years, and these extending in some of the principal branches of the association. The expenditure in support of men out, being £230 10s, and for deaths, £42, and for grants and other expenses, £136 3s 8d, making a total of £408 13s 8d for the quarter....."

Cannock Chase Examiner 10/8/1877

"The Lock-Out in the Nut and Bolt Trade.

On Saturday another large number of men ceased work at several manufactories at Darlaston in consequence of having received notices from their employers.....

A meeting of the Executive Council of the National Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers was held on Monday afternoon at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Darlaston. The meeting was called for the purpose of considering the present prospects of the South Staffordshire lock-out....."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/10/1877

"Yesterday, a large meeting of nut and bolt makers was held at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Darlaston, for the

purpose of discussing certain grievances in connection with the re-opening of the works. After addresses by two or three speakers lamenting the unfavourable position of affairs, Mr. Juggins said he had to express his regret at such a dishonourable and unfavourable termination of the unhappy dispute which had prevailed in the nut and bolt trade for nineteen weeks.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1878

“At the Walsall County Court, yesterday, before Mr. W. D. Griffiths, judge, William Harper and John Gibbons, both of Darlaston, were sued for £3 14s 9d, being the balance due on two bills of exchange, amounting to £13 9s, given to the plaintiff, *William Foster*, publican, who sued as the treasurer of a money society held at his house. The evidence showed that the society was conducted on the plan of the members subscribing a certain sum weekly, and when their united subscriptions had accumulated to the amount of £5, then bidding amongst themselves for the ‘purchase’ of the money, to be paid in instalments. In one instance £1 11s was paid for the loan of £5, in another instance £2 1s 9d, in a third £2 12s 2d, and in a fourth no less a sum than £2 18s 8d. A verdict was given for the sum claimed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/4/1879

“A mass meeting of the nut and bolt makers was held at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Darlaston, last night, to consider the best means of resisting the action of certain employers who were charged with having broken through the award of the arbitrator, Mr. Chamberlain.....”

Wednesbury Herald 16/8/1879

“On Monday night an anniversary dinner took place at the SCOTT ARMS in connection with the members of the Darlaston Branch of Nut and Bolt Makers. Mr. J. Gennard, president of the association, was chairman. Mr. R. Juggins, general secretary to the association, said he much regretted the serious position in which bad trade had placed the members of the association. He was quite sure that very many had not even the common necessities of life, but he sincerely hoped those who were working would remain firm to the unionship which was launched some eight years ago.”

Dudley Herald 14/8/1880

“Forestry. The members of Court Woodman’s Shelter (4435) celebrated their sixteenth anniversary on Saturday, at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Blockall, when nearly 80 members and friends sat down to a well-served dinner. After the cloth was drawn, Bro. Hooper, father of the Court, was voted to the chair. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk, followed by ‘Success to the Court Woodman’s Shelter,’ proposed by the Chairman. The Secretary responded, giving a brief history of the rise and progress of the Court, and congratulated his brother members on the fact that, in spite of bad trade and a good deal of sickness during the year, the Court was in a highly prosperous condition, having the handsome sum of a thousand pounds to the credit of their sick fund alone.”

Wednesbury Herald 19/2/1881

“At about ten o’clock on Saturday night last, a shocking crime was perpetrated in Ball’s Yard, Darlaston Green, by William Payne (65), a nut and bolt maker, his victim being his wife, Mary Payne. It appears that for some time Payne and his wife lived uncomfortably together, and on the 20th of September last the woman decided to leave her husband to reside in a cottage in Ball’s Yard. Since then Payne has been in the habit of visiting his wife, and it is said that he has frequently asked her to return to him, but she has persistently declined to comply with his request.

On Saturday night, between ten and eleven o’clock, Payne, who had had some drink, though not drunk, went to his wife’s house, and in the presence of a grandson, seven years old, commenced a dispute over domestic affairs. The grandson states that Payne ultimately became so enraged in consequence of his wife refusing to comply with his wishes that he drew from his coat pocket a knife and deliberately plunged it into her neck on the right side. The cut severed the jugular vein. The woman shrieked out, and immediately expired. The boy raised an alarm, and Police-constables Balance and Daly were speedily at the house, where the woman was found in a pool of blood, and the murderer, who had not attempted to escape, was taken into custody. A large number of persons assembled around the house where the tragedy took place, and many of the women

strongly condemned the past conduct of the accused and added that he ought to be lynched.

On Wednesday morning, Mr. Edwin Hooper, the District Coroner, held an inquiry on the body of the murdered woman at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Blockall, Darlaston. A respectable jury was empanelled of which Mr. George Perry was foreman. The accused was present in the custody of Chief Superintendent Longden. At the time the jury left the public house to view the body several thousand persons had congregated in the streets. In the deceased's house there was a pool of blood, and the wall near the kitchen door was bespattered with blood.

Noah Payne, the son of the deceased, said he was a nut and bolt maker, and resided in Ball's Yard. His father was a nut and bolt maker. He did not know the age of the deceased, but a short time previous to her death she stated that her age was either 62 or 63. His father and mother had not lived together during the past five months. During the past five months the deceased had resided in Ball's Yard and his father in Giles's Square. The houses were about 200 yards apart. On Saturday evening, about five minutes to ten o'clock, he returned home from Bilston, and had his supper. He afterwards went to a companion's house. When he left home there were in the house his mother and her grandson, who was seven years of age. While he was in Dooley's house he heard someone crying in the yard, and at once went into his home to see if anything was the matter. He found the kitchen door open, and his father standing at the door.....

Upon the depositions being read over the witness said he had made a mistake. It was twenty minutes past nine o'clock when he went into the house to have his supper, instead of five minutes past ten o'clock, as he had previously stated.

Job Dooley, a nut and bolt forger, residing at No.1, Horton Street, The Green, said that on Saturday night Noah Payne called at his house at twenty five minutes to ten o'clock. Shortly afterwards he heard a boy come out of Payne's screaming. Noah asked him where the screaming was taking place, and witness replied in his (Payne's) house. The prisoner was standing near the door with his back to the door.....

William Mason, aged seven years, the grandson of the deceased, said he had lately resided with his grandmother. On Saturday night, whilst he and his grandmother were sitting near the table in the kitchen, his grandfather came in and asked his grandmother to have a drop of beer. She did not make any reply, and his grandfather swore at her. He (the prisoner) sat on a bench. A moment afterwards he got up from his seat, put his hand in his pocket, and took out a knife and struck the deceased with it on the right side of the neck. Witness saw a wound in his grandmother's neck, and blood flowing from it. His grandmother left her seat, but immediately afterwards fell. His grandfather put the knife in his pocket, after which he took it out again and threw it into the fire. Witness afterwards went into the yard and screamed, and his Uncle Noah came to the house.

The Coroner (to prisoner): Can I put any questions for you?

Prisoner: I don't recollect anything about it.

The Coroner said he thought the evidence that had been given by the witness should be relied upon.

Mary Morris (16), who said she lived next door to the house in which the murder took place, said that about ten o'clock on Saturday night she heard the last witness scream, and took him into her house. She afterwards went to Payne's house, and upon pushing the door open she found Mrs. Payne lying in a pool of blood. The prisoner was looking over her. No knife was in his hands, but in his right hand was a stick. She afterwards went to a public house and raised an alarm, and a large number of persons speedily assembled around the house.

Mary Mason, a daughter of the prisoner, said that on Saturday last she went to the prisoner's house for the purpose of cleaning his windows. He asked her how she was, and she replied, 'All right.' Her father afterwards asked her to have something to drink and she consented. She afterwards perceived that he had been drinking. In reply to a question he said that he was in a temper over some teasing him in a public house. He afterwards said, 'Oh, there will be something.' She said, 'What do you mean?' and he replied, 'There will be something done.' Witness said, 'If you are going to be in such a temper she would leave the house,' and she accordingly left. The knife produced was found in the kitchen fire.

The Coroner: Have you ever seen the prisoner ill use your mother? – Witness: No.

By the jury: Her father and mother lived apart. They had rows, but he was a good father when sober. She had not heard her father threaten her mother. During Saturday afternoon her father said that three men had been plaguing him, but he declined to say what about.

Police-constable John Daly said that on the night of the 12th inst at five minutes past ten o'clock, he was

on duty at Darlaston Green with Police-constable Balance. From information received he went to the deceased's house. A few yards from the door he saw several persons holding the prisoner down. Witness took him into the house, and upon seeing Mrs. Payne lying on the floor in a pool of blood, and a wound on the right side of her neck, he arrested the prisoner. After Dr. Sutton had pronounced the woman dead, witness charged Payne with the murder of his wife, and he replied, 'She is there (pointing to the deceased); I have had a deal of provocation. I loved the woman and there is no one to blame but me. I have stood it a long time. Witness told prisoner to walk a few yards across the floor, and prisoner said, 'I am not drunk, but I have had some beer.' Witness afterwards took prisoner to the police station. He consequently accompanied Police-sergeant Ainsworth to the deceased's house.

The Coroner: You have been reading from some notes. When were those notes taken?

Witness: At the time the prisoner was charged.

In reply to further questions, witness said he found blood on the prisoner's hands, the right sleeve of the coat and on his shoes and hat. Upon the prisoner being searched at the police station a small penknife was found in his possession.

By the foreman of the jury: He had an idea that he was drunk when he asked him to walk across the house. He would not say whether he was drunk or sober. He had undoubtedly had something to drink.

Police-sergeant Ainsworth said that about ten minutes past eleven o'clock on Saturday night, in consequence of what he was told in the street he went to the police station and saw the prisoner, after which he went to the deceased's house and examined the deceased's clothing, which was saturated with blood. He also at the police station examined the prisoner's clothing which was covered with blood. He charged prisoner with wilfully murdering his wife, and in reply he said, 'I never touched her. As I was standing by the fireplace she fell down by the door, bleeding. I know no more about her.' On the following morning he received the knife produced from John Payne.

John Richard Henry Sutton said he was a surgeon, practicing at Darlaston. On Saturday night last he was fetched by Noah Payne to see the latter's mother, who, he said, was lying in a pool of blood. He went to the house, and found Mrs. Payne lying on her back on the floor. She was dead. Under the right jaw he found a wound. On Tuesday morning he made a post mortem examination of the body in the presence of Police-sergeant Ainsworth. He found no external bruises. Under the right jaw he found a wound two inches long extending from the angle of the jaw. In depth it appeared to be an inch and half or two inches. The external jugular vein was wounded, and the internal jugular vein and arteries were cut. The brain, liver, and heart were sound. The lungs, however, showed that the deceased had suffered from bronchitis. The immediate cause of death was haemorrhage, produced by the cut in the neck. The wound was such as might have been made by the knife produced. Upon making a dissection he found that the wound was three inches deep.

By the jury: It was not at all probable that the wound could have been self-inflicted as it was on the right side.

The Coroner, in summing up the evidence, said he would remind the jury that the inquiry was only a preliminary one, and that their duty was to simply ascertain how and by what means the unfortunate woman met her death. He was bound to say that the evidence of the grandson was highly important, and so far as he could see there was no reason why the jury should disbelieve it, as he knew thoroughly well what he was saying. His evidence showed that the death had been caused by one person, and that person was William Payne. On the whole he considered the evidence was most conclusive, and it be for the jury to say whether the injuries were inflicted wilfully or accidentally.

After deliberating about a quarter of an hour the jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against William Payne, who was committed on the Coroner's warrant to take his trial at the next Stafford Assizes.

The prisoner was afterwards removed in the prison van to the police station at Wednesbury. On Wednesday night the prisoner, who appeared to be suffering badly from rheumatism, was removed to the County Gaol at Stafford. He will be brought before the Stipendiary at Wednesbury on Tuesday next.

We understand that the remains of the murdered woman will be interred at the Darlaston Cemetery this (Saturday) afternoon."

[For the trial see COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green.]

AND

Wednesbury Herald 14/5/1881

“William Payne (65), bolt forger, was found guilty of murdering his wife, with a recommendation to mercy, on the grounds of ‘fancied provocation.’ Sentence of death was passed.”

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 16/5/1881

“It has been decided by a number of working men to memorialise the Home Secretary to grant a reprieve to William Payne, who now lies in Stafford Gaol under sentence of death for murdering his wife at Darlaston a short time ago.”

AND

Northwich Guardian 21/5/1881

“William Payne, 65, nut maker, condemned to death at Stafford Assizes for the murder of his wife, at Darlaston, has been reprieved. It will be remembered that the prisoner stabbed his wife in the neck with a knife, alleging that she had been unfaithful to him. The prisoner was shown to have been suffering from delusions about his wife for several years.”

Walsall Observer 2/4/1881

“Darlaston. Local Board Election.

Mr. James Slater (returning officer) has received the nominations of the following for the seven vacant seats on the Local Board *W. Foster*, licensed victualler, Blockhall.”

[He was not elected.]

1881 Census

29, Blockall – SCOTTS ARMS

[1] *William Foster* (63), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Mary A. Foster (60), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Phoebe Houghton (41), daughter, married, born Darlaston;

[4] Richard Foster (33), son, screw maker, born Darlaston;

[5] Frederick W. Houghton (6), grand-son, born Sparkhill, Warwickshire;

[6] Edwin Houghton (4), grand-son, born Sparkhill, Warwickshire:

Darlaston Weekly Times 12/1/1884

“On Wednesday, the officers from No.128 Lodge of the United Independent Order of Caledonian Corks, opened a new branch lodge at Brother *William Foster*’s, SCOTT ARMS INN, Blockall, Darlaston, when nearly thirty new members were initiated by Bro. John Oakes, who congratulated the newly initiated members in a masterly speech, which was responded to by Brothers Joseph Yates, William Cooper, and Thomas Dawson.”

Walsall Observer 6/9/1890 - Advert

“Sale No.729. SCOTT ARMS, Darlaston. Thursday, 11th September, at Two o’clock.

Walter Hughes is instructed by Messrs. Samuel Allsopp and Co. Limited, of Burton, who have purchased the house, to Sell by Auction, without reserve, at the SCOTT ARMS INN, Blockall, Darlaston, as above, the Excellent Brewing Plant, comprising 90 gallon Copper Boiler, 120 gallon Cast-iron Boiler, 8 bushel Mash Tub, Vat, Sykes Hydrometer, a Saccharometer, Fermenting Tub, an 18ft by 1½ Pipe, with brass tap; 20 Casks and Barrels, in good condition, and sweet; sundry Tubs, Wort Spout, Copper Sieve, half-bushel Measure, Avery’s Weighing Machine, up to 4cwt, as good as new; a Malt Mill, &c, &c, as also a few lots of surplus Furniture, for which the present tenant has no further use.

Catalogues to be had at the place of Sale, or the Auction and Valuing Offices, 34, Park Street. Walsall.”

1891 Census

29, Blockall – SCOTS ARMS

[1] *Joseph Lappage* (42), roller in iron works, born Darlaston;

[2] Rachael Lappage (41), wife, born Hill Top, Staffordshire;

[3] Joseph Lappage (15), son, born Darlaston;

[4] Elijah Lappage (12), son, scholar, born Pelsall;

[5] Arthur Lappage (9), son, scholar, born Pelsall;

- [6] Rachael Lappage (8), daughter, scholar, born Pelsall;
- [7] John Lappage (6), son, scholar, born Pelsall;
- [8] Edith Lappage (5), daughter, scholar, born Pelsall;
- [9] Ernest Lappage (2), son, born Pelsall;
- [10] Sarah Ann Gray (20), domestic servant, born Pelsall:

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1891 - Advert

“£85. To Let immediately, solely in consequence of family bereavement, the SCOTT ARMS, Darlaston, a well-appointed full-licensed Public-house, doing a good trade, with clubs attached. Free for wines and spirits. Tied to Allsopp’s for ales. Capital living house. Rent £25. Apply only to Walter Hughes, Auctioneer, Walsall.”

Dudley Herald 6/1/1892

“A large meeting of the Darlaston and Smethwick Nut and Bolt Forgers’ Union to consider the employers’ list of prices.....”

Sporting Life 16/12/1899

“Central Recreation Grounds, Darlaston. Mr. *Ben Binns*’ (of the SCOTS ARMS INN, Darlaston) next All-England 130 Yards Pedestrian Handicap will take place at these grounds on Saturday and Tuesday, December 23 and 26. First heat each day at 2.30pm.”

1901 Census

29, Blockall – Inn

- [1] *Isaac Morris* (59), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] Sarah Ann Morris (55), wife, born Moxley;
- [3] Esekeil Morris (34), son, labourer, works, born Moxley;
- [4] George Morris (31), son, born Moxley;
- [5] Mary Hughes (4), visitor, born Bradley;
- [6] Benjamin Bourn (35), visitor, living on own means, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury). Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

SCOTT ARMS, Blockhall.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....

There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

Lichfield Mercury 20/3/1903 - Advert

“General (good) wanted, to assist in bar; good character required.
Apply, SCOT ARMS, Blockhall, Darlaston.”

Walsall Advertiser 16/1/1909

“An inquest was held at the SCOTTS ARMS, Blockall, by Mr. G. C. Lewis (Coroner), on Wednesday afternoon, concerning the death of Ellen Butler, aged 22 days, the daughter of John and Ellen Butler, of 39, Addenbrooke Street, Darlaston. The child was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning. Evidence was given that she had been healthy since birth, and she was taken to bed about eleven o’clock on Monday night. At four the next morning the mother fed her, and then laid her down by the side of her. At six o’clock she was found to be dead. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated.”

1911 Census

29, Blockall

- [1] *William Hakesley* (48), licensed victualler’s manager, born Branston, Northamptonshire;
- [2] *Nancy Hakesley* (46), wife, married 22 years, assisting business, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Edward Hakesley* (20), son, fitter, bolt and nut works, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Frederick Hakesley* (17), son, machinist, bolt and nut works, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Harry Hakesley* (14), son, nut facer, machinist, bolt and nut works, born Darlaston:

William Hakesley – see also HERBERTS PARK TAVERN.

Martin Perry Foster Jnr. was born in 1885.

He was the son of *Martin Perry Foster* of SPREAD EAGLE.

Plans were approved for alterations to the sanitary accommodation and living accommodation on 29th August 1934.

1939 Register

Blockall – SCOTTS ARMS PH

- [1] *Harry Parker*, date of birth 11/2/1904, manager, full licensed public house, married;
- [2] *Lucy Parker*, dob 20/6/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Harry Parker*, dob 29/12/1929, of school age, incapacitated by illness, single:

Birmingham Mail 2/1/1941 - Advert

“Bar-General live in M&B, full wages, bonus.
SCOTTS ARMS, Blockall, Darlaston.”

[1968]

Closed

Demolished

SEVEN STARS

37, High Street, (37, Cock Street), The Leys, DARLASTON

OWNERS

John Lord, Town Brewery, Walsall
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939)

LICENSEES

William Singleton [1834]
J Nicholl [1841]
Samuel Stokes [1855] – [1862]
Mary Ann Stokes [1871] – **1872**);
John Eaton (**1872** – [1886]
Ann Eaton [1891]
William Henry Blaydon [1899]
James Aldridge [1899]
Mrs. Lucy Hingley [1901] – [1904]
Alfred John Ward [1911] – **1928**);
Silas Edwards (**1928** – **1934**);
Mrs. Annie Edwards (**1934** – **1951**);
William Johnson (**1951** – **1956**);
Alfred Andrew Derricott (**1956** – **1959**);
Cyril John Chadwick (**1959**);
Robert Brown (**1959** – **1960**);
Arthur Clarke (**1960** – **1966**);
Gordon James Davies-Morris (**1966** – [1967])

NOTES

37, Cock Street [1881], [1887], [1891], [1901], [1904], [1911]
37, High Street [1912], [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 13/11/1841

“Forthcoming Chartist Meetings.....

A meeting of delegates from the associations of Bilston, Darlaston, Wednesbury, and Walsall, will be held on Sunday next, at Mr. *J. Nicholl's*, the SEVEN STARS, Darlaston, to take immediate means to form a district council for the Southern Division of Staffordshire. The chair will be taken at ten o'clock.”

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 7/5/1842

“Forthcoming Chartist Meetings.....

A delegate meeting of great importance will be held at the SEVEN STARS INN, Darlaston, at two o'clock on Whit-Sunday, May 15th, when delegates from the following places, are earnestly requested to attend: Dudley, Wednesbury, Walsall, Wolverhampton, and Bilston, when business respecting the district lecturer will be transacted, and other matters of importance.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/11/1855

“John Batch's beard pigeon of Darlaston can be matched from Birmingham against the best in Wednesbury,

Willenhall, or Darlaston, giving and taking 1min for distance, for £5 a side, or be matched against the best horseman in Darlaston that will give two minutes, or against the best that Moses Foster of Darlaston has, for any money. Money ready at *Samuel Stokes's*, SEVEN STARS, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/11/1859 - Advert

“Mr. Fereday will Sell by Auction, on Monday, the 28th of November instant, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, at 7 o'clock in the evening, the following Freehold Properties.....
Lot 1. All those Two Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, now occupied as a Retail Beerhouse, with the yard, brewhouse, and other premises thereto belonging situate in Cock Street, in Darlaston aforesaid, in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Stokes*.”

1861 Census

Cock Street – SEVEN STARS

- [1] *Samuel Stokes* (43), gun lock filer, publican and retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Stokes* (43), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] James Stokes (20), son, gun lock forger, born Darlaston;
- [4] John Stokes (18), son, gun lock forger, born Darlaston;
- [5] Mary A. Stokes (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Nancy Stokes (5), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] Sarah J. Stokes (3), daughter, born Darlaston:

Samuel Stokes, retailer of beer, Cock Street. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/6/1868

“Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, before I. Spooner, Esq, *Samuel Stokes*, a beerhouse keeper of Darlaston, was summoned for permitting gambling in his house. It appeared from the evidence that at about nine o'clock on the evening of Saturday week Police-constable Heath visited the defendant's house and found several men there playing for ale.

The Stipendiary commented upon the mischief and misery created by the practice of gambling, but as this was his first offence, he fined the defendant 1s and costs; and warned him that if he came there again he should most certainly inflict the full penalty of £10 and costs.

William Foster, a licensed victualler, of the same place, was also summoned for a similar offence committed on the 18th ult, and having been previously convicted he was fined £5 and costs, Mr. Spooner remarking that the attention of the Magistrates ought to be called to those places where gambling could be proved to be permitted, and the licenses should be stopped. He had received many anonymous letters written by persons complaining – and justly so – that licenses were granted to such houses. He always himself fined persons heavily for these offences; but although he wished it to be understood that he did not wish to interfere at all with the issuing of licenses he did think that Magistrates ought to take such matters into their serious consideration. The law itself was stringent upon the point and if fully carried into effect it would be attended with the greatest possible benefit to the neighbourhood.”

1871 Census

Cock Street

- [1] *Mary Stokes* (53), beer shop and gun lock manufacturer, born Darlaston;
- [2] John Stokes (28), son, gun lock maker, born Darlaston;
- [3] Mary Ann Stokes (21), daughter, screwer, born Darlaston;
- [4] Nancy Stokes (14), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Jane Stokes (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Hannah Stokes (1), grand-daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] Rachel Griffiths (27), servant and turns bolts, born Darlaston:

John Eaton = John Heaton

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1874 - Advert

“To be Disposed of, two valuable Freehold Houses and Premises, situated in Cock Street, Darlaston, capable of great improvement. Present rental £16 18s per annum.

Application to be made to John Ratherham, SEVEN STARS, Cock Street, Darlaston.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 29/8/1874

“The annual licensing sessions for West Bromwich division of the mining district of South Staffordshire was held on Wednesday, at the West Bromwich Police Court.....

Five licensed victuallers and six beerhouse keepers were summoned for offences against their licenses during the year. Six of these were convicted, and five were dismissed on the payment of costs. One beerhouse keeper, the landlord of the SEVEN STARS, Darlaston, was fined £5 and costs, for permitting drunkenness, and his license was endorsed.”

AND

Dudley Guardian 29/8/1874

“The Annual Licensing Session.....

The only publican who had had his license endorsed was *John Eaton*, of the SEVEN STARS, Darlaston. All the applications for renewal of licenses were granted, excepting those of applicants who had been convicted during the year. The consideration of these applications was postponed until the adjourned annual licensing session, on the 23rd proximo.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1875

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary).....

John Heaton, landlord of the SEVEN STARS beerhouse, Darlaston, was summoned for having permitted drunkenness in his house on the 19th. Mr. Ebsworth defended.

Sergeant Breton stated that he visited the house about five o'clock in the evening, in company with Police-constable O'Brian, and found two men, named Enoch Heaton and William Baggott. They were drunk, and Heaton was using bad language. Witness called the attention of the landlord to the fact that the men were drunk, and told him he had better get them out. On visiting the house again at twenty-five minutes past six he found the men still in the house, with drink before them. Police-constable Brian corroborated. The defendant, who had been previously fined for a similar offence, was severely cautioned by the magistrate, and fined £5 and costs; and Enoch Heaton and William Baggott, who were summoned for having been drunk, were each fined 10s and the costs.”

Wednesbury Herald 10/1/1880

“*John Heaton*, landlord of the SEVEN STARS INN, The Leys, Darlaston, was fined 10s and costs for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on Christmas night.

Two women were seen to leave defendant's house at a quarter to twelve o'clock, with a bottle containing half a gallon of ale. The two women, Mary Downen and Mary Whitehouse, for being on licensed premises during prohibited hours, were each fined 15s.”

Dudley and District News 13/11/1880

“Benjamin Bott, miner, of Darlaston, was charged with stealing 4s from Thomas Horton.

Prosecutor, a nut and bolt forger, living in Cross Street, Darlaston, said he was in the SEVEN STARS INN, Cox [sic] Street, Darlaston, on Saturday night last, along with the prisoner. They left the house together. Feeling the prisoner's hand in his breast pocket, he pressed his hand against it, when defendant pulled it out, and feeling to see what was gone, prosecutor missed 4s. Prisoner laughed when asked why he had put his hand in prosecutor's pocket.

Two girls, named Mary O'Donnell and Mary Horton, who were passing at the time, corroborated prosecutor's statement.

PC Daly, who arrested prisoner at midnight on Saturday, said as he was taking him to the station, his brother came up, and prisoner passed some money to him. Witness asking what it was, the prisoner said, 'Oh! It's only one shilling and a half-penny.'

Prisoner pleaded not guilty, alleging that he could prove an alibi. His witnesses, however, John Mansell

and William Wilkes, were unable to do so, their evidence being to the effect that a gambling quarrel arose between prosecutor and his 'pal,' and that, the two having adjourned to outside the house to fight it out, the prisoner went to prosecutor, and taking hold of the inside of his coat, asked him to go home, and immediately afterwards the prosecutor accused prisoner of taking two two-shilling pieces from his pocket. They could not swear that prisoner could not have taken the money without them seeing it. Prisoner was fined 20s and costs; in default 14 days' imprisonment."

Walsall Observer 2/4/1881

"Darlaston. Local Board Election.

Mr. James Slater (returning officer) has received the nominations of the following for the seven vacant seats on the Local Board *John Eaton*, publican, Cock Street."

[He was not elected.]

1881 Census

37, Cock Street – SEVEN STARS

- [1] *John Eaton* (47), beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Ann Eaton* (44), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Annie Eaton* (18), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Eliza Eaton* (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Elizabeth Eaton* (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Clara Eaton* (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *William Eaton* (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Maria Taylor* (24), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 6/8/1881

"*John Eaton*, landlord of the SEVEN STARS INN, Darlaston, was summoned for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the night of the 24th ult. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the defendant.

Police-constable Cumiford stated that on the night of the 24th ult, at 11.20, he saw two women go up an entry which leads to the back premises of the SEVEN STARS INN. He subsequently saw one of the women leave the court with a quart jug containing ale.

A number of witnesses called for the defence stated that the ale was fetched from a house adjoining the defendant's.

The Bench in dismissing the case said they were convinced that some of the witnesses had committed perjury."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/4/1886

"Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

The public examination of *John Eaton*, beerhouse keeper and gun-lock filer, Cock Street, Darlaston, took place at the Bankruptcy Court, Walsall, yesterday, before Mr. Registrar Clarke.

The statement of accounts showed liabilities to the amount of £315, and assets £39 9s 8d, leaving a deficiency of £276 10s 3d.

In answer to the Official Receiver, he said he had effected insurances upon the lives of persons outside his family, but he had not been able to keep up the premiums, and the policies had lapsed. One was upon the life of his aunt, who was eighty years of age, but he could not tell to what amount he insured her life. He never told Mr. Flowers's traveller that he was paying about £2 a week in premiums on fourteen such policies. Two of the policies upon his aunt's life he had sold to get money to pay for filing his petition, and his daughter had got another.

In answer to the Registrar, the debtor said he received £25 in respect of a person who died about two years ago, and made about £5 by that transaction; but he lost on another person who died last August. There had been too much of such insurance, he thought, about his neighbourhood, but he did not know that anyone had died any the sooner in consequence of it.

The Official Receiver said it seemed to him that the companies had encouraged this sort of thing, and he was perfectly astounded when he heard of it.

The Registrar said it was a practice that was extremely dangerous. To put it in the mildest way, it was gambling, and it might be something worse.

The examination was adjourned for the bankrupt to supply the list of debts owing to him.”

Walsall Observer 24/4/1886

“Bankruptcy Court.

On Wednesday, at this court, before F. F. Clarke, Registrar, the following bankrupts appeared by adjournment, and passed their public examinations.....

John Eaton, of the SEVEN STARS, Cock Street, Darlaston, beerhouse keeper and gunlock filer.”

Walsall Observer 19/3/1887 - Advert

“Darlaston, near Wednesbury. Sale of Old-Established Beerhouse, and other Freehold Property.

Messrs. J. Belcher and Son have received instructions from the Mortgagee to offer for Sale by Public Auction, on Monday, the 21st day of March, 1887, at the BELL INN, Darlaston, at Seven o'clock in the Evening prompt.....

Lot 1. All that Old-Established Freehold Beerhouse, situate and being No.37, in Cock Street, Darlaston, known by the sign of the SEVEN STARS, with the Workshop situate in the rear, and the Dwelling-house No.38 adjoining, in the respective occupations of *Eaton*, Robinson and Edge.”

John Eaton died in the 2nd quarter of 1888.

1891 Census

37, Cock Street

[1] *Ann Eaton* (55), widow, publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *William Eaton* (15), son, machinist, born Darlaston;

[3] *William Wills* (26), visitor, son-in-law, bolt forger, born Darlaston;

[4] *Elizabeth Wills* (21), visitor, daughter, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1899

“Licensing Sessions. This was the annual licensing sessions for Wednesbury (County).....

The renewal of the following licenses was ordered to be considered at the adjourned sessions on objections from the police.....

SEVEN STARS INN, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/9/1899

“Wednesbury County Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Objection was taken to the renewal of the license of the SEVEN STARS beerhouse, Cock Street, Darlaston, to *James Aldridge* because it was not required, that the house was of a disorderly character, and that *William Henry Blaydon* was fined 10s and costs for permitting drunkenness on July 31st, 1899 License renewed. Transfer granted.”

Walsall Observer 6/10/1900

“Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquest at Darlaston, respecting the death of Simeon Butler (45), a painter by trade, of the SEVEN STARS beerhouse, Cock Street, Darlaston. Mr. J. Corbett represented deceased’s relatives, and Mr. J. Jackson (factory inspector) was also present.

Deceased had been in the employ of Messrs. E. C. and J. Keay Ltd, bridge and girder manufacturers, Darlaston, since July 12 last, working regularly until October 18, and afterwards intermittently. About six months ago he was taken ill, and was attended by Dr. Magrane, who found him suffering from lead poisoning. He gradually got worse, and died on Friday last. The widow stated that deceased would wash his hands when he finished work, but she had told him about leaving the paint underneath his finger nails.

Mr. W. J. Gill, manager for Messrs. Keay, stated that there were in the paint shed, wash bowl, water, soap, and brush for the men’s use, and turpentine was provided to remove the paint from under the nails or anywhere else where it might stick. The paint used consisted of about 95 per cent of red oxide of iron, and only

5 per cent of red lead. The first intimation witness received that deceased was suffering from lead poisoning was on May 14. There had only been one similar case, and this not of a fatal character, during the fourteen years witness had been at the works.

Dr. Magrane stated that he first saw the deceased in March, when there were symptoms of lead poisoning, and these gradually became more pronounced, the case soon becoming quite a hopeless one. On making a post mortem examination he discovered lead present in all the organs, though it was also evident that deceased had been addicted to alcoholic habits, which would assist the poisoning by keeping the lead in solution. The cause of death was chronic lead poisoning. In deceased's case there was no actual paralysis, though he lost the power of his limbs and was gradually going blind. Witness agreed that the enforcement of cleanliness was the chief thing to prevent lead poisoning. Men could be painters for years and not suffer from it, simply because they were careful.

By Mr. Jackson: The lead could be absorbed into the system underneath the fingernails, and a man being addicted to drink would accentuate the disease.

The Coroner said the jury had to say if they thought anyone was responsible for the man contracting the disease, but Messrs. Keay appeared to have done everything they could for the men in their employ.

A verdict of Death from Lead Poisoning was returned."

Walsall Advertiser 9/3/1901

"Susannah Butler and Simeon Butler, jun., of Darlaston, as exors. of the late Simeon Butler, sen., sued the Yorkshire Provident Life Association, Manchester, for £14 16s, alleged to be due on a policy issued on the life of Simeon Butler, the elder. Mr. H. H. Jackson was for the plaintiffs, and Mr. R. Riley (instructed by Mr. Alfred Riley, of Blackburn) was for the company.

Plaintiff's case was that the deceased, who was a labouring painter, and was employed at Messrs. Keay's, bridge and girder works, James Bridge, at the suggestion of an agent of the company, insured his life, a policy being issued on 17th July, 1899. The deceased was then living at Coppice Road, but subsequently removed to the SEVEN STARS beerhouse, Darlaston. Deceased was taken ill in May, 1900, and died the following September. An inquest was held, and a verdict was returned to the effect that he died from lead poisoning.

The defence was that there had been misrepresentations in the proposal form, deceased having been described as a warehouseman, and as not having been previously insured, whereas he was a labouring painter, and had been previously insured in another office.

His Honour said it would be well if it was generally known in these cases that a policy and the proposal on which it was based formed a contract. With regard to the question of occupation and previous insurance, he held that the facts had not been properly stated in the proposal form, and, therefore, the policy was bad. As regards other alleged misrepresentations as to habits and health, his Honour held that these had not been proved. He directed the jury under the circumstances, to find a verdict for the defendants on a question of law."

1901 Census

37, Cock Street

[1] *Lucy Hingley* (47), widow, public house, born Willenhall;

[2] Harriet E. Wolverson (20), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

"Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June

30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

SEVEN STARS, Cock Street.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5."

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....

There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....

In the case of the SEVEN STARS, Cock Street, where the premises are difficult of police supervision, Mr. Plumtre undertook to carry out the suggestions of the Bench with regard to certain alterations."

Mrs. *Lucy Hingley*, beer retailer, 37, Cock Street. [1904]

1911 Census

37, Cock Street – SEVEN STARS INN

[1] *Alfred John Ward* (51), publican, born Thornton le Dale, near Scroborough;

[2] *Susannah Ward* (55), wife, married 10 years, born Darlaston;

[3] *Clara Butler* (73), mother-in-law, clothing machine hand, born Darlaston, deaf and dumb from birth:

Alfred John Ward, beer retailer, 37, High Street. [1912]

South Staffordshire Times 5/2/1921

"*Alfred John Ward*, SEVEN STARS, Darlaston, was summoned for not exhibiting the Liquor Control Board notice. PS Baker gave evidence.

Mr. Slater defended and explained that the notices were taken down during repapering the room. It was his first offence. Defendant fined 10s."

Silas Edwards died in July 1934.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/7/1934

"There was a large attendance at the funeral yesterday afternoon of Mr. *Silas Edwards*, aged 46, licensee of the SEVEN STARS HOTEL, High Street, Darlaston, who died in Walsall Hospital on Sunday morning.

A native of Walsall, Mr. *Edwards* was formerly employed by Birmingham Corporation Tramway Department. Nearly seven years ago, however, he took over a licensed house, at Darlaston, and had gained the respect of the townspeople as a whole. During the war he served as a sergeant in the South Staffordshire Regiment, and saw active service in France. He was a prominent member of the Darlaston branch of the British Legion and Ex-Services Men's Club.

The service at the Parish Church was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. J. W. Augur, MA), who also performed the last rites at the interment at Wood Green Cemetery, Wednesbury. Birmingham Tramway Department was represented at the funeral, and Messrs. F. Dawkins, S. Edwards, H. Brown, B. Edwards, C. Marston, and J. Tinsley acted as bearers."

Rugeley Times 28/7/1934 - Acknowledgements

"Mrs. *Edwards* and Daughter *Edna*, of the SEVEN STARS, High Street, Darlaston, desire to sincerely Thank

all Relatives, Neighbours, and Customers and Friends for their kind sympathy in their great loss.”

Walsall Observer 29/7/1939

“More than fifty licensed premises in Walsall and neighbouring place become Mitchells and Butlers houses this week as a result of the well-known Cape Hill brewery company’s acquisition of the whole of the undertakings of the Highgate-Walsall Brewery Co. Ltd., and the Walsall Breweries Proprietary Ltd., and of all the licensed and certain un-licensed properties of Messrs. John Lord, brewers, of Short Acre.....

A list of the licensed premises that form part of the properties acquired by Mitchells and Butlers is as follows.....

John Lord’s houses.....

SEVEN STARS, High Street, Darlaston.”

1939 Register

37, High Street

[1] *Annie Edwards*, date of birth 8/5/1888, publican, widowed;

[2] James Fellows, dob 5/12/1902, tool maker, married;

[3] Edna May Fellows, dob 18/3/1911, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[5] William Fellows, dob 6/8/1938, single:

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1949.

Mrs. *Annie Edwards* died in 1952.

Rugeley Times 31/5/1952

“The Darlaston Darts League concluded the 1951-52 season with the playing-off of the final for the league president’s cup and the presentation of the prizes, by Mr. V. Dishman, of Atkinsons Brewery, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, King Street, on Friday. Mr. T. Malthouse (league Chairman) presided over a gathering that packed the room, and was supported by Mr. J. Tinsley.

Congratulating all who had taken part, Mr. Dishman said they had had a very successful season, and, from that angle, the main point was the contribution they had made to charity – a sum of over £45 to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. They were all to be congratulated also on the sportsmanship existing throughout the league and the important function it fulfilled in the general life of the public houses of the town.....

Mr. Dishman presented the prizes as follows.....

B Division Championship Shield, SIR ROBERT PEEL; runners-up, SEVEN STARS; third, Ex-Service Mens Club.”

[1976]

Closed

It was demolished c.2000.

SIR ROBERT PEEL

13, (12+13), New Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

James Pritchard and Sons

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]

LICENSEES

William Taylor [1855] – [1861]
George Spittle [1864] – **1871**);
S Whitehouse (**1871** – []
James S Whitehouse [1880] – [1881]
William Birkenhead [1891]
George Birkenhead [1901] – [1904]
John Yates [1909] – **1928**);
Samuel Yates (**1928** – **1937**);
William Thomas ‘Billy’ Willmore (**1937** – **1959**);
Sarah Willmore (**1959** – **1964**);
James Ingram Flint (**1964** – **1965**):

NOTES

12+13, New Street [1901], [1911], [1939]
13, New Street [1881], [1912], [1940], [1963]

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

One sheep was roasted at Mr. *W. Taylor*’s, the SIR ROBERT PEEL.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off during the course of the night two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1859

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before J. Leigh, Esq, a number of publicans were summoned for selling ale, &c, in booths erected beyond the limits of their licensed premises, at Darlaston Wake, a general warning having been previously given to publicans not to infringe the law in this respect.....

Mr. Slater, for the defendants, contended that a wake was like a fair, and that his clients had a right to sell on the days named.

Mr. Leigh decided otherwise, and a fine of £5, the lowest amount allowed by law, with 11s 6d costs, was inflicted upon each of those charged with one offence, charges for other offences being adjourned, in order for the promoters of the proceedings to consider whether they would withdraw them. The following were the persons fined.....

William Taylor, of the SIR ROBERT PEEL, New Street, Darlaston.”

William Taylor, beer retailer, New Street. [1860]

1861 Census

New Street – SIR ROBERT PEEL

[1] *William Taylor* (45), gun lock forger and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Margery Taylor (42), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Richard Taylor (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

George Spittle, beer retailer and shopkeeper, New Street. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 2/11/1864

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, *George Spittle*, beerhouse keeper, was convicted in the sum of 2s 6d and costs for having kept open his house for the sale of beer during prohibited hours on Sunday. The case was proved by Police-constable Burrowes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1865

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, the persons named below were, on the information of Mr. W. Hullett, fined in the sums stated, with 14s costs, in each instance, for having in their possession defective scales or weights.....

George Spittle, New Street, 12s 6d.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/11/1866

“At West Bromwich Petty Sessions, on Saturday, a man named John Emery was charged with stealing a chemise from Mr. Bolt, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, and a knife from the beerhouse of Mr. *George Spittle*, Darlaston. On the 2nd inst the prisoner visited the house of Mr. Bolt and called for a pint of ale. Whilst it was being supplied him he concealed upon his person a chemise. He then adjourned to Mr. *Spittle*'s house, where he took possession of a knife in a similar manner, but was detected and given into custody. The Justices sentenced the prisoner to imprisonment in the house of correction with hard labour for two calendar months.”

George Spittle, beer retailer and gunlock maker, New Street. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

New Street – SIR ROBERT PEEL

- [1] *George Spittle* (45), gunlock maker master employing 80 men, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Charlotte Spittle (39), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Ellen Eaton (13), niece, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] Nancy Green (16), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

James S. Whitehouse, beer retailer, New Street. [1880]

1881 Census

13, New Street

- [1] *James Whitehouse* (39), publican, beer shop, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Sarah Whitehouse (38), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] Elizabeth Greenwood (18), domestic servant, born Lancashire:

1891 Census

12+13, New Street – SIR ROBERT PEEL

- [1] *William Birkenhead* (37), publican, born Davenham, Chester;
- [2] Mary A. Birkenhead (37), wife, born Redditch;
- [3] Ralph Birkenhead (4), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] Florry Terry (14), niece, born Birmingham;
- [5] Charlotte Doughty (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George's, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints', another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

William Birkenhead, SIR ROBERT PEEL, New Street.....

All these were for six days.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/8/1899

“Wanted, at once, a good general servant, age about 30. *Mrs. Birkenhead*.....”

[This was repeated 27/9/1899 with “good home and wages to suitable person” added.]

1901 Census

12+13, New Street

[1] *George Birkenhead* (40), publican, born Davenham, Cheshire;

[2] *Faney Birkenhead* (28), wife, born Wavertree, Liverpool;

[3] *Birtie Birkenhead* (9), son, born Davenham, Cheshire;

[4] *Harold Birkenhead* (5), son, born Darlaston;

[5] *Frank Birkenhead* (3), son, born Darlaston;

[6] *Frances Birkenhead* (59), mother-in-law, widow, born Whitley, Cheshire;

[7] *Betsey Beech* (61), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

George Birkenhead, beer retailer, 13, New Street. [1904]

Walsall Advertiser 20/3/1909

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. E. C. Keay, and D. Hipkins, *George Yates* (22), brewer, and son of the licensee of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, New Street, Darlaston, was charged with assaulting *Thomas Tranter*, of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, and also with being drunk and refusing to quit the premises. Mr. Sargent (Wednesbury) appeared to prosecute, and Mr. A. J. Glover defended.

Mr. Sargent said that at 10.40 on the night of Monday, the 8th inst, defendant entered the house under the influence of drink, and the barman Price refused to serve him. An effort was then made by the defendant to get drink from Mrs. Tranter. At this time the complainant's attention was called to defendant, and Price was requested to ask him to leave. The piano player also asked him to go, but instead of leaving the house, *Yates* sat himself on the piano stool and commenced thumping the instrument. The complainant then went round the counter with the intention of putting him out, but defendant stood up on the platform on which the piano stood and struck him. *Yates* was eventually got out of house, but he twice rushed into the place again, and was not got rid of until the police had been summoned. On the following Wednesday evening he went and saw the complainant and expressed his sorrow for what had happened, at the same time intimating that he should have been there earlier, but remembered nothing of the occurrence.

Mr. Tranter bore out this statement in evidence, and was cross-examined by Mr. Glover as to whether an effort was not made to withdraw the summons, and whether visits paid to the prosecuting solicitor and to the police by Mrs. Tranter were not with this intention. The witness agreed that his wife was willing to withdraw the summons, if it were possible, but he was not.

At the request of the Bench, Mr. Sargent consulted his client as to whether he was now willing to accept the defendant's apology.

Ultimately an agreement was arrived at for the charges to be withdrawn on payment of the costs (£1 19s), which included one guinea for the prosecuting solicitor. Mr. Glover mentioned that he had seven witnesses to call, and a complete answer to the charges. He also made allusion to the defendant's previous good character.”

1911 Census

12+13, New Street – SIR ROBERT PEEL

- [1] *John Yates* (56), publican and brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Yates* (57), wife, married 39 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] *John Yates* (34), son, engine driver, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Phoebe Yates* (29), daughter-in-law, born Darlaston;
- [5] *George Yates* (23), son, brewer, born Darlaston:

John Yates, beer retailer, 13, New Street. [1912]
He died in the 4th quarter of 1927.

Plans were approved for alterations on 28th August 1935.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1938

“The death has occurred of Mr. *Samuel Yates*, aged 58, of 16, New Street, Darlaston.

Mr. *Yates* was, until 12 months ago, licensee of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, New Street, Darlaston. He was for many years a trombone player in the Darlaston Town Band, and was a member of the Darlaston Angling Society.”

1939 Register

12+13, New Street – SIR ROBERT PEEL

- [1] *William Thomas Willmore*, date of birth 5/1/1885, manager public house, fire station chief, permanent officer, fire brigade, married;
- [2] *Sarah Willmore*, dob 18/6/1905, domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Arthur Joseph Willmore*, dob 3/8/1913, motor frame inspector, single;
- [4] *George Ernest Willmore*, dob 1/4/1917, leading fireman, AFS, single:

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘Darlaston’ by A. E. Pitcher, JP

“.....The town’s fire tender was housed in the detached building in Crescent Road, between the Police Station and the Town Hall and was driven by Mr. *Billy Willmore* who tenanted the SIR ROBERT PEEL in New Street. The Chief Fire Officer was Mr. Titus Lowe, a butcher of the town, who lived in Dorsett Road. The fire engine had the name ‘Rose’ on its bonnet and served the town faithfully for many years, on one occasion turning out at night time to a huge fire at Cotterells Nut and Bolt Works in Station Street. With many others I ran behind the engine to see the spectacle. On reflection, it was quite exciting, on hearing the fire warning siren to race to the fire station and watch Mr. *Willmore* arrive, quite breathless and still struggling to fasten his uniform buttons. Despite serving behind his bar all evening, he never seemed to fail to get ‘Rose’ to splutter into life whatever the weather.”

Rugeley Times 31/5/1952

“The Darlaston Darts League concluded the 1951-52 season with the playing-off of the final for the league president’s cup and the presentation of the prizes, by Mr. V. Dishman, of Atkinsons Brewery, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE HOTEL, King Street, on Friday. Mr. T. Malthouse (league Chairman) presided over a gathering that packed the room, and was supported by Mr. J. Tinsley.

Congratulating all who had taken part, Mr. Dishman said they had had a very successful season, and, from that angle, the main point was the contribution they had made to charity – a sum of over £45 to the Earl Haig Poppy Fund. They were all to be congratulated also on the sportsmanship existing throughout the league and the important function it fulfilled in the general life of the public houses of the town.....

Mr. Dishman presented the prizes as follows.....

B Division Championship Shield, SIR ROBERT PEEL; runners-up, SEVEN STARS; third, Ex-Service Mens Club.”

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1952/3 and 1960/1.

1963 Probate

“*William Thomas Willmore* of SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, 13 New Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 25 September 1962 at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton. Probate Birmingham 22 January to *Sarah Willmore*, widow. Effects £418 11s.”

It closed on 13th June 1965.

Demolished

SLATERS ARMS

Butcroft, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Baker [1847]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/7/1847

“James Harper (the Darlaston Novice) will run any of the following, Benhill, Tinsley, Causer of Darlaston, Small of Wednesbury, Roads, or Thomas (the Welch Collier) of Wolverhampton, half a mile, if they will give 20 yards start, or one mile if they will give 50 yards start, for £5 or £10 a side. A match can be made at Mrs. *Baker*'s, SLATERS ARMS, Butcroft, Darlaston, any night next week.”

SPREAD EAGLE

(49+50), 50, Cramp Hill / Little Cross Street, Blockall, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Fox [1861] – [1874]

Martin Perry Foster Snr. [1881] – 1931)

Miss Ethel Naomi Foster (1931 – 1949);

William Johnson (1949 – 1951);

Joseph Richard Leek (1951 – 1956);

Clarence Arthur Fleetwood (1956 – 1958);

Frank Leonard Burns (1958 – 1960):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/12/1857

“Messrs. Addenbrooke, of Darlaston, were summoned by a labourer, named Joseph Hessell, for paying him 16s 8d wages at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Darlaston; Mr. Bartlett appearing for the complainant, and Mr. Ward for the defendants. The complainant stated that of the 16s 8d paid him, when he left the inn he only took home 2s 1½d, having spent the rest. It was paid him by Mr. F. Millwood, the pay agent, who is brother to the manager. The former told him he must go there to receive his money, where he was frequently in the habit of paying the men.

Mr. Addenbrooke stated that the members of the firm had no knowledge of the men being paid anywhere but at the office and in cash; and the magistrates, observing that the agent was alone to blame, expressed their regret that they must fine the firm £5, as that was the lowest sum allowed by the Act.”

John Fox, beer retailer, Cramp Hill. [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1872]

1861 Census

Cramp Hill Street – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] *John Fox* (43), publican and retail brewer, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Sarah Fox* (49), wife, born Derbyshire;
- [3] *Annie Fox* (12), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Lydia Wilks* (15), general servant, born Darlaston;
- [5] *George Tricklebank* (26), lodger, labourer, born Lichfield;
- [6] *Sarah Tricklebank* (25), lodger, born Yoxall:

1871 Census

Little Cross Street – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] *John Fox* (53), beer seller, born Hadley End, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Sarah Fox* (55), wife, born Stapenhill, Derbyshire;
- [3] *Edith Gould* (16), servant, born Hadley Street, Uttoxeter:

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1874 - Advert

“To Let, House and Shop, with plate-glass front and fixtures. Grocery and Provision business more than 20 years. Situated in Bilston Street, Darlaston. Rent £18.

Apply, Mr. *Fox*, EAGLE INN, Darlaston.”

Martin Perry Foster was born in the 4th quarter of 1849 to Jonah and Merab Foster.

He married Mary Adams in the 3rd quarter of 1870.

He was the father of Rowland Job Foster – see RED LION, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton; EXCHANGE, Wolverhampton; BULLS HEAD, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton; BULLS HEAD, Lower Gornal, Sedgley; and LORD RAGLAN, Wolverhampton.

1881 Census

49, Cramp Hill

- [1] Merab Foster (68), widow, born Darlaston;
- [2] Ann Foster (33), daughter, born Darlaston:

AND

50, Cramp Hill – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] *Martin P. Foster* (31), file maker, born Darlaston;

- [2] Mary Foster (31), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Rowland J. Foster (2), son, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

49+50 Cramphill – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] *Martin Perry Foster* (41), file cutter and publican, born Darlaston;
[2] Mary Foster (42), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Ann Foster (14), daughter, domestic servant, born Darlaston;
[4] Rowland J. Foster (13), son, born Darlaston;
[5] Beatrice M. Foster (9), daughter, born Darlaston;
[6] Martin F. Foster (6), son, born Darlaston;
[7] Harry F. Foster (2), son, born Darlaston;
[8] *Ethel N. Foster* (6 months), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

Martin Perry Foster, SPREAD EAGLE beerhouse, Cramp Hill.....

All these were for six days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/3/1893

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. G. S. Guy and A. H. Partridge – William Ball, Union Passage, Willenhall, was charged with highway robbery with violence from the person of George Talbot, Gozzard Street, Bilston.

The complainant’s case was that at about half-past ten o’clock on the night of the 19th inst, he was going from Darlaston to Bilston with a man named Robinson, when they were overtaken by three men. One of the men asked them for a match, and, not getting what he wanted, attacked Talbot who became unconscious, and when he recovered found that he was alone, and that his watch had disappeared. The next day the watch was picked up by a boy named Frederick Grove, 500 yards away from the spot where the assault took place. Subsequently Talbot saw Ball in the street at Willenhall, and, identifying him as one of his assailants, gave information to the police.

Proof was given that Ball, with two companions, left the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Blockall, at ten o’clock on the night named, and Talbot swore that he resisted attempts to take the watch out of his pocket.

The Bench gave the accused the benefit of the doubt and discharged him.”

1901 Census

49+50 Cramphill – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] *Martin Perry Foster* (52), publican and file cutter, born Darlaston;
[2] Mary Foster (53), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Beatrice M. Foster (19), daughter, born Darlaston;
[4] Martin P. Foster (17), son, file cutter, born Darlaston;
[5] Harry F. Foster (12), son, born Darlaston;
[6] *Ethel N. Foster* (9), daughter, born Darlaston:

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Martin Perry Foster, beer retailer and file maker, 50, Cramp Hill. [1904]

Walsall Advertiser 21/7/1906

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Roberts, a Londoner, of no fixed abode, was charged with stealing 1s from a till at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, the property of *Martin Perry Foster*, on the 13th inst.

Inspector Williams said in consequence of a complaint he went to Cramp Hill, Darlaston. There he saw the prosecutor and the prisoner. The former stated that the prisoner had been in his house, and that his daughter had seen him leaning over the counter with his hand in the till. Prosecutor added that he did not know what prisoner had stolen, but his daughter raised an alarm and he bolted. He (the prosecutor) gave chase, and found the prisoner concealed behind a brewhouse in a yard. Witness then took the prisoner into custody, where he said, ‘I have not taken anything. I ran away because I was afraid.’ Witness took prisoner back to the public house, and he was identified by Miss *Foster*. Subsequently witness returned to the brewhouse where the prisoner was found hiding, and there he discovered 1s in coppers concealed under a brick. When charged with the offence, prisoner said he was not guilty. Witness applied for prisoner to be remanded until next Wednesday at Darlaston, to enable the police to complete their inquiries as to his antecedents. This was granted.”

AND

Walsall Observer 28/7/1906

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, Thomas Rogers, aged 57, no fixed abode, was charged in custody with stealing 1s from a till at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston.

The evidence showed that on the 13th inst the prisoner went to the public house, and during the temporary absence of the prosecutor’s daughter he leaned over the bar and was discovered with his hand in the till.

Prisoner ran away, but was found in the back premises of the inn. Coppers were missed out of the till.

Inspector Williams gave evidence as to arresting prisoner, and on subsequently searching the yard he found one shillingworth of coppers hidden under a brick.

There was nothing known of prisoner, and he was sent to prison for fourteen days.”

1911 Census

49+50 Cramphill

[1] *Martin Perry Foster* (61), widower, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Martin Perry Foster* (25), son, file cutter, born Darlaston;

[3] *Ethel Naomi Foster* (20), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Jennie Howell* (20), servant, born Coseley:

Martin Perry Foster Snr., beer retailer and file maker, 50, Cramp Hill. [1912]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/2/1931

“The death has taken place at the SPREAD EAGLE, Darlaston, of Mr. *Martin Perry Foster*, who was the oldest licence-holder in the district.”

1931 Probate

“*Martin Percy* [sic] *Foster*, of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 23 February 1931. Probate Birmingham 31 March to *Beatrice Merab Simmonds* (wife of *Charles Simmonds*) and *Martin Perry Foster*, file cutter. Effects £1,332 15s1d.”

Plans were approved for the extension of the smoke room, and supply of hot and cold water to the server, on 26th August 1936.

1939 Register

49+50, Cramp Hill – SPREAD EAGLE

[1] *Ethel N. Foster*, date of birth 5/10/1890, licensed victualler, single;

[2] Martin P. Foster, dob 31/10/1884, file cutter, widowed;

[3] Maryann E. (Foster) Downen, dob 17/5/1915, nut and bolt warehouse, single;

[4] Minnie (Foster) (Edwards) Davis, dob 10/2/1918, bolt counter, single:

A full license was confirmed on 23rd April 1954.

It closed on 17th July 1960.

It was demolished.

SPREAD EAGLE

9, High Street, (9, Moxley), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

William J Whitmore [1858]

Samuel Whitmore

LICENSEES

William J Whitmore [1855] – **1871**);

Samuel Whitmore (**1871 – 1877**);

Samuel Parsons (**1877 – 1878**);

Harriet Parsons (**1878 – 1879**);

John Steventon (**1879**);

Jiffard Weale (**1879 – 1880**);

Thomas Whistance Smith (**1880**);

Enoch Parton (**1880 – 1890**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/9/1855

“The Annual Licensing Meeting for Bilston, Sedgley, Gornal, and the adjoining places took place on Friday last, at the Police Office, Bilston.....

Mr. Underhill applied on behalf of *William Whitmore*, for a license to the SPREAD EAGLE beershop, at Moxley. The house, he said, was erected for the purposes of the trade. The premises were commodious, had a large yard at the back, and stabling for ten or twelve horses had been provided. The house was situate close to the Gas Works, and although it appeared to be near to a house already licensed, the locality demanded extended accommodation. The nearest house was from 30 to 40 yards distant, and the applicant’s house was not, as had been represented, smaller than that of the person who, through Mr. Hayes, opposed the application, but larger. The population of the locality in which the house stood had greatly increased, and a number of new houses were now in course of erection near to the applicant’s house.

Mr. Hayes opposed the application, and in doing so called the attention of the Bench to the fact that three years ago a license was granted to a house occupied by Mrs. Tart, only a short distance from the SPREAD EAGLE, and two years ago Mr. Baggott, who lived only four or five doors from Mr. *Whitmore*, obtained a license. He thought the Magistrates, therefore, would consider another licensed house unrequired. There

were already seven public houses in Moxley, and the applicant had been twice fined as a beershop keeper. The Magistrates declined to grant the license.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The annual licensing meeting for Bilston and its neighbourhood was held on Friday last.....

Applications for new licenses.....

Mr. Waterhouse applied on behalf of Mr. *William Whitmore*, of Moxley, for a license for the SPREAD EAGLE public house, of which the latter is the owner and occupier. Mr. Waterhouse stated that he made the appeal with considerable confidence, feeling certain, from the evidence which he should submit, that the Bench would deal favourably with the application. Some few years ago, said Mr. Waterhouse, two houses were erected at Moxley for the purpose of being used as public houses, one the house of the present applicant, and the other occupied by Mr. Baggott. Both Mr. Baggott and Mr. *Whitmore* applied for licenses at the same time, but for some reason the Magistrates at the last annual licensing meeting thought fit to grant Mr. Baggott a license in preference to Mr. *Whitmore*. Since the last application was made the population in that neighbourhood had very much increased, forty-one new houses having been erected in the immediate vicinity of the applicant’s house. Eighteen of those newly-built houses were the property of Mr. *Whitmore*, all of them being substantial houses, and several of them were large and commodious shops.

Mr. E. J. Hayes opposed for Mr. Baggott and Mr. Roberts, both of whom are occupiers of licensed houses in the immediate neighbourhood. Mr. Hayes contended that no stronger argument in favour of the application had been adduced than was shown at the last meeting. This was the sixth or seventh application which had been made by Mr. *Whitmore*, and the magistrates had invariably refused to entertain it. It was true that a few houses had been recently erected in that neighbourhood, but there was already ample accommodation afforded for the increased population by the houses of the two opposing publicans.

The application was refused.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/9/1857

“J. Adams (the Barber) of Bilston will run Edwards of Wednesbury, who defeated H. Causer (better known as the Crown Street Pet) at Shelford Common, near Walsall, on Tuesday last, 120 or 140 yards level, for £5 or £10 a side; or he will run Hadley of the same place, on the same terms. To run in three weeks from the first deposit. Money ready any time at Mr. C. Lewis’s, HAND AND KEYS, Bilston, or Mr. *W. Whitmore*’s, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Moxley, near Bilston.”

1861 Census

Moxley – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] *William Whitmore* (55), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Elizabeth Whitmore (55), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] William Whitmore (27), son, japanner, born Bilston;
- [4] Amneriah Whitmore (14), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] Eliza Whitmore (12), daughter, scholar, born Moxley:

William J. Whitmore, retailer of beer, Moxley. [1862]

William Whitmore gave evidence in the trial, held at Wolverhampton Police Court on 28th March 1866, of John White and John Thompson, regarding a scandalous and defamatory libel concerning William Riley Taylor, surveyor to the Township Commissioners of Bilston.

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for the Bilston division took place yesterday, at the Police Court.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the past five years.....

Allowing Gaming *William Whitmore*, Moxley, 1s and costs.”

1871 Census

9, Moxley – SPREAD EAGLE INN

[1] *William Whitmore* (65), beerseller, born Bilston;

[2] Elizabeth Whitmore (66), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Alfred Brooker (3), visitor, born Hill Top:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/5/1871

“At the Petty Sessions, yesterday, *William Whitmore*, of the SPREAD EAGLE public house, Moxley, was fined £2 and costs, for permitting two men to be drunk in his house, on the 1st inst.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1874 - Advert

“For Sale, chestnut Mare, 14 hands; quiet to ride or drive; half-bred.
Mr. *Whitmore*, SPREAD EAGLE, Moxley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/7/1878 - Advert

“Moxley. To Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that well-known old-established Beerhouse, the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Moxley, doing a good business. In-coming moderate. Rent £30 per annum. Sufficient reasons given for leaving.

For particulars, apply to Mr. George Thomas, Auctioneer, Great Bridge, Tipton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/10/1880 - Advert

“Moxley. Capital Beerhouse to Let, the SPREAD EAGLE; near to large Ironworks and collieries, situate on the main road, Moxley. Rent £30. In-coming under £100.

Apply, Mr. J. T. Hunt, Auctioneer and Hotel Valuer, OLD BULLS HEAD HOTEL and Sale Rooms, High Street and Dudley Street, Bilston.”

1881 Census

9, High Street – SPREAD EAGLE

[1] *Enoch Parton* (27), publican, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Susannah Parton (22), wife, born Wolverhampton:

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/8/1882 - Advert

“To Let, that old established Beerhouse, the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Moxley; Good Roadside House and surrounded by Ironworks. Incoming Low.

For particulars, apply R. J. Rogers, Hall Street, Bilston.”

The license renewal was refused at the Annual Licensing Meeting on 22nd August 1890.

The excise license had not been taken out for eight years.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1890

“The licensing sessions for Bilston division were held yesterday.....

Mr. R. J. Rogers applied for the renewal of the license of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Moxley. Mr. Longden objected on the ground that the house had been closed for eight years. The Bench refused the license.”

SPRINGHEAD TAVERN

83, (193), Walsall Road, (Butcroft), (Springhead), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1961], [1992]

Black Country Traditional Inns [2009]

LICENSEES

William Bailey [1851]
Thomas Watkins [1861]
Simeon Butler [1865] – **1871**);
Maria Butler (**1871** – []
George Butler [1881] – [1884]
Richard Harper [1891] – [1896]
Ellen Tonks [1901] manager
William Lloyd [1904]
Emmanuel Hartshorne [1911] – [1921]
Thomas Henry Boughton [] – **1933**);
Arthur Patrick Hopkins (**1933** – []
Horace C Carter [1939] – [1940]
John Lunn [1961] – **1963**);
Violet Rose Lunn (**1963** – [1966]
Jim Clarke [1985]
Alan Woodstock [1991]
Paul Regazzoli [2007]
Corey Roden [2012]

NOTES

193, Walsall Road [1871], [1881], [1891], [1896]
83, Walsall Road [1901], [1904], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

1851 Census

Butcroft – SPRING HEAD INN

- [1] *William Bailey* (57), bricklayer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Ann Bailey* (58), wife, born Boston, Lincolnshire;
- [3] *George Bailey* (24), son, bricklayer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Bailey* (29), daughter, born Manchester;
- [5] *George Bailey* (12), grand-son, labourer, born Darlaston;
- [6] *William Bucknal* (26), lodger, carpenter, born Codsall:

Simeon Butler = Simeon Buttler

1861 Census

Butcroft – Public House – SPRING HEAD TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Watkins* (33), coal miner, born Newtown, Nottinghamshire;
 - [2] *Hannah Watkins* (29), wife, born Darlaston;
 - [3] *Simeon B. Watkins* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
 - [4] *Mary Ann Lindloft* (16), house servant, born Wednesbury:
- AND (previous entry)

Butcroft

- [1] *Simeon Buttler* (56), coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Marriah Buttler* (46), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *George Buttler* (8), scholar, born Darlaston;

- [4] Fanny Baily (15), house servant, born Darlaston;
[5] Sarah Simkin (81), visitor, widow, born Darlaston:

Simeon Butler, beer retailer, Butcroft. [1865]

Simeon Butler, beer retailer, Springhead. [1868]

1871 Census

193, Walsall Road – Public House

- [1] *Simeon Butler* (66), publican, born Darlaston;
[2] *Maria Butler* (56), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Hannah Watkins (39), daughter, widow, born Darlaston:

Maria Butler = Marriah Butler = Mary Butler

1881 Census

193, Walsall Road

- [1] *George Butler* (28), brewer, born Wednesbury;
[2] Sarah Butler (32), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Ida M. Butler (4), daughter, born Darlaston;
[4] Simeon A. Butler (1), son, born Darlaston;
[5] Carey Thomas (22), nurse, born Darlaston;
[6] Elizabeth Cotterell (16), general servant, born Darlaston:

[Darlaston Weekly Times 18/10/1884](#)

“On Saturday evening, the members of the Darlaston Pride lodge of the Birmingham and Darlaston district, held their annual dinner at Mr. *Butler*’s, SPRING HEAD TAVERN, Walsall Road, Darlaston. Mr. G. P. Butler (honorary member) presided, and Bro. Sims (secretary) occupied the vice-chair. The Chairman, in proposing ‘The health of the Queen,’ said he was pleased to see that the accounts of the lodge were in such a prosperous state, and that it was being strengthened by so many young members. Bro. Bayley gave ‘Success to the Darlaston Pride lodge,’ and it was supported by Bro. J. Slater. Bro. Sims, in responding, said the lodge had 60 financial members and nine honorary members, and no doubt it was the means of relieving many in time of necessity. In looking over the annual balance-sheet, he found the lodge was paying £50 in sick pay per year.....”

[Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1887 - Advert](#)

“Beerhouse. Excellent Premises; low rent; satisfactory reasons for leaving.
Apply, SPRING HEAD INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston.”

[Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/2/1889 - Advert](#)

“To Let, SPRINGHEAD INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston (free beerhouse).
Apply, 35, Wellington Street, Bilston.”

1891 Census

193, Walsall Road – SPRING HEAD INN

- [1] *Richard Harper* (48), general iron furnaceman, born Birmingham;
[2] Nancy Harper (50), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Nelly Harper (20), daughter, nut forger, nut and bolt works, born Darlaston;
[4] Richard Harper (18), son, bridge plater’s labourer, born Darlaston;
[5] Elizabeth Harper (16), daughter, born Darlaston;
[6] Charles Harper (14), son, furnaceman’s helper, born Darlaston;
[7] George Harper (12), son, born Darlaston;
[8] Lucy Robinson (4), visitor, grand-daughter, born Darlaston;
[9] William H. Wood (20), lodger, labourer, born West Bromwich:

1901 Census

83, Walsall Road

- [1] John Tonks (39), carpenter, born Wyrley, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ellen Tonks* (53), wife, beerhouse manageress, born Birmingham;
- [3] Alice Williams (21), daughter, born Birmingham:

Tipton Herald 7/3/1903

“A concert of a very successful character was given at the SPRING HEAD INN, Walsall Road, on Tuesday evening last. The proceeds are to be devoted to the aid of Mr. Harry Grainger, who has become totally blind. Councillor B. W. Spittle presided over a large attendance. The programme, which was of an interesting character, was gone through in a creditable manner.”

William Lloyd, beer retailer, 83, Walsall Road. [1904]

Emmanuel Hartshorne = Emmanuel Hartshorn

1911 Census

Walsall Road – SPRINGHEAD

- [1] *Emmanuel Hartshorne* (43), works foreman, bridge builders, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Lydia Hartshorne (40), wife, married 18 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Zillah Mabel Hartshorne (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Alfred Thomas Hartshorne (9), son, born Wednesbury:

Emmanuel Hartshorn, beer retailer, 83, Walsall Road. [1912], [1916], [1921]

Walsall Observer 8/8/1925

“Darlaston Carnival.

Thanks to the enthusiastic response by the whole town, success far above expectations was achieved by the carnival last Saturday week on behalf of the Darlaston Wolverhampton Hospital Appeal Fund Prizes..... Collectors (Ladies). 1, Miss K. Blick, c/o SPRING HEAD INN, Walsall Road (Irish Colleen).”

1939 Register

Walsall Road – SPRING HEAD TAVERN

- [1] *Horace C. Carter*, date of birth 7/10/1891, manager public house, married;
- [2] Mona Carter, dob 15/12/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Lois (Regis) Taylor, dob 22/3/1916, typist, transport office, single:

Walsall Observer 12/12/1942 - Advert

“For Sale, Full Evening Suit, Tails, fit person 40in chest, 38in waist, 30in inside leg; including Shirt, Waistcoat and Bow, only worn 3 times. What offers?
SPRING HEAD TAVERN, Walsall Road, Darlaston.”

John Lunn died in 1962.

Walsall Observer 20/12/1962

“David Lunn, also known as Alfred George Lunn (17), of the SPRINGHEAD TAVERN, 83, Walsall Road, Darlaston, was fined £2 by Walsall magistrates on Monday for being drunk and disorderly in Stafford Street, Walsall, on Saturday night. Police-constable G. Perks said that as a result of a complaint he spoke to Lunn and another youth. Lunn gave an obscene reply. He refused to be quiet and was arrested.”

Walsall Observer 2/8/1963

“When two police officers visited a Walsall public house on a routine check they found seven youths, four

under the age of 18, drinking beer and playing pontoon, it was stated at Walsall Magistrates Court on Friday. Derek Renton (42), licensee of the WHITE HART public house, Caldmore Green, who pleaded not guilty to allowing gaming to be carried on at his premises and to four charges of serving intoxicating drinks to persons under the age of 18, was fined a total of £17 and ordered to pay an advocate's fee of 10gns.

Mr. W. F. Stretton, prosecuting, said that when the officers asked Renton about the card game he said that he had given the youths cards and a cribbage board, but did not know they were playing pontoon. Mr. Stretton said, 'A licensee is expected to control what goes on in his house.'

Police Sergeant W. Davies said it was quite obvious to him that the youths were playing pontoon. When he saw Renton on May 17 and asked him about the game the youths were playing, he was told, 'To tell you the truth I never really bothered about what they were playing.' Renton also told him that the youths were regular customers of his house and he thought they were all over 18.

Inspector C. Dickens, questioned by Mr. J. R. R. Benton, defending, said he thought that the youths looked under age. Mr. Benton said Renton was in sole charge of four bars and the outdoor department. 'What he failed to do was to keep an eye on a game in a corner of a room during a quarter of an hour,' he said. If he wanted to he could have warned the youths as the officers moved from one bar to another.

Three of the youths pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting Renton to allow gaming on his premises. Fined £1 with 10s costs they were, Melvin Clarke (18), of 156 Dale Street, Walsall; Raymond Carless (19), of 164 Milton Street, Walsall; and Robin Stevenson (18), of 15 Thelma Street, Walsall.

The others pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting gaming and buying intoxicants while under the age of 18. They were, James Wakeman (17), of 18 Spout Lane, Walsall; John Giles (17), of 20 Westbury Road, Wednesbury; and David Lunn (17), of the SPRING HEAD TAVERN, Walsall Road, Darlaston. They were fined a total of £3 and 10s costs each."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1967

"Senior shop stewards from factories in Wednesbury and Darlaston, Staffs, have formed a committee to organise protests against the Government's prices and incomes policy. During a meeting in the SPRING HEAD TAVERN, Darlaston, on Saturday, the 20 men discussed local short-time working and redundancy....."

Sports Argus 18/1/1969

"Quick Catches....."

The Hazeldine A.A. of Bilston have increased their membership. It was decided at the annual meeting that the following three clubs should be affiliated to the association: SPRING HEAD TAVERN A.C. of Darlaston; Cradley Heath and Old Hill British Legion A.C. and Bradley Memorial A.C."

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, and 1981.

The Association of Bottled Beer Collectors held a meeting here in April 1987, accompanied with commemorative bottles of beer.

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/4/1987

"Beer bottle collectors from all over the country will converge on the Black Country on Saturday when members of the Association of Bottled Beer Collectors stage a national meeting. The event at the SPRING-HEAD TAVERN in Fallings Heath, Darlaston, will be the first nationwide meeting to be held in the area since the association was launched four years ago. National committee member Mr. Dave Jarratt, senior recreation officer for Dudley Council, said more than 40 members are expected to attend the convention – together with hundreds of bottles of beer. 'The idea is that people can bring their bottles and either swap them or put them up for sale. Some of the older bottled beers from Bass are extremely valuable, such as the Ratcliffe Ale brewed in 1869, which is worth about £50, or perhaps the Princes Ale, brewed for the Prince of Wales in 1929, which would fetch about £40,' he said.

Dave, who probably owns one of the largest collections of bottled beers in the country – his home in Dudley houses a staggering 1,600 – said the meeting will also feature a bottled beer roadshow. 'This is for people who would like to take up collecting as a hobby, or who perhaps have a bottle and would like to know its

value or history. We will have experts on hand to advise,' he added.
The meeting at the SPRINGHEAD TAVERN runs from 12 noon until 5pm.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/2/1989

“Walsall’s Mayor is to be the guest of honour at the Darlaston Allotments and Gardener’s Association Annual Presentation Dinner. Coun. Bill Madeley (Lab, Bentley and Darlaston North) will present the prizes at the dinner to be held tomorrow at the SPRING HEAD TAVERN, Walsall Road, Darlaston.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/4/1991

“A Walsall man has regained consciousness six days after suffering serious head injuries when he fell head-first down a staircase at his brother’s Darlaston pub. Mr. Graham Woodstock, who is in Walsall Manor Hospital, came round on Sunday following the accident last week at the SPRING HEAD TAVERN, in Walsall Road. He was found on Easter Monday, lying on a steep stairway at the pub by his licensee brother, *Alan*. Relatives and regulars from the pub mounted a bedside vigil, talking to Mr. Woodstock in an attempt to bring him round. Today Mr. *Alan Woodstock* said, ‘Thankfully Graham has now regained consciousness and is getting better. We want to thank all his friends who have gone along to visit him.’”

It reopened under Black Country Traditional Inns in 2009.

Express & Star 14/8/2012

“A three-year-old boy suffered a fractured leg after being hit by a bus on a busy road. The youngster was injured in the accident on Walsall Road, Darlaston, yesterday afternoon. It is the second serious accident involving a child in Walsall in the past few days. Ismail Ashraf, aged four, was knocked down by a van in Mellish Road on Friday. The three-year-old boy’s injuries are not believed to be life-threatening. The road was shut for around 45 minutes from 1.45pm. Although an air ambulance was sent, it was not needed. West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman Suzie Fothergill said, ‘The child, a three-year-old boy, was treated at the scene for a fractured leg. The boy was given pain relief and fully immobilised before being conveyed, via land ambulance, to Birmingham Children’s Hospital for further assessment and treatment.’ Manager of the nearby SPRINGHEAD TAVERN pub, *Corey Roden*, said, ‘There was a lot of traffic, which built up after it happened.’”

[2015]

Express & Star 21/11/2016

“Plans have been submitted to transform a pub site into flats. The SPRINGHEAD TAVERN on Walsall Road, Darlaston, will be turned into eight flats under plans submitted to Walsall Council by Spooner Architects. Developers say that a decline in custom at the pub means that turning it into flats would be the best option for the area. A statement attached to the plans reads, ‘The existing public house has declined in custom, and is no longer economical to run, to convert to residential accommodation provides for much-needed housing stock within the area. The existing rear garden would be retained, and the area to the south west would be used for car parking, refuse collection, and cycle stands.’”

Express & Star 4/4/2017

“The SPRINGHEAD TAVERN in Walsall Road, Darlaston, will be turned into eight flats under plans submitted to Walsall Council by Spooner Architects. Developers say a decline in custom at the pub meant turning it into flats would be the best option for the area.”

It was converted into housing. [2019]

STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT

17, (52), (53), (37), Pinfold Street, Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Major George Cox, Wednesbury

John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (leased from 1909)

Messrs. Harmer and Co, 1 & 2, Great Winchester Street, London (leased)

Atkinsons Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired on 1st October 1959)

LICENSEES

William Glover [1868] – [1881]

Ellen Glover [1891]

Mary Ann Woolley [c.1898]

Thomas Smith [1901] – [1904]

General Greaves Cox [1909]

Ernest Walter Gardom [1910] – [1911] manager

Mrs. Charlotte Emma Brooks []

James Horton []

Job Butler [1919] – **1920**);

William Thomas Williams (**1920**);

William Thomas Willmore (**1920 – 1924**);

George William Newbould (**1924 – 1930**);

Thomas Allaway (**1930 – 1931**);

John Leslie Paddock (**1931**);

Richard Mark (**1931 – 1940**);

Daniel Gibbons (**1940**);

Charles Albert Taylor (**1940 – 1946**);

William Henry Shuker (**1946 – 1951**);

William Richard Hulse (**1951 – 1964**);

Benjamin Beards (**1964 – 1965**);

Albert Reginald Bennett (**1965** – [1967]

Tony Devenney (**1985** – []

Stephen Paul Gittins [2007]

NOTES

37, Pinfold Street [1871]

53, Pinfold Street [1881]

52, Pinfold Street [1891], [1901], [1919], [1939], [1940]

17, Pinfold Street [1990]

It had a beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/5/1868

“S. Reynolds of Darlaston will take two yards in 100 of W. Burns of Wednesbury or J. Davis of Darlaston, for £5 a side. Money ready at *W. Glover*’s, the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT INN, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/6/1868

“T. Reynolds of Darlaston will take three yards in 100 of B. Hodson of Kings Hill, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *W. Glover's*, the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT INN, Darlaston.”

1871 Census

37, Pinfold Street – STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT

- [1] *William Glover* (44), miner and beer seller, born Lane Head;
- [2] *Ellen Glover* (48), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Fanny Glover (16), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Moses Glover (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] William Glover (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] John Glover (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

William Glover was fined 5s and costs for permitting drunkenness, in June 1877.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1877

“West Bromwich Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The following reports as to the convictions of publicans during last year were made by Superintendents Woollaston and Holland, for the police divisions of West Bromwich and Wednesbury.....

William Glover, STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston, permitting drunkenness, fined 5s and costs.....

All the old licenses were then renewed with the exception of those whose holders had been convicted in a penalty of 20s and upwards. The latter were adjourned until 26th September.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1878

“*William Glover*, landlord of the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT INN, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, was summoned for selling ale during prohibited hours. Police-constable Daley proved seeing a woman supplied with ale by the defendant's wife during prohibited hours on the night of the 25th ult.

Mr. Sheldon, who appeared for the defence, said that the ale was supplied to the woman for the purpose of giving it to a pig which was ill.

Mr. Spooner: What; do they give pigs ale?

Mr. Sheldon: Oh, yes; I have given both pigs and horses ale when they have been unwell.

Mr. Spooner said he did not think that defence would be sufficient to convince him. The officer said the ale was for some women to drink, and the Stipendiary imposed a fine of 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1878

“The licensing session for West Bromwich and Wednesbury districts took place yesterday.....

The following beerhouse keepers in the Wednesbury district have been convicted during the year.....

William Glover, STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, 20s and costs, for being open during prohibited hours.....

The licenses were not endorsed in any of these cases.

Those whose fines were 40s or upwards were directed to apply for their licenses at the adjourned Sessions.”

1881 Census

53, Pinfold Street – STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT

- [1] *William Glover* (56), beer seller, born Essington;
- [2] *Ellen Glover* (59), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] William Glover (19), son, horse driver, born Darlaston;
- [4] John Glover (16), son, shoemaker, born Darlaston;
- [5] Anne Sheldon (20), domestic servant, born Coseley;
- [6] Fanny Pinner (26), daughter, married, born Darlaston;
- [7] William G. Pinner (11 months), grand-son, born Darlaston:

Huddersfield Chronicle 2/7/1884

“Adjudications in Bankruptcy (by telegram, from Tuesday night's *London Gazette*).....

Ellen Glover, beerhouse keeper, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/7/1884

“Bankruptcy Examination. On Monday the public examination of *Ellen Glover*, of the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, beerhouse keeper and brees dealer, was held at the Walsall County Court, before Mr. Registrar Clarke.

The statement of account showed liabilities to the amount of £222 8s 9d, and assets £22 10s, less preferential creditors £5 1s 2d, leaving a deficiency of £205. Mr. H. A. Pinfield (from the office of Messrs. Hawkes and Weekes, Birmingham) represented Mr. A. Homer, the largest creditor.

The bankrupt was examined by the Official Receiver, and the result showed that her husband, *William Glover*, died in March, 1882, and she took to and continued his business, taking also his effects. His personal estate was sworn to be of the gross value of £35 6s 6d. She stated that she had paid considerably more than that sum, and had made herself personally liable to pay further debts of his amounting to £179, which were included in the £217, before named.

The bankrupt was allowed to pass.”

Morning Post 25/10/1884

“*Ellen Glover*, Darlaston, Staffordshire, beerhouse keeper, dividend of 20s, Nov 3, and any day, at the official receiver’s office, St. Peter’s Close, Wolverhampton.”

1891 Census

52, Pinfold Street

- [1] *Ellen Glover* (68), widow, beerseller, born Darlaston;
- [2] Moses Glover (34), son, widower, nut and bolt forger, born Darlaston;
- [3] John Glover (27), son, boot maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] Thomas Houldcroft (28), lodger, carter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Ellen Pinner (13), grand-daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] Ellen Glover (12), grand-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] Harriet Glover (10), grand-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] William Glover (7), grand-son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [9] Moses Glover (4), grand-son, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 7/7/1900

“On Tuesday an inquest was held in Walsall Hospital Board Room, by the Borough Coroner, Mr. T. H. Stanley, on the body of Richard Brown, Wellington Place, Little London, Willenhall, who died in the hospital on Saturday, June 30th.

Emma Brown, widow of the deceased, said that her husband was a key-smith. She saw him alive for the last time on Thursday, June 28th. She did not know where he had been on the Friday and Saturday. He had not been to work, and he was injured on Saturday, June 30th.

Thomas Gilbert, Factory Street, Darlaston, said that he was not personally acquainted with the deceased, but when he was in Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, on Saturday, June 30th, he saw a black gelding attached to an iron wagon coming from the direction of Catherines Cross, and going towards Willenhall. He saw the driver standing on the shafts of the wagon thrashing the horse with the reins for about 20 or 30 yards. A few yards further on he leaned one hand on the right corner of the wagon and commenced to kick the horse with his right foot. Witness shouted to him, ‘What do you want to kick your horse like that for?’ The driver then swore at witness, and went on kicking the horse. The horse swerved, as if in pain, in the direction of a lamp, and threw the deceased on to the kerb-stone. The deceased was sitting on the left side of the driver, with his feet on the shafts, and the swerve of the wagon threw him right out, and in witness’s opinion his head came in contact with one of the rear wheels, and then on to the kerb-stone, and the wagon went zigzag fashion down the road. On seeing Charles Morris witness identified him as the wagoner. Witness said that Morris had been for half an hour at the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherines Cross, but that he was not drunk, though ‘fresh,’ and quite capable of managing a horse.....

Police-constable Watson saw the horse on the Sunday, and there was then no mark on the animal so far

as he could see. Witness said that Sergeant Davis, who had seen the driver and wagon cross the Square in Willenhall, was sure that the man was sober. He had made inquiries at the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, and the landlord knew nothing about it.....

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1901 Census

52, Pinfold Street – uninhabited

[*Thomas Smith*, wife *Mary A.* and 3 others crossed out.]

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted of drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherines Cross.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....

There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....

In support of the renewal of the license of the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT beerhouse, Pinfold Street, Mr. Plumtre appeared, and undertook to submit plans for the re-building of a portion of the house at the next Adjourned Licensing Sessions.”

Thomas Smith, beer retailer, 52, Pinfold Street. [1904]

Walsall Observer 12/3/1904

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the parish of Darlaston took place on Monday.....

Mr. Pritchard applied for the approval of plans for alterations to the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT beerhouse, and for a full license in place of an ante-1869 beer license. It was stated that there were only three full licenses within 750 yards. The Bench approved the plans, but refused an extension of the license.”

Walsall Advertiser 6/2/1909

“The general annual Licensing Sessions for Darlaston were held at the Police Court on Wednesday morning.....

The application by Mr. *General G. Cox*, beerhouse keeper, Pinfold Street, for a full license, which was supported by Mr. R. A. Willcock, was put off until the Adjourned Sessions.”

AND

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston were held on Wednesday.....

An application was made by Mr. Willcock, on behalf of *General Greaves Cox*, for a license to sell intoxicating liquors at the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Pinfold Street, at present a beerhouse. Mr. Willcock said as regards the monopoly value he hoped that if the license was granted the justices would ask no fancy price as ‘their houses were not a gold mine.’ If the license were granted the owners were prepared to pay the compensation of a house he had referred to that morning.

Mr. N. C. Wright opposed the granting of the license on behalf of the ROYAL EXCHANGE beerhouse. The Bench refused the license on the ground that an additional license was not required.”

AND

Walsall Observer 6/3/1909

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

Mr. R. A. Willcock supported an application by *General Greaves Cox* for a full license for the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT beerhouse, Catherines Cross, and stated that the owner, Major Cox, of Bilston, was prepared to pay the amount of compensation which would be due in the case of the BROOK TAVERN. Mr. C. N. Wright opposed on behalf of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, and the application was refused.”

Walsall Advertiser 13/2/1909 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted immediately; two nights weekly.

Cox, STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/9/1909 - Advert

“General (25), strong, used to public house work; early riser.

Apply, STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherines Cross, Darlaston.”

Walsall Advertiser 9/7/1910

“Jack Lally, a former Walsall boxer, now residing at Wolverhampton Road, Darlaston, was charged at the Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday with assaulting *Ernest Gardom*, licensee of the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherines Cross, Darlaston; with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises; and also with doing wilful damage to the public house window. It was shown that defendant had to be ejected from the inn on Saturday, the 25th ult, in the course of which he assaulted the landlord. When outside he deliberately threw a brick through the window, doing damage to the extent of £5.

For the assault defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days’ imprisonment; and for being drunk and refusing to quit 5s, or a further period of seven days. For breaking the window he was fined 2s 6d and costs and ordered to pay the £5 damage in weekly instalments, or in default a month’s imprisonment. The total amount was £6 13s 6d.”

1911 Census

Darlaston – STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT

- [1] *Ernest W. Gardom* (29), beerhouse manager, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] C. Gardom (30), wife, married 10 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Addie Gardom (9), daughter, school, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] George Gardom (8), son, school, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Edward Merriman (36), visitor, widower, plasterer, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Alice Barnsley (26), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/7/1914

“At Walsall County Court yesterday Miriam Snape, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, sued Harmer and Co., brewers, Wolverhampton, for the return of £10, which she had deposited with defendants as part security for goods they were to supply to her. Mr. R. A. Tench appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. W. W. Green (Reynolds and James, Birmingham) appeared for the defendants, who counter-claimed for £10 as damages they had sustained through plaintiff having failed to carry out a contract to become tenant of the STAF-

FORDSHIRE KNOT INN, Darlaston.

Mr. Tench said plaintiff entered into an agreement to become tenant of the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT INN, and paid to defendants manager £10 on account of £50, which she was to deposit as security for the goods to be supplied to the public house. When, however, an application was made to the Wednesbury magistrates for a transfer of the license, it was refused on the ground that one of her sons had been fined for street betting, and was living with her.

In reply to Judge Smith, Mr. Tench stated that in giving their decision the Bench said they must discourage bookmaking.

Judge Smith: It seems a most irrelevant reason. They might as well say, 'We will refuse you a license because your son is a clergyman.'

Mr. Tench said the most curious part of the business was that the same Bench had previously granted a license at Darlaston to the plaintiff, although the conviction against her son had then been recorded. The Bilston justices also did not make any objection on that score when she removed to Princes End.

The defence was that as it was plaintiff's fault the license was refused defendants were justified in expecting her to pay the out-of-pocket expenses they had been put to in making fresh arrangements.

Plaintiff, in cross-examination, admitted she had not told defendants she had a son, a bookmaker, living with her.

Judge Smith: Why should she pay for what is the magistrates fault? They might reasonably have imposed a condition that the son should not live on the premises.

His Honour gave judgement for the plaintiff for the amount claimed, and dismissed the counter-claim."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/3/1917

"Mutual recriminations were made by husband and wife in an application for a licensing transfer at Bilston yesterday. Mrs. *Charlotte Emma Brooks* applied for the transfer of the ROLLING MILL INN, Bradley, to herself, but eventually the Bench refused the application.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe said Mrs. *Brooks*'s husband was in the army. They formerly kept the SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury, but subsequently Mrs. *Brooks* kept the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston. He understood the husband was in court, being over on short leave, for the purpose of making allegations against his wife, and under those circumstances he was bound to say that before the husband enlisted Mrs. *Brooks* had led an unhappy life. She accused her husband of misconduct, in consequence of which he ill-treated her.

Mrs. *Brooks* said she was bringing a divorce suit against her husband. The latter, who wore khaki, went into the box and made serious allegations against his wife as to her conduct both before and after he enlisted.

Mrs. *Brooks*, recalled, described her husband's allegations as infamous lies.

The Bench said apart from the husband's allegations they did not consider the applicant a suitable one to have a licence."

South Staffordshire Times 28/2/1920 - Advert

"A Highly Important Sale by Auction of Seven Licensed Properties finely situated in the heart of the Black Country – All Freehold.

By Order of Major G. Cox. Esq. with Possession on Completion.

The Ante '69 Beer Houses known as:

The STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston.

The FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield.

The TOWNHALL STORES, Bilston.

The ROYAL EXCHANGE, Bilston.

And Building Land near to the FORGE HAMMER, Lanesfield.

Solicitors: Messrs. Hall, Pratt and Pritchard, Bilston."

William Thomas Willmore – see also SIR ROBERT PEEL.

Dudley Chronicle 10/5/1923

"Sobbing in a heart-broken way as she told her pitiful story to Messrs. Doughty, Peake and Hipkins at Tipton Police Court on Thursday, Mrs. *Annie Horton*, formerly well-known as the landlady of the STAR HOTEL,

Bloomfield, the COTTAGE SPRING, Horseley Heath, and STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston, had a summons against her husband, *James Horton*, formerly the license holder, now of 10 Martin Road, for persistent cruelty, through which she had been compelled to live apart from him.

She said she was at present living in an apartment at 47, Wellington Road, Tipton. She was married 29 years ago at St. Mark's, Wolverhampton, her wedding day being April 29th. They had lived at the COTTAGE SPRING, Horseley Heath, at the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston, at an outdoor in the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, and at the STAR HOTEL, Bloomfield. Since then they had lived at 10, Martin Road, Tipton. Asked what she specifically complained of, she said defendant was always coming home drunk, smashing the home up and destroying everything he could lay his hands on. He would not let the children come to see her, and she must have no friends or acquaintances. A week ago she had to rush for her life upstairs. Even if it was bitterly cold she had to go and stay there, for he told her to get into her kennel. She left him on the 1st of May, because he came home drunk, smashed everything so much that they had not a cup or saucer in the house. He was continually throwing them at her, and used filthy and threatening language frequently in front of the children.

'Are you afraid of him?' asked the Clerk. Witness replied, 'Absolutely.'

'Has he ever struck you?' asked the Clerk, and the reply was, 'Oh yes; dozens of times.'

Continuing she said that once he had cut her on the forehead with a spoon, and he had blacked her eyes several times. She had had everything thrown at her that could be thrown. Her name had been dragged up and down the town until she was ashamed to go out. He also brought up other people's names and accused them of being the fathers of her children. There were seven children in all, but only two now dependent. The language turned out was not fit for any child to hear, and she could not rear them under it. 'I can't, indeed I can't,' she sobbed.

When asked if he had any questions the defendant replied, 'I have too much respect for my dear wife to ask any questions.' In voluble style defendant went on to say he now had work.

The wife said her husband told her he was earning £1 16s a week.

Defendant: I will not make anything worse by asking my dear wife any questions. She is the most lovable woman on earth bar —.

Mr. Doughty: Bar what? Out with it.

Defendant: Her tongue. She is of a dubious and jealous disposition. Every time I go into the house I am accused of having been with other women. I have got a piece of steel in my side and suffer from heart disease. I have to walk from Tipton night and morning, and my meals consist of a little bread and a smear of margarine, and a little bit of cheese put in between.

The Clerk: You are charged with cruelty. What have you got to say about it?

Defendant: I absolutely deny it. If I am absolutely cruel why did I, last Saturday week, give her 30s, take 6s worth of meat into the house, and give her money for herself, and money to the kiddies to put into their bank. There is no publican in Tipton can say I am a customer.

Mr. Doughty: You have been married 29 years; is there no means of you living comfortably? Why have you not summoned him before?

The Wife: I have always been afraid, because he has said if I did I should never live to see the summons served on him.

Defendant: May I say a word?

The Clerk: You talk about your wife's tongue; yours appears to be quite as active. (Laughter.)

Mr. Wilkes, the Court Missionary, said he had tried, but could not effect any reconciliation.

Mr. Doughty: Is it not possible now to go and live quietly together?

The Wife: It is utterly impossible. She further said her two boys were now in the Army, and she was being helped in keeping the two that were dependent by two friends.

Defendant: May I explain —

The Clerk: Do be quiet; we are trying to help you.

Mr. Doughty: We should like to make you two friends again.

Defendant: Mr. Doughty, nothing would please me better. Let me go into your room and show you my leg, then you will wonder how I stand.

The wife having handed a written document of the 'language' used, the Bench passed it to the defendant, Mr. Doughty remarking, 'Just read that.'

Defendant having read it commenced to laugh and make observations, which caused Mr. Doughty to say sharply, 'Stop it. If you do not stop that tongue of yours you will go downstairs.'

Defendant (still smiling): Well, is it possible for any man to use language like that?

The Wife: Oh, you know you did, Jim.

Defendant went on to say that his earnings were £2 a week, minus his insurance. He was willing to give his wife £1 a week on conditions.

Mr. Doughty: No conditions. What can you give her now?

Defendant: Nothing. I have got nothing.

The wife (who had been allowed to be seated near the Bench) said she had forgiven him many times, even for getting her dearest friends into trouble.

Defendant: Thank you for that.

Mr. Doughty: Just be quiet for a minute or two, can't you? (To the wife.) Tell me, is he a heavy drinker?

The Wife: Oh, yes: I have known him spend £20 in drink.

Mr. Doughty: Does he get into delirium tremens?

The Wife: Oh, yes; I have seen him hundreds of times – seen him crawling on the floor on his hands and knees after them.

Defendant: Mr. Doughty, how can I answer that?

Mr. Doughty: Keep quiet, or we will soon find a cure for that. (To the wife.) And that no doubt accounts for a good deal of what you have told us.

The Wife: Oh, yes.

Defendant here began to say, 'I work from seven o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night, and if I have got 3d I give it to pay for a glass of beer for my dear wife to have with her supper, and go without myself. I would do anything for a reconciliation.'

After much further talk, during which the defendant pointed to his two sons in the Army and his daughter's scholastic life, as a proof that he was no 'shuffler,' and the wife declared that she had no friends or relatives and that her daughters helped her, though her sons did not.

The magistrates said they would adjourn the case for a month on condition that defendant left his wife alone and paid her £1 a week. In the meantime the magistrates would make arrangements to see what was the matter with defendant.

The Clerk: And if he does not pay the case will be restored to the list.

The Wife: He has lost four situations through drink.

Defendant: When do I commence?

The Clerk: Next Saturday.

Defendant then walked to the table, threw down the house key, and said his wife could have all that was in the house, provided she let him have his letters and papers.

When his wife said she had not got them, defendant exclaimed, 'Then I will get authority to take those boxes out.'"

Thomas Allaway was fined 20s and £5 5s 0d special costs, on 27th May 1930, for allowing a child under the age of 14 in the bar of his licensed premises at the hour of 10pm.

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

"'I would sooner hear of five men being convicted of drunkenness than one woman,' said Alderman C. W. D. Joynson, presiding on Wednesday morning at Darlaston Brewster Sessions, when it was reported that no female had been convicted in the district for that offence during the past twelve months. The number of convictions for drunkenness increased from nine, in 1929, to thirteen last year, the lowest recorded being eight in 1928. The highest total in the last ten years was seventeen in 1921.

The police intimated that they should object to the renewal of the MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross, and the WHITE DOG, Bilston Street, on the grounds of redundancy. All other licenses were renewed with the exception of the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street, the WHY NOT, St. George's Street, which were objected to because of alleged defective sanitary arrangements, and the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Pinfold Street, which was objected to on the ground that the premises had been ill-conducted. These licenses were referred for consideration on the adjourned day, March 4.

In his report, Police-inspector Adams stated.....

With regard to the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Pinfold Street, the Superintendent said notice of opposition to the renewal of the license had been served on the present licensee – *John Leslie Paddock* – on the ground that the licensed premises had been ill-conducted.”

A full license was transferred from the NEW INN, King Street, on 28th April 1936.

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/5/1936

“Staffordshire Licensing.....

The committee confirmed grants in respect of the removal of the full license of the NEW INN, Darlaston to the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston, at present a beerhouse.”

1939 Register

52, Pinfold Street – STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT

[1] *Richard Mark*, date of birth 4/9/1887, licensed manager public house, married;

[2] *Mary Ellen Mark*, dob 25/10/1893, unpaid domestic duties and bar, married:

Tamworth Herald 4/1/1941

“The marriage took place at St. Paul’s Church, Fazeley, on Boxing Day, of Pte. E. Bates, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Bates, of Comberford, and Miss E. Mona *Taylor*, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *C. Taylor*, of the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT HOTEL, Darlaston. The bride, who was given away by her uncle, Mr. G. Bartram, looked charming in a powder blue dress with hat and shoes to match, and carried a bouquet of cerise carnations. Miss M. Collins, cousin of the bridegroom, who attended the bride, was dressed in a blue flowered dress, and carried a bouquet of lemon carnations. Mr. J. Bates acted as best man. On leaving the church the bride was presented with a lucky horseshoe by Barbara Bates.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/8/1951

“A private car which last night glanced off a mudguard of a bus on Soho Hill, Birmingham, rebounded in front of a British Road Services lorry and was carried 25 yards before it crashed into a lamp post. The car driver, Mr. *William Richard Hulse*, licensee of the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Darlaston, was taken to Dudley Road Hospital with abrasions to his arms and legs. His car was badly smashed, but the bus and lorry were only slightly damaged. Passengers in the bus, who were unhurt, were taken on in a relief vehicle.”

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherines Cross, Darlaston.”

Albert Reginald Bennett – see also ROYAL OAK, Booth Street.

Walsall Observer 28/3/1969

“A man went into the back yard of a public house, saw a wallet in the kitchen, and broke in, it was stated at Walsall Quarter Sessions on Monday. Jack Cunningham (44), unemployed labourer, of 25, Old Heath Road, Wolverhampton, admitted stealing the wallet, which contained £13, from the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT public house, Catherines Cross, Darlaston, on January 16. He asked for two other offences to be taken into consideration and was placed on probation for two years. Mr. C. Stuart-White, prosecuting, said Cunningham was seen taking the wallet by the owner’s wife, who with her husband gave chase. They caught him and took him to another public house until the police arrived.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/8/1989

“The STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT pub in Darlaston is holding a darts marathon to send two terminally ill children on holiday to Disneyland. The marathon is from 3am to 10pm on Saturday and international players Wayne Jones and Steve Parkes will join in.”

Express & Star 2/10/2007

“A publican accused of speeding claimed his car had been cloned and even brought his darts team to court in a failed bid to escape a rap. *Stephen Gittus* claimed he could not have been behind the wheel of a car caught on camera speeding along Willenhall Road in Wolverhampton as he was enjoying the first night of the new darts season. The 39-year-old, landlord of the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, was allegedly clocked driving his Kia at 40mph along the 30mph road. But he claims the car’s details had been cloned and it was not him at the wheel.

Representing himself at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court yesterday, *Gittus* brought along his darts mates to vouch for his whereabouts. But magistrates found him guilty of failing to supply information to the police after he did not fill in a speeding prosecution form. He was given three penalty points and fined £250 plus £170 prosecution costs. A separate charge of speeding was not pursued by the prosecution.

Gittus, who lives above the pub, said, ‘I know my car was parked outside the pub at 10pm, which was the time of the offence. It’s the principle of the thing – I pleaded not guilty because I was not driving the car. I was in the pub having a drink and playing darts with my mates. I couldn’t name the driver on that form because, as far as I’m concerned, no-one was driving the car.’

STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT darts team player Dean Nicholls said, ‘We were drinking in the same round all night so he couldn’t have been out driving or I would have noticed. There were 30 darts players in the pub at the time who could all vouch for him.’

Magistrates told *Gittus* he should have made more of an effort to support his claims the Kia had been cloned by allowing police to inspect it.”

[2022]

STAR MUSIC HALL

289, (30), Walsall Road, (30, James Bridge), Fallings Heath, DARLASTON

OWNERS

King and Barton Ltd.

Ansells Ltd. [1924]

Frederick Smith Ltd. [1928]

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1959]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Griffiths [1881] – [1894]

James Cox (1900 – [1904])

Samuel James Edginton [1911] – 1932);

William Gudge Slade (1932 – 1933);

Francis Harry Tomlins (1933 – 1936);

Edward Thomas Insley (1936 – 1940);

William Edgar Eaton (1940 – 1944);

William Harper (1944 – 1949);

Arthur Henry Hill (1949 – 1953);

Mrs. Edith Maud (Hill) Millington (1953 – 1964);

Arthur Townsend (1964 – 1965);

Ann Townsend (1965 – [1967])

NOTES

30, Walsall Road [1881], [1891]

30, James Bridge [1904]

289, Walsall Road [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939], [1940], [1967]

It had a six-day beerhouse license.

1881 Census

30, Walsall Road – Beer House

[1] *George Griffiths* (33), publican and bicycle maker, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Griffiths (37), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] George R. Griffiths (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Annie E. Griffiths (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Elizabeth Griffiths (69), mother, widow, annuitant, born Darlaston;

[6] Mary A. Aston (43), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

1891 Census

30, Walsall Road – STAR MUSIC HALL

[1] *George Griffiths* (43), innkeeper, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Griffiths (39), wife, born Dawley, Shropshire;

[3] Harry Griffiths (5), son, born Darlaston;

[4] Elizabeth Griffiths (81), widow, born Darlaston;

[5] Ann Simmonds (52), domestic servant, born Enstone, Oxfordshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

W. S. Smith supported an application on the part of *George Griffiths*, the STAR CONCERT HALL beerhouse, Fallings Heath, the ground of opposition being a conviction of selling during prohibited hours

George Griffiths, refused, unless the applicant chooses to take out a six-day license.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

The new applications were.....

George Griffiths, the STAR MUSIC HALL, Walsall Road, Darlaston, for a seven-day instead of a six-day license (Mr. Whitehouse appearing in support). Refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/2/1894

“On Monday night a meeting of the members of the Star of James Bridge Lodge of the Staffordshire Conservative League was held at the STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge, Darlaston. Mr. George Wiley presided over a good attendance.....”

[Mr. Wilson Lloyd, MP, attended.]

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1894

“The annual general licensing session for Tipton and Darlaston took place at the Police Court, Wednesbury, yesterday.....

The only new application was one by Mr. *G. Griffiths*, of the STAR MUSIC HALL, Walsall Road, Darlaston, for a seven-days license, in lieu of one for six days hitherto held by him.....

The consideration of the applications and the cases involving objections were adjourned until September 24.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the district took place at Wednesbury yesterday.....

George Griffiths, the STAR MUSIC HALL, Walsall Road, Darlaston, applied for a seven-days license instead of a six days license previously held. The applicant said the license was reduced from a seven-days to a six-days one three years ago, after a conviction for selling ale on a Sunday morning. Superintendent Salt said there were seven licensed houses within a distance of about 200 yards Refused.”

Walsall Observer 24/10/1896

“On Tuesday morning Mr. A. A. Bethan (Deputy Coroner for South Staffordshire) opened an inquiry at the STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge, into the circumstances attending the death of Alfred Jones, 42, gunlock filer, late of Sparrows Forge Lane. Edwin John Husted, 21, and William Goldby, hawkers, of 24, Burrowes Street, Walsall, who on Tuesday were remanded before the Wednesbury Borough Bench on a charge of causing the death of Jones, were present in custody at the inquest, and watched the proceedings with interest. Mr. E. Peace, of Wednesbury, watched the inquiry on behalf of Goldby.

The Deputy Coroner at the outset intimated that he did not propose to go far into the evidence that day.

Thomas Jones, gunlock maker, of 9, Sparrows Forge Lane, Wednesbury, brother of the deceased, gave evidence of identification. Witness also spoke of being at the FOUNTAIN INN on Saturday night, in company with the deceased (who joined them about 10-30) and witness’s nephew, Richard Jones. They stayed till nearly turning-out time. None of them were drunk. Deceased was a ‘bit jolly,’ but not too far gone. After leaving the FOUNTAIN witness and his companions met the two accused near the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN.

At this point the Deputy Coroner said he proposed to adjourn the inquiry. The doctor had made a post mortem examination of the body, and, if the jury wished, they could hear his evidence now.

The jury decided to hear the doctor’s evidence at the adjourned inquiry.

Mr. Peace, on behalf of Goldby, here raised the question of bail, mentioning that bail had been refused by the magistrates, and urging that no man ought to be kept in prison unless there were some reasonable grounds for doing so, such as the bad character of an accused person, or shocking circumstances attending a case.

Detective-officer Green (who represented Superintendent Salt) replied that the question of bail could not be gone into by that Court. The officer also explained that Sergeant Williams, who had the charge of the case, was engaged at Stafford Quarter Sessions, and Superintendent Salt was unable to be present on account of domestic bereavement.

The Deputy Coroner said the question of bail could not be considered by him till he had heard the evidence, and he did not propose to go into that now. If the magistrates on Friday granted bail he did not think he (the deputy coroner) should object.

Mr. Peace: Thank you.

The inquiry was formally adjourned to the Town Hall, Wednesbury, at 10-30 on Monday morning next.

A crowd assembled outside the place of inquest to watch the removal of the accused.”

AND

Walsall Advertiser 31/10/1896

“The enquiry touching the death of Alfred Jones (42), gunlock maker, Sparrows Forge Road, Wednesbury, was resumed at the Town Hall, Wednesbury, on Monday.....

The Coroner, in summing up, said it was clear that after the deceased was deserted by his friends some men came upon him and struck him, and that from that blow he died.

The jury retired, and in about twenty minutes returned with a verdict to the effect that the deceased was found dead; that he was killed by someone, but that there was not sufficient evidence to show by whom.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/11/1898

“Charles William Marlow, of 98, Bath Street, was charged at the Walsall Police Court this (Friday) morning with deserting his wife and child. Mr. A. J. Glover, who defended, acknowledged the desertion, and stated that the main question was as to the custody of the child.

Complainant stated that on November 11th her husband took the child away and gave it to his mother. She now applied for an order of 15s a week, and stated that her husband was a master man in the collar trade,

and earned money by giving music lessons.

Cross-examined: She denied that she was drunk at the STAR MUSIC HALL in Darlaston, on November 12th, and returned to Walsall in that condition. Neither did she create a disturbance. She had not had her child above six week, although it was 11 months old.

In further cross-examination, complainant stated that she had been in gaol for seven months during the time, having been convicted of obtaining good by false pretences.

Mr. Glover, for the defence, maintained that the child had been neglected when in its mother's keeping, and although defendant had tried to reform his wife since her imprisonment, he had failed.

Defendant was called, and stated that he earned 25s a week, and about 3s a week for teaching music.

The magistrates made an order for 7s 6d a week, and gave the husband the custody of the child."

Walsall Observer 1/9/1900

"The annual licensing sessions for Darlaston Tipton &c, were held at Wednesbury Police Court on Wednesday.....

Some amusement was caused during an application of *James Cox*, for the transfer to him of the license of the STAR INN, James Bridge. The character had been signed in favour of James Fix or James Fox, but no such persons applied. *Cox* swore that he was the person referred to, and the transfer was granted."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1900

"Wednesbury sessions took place yesterday.....

Mr. A. J. Glover applied on behalf of *James Cox*, STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge, for a seven days' instead of a six days' license. Refused."

1901 Census

289, Walsall Road

[1] *James Cox* (37), iron moulder and beerhouse manager, born Oldbury;

[2] *Phoebe J. Cox* (38), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Clarence J. Cox* (4), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Edith S. Cox* (2), daughter, born Walsall:

James Cox, beer retailer, 30, James Bridge. [1904]

1911 Census

289, Walsall Road – STAR MUSIC HALL INN

[1] *Samuel James Edginton* (34), fitter, steel works, born Swan Village;

[2] *Edith Edginton* (33), wife, married 10 years, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Charles Edginton* (25), brother, signal fitter, steel works, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Annie Foster* (19), domestic servant, born Dudley:

Samuel Edginton, beer retailer, 289, Walsall Road. [1912], [1916], [1921]

Bilston & Willenhall Times 10/1/1925

"Park Lane Allotments Association. A meeting of this association was held at the STAR INN, James Bridge, on Wednesday evening, Mr. D. Wallis presiding, when occasion was taken of making a presentation to Mr. S. Clapp, the late secretary, in recognition of the work he had done for the association. The gifts consisted of a case of pipes and a silver-mounted ebony walking stick, and were presented on behalf of the members by Mr. J. Jackson, vice-chairman of the association. Mr. Clapp was the pioneer of the association and acted as secretary since its formation in 1917 until last year. In returning thanks Mr. Clapp said he would not have given up the secretaryship, but he found he had no time to do justice to the position. He would always render what assistance he could to the new secretary."

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

"Darlaston Brewster Sessions.....

In his report, Police-inspector Adams stated that there are 79 houses in the parish of Darlaston licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor.....

Two of the beerhouses ‘on’ – the FORGE, Willenhall Road, and the STAR MUSIC HALL, Walsall Road – were closed on Sundays.”

Walsall Observer 28/5/1932

“Football Gossip, by The Philstine.

Mr. *Slade*, who, since his appointment as manger to Walsall, has been living near Coventry, has this week become licensee of the STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge.”

Walsall Observer 22/4/1933

“At a meeting of the Walsall Licensed Victuallers’ Society, held at the KINGS ARMS INN, High Street, Bloxwich, on Thursday week, Councillor Alfred Medlam presided over a very large attendance and Mr. Harry Langley was in the vice-chair. It was agreed that the question as to licensees following additional occupations should be considered at the next meeting. Mr. *William Slade*, of the STAR MUSIC HALL, Darlaston, was elected a member of the society.....”

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield in 1938/9 (its first year).

1939 Register

289, Walsall Road

[1] *Edward Thomas Insley*, date of birth 28/4/1875, beerhouse keeper, retail, married;

[2] *Kate Insley*, dob 24/12/1876, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Rugeley Times 19/6/1948

“Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association have enrolled 12 more new members, which makes 26 within a month. They are.....

William Harper, STAR MUSIC HALL, Darlaston.”

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1950.

Plans were approved for alterations to the bar and smoke room on 29th April 1953.

Arthur Henry Hill died in May 1953.

Mrs. *Edith Maud Hill* married Alan Joseph *Millington* on 7th January 1955.

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge, Darlaston.”

Edith Maud Ellen Millington – see also COTTAGE, Wednesbury.

[1975]

Closed

Demolished

STEW PONEY

Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/3/1858 - Advert

“Shut-Up Beer House in Catherines Cross, Darlaston.

Mr. F. Aintree has for Disposal, the house, known as the STEWPONEY, situate in the above thriving part of Darlaston, with every convenience, large bar, parlour, kitchen, tap room, chambers, brewhouse, excellent stabling, cellaring, piggeries, garden ground, attached house, &c, &c. Rent under £20 per annum.

Apply at 73, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

STRUGGLER

17, Church Street, (17, Holyhead Road), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

John Joule and Sons Ltd. [1961]

LICENSEES

George Eccleston [1861] – [1891]

Albert Rees [1893]

William Eccleston [1894]

Jabez Baker [1898] – [1911]

Frederick John Jarman [] – **1926**);

John Charles Clark (**1926** – []

Jesse Dando [1939] – [1940]

William Thomas Grainger [1961] – [1966]

NOTES

It was originally the STRUGGLING MAN.

STRUGGLERS INN [1904], [1908]

STRUGGLERS ARMS [1926]

STRUGGLER [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Holyhead Road

- [1] *George Eccleston* (48), brickmaker employing 4 men and 2 girls and publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Eccleston* (43), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah Ann Eccleston* (15), daughter, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *George Eccleston* (4), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Margaret Score* (20), servant, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Thomas Paul* (33), lodger, labourer in brickyard, born Bilston:

George Eccleston, retailer of beer, Moxley. [1862]

1871 Census

17, Holyhead Road – STRUGGLER

- [1] *George Eccleston* (56), publican and brickmaker, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Eccleston* (51), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *George H. Eccleston* (14), son, marker at iron works, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Sarah Ann Morris* (25), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Isaac Morris* (28), son-in-law, mill furnaceman, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Ezekiel Morris* (4), grand-son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *George E. Morris* (1), grand-son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Sarah Jarritt* (27), housemaid, birthplace not known;
- [9] *Mary Maybury* (13), nurse, born Wednesbury:

George Eccleston, beer retailer, Moxley. [1880]

1881 Census

17, Church Street

- [1] *George Eccleston* (67), brewer and beer retailer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Eccleston* (62), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Ezekiel Morris* (14), grand-son, scholar, born Moxley:

[Darlaston Weekly Times 28/7/1883](#)

“*Thomas Green*, chandelier maker, no fixed residence, was charged with stealing a quantity of cigars, value 4s, the property of *Mr. G. Eccleston*, STRUGGLER INN, Moxley.

Prisoner was arrested by PC Johnson, on Thursday, in consequence of acting suspiciously. The officer noticed him going into various shops, trying to sell cigars. Upon interrogating the prisoner, he stated that he had won the cigars in a raffle, and afterwards that he had found them.

Prisoner urged that poverty drove him to do it.

Sent to Stafford for twenty-one days' hard labour.”

[Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/7/1889](#)

“Moxley Court Star of the Forest 3655 A.O.F.

On Saturday evening the anniversary of the opening of the above Court was commemorated. The members met at the STRUGGLER INN, where a grand dinner was provided by the host and hostess. After dinner Bro. Bott, CR, was voted to the top chair, and Bro. Higgs, PCR, to the bottom chair. The health of the host and hostess, also the visiting brothers coupled with the A.O.F. was drunk with great enthusiasm. The rest of the evening was spent most enjoyably in songs and recitations rendered very effectively by the following: Bros. Horton, Woolley, Bernard, Keay, Evans, Beard, and Rubery.”

1891 Census

17, Church Street

- [1] *George Eccleston* (76), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Eliza Eccleston* (72), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *George Morris* (21), grand-son, born Moxley;
- [4] *Susan Morris* (44), visitor, daughter, born Moxley:

1892 Probate

“*George Eccleston* of the STRUGGLER beerhouse, Moxley, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, beerhouse keeper, died 5 November 1891. Probate Lichfield 2 March to Thomas Bird, toll clerk in the employ of the Birmingham Canal Navigations. Effects £154 10s.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1893 - Advert

“Moxley. Large, excellent Premises, &c; immediate possession; the STRUGGLER INN. Apply, Organ Factory, 12, Moxley, Wednesbury.”

Midland Sun 1/7/1893

“John Augustus Hicks (25), smith’s striker, described as native of Cheltenham, was charged with stealing £10 17s, belonging to *Albert Rees*, the landlord of the STRUGGLER INN, Moxley, and two pairs of socks, the property of Arthur Astbury, labourer, Dudley Street, Wednesbury. It was stated that on the 17th inst prisoner went to the STRUGGLER INN, and on representing that he was a boxer from London, without a penny in his pocket, was given a night’s lodging. The next morning it was discovered that the prisoner had departed and that the money and the socks were missing.

Arthur Westbury deposed that prisoner, the landlord, and himself were the only ones sleeping in the inn on the night in question. At about 11.30 *Rees* counted up £8 17s and deposited it in a cashbox, which he locked, putting the key in his waistcoat pocket. Prisoner and witness were both present during this operation. They all slept in the same room, and at about nine o’clock the next morning *Rees* woke him up, saying, ‘Where’s Jack?’ Prisoner was nowhere to be found, and *Rees*, on feeling in his pockets discovered that £2 was missing, and that the key of the cashbox had been taken out. On going downstairs the landlord found the cashbox empty, and with the key in the lock. Witness afterwards discovered that two pairs of socks belonging to him were missing.

Police constable Myatt deposed to arresting prisoner at Dudley, on Saturday. He had on him 17s 11d, and was wearing a new suit of clothes. Prisoner’s old clothes were found at Cannock, where he had been lodging. Prisoner was remanded.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1893

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Augustus Hicks (24), engine fitter, was indicted for stealing £10 17s, the property of *Albert Rees* and another, at Wednesbury, on June 18.

Prosecutor is the landlord of the SMUGGLERS [sic] INN, Moxley, and on June 6 prisoner came to his house and asked for bread. Ultimately prosecutor allowed prisoner to stay there until June 17. On the latter date prosecutor left his cash-box downstairs, and he had the key and two sovereigns in his waistcoat pocket. Next morning prisoner was found to be gone, and the key and money was missing out of prosecutor’s pocket.

A witness named Cornelius Harris stated that he saw prisoner going in the direction of Wolverhampton on the morning of the 18th June. Prisoner told him that he was training for a fight, and asked him not to say that he had seen him.

Prisoner was arrested at Cannock, where he was lodging. He was spending money freely, and gave it out that he was a ship’s second engineer, drawing £25 per month.

He was found guilty, and sentenced to twelve months’ imprisonment, with hard labour.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/7/1893

“John Augustus Hicks, 24, engine fitter, was charged with stealing, on June 18, at Wednesbury, £10 17s in money, five pairs of men’s socks, a pair of men’s boots, and a waistcoat, the property of *Albert Rees*, landlord of the STRUGGLERS INN, Moxley. The prisoner stayed at the prosecutor’s house, and was kept from June 6 to June 18. When he left the money and articles were missed. The prisoner defended himself loquaciously, but the jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to 12 months’ hard labour.”

William Eccleston = William Ecclestone

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1894

“The annual licensing session for the borough of Wednesbury took place at the Police Court yesterday..... Notices of opposition to the renewal of their licenses been served upon.....

William Eccleston, the STRUGGLER beerhouse, Moxley.....

The consideration of the licenses objected to, and also of a fresh application, would be adjourned until the adjourned licensing sessions, September 22. The magistrates had had under consideration the important question of valuation, and they had decided to enforce the Act of 1872, which required fully-licensed houses to be of the value of £30 and beerhouses £20 a year. In cases where there was a doubt they would exercise their right to appoint a valuer.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday.....

Mr. R. A. Willcock applied for the renewal of the license of the STRUGGLER INN, Moxley, to *William Eccleston*.....

The Bench, after deliberating in private, renewed all the adjourned licenses.”

Wednesbury Herald 18/5/1895

“*William Ecclestone*, until recently landlord of the STRUGGLER INN, Moxley, was fined 10s and costs for being drunk on the premises on the evening of Saturday, April 27th.

Police constable Bott was attracted to the house by the sight of a crowd of persons at the front door, and on going inside he found *Ecclestone* and his son fighting. They were both drunk and bleeding. Defendant wanted the magistrates to believe that the officer had brought the case because he could not stand him any more beer. Police constable Bott indignantly denied ever having anything to drink in his house, at the same time disposing of a taunt by the defendant to the effect that when he came for a drink at the STRUGGLER he always looked through the window to make sure that the Vicar was not in the vicinity.”

Bridgnorth Journal 14/5/1898

“At Darlaston Police Court, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd and A. H. Partridge, *Jabez Baker* (42), landlord of the STRUGGLER INN, Moxley, was charged with using threats towards Dennis Hobbs, beadle and sexton of Moxley Church. Mr. Stockdale defended.

Hobbs, who is an old man, said that on April 30 the defendant came to his house in a drunken condition, seized him by the collar, challenged him out to fight, and threatened to ‘do’ for him. Witness refused to go outside. Defendant alleged that he had backed a horse out of the entry adjoining the inn, but the horse had backed himself out. He did not think the defendant would injure him, but witness wanted to be protected against drunkenness. (Laughter.)

Elizabeth Hobbs, wife of the beadle, also gave evidence, and in reply to Mr. Stockdale said it was ‘the election day at Moxley’ (people’s warden election) but she did not know that the defendant had been working hard for one of the candidates, and was excited. She thought that people did get excited at election times. (Laughter.)

The case was dismissed.

James Marlsberry (28), son-in-law of Hobbs, who had struck *Thirza Ann Baker*, the wife of the publican, in the face, was fined 5s and costs, but a charge against Marlsberry of threatening the publican was dismissed. The quarrel as far as Marlsberry was concerned, was said to be over ‘soft water.’”

1901 Census

17, Church Street

[1] *Jabez Baker* (51), public house manager, born Tipton;

[2] *Thirza Baker* (49), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *John G. Baker* (17), son, engine fitter, born Bilston;

[4] *Laura Baker* (12), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Jabez W. Baker* (10), son, born Darlaston;

[6] *Travis D. Baker* (8), son, born Bilston;

[7] William Harper (27), son-in-law, brass caster, born Bilston;

[8] Ann Eliza Harper (27), daughter, born Bilston;

[9] Richard Harper (4), grand-son, born Bilston:

1911 Census

17, Church Street

[1] *Jabez Baker* (61), beerhouse keeper, born Princes End;

[2] Thirza Baker (59), wife, married 41 years, born Birton, Buckinghamshire;

[3] Jabez Wilson Baker (20), son, bricklayer, furnace ironworks, born Darlaston;

[4] Travis David Baker (17), son, clerk, goods depot GWR, born Darlaston;

[5] Thirza Baker (6), grand-daughter, school, born Bilston:

1939 Register

17, Church Street

[1] *Jesse Dando*, date of birth 26/5/1884, public house manager, married;

[2] Hannah Dando, dob 17/6/1888, public house manageress, married:

An application for a full license was granted on 5th January 1961.

Closed

Demolished

STRUGGLER

Eldon Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/7/1862

“W. Morris of Darlaston will run Fred Davies of Rushall five score yards, for £5 a side. A match can be made any time between the 21st and 27th July, at the STRUGGLER INN, Eldon Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/10/1863 - Advert

“To be Let, the old-established Beerhouse, the STRUGGLER INN, Eldon Street, Darlaston. Coming-in low. Apply to E. B. Scholefield, Auctioneer and Appraiser, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

SWAN

162, Moxley Road, (Darlaston Road), (Bilston Road), (Sandholes), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Thomas Page
Uttoxeter Brewery Company [1888], [1890]
James Pritchard and Son [1904], [1942]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Page [1818] – [1831]
Hannah Page [1833] – [1835]
Wills [1837]
Thomas Wells [1841] – **1854**;
Charles Wilton (**1854 – 1858**);
Arthur Williams (**1858 – 1859**);
Robert Williams (**1859 – 1860**);
John Bullus (**1860 – 1862**);
John Thurstan (**1862** – []
Thomas Thurstans [1864] – **1866**);
James Cook (**1866** – [1873]
Thomas Keay [1875] – [1881]
William Joseph Young [1888]
John Starkey [1888] manager
Isaac Henry Williams [1890]
John Wright [1891]
William Edward Page* [1895] – [1896]
Arthur Gough** [1901]
William Edward Page* [1904]
Arthur Gough** [1908] – **1921**);
Uriah Bennett (**1921 – 1940**);
Joseph Parbrook (**1940 – 1964**);
Albert Pace (**1964** – [1967])

NOTES

Bilston Road [1818]
Sandholes [1828], [1830]
Darlaston Road [1880], [1881], [1883], [1891], [1895], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1932], [1940]
162, Moxley Road [1939]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/1/1827 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by J. W. Perkes, on Monday the 15th of January inst, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Page*, known by the sign of the SWAN at Moxley.....

All that small Close or Parcel of Land, containing one Acre and one Rood, or thereabouts, lying and being in the parish of Wednesbury aforesaid; together with the two Messuages of Dwelling Houses, with the Stables and Outbuildings standing thereon, fronting the turnpike road leading from Wednesbury to Bilston, near to the Moxley Sand-pits.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/2/1831 - Advert

“An Old-Established and Well-Accustomed Public House, at Moxley, near Darlaston, Wednesbury, and Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To Be Disposed Of, the excellent Stock of prime Ale, Spirituous Liquors, Barrels, Brewing Utensils, Fixtures used in the Business, the Licences, Goodwill, and Possession at Lady Day next, of that well-known lucrative old Establishment the SWAN INN, situate at the Junction of the Roads to and from Darlaston, Walsall, Wednesbury, Birmingham, Bradley, Bilston, and Wolverhampton, and within the Parish of Darlaston aforesaid, and in the immediate Vicinity of extensive Coal, Iron, and other Works, which has for a Series of Years been carried on to great Advantage by the present Proprietor, Mr. *Thomas Page*, who is declining business solely on Account of ill Health and the Infirmities generally attendant upon the advanced Stages of Life.

The Consumption of Malt has averaged about Sixteen Hundred Bushels annually for the last three Years. The Alterations by the New Licensing and Sale of Beer Acts has made very little if any Difference in the Quantity of Ale sold on these Premises, the present Stock of which is nearly Two Thousand Gallons, and this may for the Convenience of an in-coming Tenant be very considerably reduced.

The House and Premises are substantially built, and comprise four spacious Store Cellars, a large Bar, two Parlours, two Kitchens, a commodious Club Room, and suitable Bed Rooms; with detached Brewhouse, Stable, and Outbuildings, of which the in-coming Tenant may have a Lease at a moderate Rent, and may also be accommodated with a Field of good Pasture Land, about two Acres.

For further Particulars, and to treat for the same, apply (if by Letter, Post-paid) to Richard Corbett, Auctioneer, &c, New Town, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/10/1831 - Died

“On the 23rd instant, sincerely regretted by his numerous family and friends, Mr. *Thomas Page*, of the SWAN INN, Moxley, aged 64 years.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/11/1835 - Died

“On the 11th instant, in her 66th year, *Hannah*, relict of the late Mr. *Thomas Page*, of the SWAN INN, Moxley, sincerely regretted by a numerous family and friends.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/1/1836 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Investments, consisting of two old established Inns, five other Dwelling Houses, and two Closes of Land, situate in the parishes of Darlaston and Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, at the SWAN INN, Moxley, near Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday the 1st day of March, 1836, at five in the afternoon (by direction of the devisees in trust for sale named in the will of Mr. *Thomas Page*, deceased), subject to conditions then and there to be read, and in such lots as will be hereafter determined upon, and which will be particularised in handbills and lithographic plans shortly to be distributed.

The above-mentioned Old Established and Well Accustomed Inn, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging; together with the Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate possession of the same, subject to the purchaser taking to the whole of the stock of ale, brewing utensils, barrels, fixtures, &c (either with or without the household furniture) at a fair valuation.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/3/1836 - Advert

“At the SWAN INN, Moxley, near Bilston, Darlaston, and Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett (by direction of the Executors), on Thursday and Friday, the 7th and 8th days of April next.

The extensive Sock of prime old and fresh ale, about 8,000 gallons of excellent iron-bound ale barrels of various sizes, from 40 to 600 gallons each, two large copper furnaces, two capacious cooling vats, all the capital stout brewing utensils, the stock of hops and malt, the whole of the modern useful household furniture, a light cart, a water carriage, and other miscellaneous property and effects on the above premises, late the property of Mr. *Thomas Page*, deceased.

Catalogues of the whole will be distributed, and may be had on the premises, or at the office of the Auctioneer, New Town, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/1/1837

“Inquisitions before H. Smith Esq, Coroner.....

At Darlaston, on Richard Ease, a man about forty-five years of age, and brewer at Mr. Wills’s, the SWAN INN, Moxley. He had gone out with a companion to shoot some small birds in the frost, when he was suddenly taken ill, and expired in a short time after he had been taken to a house in the neighbourhood. Verdict, Died by the Visitation of God.”

1841 Census

Moxley

- [1] *Thomas Wells* (35), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Mary Wells* (35), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Sarah Wells* (10), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Samuel Wells* (9), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Thomas Wells* (8), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *James Wells* (6), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Charles Wells* (4), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Mary Wells* (2), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *Caroline Bagby* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [10] *Mary Bagby* (10), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [11] *Mary Dunkley* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [12] *James Jones* (35), m.s., born Staffordshire:

London Gazette 18/3/1842

“In the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

The creditors of Walter Norris Hales, heretofore of Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Mercer and Draper, afterwards of Moxley, in the parish of Darlaston, near Bilston aforesaid, and then late of Bilston aforesaid, Coal and Royalty Master, an insolvent debtor, who was, on the 19th of August 1830, discharged from Her Majesty’s Gaol of Stafford, in the county of Stafford, are requested to meet the assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent, on Friday the 15th day of April next, at four o’clock in the afternoon precisely, at the SWAN INN, in Moxley, near Bilston, in the said county of Stafford, for the purpose of considering the propriety of compromising a debt or claim against a debtor to the insolvent’s estate, and staying further proceedings at law and in equity, in an action and a suit instituted and now pending in respect of such debt or claim, or to adopt such measures in regard thereto as may be deemed advisable.”

Thomas Wells was also a steel manufacturer of Moxley Steel Works. [1845], [1849]
He was also an iron master and steel manufacturer, Moxley Steel Works. [1850]

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/1/1847

“On Wednesday night last, between five and six o’clock, an alarming and fatal accident occurred to an elderly gentleman, who was riding on horseback along the road between Wednesbury and Bilston. It appears that the gentleman’s name is Russell, but beyond that nothing more is known. When he arrived at Cock Street, he was met by Mr Anslow’s porter, who was returning to Bilston with a very spirited horse in his cart, where he had been delivering a load of grocery goods. On coming down a slight incline, between Cock Heath and the New Gate, he ran against Mr. Russell and caught his leg with the shaft of the cart, which inflicted a severe wound which bled very profusely. Mr. Russell was taken to the KINGS ARMS, the nearest public house, but they refused to admit him, and he was then conveyed to the SWAN INN, at Moxley, where he received every attention from the landlord and landlady. Mr. Rooker, surgeon, of Darlaston was immediately sent for, who arrived in a very short time and rendered every assistance in his power to stop the hemorrhage, but it was all in vain, and the deceased expired about nine o’clock the same night. He had £34 in money in his pockets. The police are making every inquiry, for the purpose of finding out where the deceased resided, there being only one document on his person, a watch paper, shewing that it had been repaired by a watch-maker at Knowle, in Warwickshire. An inquest was fixed to be held last night at Moxley, before George Hinchliffe, Esq.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/1/1847

“On Friday night, the 15th instant, an inquest was held at the SWAN INN, Moxley, on the body of Charles Pell Russell, aged 67.

Mr. Thomas Badger, of Birmingham, stated that between six and seven o'clock on the 13th instant, he was returning from Wolverhampton, and when about 300 yards from the new gate near Cockheath, he saw a man on horseback coming towards Bilston, about 50 yards from him, and on the wrong side of the road. He was riding slowly. Immediately after, he saw deceased cross the road, and when he was nearly opposite to witness, a cart came up, at about a rate of nine or ten miles an hour. The shaft of the cart either struck deceased or his horse, but it was very dark at the time, and the cart went on towards Wednesbury. Witness went up to deceased, and asked him what was the matter. He understood him to complain of his leg being injured; and his impression was that deceased was not sober at the time. Witness left him in the care of William Marlow, and rode after the man with the cart, and overtook him, and brought him back to the deceased, whom they overtook near to Mr. *Wells's*, the SWAN INN at Moxley. Witness inquired of deceased where he was hurt, and he replied his leg was broken and he was dying; and after he had been conveyed into Mr. *Wells's* he became insensible. He had been bleeding very much before then, but it had stopped. Witness remained with him about ten minutes, and then went to Darlaston for a surgeon. The man driving the cart must have seen the deceased crossing the road for the purpose of avoiding him, and must have known that he had struck him. When the cart went on, witness shouted after the driver, but whether he heard him or not he did not know, as he did not stop. He returned willingly. The deceased had a white smock frock on.

William Marlow spoke to the refusal of Mr. Rose to take in deceased, and to assisting to take him to Mr. *Wells's* at Moxley.

Thomas William Ransom, surgeon, of Darlaston, saw the deceased on Wednesday night, the 13th inst. Upon examining him, he found an extensive injury upon his leg below the knee; the small bone was broken, and the principal artery was ruptured. The deceased died from loss of blood. If the point of the shaft of a cart had gone against the leg of the deceased, it would have caused the injury he had described. Unless medical assistance could have been had very soon after the accident occurred, he did not think the life of the deceased could have been saved.

William Russell, son of the deceased, said he resided at Birmingham, and that his father was about 67 years of age. Deceased was a miller, and resided about six miles from Warwick. On Wednesday, the 13th instant, he was at witness's house, and left to go to Wolverhampton. He had never seen him alive afterwards. When the deceased left his house he was perfectly sober.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and recommended Mr. Anslow, the owner of the horse and cart, to pay all the expenses, which amounted to over £8. The amount was paid.

The case is to come on for further hearing before the Magistrates at Wednesbury on Monday next. The driver is on bail.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/1/1847

“William Fletcher, who occasioned the death of William Pell Russell, on the 13th inst, at Wednesbury, was brought before the bench. Some additional evidence was given but no new fact was elicited. Mr. Fleetwood, who appeared for the prisoner, addressed the bench, contending there were no grounds for committing him for manslaughter. After consulting with the Clerk, and Mr. Hinchliffe, the coroner, Mr. Clarkson said, ‘We have considered this case, and we are of opinion that there has been a want of caution on the part of the prisoner. The prisoner was on the wrong side of the road, and the deceased upon his right. We therefore think that the case must go to another tribunal, and it is for a jury to decide. We commit the prisoner for trial at the next assizes for Manslaughter, but we will take bail for his appearance.’ Bail given.”

[Nothing further has been found on this.]

Birmingham Journal 12/5/1849

“An inquest was held on Monday last, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Wells*, the SWAN INN, Moxley, in the parish of Darlaston, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a man named William Eccleston, a furnaceman, and living near the toll-gate on the road leading from Moxley to Darlaston, whose death occurred under the following melancholy circumstances.

On the afternoon of the previous Friday he felt unwell, and his wife being from home, he in the course of

the evening desired his daughter, a little girl about thirteen years of age, to fetch him some tansey or ‘feather-few’ out of the garden – this plant, it appears, being sometimes used as a medicine by the humbler classes. The girl gathered a small quantity of what she believed to be tansey, and having showed it to her father, he told her to gather some more of it, and put it in a jug and pour some hot water over it. She did so, but it does not appear that he drank any of the decoction that night. On the following morning, however, he drank some, and was in a minute or two seized with sickness and vomiting, which continued about three quarters of an hour, when death put a period to his sufferings.

Mr. Rooker, surgeon, of Darlaston, was sent for, but before he arrived the deceased was dead.

The remainder of the decoction was taken possession of by Inspector McCrea, of Wednesbury, and it was discovered that it had been made from a plant of a deadly poisonous nature, commonly known of ‘monk’s hood,’ a great quantity of which grew in deceased’s garden, close to the tansey, which is a perfectly innocuous plant in medicine.

From a post mortem examination made by Mr. Rooker, there could be no doubt as to the cause of death, and as there was not the least cause for a suspicion that the occurrence was other than accidental, the Jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

1851 Census

Moxley

[1] *Thomas Wells* (46), licensed victualler, iron master employing 40 men, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Mary Wells* (45), wife, born Bradley;

[3] *Samuel J. Wells* (21), son, born Dudley;

[4] *Thomas Wells* (19), son, born Oldbury;

[5] *James Wells* (17), son, born Oldbury;

[6] *Joseph Whitby* (23), brewer, born Hatherton, Staffordshire;

[7] *William Standley* (17), ostler, born Staffordshire;

[8] *Sarah Lingard* (16), house servant, born Birmingham;

[9] *Emma Price* (19), house servant, born Oswestry, Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“The annual licensing day for the division of Seisdon North was held at the Public Office, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday last.....

There were about forty applications for new [spirit] licenses, of which eight were granted.....

Mr. Underhill applied on behalf of Mr. Samuel Baggott for a house at the entrance to Moxley, near the Gas House, stating that there were only three licensed house in Moxley, and no license had been granted in that place for a considerable number of years, whilst there had been a great increase of population, thirty-one houses having been built in Moxley within the last twelve months. In addition to these there had been erected, since the last license was granted, sixty-four houses, making altogether, ninety-five additional houses. There were 2,750 inhabitants.

Mr. Hayes opposed on behalf of Mr. Timothy Goodman, of the MOXLEY TAVERN, on the ground that there was no necessity for another licensed house in that particular part of Moxley.

Mr. Hayes supported an application made by Mrs. Tart, for a license to a house in the centre of Moxley, and in the most populous part of the village. The present population of Moxley was between 2,000 and 3,000, and no fresh license had been granted since the population was only 300, so that there had been an increase of more than 2,000 inhabitants since the last license was granted.

Mr. Underhill opposed Mrs. Hart’s [sic] application on behalf of Mrs. *Wells*, of the SWAN, on the ground that Mrs. Tart’s house was within twenty or twenty-five yards of Timothy Goodman’s house.

The application of Mrs. Tart was granted. That of Mr. Baggott was refused.”

Charles Wilton = Charles Walton

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/4/1854

“On Tuesday the license of the SWAN INN, Moxley, was transferred from Mr. *Thomas Wells* to Mr. *Charles Wilton*, late of the Lion Hotel, Leominster.”

Birmingham Journal 10/11/1855 - Married

“On the 25th ult, at the Parish Church, Moxley (by the Rev. Mr. Wilson), Mr. William Lewis, of Tipton, to Fanny, daughter of Mr. *Charles Wilton*, of the SWAN INN, Moxley.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/1/1858 - Advert

“Eligible Freehold Houses, at Moxley.

Jabez Morrell will Sell by Auction, by order of the mortgagee, at the house of Mr. *Wilton*, known as the SWAN INN, Moxley, on Tuesday next, the 26th of January, 1858, at six o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/5/1858 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale by Auction, at the SWAN TAVERN, Moxley, near Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold by Auction (by direction of Mr. *Wilton*, who is leaving), on Wednesday next the 12th day of May, commencing punctually at eleven.

The capital Household and Public House Furniture, Store Casks, Utensils, and Effects; including four-post, tent, and other bedsteads, and hangings, fine feather beds, bed clothes, mattresses, chests of drawers, linen chests, toilet tables, dressing glasses, chamber chairs, and carpetings, handsome loo table, ten massive mahogany dining-room chairs and two elbow chairs, sofa, mahogany dining table, eight-day Timepiece, capital five-pull Ale Machine, leaded tap table, pewter and earthen measures, benches, large buffet, dresser, frames of shelves, cooking utensils, two tumps of Hops, mash tub, store and ale casks, bottles, and numerous other effects; catalogues of which may be had.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/7/1858

“At the Public Office, on Saturday last the following transfer of public house licenses took place..... SWAN INN, Moxley, Darlaston, from Mr. *Charles Walton* to Mr. *Arthur Williams* (late of Stafford).”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1858

“The usual meeting for the examination and passing of victuallers' old licenses was held on Tuesday.....

These parties had been for the offences noted fined since the last annual licensing day.....

Arthur Williams, SWAN INN, Moxley, open on a Sunday after hours; he did not appear until after the close of the day, and in consequence will have to appear before the Magistrates at the adjourned sessions.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/1/1860

“On Saturday last, G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Moxley, on the body of George Taylor, aged three years. On the 30th of December the deceased got up about half-past seven o'clock, and went down stairs, and soon afterwards, his mother hearing him scream, found him with his clothes in flames. She put the fire out, but the deceased was much burnt. He had a lighted stick in his hand at the time. On the following Tuesday the mother obtained a medical relief note, and Mr. Garman, the parish surgeon, was sent for, but his assistant did not attend till the following evening. The deceased lingered until Thursday last, when he died from the effects of burning. The Coroner remarked upon the number of deaths which had taken place from burning, and most of them from the want of a guard to the grate, and he reprimanded the mother of the deceased for not having one. the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and they and the Coroner expressed an opinion that the parish surgeon ought to have attended to the case earlier.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/1/1860

“Wolverhampton Petty Sessions.....

Winnifred Kenny was charged with stealing a mantle, the property of Martha Taylor; and she and Clara Hicken were also charged with ‘taking the hair’ of Martha and otherwise ill-using her. The complainant and the two defendants are smart young women of disreputable habits, and live in the Townwell-fold. They also make frequent visits to Marshall's liquor shop and other places in the same street where gin is sold. The other night they had been in Marshall's, and according to Miss Taylor, Clara lugged her, removing a handful of hair, which was duly deposited on the clerk's desk, whilst Winnifred stripped and made off with her man-

tle. In support of this statement, she adduced a young fellow named *Robert Williams*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Moxley, who stated that in the row the defendant Kenny had really taken the mantle. Police-constable Nightingale deposed that when first called in over the mantle, the prosecutor said she did not know who had taken it, and Molly Hill said it was lost during the fight, when Kenny was out of the shop. Miss Hickin gave similar evidence, and the charge of theft was abandoned. She and Kenny were then charged with assaulting Taylor on Saturday night last. This charge was proved and the defendants fined 2s 6d each, and costs divided, the Court having been nearly two hours occupied with this paltry squabble.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/2/1860 - Advert

“SWAN INN, Moxley.

To Be Let, and entered upon immediately, on the 3rd of April next, that old-established and well-accustomed Inn, known as the SWAN INN, Moxley, upon the turnpike road from Wolverhampton to Birmingham, and about half a mile from Darlaston, Wednesbury, and Bilston, in the midst of the iron, coal, and sand districts of South Staffordshire. The house contains bar, two parlours, large smokeroom, taproom, two kitchens, and pantry, and five bedrooms, and a large clubroom; with brewhouse, yard, coachhouse, stabling, piggeries, bowling alley, &c. The stock, fixtures, and part of the household furniture to be taken to at a valuation. For further particulars, apply on the premises.”

Birmingham Journal 31/3/1860

“*Robert Williams*, landlord of the SWAN, at Moxley, and Joseph Stevens were charged with assaulting Benjamin Evans. The prosecutor, who is a collier, and has been in Russia for some seven years, had been to Walsall, to visit a sister, on last Saturday week, and on his way called in at the SWAN, where a disturbance arose, in the course of which he was very severely handled. Stevens exculpated himself, and was discharged; the inhospitable host was fined 2s and costs.”

John Bullus = John Bullas

1861 Census

Moxley – SWAN INN

- [1] *John Bullus* (60), victualler, born Rugeley;
- [2] Sarah Bullus (42), wife, born Rugeley;
- [3] John Bullus (34), son, born Tipton;
- [4] Sarah J. Bullus (9), daughter, scholar, born Pelsall;
- [5] Mary Ann Hawkins (25), domestic servant, born Bloxwich:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/4/1861

“On Thursday last an inquest was held before Edwin Hooper, Esq, at Mr. *John Bullus*’s, the SWAN INN, Moxley, on the body of a young woman, 19 years of age, named Hannah Hickman. The deceased was the daughter (before marriage) of Elizabeth Butler, wife of John Butler, a labourer, at Moxley. The young woman lived with her aunt, Mary Ball, and worked at Mr. Latham’s. She had for some time been courted by a young man named William Clarke, and there is reason to infer that an improper intercourse had taken place, as it is suspected that deceased was in a state of pregnancy at the time of her death. Early on Wednesday morning last a boatman saw the body of deceased in an arm of the Birmingham canal, close to Mr. Blackwell’s ironworks. With the aid of a police officer, the body, which had been for some time in the water, was got out. The face and head were much bruised, but the identity was fully established. Clarke and deceased had been seen together some time shortly before deceased was missing, and evidence was adduced showing that something had passed as to a conversation with a young man named Walker, at Darlaston, which might have caused the jealousy of the deceased’s sweetheart. It was further shown that she and Clarke had been at Brierley Hill together, and that the latter had not been seen since the Saturday preceding the finding of the body. It was also stated that deceased had been heard to say to the neighbours, ‘The next trouble you’ll have will be all of a lump,’ and referring to another matter which had been mentioned, deceased remarked in an emphatic manner, ‘Oh God! I wish I had took it.’ The Coroner said that under such a state of things it

became his duty to direct an adjournment of the inquest. There must be a post mortem examination of the body, and Clarke must be required to attend at the adjourned inquest. The Jury acquiesced, and the inquest was adjourned for a month.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1862 - Advert

“Important Old-Licensed House, the SWAN INN, Moxley, in the parish of Darlaston.

The above Inn to be Let, from the 14th day of April next. Is very eligibly situated on the main road leading from Darlaston to Bilston, surrounded by Ironworks, Sand Beds, Wharfs, &c. Is doing a very extensive business, nearly double the amount of rent being had in notes by the Landlord for the Ironworks. Foresters’ Court is held at the house. The Stock has been considerably reduced in consequence of the Proprietor’s intention to leave, for which satisfactory reasons can be given. The Stock, Fixtures, Brewing Utensils, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

Application to be made on the premises, or to Mr. Enoch Bruerton, Auctioneer, Cock Street, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/3/1863 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

Notice of Sitting for Last Examination, in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

John Bullas the Elder, formerly of Moxley, in the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, and now of the township of Pelsall, in the said county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Walsall, on the 24th day of January, 1863, a Public Sitting for the said Bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make Application for his Discharge, will be held before the Judge of the said Court, on the 21st day of March, 1863, at the Court, Goodall Street, Walsall, at Ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said Bankrupt to surrender. F. F. Clarke, Esq, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and Henry Jackson, Esq, of West Bromwich, is the Solicitor in the Bankruptcy. The First Meeting of Creditors has been duly held in the said Bankruptcy, and at the Public Sitting above mentioned Proofs of Debts of Creditors who have not proved will be received, and the said Bankrupt will be required to surrender himself to the said Court, and to submit himself to be examined, and to make a full disclosure and discovery of all his Estate and Effects, and to Finish his Examination.

Henry Jackson, Esq, Solicitor, West Bromwich.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/3/1863

“*John Bullas*, publican, formerly of Moxley, and also of Pelsall, came up for final examination, but as Mr. Jackson, who appeared for the bankrupt, was unable, through indisposition, to attend, the case was, on the application of Mr. Crump Thomas, adjourned till the 15th of April.”

Walsall Free Press 18/4/1863

“In re *John Bullas*, licensed victualler, formerly of Moxley, and latterly of Pelsall. As the bankrupt’s solicitor, Mr. Jackson, was unable to attend, the case was adjourned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/4/1863

“In the case of *John Bullas* the elder, formerly victualler at Moxley, and latterly of Pelsall, Mr. Jackson, of Darlaston, appeared for the trade assignee, but as it appeared there had been some irregularity in the appointment, Mr. Ebsworth appeared as official assignee, and consented to the bankrupt obtaining his discharge, upon the understanding that the statement of accounts should be amended, and £16, realised from the sale of the bankrupt’s estate, should be paid into court.”

Walsall Free Press 2/5/1863 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of *John Bullas*, the elder, formerly of Moxley, in the Parish of Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, and now of the Township of Pelsall, in the said County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, a Bankrupt.

Whereas, at a public sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless, in the meantime, an appeal be duly entered against the Judgement of the said court.

Dated this 22nd day of April, 1863.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

John Bullus – see also BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Pelsall, Walsall.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/5/1864

“Yesterday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquiry at the SWAN INN, Moxley, concerning the death of George Bowen, eighteen months old, who had died suddenly on Sunday morning last. The police at Wednesbury had received a lengthy certificate from Mr. Larkin, a surgeon practicing at Bilston, which affirmed that the child had died from the pains of dentition, combined with convulsions. Mr. Larkin had not seen the infant until after death, and Mr. Gilbert, surgeon of the sick society of which the deceased was a member, considered the opinion embodied in the certificate as decidedly premature, and insisted on an inquest being held for the satisfaction of all the parties interested, and the public generally.

Mary Ann Bowen, the mother of the child, was the first witness examined, who said her husband was a labourer, and had deserted her some time ago, since which she had been living as housekeeper with Joseph Edwards at Moxley. The child had been in the enjoyment of perfect health until the preceding Sunday, when at about one o'clock it was suddenly seized with a fit of vomiting, and uttered the most piercing screams for nearly two hours and a half. A hot bag and an oatmeal poultice were applied to his stomach, which appeared to afford him relief, and he received his natural nourishment, but at half-past four o'clock he became worse, and witness sent Edwards for Mr. Woolley, a chemist and druggist. She knew he was a 'doctor' because he 'doctored people in the parish.' He had doctored persons in the house where she lived, and had been paid for it. Mr. Woolley said the deceased was suffering from cholera in the bowels and advised the remedies which had been already applied. He, however, sent a bottle of medicine and six powders, and, according to his instructions, two teaspoonfuls of the mixture and a powder were immediately administered to the child, after receiving which he appeared gradually to decline. The bottle produced by Police-sergeant Fenner was the same Edwards brought from Mr. Woolley's shop. He was in the sick society of Mr. Gilbert, surgeon, of Bilston. She had intended taking the child to Mr. Gilbert, and while preparing to do so, she observed he was going, and he died almost instantaneously. The child died about six o'clock on Monday morning. Mr. Larkin and Mr. Woolley came to the house, and the latter volunteered to give her a certificate of the cause of death. Neither of them had been sent for. They said it was a case of strong inflammation, and that they would give her a certificate if Mr. Gilbert refused one. The latter gentleman had also declined to pay the 30s to which the witness was entitled on the death of her child, until the inquest had been held. The deceased did not have convulsions. On the Saturday she had given the deceased the breast, and it afterwards had a little bread and butter.

Joseph Edwards, a shoemaker, said the last witness was his housekeeper. The deceased when taken ill on Sunday morning suffered the most intense agony, and he hoped he should never again see a child suffer in a similar manner. Witness when pressed by the Coroner could give no better reason for not having sent for a doctor than that he thought he would recover. The child had an upper and a lower tooth. Mr. Woolley told witness that he would give him a certificate if one were wanted. The remainder of Edwards's evidence was confirmatory of the first witness.

Mr. W. C. Garman, surgeon, of Wednesbury, said, in accordance with the precept of the Coroner, he had made a post mortem examination of the body on Wednesday last, and described the external and internal appearances of the body. He said there were no evidences whatever of convulsions. The agonies of the deceased must have been fearful, and he questioned whether the amount of disease he discovered could have been coped with by any medical skill. The immediate cause of death was acute inflammation of the large and small intestines, which must have been coming on for some time. The medicine produced appeared to be a febrile mixture, and the powder to be composed of sugar and calomel. There were no evidences whatever of poison.

Mr. William Edward Woolley was the examined. He said he was a surgeon dentist, and kept a druggist's

shop in Moxley, and an assistant to Mr. Larkin, but had no qualification besides having passed the examination for a public vaccinator. At half-past four he was called into the deceased.

The Coroner: What morning was that? – Witness (hesitatingly): I think it was on Tuesday morning.

A juror: Sunday morning.

The Coroner: I must request, Sir, that you will not prompt the witness.

Witness (after careful consideration): It was Sunday morning.

The Coroner: What day of the month was that? – Witness (after further meditation): I cannot tell – (sensation).

Witness went on to say that he had found the child suffering from acute pains in the bowels, and prescribed an aperient mixture consisting of camphor water and salts, and the powder was composed of sugar and calomel. His name was not on the bottle. The Coroner told the witness he had behaved in a very improper manner in sending out bottles of medicine without his name on the label. After the death witness told the mother he would get a certificate from Mr. Larkin, who had not seen the child. When he attended a case, he filled up the certificate, and Mr. Larkin signed it. Witness had given a certificate as to the cause of death, and gave it on the authority of being an ‘assistant surgeon.’

The Coroner said the time had arrived to put a stop to such practices. On the first possible occasion he would take measure to punish the offender, and he doubted not but that the medical profession would assist him in such a proceeding.

A Juror observed that Mr. Woolley would apologise to the Coroner.

The Coroner: He has ben cautioned before. I have no personal feeling in the matter, but I have a public duty to perform.

Another juror (to the one who had spoken previously): How would you like to trust your live in the hands of a man who couldn’t tell the day of the month? If we come here it is to do our duty, and we must come with our heads on, and not leave all thought at home.

The Coroner went on to say that Mr. Woolley had been guilty of great presumption in offering a certificate, and in all probability the child would have been buried on the merit of that certificate if he (Mr. Hooper) had not received information from a private source. Mr. Woolley had submitted that he was ignorant of the nature of the disease under which the child had laboured, and yet was about to grant a certificate of the cause of death. The only course open to him, as a public servant, was to give notice to the registrar not to receive certificates from chemists and druggists, and if he found any more were given by other than duly qualified medical men, he would adopt the most stringent measures. He was fully determimed to put a stop to druggists granting such certificates, and was perfectly astonished Mr. Larkin should permit it. The learned gentleman then summed up, and said he trusted that good would result from the present inquiry. Mr. Woolley had admitted that he had no qualification, and he (the Coroner) must repeat that he had been guilty of great presumption in giving a certificate in the present case.

The jury found a verdict in accordance with the testimony of Mr. Garman.”

[William Edward Woolley had accidentally poisoned a boy. See OLD BRITANNIA, Moxley, Staffordshire Advertiser 29/8/1863.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/9/1864

“An inquest was held on Saturday, at the SWAN INN, Moxley, before Mr. E. Hooper, district Coroner, on the body of Barzilla Brooks, 23 years of age. Deceased was a forgerman at Mr. Thomas Wells’ Ironworks. The works are undergoing repairs, and the man was standing on Friday underneath some scaffolding, when a plank fell and hit his on the head. Deceased died in a few hours. Mr. Wells, jun., attended the inquest but not the slightest blame attached to the firm. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1865 - Advert

“The SWAN INN, Moxley, near Wednesbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that old-established and well-frequented House, as above, situated in one of the best positions in South Staffordshire, and extensively patronised by the Owner, the allowance Ale alone amounting to a considerably more than the Rent. The coming-in will be reduced as low as possible. Apply on the Premises.”

Birmingham Journal 16/9/1865 - Advert

“Moxley. By Joseph Whitehouse.

To be Let, that old established Licensed House, the SWAN IN, Moxley, now doing an excellent trade, and surrounded by iron and other important Works. The Premises are large and of a desirable description, conveniently situated at the junction of roads leading to Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, and Darlaston. Rent low; coming-in about £220.

Apply to Mr. Whitehouse, Auctioneer, &c, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/9/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a Barmaid; one accustomed to the Counter Trade preferred.

Apply to Mr. *Thurstans*, SWAN INN, Moxley, near Wednesbury.”

James Cook = James Cooke

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/1/1866

“At the Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, before Mr. A. M. Skinner, QC, Miss *Cook*, the treasurer of the Hearts of Oak Funeral Society, was sued by Lydia Yate for the sum of £5, due on the death of her son, aged 27. Mr. Langman was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hall, of Bilston, for defendant.

In this society, by the payment of 7½d a fortnight any married person was assured a sum of money on the death of each of the heads of the family, and £5 on the death of each child over 12 years. The society was unenrolled, and no action would lie against it in ordinary proceedings; but to bring it within the recent Chancery jurisdiction of the Court, particulars were also laid to recover 15s moneys had by defendant for the use of plaintiff.

Mr. Hall objected, however, to this form of action, that the plaintiff was a partner, and must abide by the rules to which she consented for the management of the partnership.

The daughter of the plaintiff, Mrs. Flavell, who entered her mother into the club, was examined and cross-examined at considerable length, with the view of eliciting how far plaintiff made herself a partner, but she could understand the nice drift of the question.

Mr. Hall said the committee of the society objected to pay on the ground that the existence of this son was concealed from the society until he died.

Witness admitted she never mentioned his existence when she entered the mother and family; but it was not usual to say how many children there were in the family of the proposing member, whose whole family – children present and children to come, even to step-children – were insured. It appeared, too, that the rules made no provision for enrolling the names of the children, or for the detection and punishment of the personation of children. The rules, like all the rules of such clubs, were of remarkable construction, and were read and commented on by the learned judge with a happy humourousness that tickled the tastes of a deputation of the ladies of the Hearts of Oak who came to hear the trial. At first his Honour dealt with the society as rather one of fraud, but, as he read through the rules, came to the conclusion that it was one of folly. One rule provided that, at a feast to be held on New Year’s Day, all the funds remaining in hand, except £5, was to be divided among the members. He asked, in astonishment at what he called the fatuity of the working classes, how it could be expected that for 15s, the amount of a year’s subscription, the heads of a family, and any number of children who might be all carried off with scarlet fever, could be insured each £5 at death; and that to insure such insurances the members should ‘feast’ twice in the year, and put all the funds but £5 into their packet at the end of the year. He was happy that his sex was a bar to any membership with the Hearts of Oak. It appeared plaintiff received 5s at the last annual share of funds, and now accepted an offer of 10s more. So ended the case.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1866 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Daily Gazette*.

Sir. I was the defendant, as the treasurer of the Hearts of Oak Female Burial Society, in the action in Wolverhampton County Court, reported in your paper yesterday, and as some remarks which, as reported, were then made, might injure the society, unless some points were stated which very much alter the case, I beg to state in a few words that the dividing the funds, except £5, amongst the members on the 1st of every

January, does not, so far as I can see (but I am only a woman), render the society unable to pay claims on it, because, under one of the rules, every member has to pay a small sum on death of a member or member's child, viz, 6d on death of a child, and 1s if over twelve years old; and as there are now 117 members, this is more than meets the sum required. So far from annual division of the money, proving the society insolvent, it seems to me (but I am only a woman) to show to the contrary, and it would, I think, be a very satisfactory thing indeed if some of the societies of which men are members would do the same thing. It is better, in my (woman's) opinion, that ever so many balance-sheets and audits; and I suppose it is on the principle of short reckonings and long friends that this (women's) club of ours has managed to live on for eighteen years in succession; and I see no reason (but I am only a woman) why, if the same system continues, it should not last for eighteen hundred more. I admit that the calculations are very simple and inartificial, and the rules too; but then they are for women, and women like to tell their money on their fingers, straight off, with as little pen and ink as they can.

It is the case, at all events, that we have had in any Court; and how many men's clubs, equally old, I should like to know, can say as much?

If the case had gone on we should have shown that we had done and offered all that was fair; that the claim had been referred to, and disallowed by, a committee of twelve members, according to the rules, which, so far as I know (but I am only a woman), is what the men's quarrels all come to – only we women settle matters free of expense in our club room, and the men settle or unsettle theirs, at a frightful expense, in a court at Stafford or London, with a committee of twelve in a jury box.

Margaret *Cook*. The SWAN INN, Moxley, Bilston, January 5th [sic] 1866.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/1/1868

“On Tuesday evening a most impudent robbery was committed at Moxley. At about seven o'clock some young men were walking from Darlaston, through the principal thoroughfare of Moxley, when they caught sight of a man over the bow-window at the SWAN INN, who was attempting to open the chamber window. They recognised him with a shout, and were drawing near to the house to give information, when they were driven away by a respectably-dressed man with a stick. The landlady (Mrs. *Cooke*) was in the front chamber a few minutes previously, and as the cash box was kept there had locked the door. At this time she had occasion again to go to the bedroom, but after she had unlocked the door was surprised to find it bolted against her. She came down stairs and was giving utterance to her fears when the thief hastily descended, jumped into a trap which was waiting, and with his companions rapidly drove off along the Wednesbury road. When the room was entered, it was found that the chest of drawers had been forced open. The cash box, containing £50, several purses, four silver watches, and a set of artificial teeth, valued altogether at £90, had been taken. An overcoat was dropped in the road by the thieves. The police, it is said, are on their track.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/3/1868

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Frederick Calverley, 28, carpenter; George Saunders, 25, tailor; James Turner, 29, watchmaker; and Henry Burdett, 34, general dealer, were indicted for feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling house of *James Cooke*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Moxley, and stealing therein one five pound Bank of England note, the sum of forty-five pounds in gold, two half-crowns, five watches, and other articles. Mr. A. Young prosecuted; the prisoners were undefended.

Mrs. *Cooke*, the wife of the prosecutor, was the first witness called, and proved that the property was safe in the bedroom upstairs about half-past six o'clock on the evening in question. The money was in two bags and three purses in a cash-box, which she locked up in a drawer. One watch hung by the bedside, but the others were locked up in the same drawer as the money. She went upstairs about half an hour afterwards, and finding that the bedroom door was locked she called her husband, and, meantime, hearing someone in the room, she told her husband to run downstairs and look outside. A policeman came immediately, the bedroom door was broken open, and it was then found that the drawer had been broken open and money and watches stolen. The inner part of the cash-box was afterwards found in a water-tank, which was beneath the bedroom window, but none of the money was recovered.

Mr. *James Cooke* corroborated the evidence of his wife, and added that any person to enter the bedroom by the window must step into the tank, which had water in it that night. In answer to a question put by Calver-

ley, witness said that a person could have got out of the room by the window before he (witness) could get downstairs and outside the house.

Police-constable Pointon, stationed at Moxley, spoke to breaking open the bedroom door, to noticing the impression of wet feet from the window to the door, and thence to the drawers that had been broken open. Thomas Harris, a carter living at Westbromwich, proved finding the outer case of the cash-box with the bags and purses in it, in the empty cart of his brother, which was standing by his brother's house on the High Street, at Westbromwich.

William Wright, in the employ of Mr. H. Parker, of Banbury Street, Birmingham, proved that Saunders hired a horse and dog-cart on the 7th of January. Burdett drove it away between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, and Saunders brought in back between nine and ten at night. Under one of the cushions he found a pair of boots and stockings quite wet. The dog-cart was drawn by a bay horse with a white face.

Detective-officer T. Swan, of Birmingham, proved he was on duty in plain clothes at a little before two o'clock, in Curzon Street, Birmingham, on the 7th of January. He saw Saunders loitering about, and soon after Burdett drove up with two other men in a trap. Saunders got in, and they all drove away. Witness assisted to take the prisoners into custody on the 10th of January.

Mrs. Elizabeth Whitmore, wife of William Whitmore, who keeps a public house within 200 yards from the SWAN at Moxley, identified Burdett and Turner as two men who shortly before the robbery called at her house and had some ale. She was keenly cross-examined by Burdett and Turner, but persisted in her identification of them.

John Allen, son of John Allen, who resides about 100 yards from the SWAN, identified Calverley as a man whom he saw standing by the SWAN about the time of the robbery. He looked very hard at Calverley, because he thought the man was a new policeman. Seeing some one up at the window, and thinking it was Tom Cooke, he called out 'Tom,' when a man standing against the wall ran him and his companion, Benjamin Pointon, down some neighbouring works.

Benjamin Pointon identified Burdett as the man who thus ran after them, when the preceding witness shouted 'Tom.' When they got down to the works, they found Tom Cooke there, and knew they were mistaken in supposing that he was the person whom they saw up at the bedroom window. He confidently identified Calverley as a tall man whom he saw in front of the SWAN.

Mrs. Pointon was by the SWAN about a quarter to seven o'clock on the evening in question, and saw a dog-cart drawn by a dark horse with a white face standing ten yards from the SWAN INN. There were three men in the trap. She confidently identified Calverley as one of the three men, and the other two she thought were Saunders and Turner.

William Gettings, shopkeeper, residing opposite the SWAN, also saw the horse and trap referred to by the previous witness, and corroborated her evidence. He was positive as to the identity of Turner.

Superintendent Holland, of Wednesbury, proved receiving the prisoners on the 10th of January, and charging them with the offence for which they were now indicted. Turner observed, 'You charge us, then, with the actual robbery.' The other prisoners said nothing.

Each of the prisoners addressed the jury in defence. Calverley spoke at some length, and with point and shrewdness, analysing the evidence of the witnesses whom he had cross-examined with much adroitness. He admitted that on the day in question he left Birmingham with three other men in a hired trap, to see a fight near Wolverhampton, but, 'unfortunately, when they got there one of the parties had been bound over to keep the peace.' (Laughter.) On their return, soon after getting out of Bilston, some part of the trap broke, and he stopped the horse, while one got out of the trap to examine it. This would account for their being seen by Mrs. Pointon and Gettings, if they were the parties in a trap whom those witnesses saw. This showed, however, how little the evidence of the two boys as to his identity could be relied on. With some well-judged remarks on the way in which persons may deceive themselves as to the identity of others, he left his case in the hands of the jury.

The prisoner Saunders pointed out that he was identified by the stableman only; and admitted that he did take the trap home, but he did so from a neighbouring public house, where Burdett and another man had in the earlier part of the day, on his recommendation, proceeded to hire it. He did not leave Birmingham in that or any trap. Four men went in to see a fight near Wolverhampton.

The other prisoners pleaded an alibi, and called witnesses to prove they were not out of Birmingham on the day in question.

The Judge having summed up with great care, the jury found all the prisoners guilty, and they were severally sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1868

"Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, district Coroner, opened an enquiry at the SWAN INN, Moxley, on the bodies of the six sufferers by the boiler explosion at the works of Messrs. Wells and Son, whose bodies lay in the stable of the SWAN INN, viz, Noah Millard, puddler, aged 33; Edward Jones, under-hand puddler, 20; Joseph Reynolds, puddler, 26; Jeremiah Curtis, puddler, 40; John Passmore, otherwise Curtis, under-hand puddler, 17; and Patrick Broughton, puddler, 36. Mr. T. Wells, one of the proprietors of the works was present, and the police authorities were represented by Chief-Superintendent M'Crea and Superintendent Holland. After viewing the bodies, the Coroner and the Jury inspected the scene of the catastrophe which was said to present a greater wreck of buildings and machinery than even the Millfields Works, after the explosion there some years ago.

The only witness examined was Richard Reynolds, brother of the one of the deceased, who identified the bodies.

The Coroner then stated that the sad occurrence which had brought the Jury together was of so much importance that he did not think it would be advisable to proceed further on that occasion than take evidence of the identification of the bodies, in order that they might be buried. He, therefore, proposed to adjourn the enquiry, in order that all the evidence might be got together as carefully as possible, and the boiler be carefully examined by some competent person whom he should appoint for that purpose. The enquiry was then adjourned until Monday next, at one o'clock. A large number of the friends and relatives of the deceased assembled in the vicinity of the inn, and by their lamentations occasioned a scene of the most painful character.

Later in the day, Mr. Hooper, held an inquest at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, on the body of Isaac Page, aged thirty, breaker-down to a boiler maker, another of the sufferers whose injuries have terminated fatally.

Samuel Hartshorne deposed that he worked at Messrs. Wells, the Moxley Iron and Steel Works, and lived about 100 yards from the works. He heard of the explosion about seven o'clock on Monday night, and on going to the works found that a boiler had exploded, and that the dead and dying were being carried out. A man named Isaac Fellows was carrying Page out, and witness assisted him in carrying him to the SWAN INN, where he sat down some time, and was supplied with brandy. He was then taken home by his own desire, instead of being taken to the hospital. At the time he made the choice, a man was dying on the floor beside him, and much confusion prevailed. Witness could not tell the cause of the explosion. It was Page's dead body which the Jury had seen.

Sarah Page, mother of the deceased, stated hearing of the explosion, she went to see her son at the SWAN INN, and remained with him until he returned home, when she accompanied him. He was badly scalded on the arms and breast, and his head was badly cut. He remained sensible until about six o'clock the next morning. Mr. Fellows, surgeon, attended him, and at first thought he would recover. She did not ask him how it had happened, nor did he say that he blamed anyone. Had never heard him complain of anything at the works. He left the house quite well at about half-past five o'clock to go to his work.

The Coroner suggested that as two other enquiries, arising out of the explosion, would take place elsewhere, the one at Moxley, before himself, and the other at Wolverhampton, before Mr. Phillips, the Jury might very well find that the deceased died from the effects of the explosion of a boiler, but how that explosion was caused there was no evidence to show. By so doing they would save their time and his own, without in any way interfering with a full enquiry into the cause of the sad occurrence, which would be made in his Court, and also, no doubt, in Mr. Phillips's. At the same time, if the Jury were disposed to go on with the enquiry he was content. The jury expressed themselves quite satisfied, and returned a verdict in accordance with the Coroner's suggestion."

[At the adjourned inquest the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and added the following recommendations, 'We are of opinion that the explosion is accidental; but we think that if a proper inspection of the boiler had taken place the accident would not have happened. We are of opinion that a boiler of the same make as the one which exploded is not safe with the amount of heat which was worked into it. We think that proper steam gauges should be used, and a regular

inspection of the boiler by a competent person should take place.']

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/10/1868

“Wednesbury Election.

Mr. Walker addressed the electors of the Moxley district at the SWAN INN, Moxley, on Wednesday evening last. Mr. Samuel Wells occupied the chair. The meeting was both numerous and of an enthusiastic character, Mr. Walker being particularly strong in the district.”

[Alexander Brogden was elected Member of Parliament for Wednesbury.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/3/1870

“The bodies of the two men buried in the sand pit at Moxley were recovered late on Thursday night, and removed to the SWAN INN, Moxley, to await the coroner’s inquest.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/3/1870

“On Saturday, an inquest was held at the SWAN INN, Moxley, relative to the death of Edward Gulligan, 50, and his step-son, James M’Guire, 16, both of Oxford Street, Bilston. The deceased were buried in a trial shaft, through a bed of sand on Messrs. Groucott’s property, the previous Wednesday.

The coroner, in summing up, said that the accident seemed to have occurred through Gulligan not carrying out Mr. Walker’s instructions to put in props to prevent the casing of the shaft giving way. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Groucott stated that the representatives of the deceased would receive £30 from the Imperial Union Assurance Company. All his workpeople were insured in that Company, and in the course of the last twelve months the representatives of six persons in the employ of the firm who had been killed were entitled to like benefits.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/10/1870

“John Hollis, labourer, Coseley, sought to recover from John Taylor, boiler plate maker, Moxley, as secretary to the Golden Eagle Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held at the SWAN INN, Moxley, the sum of £7, being arrears of sick pay.

Mr. Dale (from the office of Messrs. Duignan, Lewis and Lewis) appeared for the defendant, and said the district officers considered that the plaintiff had acted very improperly in bringing the case into Court. The court was formed in 1861, the plaintiff being one of the first members and one of the trustees, and was registered in 1863. He had been upon the box more than any of the other members, and for some time he had received the whole of the available contributions of the members, viz, 5s per week, for the court at the outset only numbered four or five members, and at that moment could not muster more than ten or twelve. The plaintiff, had the court been in a flourishing condition, should have received 10s per week, but under the circumstances he had no right to expect his fellow members to pay more than their usual contribution of 1s 10d per fortnight. If he was dissatisfied with the sum he was receiving he should have taken steps to throw himself upon the High Court fund, and then he would have been paid 7s 6d from that fund.

The plaintiff’s wife asserted that these steps had been taken, and that the district officers had thrown obstacles in the way. This, however, was denied.

After considerable conversation, his Honour adjourned the case to the 23rd November, suggesting that some arrangement with the plaintiff should be made in the meantime, and ordering that 10s out of the 12s 1d which was stated to be in the treasurer’s hands, should be given to him.

Mr. Burghope, on behalf of the district officers, promised that his Honour’s suggestion should be carried out.”

1871 Census

Moxley

[1] *James Cook* (59), iron moulder, born Bilston;

[2] *Margaret Cook* (58), wife, born Bushbury;

[3] *Samuel Shotton* (18), son, puddler, born Tettenhall;

[4] *Thomas Shotton* (17), son, born Bilston;

[5] Sarah Flick (16), domestic servant, born West Bromwich;

[6] Eunice Smith (18), visitor, born Quarry Bank;

[7] William Morgan (60), brewer, born Ludlow:

Birmingham Daily Post 13/5/1871

“The inquest on the body of Rhoda Lloyd was resumed yesterday evening, at the SWAN, Moxley, by Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner for the district. Chief-Superintend M’Crea and Superintendent Holland, were present on the part of the police.

The first witness was called was Superintendent J. T. Holland, of Wednesbury, who deposed that about nine o’clock in the morning of the 4th inst Police-constables Pointon and Hickman brought William Lloyd in custody to the Wednesbury Police Station, and from information they gave him he came to Moxley, and at Lloyd’s house saw Mrs. Lloyd lying on the floor, dead, and outside the door a large pool of clotted blood. He searched the house, and inside the fender found the table-knife produced, the blade of which was then bent as it appeared at present. The poker produced at the last sitting of the Court he had since received from Police-constable Pointon. He first saw it on the morning of the 4th, but did not observe hair or blood stains upon it.

Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon, deposed that on the morning of the 4th instant, in consequence of a message which he received from the police, at Wednesbury, he came to Moxley, and found Mrs. Lloyd’s body lying in a pool of blood on the floor. On the 6th he made a post mortem examination of the body. At the upper part of the back of the head there was a lacerated wound two inches long, and there was a split fracture in the skull bone at the seat of the wound. At the lower part of the occipital bone, and just behind the right ear, there was a lacerated wound, four inches in length. At the seat of this wound there was a compound fracture, communicating with the brain. There was another wound above the right ear, and inch and a half long, down to the skull bone; also a contused wound on the right ear; and also a bruise over the left eye, of the same standing as the other injures. There was a bruise on the right cheek, and a bruise on the lower jaw, on the same side. On the neck he found —

The Coroner asked if the wounds on the neck were in any way connected with the cause of death. The witness replied in the negative, adding that the injures on the head were quite sufficient to account for death. The Coroner replied that in that case they need not encumber the depositions with the descriptions of the other parts of the body.

Examination resumed: The cause of death was the compound fracture of the skull at the base, and the laceration of the brain and sinuses in the immediate neighbourhood. The wounds were inflicted with some blunt instrument, such as the poker produced, and were the result of great force. All the other organs of the body were quite healthy.

No other evidence being offered, the Coroner then summed up. He said there could be no doubt that the wounds on the head were the cause of death, and there should be no doubt, from the evidence, that those wounds were inflicted by the husband of the deceased. The Jury would, therefore, simply have to consider whether he had committed an act of murder or of manslaughter; and if they bore in mind the evidence given at the opening of the enquiry, viz, that he threatened to kill or shoot her at West Bromwich, it must be clear to them that he did intend to kill her. His state of mind at the time was not for them to consider; that question would be for the consideration of another tribunal. A clearer case of murder than the present one had never come before him, but he did not wish to bias the minds of the Jury, but left it to them to say whether a verdict of manslaughter or wilful murder should be returned.

The Jury, after a very brief deliberation, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder. The Coroner placed the warrant of commitment in the hands of Chief-Superintendent M’Crea, and required him to forward it forthwith to the gaoler at Stafford.

The five children of the unfortunate deceased, it should be stated, are being cared for in the best possible manner by their father’s friends, who have charged themselves with their maintenance and education.”

AND

County Advertiser 13/5/1871

“On Tuesday afternoon, the body of the unfortunate woman, Rhoda Lloyd, was interred in the Westbromwich Cemetery. The funeral started from the house of the deceased’s sister, in Guns Lane, followed by both her own relatives and those of her unhappy husband; and also, as a mark of respect, by several members of

the Wolverhampton Reformed Order of Odd Women (No.9 Lodge), of which deceased was a member. The procession, on its way to the burial place, was swelled by a large crowd of people from the neighbourhood, and when the cemetery was reached, with those who had followed, and with those who had gone before, there could not have been less than two thousand persons present. The funeral service was conducted by Mr. John Skidmore (Wesleyan), and the coffin was brought by its mournful bearers to the mouth of the grave, followed by a thick line of spectators, all of whom seemed to be deeply impressed by the occasion, and some women were there who were deeply moved to tears. The coffin bore the inscription, 'Come to me all ye that labour, and I will give you rest,' underneath which were the words, 'Rhoda Lloyd, died 4th May, 1871, aged 33 years.'"

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 25/7/1871

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

William Lloyd (27), puddler, was indicted for the wilful murder of his wife, Rhoda Lloyd, on the 4th May last, at the parish of Moxley. Mr. Boughey prosecuted, and the prisoner was defended by Mr. Young. Hannah George, a person living near to the house of the prisoner, stated that her attention was called to Lloyd's house on the morning of the 4th May. The prisoner, who had only his shirt on at the time, was armed with a knife and a poker, and the witness saw him strike his wife on the head with the poker, and knock her down.

James Lloyd, son of the prisoner, gave evidence respecting the state of his father's mind on the morning in question, and stated that before leaving the works his father made use of very strange expressions, and he continued the same after they arrived at home. He said, after he got into bed, he heard his father crying, singing, and praying, and asking God to forgive him; and sometime after he heard a scuffle down stairs. He went to see what was the matter, and found his father standing over the deceased, with a knife in one hand and a poker in the other. Witness snatched the knife out of his father's hand, and the women then tried to escape, but as she went through the door the prisoner dealt her a blow on the head, which knocked her down, and he then struck her several times on the head with the poker.

In cross-examination by Mr. Young: The boy said his father had been the subject to fits, and he had one the day before he committed the murder. When he had those fits he was like a madman.

Several witnesses were called, who gave evidence respecting the strange behaviour of the prisoner after the murder, and Superintendent Holland stated that the man had to be strapped and handcuffed in order that he might be conveyed to Stafford.

Mr. Garman, surgeon, gave evidence respecting the injuries which the deceased had received, and stated that shortly after the murder he examined the man, and found him in a great state of excitement, incoherent in his speech, and violent in his manner. In cross-examination by Mr Young, the witness stated that fits of epilepsy very much impaired the mind, and after a length of time those fits induced insanity.

Mr. Buller, surgeon, West Bromwich, stated that he had attended the prisoner for epilepsy for the last two years and a half, and the last time he attended him was about Christmas. He agreed with Mr. Garman respecting the effect epilepsy had upon the mind.

The Judge, at this stage, recommended the Jury to return a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity, and a verdict to that effect was recorded, after which the prisoner was ordered to be imprisoned during her Majesty's pleasure."

Midland Examiner and Times 21/8/1875

"*Thomas Keay*, of the SWAN INN, Moxley, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the defence.

Police-constable O'Brien stated that at about eight o'clock on the 31st ultimo, he went to the defendant's house, and there found a man named Edward Brown drunk in the bar, several other men, who were also there, being the worse for liquor.

Police-constable Burns gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Ebsworth, for the defence, denied that the man Brown was drunk, and asserted that he was merely excited. The defendant, he added, had only recently come into the district from Glasgow, and did not understand Black Country business.

The Stipendiary: Then I shall have to teach him. – Mr. Ebsworth: But with moderation.

The Stipendiary: Remember this is a crying evil in the district.

The defendant was then called. He denied that Brown was drunk, but admitted that he turned him out of the house at the suggestion of the policemen.

The Stipendiary: Then you acted foolishly; that was an admission of guilt.

Mr. Ebsworth: He only did what I believe every publican in the district would do under the circumstances.

The Stipendiary: Then they would be fools. It's the strongest admission of guilt.

Sergt. Breton then proved that Brown was drunk; so drunk that at three o'clock in the morning he was not in a fit state to be bailed out.

The Stipendiary imposed a fine of 20s and costs, telling him that if ever he came again his license would be endorsed.

Edward Brown, blacksmith, was then fined 10s 6d and costs, or 14 days' imprisonment, for having been drunk and disorderly after leaving Mr. *Keay's* house.

Job Walker, Job Smith, Mary Grove, and John Wopper were next charged with interfering with the police in the execution of their duty and with endeavouring to recue Brown from custody.

Evidence in support of the charge having been given, the Stipendiary fined the defendant 10s each and costs, telling them that the police must not be interfered with, and that if they did wrong the aggrieved parties should appeal either to Supt. Holland, or to himself, or to the police committee, and no doubt justice would be done them."

1881 Census

Darlaston Road (Moxley) – SWAN INN

[1] *Thomas Keay* (60), widower, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Thomas Keay* (26), son, brewer, born Scotland;

[3] *Sarah Keay* (31), daughter, barmaid, born Scotland;

[4] *Betsy Evans* (25), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 28/4/1883

"On Saturday Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Darlaston Road, Moxley, respecting the death of *Ann Rubery* (72), who had died from the effects of injuries received on the 30th ult. Mr. Fellowes, solicitor of Bilston, watched the proceedings on behalf of the friends of the deceased. Shortly after nine on the evening of the 30th ult, the deceased left home to go to the STRUGGLER INN. The road which she had to travel was upset in consequence of tramway rails being laid down. A shoe manufacturer named *Abner Smith* and his wife, residing at Kingswinford, drove down the road and knocked deceased down, after which the conveyance was upset, and the two occupants were thrown violently to the ground and badly injured. Subsequently all three persons were found in the road in an insensible state. The deceased was removed to her home and was attended by Dr. Sutton. She afterwards became very ill, and expired on the 18th inst.

In reply to Mr. Fellowes, *Abner Smith*, the owner of the conveyance, said the night was very dark and he could not see any person in the road.

A juryman said the road was a very dangerous one at night.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

John Starkey = John Starking

Todmorden & District News 3/7/1888

"A man named *John O'Brien*, who refuses to give his address, was arrested yesterday, at Wednesbury, on a charge of stealing £40 and a watch and chain from a bedroom at the SWAN INN, Moxley. A box had been broken open and eight £5 notes extracted. Subsequent to the robbery, the prisoner was found spending money lavishly in the district, and he was taken into custody. He was remanded for inquiries to be made."

AND

Staffordshire Chronicle 20/10/1888

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John O'Brien (33), blankmaker, was charged with stealing five £5 notes at Moxley on July 28, and a silver

watch and an old brass chain, the property of *John Starkey*. Mr. Haden Corser prosecuted. Prosecutor is manager of the SWAN INN, Moxley, and on the night named the prisoner was seen hanging about the yard in a suspicious manner. This yard communicated directly with the private apartments of the house. He disappeared, and shortly afterwards he was observed to jump from the bedroom window and run in the direction of Darlaston. The cashbox in the bedroom had been broken open, and valuables abstracted. Next day prisoner treated some friends at Darlaston, and said he had won some money at 'racing.' He was an old offender, and was now sent to prison for twelve months with hard labour."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/11/1888

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday – before – Messrs. S. Harding and R. Williams – Mary Ann *Starkey* was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors which she was not licensed to sell; and *John Starkey*, her husband, was summoned for aiding and abetting, and also for exposing for sale. Mr. S. M. Slater appeared for the defendants; and Mr. Barradale watched the proceedings on behalf of the owners of the property (the Uttoxeter Brewery Company).

Police-constable Bott stated that the defendants had been in charge of the SWAN INN, Moxley, but the name of *William Joseph Young* was on the sign up to October 2. Then it was painted out, and on the 4th witness asked the defendants how it was that there was no name on the sign, and was told by them that *Young*, the travelling agent of the company and the person in whose name the license had been made out, had been dismissed the service. Witness told them the license ought to be transferred, and on the 12th he saw them again, when *Starkey* told him that he had written to the company on the subject, but had had no reply. On the 24th he and Police-constable Picking went to the house and called for a glass of rum and a bottle of stout, which Mrs. *Starkey* supplied, Mr. *Starkey* sitting by.

Mr. Slater said his defence was that *Young* had not left the company's service; and that even if the Bench held that he had, the position was just the same, he having all along recognised the defendants as managers, and consented to all the takings going to the Brewery Company. The *Starkeys*, he admitted, effaced the name, but they did it under a misapprehension, and it was a collateral question which did not affect the issue. The Bench intimated that they could not overlook the fact that the defendants had been selling for a month without a name being over the door, and Mr. Slater, upon that intimation, consulted with his clients, and pleaded guilty.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed for the offence of selling without a license. The other summonses were withdrawn on the payment of costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1890

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *John Starkey*, Mary Ann *Starkey*, and Herbert Kempson, all of Moxley, were charged with being drunk on licensed premises of the SWAN INN, Moxley, on July 12.

Police-constables Johnson and Bott proved visiting the SWAN INN on two occasions on the evening of the day mentioned and finding the defendants there drunk with liquor before them.

Mr. S. M. Slater defended, and Mr. A. Whitehouse watched the case on behalf of the Uttoxeter Brewery Company (Limited).

After a long hearing, each defendant was fined 10s and costs. *Isaac Henry Williams*, the landlord of the house, for permitting drunkenness, was fined £2 and costs."

1891 Census

Darlaston Road – SWAN INN

[1] *John Wright* (51), licensed victualler, born Barnacle, Warwickshire;

[2] *Caroline Wright* (51), wife, assistant victualler, born Birmingham;

[3] *Lizzie Murry* (8), niece, scholar, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1895

"The adjourned licensing session for the parishes of Darlaston and Tipton took place at Wednesbury yesterday.....

The police objected to the renewal of licenses to the following persons.....

William E. Page, SWAN, Darlaston Road, Moxley Renewed subject to structural alterations of the

premises.”

* probably the same person

Ancient Order of Foresters met here [1899]

1901 Census

Darlaston Road – SWAN

- [1] *Arthur Gough* (50), publican, born Bradley;
- [2] Elizabeth Gough (50), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Mary Gough (25), general servant, born Darlaston:

** probably the same person

1911 Census

High Street, Moxley – SWAN HOTEL

- [1] *Arthur Gough* (58), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Mary E. Gough (58), wife, married 40 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Florence Powell (27), domestic servant, born Darlaston;
- [4] Florence A. R. Gough (8), grand-child, born Standeford, Staffordshire:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 20/6/1925

“At a meeting last Saturday, at the SWAN HOTEL, Moxley, under the auspices of the Wednesbury Conservative Working Mens Mutual Benefit Society, it was decided to form a local branch and several new members were elected.”

Walsall Observer 13/2/1926

“A successful smoking concert, promoted by the Moxley branch of the Wednesbury Conservative Working Men’s Benefit Society, was held at the SWAN HOTEL, Moxley, on Saturday night. Councillor F. C. Wesson, who presided, spoke very highly of the society, which, he said, was increasing in membership at Moxley, and he wished it every success. Messrs. A. Allen (chairman of the society) and J. Phillips (general secretary) also spoke. Items of entertainment were given by Mr. A. Corns (comedian), with Councillor J. Foster at the piano. Arrangements were made by Mr. F. Ryles (secretary of the Moxley branch) in co-operation with Mr. Phillips.”

Plans were approved for alterations to the sanitary accommodation, subject to the provision of a WC in the bathroom, and hot and cold water supply for the bar, on 18th May 1938.

1939 Register

- [1] *Uriah Bennett*, date of birth 27/9/1882, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Arthur Bennett, dob 1/11/1914, electric welder, heavy works, single;
- [3] Rosannah Bennett, dob 10/12/1886, householder, married:

Rugeley Times 10/2/1940

“Darlaston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent J. H. Hall, in his report to the justices, said that the number of licensed houses in the town was 74; the same as last year, except that the license of the WHY NOT INN, The Green, had been altered from a beerhouse ‘on’ to a beer and wines ‘on.’ At the census of 1931, the population of the parish was 19,736, according to which there was one licensed house to every 267 inhabitants.....

He announced that all the licenses would be renewed, except those affected by transfers, the SWAN INN, Moxley; and the OAK TREE, Foster Street.”

In 1951 a team from here won the Division B award in the Darlaston Darts League.

Walsall Observer 24/6/1966

“Although formed only last year the Darlaston Sunday Darts League had a magnificent display of trophies at their first annual presentations in the GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston, on Friday, a collection that was a tribute to the hard work put in by the officials during this inaugural year. Fourteen teams took part in the league, thirteen of which were from public houses in the Darlaston area.

A total of 67 trophies were presented. Five major trophies which were donated to the league and the remaining 62 miniatures were purchased by players in the league. Apart from the prize money which totalled £85 10s and the money for the trophies, the committee paid all other expenses to help achieve a first-class season. The presentations were made by Mr. C. Staite.

The most successful team was the BARREL INN who failed to win the league by nine legs with the same number of points as the champions (the NAGS HEAD), but who reached both semi-finals of the knock-outs and who received the Mitchell and Butlers Collection Shield.

An additional presentation was made to Mr. W. Thorpe of Bentley Sons of Rest of £17, which was the result of a collection among the players. Mr. Thorpe donated a cup on behalf of the Sons of Rest, which was won by the SWAN (Moxley) with the GREEN DRAGON runners-up.

Other winner were: the President's Knock Out Cup, KINGS HILL TAVERN, with runners-up the SWAN. League champions: NAGS HEAD, with runners-up BARREL INN.

Wooden spoonists: BOAT INN.

Supplementary league winners: BRADFORD ARMS, with runners-up ROYAL GEORGE.”

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1982/3

[1986]

When it was demolished in November 1989 an unfilled mineshaft was discovered in the yard.

SWAN

16, Victoria Road, (16, Pardoes Lane), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Joseph Nightingale
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Courage Ltd.

LICENSEES

Samuel Canlett [1857] – [1901]
Joseph Nightingale [1904] – [1916]
Mrs. Patience May Nightingale [1919] – **1922**);
Alfred ‘Alf’ Blakemore **(1922 – 1930)**;
Frederick James Leech **(1930)**;
Mudie Lanarch Gray Jackson **(1930 – 1937)**;
Mrs. Susannah Saunders **(1937 – 1946)**;
Arthur Saunders **(1946 – 1950)**;
James Ernest Plant **(1950 – 1953)**;

Benjamin Thomas Edwards (1953 – 1959);
Samuel Thomas (1959 – 1962);
George Hammond (1962 – 1965);
Sarah Hammond (1965);
Margery Elsie Taylor (1965 – [1967])
Deborah Elizabeth Hinton [2007]

NOTES

16, Pardoes Lane [1880], [1881]

WHITE SWAN [1860], [1871], [1875], [1876], [1885], [1889]

It had a beerhouse license.

Samuel Canlett = Samuel Canlet = Samuel Carlett = Samuel Candlett = Samuel Candalet = Samuel Coulett

Birmingham Journal 29/8/1857

“Annual Licensing Day Sessions adjourned till Friday, the 25th day of September next, when forty-two applications from retail brewers in the division for wine and spirit licenses will be considered.....

Samuel Candlett, Pardoes Lane, Darlaston.”

[Refused at the adjourned sessions.]

Samuel Canlet, beer retailer, Pardoes Lane. [1860]

Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1860 - Advert

“Perfect Cure of Corns and Bunions.

Mr. T. Caldwell, Surgeon Chiropodist, attends at 24, Ann Street, on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Chilblain Plaister, a never failing cure, 3d per a square inch.....

From Mr. *Samuel Canlett*, Gun Lock Smith, Darlaston.

I am quite delighted with Mr. Caldwell’s skill in curing corns. He has cured four exceedingly bad soft corns for me in two dressings.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1860

“To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Magistrates and Chief-constable have deemed it their duty to take steps to put a stop to it. There can be no doubt that such steps have been adopted with due care. The police, after going round in their uniform and finding that they could not thus detect publicans in allowing the offence, recourse was had to sending constables round in private clothes yesterday about twenty-three summonses were returnable. The Magistrates expressed a very strong opinion upon the subject, and marked by the severity of the fines their sense of the importance of the movement, and the determination they had come to put down practices which had so corrupt and demoralising an influence upon the community. The following cases were heard.....

Samuel Carlett, of the WHITE SWAN beerhouse, Darlaston, was charged with allowing a raffle for a fish, set up for 9d, a portion of which was spent in the house for beer. Fined 40s and costs.

In the course of the hearing of these cases, Mr. Leigh made some observations condemnatory of the practice of publicans and beerhouse keepers throwing all sorts of attractions and blandishments around their houses with the view of inducing husbands and sons to go and spend their time and money, and neglect the duties of life – the maintenance of their wives and families, and the other obligations which devolved upon them. It would be absurd to inflict light fines.....”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/9/1860

“Levi Squires of the New Invention will run Dan Onions 440 yards, if he will give 20 yards at the coming-in

end, for £10, £15, or £20 a side. Money ready any time at Mr. *Candlett's*, SWAN INN, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/9/1860

“Canlett of Darlaston will run J. Long of Dudley Port 120 yards, for from £5 up to £20 a side. Money ready any night during the next week at Mr. *S. Canlett's*, SWAN INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/12/1860 - Correspondence

“Distressed Operatives Fund for Coventry and the Neighbourhood.

To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, I should be obliged if you would acknowledge in your next impression a donation of £1 1s from the Benefit Society held at *Samuel Canlet's*, the SWAN, Darlaston.

I am, Sir, your faithful servant, William Drake.”

1861 Census

Pardoes Lane – SWAN INN

[1] *Samuel Canlett* (35), gunlock filer, retail brewer and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Canlett (31), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Mary Canlett (3), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Sarah Canlett (2), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] Ester Oates (20), house servant, born Darlaston:

Samuel Canlet, retailer of beer, Pardoes Lane. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Post 4/12/1862

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before J. Marshall and T. Jesson, Esqrs, William Hayes was charged with having assaulted James Rose, at Darlaston. From the evidence of the prosecutor, it appeared that on Sunday, the 23rd ult, the defendant, with three or four other men, entered the house of Mr. *Candalet*, the SWAN INN, Darlaston, where the complainant was lodging, and without any provocation dealt him a blow on the face, cutting his upper lip. The defendant then ran out of the room, and one of his companions closed the door, and stood with his back against it. The complainant, however, subsequently ascertained the defendant's name and address, and got out a summons. The defendant, in extenuation of his conduct, pleaded that he had been provoked to it by the violence of the complainant towards him on the preceding night. He was ordered to pay a fine of 20s and costs, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.”

Aris's Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/3/1868 - Advert

“Darlaston. For Sale, the SWAN, License, Fixtures, and Stock. Good reference for leaving.

Samuel Canlett.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/3/1868 - Advert

“Darlaston. The WHITE SWAN to be Sold; License, Stock, and Fixtures. Leaving on account of other engagements. Rent £27.”

1871 Census

Pardoes Lane – WHITE SWAN INN

[1] *Samuel Canlett* (44), beerhouse keeper and gunlock filer, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Canlett (41), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Mary Canlett (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Sarah Canlett (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Samuel Canlett (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/4/1874

“Alexandra Park Recreation Grounds, Rood End, near Oldbury.

The above beautiful grounds, which are available from all parts of England, being situated within a few

minutes' walk of Oldbury, Spon Lane, and the Smethwick stations on the Stour Valley Railway, and West-bromwich, Smethwick Junction, and Rood End stations on the Great Western Railway (Rood End in particular, being only 300 yards distant), are reopen to the public, and the proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Bradley, respectfully announce that they will give £15 to be contested for in an All England Foot Race, distance 135 yards, on Saturday and Monday, April 18 and 20. First prize £10, second £4, third £1. Entrance 1s 6d, no acceptance, to be declared on or before Tuesday, April 14. Wednesday morning's letters will be in time. All entries to be made at the grounds, or at any of the following places.....

Coulett's, SWAN INN, Darlaston.....

Betting and gambling strictly prohibited. No one allowed to run unless in proper costume.”

Midland Examiner 24/7/1875 - Advert

“Lea Brook Recreation Grounds, Wednesbury.

Mr. J. Harding, the Proprietor, begs to inform his friends and lovers of the sport, that he will give £10 to be run for in a 135 yards Foot Race, on Saturdays, July 31, and August 7, 1875. First Prize, £8; Second, £1 10s; Third, 10s. To commence at Three o'clock precisely. Admission to the Grounds 6d each. Entrance One Shilling each. Entries to be made to Mr. Harding, at the Grounds; Mr. J. Dudley, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury; Mr. T. Bickley, White Swan Inn, Brownhills; Mr. Turner, SUN INN, Commercial Street, Wolverhampton; *S. Canlett*, WHITE SWAN INN, Darlaston; and Mr. S. Rogers, FORESTERS ARMS, Bilston. Entries close on Tuesday, July the 28th, or Wednesday Morning's post will be in time.”

Sporting Life 1/4/1876

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, near Dudley.

Mr. Nuttall, the proprietor, will give £10 for an all-England 200 yards dog handicap, on Mondays, April 10 and 17; first prize, £7; second, £2; third, £1. Entrance, 1s (no acceptance), to close on April 4, to be made at the grounds, or at Mr. E. Darby's, CROSS KEYS, Blue Lane, Walsall; Mr. E. Noble's, DOCK INN, Dock Lane, Dudley; Mr. I. Baker's, COACH AND HORSES INN, Lyng Lane, West Bromwich; Mr. Samuel Burrows's, SEVEN STARS INN, Bilston; Mr. Smith, at Mr. *Canlett's*, SWAN INN, Darlaston; or Mr. Bradley's, ALBION INN, Oldbury. Admission to the grounds, 6d each.”

Aris's Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/6/1876 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 3rd day of July next, at Five for Six o'clock precisely, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, the following valuable Freehold Properties.....

Lot 3. A Messuage, situate in Pardoes Lane, Darlaston, lately used as the Mechanics Institute, with the Yard and Outbuildings, and a small piece of Land at the back thereof.

Lot 4. A Dwelling House, used as a Beerhouse, called the SWAN, with the Yard and Outbuildings thereto, situate in Pardoes Lane aforesaid, adjoining Lot 3, and occupied by *Samuel Canlett*.

Lot 5. Two Messuages, situate in Pardoes Lane aforesaid, in the Court or Fold, adjoining Lot 4.....”

Samuel Canlett, beer retailer and pork butcher, 16 Pardoes Lane. [1880]

1881 Census

16, Pardoes Lane

[1] *Samuel Canlett* (55), butcher and publican, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Canlett (52), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Mary Canlett (23), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Sarah Canlett (22), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] Samuel Canlett (17), son, born Darlaston:

Black Country Bugle 11/8/2021

Article by Steve James

“*Samuel Canlett*, landlord of the SWAN, Victoria Road, Darlaston, was also a butcher, slaughtering pigs in the back yard, hanging joints of meat upstairs (the original meat hooks are still there) and selling pork and

bacon in a room next to the bar.”

1885 Probate

“13 August. The Will of Noah Hingley, formerly of Addenbrooks Farm, near Willenhall, in the County of Stafford, Contractor, but late of 89 Darlaston Green, Darlaston, in the said County, Beer Retailer, who died 3 June 1885, at 89 Darlaston Green, was proved at Lichfield by *Samuel Canlett* of the WHITE SWAN INN, Pardoes Lane, Darlaston, Innkeeper, the surviving Executor. Personal Estate £107 14s 6d.”

1887 black country jubilee institutions – Darlaston furnishes itself with a group of public buildings – town hall, free library, public offices – these buildings will be located in Pardoes Lane.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1889

“Wednesbury, Darlaston, and Tipton Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. S. M. Slater applied for a full license to be granted to *Samuel Canlett*, of the WHITE LION [sic] beer-house, Victoria Road, Darlaston. He stated that the house was situated near to the Town Hall, and much disappointment was occasioned through people being unable to obtain wines or spirits.

Mr. R. A. Willcock opposed on behalf of several licensed victuallers, and remarked that there were several full-licensed houses within a very short distance of the Town Hall.

It was elicited that the annual valuation was insufficient, and the magistrates refused the application.”

1891 Census

Victoria Road – SWAN INN

[1] *Samuel Canlett* (65), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Canlett (61), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Mary Canlett (33), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Sarah Canlett (32), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] Samuel Canlett (27), son, clerk in bolt and nut works, born Darlaston:

Samuel Canlett's son Samuel, bachelor, nut and bolt manufacturer, Victoria Road, married Ann Maria, spinster, daughter of James Pritchard of the BELL, Church Street, on 17th October 1896.

Walsall Observer 17/1/1925

“Darlaston has lost another well-known figure by the death of Mr. Samuel Canlett, who passed away at his residence, Foxcote Lodge, Tudor Hill, Sutton Coldfield, in the early hours of Tuesday from pneumonia. For upwards of 40 years the deceased gentleman, who was 60 years of age, had been associated with the firm of J. & R. Rose Ltd, nut and bolt manufacturers, of London Works, Darlaston, and rose to the post of managing director.

Born at Victoria Road, Darlaston, at that time known as Pardows Lane, where his father for many years was licensee of the SWAN HOTEL, Mr. Canlett was educated at Mr. Belcher's School and also at Queen Mary's School, Walsall. As a young man he obtained an appointment under his uncle, the late Mr. James Rose, and soon acquired a thorough knowledge of the nut and bolt trade and did much to develop the business.....

Mr. Canlett married, about 30 years ago, the daughter of Mr. James Pritchard, brewer, of the BELL HOTEL, Darlaston, and she, with four daughters, survives him.....”

[His wife was Ann Maria and his daughters Gladys, Barbara, Peggy and Elsie.]

1901 Census

16, Victoria Road – SWAN HOTEL

[1] *Samuel Canlett* (75), widower, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Canlett (40), daughter, born Darlaston;

[3] Charles Wilkes (38), son-in-law, wine and spirit traveller, born Darlaston;

[4] Mary Wilkes (42), daughter, housekeeper, born Darlaston;

[5] Mary Wilkes (1), grand-daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] Rachel Plant (17), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

16, Victoria Road – SWAN INN

- [1] *Joseph Nightingale* (49), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Patience May Nightingale* (45), wife, married 8 years, assisting in business, born Hatley, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Marie Nightingale* (19), daughter, bolt screwer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Annie Nightingale* (7), daughter, school, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Sarah Nightingale* (5), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Patience May Nightingale* (3), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Francis James Donagh* (20), step-son, moulder, steel foundry, born Warwick;
- [8] *Ernest Percy Donagh* (17), step-son, tool maker, bolt and nut works, born Loughborough;
- [9] *Eliza Whitehouse* (21), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

South Staffordshire Times 10/2/1923

“The monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held on Tuesday at the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury. Mr. *Alf Blakemore* occupied the chair.....”

South Staffordshire Times 10/2/1923

“Wednesbury Police Court.....

Mr. *Alfred Blakemore*, of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, applied for a special license to sell drink at the Town Hall, on February 22nd, between eight and one o’clock, on the occasion of a ball to be held by the Darlaston Motor-Cycle Club.

The police did not oppose.

The Chairman thought midnight was late enough, and the license was granted on those conditions.”

South Staffordshire Times 17/3/1923

“Darlaston Police Court.....

SWAN HOTEL. Mr. *A. Blakemore* applied for an occasional special extension license, 8 to 1 o’clock, for a concert at the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, in aid of the Ex-Service Men’s Carnival Day. The application was granted from 8 to 12 o’clock.

Mr. *Blakemore* also applied for an occasional license at the Town Hall in aid of the Child Welfare Fund, for a dance. Granted from 8 to 12 o’clock.”

South Staffordshire Times 23/6/1923

“The half-yearly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held on Tuesday, at Mr. *Alf Blakemore*’s, SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston.....”

South Staffordshire Times 22/3/1924

“Mr. *Alf Blakemore*, of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, applied at the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, for an occasional license, between the hours of 7 and 12, on March 27th, on the occasion of a ball to be held in connection with the Darlaston Prize Band. The magistrates granted the application.”

Dudley Chronicle 17/4/1924

“Mr. *Alf Blakemore*, licensee of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, applied to the Darlaston magistrates for an occasional license to sell intoxicating liquor at the Town Hall on April 24th, from 7pm to 1am, the occasion being a fancy dress ball, promoted by the Darlaston Appeal Committee, in aid of the Wolverhampton General Hospital. He stated that the whole of the proceeds would go to the hospital, and as this was the last effort of the season, and the committee had arranged a long programme they asked him to apply for the extension until 1am.

Mr. J. Yardley, the presiding magistrate, said they were unable to create a precedent, and the license would be granted until 12 o’clock only.”

Walsall Observer 10/5/1924

“At the Darlaston Police Court on Tuesday, Mr. *Alfred Blakemore*, licensee of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, applied for an occasional license to sell intoxicating liquor at the Town Hall, Darlaston, from 7 to 11pm on May 26th. The occasion, he explained, was a smoking concert organised for the Wolverhampton Hospital, and he believed that this was their concluding effort.

Mr. J. G. Rose (presiding magistrate): It is just a slight acknowledgement to the workers, isn't it?

Mr. *Blakemore*: I can't say.

Mr. Rose: I believe that it is so.

The application was granted.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 25/10/1924

“Mr. *Alfred Blakemore*, SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, applied to the magistrates on Wednesday for an occasional license for November 20th, for the Darlaston Moto Cycle Club ball, from 8pm to 1pm. The Bench granted the extension from 8 to 12.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 20/12/1924

“At the Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday, Mr. *Alfred Blakemore* of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, applied for an occasional license to sell intoxicants at the Town Hall, on January 8th, from 7.30pm to 1am. The occasion was the annual ball in aid of the Wolverhampton Royal Orphanage. He pointed out that in the past the magistrates had not seen their way clear to grant the license later than 12pm, but he had been instructed by the Darlaston Appeals Committee to apply for the extra hour.

Mr. R. A. Tench mentioned that he was also applying on behalf of the Clerk to the Council (Mr. W. J. Carter) for the extension of a music license from 10pm to 1am, for the same occasion.

Mr. C. W. D. Joynson said it had been the invariable custom to grant the liquor license to 12pm only, and the Bench did not see any reason why they should depart from their usual custom. So far as the music license was concerned, the application would be granted.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 31/1/1925

“There was a large gathering of the members of the Empire Lodge of the R.O.A.B at the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, on Wednesday evening, when a visit was paid by the Grand Lodge Officers.....”

Walsall Observer 23/5/1925

“A well-known Darlaston licensee and a member of the Walsall Board of Guardians, Mr. *Alfred Blakemore*, of the SWAN HOTEL, was married by special license on Monday morning to Miss Mabel Cora Skidmore, of Dudley Street, Wednesbury. Only a few friends were present at the ceremony, which was performed at All Saints Church by the Vicar (the Rev. C. B. Lovegrove-Herman), and Mr. and Mrs. *Blakemore* left almost immediately for their honeymoon.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 4/7/1925

“At Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday, Mr. *Alfred Blakemore*, licensee of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, was granted occasional licenses for a dinner in connection with the R.A.O.B., on July 16th, at the Town Hall, and in connection with the carnival at the football ground on July 25th.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 14/11/1925

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday.....

Mr. *Alfred Blakemore*, of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, was granted an occasional license for the annual dance in the Town Hall, of the Darlaston Motor Cycle Club, on December 3rd.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 19/12/1925

“Mr. *Alf Blakemore* of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, was granted an occasional license for the Town Hall on January 7th, when a dance is to be held in aid of the Wolverhampton Royal Orphanage.”

Walsall Observer 16/1/1926

“Seven cups and other prizes to the value of £7, won by members of the Darlaston and District Utility Poul-

try Society at their annual show, were presented at the seventh annual meeting held at the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, on Thursday night, when Councillor F. C. Wesson (president) presided.....

Mr. *A. Blakemore* said he had long been interested in the feathered tribe, especially racing pigeons. Although success could often be achieved only by years of experience, he did not wish to say anything that would discourage younger members of that society. In fact, some of them had done extremely well, which was an evidence of their keenness, and he heartily congratulated them.”

Walsall Observer 23/1/1926

“A large cracker, bearing the Stafford Knot, was hung over the dancers at the annual ball of D Company (Willenhall and Darlaston) of the 6th Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment, held in Darlaston Town Hall on Thursday night. After the supper interval, the cracker was lowered among the throng, whereupon there was a merry scramble for the paper hats and other novelties which it contained. Altogether, there were upwards of 200 present.....

The hall had been very tastefully decorated by NCOs and men of the company. On the walls were shields bearing various heraldic devices and banners inscribed with the battle honours of the battalion. The drums of the battalion were piled in the centre of the stage.....

The refreshment bar was by Mr. *Alf Blakemore*.

The proceeds, which are expected to be about £10, are to be devoted to company funds and especially towards the re-covering of the billiards table and the provision of a piano in the Darlaston Territorial Club.”

Walsall Observer 30/1/1926

“When Mr. J. Robinson, licensee of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Darlaston, applied at the Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants from 7.30pm till midnight at the dance and social to be held in connection with the Darlaston Labour Party, at the Town Hall tonight (Saturday), Police Inspector Willetts said he objected to an extension until midnight on Saturdays. The license was therefore granted only from 7.30pm until 11, the magistrates intimating that they thought 11pm was quite late enough on Saturdays.

At the same court the Bench granted an application of Mr. *A. Blakemore*, of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants on the occasion of the Police ball at the Darlaston Town Hall from 7.30pm until 12 midnight on Thursday, February 25. A similar license was granted to Mr. H. Keay of the OLD BUSH INN, to sell intoxicants at the dance in the Darlaston Town Hall, on February 4, in aid of the All Saints’ C.L.B.”

Walsall Observer 13/2/1926

“When Mr. *A. Blakemore*, licensee of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, applied at the local police court on Wednesday, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants at the Town Hall, from 7.30pm to 12 midnight, for a dance in aid of the Darlaston Town Prize Band, Alderman J. Yardley (presiding magistrate) suggested that they might help the nursing fund. Mr. Blakemore said he would bring the suggestion to the notice of the secretary. The application was granted.”

Dudley Chronicle 27/1/1927

“There have been three interesting ceremonies at Wednesbury and Darlaston last week in connection with the R.A.O.B. On Wednesday, January 19th at the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, Bros. Troman, H. M. Browne, J. Price, and Percy Davies, members of the Empire Lodge (GC) were raised to the second degree, the installing officer being Bro. J. Whistance, KOM, Grand Primo of Wednesbury Province, while Bro. Lockhart Lowe was the SP.

On Thursday evening at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, Primos A. Johnson and J. Hague, of the Cosmopolitan Lodge (GLE) were raised to the third degree (KOM), the installing officer being Bro. C. G. Harding, ROH. There was a large attendance from members of visiting lodges, both GC and GLE and Bro. J. Whistance, KOM, responded to the toast of ‘The Visitors.’

On Friday evening Primo P. H. Davies, of the Anchor Lodge (GC), Wednesbury, was also installed to the third degree, the ceremony being performed by Mr. C. F. Kay, KOM.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 28/1/1928

“The annual general meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held on Tuesday evening at the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, when Mr. *Alfred Blakemore* presided, being supported by Mr. Frank Cook (vice-president).....”

Walsall Observer 13/4/1929

“The election for the All Saints ward for the Darlaston Council consequent on the resignation of Mr. S. K. Lewis, has been fixed for Monday, April 29. Nomination day will be Tuesday next, and withdrawals will be accepted till Saturday next. It is understood that Mr. *Alf Blakemore*, the licensee of the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, who served on the Walsall Guardians for three years, is likely to stand in the Conservative interest. Mr. *Blakemore* is President of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association and a keen sportsman. Labour has decided to contest the seat, but will not definitely choose their candidate until a meeting of the management committee this (Saturday) afternoon. The name of Mr. Stallard has been mentioned as a likely candidate.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/4/1929

“The result of the polling at Darlaston in the bye-election caused by the resignation of Councillor S. K. Lewis was as follows. *A. Blakemore* (Con) 488, C. H. Stallard (Lab) 324, G. Smith (Ind) 271, T. Rice (Ind) 49.”

Midland Advertiser 15/2/1930

“The annual meeting of the Wednesbury and District Utility Poultry Society was held on Monday night at the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, when Councillor H. R. Meriton presented in the unavoidable absence of the president, Councillor F. R. Wesson....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/3/1936

“At the adjourned licensing sessions at Darlaston yesterday.....

The removal of the license of the SWAN HOTEL, Victoria Road, Darlaston, to a house and premises proposed to be erected by Messrs. Butler’s, of Wolverhampton, at the junction of Bentley Lane and Wolverhampton Road, Bentley, Darlaston, was refused.”

1939 Register

Victoria Road – SWAN HOTEL

[1] Dorothy (Clark) Whistance, date of birth 13/6/1920, barmaid and general housework, single;

[2] Doris G. (Screen) Shakespeare, dob 2/12/1921, barmaid and general housework, single;

[3] *Susannah Saunders*, date of birth 2/6/1876, hotel manageress, widowed:

Walsall Observer 14/3/1942 - Advert

“Barmaid Help, urgently Wanted.

SWAN HOTEL, Victoria Road, Darlaston.”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division B, in 1948.

Plans for alterations were approved on 26th July 1950.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/3/1960

“A post-mortem examination will be held at Darlaston today on Robert A. Lloyd, aged 49, electric welder, of Queen Street, Moxley, who died while attending a meeting of his Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes’ lodge at the SWAN INN, Victoria Road, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/7/1966

“A swarm of bees settled inside a table umbrella at the rear of the SWAN INN, Victoria Road, Darlaston, on Saturday. There were collected by a local bee-keeper, Mr. Christopher Horton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1977

“Thousands of Midland drinkers will be forced to change their drinking habits next year – because of a Government report. Three major breweries are to swop 437 pubs – leaving drinkers to choose between their favourite public house or their favourite beer. The deal was announced yesterday by Ansells, owned by Allied Breweries, Mitchells and Butlers, owned by Bass Charrington, and Courage. The move, involving public houses valued at £11,000,000, was prompted by a Monopolies Commission report seven years ago which claimed that breweries had too much of a stranglehold in certain towns and cities Tenants and managers are being given the opportunity to stay on new terms or change to another establishment. Managers can also opt for voluntary redundancy.....
M & B tenanted houses transferred to Courage.....
SWAN, Victoria Road, Darlaston.”

[2022]

SYCAMORE TREE

Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Dangerfield [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

THATCHED HOUSE

Cock Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

David Bowen [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/10/1835 - Married

“On the 28th ult, Mr. David Bowen, Darlaston, to Mrs. Elizabeth Kendrick, of Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1837 - Married

“On the 20th instant, at Tipton, Hill, eldest son of Mr. David Bowen, bridle-bit-maker, of Darlaston, to Maria, third daughter of Mr. Henry Harris, ironmaster, of Wednesbury.”

1841 Census

Cock Street

- [1] David Bowen (60), bit maker, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Bowen (50), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Solomon Bowen (20), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Benjamin Bowen (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Hannah Bowen (20), born Staffordshire;
- [6] David Bowen (3), born Staffordshire;
- [7] John Butler (20), born Staffordshire;
- [8] James Hart (20), born Staffordshire;
- [9] James Billingsley (20), born Staffordshire;
- [10] William Adams (12), born Staffordshire;
- [11] Phinis Sedgfield (15), born Staffordshire;
- [12] Sarah Clark (15), born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/1/1848 - Died

“On the 25th ult, at Darlaston, lamented by her family, aged 64, Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. David Bowen.”

THREE CROWNS

127+128, (127), The Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Susan Garrington and John Dorsett Foster

LICENSEES

Charles Williams [1861] – [1862]

James Hyde [1871] – [1872]

Thomas Meanley [1880] – [1881]

Susan Grove [1891]

John Thomas Garrington (1901 – [1911])

Mary Garrington [1914]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Green Highway – THREE CROWNS INN

- [1] *Charles Williams* (26), labourer and beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Esther Williams* (36), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Samuel Williams* (14), son, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Sarah Ann Clebury* (19), house servant, born Walsall:

Charles Williams, retailer of beer, The Green. [1862]

1871 Census

The Green – THREE CROWNS

- [1] *James Hyde* (44), nut forger and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Maria Hyde* (40), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Samuel Yardley* (40), boarder, gunlock filer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *John Goodwin* (23), boarder, nut forger, born Darlaston:

James Hyde, beer retailer, The Green. [1872]

Thomas Meanley = Thomas Meanly

Thomas Meanly, beer retailer, The Green. [1880]

1881 Census

127, The Green

- [1] *Thomas Meanley* (31), brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Esther Meanley* (29), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Sarah Meanley* (2), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Theresa Fizer* (24), domestic servant, born Great Barr;
- [5] *Emily Canlett* (19), visitor, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

127, The Green

- [1] *Susan Grove* (44), widow, beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Jane Burns* (39), sister, single, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Maria Perkins* (15), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

Susan Grove, THREE CROWNS, the Green.....

All these were for six days.”

Susan Grove died in the first quarter of 1899.

John Thomas Garrington (34), widower, licensed victualler, of Darlaston, married *Mary Gregory* (34), spinster, of Wednesfield, on 7th June 1900 at Wednesfield.

Mary Gregory was the daughter of John Gregory of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Wednesfield.

1901 Census

127, The Green

- [1] *John T. Garrington* (35), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Garrington* (35), wife, married 10 years, born Wednesfield;
- [3] *Susan Garrington* (8), daughter, dressmaking, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Ada Moreton* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/10/1901

“Darlaston adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Mr. J. S. Sharpe applied on behalf of *John Thomas Garrington*, the holder of the THREE CROWNS INN, The Green, for a new license to enable the owner to carry out extensions. The police raising no objection the magistrates granted the application.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/9/1902

“A woman named Elizabeth Hale, of Castle Street, Darlaston, was at Wednesbury yesterday fined £2 for refusing to quit the THREE CROWNS INN, The Green, Darlaston, and also for assaulting *John Thomas Garrington*, the landlord.”

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

THREE CROWNS INN, The Green.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday.....

There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”

[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

[A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. \[1903\]](#)

1911 Census

127+128, The Green – THREE CROWNS

- [1] *John Thomas Garrington* (45), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

- [2] *Mary Garrington* (45), wife, married 10 years, born Wednesfield;
[3] *Susan Garrington* (18), daughter by first marriage, dressmaking, born Darlaston;
[4] *Phyllis May Garrington* (8), daughter, born Darlaston;
[5] *Mona Kate Garrington* (4), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1914

“The adjourned sessions for the parish of Darlaston were held yesterday, Mr. A. H. Partridge presiding. The principal business was to consider objections to licenses on the ground of redundancy.

Mr. J. Pritchard (Bilston) applied for renewal in the case of the COTTAGE OF CONTENT beerhouse, The Green; Mr. G. N. Capner, in the case of the MINEBORERS ARMS beerhouse, Catherines Cross; and Mr. A. Mand in the case of the THREE CROWNS beerhouse, The Green.

The Bench referred the three licenses to the compensation authority.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1914

“At the Principal Meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority, held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Wednesday, 25 licenses which had been referred by justices from petty sessional divisions and boroughs came under review. Of these, no opposition to the refusal of the license was offered by the parties interested in 15 cases, eight which were opposed were refused renewal, and the remaining two were adjourned for evidence of the trade done at each house.....

Mr. Taylor, who applied for the renewal of the THREE CROWNS, Darlaston, said the owner and licensee, Miss Garrington, had received an offer to take the house from the brewery firm at a rent of £45 per annum. Mr. Wrottesley, for the justices, said he was informed the trade statistics showed a rapidly falling barrellage. The committee refused to renew the license.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/8/1914

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 29th day of July, 1914, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 7th day of September, 1914, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

THREE CROWNS, 127+128, The Green, Darlaston. Beerhouse. Licensee, *Mary Garrington*. Registered Owner, *Susan Garrington* and *John Dorsett Foster*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1915

“Report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1914.....

The committee of the Compensation Authority went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund.

In the following 18 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

THREE CROWNS, 127+128, The Green, Darlaston, beerhouse, ante-1869, £600.

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and will be paid on the 28th instant.”

THREE CUPS

DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Ambrose Smith []
John Foster []

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/4/1869

“Local Bankrupts (from Tuesday night’s *London Gazette*).....
Ambrose Smith, The Green, Darlaston, Staffordshire, roll turner.”

Walsall Free Press 17/4/1869

“Walsall County Court Bankrupts.....
Ambrose Smith, landlord of the THREE CUPS, beerhouse, Darlaston, passed his first examination. Mr. Slater appeared for the bankrupt, and the 5th of May was appointed for his last examination.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/4/1869 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.
Ambrose Smith, of The Green, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Roll Turner and Beerhouse-keeper, formerly of James Bridge, Darlaston aforesaid, Roll Turner and Beerhouse-keeper, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Walsall, on the 23rd day of March, 1869, a Public Sitting for the said Bankrupt to Pass his Last Examination, and make Application for his Discharge, will be held at the said Court, on the 5th day of May, 1869, at the Court House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, at Eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said Bankrupt to surrender. Frederic F. Clarke, of Walsall, is the Official Assignee, and James Slater, of Darlaston, is the Solicitor in the Bankruptcy.
F. F. Clarke, Registrar.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/5/1869

“Walsall County Court.....
Ambrose Smith, formerly beerhouse keeper and roll turner, Darlaston, whose petition was supported by Mr. Slater, of Darlaston, passed his final examination unopposed.”

Walsall Free Press 18/5/1872 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.
In the Matter of *Ambrose Smith*, of the Green, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, Roll Turner and Beerhouse-keeper, formerly of James Bridge, Darlaston aforesaid, Roll Turner and Beerhouse-keeper, adjudged bankrupt on the 23rd day of March, 1869.
A Meeting of the Creditors of this will be held before the Registrar at the County Court Office, Walsall, on the 3rd day of June, 1872, at 12 o’clock at noon, for the purpose of declaring a dividend, and also whether any allowance shall be made to the bankrupt.
Proofs of debts will be received, and creditors who have not yet proved and do not then prove will be excluded the benefit of the dividend.
F. F. Clarke, Registrar.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/5/1870

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before Mr. Spooner, Stipendiary, William Knowles, Eliza, wife of Charles Reader, William Small, William Beach, Martha, wife of William Manders, John Manders, and

Samuel Wilkes, all of The Green, Darlaston, were charged by John Harper, gun-lock forger, with stealing three gallons of ale, value 4s, his property. The complainant and two witnesses were examined, from whose evidence it appeared that on the 25th April there was a sale at the THREE CUPS INN, Darlaston, formerly kept by *John Foster*. The prosecutor bought a barrel of ale, and he set to work and tapped it in the cellar. He engaged the defendant Wilkes to assist him in removing the barrel, and gave him and some other of the people present some of the drink. They then ran upon him (the prosecutor), blew out the light, upset him, and took possession of the much-coveted barrel. It was then taken into the road, and the people fetched cans, jugs, basins, and even certain unmentionable vessels, with which they carried off the liquid.

Mrs. Reader stated that the man in possession of the barrel said to her and the others, 'Now he has bought the barrel; bring your cups, and we will give you the ale.'

A witness was called on the part of the defendants, but Mr. Spooner said he did not believe her statements. He hardly knew what to do with the defendants, for they had rendered themselves liable to be committed for trial.

The prosecutor said that though he had only charged defendants with stealing three gallons of ale, he lost no fewer than twenty gallons.

Mr. Spooner said that he should order the defendants to be imprisoned three days. They were allowed to sit in the court room, and at the end of the proceedings were discharged, with a caution, on each paying 2s 6d, the cost of the summons."

Check GOLDEN CUP.

THREE FISHES

13, (6), Moxley Road, (6, Wood Bank Road), DARLASTON

OWNERS

R. A. Harper Ltd. [1909]

Eley's Stafford Brewery Ltd. [1926]

William Butler and Co. Ltd [1948]

LICENSEES

Joseph Stiler [1861]

Joseph Baker [1863]

William Woodward [1881]

Charles Pritchard [1889] – [1891]

Hannah Lowe [1901]

Samuel Bedworth [1908] – [1909]

Edmund Harris [1911]

Ann Jane Burgess [1919] – **1922**);

John William Slater (**1922 – 1925**);

Samuel Doughty (**1925 – 1932**);

Samuel Hadley (**1932 – 1953**);

Joseph Crosby (**1953 – 1954**);

George Robert Butterworth (**1954 – 1957**);

David Newell (**1957 – 1958**);

Mrs. Jennie Newell (**1958 – 1962**):

NOTES

6, Wood Bank Road [1881]

6, Moxley Road [1901], [1911]

13, Moxley Road [1932], [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/2/1839

“A correspondent states that he has a dog weighing 50lbs, which he will back against any dog in England of the same weight, for £25. The owner of the dog can be seen on Monday next, at the THREE FISHES, Darlaston.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/4/1843

“George Fairley will bowl Thomas Bird (both of Darlaston), for £25 a side; the bowl not to exceed 13lb. His money is ready at the THREE FISHERS, Darlaston. If not accepted he will bowl any other man within five miles of the same place, for £5 or £10.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/11/1845

“George Fairley of Darlaston wishes to bowl a match with George Millard of Sedgley, for from £5 to £25 a side; or any other man in England upon the same terms; the bowl to be about 13lb or 14lb in weight. The match can be made any time at the BELL INN (Howl’s), or the THREE FISHES, Darlaston.”

1861 Census

Woods Bank – Beer Shop – THREE FISHES

[1] *Joseph Stiler* (42), butty collier and retail brewer, born Gospel Oak;

[2] Ann Stiler (52), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Mary A. Stiler (19), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Esther Stiler (20), daughter, born Princes End;

[5] Mary A. Reynolds (13), daughter, scholar, born Princes End;

[6] Uriah Styler (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 25/4/1863 - Advert

“Excellent Retail Public House.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above House, sign of the THREE FISHES, the Bank, Darlaston, doing an excellent in and out-door trade. Coming-in about £100.

Apply, Enoch Bruerton, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/9/1863

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, the publicans named below were fined in the sums appended to their names for keeping their houses open during unlawful hours.....

Joseph Baker, of the THREE FISHES public house, Darlaston, for permitting drinking in his house at twelve o’clock on the night of the Wake Sunday, was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

1881 Census

6, Woods Bank – THREE FISHES INN

[1] *William Woodward* (30), publican, beerhouse, born Darlaston;

[2] Mary E. Woodward (26), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Frederic Woodward (2), son, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/7/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, about 16 or 17.

Apply, Mrs. C. Pritchard, THREE FISHES INN, Woods Bank, Darlaston.”

1891 Census

Wood Bank – THREE FISHES

- [1] *Charles Pritchard* (33), fitter, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Elizabeth Pritchard* (36), wife, born Aughton, Lancashire;
- [3] *Charles Pritchard* (18), son, fitter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Fanny Pritchard* (14), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Anne Pritchard* (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Joseph Pritchard* (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *James Pritchard* (2), son, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Eliza Pritchard* (8 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [9] *James Harper* (65), father-in-law, widower, assists in house, born Darlaston;
- [10] *Ellen Winsper* (14), general servant, born Darlaston:

1901 Census

6, Moxley Road – THREE FISHES

- [1] *Hannah Lowe* (57), widow, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Samuel J. Lowe* (28), son, iron moulder, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Joseph Lowe* (26), son, iron moulder, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Margaret A. Lowe* (20), daughter;
- [5] *George Lowe* (18), son, socket maker, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Elizabeth Lowe* (14), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Job Sutton* (28), son-in-law, widower, coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Albert Sutton* (5), nephew, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Joseph Sutton* (3), nephew, born Darlaston;
- [10] *Samuel Sutton* (1), nephew, born Darlaston:

Walsall Advertiser 28/11/1908

“A Darlaston publican named *Samuel Bedworth* claimed £35 from his son-in-law, James Tonks, also a publican of Darlaston, being balance of money lent. Mr. F. Cooper who represented plaintiff stated that in December, 1905, defendant married plaintiff’s daughter, and in order that he might take a public house plaintiff lent Tonks £80, of which only £45 had been repaid. Defendant denied that the plaintiff had ever lent him a shilling, and submitted that the money was given to his wife as a wedding present. Defendant’s wife corroborated. Judgement was given for plaintiff for the amount claimed.”

Walsall Advertiser 6/2/1909

“The general annual Licensing Sessions for Darlaston were held at the Police Court on Wednesday morning.....

The licensees of THREE FISHES, Woods Bank (*Samuel Bedworth*) were then called before the Court and informed that a notice of objection would be served on them on the ground that the licenses were not required. Each case would be dealt with at the Adjourned Sessions.”

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston were held on Wednesday.....

On the undertaking that the THREE FISHES, Moxley Road (*Samuel Bedworth*, licensee), was put into good order, the license was renewed.”

AND

Walsall Observer 6/3/1909

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

In the case of the THREE FISHES, Moxley Road, the license was renewed on an undertaking by Mr. R. A. Willcock, representing Mr. R. A. Harper, the owner, that any work necessary to make the place clean and sanitary should be carried out.”

1911 Census

6, Moxley Road

- [1] *Edmund Harris* (48), innkeeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Eliza Harris* (43), wife, married 20 years, born Bilston;
- [3] *Ernest Harris* (18), son, assistant, electric department, iron works, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elsie Harris* (15), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] *Minnie Harris* (13), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Sidney Harris* (7), son, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Mary Sale* (17), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Edmund Harris – see also BRITANNIA, Hall Green Street, Bradley, Bilston.

Walsall Observer 7/1/1928

“Darlaston Council.....

The City of Birmingham gas main from the top of Woods Bank to the THREE FISHES INN is only a few inches below the surface of the road, and new mains are to be laid.”

Plans were approved for alterations to the outdoor department on 8th November 1933.

Plans were approved for the provision of a bathroom and indoor sanitary accommodation on 26th May 1937.

1939 Register

13, Moxley Road – THREE FISHES

- [1] *Samuel Hadley*, date of birth 20/6/1882, licensee, married;
- [2] *Ruth Ellen Hadley*, dob 15/7/1889, household duties, married;
- [3] *Samuel Cecil Oliver*, dob 15/10/1890, oxy-acetylene welder, motor work, single;
- [4] *Sylvia Fisher*, dob 3/11/1900, machine hand, motor works, single:

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

Joseph Crosby – see also DUKE OF YORK.

It closed on 2nd December 1962.

THREE HORSESHOES

3, Pinfold Street, (3, Bull Stake), DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1926], [1961]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Premier Midland Ales (acquired in January 1991)

LICENSEES

Edward Bayley [1865]
Simeon Lunn Snr. [1868] – [1881]

Simeon Lunn Jnr. [1891]
Mrs. Annie (Lunn) Wilkes [1899] – [1904]
Harry Sheargold [1911] – [1914]
Jane Ferguson [] – **1926**);
John Bennett (**1926** – []
Hugh Morrison [1938] – [1940]
Annie Humphries [1961] – **1963**);
Owen Alban Tombs (**1963**);
Griffith Allan Steer (**1963**);
John Frederick Austin (**1963** – **1966**);
George Butler (**1966** – []

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/12/1865 - Advert

“To Publicans. THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Darlaston.

To be Let, with immediate possession, this well-accustomed Public House (established upwards of fifty years), situate at the Bull Stake, Darlaston. The Goodwill, Household Furniture and Effects, Stock-in-Trade, and Fixtures, may be taken to at a valuation in the usual way. In-coming about £140.

For further particulars apply to Mr. *Edward Bayley*, the Tenant, on the premises; Mr. Job Williams, Furnace Manager, Darlaston; or at the Offices of Mr. J. E. Sheldon, Solicitor, Wednesbury.”

Simeon Lunn was originally a beer retailer of 3, Bull Stake.

Simeon Lunn, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1868], [1872]

Simeon Lunn was fined 5s and costs, for serving during prohibited hours, in April 1869.

1871 Census

3, Pinfold Street – Public House – THREE HORSE SHOES

[1] *Simeon Lunn* (38), sheet iron shearer in forge, born Darlaston;

[2] Phebe Lunn (34), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Mary Lunn (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Martha Lunn (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Simeon Lunn* (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] Ann Hopkins (22), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/10/1875

“At Walsall, Donald McKenzie was brought up in custody under remand charged with having embezzled various sums of money belonging to his employer, Mr. Emil Behncke, wine and cigar merchant, New Street, Birmingham. Mr. Gillespie (Messrs. Wilkinson and Gillespie) appeared for the prosecutor, and the prisoner was defended by Mr. Rhodes, of Wolverhampton.

James Fox, Lower Rushall, publican, said that since the 10th of August last, he had paid the prisoner £3 1s on the prosecutor’s account, for which he produced a receipt signed by the prisoner.

Simeon Lunn, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, produced a receipt of £3 3s, which he had paid to the prisoner for Mr. Behncke.

The prosecutor said he received neither of the above sums from the prisoner nor others, the payment of which was proved at a previous hearing of the case. He had, however, received two £5 notes on account of those sums. He did not owe prisoner anything, but had overpaid him £13 19s 4d on his commission account. Mr. Rhodes contended that, owing to the nature of the relations between the parties, the prisoner was not

criminally liable, although he had, perhaps, acted morally wrong. The Bench, however, expressed their belief that there was a prima facie case warranting a committal.

Mr. Rhodes said that, looking at the time that must elapse before the sessions, his client would plead guilty. Prisoner was thereupon sentenced to four months' hard labour."

1881 Census

3, Pinfold Street – THREE HORSE SHOES INN

- [1] *Simeon Lunn* (49), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Phebe Lunn* (44), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Mary Lunn* (22), daughter, milliner, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Martha Lunn* (21), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Simeon Lunn* (17), son, clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Phebe Lunn* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Rachael Tranter* (21), general servant, born Darlaston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/2/1886

"The annual dinner of the Sir John Falstaff, No.633, of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, took place at the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Bull Stake, on Monday. About fifty sat down to an excellent spread, prepared by the hostess....."

Martha Maria Lunn (28), spinster, 3 Pinfold Street, (father *Simeon Lunn*, deceased, beerhouse keeper) married *George Wilkes* (26), bachelor, licensed victualler, 211 High Street, Dudley, (father *George Wilkes*, deceased, licensed victualler) on 7th August 1887.

George Wilkes – see SALUTATION VAULTS, Dudley, and NAGS HEAD, Darlaston.

Simeon Lunn (23), bachelor, clerk (on railway), father deceased, married *Ann Harper* (24), spinster, on 22nd November 1887.

1891 Census

3, Pinfold Street – THREE HORSE SHOES INN

- [1] *Simeon Lunn* (27), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Annie Lunn* (28), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Annie Lunn* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Florence Lunn* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Minnie Lunn* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Jenny Hodgkiss* (14), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Maggie Morgan* (12), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/5/1893

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Simeon Lunn*, the THREE HORSE SHOES, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 19th inst. Mr. Willcock appeared for the defence.

The case for the police was that at 9.50 at night he saw a man named *George Burman* go into the defendant's house in a drunken condition at 9.50, and the man was still there at half-past ten.

The defence was that *Burman* went into the house for a letter which had been delivered there for him, and was told by the landlady that he had better go home as he had had enough to drink. He said he would go directly, but lingered until the constable and Sergeant *Willis* entered. The house had been in the possession of the defendant's family for thirty years without complaint.

The Stipendiary said that technically an offence had been committed, but as the house had been conducted so many years in a creditable way the summons would be dismissed on payment of costs.

George Burman, contractor, was fined 10s and costs for being on the premises in a drunken condition."

Simeon Lunn died in the 2nd quarter of 1898.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/9/1899

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the borough of Wednesbury were held today.....

Mr. Slater applied on behalf of *Annie Lunn*, of the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Bull Stake, Darlaston, for a licensed victuallers license in place of an existing beerhouse ‘on’ license. He pointed out that there was a great demand in the locality of the premises for a full license, and said the house was situated near the tram terminus at Darlaston, although it was just within the borough of Wednesbury. He handed in a petition, largely signed by the inhabitants of the district, in favour of the application.

Mr. Norton, of the OLD CASTLE HOTEL, opposed the application, and said his premises were only twenty yards away.

Mr. Belcher spoke in support of the application, which, however, the Bench declined to grant.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 23/9/1899

“Wednesbury. The adjourned annual sessions took place yesterday.....

Mr. Slater applied for a full license to be granted to *Annie Lunn*, of the THREE HORSE SHOES beerhouse, Bull Stake. Superintendent Salt opposed on the ground that there were already several houses with full licenses in the same locality. The application was refused.”

Annie Lunn married Albert Henry *Wilkes* on 15th November 1900.

1901 Census

Pinfold Street

- [1] Albert H. Wilkes (28), musician, pianist, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Annie Wilkes* (35), wife, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [3] Florence Lunn (9), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Elsie Lunn (7), step-daughter, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Leader 17/8/1901

“Darlaston and Willenhall District N.U.O. Free Gardeners.

The Darlaston Pride Lodge 780 held a smoking concert at the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Bull Stake, Darlaston, on Saturday.....”

Mrs. *Annie Wilkes*, beer retailer, 3, Pinfold Street. [1904]

1911 Census

Pinfold Street – THREE HORSE SHOES

- [1] *Harry Sheargold* (40), publican, born Pelsall;
- [2] *Annie Sheargold* (36), wife, married 9 years, assisting in business, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Kate Winsper* (26), relative, teacher, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Mary Harrison* (20), domestic servant, born Moxley:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/11/1912 - Advert

“Respectable Girl Wanted, about 20, used to public business.

Apply, THREE HORSESHOES, Bull Stake, Darlaston.”

Harry Sheargold, beer retailer, 3, Pinfold Street. [1912]

He brewed his own beer. [1914]

South Staffordshire Times 19/8/1922

“George Mole, an off-license holder, of Walsall Road, Darlaston, was summoned by the police for selling beer and allowing same to be drunk on his premises, and also for selling beer during closing hours, on the night of Saturday, July 22nd.

Mr. Millichip prosecuted and Mr. Cooper defended.

Mr. Millichip opened the case, being instructed by the police, and explained that Mole was an off-license holder. On the night of Saturday, July, 22nd, Mr. and Mrs. Millington and a man named McIntyre were all passing the house after 10pm, after having left the THREE HORSE SHOES at Darlaston, and on the way home they met Mrs. Mole, defendant's wife, at her door, and it was contended, at the invitation of McIntyre they all went inside, after a little conversation. In a back room where this little party gathered were Mr. and Mrs. Mole, Mr. and Mrs. Millichip, and also Parkes and Reece, two other men. Drink was called for and paid for. Eventually Mrs. Millichip wanted to get her husband home, and they quarreled, and on Monday Mrs. Millichip informed the police, leading up to PS Bailey visiting the defendant Mole, whom he told would be reported. The summons then followed.

Mrs. Emma Millichip, of 53 Scarborough Road, Pleck, said she was with her husband at the THREE HORSE SHOES, Darlaston, on Saturday evening, July 22nd. They left, with McIntyre, at 10pm, and walked toward home at the Pleck. Mrs. Mole was in her own door, and McIntyre went up and introduced her (witness) to Mrs. Mole. After a few minutes conversation McIntyre led the way in, or invited them, and she saw Parker and Reece in the back parlour and Mr. Mole. McIntyre called for some beer, and five glasses were put out by Mrs. Mole, McIntyre paying for same. More beer was supplied three or four times, others paying, and Reece tendered a £1 note. She saw it, but Mrs. Mole got into a muddle over the change and asked her husband to help her over it. Witness could not say who paid for the other drinks round, but she was anxious to get her husband home and quarreled with him. She did not take any drink herself inside the house. She eventually got home about 12.30am.

Cross-examined by Mr. Cooper, she reported it to a policeman close to the BROWN LION, Pleck, but not till Monday. Mr. Mole was playing an organ when they all went in that evening. She never heard Mole ask anyone present to have a drink of beer at his expense, but she did see both McIntyre and Reece call for and pay for drinks. Mole never said he would not allow any money to be taken as it was his private friends. She saw change given and money taken. She did not see her husband all day on Sunday after their quarrel, and she did not give information until Monday.....

The Stipendiary said there must be a conviction in the first case. Upon the evidence given by Mrs. Millington money was evidently paid for beer supplied. There would be a fine of £3 and £6 10s special costs. The second summons was not dealt with.”

South Staffordshire Times 5/4/1924

“A meeting of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held on Tuesday, at the THREE HORSE SHOES, Bull Stake Darlaston, when Alderman Sheldon presided.....”

Dudley Chronicle 30/9/1926

“Wednesbury Police Court. Friday.....

Mr. P. J. Slater appeared for Messrs. W. Butler and Co., and applied for permission to make alteration to the THREE HORSE SHOES, Bull Stake, Darlaston, by extending the domestic and sanitary accommodation. He submitted plans and the application was approved.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1938

“A man giving evidence at Wednesbury licensing sessions yesterday in support of an application for a wine license in respect of the THREE HORSESHOES, Pinfold Street, said that he would go through fire and water to get drink. He, therefore, did not mind crossing a dangerous road junction to obtain wine from a fully-licensed house on the opposite side of the road, although he preferred the THREE HORSESHOES. Another witness, a woman, said she, too, did not object to crossing the road to reach the public house in question, but she was not too keen on the return journey.

The application, and a similar one in respect of the PARK INN, Walsall Street, was refused.

Supt. J. H. Hall offered formal opposition to both applications on the ground that the houses were not of suitable size to carry a further license.”

Walsall Observer 29/4/1939 - In Memoriam

“In loving memory of our dear daughter, Gertrude Morrison, late THREE HORSE SHOES, Bull Stake, Darlaston, who passed away April 30, 1938.

*Beautiful memories, treasured forever,
Of happy days we spent together.
Whatever else we fail to do,
We never will fail to think of you.
We loved you in life and love you yet,
You are ours to remember when others forget.
Mother and Dad, Brothers and Niece.”*

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/5/1939

“A series of thefts over a period of 18 months by a 24-year-old Wednesbury man was revealed at Wednesbury yesterday when Theophilus Porton, filer, of 245, Park Lane, Wednesbury, pleaded guilty to stealing a collecting box, the property of Father Hudson’s Homes, from the THREE HORSESHOES INN, Pinfold Street, Wednesbury, on 1 May, and also to stealing clothing, value £20, from the warehouse of Samuel Hughes and Co, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, in September last year. Porton, who asked for eight other cases, including the theft of a gold wristlet watch and two bicycles, to be taken into consideration, was sentenced to three months’ imprisonment on each charge, to run concurrently.”

1939 Register

3, Pinfold Street

[1] *Hugh Morrison*, date of birth 5/5/1892, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Margaret Morrison, dob 3/2/1915, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Joan (Morrison) Wiles, dob 28/8/1923, barmaid, single:

Walsall Observer 4/5/1940

“A fine of £10, with £2 9s 6d costs, was imposed, at Walsall Police Court on Wednesday, on a Darlaston licensee, *Hugh Morrison* (45), of the THREE HORSE SHOES, Bull Stake, Darlaston, who pleaded guilty to being in charge of a motor car whilst under the influence of drink to such an extent as to be incapable of exercising proper control.

Police-constable Grundy told the court that he and Police-constable Lee were called to the NEWPORT ARMS, Pleck Road, on the night of April 24, and outside saw a saloon car, the only occupant of which was defendant, who was at the driving wheel. The engine was running, but Police-constable Lee removed the ignition key. Getting out of the car at their request, accused had to hold on to the side to prevent himself falling down. ‘When I told defendant I considered he was under the influence of drink and should take him to the police station,’ added Police-constable Grundy, ‘he said, ‘I’ll take you down in my car,’ but I refused the offer.’

Dr. Baker (deputy police surgeon), who examined *Morrison* at the police station at 9.58 on the night in question, described the reasons that led him to certify defendant as being under the influence of drink.

On behalf of *Morrison*, Mr. C. L. Hodgkinson told the magistrates that defendant lost his wife some time ago and became on bad terms with her family. April 24 was the anniversary of his wife’s death and he went to the NEWPORT ARMS to try to effect a reconciliation with the family. He was not successful and it was because he was not allowed to stay in the house that he went outside and was found in the car by the police. In addition to the monetary penalty, the magistrates suspended the defendant’s driving license for twelve months.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1962

“Questions about a letter sent to a woman threatening legal proceedings if a debt was not paid were asked by the Coroner, Mr. D. Cave, at an inquest at Wednesbury yesterday. He recorded a verdict ‘that she took her own life while the balance of her mind was disturbed’ on Mrs. *Anne Humphries* (48), a widow, licensee of the THREE HORSE SHOES public house, Pinfold Street, Wednesbury, who was found dead in the gas-filled kitchen of her home on Monday, five days after her brother committed suicide by gassing himself.

Brian Humphries, aged 24, said that his mother had two nervous breakdowns about 13 years ago and had been a patient at hospitals in Burntwood and Birmingham. She was upset by her brother’s death.

The Coroner: Have you found a letter dated December 15 asking for payment of a debt and saying that if it

was not paid legal proceedings would be taken? – Yes.

Reginald Foster, aged 51, of Perry Street, Darlaston, said he was a friend of Mrs. *Humphries*. He had lent her small sums of money, but in October had instructed a solicitor to collect the unpaid debt. Mrs. *Humphries* met him and cried and he agreed to drop the matter if she paid him £1 a week. He then had ‘a bit of a rumpus’ with Mrs. *Humphries*’s elder son in the THREE HORSE SHOES and had placed the matter of the debt in solicitors’ hands again.

The Coroner: You were threatening to put the solicitors on her again? You were dunning her for the money? In his summing-up the Coroner said, ‘There is a history of mental disturbance and I have no doubt that when she knew that her brother had killed himself she must have had a considerable shock. She borrowed money – not a large sum – from the man Foster. Some pressure – I will not put it any higher than that – seems to have been exerted by Mr. Foster who instructed solicitors to write her a letter. She prevailed on Mr. Foster to patch things up, which he did. Then there was more trouble involving another member of the family and because he had been so badly treated, as he thought, he told her that he was going on with proceedings. In all probability this worried her, coming at a time of family distress.’

The Coroner said he would not read in court a letter found near Mrs. *Humphries*’s body because someone’s name was mentioned in it.”

[1992]

Closed [1998]

Reopened

[2007]

Closed [2010]

It was converted into housing. [2011]

THREE PERCHES

Bank, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Smith [1834]

NOTES

Check THREE FISHES.

TRAVELLERS REST

35, (15), Great Bridge Road, (Fire Holes Road) / Belmont Street, (Fiery Holes), Moxley, DARLASTON

OWNERS

George Calloway
Thomas Coley, Moxley
Mrs. Isabella Coley
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Calloway [1873] – **1878**);
Frederick Evans (**1878 – 1879**);
Ann Foley (**1879 – 1883**);
George Calloway (**1883 – 1894**);
Mrs. Isabella Coley (**1894 – 1905**);
Mrs. Hannah Breedon (**1905 – 1912**);
Susannah Mansell (**1912 – 1918**);
Mrs. Sarah (Griffiths) Bayley (**1918 – 1927**);
Mrs. Ann Elizabeth (London) Miles (**1927 – [1940]**)
Raymond ‘Ray’ Martin [] – **1963**);
Frank Robinson Dean (**1963 – 1967**);
Raymond ‘Ray’ Martin (**1967 – []**)
Marvin Whittle [1987] – [1990]

NOTES

15, Great Bridge Road [1939], [1940]
35, Great Bridge Road [2003]

FIREHOLES INN [1879]

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1869 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Contract, Two Dwelling Houses, near the TRAVELLERS REST, Fire Holes, Moseley. Each containing seven Rooms.
For further particulars, apply on the premises.”

1881 Census

Fire Holes Road – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *Ann Foley* (69), widow, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] William Oakley (49), brother-in-law, boiler maker, born Sedgley;
- [3] Phoebe Oakley (47), sister, housekeeper, born Bilston;
- [4] Thomas J. Oakley (14), nephew, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] William Oakley (12), nephew, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] Mary S. Oakley (6), niece, scholar, born Bilston:

Ann Foley – see also GREAT WESTERN, Lower Bradley, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 7/7/1883

“An inquest on the body of William James Hewitt, aged 1 year and 11 months, was held before E. B. Thornycroft Esq, deputy coroner, on Monday morning, at the TRAVELLERS REST, Fiery Holes, Moxley. Deceased was killed on the previous Friday, by being run over by a cart, driven by a man named Edwin Tyrer (27), a carter employed by the Gospel Oak Company.

The driver, in evidence, stated that he was driving a cart laden with scrap iron, about a quarter to nine on Friday morning, when he saw two children playing on the footpath. Presently he felt the cart jolt, and going back saw one of the children who had previously been playing, lying in the road. Its skull was smashed, and the brains were scattered about. He suspected that the child must have run across the road into the horse, and was knocked down and killed.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

George Calloway = George Callaway

1891 Census

Fire Holes – TRAVELLERS REST INN

- [1] *George Callaway* (59), bricklayer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Callaway (36), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Job Callaway (19), son, bricklayer, born Bilston;
- [4] Hannah Callaway (17), daughter, born Bilston;
- [5] Sarah Callaway (14), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] John Callaway (9), son, born Tipton;
- [7] Lucy Miller (20), born Tipton:

Isabella Coley = Isabella Colley

1901 Census

Great Bridge Road – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] Thomas R. Coley (36), railway clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Isabella Coley* (35), wife, licensed victualler, born Ocker Hill;
- [3] Hannah M. J. Coley (11), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [4] George R. Coley (10), son, born Birmingham;
- [5] Florence M. Coley (7), daughter, born Moxley;
- [6] Thomas W. Coley (4), son, born Moxley;
- [7] Mary E. Evans (17), cousin, domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Hannah Breedon = Hannah Breeden

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/2/1911 - Advert

“Valuable Free Roadside Public House, Newly-built Cottage, and 25 Well-letting Dwelling Houses, situate at Fiery Holes, Moxley, near Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Powell and Brown, under various directions, at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Wednesday, the 1st Day of March, 1911.....

Lot 1. All that Well-known, Free Home-brewing Roadside Beerhouse, the TRAVELLERS REST, situate in and fronting to Great Bridge Road, at its junction with Belmont Street, at the Fiery Holes, Moxley, in the township of Bilston, at present in the yearly tenancy of Mrs. *Breedon*, together with Four Freehold Dwelling Houses at the rear of above, being Nos.7, 9, 11, and 13, Belmont Street.

The public house contains a lobby entrance passage, vaults and smokeroom, each with bay window, sitting room, brewery, and ample cellaring, with three good bedrooms and club room, and small enclosed and partly covered-in yard, and stabling and out-offices in the open yard in the rear.

This house is a noted place of call, is entirely without opposition, and being free is worth the attention of brewers and others seeking a good business house.

Lot 2. Four Dwelling Houses, adjoining Lot 1, numbered 17 and 19 Great Bridge Road, Fiery Holes, Moxley, and Nos.1 and 3 at back, producing £31 4s.”

1911 Census

Great Bridge Road – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *Hannah Breeden* (37), beerhouse keeper, married 9 years, born Bilston;

[2] James Breeden (34), married, sheet mill worker, ironworks, born Bilston:

Mrs. *Hannah Breeden*, beer retailer, Moxley. [1912]

Sarah Griffiths married *William Bayley* on 28th April 1920.

South Staffordshire Times 10/7/1920

“Miss *Griffiths*, of the TRAVELLERS REST INN, Great Bridge Road, Bilston, together with her lady patrons, were on Monday conveyed by brake and waggonette to Bridgnorth. The route taken was through Wolverhampton, Compton and Pattingham. Arriving at the Fox, Shipley, lunch was thoroughly enjoyed. The Falcon Hotel, Bridgnorth was reached at 2 o’clock. Here the party separated for an hour or two, the members preferring to enjoy themselves in a diversity of ways. Some chose the large room provided for music, singing and dancing. Others extracted pleasure by paying a visit to the Severn, and viewing the picturesque little spots in the vicinity. Then others were taken up on the lift to High Town, with which they were delighted. While partaking of refreshment they were reminded by the farmers present that owing to the incessant rain there was still a large quantity of hay out, but what interested some was their peculiar dialect. It may be said that all were out, however, to extract as much enjoyment as possible during their few hours of relaxation from their domestic duties. A start was made for the return journey from the Falcon Hotel at 6pm, and the drive was most pleasant. The outing, from the beginning of the day was most enjoyable, which was contributed to in no small degree by Miss *Griffiths*, the hostess and was much appreciated. Home was reached at 9.45pm, all voting that previous trips had been eclipsed.”

Ann Elizabeth London married *Herbert John Miles* on 7th December 1930.

1939 Register

15, Great Bridge Road

[1] Herbert Miles, date of birth 10/2/1884, ironworker, married;

[2] *Ann Elizabeth Miles*, dob 4/2/1875, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Herbert Miles, dob 5/4/1924, heater, single:

It was demolished.

It was rebuilt in the 1960s.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/4/1967

“Mr. Richard Glover, a 59-year-old wheelchair cripple and veteran of the Hunger Marches of the 1930s has been banned from his local, the TRAVELLERS REST, for arguing politics. Mr. Glover, a life-long socialist, of Great Bridge Road, Bilston, Wolverhampton, has written to his Labour MP, Mr. Robert Edwards, requesting a ruling from the Home Office be sought as to whether a man can be barred from licensed premises for the expression of a political viewpoint. Since the ban was imposed Mr. Glover, instead of being wheeled across the road to the TRAVELLERS REST, which he has for the past 20 years, has to be wheeled seven times as far to the FIERY HOLES to drink his nightly three pints of beer.

At his home last night Mr. Glover agreed, ‘I am an argumentative old devil.’ But, he said, ‘To be barred from a public place because of what you say hits at the rights of free speech. I like my pint in the corner and my sing-song and I will argue politics or anything else with anyone. This occurred after I had pulled up a young man who said he would like to put a bullet through Mr. Wilson’s head. We had words. Next time I went to the public house I found the licensee waiting for me. He simply said, ‘Take him away,’ and he would not listen to any explanation,’ he said. ‘I feel very bitter about this. To think that after all these years I have been barred from my local where all my friends go. I suppose the fact that I am disabled makes it worse.’

The licensee of the TRAVELLERS REST, Mr. *Ray Martin*, said, ‘I have put up with this for two years. He has been warned not once, but a thousand times. If this was a big place I might be able to lose him in a corner, but this is very small and everything he says can be heard. There are only two things that cause trouble in a pub, politics and religion. Customers should never discuss either. His controversy was causing people

to stay away and I was losing custom. That is why he is barred.’

Last word with Mr. Glover, ‘I get into much worse arguments at the FIERY HOLES.’ But Mr. H. C. Green, the licensee, said of Mr. Glover, ‘He has never given me any cause to bar him. Occasionally he argues about politics, but politics, religion and football have always been argued in pubs. Sometimes some of our customers have a rattling good argument, after all everyone is entitled to their views. I don’t interfere.’”

Sandwell Evening News 21/4/1990

“Go for a drink at the TRAVELLERS REST, in Great Bridge Road, Bilston, and you could see an optical illusion. Licensee *Marvin Whittle*, an ex-professional drummer, plays the optics and can conjure up any tune you fancy. But you have to get him in a good mood because he’s had so many musical requests over the years he’s getting a bit bored.

Marvin’s talent for playing the bottles took off eight years ago. He hit the optics with a pair of drumsticks while larking around when he first entered the pub business and found them note-perfect. *Marvin* has kept three pubs so far and before that earned his living as a drummer on the cabaret circuit He and wife Jackie have kept the TRAVELLERS REST for three years, with the help of son Lee, 20, and 11 staff.

The original pub dated back many years and was formerly sited in front of the present 25-year-old building. The old pub used to be a row of cottages and a shop, and the cottage cellars have occasionally re-appeared over the years in a dip in the car park.

Older regulars remember former landlady ‘Old Lady *Miles*,’ who kept the pub for some time and was well-known in the area. In her day the licensee sat in the downstairs living room and walked across to serve at the bar when anyone came in. . . .

Marvin and Jackie serve Banks’s real ales, wines and lagers and sandwiches. It’s quite a modern pub with a bar and lounge, made cosy by brass lighting and open gas fires, but as *Marvin* says it’s not so much the décor, but the feel of the place that makes it nice. One unusual feature though is an ornate Welsh butter churn that decorates the lounge. There’s a successful ladies darts team, top of their league at the moment, and a men’s side that could do better. Next Saturday, the pub is holding a 12-hour darts marathon to raise cash for MASCOT, the organisation that sends sick and handicapped children on holiday.”

Marvin Whittle – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Green Street, Bilston.

It was the headquarters of the Moxley Homing Society. [1997]

[2017]

Closed [2020]

Express & Star 1/5/2021

“A severe blaze which ripped through a derelict Black Country pub in the early hours of Saturday is being treated as arson. Fire, police and ambulance crews descended on the TRAVELLERS REST, in Great Bridge Road, on the border of Bilston and Moxley, amid fears that there were people inside. Four fire crews plus an aerial platform were called out to tackle the fire at around 1am. Police said it was the second arson attack at the premises since Thursday. West Midlands Fire Service said the fire was on the first floor and in the roof space of the three-storey building. Crews from Bilston, Willenhall, and Tipton were at the scene.

The fire service tweeted, ‘All persons are accounted for following search of premises. Police, Amb, electricity, gas board also in attendance, crews damping down hot spots. Aerial also in use.’

A spokeswoman for West Midlands Fire Service said, ‘We were called out to reports of a derelict former pub which was well alight. Four appliances from Bilston, Tipton and Willenhall were at the scene, which we were called to at 1.05am and which they left at 5.10am, going back to check at 8.30am. Police were called to the scene, as were the ambulance service, due to us believing there were people within the property. The fire was affecting the first floor and the roof of the property, which was derelict and was missing floorboards. We isolated everything and because we believed it was arson, we believe there might be people in there, but there wasn’t anyone in the property when we got inside.’

A West Midlands Police spokesman said, ‘We’re investigating suspected arson attacks at a derelict pub in

Great Bridge Road, Bilston. Fire broke out at the property at around 7pm on Thursday (29 April) and again at 1am this morning. We're trying to contact the owners in a bid to make the premises more secure.....”

Express & Star 4/6/2021

“Fly-tipping on an old Bilston pub car park has disgusted locals and council officials, who have branded the area a dumping ground for waste. The TRAVELLERS REST pub, in Great Bridge Road, has seen tons of fridges, carpets, bags of rubbish and other waste just left on the site, which has led to rats swarming the area. The mayoress of Walsall, Christine Bott, who is ward councillor for Darlaston South where the pub comes under, said she went down to look after receiving complaints and could not believe what she was seeing. ‘It’s absolutely horrendous and even inside the pub, we could see things being broken down and thrown inside,’ she said. ‘There is fly-tipping all over the area and it’s just become a massive dumping ground, with rats running all over the place. I feel for the people who live across the road from this as they have to look at this every day.’

Councillor Bott said the responsibility for the land had changed over time, as Marstons Brewery had sold the pub to a company based in Birmingham called MGT after its closure in 2018. However, she says the lease was sold to an anonymous developer from Walsall, and Public Protection was waiting to hear back from the developer regarding plans for the land. Councillor Bott also said that while she could remove items left on the outskirts of the pub due to it being council land, she was powerless to get anything moved from the pub land. ‘People are adding to this land all the time and it was only due to residents intervening that a man was stopped from dropping a fridge on the car park,’ she added. ‘I just want people take responsibility for their rubbish and use the tips, rather than just dumping on the land here. A lot of the rubbish is building waste, and I just want the landowners to take responsibility for their land, rather than just buying it and leaving it. I’ve seen a billboard left on there advertising a bathroom company, which has just been left there. It’s not nice when you live near here and I urge people to take some responsibility and not dump unwanted rubbish, and show some consideration.’

A spokesman for Walsall Council said, ‘Community Protection has received a complaint regarding this site and is working to resolve. The team has been in contact with the new landowner and their representatives and are working to resolve.’”

TRAVELLERS REST

St. John’s Road, (12, Pinfold Alley), (Pinfold Street), DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Corbett

Job Dooley

Harry Clark, maltster and corn merchant [1920]

Alan Howard Clarke, 104, Oxford Road, Moseley, Birmingham

LICENSEES

John Corbett [1841] – [1841]

Mrs. Mary Butler [1856]

John Plant [1861] – [1862]

David King [1868] – [1875]

John Dudley [1877] – [1901]

Hugh Thomas Dudley [1911]

Job Dooley [1919] – **1920**;

Samuel Ernest Padgett (1920 – 1922);
George Bryan (1922 – 1931);
Mary Millicent Bryan (1931 – 1933);
William Handley (1933 – 1934);
Frank William Roberts (1934 – 1935);
Joseph Thomas Dilger (1935 – 1936):

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

John Corbett, beer retailer, 12, Pinfold Alley. [1841]

1841 Census

Pinfold Street

- [1] *John Corbett* (45), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Ann Corbett (45), born Staffordshire;
- [3] William Corbett (15), born Staffordshire;
- [4] John Corbett (10), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Sarah Yardley (25), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/9/1856 - Deaths

“September 6, after a long and painful illness, Mrs. *Mary Butler*, of the TRAVELLERS REST, Darlaston, aged 69 years, much lamented by her friends.”

1861 Census

Pinfold Alley – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *John Plant* (50), cordwainer master and retail brewer, born Appleby, Leicestershire;
- [2] Hannah Plant (39), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] Mary Ann Plant (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] Susanna Plant (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] William Plant (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] James Plant (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] George Plant (2), son, born Darlaston;
- [8] Elizabeth Hanley (18), house servant, born Stafford:

John Plant, retailer of beer, Pinfold Street. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1862

“Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held by A. A. Fletcher, Esq, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Palfrey, on the body of a woman, seventy years of age, named Ann Horton, who was found drowned in a brook at Delves Green, on Saturday. From the evidence it appeared that the body was discovered by a boy named Charles Chapman, who promptly obtained assistance, and the body was got out of the water. From subsequent enquiries it was ascertained that the unfortunate woman resided at the TRAVELLERS REST, Darlaston, but as there was no evidence to show how she got into the water the Jury returned an Open Verdict.”

David King, beer retailer, 12, Pinfold Alley. [1868], [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

Pinfold Alley – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *David King* (54), retail brewer and coal dealer, born Warwickshire;
- [2] Betsey King (58), wife, born Walsall;

[3] Emma Emery (15), domestic servant, born Birchills, Walsall:

Midland Examiner and Times 24/7/1875 - Advert

“Sale of very Valuable Freehold Public Houses and other Property, at Darlaston.

By Mr. E. B. Scholefield (by order of the Trustees for sale under the will of William Corbett, deceased), at the WHITE LION INN, King Street, Darlaston, on Monday, August 9th, 1875, at seven o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. All that very desirable and freehold Public House, called the TRAVELLERS REST, situate in Pinfold Alley, in Darlaston aforesaid, containing bar, parlour, large and well-appointed kitchen, spacious club room, three bed rooms, two excellent cellars, brewhouse, pigstye, and outbuildings. There is a road-way to the back of this lot, arched over, and admirably adapted for storage purposes. It is situated in the centre of the best populated part of Darlaston, well supplied with water, and occupied by Mr. *King*, at the very low rental of £20 per annum.

The is ample accommodation at the rear of this property for stabling or for dairy premises of large extent.

Lot 2. All those freehold Messuages or Tenements, being respectively Nos.13, 14, and 15, Pinfold Alley aforesaid, adjoining lot 1.....”

Sporting Life 6/10/1877

“Lea Brook Recreation Grounds, Wednesbury.....

Mr. James Harding begs respectfully to inform his friends and lovers of the canine species that he will give £13 to be run for in a 200 yards all-England dog handicap on Saturdays, October 13 and 20, first prize, £10; second, £2; third, £1. Entrance, 1s each. Entries to close on Monday, October 8 (Tuesday morning's post in time). No acceptance. Entries to be made to Mr. Harding, at the grounds; Mr. Holding, RED LION INN, Walsall; Mr. Brindley, COCK INN, Willenhall; Mr. G. Dudley, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury; Mr. Bolton, BLUE PIG INN, Bilston; and Mr. *J. Dudley*, TRAVELLERS REST, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.”

Sporting Life 4/12/1878

“Mr. E. Wilkinson, of Oldbury, will match Mr. William Black's French poodle to ball and course rabbits against any dog or bitch in England; both to scale inside 14lb. The same dogs to run both matches. Balls, the best of twenty-one, 50 yards throw; rabbits, best of twnty-one courses, 50 yards law. The match to come off during Christmas week, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury. A deposit to J. Harding at the grounds will ensure a match. Mr. *John Dudley*, of the TRAVELLERS REST INN, Darlaston, to be referee in any or all the matches.”

Sporting Life 12/1/1881

“Lea Brook Grounds Wednesbury.

A 200 yards all-England dog handicap was put through its initial stages on Saturday Mr. *J. Dudley*, host of the TRAVELERS REST, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, starter.”

AND

“Little's Judy, of Princes End, and Jones's Ben, of Wolverhampton, are matched to run the best of twenty-one courses, for £25 a side, on Monday, January 31; Little's bitch Fan (13lb), of Princes End, and Oakes's poodle, Lady (14lb), of Oldbury, also course the best of thirty-one courses, for £25 a side, on Monday, January 31. Mr. James Harding is stakeholder, and Mr. *J. Dudley*, of Darlaston, referee in both matches.”

1881 Census

12, Pinfold Alley

[1] *John Dudley* (37), beer retailer, born Wednesbury;

[2] Mary Dudley (34), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] John J. Dudley (3), son, born Darlaston;

[4] George E. Dudley (15 months), son, born Darlaston;

[5] Emma Walker (14), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

Sporting Life 5/11/1884

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

On Monday afternoon last Joseph Parkes’s bitch Bett, of Tipton, Staffordshire, and Harrison’s bitch Beck, of Dudley, met to course the best of twenty-one courses, 60 yards law, for £20, Beck not to exceed 24lb weight, whilst old Bett (who has been the champion for years at 21lb weight) was allowed three dead rabbits for the difference in weight. Their meeting created more than the usual interest, and the grounds presented quite an animated appearance, the stands and other places being packed by dog fanciers from all parts of the country. Little was known of Beck, but Bett, on the other hand, is well known, and her performances may be interesting to those in the rabbit coursing business. Bett, who is turning grey with age, is rising eight years of age, beat Cleare’s Daisy best of twenty-five courses, for £50, at Manchester; beat Hughes’s Flora best of twenty-one courses, for £30, at Manchester; beat Jenkinson’s Wolf, of Hednesford, best of twenty-one courses, £15 a side, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury; beat Seedhouse’s Old Sailor, of Princes End, best of twenty-one courses, for £25 a side; beaten by Seedhouse’s Young Sailor, of Princes End, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, best of twenty-one rabbits, £20; beat Seedhouse’s Young Sailor, of Princes End, best of twenty-one courses, for £10 a side, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury; beat Mills’s Bones, of Dudley, best of twenty-one courses, for £20, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, December 10, 1883. In addition she has won upwards of twenty sweepstakes, and her owner, Mr. J. Parkes, previous to the match commencing, publicly stated that win or lose, Bett should retire on her laurels. Both were brought to the post in the acme of condition, and on Mr. *Dudley*, the referee, taking the first rabbit out of the hamper to be spotted, Mr. Harrison bet Mr. Parkes £15 to £10 on Beck. Both dogs had experienced runners up, Bett having Teddy Whitaker, of Bilston (winner of two big Sheffield handicaps) and J. Parkes’s Jim, whilst Beck had the services of Billy Partridge, of Great Bridge, and Mr. J. Hughes, of Bilston. Betting on the various courses was 5 and 6 to 4 on Beck. The rabbits, however, were the worst put down here for some time. Bett caught the first, but Beck took the next eight ‘off the reel,’ and at the third course, the owner of Beck, who was very confident, offered to lay a level £20 on the match. Although old Bett caught the first, tenth, twelfth, and fourteenth, and did all that she could, age told its tale, and Beck not only proved the speedier, but a wonder in killing, as she never made the least mistake. The following are the scores made: Beck: Second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, eleventh, thirteenth, and fifteenth – total 11. Bett (with three given): First, tenth, twelfth, and fourteenth – total 7. Mr. *John Dudley*, of the TRAVELLERS REST INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, was referee, whilst Mr. E. Beesley, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, was slipper.”

Sporting Life 6/6/1888

“One of the best-framed and most sensational pedestrian handicaps decided in the Black Country for a considerable length of time was that brought to a satisfactory conclusion on Saturday afternoon last..... Mr. *Dudley* (mine host of the TRAVELLERS REST, Pinfold Street, Darlaston) framed the handicap and fired the pistol.”

1891 Census

12, Pinfold Alley – TRAVELLERS REST

[1] *John Dudley* (44), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Dudley* (42), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *John J. Dudley* (13), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] *Albert W. Dudley* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Hugh T. Dudley* (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] *Sydney J. Dudley* (2), son, born Darlaston;

[7] *George E. Dudley* (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Sporting Life 1/4/1891

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.....

Then came the chief event of the day, the match between J. Vaughan, of Darlaston, and T. Richards, who met to run 120 yards (Richards 5 yards start), for £50. A great amount of interest was centred in the affair, fully 800 persons being present, and some heavy wagering took place. Both had undergone a special preparation, Vaughan under the watchful eye of *J. Dudley*, of the TRAVELLERS REST, Darlaston, whilst old Tom Tay-

lor looked after Richards. When the men toed their marks betting ruled at 7 to 4 on Vaughan. Both got well away, but Richards, coming along in grand style, was never caught, and won by a yard and a quarter. Mr. J. Harding was pistol-firer, and Frank Lloyd (the ped) referee.”

Sporting Life 22/9/1892

“Alexandra Grounds, Bloxwich. H. Smith and C. Jackson, for £20. An Exciting Race.

These grounds were occupied on Monday last with an important pedestrian match, the contestants being Harry Smith, of Willenhall, and Charles Jackson, of Walsall Wood, who had signed articles to run 110 yards, Jackson to receive two yards start, for £20. Both men are considered high flyers in the Midlands.

Smith is twenty-three years of age, stands 5ft 7in in his boots, and scaled 10st 8lb in his clothes For this match he trained from Mr. Tom Robinson’s, PLOUGH INN, Bilston.

Jackson is twenty-three years of age, 5ft 5in high, and scaled 9st 10lb This was his first match for which he was backed by Mr. J. Dudley, of the TRAVELLERS REST, Darlaston.

The weather was very dull during the day, but nevertheless a good muster of spectators assembled. When the men toed their marks fully 800 spectators were present, and speculation was of a brisk nature, ruling at 6 to 4 and 2 to 1 on Smith. Mr. W. Lewis, of Birmingham, appointed by the *Sporting Life*, despatched the men to a beautiful start, and an exciting race ensued. Jackson at one time looked all over a winner, but Smith came with a splendid rush in the last twenty yards, and getting alongside five yards from home, he managed to get up in the last few strides, and won on the tape by six inches.”

Sporting life 12/7/1893

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Charles Price and Thomas Turner, both hailing from Wednesbury, had signed articles to run 120 yards off a mark, for a stake of £20, the *Sporting Life* being stakeholder and appointing the pistol-firer and referee. Both runners were at once sent into training. C. Price, who is twenty-five years of age, stands 5ft 10in and weighed in costume 12st 1lb. He has not run for three years He was trained by *John Dudley*, at the TRAVELLERS REST, Darlaston, and was in good condition. T. Turner is twenty-six years of age, stands 5ft 9in high, weighed 11st 9lb. It is seven years since he last competed He was trained by C. Dullfield, at the WHY NOT INN, Wednesbury, and he, too, was in good fettle.

About 400 spectators were present inside the gates, whilst nearly as many people assembled on the slopes outside the ground. Betting, which ruled brisk, open at evens on Turner, but it quickly veered round to evens on Price, and so confident were the latter’s supporters, that 5 to 4 on him was laid. Great excitement prevailed when the men toed the mark and Mr. W. Lewis, of Birmingham, dispatched the men to a splendid start, and for fifty yards a good race ensued, but Turner, full of running, gradually forged to the front, and, throwing up his hands five yards from home, he eventually ran out an easy winner by three yards amidst great shouting.”

1901 Census

12, Pinfold Alley

[1] *John Dudley* (55), widower, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] John J. Dudley (23), son, assistant schoolmaster, born Darlaston;

[3] George E. Dudley (21), son, barman, born Darlaston;

[4] Albert W. Dudley (19), son, butcher, born Darlaston;

[5] *Hugh T. Dudley* (16), son, barman, born Darlaston;

[6] Sidney J. Dudley (11), son, born Darlaston;

[7] George Dudley (53), brother, brewer, born Wednesbury:

Lloyds Weekly Newspaper 23/7/1905

“The lifeless body of a man named *George Ernest Dudley*, 26, of the TRAVELLERS REST INN, Pinfold, Darlaston, was found yesterday in a pool at Herberts Park. He went for a walk on Wednesday in the direction of Herberts Park, when the heat was intense, and it is supposed he was seized with a fainting fit.”

1911 Census

12, Pinfold Alley

[1] *Hugh Thomas Dudley* (26), widower, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Albert William Dudley* (28), brother, butcher, born Darlaston;

[3] *Sydney James Dudley* (23), brother, bridle cutter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Harriett Mary Dudley* (2), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Joe Jarvis* (62), uncle, labourer, born Wellington, Shropshire:

South Staffordshire Times 7/2/1920

“Darlaston Police Court.....

The next matter was to consider the adjournment of any, if any, licenses. Two of these, the TRAVELLERS REST, and the ROYAL OAK, would be adjourned, and all the others would be renewed. In addition, the license of Mr. Statham (GEORGE INN) was put back till the adjourned sessions, as his name had been associated with a police court case recently.”

South Staffordshire Times 6/3/1920

“Darlaston Police Court.....

Mr. J. Wiley (barrister) applied for the owner for a renewal of the license.

Inspector Cooper said he knew the TRAVELLERS REST, Darlaston. He gave evidence of the rent and ratable value, etc, also a general description of the premises. There was no accommodation for ‘travellers’ to sleep, and one or two of the upper rooms were not used, as they were unfit for use. Many repairs were needed all over the house. There were several other licensed houses in the vicinity, some beer only and some full.

Cross-examined by Mr. Wiley: Do you know that a considerable amount of money has been spent on repairs during the past years? – I believe so. I am told that he (applicant) paid a big price for the premises. I am also told ‘home brewed’ beer and not ‘chemical beer’ is sold there. I have not tasted it.

Very many more questions were put to the inspector.

Mr. Wiley addressed the Bench. £1900 was paid for the house, and where it stood, St. John’s Road, was a well-used thoroughfare. Many improvements had been carried out by the brewer (Mr. Clark), but as soon as notice was served on them, further work of improvement was stopped in the way of spending money. The house was doing good trade in pure home-brewed beer, ‘the sort of beer which does anyone good’ and not like the chemical stuff sold as beer.

Mr. Frank Jones, surveyor etc, was called, and gave evidence bearing on the TRAVELLERS REST, on behalf of his client. He considered the house well situated and well fitted and sold home-brewed beer.

Superintendent Salt cross-examined the witness on certain points of his evidence, which were of a technical and surveying character. He was prepared to support the inspector, and paint the TRAVELLERS REST as darkly as he did, but all those necessary structural repairs had been carried out under his advice. He also contended that the other houses in the vicinity, as cited, were inferior to the TRAVELLERS REST.

Mr. *Samuel Padgett* said he was the manager of the TRAVELLERS REST, and brewed the beer sold. He also brewed for other people. The trade was satisfactory and increasing.

That was the case for Mr. Harry Clark, maltster and corn merchant, the applicant and owner.

The magistrates retired, and subsequently decided that the license would be renewed.”

South Staffordshire Times 13/11/1920

“Darlaston Police Court. Wednesday. Before Mr. A. H. Partridge (presiding), Mr. J. Yardley, Mr. J. G. Rose, Mr. R. M. Tolley and Mr. Martin Winn.....

In another case Mr. Smith, who represented Mr. A. H. Clark, the owner, submitted plans for approval showing certain structural alterations to be carried out to meet the proposed alterations required at the TRAVELLERS REST, Darlaston. The application was to be renewed when certain other matters were carried out.

Mr. Smith: I do not remember your mentioning a bath room before, sir.

Mr. Partridge: Oh, all houses in Darlaston have bath rooms!”

South Staffordshire Times 4/2/1922

“Darlaston Licensing Sessions.....

All licenses would be renewed, excepting the case of the TRAVELLERS REST, which would be adjourned until March 1st, and the adjourned Licensing Sessions would be held on March 1st.”

South Staffordshire Times 4/3/1922

“Darlaston Police Court. Wednesday. Before Mr. J. Yardley (presiding), Mr. R. M. Tolley, and Mr. J. G. Rose.

Mr. Smith appeared on behalf of the owner of the TRAVELLERS REST, adjourned case, and asked for the renewal of the said house.

The Chairman replied that the case had been put back on account of certain alterations ordered, which had not been carried out, but they, the magistrates, still desired the doorways improved, and other small matters. It was agreed to carry out these alterations, and the license was renewed.”

AND

“The TRAVELLERS REST. Mr. Smith again appearing for Mr. Clarke (owner) applied for the temporary transfer of license for a new manager, but it transpired that the new manager had not yet lived on the premises, which legally, was required.

Mr. Tench questioned why the proposed applicant had not lived on the premises.

Superintendent Dix suggested that the Bench should grant the temporary transfer, so as to give opportunity to see if the owners carried out the necessary alterations the magistrates desired to be carried out.

Mr. Tench still opposed, and contended that the owners of the license did not lose that license till April 5th. The magistrates decided to adjourn the case for a fortnight.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/3/1936

“At the adjourned licensing sessions at Darlaston yesterday.....

The license of the TRAVELLERS REST, St. John’s Road, Darlaston, was referred for compensation of the grounds of redundancy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1936 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County of Stafford.

Notice as to sending in Claims to be treated as Persons Interested in Licensed Premises.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 17th day of July, 1936, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

TRAVELLERS REST, St. John’s Road, Darlaston. Beerhouse, Ante 1869. Licensee, *Joseph Thomas Dilger*. Registered Owner, Allan Howard Clarke, 104, Oxford Road, Moseley, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/1/1937

“Staffordshire County Licensing Committee, annual report for 1936.....

Compensation had been fixed as follows.....

TRAVELLERS REST, Darlaston, £1,850.”

Rugeley Times 13/2/1937

“Darlaston Annual Licensing Meeting.....

Superintendent J. H Hall reported that there were 77 licensed houses in the town. The TRAVELLERS REST, St. Johns Road, was referred to the County Compensation Committee and the license was not renewed, the house finally closing at the end of the year.”

It closed on 30th December 1936.

TURF TAVERN

DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Candlet [1855]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/7/1855

“Geo. Dangerfield of Darlaston will run Wm. Constable of Willenhall 240 yards for £25 a side, or Saml. Bourn of Darlaston 140 yards for the same sum, or Benj. Badger of Wolverhampton 140 yards, for £50 a side, or he will run Bolton Phillips, or back Barlow of Birmingham 140 or 160 yards, for from £25 to £50 a side, or Wm. Williams of Dudley Port 200 or 240 yards for the same sum. A match can be made at *Saml. Candlet's* the TURF TAVERN, Darlaston, or at the BLUE BALL, Wednesbury, any night next week.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/6/1856

“Geo. Smalley of Darlaston will run Chas. Bassett of same place 100 yards, for £5 or £10 a side. Smalley can always be heard of at the TURF TAVERN, Darlaston.”

TURKEY

Pinfold Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Hitch [1859] – [1861]

NOTES

1861 Census

Pinfold Street – Sign TURKEY

- [1] *William Hitch* (49), beer seller and gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Eunice Hitch* (48), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *William Hitch* (17), son, servant man, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Eunice Hitch* (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Alfred Hitch* (8), son, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Hannah Hitch* (5), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 29/6/1861 - Advert

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall. The 19th day of June, 1861.

Whereas a Petition of *William Hitch*, now and for one year and nine months last past residing at Pinfold Street, in the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Beershop Keeper and Dealer in Tobacco, and Dealer in Eggs, Butter, Poultry, Rabbits, Feathers, Fruit, and Vegetables, and for two years and six months previously thereto residing at Pinfold Street, Darlaston aforesaid, Dealer in Eggs, Butter, Poultry, Rabbits, Feathers, Fruit, and Vegetables, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Walsall, and an Interim Order for Protection from Process having been given to the said *William Hitch*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *William Hitch* is hereby required to appear in the said Court, to be holden at Walsall aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on the 17th day of July, 1861, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, for his First Examination touching his Debts, Estate, and Effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and Notice is hereby given, that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All Persons indebted to the said *William Hitch*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Frederic Fuhrmann Clarke, Esquire, the Clerk of the said Court, who is the Official Assignee of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at his Office, in Walsall aforesaid.

James Slater, Attorney, Darlaston.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

London Gazette 2/8/1861

“In the Matter of the Petition of *William Hitch*, now and for one year and nine months last past residing at Pinfold-street, in the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Beershop Keeper and Dealer in Tobacco, and Dealer in Eggs, Butter, Poultry, Rabbits, Feathers, Fruit, and Vegetables, and for two years and six months previously thereto residing at Pinfold-street, Darlaston aforesaid, Dealer in Eggs, Butter, Poultry, Rabbits, Feathers, Fruit, and Vegetables, an Insolvent Debtor.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Walsall, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 21st day of August instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.”

London Gazette 6/6/1862

“Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Walsall, authorized to act under a Petition of Insolvency, bearing date the 19th day of June, 1861, presented by *William Hitch*, of Pinfold-street, in the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Dealer in Eggs, Butter, Poultry, Rabbits, Feathers, Fruit, and Vegetables, will sit on the 19th day of June instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the County Court, Goodall-street, Walsall, in order to make a dividend of the estate and effects of the said insolvent, when and where the creditors who have not already proved their debts are to come prepared to prove the same or they will be excluded the benefit of the said dividend.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/3/1864

“County Court *Hitch v Tranter*.

This was an interpleader, for the purpose of recovering from the defendant, Walter Tranter, the value of a horse, cart, certain articles of household furniture, and some poultry, belonging to the claimants, William Hitch, jun, and John Hitch. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the claimants, and Mr. J. L. Warren, of the Oxford Circuit, instructed by Mr. Brevett, of Darlaston, for the defendant.

The simple facts of the case, which occupied the Court upwards of five hours, were these.

In 1861, *William Hitch*, sen, became insolvent, and at the sale the son, John Hitch, purchased several articles of furniture which he removed first to a house in Pinfold Street, afterwards to one in Church Street. Some time after the removal to Church Street the business was carried on by John Hitch, and latterly his brother William, who maintained his father and mother. Some time shortly before Christmas the old man, William Hitch, got into difficulties, and the defendant, who had been a bondsman for *William Hitch*, sen, and had been called upon to pay the amount for which he had become bound, and had put an execution into the house in Church Street for the amount, and seized the goods, the value of which was now sought to be recovered.

The two claimants were examined, and put in receipts for the articles which had been seized.

Other witnesses were examined in corroboration of the claimant's statements; after which witnesses were

called by the defendant to prove that the business in Church Street was that of *William Hitch*, sen; but all that the witnesses proved was that Mrs. Hitch took an active part in the business, in which the father also sometimes took part.

Mr. Ebsworth, having addressed the jury, his Honour summed up, and the jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict for the defendant, except for the cart and harness, which had been borrowed.”

UNICORN

Bell Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company [1904]

LICENSEES

John Kimberly [1869]

Benjamin Paul Ludlow Jnr [1912]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1869 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Contract, a Public House, with two Dwelling Houses; Stabling, Store Room, and all other conveniences, situate in Bell Street, Darlaston.

UNICORN, now in the occupation of *John Kimberly*.

For price and particulars, apply at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Advertiser 16/1/1904

“Walsall County Court. Wednesday. Before His Honour Judge Howland Roberts.

Mark Knight, clerk, Dudley Street, and his wife Agnes Louisa Knight, were plaintiffs in an action remitted from the High Court, in which they claimed £500 damages from the Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company for personal injuries alleged to have been sustained by the female plaintiff in consequence of the defendant company allowing a public house step to be in a dangerous state. Mr. G. Millward (instructed by Mr. J. Armstrong) was for the plaintiffs, and Mr. R. J. Lawrence (instructed by Messrs. Underhill and Thornycroft) for the defendants.

The case for the plaintiffs was that on November 21st, 1902, Mrs. Knight went to the UNICORN INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, to visit the landlady. She stayed there some hours, and, when leaving at night, failed to observe that a step at the front door was so much worn as to be dangerous. She put her foot on the step, slipped, and fell, fracturing her ankle. She was attended by Dr. Partridge, and was afterwards taken to the Walsall Hospital, but the ankle had failed to mend, and she had since been, and still was, disabled.

Several witnesses spoke to the step having been in a dangerous state for years, and to the attention of a representative of the brewery having been called to it in consequence of a previous accident which happened. Mr. Lawrence submitted that there was no case to answer, as the agreement between the defendants and their tenants, although stipulating that the latter was only bound to keep the interior in good repair, said nothing about any liability on the part of the owners to keep the exterior on good order. The High Court had, he pointed out, laid it down that the owner was not liable for any structural defect unless there was an express

provision in the agreement of tenancy to this effect.

Mr. Millward argued that there was a clear distinction in the case of a licensed house, with respect to which there would be statutory liability for the landlord to repair, but the judge said he could not go as far as this. His Honour also intimated that he could not imply any obligation on the part of the defendants from the terms of the agreement. Judgement was given for defendants, with costs.”

Birmingham Mail 1/2/1911

“At Darlaston annual licensing sessions today, Supt. Salt reported that there was one license to every 167.3 of the population, four licensed houses having been closed during the year owing to the operation of the compensation clauses of the Licensing Act. Only one licensed victualler had been prosecuted, and the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness was 69, against 62 in the previous year. The Chairman (Mr. F. H. Lloyd) characterised the report as a very gratifying one, but he urged licensees to pay special attention to the suppression of bad language on licensed premises, and said the magistrates were determined to deal in a sever manner with complaints of this description. Mr. A. H. Partridge added that it was a matter for satisfaction that there had been a diminution of drunkenness amongst females. The Bench renewed all the licenses except those of UNICORN INN, Bell Street, opposed on the ground of redundancy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/6/1912 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at Eleven o’clock am, on Thursday, the 18th Day of July, 1912.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard; that is to say, the Persons interested in any Licensed Premises in question, and, unless it appears to the Compensation Authority unnecessary, any other persons appearing to them to be interested in the question of the renewal of the license of those premises (including the Justices of the Licensing District).

List of Licensed Premises.....

UNICORN, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Benjamin Paul Ludlow, jun.*”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/8/1912 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 18th day of July, 1912, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 26th day of August, 1912, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.

UNICORN, Darlaston. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Benjamin Paul Ludlow, jun.* Registered Owner, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.”

Lichfield Mercury 3/1/1913

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee presented the following report.....

The committee went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the compensation fund.

In the following twenty-five cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

UNICORN, Darlaston, beerhouse ante 1869, £850.....

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties and will be paid out on the 21st of December.”

UNICORN

Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Foster [1834]

UNION

77, (15), Pinfold Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd. [1899], [1904], [1908], [1911]

LICENSEES

John Corbett [1834] – [1850]

William Corbett* [1850] – [1868]

John Osbourn [1868]

William Corbett* [1870] – [1896]

William Matthews [1901]

William Slater [1904] manager

Henry Jones [1908] manager

John William Harrison [1911]

NOTES

15, Pinfold Street [1871]

77, Pinfold Street [1881], [1891], [1901]

It had a beerhouse license.

It had a 6-day license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/7/1835 - Advert

“Freehold Premises, in Darlaston and Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Daniel Taylor, at the house of Mr. *John Corbett*, the UNION INN, Pinfold Street, in Darlaston aforesaid, on Wednesday the 15th day of July inst, at four o’clock in the afternoon.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/11/1835

“A melancholy and fatal accident occurred on Thursday night to Thomas Smith, Birmingham carrier, resident at Darlaston. The deceased was drinking at the UNION public house, in the latter place, and about eleven o’clock went into the yard; not returning after some time had elapsed, a search was made, when his hat was found on the ground, and his pipe on a wall; fears were, in consequence, entertained that he was drowned in the well, which had unfortunately been left uncovered, and these apprehensions, on examination of the well, were realised by the discovery of the lifeless body; several ineffectual attempts were made to drag the deceased out, but being a corpulent man his clothes gave way, and the humane labour was not accomplished till after two hours’ exertion. The deceased has left a widow in a state of pregnancy, and seven children to deplore his loss.”

John Corbett, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1841], [1849], [1850]

1841 Census

Pinfold Street

- [1] *John Corbett* (45), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Ann Corbett (45), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *William Corbett* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [4] John Corbett (10), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Sarah Yardley (25), f.s., born Staffordshire:

John Corbett died on 21st October 1848.

Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850

“The annual licensing day for the hundred of Offlow South was held on Wednesday last..... There were no less than fifty-five new applications from retail brewers for spirit licenses..... *William Corbett*, Pinfold Street, Darlaston. Refused.”

1851 Census

Pinfold Street

- [1] *William Corbett* (27), gun lock filer and publican, born Darlaston;
 - [2] Elizabeth Corbett (26), wife, born Darlaston;
 - [3] Joseph Corbett (1) son, born Darlaston;
 - [4] Sarah Price (20), general servant, born Shifnall, Shropshire:
- AND (next entry)
- [1] Ann Corbett (57), widow, proprietress of houses, born Darlaston;
 - [2] John Corbett (20), son, chemist, born Darlaston;
 - [3] Emma Perry (14), general servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“On Wednesday, the annual special sessions for renewal of licenses was held..... By an arrangement (duly announced in the *Journal* at the time) the consideration of the granting of new licenses is adjourned until the 24th September. This arrangement has been universally approved of, and will give proper time for the due and necessary inquiries, which step has been undertaken by the respective Magistrates best acquainted with each locality. We give the names of the applicants for new licenses, fifty-one in number, within one or two of the same amount as those of last year..... *William Corbett*, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, retail brewer.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1851

“On Wednesday last, according to notice, the adjourned special sessions was held at Great Barr....
The applications for spirit licenses resulted in the granting of eight, out of a list of fifty-one retail brewers and others, who had asked for the privilege.....”
[Not granted.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1853

“In accordance with recent regulations, a Special Petty Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Barr, on Wednesday last, to consider upwards of sixty applications, almost of all of which were from retail brewers for spirit licenses.....

The following new applications were granted.....

William Corbett, of Pinfold Street, Darlaston.....

It was for the first time publicly announced that any applicant for a spirit license, who had been fined on any information within the twelve months from the last licensing day, would be refused. This rule had been acted upon in previous years.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

One sheep was roasted at Mr. *W. Corbett*'s, the UNION INN.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off by J. H Thornhill, Esq, surgeon; and by Messrs. S. Partridge and *W. Corbett*, at the UNION INN, during the course of the night.....

Many of the shops and houses were brilliantly illuminated Mr. Harlston, the BLACK HORSE, displayed two stars, with the letters ‘V.A.N.’ underneath a crown; Mr. *Corbett*. the UNION INN, had a transparency, with the letter ‘V.’ in his window; Mr. Howl exhibited a crown in variegated lamps; two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/2/1857 - Advert

“Valuable Leasehold Messuages, Timber Yard, Carpenter’s Shops, Land, and Premises, at the Junction of the Wednesbury and Walsall Turnpike Roads, near Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, by order of the Assignees of Alfred Taylor, a Bankrupt, at Mr. *Corbett*'s, the UNION INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 23rd day of February instant, at six o’clock in the evening.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/4/1857 - Advert

“Sale of eligible Leasehold Brickyard, with the Erections thereon, and of valuable Reversionary Interest in Messuages and Premises, at Darlaston, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, by order of the Assignees of Alfred Taylor, a bankrupt, at Mr. *Corbett*'s, the UNION INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 20th day of April instant, at six o’clock in the evening.....”

William Corbett was also a gunlock filer. [1860]

1861 Census

Pinfold Street – UNION INN

[1] *William Corbett* (37), gunlock manufacturer and licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Corbett (36), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Joseph Corbett (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Sarah Corbett (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Ann Corbett (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] Mary J. Corbett (3), daughter, born Darlaston;

- [7] William J. Corbett (1), son, born Darlaston;
[8] Ann Turley (16), general servant, born Darlaston;
[9] Mary Hughes (19), general servant, born Darlaston:

William Corbett was also a gunlock maker. [1864]

William Corbett was described as a gunlock manufacturer. [1865], [1868]

Birmingham Journal 12/1/1867 - Advert

“Freehold Property, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Enoch Bruerton, at the UNION INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday Next, the 15th day of January, at Seven o’clock in the evening.....”

*the same person

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/7/1868

“The Representation of Wednesbury.....

On Thursday evening Mr. Brogden, the Liberal candidate, addressed a large body of the electors of Darlaston, on the Green, at the back of the house of Mr. *Corbett*, the UNION INN, Pinfold Street.....”

William Corbett was also a gunlock maker. [1870], [1880], [1892], [1896]

He was also a machine gunlock manufacturer and stamper. [1873]

1871 Census

15, Pinfold Street – UNION INN

- [1] *William Corbett* (47), gunlock maker employing 8 men and 2 boys, and victualler, born Darlaston;
[2] Elizabeth Corbett (46), wife, born Darlaston;
[3] Joseph Corbett (21), son, solicitor’s articled clerk, born Darlaston;
[4] Sarah E. Corbett (19), daughter, born Darlaston;
[5] William J. Corbett (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
[6] Clara Corbett (5), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
[7] Amelia Turley (23), domestic servant, born Darlaston;
[8] Mary A. Green (20), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 18/4/1874

“A large meeting of the Liberals of Darlaston was held at Mr. *Corbett*’s, the UNION INN, on Tuesday night, for the purpose of forming a Liberal Association. The rules as drawn up by the Bye-laws Committee were read and approved of. The following officers were then appointed: Mr. S. Rubery (president), Messrs. J. Slater, Charles Green, Enoch Horton, A. Sherland, James Belcher, and G. W. Green (vice-presidents), Mr. *W. Corbett* (treasurer), and Mr. J. Corbett, solicitor (secretary).”

Midland Examiner and Times 9/1/1875 - Advert

“Freehold Property, The Green, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. James Belcher, on Tuesday, the 12th day of January, 1875, at half-past Seven o’clock in the evening, at the UNION INN, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford.....”

Midland Examiner and Times 31/1/1877

“Liberal Club for Darlaston.

On Wednesday evening last week, a second meeting was held at the UNION INN, Darlaston, for consideration of this subject. Mr. William Winn presided. He said he was of opinion that such an institution would prove a great boon to the town. The tendency of these clubs was to educate the members. Thus they were places in political life where men could exchange opinions, and become familiar with topics of interest and importance.....”

[It was resolved to establish a Liberal Club in Darlaston.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/3/1877

“The following persons have been nominated as candidates to serve the office of Guardians for the Walsall Union.....

William Corbett, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.”

[There were 4 nominations for 4 places for Darlaston, so he was appointed.]

Walsall Observer 13/4/1878

“The following gentlemen will form the new Board of Guardians for Walsall Union, the first meeting being on the 26th inst in consequence of next Friday being Good Friday.....

Darlaston *William Corbett*, Pinfold Street, gun-lock maker.”

[He was appointed after an election.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/4/1879

“At the West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, Samuel Muckley (65) was charged with stealing a number of gunlocks, belonging to *William Corbett*, gun manufacturer, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, and William Barber (56), lock-filer, was charged with receiving the same knowing them to have been stolen. Mr. Joseph Corbett, of Darlaston, appeared for the prosecution.

The evidence showed that Muckley had formerly been in the prosecutor’s employ to distribute lock forgings to the other workmen. On Wednesday last Barber was seen by a witness named Hezekiah Perris waiting near the prosecutor’s entry, and shortly afterwards Muckley came down and gave him a bag, which was subsequently found in Barber’s premises when Police-sergeant Ainsworth visited his home under a search warrant. The bag, which was found underneath bedclothes, contained a number of locks in an unfinished state, and the prosecutor identified the same as his property. They were worth about 7s 6d. Barber said he bought the locks from Muckley. Muckley said, ‘You knew they were stolen;’ and after this both prisoners pleaded guilty.

The prosecutor asked for a lenient sentence on the ground that Muckley had been an old servant; and their Worships sentenced both prisoners to two months’ hard labour.”

1881 Census

77, Pinfold Street – UNION INN

[1] *William Corbett* (57), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Corbett (56), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] William J. Corbett (21), son, law student, born Darlaston;

[4] Clara Corbett (15), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Mary Ann Pinier (31), general servant, born Darlaston;

[6] Emily Hartland (29), barmaid, born West Bromwich:

Walsall Observer 2/4/1881

“The following have been nominated to serve as Guardians of the Poor for the Walsall Union.....

Darlaston (4 wanted) *William Corbett*, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, gunlock manufacturer.”

[He was appointed after an election.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/10/1885

“Local Election Intelligence. Wednesbury. Mr. P. Stanhope on Lord Salisbury’s Manifesto.

On Friday night, Mr. P. Stanhope, Liberal candidate for the borough of Wednesbury, addressed a crowded meeting of electors at the UNION INN, Darlaston; Mr. W. Winn presiding.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1885 - Advert

“Important Old-established Freehold Bolt and Nut Manufactory, with Shopping, Engine, Boiler, and Machinery, and Private Dwelling House adjoining, situate in Alma Street, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Belcher & Son, at the House of Mr. *William Corbett*, the UNION INN,

Pinfold Street, Darlaston (by order of the Mortgagee) This Day (Monday), the 9th of November, at 7 o'clock in the evening.....”

Walsall Observer 31/3/1888

“The following is the list of those nominated for the new Board of Guardians.....
Darlaston (4 wanted) *William Corbett*, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, gun-lock maker.”

Walsall Observer 14/4/1888

“The election of the Walsall Board of Guardians was completed on Thursday, when the votes for the two contested townships – Darlaston and Walsall Borough – were counted, and the return issued by Mr. L. W. Lewis, the returning officer.

In Darlaston the contest was conducted on political lines, the consequence being that only one of the old members – Mr. Winn, the present chairman of the Board – has been returned. The Board will, therefore, lose the services of Mr. C. Green, Mr. *Corbett*, and Mr. Simpson. The last-named gentleman has only been a member for one year, but the other two have been upon it for many years.....”

[Three Conservatives finished top in the election, with Mr. Winn, a Liberal, fourth.]

[The same four were appointed in 1889.]

[In 1890 and 1891 *William Corbett* was again appointed, alongside Mr. Winn and two Conservatives, no election being required.]

1891 Census

77, Pinfold Street

[1] *William Corbett* (67), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Corbett (67), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Clara Corbett (25), daughter, born Darlaston;

[4] Annie Archer (14), grand-daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] Lilly Archer (4), grand-daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Harriet Sanders (22), domestic servant, born Willenhall;

[7] Jane Gwilliam (20), domestic servant, born Brewood:

Walsall Observer 16/4/1892

“Walsall Union. Election of Guardians.

The following is the result of this election.....

Darlaston (four wanted) *William Corbett*, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, gun lock manufacturer.”

Walsall Observer 1/8/1903

“The funeral took place at Darlaston Cemetery, on Wednesday afternoon, of Mr. *William Corbett*, late of Pinfold Street, who died on Sunday night, after a brief illness. The deceased gentleman, who was in his 80th year, was the oldest public man, in length of service, in Darlaston, having been connected with the government of the town for about 46 years, and he was a member of the District Council and of the Walsall Board of Guardians up to the time of his death. He was formerly a gun-lock manufacturer, being connected with that trade in its palmy days, and one of his sons, Mr. Joseph Corbett, is clerk to the Darlaston District Council. The deceased was a Liberal in politics, but generally was of a very unobtrusive disposition. There was a large attendance at the funeral service, the first part of which took place in the Wesleyan Chapel, Pinfold Street, of which place of worship deceased was one of the oldest adherents.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/10/1903

“The executors of the will of Mr. *William Corbett*, of Alban House, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, gun lock maker, and of the UNION INN, innkeeper, who died on July 26 last, are his son, Mr. Joseph Corbett, solicitor, and Mr. William Simkin, clerk, and Mr. Thomas Mayer, of the Pleck, Walsall, bolt and nut maker. The testator’s estate has been valued at £7,084 3s 8d gross, with £2,621 5s 1d in net personalty.”

Lloyds Weekly Newspaper 16/4/1899

“Thomas Millington was remanded at Wednesbury today on the charge of breaking into the UNION INN, Darlaston, early yesterday morning. Prisoner was seen by a policeman to go to the back of the licensed premises and gain admission. Being followed, he jumped through a window and locked himself in an out-house. The policeman obtained assistance, broke open the door, and found the prisoner lying on the floor, and feigning to be asleep.”

Walsall Observer 24/3/1900

“On Wednesday Mr. H. A. Pearson (district coroner) held an inquest at the UNION INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, respecting the death of James Picken (44), grocer, Pinfold Street, who shot himself through the heart whilst in bed on Tuesday morning.

Evidence was given that seven years ago deceased had about £800 left him, but he took to betting, and ran through the money. Two years ago his wife died, and he had the care of five children. Recently he had been in trouble over business matters, having payments to meet amounting to £13 on Tuesday, while he had also received a county court summons in respect of another business debt. For about a month he had complained of pains in the head, and had spoken to Police-sergeant Williams, who knew him, about his business affairs in a very despondent manner. On Monday night a son thirteen years of age slept with him. Deceased appeared very restless while in bed on Tuesday morning, and the boy said his father was holding his head, which was like a furnace. He got out of bed once or twice, and called the boy to go to his work an hour before his usual time. On the lad going downstairs a report was heard, and deceased was found with a bullet wound in the left side, while a horse pistol lay near the bed. The room was full of smoke, and deceased's shirt was on fire, but the flames were extinguished. Dr. Magrane was at once called in, but death had been practically instantaneous.

A verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/4/1900

“Messrs. Belcher and Son, auctioneers, of Darlaston and Wednesbury, conducted a sale of freehold properties at the UNION INN, Darlaston, on Monday evening. There was a good attendance, and biddings were spirited. A dwelling-house, No.20, New Street, Darlaston, realised £110; No.147, The Green, Darlaston, £355; and the old-established beerhouse, known as the FREEMASONS ARMS, with grocer's shop attached, The Green, Darlaston, £1,250. A plot of land in Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, containing an area of 1 acre 1 rood, sold for £44.”

1901 Census

77, Pinfold Street

- [1] *William Matthews* (43), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Sarah Matthews* (52), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Annie Matthews* (19), daughter, assistant schoolmistress, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Lizzie Matthews* (17), daughter, domestic servant, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Sarah Pedley* (15), niece, domestic servant, born Glasgow:

Walsall Advertiser 25/2/1905 - Advert

“Monday 6th March, 1905. Sale of Freehold Properties and Building Land situate at the Pleck and Darlaston. Belcher & Son, FAI, have received instructions to offer for Sale by Public Auction upon the above date, at the UNION INN, Darlaston, at 7.30 in the evening precisely, subject to conditions.....”

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston were held on Wednesday.....

The license of the BIRD IN HAND beerhouse, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, and tenanted by Herbert Williams, was objected to on the grounds of redundancy.

Mr. R. A. Willcock, who appeared for the owners, Messrs. Atkinsons Ltd, brewers, of Aston, said that if the justices would renew the license of the BIRD IN HAND, he would apply next year for the removal of the spirit license from the UNION INN to the former house and give up the license of the UNION INN altogether. After a remark by Mr. Doughty as to whether they were willing to give up any other license, Mr. Will-

cock said, 'That is £2,000 for you, sir.'

After retiring and conferring with Mr. Willcock, the Bench said the license would be renewed upon conditions agreed upon."

1911 Census

77, Pinfold Street

[1] *John W. Harrison* (47), tap and die fitter, bolt and nut works, born Tipton;

[2] Eve Harrison (47), wife, married 26 years, born Darlaston;

[3] Frederick Harrison (22), son, tap and die fitter, bolt and nut works, born Middlesborough;

[4] Lilian Eva Harrison (20), daughter, born Middlesborough;

[5] Violet Harrison (18), daughter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Mail 1/2/1911

"At Darlaston annual licensing sessions today, Supt. Salt reported that there was one license to every 167.3 of the population, four licensed houses having been closed during the year owing to the operation of the compensation clauses of the Licensing Act. Only one licensed victualler had been prosecuted, and the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness was 69, against 62 in the previous year.

The Chairman (Mr. F. H. Lloyd) characterised the report as a very gratifying one, but he urged licensees to pay special attention to the suppression of bad language on licensed premises, and said the magistrates were determined to deal in a sever manner with complaints of this description. Mr. A. H. Partridge added that it was a matter for satisfaction that there had been a diminution of drunkenness amongst females.

The Bench renewed all the licenses except those of UNION INN, Pinfold Street, opposed on the ground of redundancy."

Walsall Observer 4/3/1911

"The adjourned licensing sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

An objection was made to the renewal of the license of the UNION INN, Pinfold Street, on the ground of redundancy, and there was an application by Mr. R. A. Willcock, on behalf of Atkinson's Brewery Company, for the license to be transferred to new premises to be erected on the site of the BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, or in the alternative for a full license to be granted to the new premises. He explained that originally an offer was made to surrender the license of the UNION INN in consideration of the proposed grant of a full license for the BIRD IN HAND, but owing to conflicting interests between the county compensation authority and the Inland Revenue the nature of the application had to be altered. The Bench, if agreeable to the proposal, would have to fix the monopoly value, and he suggested this should be simply an amount which would be equivalent to the sum the owners would receive as compensation for the license of the UNION INN.

Mr. Simpson (Birmingham), on behalf of the Inland Revenue, urged that there must be a monopoly value apart altogether from the question of the license of the UNION INN being given up.

The Bench, after a long hearing, agreed to grant the application, intimating that they would recommend that £400 should be paid as compensation in respect of the UNION INN, and that the monopoly value of the full license of the BIRD IN HAND should be fixed at £450."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/7/1911 - Notice

"The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 6th day of July, 1911, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 21st day of August, 1911, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

UNION INN, Pinfold Street, Darlaston. Full Licence. Licensee, *John William Harrison*. Registered Own-

er, Atkinson's Brewery Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/10/1911

“At a recent meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Compensation Authority, held at Stafford, the claims for the total amount of compensation to be paid in respect of licenses refused at the principal meeting in July last were dealt with. The following are the decisions arrived at in the various cases.....

UNION INN, Darlaston, £450.”

Lichfield Mercury 5/1/1912

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee presented their annual report.....

The Committee at the supplemental meeting went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard upon oath evidence put forward by the claimants. The Committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested, and the compensation fund. The Committee fixed the compensation as follows.....

UNION INN, Darlaston, full, £450.

The money has been apportioned among the interested parties and paid.”

Wednesbury Herald 9/12/1911

“Sale of Freehold Property at Darlaston. Monday, 11th December 1911.

Belcher and Son, FAI, have been instructed to Sell by Public Auction, upon the above date, at the BELL HOTEL, Darlaston.....

All those Freehold Premises known as the UNION INN (the license of which is about to be extinguished), together with the Retail Shop.....”

VAULT

3, Walsall Road, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

It was formerly a bank (HSBC).

Express & Star 11/1/2011

“A new live music venue has launched in the Black Country with bosses hoping it will become as well-known as JB's or The Robin 2. Owners of the VAULT in Darlaston have pumped £80,000 into transforming the club, which used to be a bank. They hope the family-run venue will help plug a gap in the market following the closure of JB's in Dudley last year and will host tribute acts and live talent. Months of work has been carried out to revamp the 350-capacity building, in Walsall Road, which used to be cabaret bar Kinky Boots. The venue has been rebuilt inside with a new stage, new DJ booth, monitors and a big screen while new chairs, tables and sofas have all been added. The VAULT will serve as a pub from Sundays to Thursdays but will welcome live acts and tribute bands on Fridays and Saturdays.”

It reopened as a private members club on 28th April 2012.
It became a shop.

VAUXHALL

Green, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Kimbley [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

VICTORIA

21, (212), Walsall Road, (212, Butcroft), DARLASTON

OWNERS

A. Partridge, 216, Butcroft, Darlaston
Twists Brewery Ltd.
George S. Twist, brewer, Wolverhampton Street, Walsall
Atkinsons Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Cutler [1859]
William Griffiths [1864] – [1872]
Mrs. Sarah Griffiths [1880] – [1881]
Edward Reynolds [1889] – [1892]
Arthur E Partridge [1896] – [1901]
John Wardle [1911] – **1961**;
Sidney Charles Gibson (**1961 – 1964**);
Mrs. Eva Jones (**1964** – [1967])
Christine Duffy [1991]

NOTES

212, Butcroft [1881]

212, Walsall Road [1892]

21, Walsall Road [1911], [1912], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1859

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before J. Leigh, Esq, a number of publicans were summoned for selling ale, &c, in booths erected beyond the limits of their licensed premises, at Darlaston Wake, a general warning having been previously given to publicans not to infringe the law in this respect.....

Mr. Slater, for the defendants, contended that a wake was like a fair, and that his clients had a right to sell on the days named.

Mr. Leigh decided otherwise, and a fine of £5, the lowest amount allowed by law, with 11s 6d costs, was inflicted upon each of those charged with one offence, charges for other offences being adjourned, in order for the promoters of the proceedings to consider whether they would withdraw them. The following were the persons fined.....

James Cutler, of the VICTORIA INN, Butcroft.”

William Griffiths, beer retailer, Butcroft. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1872]

Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser 13/3/1869

“A shocking case of murder was investigated last week by a coroner’s jury at Wednesbury.

A woman named Eliza Bowen, who was known to be addicted to habits of intemperance, was on Saturday night week turned out of a public house for being disorderly. On Sunday she was found dead in a lane between Wednesbury and Darlaston. Her clothes were torn, and the marks and wounds upon the body showed that a horrible murder had been committed. At half-past 1am a woman who lives near the scene of the outrage heard some men urging a woman to go with them, and using some very filthy language. At seven o’clock the body of a woman was found in a lane, bearing evidence of her having been subjected to the most revolting treatment. As many as sixteen pieces of cinder were removed from the body by the police. The condition of the ground showed that she had been dragged no fewer than twenty-six yards from the road over an embankment into a field, and apparently had also struggled fiercely in a ditch which lies across the distance traversed, and is near a coal-pit bank. The shocking character of the crime has caused a great sensation in the district.

On Friday William Hall, striker, of Bull Piece, Butcroft, Darlaston, was brought up at the Wednesbury Police Court, charged with having committed the murder.

Superintendent Holland, having been sworn, said: I am Superintendent of Police for this county. On hearing of the murder of this woman on Sunday morning, I sent Sergeant Steele and Police-constable Evans in search of this particular man, and they have been engaged in the necessary investigations for three days. On Thursday afternoon they brought the prisoner to the police station, at which time he was not charged with the offence. I shall be able to identify him as the man who was with the deceased Eliza Bowen, at a beer-shop called the VICTORIA, Walsall Road, Darlaston, at 9.30 on the night of the murder; at the DRAGON INN at about 11.30; and at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, in this town, at 11.40. I have also a witness who can prove that she saw the prisoner with a woman at ten minutes past one o’clock on the morning of the murder; and I may say that I have such evidence to offer in the case as leads me to have no doubt as to his being the man who committed the crime. After the prisoner was brought to the police station, I and Sergeant Steele went to his house, searched it, and found the scarf I now produce. (The scarf was then handed to the magistrates who examined it.) The Bench will see that there is an exact correspondence between the part of the scarf I now produce and that which was found upon the ground where the crime was committed on the morning after the murder. If you compare one part of the black side of the scarf with the other part of the black side, and the red with the red, you will see that the threads exactly correspond. (At this stage of the proceedings the eyes of the prisoner rolled about in a wild fashion.) You will perceive, if you have got the two parts adjusted that every fibre is drawn to its fellow.

The prisoner was then remanded until Wednesday last, when the formal identification of the body of the de-

ceased was proved by her son, William Bowen, who had not seen her for three months until he saw her lying dead at the public house.

Mr. Kerr, surgeon, said he saw the body in the field shortly before eight in the morning, and it was then cold. She was on her back, with her arms drawn upwards and slightly crossed. The legs were drawn up. She was then removed to the public house and he there made a further examination of the body. The shawl had been twisted round the neck. The underclothing of the deceased was much torn and soiled. The cause of death was the insertion of stones in the deceased's body. He then minutely described the state of the injured parts of the deceased, but the particulars are altogether unfit for publication.

Other witnesses were called, who proved that the large part of the scarf, which exactly corresponded and fitted in with the piece found near the deceased, was found at prisoner's house, and that he was with the deceased on the night of the murder. The surgeon's evidence created great excitement and horror, and the prisoner was further remanded."

[William Hall was subsequently committed to trial at Stafford Assizes for murder.]

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 22/7/1869

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes

The Grand Jury ignored the bill charging William Hall (42), striker, with the wilful murder of Eliza Bowen, on the 28th February, at the parish of Wednesbury."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 4/4/1870

"William Hall, of Bull Street, Darlaston, who was suspected of being concerned in the atrocious murder of Eliza Bowen, about a year ago, has been a 'marked man' by the populace ever since. Crowds have assembled from time to time outside his dwelling, uttering yells and anathemas, and he has been almost afraid to appear in the public streets. Wearied at last with these unpleasant results of a lingering popular suspicion, Hall has left Darlaston in great disgust, and taken up his abode somewhere in Walsall."

1871 Census

Butcroft – VICTORIA INN

[1] *William Griffiths* (60), gunlock filer and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Sarah Griffiths* (58), wife, born Darlaston:

1881 Census

212, Butcroft – VICTORIA

[1] *Sarah Griffiths* (67), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] Hannah Burfoot (22), grand-daughter, inn assistant, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah A. Burfoot (17), grand-daughter, shoe heel tip maker, born Darlaston:

Edward Reynolds = Edmund Reynolds

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/8/1889

"The member of the Victoria Lodge 1540 National United Order of Free Gardeners, Birmingham and Darlaston district, held their anniversary dinner at Mr. *E. Reynolds*, VICTORIA INN, Darlaston. The lodge room was beautifully decorated with fruits, flowers, and evergreens as emblematic of gardenery, many items being kindly supplied by Bro. Dawes, of Knowle. More members were present than at any previous anniversary, the room being crowded. After supplying the inner man the cloths were drawn, and Bro. Chillington, PM, was voted to the chair.....

The toast of 'Success to the Victoria Lodge' was proposed by *E. Reynolds*, late secretary....."

1891 Census

Butcroft – VICTORIA INN

[1] *Edward Reynolds* (64), charter master (out of employment), born Righton, Shropshire;

[2] Esther Reynolds (61), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Edward Reynolds (25), son, school master, born Darlaston;

- [4] Mary Reynolds (30), daughter, domestic servant, born Darlaston;
[5] Esther Reynolds (27), daughter, domestic servant, born Darlaston;
[6] Emma J. Reynolds (19), daughter, school teacher, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 15/11/1893

“At the Police Court, Wednesbury, *Edmund Reynolds*, the VICTORIA beerhouse, Walsall Road, Darlaston, was charged with selling during prohibited hours on the night of the 21st ult; and Eliza Burford, a neighbour, was charged with aiding and abetting in the commission of the offence.

Police-sergeant Willis saw Burford leaving *Reynolds*'s house with a jug containing ale shortly before midnight.

Mr. S. M. Salter, for the defence, was able to show that the ale was paid for at half-past ten, the understanding at the time being that it would be fetched before eleven o'clock. The defendant went to bed before Mrs. Burford called, and personally knew nothing of the transaction. He had been a publican for thirty years without having ever being complained about.

The Stipendiary took the defendant's good character into account, and also regarding the offence as of a trivial nature, he dismissed the summons on payment of costs. The charge of aiding and abetting was dismissed on the same conditions.”

Walsall Observer 15/8/1896

“Free Gardenry. On Saturday the members of the Victoria Lodge, 1520, of the Birmingham and Darlaston District celebrated their fourteenth anniversary by a dinner at their lodge house, the VICTORIA INN, Darlaston, when about 54 members sat down to a most excellent repast, provided by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Partridge. On the cloth being removed Bro. Thomas, vice PLM, was voted to the chair, and Bro. Henry Haycock, PLM, to the vice-chair. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been given and duly honoured, the Chairman proposed ‘Success to the Order,’ and expressed gratification at presiding over a body of men who were endeavouring to promote thrift by making preparations for days of sickness and adversity. Bro. Thomas Griffiths, PLM, responded in a most able manner, referring to the good work that was being accomplished by friendly societies, and he urged the brethren to continue steadfast in their work of helping each other.....”

1901 Census

Walsall Road – VICTORIA INN

- [1] *Arthur E. Partridge* (39), publican, born Wednesbury;
[2] *Laura N. Partridge* (38), wife, born Wednesbury;
[3] *Laura E. Partridge* (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
[4] *Ellen Holt* (16), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Walsall Observer 14/2/1903

“Darlaston. The annual Licensing Sessions took place on Monday, before Messrs. Wilson Lloyd, W. W. Doughty, J. Yardley, A. H. Partridge, E. Hunt, and I. Oldbury (Mayor of Wednesbury).

Superintendent Salt reported that there were 101 houses licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, the proportion being one to every 155.9 of the inhabitants. Since the last general licensing meeting one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper had been fined for offences against the licensing laws, and in each case he had caused notice of opposition to be served to the renewal of the licenses. He had taken a similar course with regard to six licensed victuallers and 21 beerhouse keepers, whose premises were in a state of dilapidation, or lacked necessary accommodation, or were otherwise defective. During the eighteen months ending December 31 last, 145 persons were convicted or drunkenness against 129 in the twelve months ending June 30, 1901.

The licensed houses against which convictions had been recorded were the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Cock Street, the license of which was also opposed on the ground that the license was not required and that the house was of a disorderly character; and the RAILWAY TAVERN.....

The other cases in which notices of opposition had been served were.....

VICTORIA INN, Butcroft.....

In each case the ground of objection was that the premises were dilapidated, or defective, and difficult of police supervision.

The Bench intimated that all licenses would be renewed except those which were opposed, and the consideration of applications for these was deferred to the adjourned sessions, which they fixed for March 5.”

Walsall Observer 7/3/1903

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Darlaston were held on Thursday..... There were 29 licenses opposed by the police, the objections mainly being that the licenses were not required, premises in a state of dilapidation, and being difficult of police supervision; whilst in three cases there had been prosecutions, and in six others licenses were opposed on the ground that the premises are not duly qualified by law, the house not being of sufficient value to comply with the requirements of the Act.....”
[Nothing further was reported about this pub.]

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

1911 Census

21, Walsall Road – VICTORIA INN

- [1] *John Wardle* (34), brewer, beerhouse manager, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Harriet Ann Wardle* (30), wife, married 8 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *John Joseph Wardle* (7), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Gladys Elizabeth Wardle* (5), daughter, school, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Vera Victoria Wardle* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Olive Kathleen Wardle* (2 months), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Florence Elizabeth Lees* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun League. [1909]

John Wardle, beer retailer, 21, Walsall Road. [1912]

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/1/1930

“County Quarter Sessions.....

The report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1929 stated that 14 licenses were referred from eight divisions and boroughs in the county. The committee decided to proceed upon all such cases, with the exception of the BLACK HORSE, Tipton (Tipton Division) and the VICTORIA INN, Darlaston, and the WHITE DOG, Darlaston (Wednesbury Division).”

Walsall Observer 8/2/1930

“Darlaston Brewster Sessions on Wednesday.....

The Bench deferred the renewal of the BRADFORD ARMS, Bilston Street, the ROYAL OAK, Booth Street, the VICTORIA INN, Butcroft, and the DARTMOUTH ARMS, High Street, to see if certain structural alterations are carried out.”

Plans were approved for alterations to premises including sanitary accommodation on 19th March 1930.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/2/1937

“‘Darlaston is a town noted for its sobriety and it is a great tribute to the general public to record the vast decrease in drunkenness in recent years,’ remarked Alderman C. W. D. Joynson, at the Sessions there yesterday.

Superintendent J. H. Hall reported that no proceedings had been taken against license-holders during the past three years, and the two males convicted for drunkenness were both non-residents.

All licenses were renewed with the exceptions of VICTORIA INN, Butcroft, which were deferred to the adjourned sessions.

Plans were approved for rebuilding on 19th May 1937.

Closed
Rebuilt

1939 Register

Walsall Road – VICTORIA INN

- [1] *John Wardle*, date of birth 22/12/1877, blacksmith and beer seller, married;
- [2] Harriet A. Wardle, dob 25/1/1883, housewife, married;
- [3] Dorothy Wardle, dob 6/5/1918, mother's help, single;
- [4] Joan C. (Wardle) Downen, dob 3/12/1920, shop assistant, single;
- [5] Ronald F. Wardle, dob 13/11/1922, machinist, gear cutter, heavy work, single:

Walsall Observer 12/4/1941 - Advert

“Malt for Strength & Energy. Hops for The Appetite. Yeast for The Blood.
Twists The Best Beer for You.

You can Drink and Enjoy Twists Ale at any the of the following Licensed Houses.....

VICTORIA INN, Darlaston.....

And All The Best Clubs.

Proprietary Whiskies, Foreign Wines and Spirits, High-Class British Sherries and Ports.

Head Office & Brewery, Wolverhampton Street, Walsall.”

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division A, in 1948.

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1949.

Birmingham Daily Post 30/1/1961

“Mr. *John Wardle*, licensee of the VICTORIA INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, has died, aged 83. He was the oldest publican in the district, having kept the OAKTREE INN for five years before becoming licensee of the VICTORIA INN 56 years ago. Before the present house was rebuilt 23 years ago, Mr. *Wardle* carried on a business in the yard as an engineer's blacksmith and was one of the few surviving Oliver bolt-making craftsmen. He was a Boer War veteran. He leaves a widow, a son and four daughters.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1964

“*Sidney Gibson*, aged 50, of VICTORIA INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, was killed when his car was in collision with a double-deck bus in Alcester Road, Kings Heath, yesterday. After the collision the bus overturned and the damaged vehicles closed the road to traffic for nearly two hours. There were eight passengers on the bus, but only Mrs. Betty Chambers, aged 24, of Daylon Road, Hollywood, and her baby, aged eight months, were injured. They were discharged after treatment in the Selly Oak Hospital.”

[An inquest returned a verdict of Death by Misadventure.]

Walsall Observer 23/12/1965

“After only a month, an appeal started in working men's clubs and public houses to raise £2,000 for a closed circuit television system in the training section of Manor Hospital, Walsall, has raised over half the amount needed.....

VICTORIA INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, presented £250.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/3/1966

“A Darlaston petition, signed by 60,000 people, calling for the return of capital and corporal punishment, is on its way to the Home Secretary. Mr. John Stonehouse, Labour candidate and outgoing MP for the Wednesbury Division, received the petition at the VICTORIA INN, Darlaston, last night, and said he would hand it to the Home Secretary as soon as possible.”

Walsall Observer 16/12/1966

“The VICTORIA INN, Darlaston, solved the problem of getting the 606 visitors to their Christmas party at the Town Hall which is capable of accommodating only 300 people, by dividing them into age groups and holding the event on Friday, Saturday morning and Saturday evening. This was the third such event, and on Saturday the Mayor of Walsall (Councillor Miss E. M. Flint) was the guest of honour.

It is only two-and-a-half years since the license of the VICTORIA INN, was taken over by Mr. George *Jones* and his wife *Eva*. Soon after moving into the inn they established a weekly ‘tote,’ the source of the revenue for the Christmas party and an unequalled amount of charitable work. The ‘regulars’ at the inn support the ‘tote’ to the extent that more than £12,000 has been gained since the scheme began. This has financed seven guide dogs for the blind, a ‘meals-on-wheels’ service, old age pensioners’ and children’s parties, and helped hospitals, sick people and needy families in the area.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/6/1967

“Customers of the VICTORIA INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, have taken only ten weeks to raise £1,000 for the old age pensioners in the district. On June 30 Mr. J. A. Thompson, the Mayor of Walsall, will go to the public house to congratulate the regulars on their success and receive the cheque on behalf of Darlaston Old People’s Association. The money is raised from a ‘tote’ run by Mr. George *Jones*, husband of the licensee, Mrs. *Eva Jones*, and a small committee. Although it was started only three years ago to buy a guide dog for a local blind girl, ‘the tote’ has grown tremendously and more than £15,000 has been given to charitable organisations.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/8/1967

“More than 500 children and their mothers visited Trentham Gardens yesterday. The outing was paid for by the ‘tote’ of the VICTORIA INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/12/1967

“Of the £1,800 available for Christmas distribution from a fund run by the customers of the VICTORIA INN, Darlaston, £500 has been given to the Old People’s Association, 1,000 children will get gift parcels and some 30 bedridden pensioners will receive £5 each.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/8/1968

“With the handing over of a £1,000 cheque to Darlaston Old People’s Association the Tote Club of the VICTORIA INN, Darlaston, has brought its donations to worthy causes to more than £25,000 in the past four years. Mr. George *Jones*, husband of the licensee of the Walsall Road public house and organiser of the weekly tote, said last night that the competition had ‘gone like a bomb’ after a damp squib start.

The old people and the young of the area are regularly financed in outings or treats but on August 29 it will be nearly 400 children of customers who will be taken for a day’s outing.”

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1968, 1970, and 1971.

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/10/1991

“When the class of ’61 stage their first reunion at Darlaston on Saturday night, Sheila Johnson from Ohio will be there. She was over from America with her husband Eric, for the wedding of a niece, so the big get-together of former pupils was brought forward. The couple emigrated to the United States in 1973. About 70 women who were fourth formers at the old Kings Hill Girls School 30 years ago are expected at the reunion. It will be held at the VICTORIA, a Darlaston pub run by one of the old girls, *Christine Duffy*. One of the organisers, Doreen Horton, of Willenhall, said, ‘Half a dozen of us have already had one party, and it was hilarious. Apart from former pupils, at least five of our old teachers will be there on Saturday.’”

[1997]

Closed [2006]

Demolished [2007]

VINE

11, Bell Street / Foster Street, (Cramphill Bank), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Wilkes [1834] – [1847]
Mrs. Catherine Wilkes [1849] – **1851**);
James Wilkes (**1851** – [1865]
Miss Sarah Ann Wilkes [1871] – [1873]
Job Shore [1880] – **1881**);
Mary Morris (**1881** – []
Joseph Perks [1891] – [1892]
Joseph Charles Parkes [1892]
Thomas Fox [1893]
Charles Croydon [1896]
Amos Price [1898] – [1904]
Henry Lloyd [1908]
Ellen Robinson [1911]
Charles Martin [1912]
William Alfred Seagar [1916] – **1921**);
John William Roden (**1921** – **1929**);
Maria Roden (**1929** – **1931**);
Charles Gwilt (**1931** – **1934**);
William Robert Lewis Roach (**1934**);
Joseph Johnson (**1934** – **1936**);
Frederick Eccleston (**1936** – **1957**); tenant
George Harry Tapper (**1957** – **1959**);
Arthur Leonard Pritchard (**1959** – **1961**);
Bernard William Jackson (**1961** – **1963**);
Arthur Leonard Pritchard (**1963** – [1967]
Cynthia Humphreys [1988]
Scott Bracknell [2007]
Michael Blundell [2011] – [2014]

NOTES

William Wilkes = William Wilks

1841 Census

Bell Street

[1] *William Wilkes* (55), gun locks, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Catherine Wilkes* (50), born Staffordshire;

[3] Job Wilkes (15), carpenter, born Staffordshire;

[4] Thomas Wilkes (15), born Staffordshire:

William Wilkes was also a gunlock manufacturer. [1845]

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/1/1847

“Annual Dinner of the Members of the Lockfilers Association, at Darlaston.

On Monday last, the members of this society, which numbers about 340 members, assembled to celebrate their annual festival. The members dined at three houses, namely Mr. Butler’s, the CROWN INN; Mr. *Wilks*’s, the VINE INN; and Mr. Jones’s, the RED LION INN. After the members had done ample justice to the good supply of roast and boiled, and the cloth removed, Mr. Francis Humpage was called to the chair; Mr. J. Harper occupied the vice-chair.....”

William Wilkes died on 25th March 1847.

Mrs. *Wilkes* was also a gunlock manufacturer. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

Bell Street

[1] *Catherine Wilkes* (64), widow victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Pheaby Wilkes (61), visitor, born Darlaston;

[3] Thomas Wilkes (25), son, gun lock manufacturer, born Darlaston;

[4] Ann Wilkes (21), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] William Wilkes (13), visitor, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Journal 15/4/1854 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Houses and Building Land, in Bell Street, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Samuel Hodgetts, at the VINE INN, in Darlaston, on Tuesday Next, the 18th of April, at Seven o’clock in the evening.....”

James Wilkes was also a gunlock maker. [1854], [1860], [1861], [1864]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/9/1860

“On Friday last, an inquest was held before Edwin Hooper, Esq, Coroner, at the VINE INN, Mr. *James Wilkes*’s, on the body of a young man, named William Belcher. It appeared that deceased, with other men, were at work in a stall in a pit belonging to Mr. Groucott. Of a sudden a portion of the roof fell in, burying deceased beneath about half a ton of coal. He was extricated as soon as possible, and being taken to his own home, Mr. Latham, surgeon, was called in. This gentlemen paid every attention to the case, but the unfortunate man never rallied, and died the same day. He was about thirty-six years of age, and had only been married about a month. One of his companions who was at work with him had a narrow escape, being struck by the falling mass, but was not seriously injured. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

Bell Street – VINE INN

[1] *James Wilkes* (45), widower, victualler and gun lock maker, born Darlaston;

[2] *Sarah Ann Wilkes* (24), daughter, born Darlaston;

[3] William Wilkes (23), son, carpenter, born Darlaston;

[4] Frances Wilkes (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Mary Ryley (20), house servant, born Darlaston;

[6] James Wilkes (20), son, gun lock maker, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1864

“Mr. E. Hooper, the District Coroner, held an inquest, yesterday, at the house of Mr. T. [sic] *Wilkes*, the

VINE INN, Darlaston, on the body of Samuel Abnett, aged thirty-three, who had been killed by a fall of coal in a pit, at the Rough Hays Colliery, belonging to Mr. John Addenbrooke, on the preceding Tuesday. John Meek, a miner, deposed that he worked at the Rough Hays Colliery. The deceased was a collier, in the same employment. On Tuesday morning, between eight and nine o'clock, witness and deceased were at work in the pit 'holeing,' when a fall from the side took place, and knocked deceased against a tree. The place where this took place was four feet nine inches high, by about a yard and a-half in width. The deceased had been cautioned several times about the stuff being in a dangerous state. There were two butties, but only one of them was in the pit. Deceased went down in the third 'band;' neither of the butties did, but the doggy had descended. About a ton of stone and 'clod' fell on the leg of the deceased. Witness found him doubled up on his right side. Every effort was made to rescue him, and, when taken out, his left leg and thigh were found to have been fractured. Deceased was removed to his house, and Mr. Handy, the field surgeon, was sent for.

In reply to the Coroner, the witness said: The doggy is never 'reckoned' to examine the face of the work. The men do that themselves. I don't know anything of the colliery rules. John James, the butty, never gave me a copy of the rules. I do not know that it is the duty of the doggy to examine the work; in that colliery it is not done. The ventilation of the pit is good. I have a copy of the rules, but have never read the 17th. (The Coroner here read the rule in question, which provided that the butty or his deputy should examine the workings previously to the men commencing work.)

The witness continued: I don't know that I am liable to a penalty for infringing the rules. I sometimes go down the shaft with a naked candle, but the doggy goes down with a safety lamp.

The Coroner cautioned the witness, and told him he was liable to a fine of 40s, or three months' imprisonment, for an infringement of the rules, and requested him to acquaint his fellow workmen of the fact.

John Harding, a miner, who was near the spot when the occurrence took place, deposed that the place was 'ugly,' and that the doggy knew it. It was the business of each man to look after his own safety. The doggy had measured the place, and set the deceased on to work. Witness did not see the doggy try it with a pike. The deceased did, and witness told him it was not safe, and gave him a 'dresser' to pull the stuff off. Deceased replied, 'Oh, I'll watch it.' The stuff fell in two minutes afterwards. Witness said he had had a copy of the rules supplied to him, but on being closely questioned by the Coroner, seemed to be lamentably ignorant of their provisions.

The Coroner said that he considered that the case could not be brought to a satisfactory conclusion without the presence of the Government Inspector of Mines. There was no doubt but that the rules had been infringed, and unless they were carried out strictly, there was no protection for the lives of the colliers. Even supposing that the death of the deceased had resulted from his own carelessness, it was the duty of the butty, or his deputy, to see that such carelessness should not be permitted.

The enquiry was adjourned until Wednesday next, at half-past two o'clock."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/4/1864

"Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, resumed an inquiry yesterday, at the VINE INN, Darlaston, concerning the death of Samuel Hebnett, aged 33, who lost his life on the 12th inst, by a fall of stone at Messrs. Addenbrook and Co.'s pit, at Rough Hays. It will be remembered that the inquest was adjourned for the presence of Mr. J. P. Baker, the Government Inspector, who attended the present inquiry, as it was thought the colliery rules had been infringed.

The first witness called was John James, the chartermaster at the works in question, who stated that he had explained the rules appertaining to the working of the pit in question to John Meek, a witness at the former inquiry. In fact he made it a regular practice of reading over the rules at stated intervals.

John Meek, recalled, said he had had the rules explained to him, but at another pit, and not the one at which he worked under the former witness. In reply to the coroner, he said if he had stated at the former inquiry that the rules had never been read over to him by James it was hardly true, as they had been read to him, but he was 'fluttered' when he made his previous statement. Witness was engaged by James himself soon after Christmas, and he inquired if he had received a copy of the rules, but did not then explain any portion of them to him, as he knew that he could read. The rules were explained to the colliers about once a fortnight. The last witness had never said anything to him respecting the inquest. The Coroner said his statement on the present occasion differed entirely from his previous testimony.

By Mr. Baker: The work was not ‘spragged.’ The deceased was a ‘bustler,’ and would not ‘spragg’ it. He was warned by a fellow workman that he ought to make it secure, and Hebnett replied, ‘Oh, all right.’ The work at which the latter was engaged was not quite safe, it hung over a bit. Witness had seen the ‘doggy’ examine the pit frequently. (This witness seemed to prevaricate very much in his evidence.)

Mr. Baker advised the witness to ‘spragg’ any work at which he was engaged in the future, and also to timber the roof before ‘holing the under part,’ and that they were under a penalty to do so.

The Coroner observed that one reason the inquest had been adjourned, was because the witness Meek had sworn most positively that the pit had not been examined, but at the present inquiry he altered his statement, and affirmed that the pit was duly inspected.

Mr. Hooper advised the person who represented the colliery to read over the regulations at stated intervals, and to explain them to the miners.

Mr. T. Parton, Messrs. Addenbrook’s representative, said the firm would be most happy to carry out the suggestions of the coroner.

Mr. Baker said he had been informed that some time ago the men had threatened to strike if they were compelled to secure their work.

The ‘butty’ James was recalled, and said that since Mr. Baker’s visit to the colliery, printed rules had been published which made it imperative on the men to timber the work at which they were employed, under pain of instant discharge and prosecution for their neglect.

The jury, in reply to the Coroner, said they were perfectly satisfied with the evidence, and they were of opinion that deceased was most to blame in not insuring his own safety as he was repeatedly cautioned, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1864

“Renewal of Licenses.....

From the Superintendent’s statement it appeared that there were but thirteen publicans who had been convicted since last licensing day, and but few of those who had been fined more than once. The list of convictions was as follows.....

James Wilks, VINE, Bell Street, Darlaston, open on Sunday, fined £3 and costs, on April 12th.....

After the licenses of those persons who had not been convicted had been renewed, those landlords whose names appeared on the black list were called in, all of whom were severely censured and cautioned by the Bench.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1864

“The annual Petty Session for the renewal of publican’s licenses in the Walsall, Wednesbury, and West Bromwich district was held yesterday.....

The undermentioned persons were reported by the police to have been fined during the year for offences against their licenses. The fines, however, appeared to have exercised a salutary effect, as they had, with the exception of two innkeepers, whose licenses were suspended, all conducted their houses since the several convictions in a very orderly manner.....

James Wilkes, VINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston license renewed.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1864

“At the licensing meeting at Great Barr, on Thursday, it was reported by the police, and consequently stated in this paper, the Mr. *James Wilkes*, BELL [sic] INN, had been fined for an offence against his license. It should have been Charles Wilkes, BUSH INN, Darlaston Green. Mr. *James Wilkes*, who is a most respectable man, desires us to make this correction.”

He was described as also a gunlock manufacturer. [1865]

1871 Census

Bell Street – VINE INN

[1] *Sarah A. Wilkes* (34), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Frances M. A. Wilkes* (20), sister, born Darlaston:

Job Shore was also a bolt and nut manufacturer. [1880]

1881 Census

11, Bell Street – VINE INN

- [1] *Mary Morris* (41), widow, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *William J. Morris* (16), son, born Derby;
- [3] *Samuel Morris* (13), son, born Halesowen;
- [4] *Emily Morris* (10), daughter, born Stafford:

Evening Express 15/11/1881 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.
Apply, VINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston.”

Wednesbury Herald 13/5/1882

“On Thursday Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), held an inquest at the VINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, touching the death of *Enoch Adams* (40), miner, No.7 Bell Street.

The evidence showed that on Saturday last the deceased went with a number of friends to Codsall Wake. On the return journey his friends left him between Willenhall and Darlaston. Deceased was near-sighted, and it is supposed that he missed his way and walked into the arm of the canal at Darlaston Green, and was drowned. On Monday morning he was found standing erect in the canal.

In reply to the Coroner, one witness who saw deceased at Darlaston Green said she thought he was under the influence of drink.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/8/1883 - Advert

“Darlaston. To Let, VINE INN, Bell Street, with Butcher’s Shop. In-coming £70.
W. Hickman, Valuer, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/10/1883 - Advert

“Darlaston (VINE INN, Bell Street). Old-licensed House; free; well situated; good premises; immediate possession. Coming-in low. Rent £28.

Apply, J. Belcher and Son, Auctioneers and Valuers, Darlaston and Walsall.”

1891 Census

11, Bell Street – VINE INN

- [1] *Joseph Perks* (39), publican, born Masboro, Yorkshire;
- [2] *Emma Perks* (38), wife, born Hill Top, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Charles Perks* (15), son, scholar, born Yorkshire;
- [4] *Elkanah Boyes* (75), father-in-law, widower, living on own means, born Fayley, Staffordshire;
- [5] *Ruth Horton* (27), domestic servant, born Hill Top, Staffordshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday..... Music and singing licenses..... The following new licenses were also granted, several applications for dancing, in addition, being abandoned.....

Joseph Charles Parkes, the VINE INN, Bell Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Tipton and Darlaston took place at Wednesbury, yesterday.....

Singing and music licenses were granted to Messrs. Showell and Sons, the OLD BRITANNIA, 31, High Street, Moxley, and to Abraham Foster, the BEEHIVE INN, 12, Walsall Street. An application for a like license was applied for by *Thomas Fox*, of the VINE INN, 11, Bell Street, Darlaston; but the notice was found

to be insufficient.”

Walsall Advertiser 7/5/1898

“A quarterly meeting of the Caledonian Corks, Walsall District, was held at the HATHERTON ARMS, Lichfield Street, on Saturday the Chairman submitted the report of the Management Committee. Your committee having considered the advisability of establishing lodges in districts where not yet represented, appointed deputations to visit Darlaston and Brownhills, with the result that a lodge had been opened at Bro. *A. Price*’s, the VINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston.....”

1901 Census

11, Bell Street – VOIN [sic] INN

- [1] *Amos Price* (51), licensed victualler, born Ampton, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Lucy A. Price* (52), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Joseph A. Price* (17), son, junior clerk, bolt works, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Clement E. Price* (13), son, born Walsall;
- [5] *George Price* (12), son, born Walsall;
- [6] *William H. J. Harper* (29), son-in-law, soldier, lance sergeant, infantry, born America (British subject);
- [7] *Mary E. Harper* (23), wife, born Birmingham;
- [8] *William F. Harper* (1), grand-son, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 4/10/1902

“Lodge 453 of the Order of Loyal Caledonian Corks, held at the VINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, received the promised official visit from the Walsall District Lodge on Monday last upwards of 30 visiting brothers attending.....”

1911 Census

11, Bell Street – VINE INN

- [1] *Ellen Robinson* (64), widow, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Alfred G. Robinson* (27), son, barman, born Darlaston:

1939 Register

Bell Street – VINE INN Public House

- [1] *Frederick Eccleston*, date of birth 31/5/1883, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Elizabeth M. Eccleston*, dob ??/1/1884, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Elizabeth (Eccleston) (Harris) Smith*, dob 18/1/1912, drapery shop assistant, single:

Walsall Observer 29/5/1943

“‘You would have been indulging in unfair competition, if you had been guilty of the charge brought against you,’ said the Stipendiary (Mr. Grimley) at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, to *Frederick Eccleston* (59), licensee of the VINE INN, Bell Street, Darlaston, who was summoned for supplying intoxicating liquor during non-permitted hours on the night of Saturday, April 24, to *Arthur William Woolley* (35), of the same address, and aiding and abetting the latter in taking the liquor from his premises. Woolley was summoned for aiding and abetting *Eccleston*.

Sergeant Lovatt stated that while on duty with Police-constable Allmark at about 10.50 on the night in question, Woolley passed them and went into the gateway entrance of the inn. They crossed to the opposite footpath and from there saw that lights had been switched on in the bar. Later, Woolley came out of the public house, walking unsteadily. ‘And, as is the custom in such cases, I turned my light on to him,’ said the sergeant. ‘Noticing that his pockets were bulging, we asked where he had just been, and he replied, ‘To the VINE, to get three bottles of Vimto.’ He took one of the bottles from his one pocket and showed it to us, but we were not satisfied with his behaviour as he half turned away from us, as if he were trying to hide something. We asked him what the other pocket contained, and he replied, ‘Just a bottle of ordinary beer, but it was drawn before 10 o’clock.’ Asked his name, he said, ‘Tom Mix.’ When told that unless he gave his name and address he would be taken to the police station so that he could be identified, he gave no more

trouble but showed his identity card.’

Sergeant Lovatt, continuing, said that he and Police-constable Allmark then went to the VINE INN, where they saw the licensee, *Ecclestone*, who said that he had served Woolley with three bottles of Vimto, but no beer. Witness showed him the bottle they had had from Woolley, and the licensee then admitted it was one of his, but said he had served it before 10 o’clock that evening. Later he said, ‘All right, I suppose I shall have to take the consequences; that’s all there is about it.’

In evidence, Woolley said he had had the beer before 10 o’clock, putting it in his inside coat pocket, and after leaving the public house went a short distance down the street with a friend. They stood talking on the corner for some time. When they separated he was going back to his lodgings but he met a Mrs. Foster, who asked him to take Mrs. Smith’s baby back to the public house with a message. Mrs. Smith was the daughter of the licensee, and her husband was in the Forces. The message was that Mrs. Foster would be coming to the VINE to sleep that night as she had been notified that relatives from Wales were coming to sleep at her (Mrs. Foster’s) house, and she was having to arrange sleeping accommodation. He, Woolley, was also to get three bottles of Vimto mineral water. He went back to the VINE and gave Mrs. Smith the baby. Mr. *Ecclestone* got for him three bottles of Vimto from the sitting room, where they were kept. To his knowledge the licensee did not go into the bar at all. When he went outside again, the police officers stopped him and asked what he had in his pockets as they were bulging, and he told them. When they asked his name, he took his identity card from his pocket and showed it to them. He denied giving his name as ‘Tom Mix.’ Witness added that it was only when he opened his coat to show his card that they saw the beer, and he told them that it had been served to him before 10 o’clock.

The licensee, in evidence, stated after washing down, he, his wife, and his daughter (Mrs. Smith) sat down to supper. It was generally the practice for Mrs. Foster to mind the baby when his daughter was helping in the bar. A short time after Woolley had gone the police arrived and asked if a man named Woolley had just been there, and he replied that he had been for three bottles of Vimto, a non-alcoholic drink. The sergeant then produced the bottle of beer, and said, ‘Is that one of yours?’ He agreed that it was, but said that it had been served before 10 o’clock. *Ecclestone* denied that he said anything about ‘taking the consequences,’ as the sergeant had said he had.

Recalled, Sergeant Lovatt said that he did not see Woolley carrying a baby, although he and the other officer were only about 15 feet away; but he had noticed a white spaniel accompanying Woolley.

The Stipendiary, in announcing his decisions, said that aspersions had been cast on the police, but he would bind *Ecclestone* over in the sum of £10 for a year, under the Probation of Offenders Acts, and he would have to pay £5 6s costs. Woolley was fined £5.”

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division A, in 1948.

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1980, and 1985/6.

Sandwell Evening Mail 25/8/1988

“Kidney patients will benefit from the proceeds of a sponsored fancy-dress bed push in the Black Country. Pub regulars pushed a bed seven miles from the VINE INN, Darlaston, through Bilston to New Cross Hospital, Wednesfield. They included nurse’s son Glyn Jones, of Darlaston, who plays darts for the VINE and who has been treated at the hospital’s renal unit. Mrs. *Cynthia Humphreys*, tenant of the VINE, said they had collected £477 on the route, but sponsorship and money from a raffle at the pub could take the final figure over the £1,000 target.”

Express & Star 12/6/2014

“Hits such as Build Me Up Buttercup and Love on the Rocks were belted out at a pub karaoke, causing a nuisance for neighbours, a court heard. Singing could be heard booming out of the VINE pub in Darlaston, with the noise spreading to a living room and bedroom of a nearby house. A noise abatement notice had been served by Walsall Council on July 9 last year, amid concern about noise from the boozer in Bell Street. When an environmental health officer from Walsall Council visited again on July 26, a range of songs including Crazy Little Thing, Babe and Hero by Mariah Carey could be heard being performed until after 10pm. Boss *Michael Blundell* admitted failing to comply with an abatement notice at Walsall Magistrates

Court and was hit with a £3,780 bill. Since then thousands of pounds has been spent on double glazing and other residents have come out in support of the establishment. The defence said there had been only one house complain and people in the area had never experienced problem with the premises. Mr Dominic Patouchas, prosecuting for the council, said officer Leigh Davy had been to the address which is opposite the pub in Bell Street on that evening. The noise could be heard inside the house and even further away by his car which was parked 36 metres away.

In a statement Mr Davy said, 'The level was definitely excessive and in my opinion there was no doubt that it would prevent or inhibit sleep with the sound of the microphone being very loud.'

The court was told the noise was a 'constant nuisance' with increasingly loud levels once the doors opened. Mr. Dewsbery, defending, said *Blundell* had been in charge of the pub since 2011 and a karaoke had been a regular event. Since the noise issue was raised around £10,000 has been spent on double glazing, an air vent was blocked and customers encouraged to use the side and rear entrances when music is playing. Mr. Dewsbery said the pub was popular and his client has now taken a step back and appointed a manager for the premises. 'The complaints came from one address and one address only. The pub enjoys a great deal of goodwill in the community,' he said.

Blundell was given a £500 fixed penalty, ordered to pay £3,230 costs and a victim surcharge. Speaking after the case Mr. *Blundell*, aged 39, said he was considering his long-term future. 'We are a community pub, we have never had any problems before. The average age of the people that come in are in their 50s,' he said."

[2021]

VINE

Pinfold Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Miss Sarah Ann Wilkes [1868] – [1870]

NOTES

Check Bell Street.

VINE

79, (40), Station Street / Heath Road, James Bridge, (Fallings Heath), DARLASTON

OWNERS

James Butler, Station Street, Darlaston

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (leased) (acquired on 28th May 1940)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Jones [1867] – **1870**);
William Fisher (**1870** – [1871]
James Butler [1872] – [1896]
Joseph Plant [1901] – [1904]
William Tolley [1908] – **1925**);
William Guttridge (**1925** – **1942**);
Minnie Guttridge (**1942** – **1951**);
Samuel Dibble (**1951** – **1952**);
Joseph Francis Leadbetter (**1952** – **1957**);
Kenneth Lowndes (**1957** – **1961**);
Mervyn Ash (**1961** – **1966**);
Doreen Greta Laight (**1966**);
Phyllis Alma Mayo (**1966** – [1967]
J Parkes [1976]
Joseph Samuel Nicholls []

NOTES

40, Station Street [1881], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1912]
79, Station Street [1932], [1939], [1940]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1867

“On Wednesday the adjourned licensing meeting for West Bromwich district was held in the Petty Sessions Room new applications [for spirit licenses].....

John Jones, Station Street, James Bridge, Darlaston, supported by Mr. Slater. Granted.”

1871 Census

Station Street – VINE INN

[1] *William Fisher* (46), licensed victualler, born Alrewas, Staffordshire;

[2] *Louisa Fisher* (46), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *John H. Fisher* (13), son, scholar, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/5/1876 - Died

“On the 4th inst, at the VINE INN, James Bridge, Granvill Tranter, the only son of James Green, assistant grocer, of West Bromwich; much regretted.”

Cambrian News 7/7/1876

“West Coast of Wales Directory.

To secure insertion in this Directory, Hotels and Lodging Houses must be registered.....

Aberystwyth Visitors Marine Terrace.....

No.13 – Mrs. J. Clayton – Mr. and Mrs. *Butler*, VINE INN, James Bridge, Staffordshire.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/3/1878 - Advert

“For £5, a neat Trap, carry four.

Apply, *Butler*, VINE INN, James Bridge.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/2/1879 - Advert

“For Sale, Trap, built for owner last year; cost £20, will be sold for 10 guineas; useless to owner.

Apply, *Butler*, VINE INN, James Bridge.”

Wednesbury Herald 5/4/1879

“On Wednesday night a meeting of Conservatives was held at the VINE INN, Fallings Heath, for the purpose of forming a Branch Conservative Association for the district of Fallings Heath.....”

[A motion to form such an association was carried.]

Wednesbury Herald 3/4/1880

“Last night a meeting of the electors of the Fallings Heath district was held at the VINE INN, Fallings Heath, for the purpose of supporting the candidature of Mr. Isaacson. Mr. A. Partridge was elected chairman, and he was supported by Captain Naylor and Messrs. Harper, Cotterhill, J. Knowles, Hatchett, Jackson, &c.....”

[A motion to this effect was carried unanimously.]

Wednesbury Herald 22/5/1880

“On Saturday, Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquiry at the VINE INN, James Bridge, relative to the death of George Moe (55), brick manufacturer, Heath Road.

Thomas Williams said the deceased had been manager at the Darlaston Steel and Iron Company’s brickyard, and on Wednesday morning he appeared to be in good health, and also in good spirits. At about eleven o’clock he gave orders to a number of the workpeople as to what they were to do, and he went in the direction of the engine-house.....

Deceased lay dead near to the engine. He was not in any way injured, and appeared to have died from apoplexy.

A juryman said that a few years ago the deceased met with an accident, since which he had frequently complained of violent pains in his head and neck.

The Coroner said the deceased had recently been troubled over the whereabouts of his son.

The jury afterwards returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

1881 Census

40, Station Street – VINE INN

- [1] *James Butler* (55), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Hannah Butler* (50), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *John T. Butler* (28), son, nut and bolt maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *William A. Butler* (20), son, engine fitter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Lizzie Butler* (29), daughter-in-law, born Coven;
- [6] *William White* (53), boarder, coal miner, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Henry Hodges* (29), visitor, iron moulder, born Birmingham:

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/9/1883 - Advert

“Great Western Railway Company.

The Committee of the Wolverhampton and District Licensed Victuallers Incorporated Society have made arrangements with the above Company to run a Special Express Train to London (International Fisheries Exhibition).....

Tickets may be had from any of the undermentioned.....

J. Butler, VINE INN, James Bridge, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/10/1885

“Yesterday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the VINE INN, Darlaston, on the body of Samuel Willetts (39), bricklayer, 28, Walsall Road. The evidence adduced showed that on the 27th of May the deceased, whilst in the VINE INN, called a man named James Dunn a thief, and Dunn replied, ‘If you say that again I shall punch you.’ The deceased then got up and struck Dunn; and whilst the two were preparing to fight Willetts caught his heel in a spittoon and fell with his head against the corner of the table, causing a wound an inch long. His wife dressed the wound, and he refused to have a doctor, and continued at work until about a fortnight ago, when he died from the effects of the injury.

Statements had been current that the wound was caused by Dunn with a jug; but a witness named Henry Woollam swore that Dunn neither struck the deceased nor threw anything at him. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1891 Census

40, Station Street

- [1] *James Butler* (62), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Hannah Butler* (57), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *John T. Butler* (37), son, nut and bolt maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *William A. Butler* (30), son, fitter and assistant brewer, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Harriet Bristowe* (16), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1895

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *John Moxley*, ironworker, was charged with assaulting *John Thomas Butler*, son of the keeper of the VINE INN, Darlaston; with doing wilful damage; and with being drunk and disorderly.

It seemed that on the 30th ult the defendant was at the house, and when reprovved for using bad language, and refusing payment for liquors, he struck the landlord’s son three times, knocking him over a table, and also assaulted a man named Dunn, who rendered assistance in getting the violent fellow out of the house. Then the door was bolted against him, but he smashed it open, and renewed his misbehaviour in the house. He was fined in three sums of 2s 6d and costs, and ordered to pay 19s 3d damages; the alternative being five weeks’ imprisonment.”

James Butler – see also WHITE DOG.

Bridgnorth Journal 22/1/1898

“On Tuesday, at the VINE INN, Station Street, Darlaston, *Mr. A. A. Betham* (acting coroner) held an inquest on the body of *James Thomas* (34), railway brakesman, of Whitehall Road, Walsall, who was killed on Friday. *Mr. Stoker* (assistant district superintendent) and *Inspector Savage* were present on behalf of the London and North-Western Railway Company; and *Mr. E. Evans*, Walsall, in the interests of the widow of the deceased. The coroner and jury visited the place where the accident occurred.

On Friday evening deceased was directing some shunting operations at *Horton’s siding*, *James Bridge*, where some wagons had to be brought out of the siding and attached to a train on the main line. The deceased connected a steel rope from the back end of the third of the wagons in the siding to one of the wagons in a train on the main line, and then directed the driver, *Wanford Cook*, to push the train along over the level crossing. By this arrangement the wagons in the siding would also be drawn over the crossing into a position to be picked up by the train. Two of the wagons in the siding, however – one being the one to which the rope was affixed – left the rails, and turned towards the train, with the result that the deceased, who was in front of the rope instead of behind it, was struck or jammed between two wagons and killed, apparently instantaneously. When he was attaching the rope *Thomas Robert Bullivant*, signalman, asked him if it was safe, and he said, ‘Yes, as safe as houses.’ The iron hook by which the rope was attached to the train was broken through. It was a very dark night.

The Coroner, in summing up, said personally he thought there was nothing to show that there was any negligence on the part of anyone at the time unless it was on the part of deceased himself. Whether this was a safe way of shunting he did not know; but he was assured it was customary. One would have thought, however, that the deceased would have affixed the rope to a heavy wagon instead of to a light one, as he appeared to have done; and he ought to have gone behind the rope instead of in front of it.

Mr. Stoker, in answer to a question, said ropes such as that in use in this case were in use on railways all over the land, and such an accident as this was very rare.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, coupled with a recommendation that two brakesmen should be employed in shunting after dark.”

J. Plant issued tokens from here.

1901 Census

40, Station Street – VINE INN

- [1] *Joseph Plant* (46), widower, licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *Mary Plant* (78), mother, widow, born Dudley;
- [3] *Joseph Plant* (19), son, barman, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *James Plant* (14), son, stationary engine driver, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Nellie Plant* (13), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *James E. Plant* (11), son, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Carrie Holick* (16), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Walsall Advertiser 12/6/1909

“The monthly meeting of the Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers’ and Beer Retailers’ Friendly and Protection Society, was held on Thursday last at the house of Mr. S. F. Smith, PRINCE OF WALES INN, Queen Street, Walsall.....

New Members.....

William Tolley, VINE INN, James Bridge.”

1911 Census

Station Street – VINE INN

- [1] *William Tolley* (37), public house manager, born Bloxwich;
- [2] *Mary Jane Tolley* (34), wife, married 13 years, born Bloxwich;
- [3] *George Arthur Arnold* (32), boarder, fencing maker, ironworks, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Elizabeth Rose Tolley* (11), daughter, school, born Bloxwich;
- [5] *Jack William Tolley* (10), son, school, born Bloxwich;
- [6] *Leonard Tolley* (8), son, school, born Bloxwich;
- [7] *Jenny Tolley* (7), daughter, school, born Bloxwich;
- [8] *Marie Tolley* (5), daughter, school, born Bloxwich;
- [9] *William Tolley* (1), son, born Darlaston:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 29/11/1924

“An inquest was held at the VINE INN, James Bridge, Darlaston, on Monday, by Mr. W. C. Checkley (Coroner), concerning the death of *John Thomas Thorne* (33), labourer, of 9, Simmonds Place, Darlaston, which took place on Sunday morning. Evidence was given that the deceased, who was employed by Messrs. Charles Richards and Son, The Green, Darlaston, went to work at 10pm on the Friday evening, returning home at 8.30am on Saturday. He then appeared to be in his usual health, and went to bed at 10.30pm. At 2.30 on the Sunday morning his wife woke up and found deceased was unconscious, and foaming at the mouth. Dr. Finnegan was at once sent for, but when he arrived about half an hour later, pronounced life extinct. Dr. Finnegan stated that earlier in the year he treated deceased for influenza and pneumonia, which left his heart weak.

The Coroner returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

William Guttridge = William Gutteridge

Plans were approved for alterations on 17th May 1939.

Walsall Observer 23/9/1939

“Lighting Restriction Regulations.....

Superintendent Hall stated, ‘Licensees who have to open their premises and show many lights inside must see that all their lights are properly shaded and windows and doors adequately protected so that light will not show on to the streets. I have no alternative but to ask that these cases be dealt with in a rather severe manner. Licensees must see that their premises are in order and the regulations must be rigidly enforced.’

William Gutteridge, VINE INN, Station Street, Darlaston, who pleaded guilty and was fined £2 was stated to

have failed to screen an electric light in a passage leading to the bar with the result that light shone across the road as customers were entering or leaving. Gutteridge said, 'Oh, I did not think it was that bad. I will have it rectified.' *Gutteridge* told the magistrates, 'I have had it rectified and my premises are open for inspection at any time.'

1939 Register

79, Station Street

[1] *William Guttridge*, date of birth 2/5/1880, blast furnace, heavy work, married;

[2] *Minnie Guttridge*, date of birth 10/1/1879, housekeeper and nut and bolt screwing, heavy work, married;

[3] *Kenneth Reginald George Guttridge*, dob 1/7/1922, plater, heavy work, single:

Rugeley Times 10/2/1940

"Darlaston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent J. H. Hall, in his report to the justices, said that the number of licensed houses in the town was 74; the same as last year, except that the license of the WHY NOT INN, The Green, had been altered from a beerhouse 'on' to a beer and wines 'on.' At the census of 1931, the population of the parish was 19,736, according to which there was one licensed house to every 267 inhabitants.....

The Superintendent also reported on alterations to houses, and referred to the fact that plans granted in respect of two houses in May, the VINE INN, Station Street, and the NAGS HEAD, The Green, had not yet been commenced.....

Regarding the plans for rebuilding, the justices understood the delay in the case of the BOAT INN, Bentley Road, for these plans had to be reconsidered and new plans were drawn. In the cases of the VINE INN and NAGS HEAD, where authority had been given for certain improvement to be carried out, they felt that there had been an unnecessary delay, and he would ask the Clerk (Mr. L. A. Shirlaw) to write to the owners calling attention to this, and asking them to proceed with the work with all possible expedition."

Rugeley Times 9/4/1940

"At the Adjourned Darlaston Licensing Sessions on Wednesday, Mr. L. A. Shirlaw (Clerk) said he had written to the owners of the VINE NN and NAGS HEAD, Darlaston, and had received satisfactory replies that the work of repair and alteration at both houses was being proceeded with."

Walsall Observer 1/6/1940

"The suggestion that 10 o'clock drinking facilities were sufficiently late for men who were now working long hours in the factories, was made by Police-inspector Taylor when Mr. *William Guttridge*, licensee of the VINE INN, Station Street, Darlaston, applied for an extension of an hour, from 10 until 11pm, on the occasion of an R.A.O.B. ceremony on June 18.

Mr. *Gutteridge* said that many similar applications had been made in the past but he agreed with Inspector Taylor that that was the first application since the war started, and that most of the men who would be there were engaged for long hours on vital work in factories.

Inspector Taylor: Don't you think it possible to complete this ceremony and get everybody off the premises by 10 o'clock? – Mr. *Gutteridge*: It can't be done.

The Inspector suggested that it would be better if men who had to work long hours the following day could be at home just after 10 o'clock and get some rest. Mr. *Gutteridge* replied that this would be desirable if they could get away but the ceremony could not be concluded in time because all the people taking part could not get there before 9 o'clock.

In the present conditions, said Inspector Taylor, it was considered that 10 o'clock was late enough.

The Chairman, Mr. G. J. Garrington (with whom sat Messrs. A. E. Cotterell, H. B. Marston, H. W. Bonner and W. W. Stanbury) said that they were all anxious to do everything possible to get along with the war work but, at the same time, they did not want to debar men from a little enjoyment. The extension was granted until 10.30."

William Guttridge – see also LORD NELSON.

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Crib League. [1946]

Plans were approved for alterations on 3rd February 1965.

London Gazette 30/1/1989

“*Joseph Samuel Nicholls*, unemployed, residing at 7 Church Road, Short Heath, Willenhall, lately residing and carrying on business as the Tenant Publican at the VINE INN, Station Street, Darlaston, formerly at the LION HOTEL, Upper Lichfield Street, Willenhall, and before that at the SWAN INN, 84 Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, Wolverhampton, all in the county of West Midlands. Court Walsall. Date Fixed for Hearing 16th February 1989, 10.15am, Court House, Lichfield Street, Walsall WS1 1TL.”

Closed

Demolished [2007]

WAGGON AND HORSES

57, King Street, Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Mr. Guy [1876]

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. [1904], [1912]

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (leased)

Ansells Ltd. [1959]

LICENSEES

Nancy Bailey [1818]

Joseph Spittle [1822]

James Bayley [1828] – [1850]

Mrs. Mary Bayley [1851] – **1860**);

James Watson (**1860 – 1867**);

John Middleton (**1867 – 1869**);

Nehemiah Harper (**1869 – [1879]**)

Benjamin Guy [1880]

Rebecca Guy [1881]

Cotterill [1883] – [1885]

Frederick William Kirkham [1891] – **1893**)

John Knock [1892]

Mrs. Martha Jane (Kirkham) Lloyd [c.1898] – [1901]

George H Shave [1904] manager

Thomas Tranter [1908] – [1909] manager

Joseph Horobin [1910]

Thomas Salt [1911] – [1912] manager

Walter Iliff [1916] – [1916]

Joseph Richard Moss [] – **1919**);

Robert Rigby (**1919 – 1920**);

William George France (**1920 – 1923**);

Miriam France (**1923 – 1924**);

Richard Henry Steel (1924 – 1925);
Charles James Udall (1925 – 1927);
William Martin Bradshaw (1927 – 1930);
George William Newbould (1930);
Lionel Ralph Gilbert (1930 – 1931);
Arthur Gifford (1931 – 1932);
Harry Thomas Brooks (1932 – 1936);
Horace George Jarvis (1936 – 1941);
Elsie (Jarvis) Jones (1941 – 1945);
George Rowe (1945 – 1951);
William Stafford Shorthouse (1951 – 1952);
Walter Frederick Meir (1952 – [1961])

NOTES

WAGGON AND HORSES and music hall. [1868], [1870]
WAGGON [1871]

Nancy Bailey was also a maltster. [1818]

Evening Mail 11/8/1819

[In April 1819, Mary Bissaker had been condemned to death, at Warwick Assizes, for traitorously colouring base coin to resemble the current silver coin of the realm, and sentenced to be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution. Her husband had been executed for forgery in April 1800.]

“Joseph Wilkes, Thomas Earp alias Reddall, and John Duffield, stood indicted for having at the parish of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, feloniously and traitorously made and counterfeited a certain piece of coin to the likeness of a shilling.

John Bolton said he was originally a die-sinker, but had not worked at that business for many years. He knew the prisoner Duffield; he met him in March last at the WAGGON AND HORSES, in Darlaston, and proposed to walk in the fields; when they were there he asked him whether he knew Mrs. Bissaker. He answered, ‘Yes.’ Witness then asked him if he would do the same for him as he had done for her. The prisoner said, ‘What’s that?’ Witness replied, ‘Stamp some shillings.’ The prisoner said he would, and asked when he could send any over. Witness said, in a few days he should come to Birmingham, and they agreed to meet at a public house in Livery Street. The prisoner said he would have 6d per score, but witness agreed to give him 3s per gross; witness was to find the blanks and dies. In two or three days witness met Duffield alone at the Three Tuns, Livery Street, Birmingham. He met him again alone at the same place in a few days. Shortly afterwards they met a third time at the same house, when Duffield brought Wilkes with him; and William Bissaker, the son of Mary Bissaker, was there. Witness, Wilkes, and Duffield, met next at the Leopard, in Great Hampton Street, and afterwards at the same place two or three times. They drank together at those places, and paid jointly; there was no work yet ready. About two days after they met near St. Paul’s Chapel. Witness did not then deliver anything to Wilkes; but between that place and the Leopard he gave him a pair of shilling dies, and about 30lb of blanks, silvered, and ready for striking with the impression. Duffield was present, and witness said he had brought the dies and blanks. Duffield told him to give them to Wilkes. A day or two after witness met Wilkes at the Leopard, and received back the 30lb blanks, stamped with the impression on both sides.....

[There were several meetings to exchange blanks and stamped coins. When apprehended Bolton had 1,740 blanks, Earp 1,140 blanks, and Wilkes 2,589 counterfeit shillings.]

The Jury conferred for a short time, and then pronounced a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners. They were afterwards brought up to receive the judgement of the Court, when Mr. Justice Ricardson sentenced them to be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution. The prisoners begged loudly for mercy; and the learned Judge was much affected. It will be seen by the calendar, that Duffield only was left for execution. He has a wife and eight children.”

[Bolton, who chose to give evidence for the Crown, was not charged. Duffield was executed in August 1819; Earp and Wilkes were transported.]

James Bayley = James Bailey

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/5/1834 - Advert

“Freehold Land at Darlaston, and Copyhold Cottages at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Daniel Taylor, at the house of Mr. *James Bayley*, the sign of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, in Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on Wednesday the 28th day of May inst, a five o'clock in the afternoon (by direction of the Devises in trust for sale).....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/10/1837

“Wolverhampton Public Office. Wednesday, October 4, before the Rev. J. Clark.....

Charles Butler of Darlaston, was placed at the bar charged with assaulting Samuel Wilkes, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN. Wilkes appeared to have been severely beaten, both eyes exhibiting as many colours as the rainbow. Butler was ordered to pay the expenses.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/10/1840 - Advert

“Genuine Household Furniture, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, without reserve, on Monday next, the 12th day of October, 1840.

The principal portion of the excellent Household Furniture and Effects, belonging to the Rev. R. H. Kyle, and removed for the convenience of sale to the Large Auction Room, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston.....”

1841 Census

King Street

[1] *James Bayley* (35), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Bayley* (40), born Staffordshire;

[3] Samuel Bayley (15), born Staffordshire;

[4] Joseph Bayley (11), born Staffordshire;

[5] Elizabeth Fox (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[6] Selina Hamson (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Gazette 20/1/1842

“We understand the loyal members of the Darlaston Operative Conservative association intend dining together at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday next, in celebration of the christening of the Prince of Wales.”

George Bayley's omnibus left from here for Birmingham and Wolverhampton. [1845]

James Bayley was also a saddler and harness maker, bridle cutter and maltster. [1845], [1849], [1850]

An inquest was held here in May 1846 – see under BOAT.

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/3/1847

“On Friday and Saturday last, an inquest was held by G. Hincliffe, Esq, coroner, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, on the body of Francis Taylor, who died from the effect of injuries received by a quantity of bricks falling upon him down the shaft of a pit where he had been engaged at work. It appeared in evidence that the accident occurred entirely through the negligence or carelessness of the engineer and banksman, who were employed at the time of the accident in raising a skip-full of bricks from the bottom of the shaft, which, by their mismanagement, capsized, precipitating the contents on the head of the unfortunate deceased, who was standing underneath.

The jury, after a lengthened inquiry, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Benjamin Cooper (bankman), and John Ratcliffe (engineer). The former is in custody, and a warrant has been issued for the apprehension of the latter, who absconded immediately after the accident occurred.”

[At the Staffordshire Assizes, in March 1847, Benjamin Cooper was charged with manslaughter and found guilty. The jury recommended him to mercy, and he was sentenced to two months' hard labour. Further mention of John Ratcliffe has not been found.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/4/1847

“Inquests before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner.....

On Tuesday at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, on the body of Richard Colley, aged 33 years. It appeared that the deceased had been ill for some weeks, and on Saturday, the 3rd inst, he was confined to his bed. On Sunday evening he got up, and went into the garden without either coat or waistcoat upon him. In a short time after he was found lying dead in the garden. Mr. Thornhill, a surgeon, who was called in, stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the body, and found the deceased had been labouring under an attack of chronic inflammation of the lungs, and the sudden exposure to cold had produced congestion of the lungs, from which deceased had died. Verdict accordingly.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/4/1847

“Inquests held before George Hinchliffe, Esq.....

On Wednesday, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, INN, Darlaston, upon the body of Robert Bestwick, aged 28 years. It appeared that the deceased worked in an ironstone pit belonging to Messrs. Addenbrooke, at Rough Hay, Darlaston. On Tuesday last he was employed to hang on the load skips to the chain, to be sent up the shaft. At the bottom of the shaft there is a sump for the water to run into out of the workings, which is covered over with boards. The deceased had a candle at the bottom of the pit, which he had carelessly placed upon the boards over the sump, and it ignited the sulphur there collected, which burnt the deceased, and blew him into the workings. There was no other person in the pit. It was proved on the inquest that the pit was properly ventilated by air ways. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/5/1847

“Inquests before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner.....

On Tuesday, at the WAGGON AD HORSES INN, Darlaston, on the body of Charles Smith, aged 23 years, who was killed on Saturday, the 22nd inst, in one of Messrs. Addenbrooks' pits at Darlaston, in consequence of a quantity of coal and stone falling upon him. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 26/6/1847 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Buildings and Building Land, at Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, By J. Hammond, at the House of Mr. *James Bailey*, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 12th day of July next at Six o'clock in the afternoon (if not previously sold by Private Contract).....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/3/1849

“At the Wolverhampton Public Office, on Friday last, the information preferred by the Officers of Excise, on Wednesday, the 7th instant, against Mr. *James Bailey*, maltster, of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, came on for hearing before J. Leigh, Esq, J. Tarratt, Esq, and G. B. Thorneycroft, Esq. Mr. Holland appeared for the defendant, and Dr. Bateman, for the Excise.

The information contained no less that six counts alleging in various shapes the surreptitious mixing on the 19th or 20th of February last, of fresh corn with barley in the cistern, and removal of barley from the cistern to the couch, whereby penalties to the amount of £1,100 had been incurred.

The information having been read pro forma Mr. Holland submitted that Dr. Bateman ought to elect upon which counts he proceeded, but the Bench did not consider that the Crown could be thus restricted.

Dr. Bateman then proceeded to open the case for the prosecution. After some preliminary observations, he said that he proposed to lay before the magistrates evidence to show that these penalties were not incurred without the knowledge of the master; but if the act was done by the servant, without the knowledge of his

master, then he presumed that that fact might induce the magistrates to mitigate the penalties. The supervisor went to the premises in the middle of the night for the express purpose of detecting this fraud. Now, why should he do so? He knew no more of this defendant's malthouse than the maltster himself. Whatever knowledge he had of the malthouse was from surveys, which surveys were entered in the books, and every one of those surveys was copied into a specimen paper, by which the master himself might see what was going on in the malthouse. Now the supervisor would tell him it was not in consequence of any suspicion that he went there, but that it was in consequence of certainty – that very last time he was there he had made up his mind to go there on the morning in question. On the former he found that there had been fresh corn added in the cistern in the same way as on the subsequent occasion, and he found that it had been confined to the same portion of the cistern as at his subsequent visit. If that were so, it could not have been an 'experiment.' There was an end of such a defence.

Mr. Holland – The man himself said that he had tried it once before.

On the previous visit of the supervisor the very same thing took place; he found distinctly that fresh corn had been put into the cistern; he put down his stick and he would state to the Bench that, according to the best of his belief, there had been a full half added. Again on the 8th of November the very same, and on the 3rd of November the very same. The supervisor was very anxious to see that he was right on the subject, and for this reason he was determined to put a stop to what he considered to be fraud. If he had not done so he would have been in peril himself, for, from the very books, his superior officer would show that he could discover that the fraud had taken place every time to which he now alluded. On the 8th of November when he took his gauge of the youngest floor he found that an increase of 37 bushels, or 54 per cent; and any maltster would tell the Court that it was quite impossible such an increase could have been found without there had been some fraud. The quantity put in on the 3rd of November was sixty-seven bushels and nine-tenths; when the same floor was examined on the 8th of November, the quantity found there was 105 bushels, making an actual increase of thirty-seven bushels, or fifty-four per cent. Dr. Bateman mentioned several other periods when an increase was found, and observed that this being the case he thought it would hardly be shown that all this could have been done without the knowledge of the defendant. Who received the benefit of all this? If ten or twenty bushels were added to the cistern and were got on to the youngest floor, without payment of a farthing of duty, who go the benefit of it? Surely the master or his son must become acquainted with what was taking place. The act, then, being done by the servant was clearly the act of the master. This was the common law view, but the excise laws were especially founded upon this principle; otherwise it would be impossible that the excise duties could ever be collected. The Judges of the land had decided over and over again that whatever was done by a servant, in the absence of his master, for his master's benefit, even on the spur of the moment was the act of the master. This was laid down in *The Attorney General v Siddon*.

Mr. Leigh expressed an opinion that the case cited did not go quite so far as contended by Dr. Bateman; but Dr. Bateman submitted that the remarks of the Chief Baron fully bore out his (Dr. B's) position.

After some conversation on this point, Dr. Bateman resumed.

There was only one way for a master to escape from responsibility under such circumstance; and that was when a servant, for the purpose of maliciously injuring his master, did some act by which to render him liable to a penalty, and probably gave information to the excise for the purpose of getting penalty from the master. In such a case the law had provided that the servant might be prosecuted, and on a conviction of the servant being produced, then the master might escape from a penalty, but in no other way; he could only escape by doing that which had not been done in this case, and which he believed there was no ground for. Therefore he would now call the witnesses before them, and he thought they would have no difficulty in convicting the defendant of the offence with which he was charged.

Mr. W. Coomber stated that he was a supervisor of Excise, and examined the survey books of the defendant's malthouse. About four months ago, he entertained suspicion that something wrong was going on. On the 8th of November he surveyed the malthouse, and found grain in the cistern. It should have been steeped twenty-four hours, but he felt certain that some of it had not been in more than two or three hours. He showed samples to an exciseman named Charles Jones. He gauged a young floor which had been steeped on the 3rd of November, it was then 67 bushels and seven-tenths; on the 8th it was 105 bushels, being an increase of 37 bushels, or 54 per cent. The probable increase would have been 10 or 11 bushels or 18 per cent.

The Bench suggested that it would be better to go at once to the case stated in the information.

The witness then went on to state that on the morning of the 20th of February he waited on the road near the malthouse from between one and two o'clock until after four, to see if there were lights in the malthouse. He took an officer with him to watch the back way, and saw him try the granary door. He could not get in. They went away, but met again about six, when he sent the officer to make a survey, and he brought a sample of the corn with him. He, in consequence, went to the malthouse, and found that fresh grain had been added to the cistern, and that a portion from the cistern had been added to the floor. The witness then stated with some minuteness the different entries and measurements he had made. He sent for Mr. *Bailey*, and informed him of what he had discovered. Mr. *Bailey* said that if it had been done it was without his knowledge. He was quite positive as to the grain being mixed, as some parts were wet and others dry; some of the grain, too, was quite hard. Woolley, the man who was present, said he wished he might drop down dead, if any barley had been removed from the cistern to the couch. The witness then detailed the statement made by Woolley, as reported when he was brought up, charged with wilfully mixing the barley and malt, in order to injure Mr. *Bailey*, his employer. Mr. *Bailey*, the witness stated, did not take an active part in the business. The witness underwent a long cross-examination by Mr. Holland, but without varying the main facts of the case.

John Addison Taylor, an exciseman gave evidence confirming Mr. Coomber's statement as to what occurred on the 20th of February; adding, however, that when he went to survey on that morning, he heard a voice in the malthouse say, 'Hollo, Taylor,' which he inferred was the voice of Samuel Taylor, one of the sons of the defendant. He did not, however, when he got in find him on the premises.

Mr. Charles Jones, an excise officer, and Mr. Shacklock, collector of excise duties, examined six specimens of barley, and gave their opinion as to the various periods they had been wetted.

Dr. Bateman having said that Mr. Shacklock's evidence closed his case, Mr. Leigh said, 'We are under the impression that it will be very difficult to come to a conclusion; we are a good deal under the impression that Mr. *Bailey* was not cognisant of what was going forward. As to his servant here can be no doubt; he has admitted it. It is a question whether he is responsible for his servant; and whether his sons may not have known of it; Mr. Coomber, on the occasion, intimated as much. Then as to his sons, assuming their knowledge, is Mr. *Bailey* responsible for the fraud? We have been thinking of an arrangement that might relieve us from the difficulty – whether it would be consistent with your duty, and with Mr. Holland's duty to his client to withdraw the information on payment of £25.'

Dr. Bateman said he was not at liberty to settle for £25.

After some further conversation the Bench suggested an increase of the amount to £40.

Dr. Bateman said he could not accede to this.

Mr. Leigh remarked that he might possibly find the Bench divided and obtain no decision at all.

Dr. Bateman intimated that he could not take a less penalty than £100.

Mr. Holland said he fell in with the suggestion of the Bench.

Dr. Bateman still refusing to accept £40 the Bench decided upon convicting upon one count only, and reducing the penalty (£100) to the lowest amount, namely, £25.

Dr. Bateman gave notice of his intention to appeal, and prepared the necessary papers, intimidating however his inclination to accept £40 in addition to the barley seized, which had become forfeited by the conviction.

Mr. *Bailey*, who appeared in a very ill state of health, then offered to pay £40 and prevent further proceedings.

The offer was agreed to, and a conviction taken on the third count for the mitigated penalty of £40.

Mr. Leigh observed, in the course of the conversation that took place, that the Bench were unanimously of opinion that Mr. *Bailey* had not in any way any knowledge of the fact; and, adverting to the notice of appeal, said they hoped the Excise would not increase any expense to Mr. *Bailey* arising from the misconduct of others.

Mr. Thorneycroft said he could not for a moment attach a suspicion of guilt to Mr. *Bailey*. It was quite clear he had no knowledge of the matter; if they thought he had the slightest knowledge they would have come to a different conclusion.

The hearing of the case occupied about four hours and a half."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/8/1849 - Advert

"Land, Mines, and Messuages, in Darlaston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. H. Farrington, at Mr. *James Bailey's*, the WAGGON AND HORSE INN, Darlaston aforesaid, on Monday, the third day of September next, at five o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Birmingham Journal 29/6/1850 - Died

“On Wednesday, at Darlaston, very suddenly, aged 48, Mr. *James Bayley*, whose loss will be long and deeply felt by his family and numerous friends, by whom he was dearly and sincerely respected.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/2/1851

“A crowded meeting was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Darlaston, on Tuesday evening last, to adopt measures for the suppression of the truck system.....”

Mary Bayley = Mary Bailey

1851 Census

King Street

[1] *Mary Bayley* (49), widow, licensed victualler and maltster, born Wednesbury;

[2] Samuel Bayley (25), son, maltster, born Darlaston;

[3] Joseph Bayley (21), son, saddler, born Darlaston;

[4] John Bayley (18), son, mine agent, born Darlaston;

[5] Emma Thomas (19), house servant, born Wednesbury;

[6] Joseph Emery (52), malting servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“On Wednesday, the annual special sessions for renewal of licenses was held.....

The renewal of the old licenses, 219 in number, were granted, with the following exceptions, without remark.....

Mary Bailey, Darlaston, cautioned.....

Those cautioned had that remark written on the back of their license.”

Mary Bayley was also a maltster. [1854]

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

Many of the shops and houses were brilliantly illuminated.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off during the course of the night two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Mr. Slater, of the CASTLE INN, illuminated, and Mrs. *Bayley*, of the WAGGON INN, had some fine transparencies in her windows. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order.”

Hereford Times 3/5/1856 - Advert

“Wanted, a young man as Ostler and Brewer, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/11/1856 - Advert

“Darlaston. Desirable Freehold Property.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Ashcroft, on Thursday, the 27th day of November, 1856, at the house of Widow *Bayley*, in Darlaston, known as the sign of the WAGGON AND HORSES, at five o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/8/1860

“The Vacant Coronership for South Staffordshire.

There is every appearance of a sharp contest for the coronership of the southern division of the county, rendered vacant by the melancholy death of Mr. G. H. Hinchliffe. At first there were three candidates in the field, but Mr. R. Caddick having retired in favour of Mr. E. Hooper, several meetings of that gentleman's friends, as well as those of Mr. Jackson, have been held during the week.....

Mr. Jackson's friends also held a meeting the same evening at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Darlaston, at which there was a numerous attendance. Mr. J. W. Green occupied the chair, and dwelt upon the eminent qualifications which he considered Mr. Jackson to possess for the office he sought to fill. Mr. Jackson then addressed the meeting at considerable length, stating that he believed he was fully qualified to perform all the duties of Coroner, and if elected they might depend upon it he would do all in his power to discharge the functions of the office faithfully and efficiently.

On the motion of Mr. C. Green, seconded by Mr. C. Walton, the meeting agreed to endorse Mr. Jackson's claims and pledged itself to support his election.

Mr. H. Duignan, of Walsall, called attention to the various features in the contest, and urged several reasons why Mr. Hooper was not deserving of the confidence of the freeholders.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings."

[Edwin Hooper, Deputy Coroner, was elected.]

1861 Census

King Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

[1] *James Watson* (39), innkeeper and gun lock maker, born Darlaston;

[2] *Charlotte Watson* (37), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *John Watson* (17), son, pupil teacher, born Darlaston;

[4] *Charles Watson* (15), son, solicitor's general clerk, born Darlaston;

[5] *James Watson* (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Mary Ann Barmer* (24), relation, house servant, born Darlaston;

[7] *Sarah Winsper* (21), house servant, born Darlaston:

James Watson was also a gunlock maker. [1864], [1865]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/9/1864 - Advert

"Maltster. Wanted, a good steady Maltster and Brewer; small Malthouse. Good character required. Apply, WAGON AND HORSES, Darlaston."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1867

"Yesterday, Mr. W. H. Phillips (for Mr. Hooper) held an enquiry at the OLD PARK INN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, touching the death of Thomas Bayley, a scrap dealer, whose lifeless body was found by the road-side, near Messrs. Lloyd's, Kings Hill Works, early on Tuesday morning last. Mr. H. Jackson attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of the friends of the deceased, and it was shown that, when found, the body was minus hat and coat, and that no money was in the pockets of the garments remaining on the corpse. The enquiry was then adjourned until Tuesday next, to allow of a post mortem examination being made."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/9/1867

"On Tuesday Mr. W. H. Philips, deputy coroner, resumed an inquiry at the OLD PARK TAVERN, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Thomas Bayley, who had been found dead in the Darlaston road during the night of the 26th inst, without coat, vest, or hat, and with his pockets empty.

Lucy Penrice, beerhouse keeper, Darlaston, said the deceased was well known to her. On the Monday in question he was at her house about two hours, leaving at eleven o'clock. He had two or three pints of ale. She noticed that he frequently went in and out of the house, as if there was something wrong. She saw in his possession a half-sovereign and a half-crown.

Mr. C. W. Iliffe, surgeon, who had examined the deceased about an hour after death, said he noticed an old rupture on his right side. On Friday he made a post mortem examination of the body. There were marks on the left arm, as if the deceased had been held there, and there was a bruise on the left shoulder. There were

no marks on the head. The brain and lungs were much congested. He considered that death resulted from apoplexy, the result of natural causes. The marks on the arm, he believed, were received previous to death. The Coroner: If the deceased had been in his usual health, though tipsy, and his death had been occasioned by his being attacked and robbed, do you think you would have found greater marks of violence? – Witness: I think so.

By a Juror: Witness was inclined to think that drinking was the cause of the apoplexy.

The Coroner here remarked that there must be some direct evidence of violence before the jury could return any verdict but that the man died from natural causes. The fact of the deceased being robbed was most extraordinary.

A juryman thought it was probable that deceased had himself thrown off his coat.

The Coroner said that even if they assumed the deceased had thrown away his coat they could hardly suppose he removed his money.

Sergeant Steele said he had some information as to the disposal of a coat corresponding to the one worn by the deceased. He then called John Stych and Edward Humpage, two miners, who spoke to the deceased having accompanied them and two other companions to the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, on the night in question, and having left the inn, followed by two men referred to.

Ellen Wardman, barmaid at Mr. Perry's, the CASTLE INN, said she knew the deceased, who was in the habit of calling at the CASTLE. She last saw him alive at about half-past eleven o'clock on the night in question, in their liquor vault. He was 'fresh,' but talked sensibly, and was able to take care of himself, she thought. He treated a woman at the time. She saw silver and copper in his hand which amounted to about a sovereign. He left alone. He had called several times during the day, and once she believed Mr. Perry had ordered him out in consequence of a disturbance. She believed that Mr. Perry did not take hold of him.

The Coroner considered that as there was a possibility of obtaining further evidence it would not be well to return a verdict that day. The jury concurred, and the inquest was adjourned until Thursday week."

[At the resumed inquest the coroner considered that the jury could return no other verdict than that 'The deceased was found dead, having died from apoplexy, but that whether it arose from natural causes, excitement, or violence, there was no evidence to show.' The jury returned a verdict to that effect.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/10/1867 - Advert

"Found, a Liver and White Pointer Bitch; spotted.

Apply at the WAGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston.

If not owned in three days, it will be sold."

The Sportsman 7/12/1867

"Jenkins's bitch Kit, of Smethwick, and Archer's dog Bill, of Darlaston, are matched to run 200 yards, for £5 a side, on Thursday, December 26. Mr. *Millington*, WAGON AND HORSES, Darlaston, stakeholder."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/6/1869 - Advert

"Important Unreserved Sale, at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston.

To Publicans, Coopers, Parties Furnishing, Brokers and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, on Monday Next, June 7 (under a Bill of sale).

The Licenses and Possession of the above well-situated Premises, together with the Brewing Vessels, Liquor Shop and Public House Fixtures, comprising English oak Ale Casks, Mash Tub, Copper and Wrought-iron Boilers, Lead Pump, Ale Coolers and Tubs, Malt Crusher, Lead Piping, Stock of Ale, Wines and Liquors, Counter Screens, Shop Fixtures, 5-pull Ale Machine, Tables, Benches, Drainers, Measures, Jugs, Glasses, copper Gas Fittings, Water Piping, Tump of Sussex Hops (1868), Seating and Bearers, capital 10ft Slate-bottom Bagatelle Board, Crockery Ware, &c. The Sale includes the Household Furniture, Feather Beds, Bedsteads, Bed Linen, Chest of Drawers, Sofas, Bookcase, Cupboards, Clocks, mahogany and other Tables, Chimney Glasses, Carpets, Washstands, Dressing Tables, Toilet Glasses, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mr. *John Middleton*.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock punctually.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale, and at the Auctioneer's Office, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.

NB. For further information, and to treat respecting the House, apply to the Auctioneer.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/9/1869

“Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the WAGON AND HORSES, Cramp Hill, Darlaston, on Tuesday, touching the death of Richard Mark, aged 45, a carter, of King Street. At about mid-day on Saturday the deceased was despatched by his employer with a load of stone to Messrs. Hunt’s Chemical Works, at Lea Brook. Some hours later he was found by a man in the employ of Mr. Leyland lying asleep in his cart, near the Old Park Works, and was taken to the house of one of his relatives, where the horse was put in the stable, and Marks was left sleeping in the cart in the yard. A little later still, two boys, playing in the yard, touched the man with a whip, and finding that he did not stir, they spoke to a neighbour named Davis, who went to the cart, and found that Mark was cold. Mr. A. W. Latham, surgeon, was called in, but of course his services were of no avail. The Jury found that death had resulted from excessive drinking, in which the deceased had been indulging on the day of his death.”

1871 Census

King Street – WAGGON INN

- [1] *Nehemiah Harper* (31), victualler (formerly butcher), born Darlaston;
- [2] Harriet Harper (33), wife, born Bonnigal, Staffordshire;
- [3] Mary H. Evans (15), niece, barmaid, born Snowdon, Shropshire;
- [4] Sophia E. Brevitt (16), barmaid, born Enniskillen, Ireland;
- [5] Sarah Ward (26), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/6/1871

“E. Barnsley will run Downen of Darlaston 100 yards, with two yards start, for £5 a side. Money ready at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/1/1876

“At the West Bromwich Police Court yesterday, before the Stipendiary, *Nehemiah Harper*, of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston, was summoned for supplying drink during prohibited hours, with permitting drunkenness, and with supplying a policeman with drink whilst on duty. Evidence in support of the charges was given by two members of the Order of Good Templars. After hearing witnesses for the other side, the Stipendiary said he believed the statements made for the defendant in preference to those of the Good Templar witnesses. The latter he did not look upon with any degree of prejudice; but on this occasion they, with Good Templars eyes, saw too much. The whole of the summonses against the defendant were then dismissed.”

AND

Midland Examiner and Times 15/1/1876

“At the West Bromwich Stipendiary Court, on Monday, before Mr. I. Spooner, *Nehemiah Harper*, of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston, was summoned for supplying drink during prohibited hours, with permitting drunkenness, and with supplying a policeman with drink whilst on duty. Dr. Sebastian Evans (instructed by Mr. Corbett, of Darlaston) appeared for the defendant.

The alleged offence of supplying ale during prohibited hours was taken first.

Samuel Ford (an ironworker, and a member of the I.O.G.T.) stated that on the night of Christmas eve, about fifteen minutes past twelve o’clock, he saw six men and five women leave the defendant’s house, amongst the former being Police-constable O’Brien, who was very drunk. In a few minutes afterwards he saw, through the bar-room window, glasses being filled, but noticed no money being passed. At twenty minutes past twelve o’clock he saw another policeman (Police-constable Starling) come out of the house with four other men.

The Stipendiary: Was Starling drunk?

Witness replied that he was not sober, and added that one of the four men who came out of the house was a Mr. Guy, who was so intoxicated that he had to be carried and placed into his trap, which stood before the defendant’s door. When Mr. Guy got into the trap he fell off his seat, and two men had to get into the trap to put him right. Police-constable Starling held the horses head, and said, ‘Old Mr. Guy’s a jolly good fellow.’

Cross-examined by Dr. Evans, the witness said that although he was a staunch teetotaler, he was not prejudiced against publicans at all. He was equally confident that his watch kept the right time, and that he had made no mistake in this respect. The constable (Starling) followed him and 'bullied' him, and pulled him about.

Dr. Evans: Why did you not inform the police of the constable's conduct? – Witness: I did inform Sergeant Breton, and I understand inquiries are now being made into the officer's conduct.

Dr. Evans: And what is the result?

Mr. Superintendent Holland (who was watching the case on behalf of the police) said that that depended upon the issue of the present summons.

Jeremiah Skidmore (another member of the I.O.G.T.), who was with the last witness, gave corroborative evidence. He added that Ford and himself had been the same evening to a temperance meeting, and in his opinion it was twenty minutes past twelve when the men came out of the defendant's house.

Dr. Evans said the facts that would be elicited in the defence were very simple. On Christmas eve the publicans of Darlaston and the surrounding district were allowed an hour's extension of time. Precisely at five minutes to twelve o'clock Mr. *Harper* went into the bar of his house and told the customers that they must clear out. This they all did, with the single exception of Mr. Guy, who was the owner of the property, and unfortunately suffered very much from asthma. Whilst going along the passage leading from the defendant's house into the street, Mr. Guy was seized with a violent fit of coughing, which lasted about five minutes.

At this time the officer Starling came in, and after ascertaining the condition of Mr. Guy assisted him into his trap. Mr. Guy, who was perfectly sober, then took the reins and drove off. The policeman had nothing whatever to drink, and the house was for all drinking purposes closed at three minutes after twelve, and out of those circumstances the two 'Good Templars,' after indulging in the spiritual dissipation of their meeting – which was the reverse of spirituous dissipation – had chosen to bring a serious, but utterly unfounded charge against the landlord. The fact was, after the meeting in the Temperance Hall, they were ready for any crusade against publicans. It was the old story of the Pharisee and the publican with a slight difference, but in this instance a difference by no means in favour of the Pharisee.

The defendant himself on being called, said that on the evening in question all the customers were out of his house by five minutes to twelve o'clock.

The Stipendiary: If it had been five minutes after twelve o'clock no human being could say that the landlord had done wrong, for time must be allowed to clear a place.

Thomas Jones, a draper's assistant, in a shop situated close to the defendant's house, swore that Mr. *Harper's* house was shut up at twelve, and that he saw Mr. Guy drive away at three minutes after that hour.

Police-constable Starling, after his report to the Chief of Police had been read by the Stipendiary, stated that he was passing by the defendant's house on Christmas eve. It was scarcely twelve o'clock. Mr. Guy, who was coughing very much, was in the passage. The man Ford came up to witness and asked him what time the public houses ought to be closed that night, and he answered at twelve o'clock. It was grossly untrue to say that witness was under the influence of drink, or that he 'bullied' Ford in any way. He was perfectly sober.

The Stipendiary at this point said that he should not hear any more evidence because he believed the statements made for the defendant in preference to those Good Templar witnesses. The latter he did not look upon with any degree of prejudice; but on this occasion they, with Good Templars' eyes, saw too much. The whole of the summonses against the defendant were then dismissed."

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 19/3/1877

"Chesterfield Board of Guardians.

The fortnightly meeting of the members of the above board was held at the Union Workhouse, on Saturday.....

The Relieving Officer (Mr. Haslam) for the Clay Cross district, said that a lad had been brought to him the previous evening by the Clay Cross station-master under the following circumstances. The lad stated that his name was Thomas Foster, that he was 12 years old, and his father, Joseph Foster, was ostler at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Darlaston, Staffordshire. He had been apprenticed to a man at Cudworth named Brown, who was to teach him to play the piano, dance, and play the bones. (Laughter.) He was on his way to Cudworth, but booked to Clay Cross in mistake. On his arrival at the latter place it was found that he had

only 11d in money left, this amount being insufficient to take him forward to his destination. The Guardians thought it was a shame that such an intelligent lad should be brought up to such a course of life, and decided to detain him until the clerk had communicated with his parents.”

Nehemiah Harper – see also GREEN DRAGON, Darlaston.

Benjamin Guy died in the 1st quarter of 1881.

1881 Census

57, King Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

[1] *Rebecca Guy* (62), widow, victualler, born Wombridge, Shropshire;

[2] Elizabeth Kinsey (74), aunt, widow, housekeeper, born Wombridge, Shropshire;

[3] Emma Skitt (14), general servant, born Bilston:

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/2/1883

“The members of the Peabody Lodge, No.537, of the United Order of Free Gardeners, met together to celebrate their anniversary at the WAGGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston, on Tuesday evening. After partaking of an excellent spread served up in good style by Hose *Cotterill*, Mr. Cresswell was voted to the chair, and Mr. T. Derry to the vice-chair.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/1/1884

“A supper took place at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston, on Tuesday last, in connection with the Judge and Jury club held there. The company consisted of members and friends, and a most convivial evening was spent. After a substantial supper, the company were entertained by songs and recitations. The chair was occupied by Mr. Josephus Lilley, ‘Judge,’ and the vice-chair by the ‘Clerk of the court,’ Mr. Thomas Newton. Mr. Cotterill acted as accompanist.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/6/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, at once, good General Servant.

Apply, Mrs. *Cotterill*, WAGGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/8/1885

“On Monday evening, the members of the Peabody Lodge of the National United Order of Free Gardeners, held their anniversary dinner, at their lodge house, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston. An excellent spread was provided by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Cotterill*, and the members, after faring sumptuously, had the cloth removed, and a meeting was held.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1887

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Darlaston, respecting the death of Caroline Wallett, who died from injuries received from an accident on the Bull Stake, Darlaston, on Monday afternoon. Mr. Nose appeared for the Tramway Company, and Mr. W. S. Smith for the relatives of the deceased.

Joseph Wallett, the husband of the deceased, identified the body, and stated that he and his wife were to leave Darlaston at about half-past four o’clock on Monday afternoon. There was a tram standing near the points, and he told his wife to get into the tram, and he would follow her directly. The car immediately started, and he said to the conductor, ‘Is this for Wednesbury?’ and the conductor said, ‘No, Walsall.’ Witness then shouted to the conductor to stop the tram, as his wife wanted to go to Wednesbury, and the conductor rang the bell. He next saw her alight, then stagger, and noticed something catch her dress. He screamed, and ran towards her. The engine drew her under the wheels before it stopped.

Thomas Bates, Alldridge Street, Darlaston Green, said that he saw the deceased about to alight from the car, and he shouted to her not to get out at that end. She jumped and fell on her face, and the car went over her. William Corbett said that he saw the car start, and noticed the woman rush in an excited state down the steps, and then fall to the ground.

James Williams, the conductor, said the deceased got into the car, and sat at the far end. Soon after it started he saw her falling down the step nearest the engine, and immediately rang the bell.

Other evidence to a like effect having been given, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

King Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

[1] *Frederick W. Kirkham* (34), licensed victualler, born Liverpool;

[2] *Martha J. Kirkham* (29), wife, born Barrow, Cheshire;

[3] *Beatrice Kirkham* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Constance Kirkham* (4), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Sophia Fryer* (18), domestic servant, born Brownhills:

Frederick William Kirkham's brother, *Henry Kirkham*, was licensee of the DOG AND PHEASANT.

Martha J. Kirkham (nee Okell) was the sister of *Mary*, wife of *Henry Kirkham*.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George's, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints', another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

Frederick William Kirkham, WAGON AND HORSES, King Street.....

All these were for six days.”

1893 Probate

“*Frederick William Kirkham*, of King Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, licensed victualler, died 12 April 1893. Administration Lichfield 9 May to *Martha Jane Kirkham*, widow. Effects £136.”

Frederick William Kirkham – see also EAGLE, Wolverhampton and UNION TAP HOUSE, Wolverhampton.

Martha Jane Kirkham married *Richard Hubert Lloyd* in the 1st quarter of 1898.

Richard Hubert Lloyd died in the 3rd quarter of 1900.

1901 Census

57, King Street – WAGGON AND HORSES INN

[1] *Martha J. Lloyd* (38), widow, licensed victualler, manager, born Cheshire;

[2] *Beatrice Kirkham* (21), daughter, assistant victualler, born Staffordshire;

[3] *Constance Kirkham* (14), daughter, assistant victualler, born Staffordshire;

[4] *Annie Jackson* (21), domestic servant, born Staffordshire:

Walsall Advertiser 20/3/1909

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. E. C. Keay, and D. Hipkins, *George Yates* (22), brewer, and son of the licensee of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, New Street, Darlaston, was charged with assaulting *Thomas Tranter*, of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, and also with being drunk and refusing to quit the premises. Mr. Sargent (Wednesbury) appeared to prosecute, and Mr. A. J. Glover defended. Mr. Sargent said that at 10.40 on the night of Monday, the 8th inst, defendant entered the house under the influence of drink, and the barman Price refused to serve him. An effort was then made by the defendant to

get drink from Mrs. *Tranter*. At this time the complainant's attention was called to defendant, and Price was requested to ask him to leave. The piano player also asked him to go, but instead of leaving the house, Yates sat himself on the piano stool and commenced thumping the instrument. The complainant then went round the counter with the intention of putting him out, but defendant stood up on the platform on which the piano stood and struck him. Yates was eventually got out of house, but he twice rushed into the place again, and was not got rid of until the police had been summoned. On the following Wednesday evening he went and saw the complainant and expressed his sorrow for what had happened, at the same time intimating that he should have been there earlier, but remembered nothing of the occurrence.

Mr. *Tranter* bore out this statement in evidence, and was cross-examined by Mr. Glover as to whether an effort was not made to withdraw the summons, and whether visits paid to the prosecuting solicitor and to the police by Mrs. *Tranter* were not with this intention. The witness agreed that his wife was willing to withdraw the summons, if it were possible, but he was not.

At the request of the Bench, Mr. Sargent consulted his client as to whether he was now willing to accept the defendant's apology.

Ultimately an agreement was arrived at for the charges to be withdrawn on payment of the costs (£1 19s), which included one guinea for the prosecuting solicitor. Mr. Glover mentioned that he had seven witnesses to call, and a complete answer to the charges. He also made allusion to the defendant's previous good character."

Walsall Advertiser 30/4/1910

"'Cocksey' Lavender, who collapsed in a boxing match recently, was on Tuesday evening removed from the WAGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston, where he has been lying, to an hospital. Dr. Sydney Partridge saw him on Tuesday morning, and thinks he is making progress, though very slowly. He was nursed by his wife and his mother, but as the illness is likely to be a long one it was considered advisable to effect his removal to the Walsall Hospital. The doctor is of the opinion that Lavender's loss against Reece is troubling his mind somewhat. The contest seems to be ever present with him, and during Dr. Partridge's visit on Tuesday, he got out of bed and squared off at an imaginary opponent. Otherwise his conduct and speech were quite rational. Latest enquiries show 'that he is going on as well as can be expected.'"

Walsall Observer 28/5/1910

"At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary (Mr. N. C. E. Neville), *Joseph Horobin*, licensee of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 9th inst, and also with selling ale to a drunken person on the same date. Mr. S. A. Newman (Walsall) defended.

Police-sergeant Hull stated that about 7.10pm on the date in question, in company with Police-sergeant Watson, he visited the WAGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston. He there saw Thomas Withers, chemist, of King Street, Darlaston, sitting on a seat in the bar under the window with his elbow resting on the table. Witness asked Withers to stand up, and when he did so he commenced to walk towards the door. The landlord, who was at the back of the counter, was in a position to see Withers. When witness spoke to the landlord he said Withers had only been in his house about ten minutes, and he had only supplied him with a bottle of stout.

Police-constable Watson and Inspector Cooper gave evidence for the prosecution, and the Rev. T. E. Hamer (rector of Darlaston) spoke to finding the man Withers drunk in the defendant's house at 5.15pm on the 9th inst. The man left the house quietly, and witness took him home.

For the defence, Mr. Newman contended that Withers did not show any signs of drunkenness before the landlord.

The defendant, in his evidence, stated that he supplied Withers with a bottle of stout in the afternoon, and another one at night. When the Rector of Darlaston came into the house he did not say anything about Withers having had too much drink. Further, when the police came in and took Withers away he protested against being taken.

Several witnesses were called for the defence, and stated that the man Withers did not appear to be drunk. The Stipendiary said he had no doubt Withers was drunk, but there was not sufficient evidence to show that the defendant knew it. That summons would be dismissed. However, he considered the charge of selling ale

to a drunken person proved, and for this offence defendant would be fined 10s and costs, in all £1 15s.”

Birmingham Mail 1/2/1911

“At Darlaston annual licensing sessions today, Supt. Salt reported that there was one license to every 167.3 of the population, four licensed houses having been closed during the year owing to the operation of the compensation clauses of the Licensing Act. Only one licensed victualler had been prosecuted, and the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness was 69, against 62 in the previous year.

The Chairman (Mr. F. H. Lloyd) characterised the report as a very gratifying one, but he urged licensees to pay special attention to the suppression of bad language on licensed premises, and said the magistrates were determined to deal in a sever manner with complaints of this description. Mr. A. H. Partridge added that it was a matter for satisfaction that there had been a diminution of drunkenness amongst females.

The Bench renewed all the licenses except those of WAGON AND HORSES INN, Pinfold Street, objected to on the ground of a conviction.”

1911 Census

King Street – WAGON AND HORSES

[1] *Thomas Salt* (47), innkeeper, manager, born Great Bridge;

[2] *Louisa Salt* (52), wife, married 25 years, housekeeper, born London;

[3] *Mary Salt* (21), niece, born Walsall;

[4] *Nellie Gough* (22), servant, born Bradley:

Walter Iliff = *Walter Ileff*

Dudley Chronicle 24/6/1916

“Outing to Himley, and its Sequel.

Walter Ileff (46), licensee of the WAGON AND HORSES, Darlaston; *William Cottrill* (29), 4, School Street, Darlaston; *Arthur Roberts* (23), 11, Alma Street, Darlaston; *George Davies* (35), Moxley Road, Darlaston; *Richard Stanfield*, 5, Bush Street, Darlaston; *Thomas Mills* (30), 58, Moxley Road, Darlaston; *Alf Fellows* (25), 40, Bell Street, Darlaston; and *William Giles* (26), 19, Church Street, Moxley; were charged with playing at a game of chance called pitch and toss, in a public highway at Wall Heath on June 4th. Mr. Glover, of Wednesbury, appeared for all the defendants.

PC Massey stated that 10.50am on the day in question he saw the whole of the defendants playing at pitch and toss in a public highway leading from Oak Lane to Stallings Lane, Wall Heath. On seeing witness defendants ran away, but *Ileff* turned back to pick up a bottle. *Ileff* was also the last present to pick up the coins from the floor. Witness caught him and told him he had been gambling. The defendant *Ileff* said he and the others came as a party to the Siden House, and witness told him he should have to take him there to see if it were correct. Witness met the other defendants, and after getting their names and addresses told them they would be reported for playing pitch and toss. None denied it. Defendants then went away.

In reply to questions by Superintendent Johnson, witness said the party came by brake. He had them under observation for about five minutes, and was quite satisfied they were gambling. One of them shouted, ‘Look up, the policeman’s coming;’ otherwise they would have been too interested to have noticed him until he was on them. When he was serving the summons the defendant *Giles* remarked, ‘I suppose we shall get out by paying.’

By Mr. Glover: He was not vindictive in the matter. It was true there had been many cases of gambling in the district, and the police were trying to put it down. It was the general thing when serving the summonses to ask if a man had been previously convicted. He learned that neither had anything against them. They did not tell him at the time, and he did not hear till later, that they had been settling up the money for the drive and the provisions they had. It was not correct that some of the coins dropped on the floor when the men were settling up their shares. He saw them pitch the coins in the air.

Each of the defendants gave evidence to the effect that they were not playing at the game mentioned or gambling in any shape or form. The money given to *Ileff* was towards the cost of the outing.

Defendants were each fined £1 or 11 days in default.”

Walter Iliff – see also GRAPES, High Street, Wednesbury; SPREAD EAGLE, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton; and BRITANNIA, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton.

1919 Probate

“*Joseph Richard Moss*, of WAGGON AND HORSES, 57 King Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 2 October 1919. Administration Lichfield 28 November to Ellen Moss, widow. Effects £795 19s 4d.”

South Staffordshire Times 29/10/1921

“Arthur Handley (29), of Old Union Street, Wednesbury, was summoned on three counts, the first being drunk on licensed premises at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Darlaston; secondly with assaulting PC Thorpe; and thirdly with doing damage to a copper urn at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston.

Mr. Darby (Sharpe and Darby) prosecuted and opened the case, and, instructed by the Hope [sic] Brewery Company, took the last case first. Defendant entered the CASTLE HOTEL, last Saturday night, and asked for beer, and being drunk was refused by the landlord. He then damaged a copper urn, and the damage was 20s. The defendant left the CASTLE HOTEL and entered the WAGGON AND HORSES and was charged with being drunk on those licensed premises, and he was also charged with assaulting PC Thorpe.

Mr. R. A. Tench appeared for the owners of the WAGGON AND HORSES, and also for the landlady, who refused defendant any drink.

PC Thorpe said at 7.30pm last Saturday night, he went to the CASTLE HOTEL, and saw the copper urn (produced), which was damaged. He went to search for the defendant, and found him in the WAGGON AND HORSES, in King Street, where he was being refused a drink. He got defendant outside, and to the Police Station, and also on the way the defendant kicked him, and also PC Webb, tore witnesses clothes, and acted like a madman. It took three officers to hold him down, and his shoes were removed. He also struck witness in the face. Later he charged defendant with damaging the copper urn, the property of the Holt Brewery Co, Birmingham, and he replied that he did not know much about it all.

George Carradine, licensee and manager of the CASTLE HOTEL, bore out the statement given by Mr. Darby. Defendant demanded drink, and when refused he damaged the urn, the cost of such damage being 20s. Defendant, addressing the magistrates, expressed his great regret at what had occurred and apologized to the police officer for the assault. It should not occur again. He had served in the army a considerable time. He added that he was not aware what he was doing at the time. He was now doing a little work each week. The Chairman said defendant would be fined 40s for the offence, and 20s for the damage, or £3 in all, or one month. Time was allowed to pay.”

1923 Probate

“*William George France*, of WAGGON AND HORSES INN, King Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 30 November 1922 at Wallows Lane, Pleck, Walsall. Probate Lichfield 21 July to *Miriam France*, widow. Effects £2,358 12s 1d.”

South Staffordshire Times 6/1/1923

“Darlaston Police Court.....

A few applications for temporary transfers were granted; also the transfer of the WAGGON AND HORSES, from the husband (deceased) to his widow, the Chairman expressing his sympathy with the widow in her bereavement.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 28/2/1925

“Playing in the first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers’ billiards handicap on Thursday, Mr. R. H. Steer (WAGGON AND HORSES HOTEL, Darlaston), who received 130, was defeated by Mr. R. Woodhall, West Bromwich (rec. 70), by 400 to 339.”

Walsall Observer 7/11/1925

“Trouble at a Darlaston public house on Saturday night led to the appearance, at the Darlaston Police Court on Wednesday, of Charles Vernon (42), 10, Blockall, Darlaston, charged with being drunk on licensed premises. Mr. A. J. Glover watched the case on behalf of the owners and licensee concerned.

Police-constable Phillips stated that at 9.25 on Saturday night, October 31, he was called to the WAGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston, and in the bar saw defendant drunk. One of the barmaids asked him to put defendant out, and he arrested him and brought him to Darlaston Police Station. He was very rough on the way and kept threatening to strike him. The licensee, *Charles Udall*, stated that defendant went to his premises at about 8.30 and was then drunk. Witness refused to serve him, and ordered him to leave. He returned twice after being turned out.

Vernon, who pleaded guilty and whose first offence it was, was fined 10s.”

Walsall Observer 10/7/1926

“On Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. *Udall*, WAGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston, entertained about 40 friends to tea to celebrate the coming-of-age and the engagement of their only daughter Lily to Mr. Harry Edwards of ‘Alveley,’ Walsall Road, Darlaston. Miss Udall takes an active part in the work of the Darlaston Junior Primrose League, and is also connected with the Darlaston Choral Society and the Darlaston Committee of the Wolverhampton Royal Orphanage. She is at the present time a teacher under the West Bromwich Education Board at Guns Village Schools, whist her fiancée is the eldest son of the late Mr. H. Edwards of Walsall.”

AND

Walsall Observer 23/4/1927

“A pretty wedding was solemnised at St. Lawrence’s church, Darlaston, on Easter Sunday, when Miss Lily Udall, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *C. J. Udall*, of the WAGGON AND HORSES, King Street, was married to Mr. Frederick Edwards, of ‘Alverly,’ Walsall Road, Darlaston. The bride was a teacher at Guns Village Infants School, West Bromwich, before her family moved to Darlaston two years ago. Miss Udall, who was given away by her father, was daintily dressed in ivory georgette over pink silk and sequin embroidery on net. She wore also a long net veil heavily embroidered with a coronet of orange blossom which complimented a delightful ensemble. Her train was carried by Miss Betty Bowcot and Master Gordon MacConky, both dressed in white, and the latter carrying a cushion for the bride to kneel on..... The ceremony, which was conducted by the Rector of Darlaston (the Rev. J. W. Augur), was followed by a reception at the bride’s parents’ home, where Councillor C. H. Hall proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom.

The numerous wedding gifts included a toilet and trinket set from the staff at the Guns Village Infants School.”

Walsall Observer 3/9/1927

“Councillor *W. M. Bradshaw*, one of the Labour members of the Darlaston Urban Council, has this week become ‘mine host’ of the WAGGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston. Formerly an insurance agent, Councillor *Bradshaw* was granted the temporary transfer of the license from Mr. *James Udall* at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/3/1928

“County Council Nominations Contested Elections.....

Darlaston North *William Martin Bradshaw*, WAGGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston, licensed victualler.”

[The result was Mr. *Bradshaw* (Labour) 1,128; Mr. Peach (Conservative) 1,107.]

Arthur Gifford = Arthur Giffard

Plans were approved for converting the Billiard Room into a Lounge, on 25th August 1937.

1939 Register

King Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

[1] *Horace G. Jarvis*, date of birth 29/9/1891, public house proprietor, married;

[2] *Elsie (Jarvis) (Jones) Walsh*, dob 28/9/1890, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Lola M. (Jarvis) (Ibbotson) (Fry) Bayne*, dob 7/9/1918, clerk, welfare depot, single:

Birmingham Mail 13/11/1940 - Deaths

“*Horace George Jarvis*, beloved husband of Doris [sic], passed peacefully away on November 12, at the WAGON AND HORSES, Darlaston. Cremation Perry Barr, Friday 2.30pm.”

1941 Probate

“*Horace George Jarvis*, of WAGON AND HORSES, 57 King Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 12 November 1940. Administration Birmingham 30 January to *Elsie Jarvis*, widow. Effects £498 4s 11d.”

Elsie Jarvis married *Edmund Jones* on 12th February 1945.

George Rowe = *George Roe*

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘Living in King Street’ by Rhoma Smith (nee Moses)

“.....All the shopkeepers in King Street lived on the premises and it was a happy community. The men used to meet on Sunday lunchtimes in the WAGON AND HORSES pub that was kept by a veteran of World War One. His name was *George Roe*. He used to complain of bad headaches and one day he sneezed and a piece of shrapnel appeared with lots of blood. It had taken nearly twenty years to appear. He had been told it would have been dangerous to operate.”

Walter Frederick Meir was fined £5 and £8 12s 3d special costs, on 8th March 1961, for five cases of allowing under age drinking.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1961

“Three girls and two boys were accused at Darlaston Juvenile Court yesterday of offences involving the purchase of intoxicating liquor on licensed premises. Insp. P. Plumbley said a constable went into the WAGON AND HORSES at Darlaston and saw two boys, aged 13 and 14, with glasses in their hands and two girls, aged 15 and 16, with glasses in front of them. The licensee was called and the outdoor department was cleared. Twenty minutes later the constable returned to the public house with a sergeant, and they were amazed to find another group of young people in the outdoor department. One of these was a sixteen-year-old girl, and there were two other people who would appear before an adult court.

The 16-year-old girl was ordered to pay £2 for buying a shandy on licensed premises for her own consumption, and for buying shandy for consumption by the boys aged 13 and 14. For aiding and abetting the girl to buy shandy for their consumption, the boys were each ordered to pay £1.

The 15-year-old girl was ordered to pay £1 for buying shandy for her own consumption. The other 16-year-old girl was ordered to pay 30s for buying cider for her own consumption and for consumption by a 17-year-old girl.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1961

“A licensee accused of offences involving the purchase and consumption of intoxicating liquor by customers under age told Darlaston magistrates yesterday, ‘I am continually asking youngsters their ages, and some of them are very rude when you ask them.’

Walter Frederick Meir (48), licensee of the WAGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston, pleaded not guilty to eight charges: allowing shandy to be consumed on the premises by boys of 13 and 14 and a girl of 15, allowing cider to be consumed on the premises by two 17-year-old girls and a girl of 16, selling shandy to a girl of 16, and allowing a 13-year-old boy in the bar.

Meir, who was represented by Mr. P. Woolley, was found not guilty of allowing the two girls of 17 and the girl of 16 to consume cider on the premises. He was found guilty of the other five charges and was fined a total of £5 and ordered to pay costs of £8 12s 3d. *Meir* said he asked one of the girls her age and she told him it was 18.”

Brother of *Walter Frederick Meir*, *Wilfred Sanson Meir* – see COURT HOUSE, Sedgley; GREEN DRAG-

ON, Wednesbury; and HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

It was demolished after a tram came off the rails and hit the pub, severely damaging it.
Rebuilt

WHIMSEY

Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Bayley [1828] – [1830]

WHITE DOG

46, Bilston Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

John Duffield
Marinda Haynes
William Stainbridge
Joseph William Whitehouse
Johnson and Phipps Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Duffield [1860] – [1860]
Daniel Harper [1864] – [1866]
James Butler [1871]
Frederick 'Fred' Coxon [1872] – [1886]
William Stambridge [1891] – **1921**);
Marinda Ann Stambridge (**1921 – 1922**);
Joseph William Whitehouse (**1922 – 1923**);
James Fellows (**1923 – 1930**);
Thomas James (**1930 – 1952**);
Edward 'Ted' Perks (**1952 – 1955**);
George Horton (**1955 – 1959**);
Ronald Cook (**1959 – 1960**);
Robert Brown (**1960**);
George Harry Powell (**1960 – 1962**);
George Richard Farnsworth (**1962 – []**):

NOTES

DOG [1871], [1881], [1901]

It had a beerhouse license.

James Duffield, beer retailer, Bilston Street. [1860]

Birmingham Journal 24/3/1860 - Advert

“Freehold Houses, Workshops, and Premises, in Bilston Street, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Enoch Bruerton (by order of the Mortgagee), on Tuesday, the 3rd day of April, 1860, at the GEORGE INN, Church Street, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, at Seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All those Two Messuages or Dwelling Houses, situated in Bilston Street, in Darlaston aforesaid, one whereof is occupied by *James Duffield*, as a Retail Beerhouse, and the other is occupied by John Duffield.

And also a small Dwelling House, situated at the back of the above Houses, and occupied by William Price. And also the Workshops, Yard, and Out-buildings, Spare Land, Well of Water, and other Premises, belonging to and occupied with the same Dwelling Houses.

The Premises have a Carriage Way leading into them from Bilston Street, and are capable of being adapted for extensive manufacturing purposes.

Further particulars may be had of Mr. J. F. Adams, Attorney, or of the Auctioneer, both of Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/7/1866

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

William Stewart, William Price, James Duffield, Israel Duffield, John Duffield, Samuel Duffield, and Alfred Duffield, were charged with unlawfully and riotously assembling together for the purpose of demolishing a wall and taking forcibly possession of a certain piece of land at Darlaston, in the occupation of *Daniel Harper*, on the 23rd April last. Mr. Young conducted the prosecution, and Mr. McMahon appeared for the prisoners.

Daniel Harper, the prosecutor, said that for two years past he had occupied a public house and yard in Bilston Street, Darlaston, as tenant to Mrs. Hayes. On the 16th of April last he built a wall along the boundary of the piece of land or yard. About five o’clock in the morning of the 23rd of May, while he and a labourer named Bevington were in the yard, the prisoners, with a number of others, who were armed with various weapons, and had their pockets filled with stones, came over a wall; and after Stewart had knocked Bevington to the ground senseless, they proceeded, with the aid of a crow-bar, to demolish the wall he had recently built. Bevington had by this time recovered his senses, but he was almost immediately knocked down again by a half-brick striking him on the head. He (witness) was also struck on the back of the head with a plumber’s hammer, which rendered him senseless for some minutes. The prisoners then went away.

Bevington corroborated this evidence. *Harper* was cross-examined as to the ownership of the land, and stated that he had rented the whole of the premises from Mrs. Hayes during the two years he had occupied it. He remembered a County Court case, *Danks v John Duffield*, which was to have been tried about three months ago, and it was true that he and his landlady went as witnesses to endeavour to prove that the land in dispute belonged to Danks. The trial never came off, the County Court having no jurisdiction. He knew that old John Duffield, father of the prisoners of that name, once owned the property.

At the close of the case for the prosecution, Mr. McMahon said that as Mrs. Hayes’s name was on the back of the indictment, and as she was the landlady of the property, he thought she should be called.

Mr. Young, however, refused to put her in the witness box, because, as an action for ejectment would shortly be tried, evidence might be elicited in cross-examination which would affect her interest.

Mr. McMahon in addressing the Jury, said that he could prove that old John Duffield had formerly owned the whole of the premises now occupied by the prosecutor *Harper*; that about six years ago he sold the public house to Mrs. Hayes’s husband, but the yard in question was not included in that purchase; and even up to the present time no one but the said John Duffield had been recognised in the neighbourhood as the owner

of that yard. Duffield had recently sold the land to William Stewart, who had not, he contended, used an unreasonable amount of force in taking possession of the yard.

Mr. McMahon then called William Ward Wilkes, colliery agent; Josiah Gough, bolt-forged; and Eliza Cooper, whose evidence bore out his statement with regard to Duffield's right to the property. Their evidence also tended to show that the prisoners were first assaulted by *Harper* and Bevington, the former striking one of the Duffields over the head with a besom-stale, which was broken by the blow, and the latter being armed with a pikel.

At this stage of the case a conversation took place between the Assistant-Chairman and the learned Counsel on both sides, which resulted in Mr. McMahon stating he would leave his clients in the hands of the Court. The Assistant-Chairman then directed the Jury to find the prisoners guilty; and addressing the prisoners, said it was a pity to see so many respectable young men placed in their position, but that, considering all the circumstances of the case, he thought the demands of justice would be met by their paying a fine of £1 each, and entering into their own recognisances of £20 each to keep the peace towards all her Majesty's subjects for six months."

1871 Census

Bilston Street – DOG

[1] *James Butler* (43), screw maker and beershop, born Darlaston;

[2] *Hannah Butler* (36), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *John T. Butler* (18), son, screw maker, born Darlaston;

[4] *Sarah A. Butler* (13), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *William A. Butler* (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] *Annie N. Butler* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;

[7] *Martha Foster* (12), visitor, born Penkridge:

James Butler – see also VINE, Station Street.

Frederick Coxon = Frederick Coxson

Frederick Coxon, beer retailer, Bilston Street. [1872]

Frederick Coxon, beer retailer and builder, Bilston Street. [1880]

1881 Census

46, Bilston Street – DOG

[1] *Frederick Coxon* (45), master carpenter, born Willenhall;

[2] *Ann Coxon* (45), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Frederick Coxon* (19), son, carpenter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Elizabeth Coxon* (15), daughter, pupil teacher, born Darlaston;

[5] *Leah Coxon* (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] *Ann Coxon* (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] *Albert Coxon* (7), son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Evening Express 29/7/1881

"The first dinner of the Earl of Beaconsfield Lodge (1346) of the National United Order of Free Gardeners was held at Bro. *F. Coxson*'s, the DOG INN, Bilston Street, Darlaston, on Monday. By the invitation of the members Mr. S. Foster, of Darlaston, was present. Bro. Job Horton presided. Bro. G. Morgan occupied the vice-chair....."

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/3/1886

"The brothers of the Beaconsfield Lodge of the National United Order of Free Gardeners held their annual dinner on Saturday, at their lodge-house, the WHITE DOG INN, Darlaston.....

The room was tastefully adorned with flowers, evergreens, and mottoes. After partaking of the sumptuous repast provided by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Fred Coxon*, a social meeting was held, presided over

by Mr. Wilson Lloyd, MP Mr. Lloyd presented Brother *Frederick Coxon* with an Emblem of the Order for services rendered as treasurer to the lodge. Mr. *Coxon* very felicitously thanked Mr. Lloyd and the members. Mr. Lloyd also presented Brother Richard Griffiths with a Past Master's certificate. Brother Griffiths suitably responded. The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks."

1891 Census

46, Bilston Street – WHITE DOG INN

- [1] *William Stambridge* (41), steam engine fitter and publican, born Heath and Reach, Bedfordshire;
- [2] *Martha Stambridge* (41), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William J. Stambridge* (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Marinda A. Stambridge* (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Agnes Aston* (19), visitor, born West Bromwich:

Walsall Observer 2/6/1900

"Free Gardeners' Dinner. The annual dinner took place of the Earl of Beaconsfield Lodge, No.1346, at the lodge house (the WHITE DOG INN, Bilston Street) on Saturday. After dinner, Bro. E. Cresswell (district secretary) was elected to the chair, and Bro. A. Aston to the vice-chair....."

Wednesbury Leader 6/4/1901

"National United Order of Free Gardeners. Darlaston and Willenhall District.

The annual dinner of the Earl of Beaconsfield Lodge, No.1346, took place on Saturday evening at the Lodge House, the WHITE DOG INN, Bilston Street, Darlaston. After dinner Bro. Ben Page was voted to the chair, and Bro. John Spink jun. to the vice-chair. A capital programme of songs, etc, was gone through by members and friends."

1901 Census

46, Bilston Street – DOG INN

- [1] *William Stambridge* (51), engine fitter, born Heath and Reach, Bedfordshire;
- [2] *Martha Stambridge* (51), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Job Stambridge* (18), son, school teacher, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Marinda Annie Stambridge* (16), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Arthur Haynes* (38), brother-in-law, brewer, born Darlaston:

Tipton Herald 4/4/1903

"The annual dinner of the Earl of Beaconsfield Lodge (No.1346), Darlaston and Willenhall District NUOFG, took place at the Lodge house, the WHITE DOG INN, Bilston Street, Darlaston. Bro. Ben Page, PM, was elected to the chair, and Bro. Thomas Clay to the vice-chair....."

Walsall Observer 26/3/1910

"The annual dinner in connection with the National United Order of Free Gardeners Friendly Society, Lodge No.1346, was held on Saturday at the WHITE DOG INN, Bilston Street, Darlaston, where a considerable number of members and friends attended. After dinner Bro. Samuel Button (lodge trustee) was elected chairman, and Bro. B. Page (lodge trustee) vice-chairman. Bro. J. Spink, jun. (Past District Master), in the course of a short address, spoke of the progress of the lodge, which was very satisfactory, they having made a profit on the year of £22 3s 5½d. The total funds for the year amounted to £226 1s 3d. A capital musical programme was gone through, Bros. J. Spink, B. Page, jun., J. Hale, M. Hale, H. Dunton, A. Manning, and F. Ronchitti (humourist) contributing."

1911 Census

46, Bilston Street

- [1] *William Stambridge* (61), engine fitter, born Bedford;
- [2] *Martha Stambridge* (61), wife, married 29 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Job Stambridge* (28), son, elementary school teacher, born Darlaston;

[4] *Marinda Annie Stambridge* (26), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] Arthur Haynes (48), brother-in-law, working brewer, born Darlaston:

Martha Stambridge died in the 3rd quarter of 1919.

1921 Probate

“*William Stambridge*, of 46 Bilston Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 7 October 1921. Probate Lichfield 1 December to William Job Stambridge, schoolmaster, and *Marinda Anne Stambridge*, spinster. Effects £2,762 1s 9d.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/1/1930

“County Quarter Sessions.....

The report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1929 stated that 14 licenses were referred from eight divisions and boroughs in the county. The committee decided to proceed upon all such cases, with the exception of the BLACK HORSE, Tipton (Tipton Division) and the VICTORIA INN, Darlaston, and the WHITE DOG, Darlaston (Wednesbury Division).”

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

“‘I would sooner hear of five men being convicted of drunkenness than one woman,’ said Alderman C. W. D. Joynson, presiding on Wednesday morning at Darlaston Brewster Sessions, when it was reported that no female had been convicted in the district for that offence during the past twelve months. The number of convictions for drunkenness increased from nine, in 1929, to thirteen last year, the lowest recorded being eight in 1928. The highest total in the last ten years was seventeen in 1921.

The police intimated that they should object to the renewal of the MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross, and the WHITE DOG, Bilston Street, on the grounds of redundancy. All other licenses were renewed with the exception of the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street, the WHY NOT, St. George’s Street, which were objected to because of alleged defective sanitary arrangements, and the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Pinfold Street, which was objected to on the ground that the premises had been ill-conducted. These licenses were referred for consideration on the adjourned day, March 4.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 4th March 1931.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1931

“At Darlaston adjourned Licensing Sessions yesterday, the license of the WHITE DOG, Bilston Street, was referred for compensation, and that of the MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross, was renewed.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/5/1931

“The Licensing (Consolidation Act) 1910. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1901, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday, the 27th day of July, 1931, at 11 o’clock am.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation Act) 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

List of Licensed Premises.....

WHITE DOG, Darlaston. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licensee, *Thomas James*.”

The license was renewed on 27th July 1931.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1931

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire Compensation Authority was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Monday, Mr. T. B. Adams (chairman) presiding. Ten cases had been referred to the Authority by the Licens-

ing Justices below, and in three of these applications were successfully made for the renewal of the licenses.....

Application was made by Mr. A. W. Dallow for the renewal of the WHITE DOG, a Darlaston beerhouse. Police Inspector J. Heath stated that there were 21 fully-licensed houses, 19 beerhouse on, and one beerhouse off within an area of 500 yards. In reply to Mr. Dallow, witness agreed that from a structural point of view the house was satisfactory, and that within a radius of 150 yards there were only three licensed houses. Witness added that he had ascertained that the present trade of the house was 3½ barrels and 3½ dozen bottles per week.

The application for the renewal of the license was granted.”

It was rebuilt in 1935.

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘The WHITE DOG Bilston Street’ by Mrs. Thelma Palmer

“The WHITE DOG was owned by Johnson and Phipps brewery of Wolverhampton.

Tom and *Annie James* (my grandparents) became the licensees in the early 1920s.

The WHITE DOG was a typical working men’s local although it was well supported by friends from all areas of Darlaston.

In 1935 the brewery owners acquired the land adjacent to the pub and practically rebuilt it. The smoke room was extended and a new outdoor was added plus a new bar which was huge compared to the old one. New leather upholstered seating was fitted throughout, and tables and stools of oak made it all very welcoming, as did the huge open fires.

There was also a club room upstairs which was used for various functions as well as the home team’s darts matches.

Every Sunday lunchtime there were free sandwiches for all, usually cheese and Spanish onions, which always went down well with a pint of *Tommy’s* best.

Granddad always organized a Sunday morning trip with a full breakfast for the men, and gran used to take the ladies on an evening and supper trip. Sadly all of these good times had to end when the war started and rationing began. My grandparents carried on through the war years and finally retired in 1953 when they were in their eighties. The new licensee was *Ted Perks* who some years earlier had been manager of the FRYING PAN.”

1939 Register

Bilston Street – WHITE DOG

[1] *Thomas James*, date of birth 23/10/1873, publican, married;

[2] *Annie James*, dob 6/1/1868, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Edward Perks – see also BRADFORD ARMS.

It closed c.1965.

Demolished

WHITE HORSE

25, Wolverhampton Lane, (Wolverhampton Street), Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Butler [1846] – [1856]
W Jeavons [] – **1857**;
Henry Howle (**1857** – []
Joseph Baggott [1859] – [1861]
Joseph Baker [1878]
Mary Baker [1880] – [1881]
James Charlton (**1889** – []
Frederick Roberts [1891]
Meshach Speke [1891] – [1892]

NOTES

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/12/1846

“*Samuel Butler* was fined 5s and costs, for having his house open after eleven o’clock, at Darlaston, on the 5th inst.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/5/1848

“John Aston, of Tipton; *Samuel Butler*, of Darlaston; and Phoebe Taylor, of Darlaston, were fined; the two former 10s each and costs, and Mrs. Taylor 5s and costs, for having their houses open after the appointed time, on the 21st inst.”

1851 Census

Catherines Cross

- [1] *Samuel Butler* (36), screw maker, born Darlaston;
- [2] Ann Butler (32), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Elizabeth Butler (5), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Emma Woodward (71), visitor, widow, annuitant, born Darlaston;
- [5] James Woodward (41), brother-in-law, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [6] Charles Reeder (16), apprentice gun lock filer, born Solihull;
- [7] Henry Rochill (12), apprentice gun lock filer, born Stafford:

Birmingham Journal 19/6/1852 - Advert

“Catherines Cross, Darlaston. Desirable Freehold Retail Beer House, Building Land, Mines, &c. To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Oates and Perrens, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Monday, June the 28th, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced. All that well-accustomed and substantially-built Retail Beer House, the WHITE HORSE, with the Brew-house, Locksmith’s Shop, and other Appurtenances thereto belonging. Also, a Close of excellent Land, adjoining the same, well adapted for Building purposes, together with the valuable Mines and Minerals under the same, situate at Catherines Cross, in the township of Darlaston, the whole containing an Acre or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of *Samuel Butler*. To view the Property, apply to the Tenant; and for further information to Messrs. Adams and Son, Solicitors, Darlaston; or the Auctioneers, Stourbridge.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“A Special Sessions was held at the Scott Arms, Great Barr, on Wednesday last, to determine with reference to sixty-three new applications for spirit licenses made in the division.
Samuel Butler, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, supported by applicant, not opposed Refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/9/1856

“A case came before James Bagnall and Edward Elwell, jun., at the Town Hall, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, involving circumstances of a very painful and very mysterious character. Joseph Swift was committed for

trial on the previous Tuesday for stealing fowls, the property of Mr. *Samuel Butler*, of the WHITE HORSE, Darlaston. A man named George Goodhead was an important witness in the case, and was of course bound over to give evidence at the sessions against the prisoner. On the following Thursday Goodhead was at the house of Swift's sister at Darlaston, and whilst there he was shot through the head and died in a few hours. An inquest was held upon the remains of the unfortunate man; but all the persons present being relations of the prisoner Swift, no satisfactory account of the circumstances attending this melancholy occurrence could be obtained. As far as they explained the matter it appeared that one of Swift's relatives, Richard Stonier Machin, and a man named Foake, also related to Swift, were in the house with the deceased, when the latter put a cap on the nipple of a gun and handed it to Machin, who acknowledged that he snapped the gun at the deceased, but declared that he was ignorant of its being loaded. The coroner's jury of necessity returned an Open Verdict.

Machin was taken before the magistrates on Tuesday, but as no evidence could be produced he was discharged, Sub-inspector West, of Darlaston, stating that he had entirely failed to obtain evidence to sustain the charge. The magistrates expressed a hope that the police would yet be able to clear up the mystery which surrounds the case, and if it was a wilful act would be able to bring home the crime to the guilty party."

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 18/10/1856

"Staffordshire October Sessions.....

Joseph Swift, 38, puddler, was charged with stealing four fowls, the property of *Samuel Butler*, at Darlaston. Not guilty."

Birmingham Journal 10/1/1857

"Transfer of Licenses.....

WHITE HORSE INN, Darlaston, license transferred to Mr. *Henry Howle*, the previous landlord, Mr. *W. Jeavons*, having died intestate, &c."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/11/1868

"Election News..... On Friday evening a crowded meeting of Mr. Brogden's friends and supporters was held at the Temperance Hall, Darlaston. Mr. J. F. Lloyd, of the Darlaston Steel and Iron Works, occupied the chair, and spoke of Mr. Brogden as a sound and consistent Liberal, and a gentleman in every way qualified to represent the new Black Country borough in Parliament.....

Prior to the above meeting Mr. Brogden and Mr. Belcher addressed a meeting at the WHITE HORSE INN, Catherines Cross, Mr. Smith presiding. A vote of confidence in Mr. Brogden was heartily carried."

Joseph Baggott = Joseph Baggot

Birmingham Daily Post 15/4/1859

"Some time during the night of Tuesday last, some maliciously disposed person or persons entered the house of Mr. *Joseph Baggot*, of Baggots Bridge, Darlaston, a beerhouse keeper, and finding their way to the cellar, turned on the taps of two thirty-six gallon barrels of ale, by which proceeding the whole of the liquor was wasted. Entrance was obtained by means of slipping back a slide which fastened the cellar door, and it is not doubted but that the parties must have been well-acquainted with the premises. Mr. Baggot has his suspicions, and expresses himself quite positive as to who the miscreant is, but declines to take steps for his punishment from humane motives."

1861 Census

Wolverhampton Lane – WHITE HORSE

[1] *Joseph Baggott* (29), charcoal finery and retail brewer, born Sedgley;

[2] *Isabella Baggott* (24), wife, born Hemington, Leicestershire;

[3] *Moses T. Baggott* (3), son, scholar, born Heathfield, Staffordshire;

[4] *Joseph Baggott* (1), son, born Heathfield, Staffordshire;

[5] *Sophia Little* (19), servant, born Heathfield, Staffordshire:

Walsall Observer 6/9/1873

“On Monday afternoon an inquest was held before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the WHITE HORSE INN, Darlaston, touching the death of George Bryant (46), of Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, who was killed at Messrs. Bagnall’s colliery, Willenhall, on Friday week. Deceased, about seven o’clock in the morning, began his work in a ‘heading.’ He had been ‘holeing’ for a little time, when a sudden fall of coal – more than eight tons in weight – fell upon him, and completely covered him. Almost immediately another fall occurred. A miner named Aston, who was at work close by, but who, fortunately, was untouched by the falling coal, heard Bryant groan out, ‘Oh, Lord!’ When extricated in about half an hour after the accident, the poor fellow was found to be quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. Mr. Scott, Government Inspector, attended the enquiry.”

Midland Advertiser 27/4/1878

“Meshack Speake was charged with being drunk on licensed premises.

Police-constable Steel said on the 15th inst, in the Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, he heard the defendant in a public house, belonging to *Joseph Baker*, using bad language. He was also drunk.

Defendant was fined 10s 6d and costs or 14 days’ imprisonment.

He was further charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises, belonging to *Joseph Baker*, landlord of the WHITE HORSE INN.

Mary Ann Baker, daughter of the landlord, said on the 17th inst, the defendant came into the house for some beer which she filled, and he became very abusive.

Defendant made use of foul language to witness, and was ordered to quit the premises which he refused to do.

Cross examined: Defendant was quite sober.

Defendant was fined 20s and costs, or in default one month’s imprisonment, the Stipendiary remarking that it was horrible for a young girl to be insulted in that manner by a sober man.”

Mrs. *Joseph Baker*, WHITE HORSE, Wolverhampton Street. [1880]

1881 Census

25, Wolverhampton Lane – WHITE HORSE

[1] *Mary Baker* (54), widow, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Sarah J. Baker* (27), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Emma J. Baker* (15), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Samuel A. Baker* (10), son, scholar, born Tipton:

Worcestershire Chronicle 11/8/1883 - Advert

“Darlaston. WHITE HORSE, Wolverhampton Lane; Full-license, Free, doing a fair trade. Good yard, stabling, pigstye, &c. Rent low. In-coming £150, or can be reduced to suit purchaser.

Apply as above.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1884 - Advert

“Darlaston. WHITE HORSE, Wolverhampton Lane; full license; free. Low rent. Immediate possession. In-coming low.”

Lichfield Mercury 6/6/1884

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquiry at the WHITE HORSE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, as to the death of Isaac Jones (37), labourer, Darlaston Green, who had been drowned in the canal at Herberts Park. On Monday afternoon the deceased was ordered to take some boats on the Birmingham Canal from Darlaston Green to Herberts Park. At the latter place he was supplied too freely with drink, and soon after fell into the canal. The body was not discovered until the following morning. A verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/1/1885 - Advert

“Free and Full-licensed Public House to Let; rent and incoming very low; the WHITE HORSE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston.

To treat apply, Edward Ellis, auctioneer, 194, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Immediate possession.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/4/1885

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the WHITE HORSE INN, Darlaston, on the bodies of Caroline Carter (18) and Sarah Ann Carter (six months), whose disappearance has already been reported and whose lifeless bodies were found in the canal at the Rough Hay collieries and furnaces on Saturday. Superintendent Holland watched the proceedings on behalf of the police.

Samuel Tranter, father of the deceased woman, said she had been the wife of Joseph Carter, a labourer, for about seventeen months. Since Christmas Carter had only done about one week’s work, the result being that he and his family had been in impoverished condition, and had been supported by witness and others, and had lived at witness’s house. On the 6th instant Carter complained that his mother-in-law had stated that he was too idle to work, and after a dispute between them he told him that he should not remain there. His wife, who was present, said, ‘If he is going, I shall go too,’ and they both left with their child, the deceased woman sitting down with the child on a step close by. Witness went to her and asked her to return to his house, but she refused, remarking, ‘I shall not walk in again; I shall not come until I am carried.’ She then went, with her husband and child, to the house of her father-in-law. In reply to a juryman, he said he did not believe the husband worked when he had the opportunity of doing so.

Joseph Carter, husband of the deceased woman, said that after the dispute with his mother-in-law he and his wife went to his father’s house; but his wife left again, saying she would go to the house of a cousin named Harris, and sleep there. He made no attempt to prevent her, notwithstanding the threat she had made. The next morning he went to Harris’s house, and finding that his wife and child were not there, he communicated with his father-in-law, and they caused the canal and pools in the neighbourhood to be dragged, but without effect. He heard nothing more of his wife and child until about six o’clock on Saturday morning, when a boy came and told him that the body of a baby had been found in the Rough Hay canal. He went there, and recognised the body as that of his child. Afterwards drags were procured, and at about half-past eleven the body of his wife was drawn out of the water. In answer to questions, he said his wife had a child by him before their marriage, but that child died about a month after birth. He had agreed to pay half the rent and cost of firing at his father-in-law’s, but had been unable to do so in consequence of having been out of work, and having earned only one guinea in the last ten weeks.

Selina Tranter gave corroborative evidence, and William Giles, a boy, and Police-constable Beech deposed to the finding of the bodies, which were in a very decomposed condition.

The Coroner having summed up, dwelling on the lamentable features of the case, the jury, after a brief deliberation, returned, in the case of the child, a verdict of Wilful Murder against the mother; and in the case of the mother a verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity, at the same time requesting the Coroner to censure the husband for permitting his wife to leave him after the threat which she had made in consequence of her extreme poverty.

The Coroner complied with the request, telling the husband that he had behaved in a very inhuman manner in not watching his wife, and that it must be a painful reflection to him for the remainder of his life that through his neglect in this respect the lives of his wife and child had in all probability been sacrificed. The husband received the reproof without any manifestation of sorrow or concern.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1891 - Advert

“To Let, WHITE HORSE, Darlaston; old-licensed. Rent £24. In-going £50. Tied to good firm. Immediate possession.

Apply on premises.”

1891 Census

25, Wolverhampton Lane

[1] *Frederick Roberts* (33), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Catherine Roberts* (32), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Frederick Roberts* (10), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

[4] Catherine Roberts (8), daughter, born Sedgley;

[5] John Roberts (5), son, born Bilston;

[6] Ambrose Roberts (4), son, born Sedgley:

Meshach Speke = Meshach Speak

Birmingham Daily Post 11/11/1891

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Meshach Speke*, keeper of the WHITE HORSE INN, Wolverhampton Lane, Darlaston, was summoned for being drunk upon his own premises.

The evidence of Police-constables Elks, Johnson, and Edwards was to the effect that the defendant was drunk in his kitchen, and much of the furniture was broken and lying in confusion about the place.

Mr. W. S. Smith, for the defence, said the house was practically a private house at the time the police entered, the hour being after closing time, and the place having been closed. The explanation of the affair was that the defendant and his wife had been quarrelling, and the latter having gone away the defendant had vented his rage upon the furniture. The Bench imposed a fine of 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Meshach Speak, of the WHITE HORSE TAVERN, Wolverhampton Lane, against whom four convictions were on record, applied for the transfer of his house to Charles Henry Johnson. Refused.”

WHITE LION

47, (36), King Street, (Church Street), (The Fold), DARLASTON

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Enterprise Inns [1990s]

LICENSEES

George Green [1808] – [1819]

Charles Green [1822] – [1834]

Herbert Wilkinson [1835] – [1837]

Paul Jones [1837] – [1839]

Richard Fiskin (1839 – [1841]

Paul Jones [1844] – [1854]

John Burford [1855] – [1856]

Thomas Jones [1860] – 1862);

Job Stanway* (1862 – [1863]

John Stanway* [1864]

Job Stanway* [1865] – 1867);

John Middleton (1867 – []

William Taylor [1868] – 1872);

Thomas Whitmore Perry (1872 – []

George Perry [1873] – 1882);

William M Cliff (1882 – 1884)

James Watts [1885] – [1887]
Joseph Yates [1889] – [1899]
William T Baker [1901] – [1904]
John Wood [1908] – 1922);
Edward Henry ‘Harry’ Tomlinson (1922 – 1925);
Leonard Brown (1925 – 1926);
John Thomas Vickers (1926 – 1930);
George Holloway (1930);
George Alfred Merrall (1930 – 1932);
George Allen (1932 – 1934);
Charles Edward Craddock ‘Charlie’ Nicholls (1934 – 1955);
Herbert Fitton (1955 – 1961);
Leo Plumb (1961 – 1966);
Ivy Nicholls (1966 – [1967]

NOTES

Church Street [1828], [1830], [1841]
36, King Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]
47, King Street [1976], [1983], [1990]

WHITE LION HOTEL [1892], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1921], [1940]

Commercial inn [1835], [1841], [1842], [1845], [1849], [1850], [1851]

Grade II listed.

The malthouse at the rear was used as a drill hall for the Darlaston Volunteers.

‘Stories of Darlaston’

‘The Bull Stake and Town Centre’ by Alan Pitcher, JP

“Lying back some twenty yards from the road was the WHITE LION public house, a very old building with a bowling green to the rear. I am told that before the new Town Hall was built and opened in 1888 that there was a building to the rear which was used as a drill hall and also used by the local board as a council chamber. The fold to the front was often used to hold trading stalls.”

The ‘Wednesbury Mob’ stopped here for refreshment in 1743 whilst trying to find a magistrate who would prevent John Wesley from preaching in the town.

The coach to Birmingham ran from here. [1818]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 8/8/1808 - Advert

“Freehold Buildings and Land, Darlaston and Moxley, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction at the House of *George Green*, the Sign of the WHITE LION, in Darlaston.....”

George Green was also a maltster. [1818]

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/6/1819

“To Page Taylor’s Creditors.

The Creditors of Page Taylor, late of Darlaston, near Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, Gunlock-forger, who hath lately been discharged from the gaol of the said county of Stafford, under the statute made for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, are requested to meet the Assignee of his Estate and Effects, at the

house of Mr. *George Green*, the WHITE LION INN, situate in Darlaston aforesaid, on Friday the second day of July next, at six o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of appointing a proper time and place for the sale of the said Insolvent's Real Estate.

J. M. Blagg, Solicitor to the Assignee.

Cheadle, 22nd June, 1819."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/5/1825 - Advert

"Freehold Land and valuable Mines at Darlaston. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Corbett, at the WHITE LION INN, in Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on Thursday the 9th day of June next....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/7/1831

"It was stated in our last that an attempt had been made in Birmingham, on the night of Saturday week, to assassinate a young female named Hannah Blythe, by the firing of a pistol as she was walking along the Minories, in company with a young man. The pistol first discharged fortunately missed her, but the contents of the second were driven completely through her neck. Though severely, she does not appear to have been dangerously wounded, and she is now said to be in a fair way of recovery. The assailant in the confusion escaped detection and absconded, and though it was soon ascertained who he was, his retreat remained undiscovered until the evening of Monday, when information was received that a young man answering his description had been found dead in the neighbourhood of Darlaston, evidently destroyed by his own hand. Persons were immediately dispatched to the spot, and the body was clearly identified.

On enquiry, it appeared that he proceeded, after the attempt, to the vicinity of Bilston, where he remained the whole of the Sunday, evidently in a very distressed state of mind; and that towards the evening he left the public house in which he had been staying, and was found on the following morning partially immersed in the canal, having it would seem first wounded himself in the head by a pistol ball, and afterwards thrown himself into the water. The name of the wretched man was Charles Moseley, and on Wednesday an inquest was held on his body at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, before Henry Smith, Esq, Coroner, when after the evidence of several witnesses, including that of Mr. Thornhill, surgeon, who gave his opinion that death was caused by the shot wound and not by drowning, a verdict of Lunacy was returned. The miserable object of this enquiry was a cabinet-maker by trade, resident in Birmingham, and a native of Bromsgrove. It appears that he had for some time paid his addresses to Hannah Blythe, and jealousy seems to have been the cause of the murderous attempt upon her."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/3/1832 - Advert

"Freehold Messuage and Premises, in Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. W. Perkes, at the Dwelling House of *Charles Green*, the WHITE LION INN, in Darlaston, on Friday the 9th day of March, 1832, at five o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lot or lots as shall be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to such conditions as will be then produced....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/3/1834 - Advert

"WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, in the County of Stafford.

The above old established Premises, with the Public Office, Stable, Garden, and other Appurtenances, now occupied by Mr. *Charles Green*, will shortly be Sold or Let. The present is a very favourable opportunity for the employment of a moderate capital to certain advantage, as independently of the business created by a numerous manufacturing population, Meetings of Magistrates, a Court of Requests, and several respectable Benefit Societies are held at the house, which was rebuilt a few years ago, and is replete with every convenience. Possession may be had at Michaelmas next.

If sold, a part of the purchase money will be allowed to remain secured on the property.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Adams, Solicitor, Darlaston."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/8/1834 - Advert

"Advantageous Situation.

WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, nine miles from Birmingham.

To be Sold, or Let yearly or on Lease, the above old established Freehold Premises, now in the occupation of Mr. *Green*, who is retiring from the business. The property is situated in the centre of town, was rebuilt a few years ago, and is replete in every necessary convenience.

The present is a very favourable opportunity for the employment of a moderate capital to great advantage, as, independently of the business created by a numerous manufacturing population, a Court of Requests and several respectable Benefit Societies are held at the house, to which other privileges are attached.

Possession may be had at Michaelmas next.

If sold, a part of the purchase money will be allowed to remain secured on the property.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Adams, Darlaston; Mr. Roderick, Auctioneer, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; Mr. Jesse Wright, Auctioneer, Dudley; Mr. Farrington, Auctioneer, Walsall; and Mr. Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/12/1836

“An inquest was held at Darlaston, on Thursday last, before H. Smith, Esq, coroner, on the body of Thomas Platt. The deceased, it appears, was at the WHITE LION INN, late on Saturday night, and a quarrel having arisen between him and a person named Richard Benton, the deceased received some severe blows, which produced violent inflammation of the bowels, and caused his death the following Tuesday. Mr. Thornhill, in the presence of the coroner and several medical gentlemen, made a post mortem examination of the body, and the jury having heard his evidence, as well as that of the other witnesses, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Benton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/3/1837

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

Richard Benton was placed at the bar, charged with killing and slaying Thomas Platt, on the 13th of December last, at Darlaston. Mr. Corbett and Mrs. Greaves appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Godson defended the prisoner.

Mr. Godson suggested that the case might possibly be much shortened by first examining the surgeon as to the cause of death; because, if that should appear doubtful, he apprehended his Lordship would direct an acquittal.

Mr. Corbett assented; and therefore, the first witness called in support of the prosecution was Mr. Charles Thornhill, a surgeon, residing at Darlaston. He stated that on Thursday, the 15th of December last, he was called into the workhouse at Darlaston, to view the body of the deceased, who had died on the Tuesday preceding. He found several severe external contusions in the region of the abdomen, which had produced hernia, and on examining the part internally he perceived that a considerable portion of the caul had been forced into the hernia. He examined the membrane which lined the abdomen, and found it much inflamed, and it exhibited an appearance corresponding in size with the external bruises. The heart was in a healthy state. He next examined the head, and found the membrane that covers the brain turgid and bloody, but the brain apparently healthy. He attributed the death of the deceased to severe inflammation of the bowels, arising from extreme external violence. He did not think a kick on the scrotum would occasion hernia, but hernia might be occasioned by a kick or violent blows in the abdomen. He could not say when the inflammation commenced; it might be between the time when the deceased received the injury and the day on which he made the post mortem examination. The case then proceeded.

John Price servant to Mr. *Paul Jones*, was then examined. He said that he was at the WHITE LION, at Darlaston, on the evening in question. The prisoner Benton and Thomas Platt were there. Platt had some onions in his hat, and the prisoner knocked the hat off his head, by which the onions were scattered about the passage. Platt and Benton fought. He saw Benton kick Platt when he was down.

Thomas Whitehouse also saw the prisoner knock Platt's hat off. Platt was irritated, and prepared to fight Benton. Platt pulled his jacket off; Benton was already stripped. They began to fight in the room; Platt fell, and witness saw Benton kick at him. Platt cried out that Benton had kicked him, and seemed very much hurt. There was a general disturbance.

Mary Corfield, wife of Joseph Corfield, also described the fight. She said she saw the prisoner kick Platt in the lower part of the abdomen. Platt went out of the house, and lay down on the pavement opposite the door for an hour, when he was taken to the witness's house, where he remained until Monday night. He was then

taken to the workhouse, where he died.

This witness was rather sharply cross-examined by Mr. Godson. She positively denied that she was drunk on the night in question; that she drank gin and peppermint or any other liquor with any body. She was at the WHITE LION with her husband, but did not drink anything.

John Todd corroborated the greater part of the statements of the preceding witnesses.

Mr. Dickenson, surgeon, of Darlaston, was summoned to attend Platt, but could not go until twelve o'clock on Monday night. He was suffering from violent inflammation, produced by rupture in the lower part of the abdomen; there was but little tension, but a great deal of pain. Witness applied remedies, but they were ineffectual, and he died between nine and ten o'clock on Tuesday night.

Cross-examined: This injury could have been of above forty-eight hours' or three days' standing at most.

Maria Longmore, of the workhouse, proved the death of Platt at ten o'clock on Tuesday night.

Mr. Godson addressed the Jury on the part of the prisoner. He contended that the case had been strained beyond its proper hearing against the prisoner; and that those who urged this prosecution must be influenced by malicious motives. He commented severely upon the evidence of Mrs. Corfield, and put it to the Jury whether they could convict upon her testimony. The deceased had been the aggressor; and a fight had ensued; but the row was so general, according to the statement of one of the witnesses, and the room so small, that it was impossible to suppose that the prisoner could have been seen to kick the deceased. He hoped the Jury would rescue the prisoner out of the hands of his enemies by a verdict of acquittal.

Joseph Walton was then called to speak to the prisoner's character. He said he was a quiet, peaceable man.

Other witnesses also gave him a good character in that respect.

Mr. Corbett said, as this case had been conducted on the part of his learned friend in an unusual manner, he should claim the right of reply.

Mr. Godson objected; and appealed to the Judge.

His Lordship said Mr. Corbett certainly had the right to speak.

Mr. Godson: Then I shall avail myself of the precedent, and, moreover, I shall call witnesses to facis.

The learned counsel then called William Bowen, who said that on the night in question he saw Mrs. Corfield at the WHITE LION; and that she was very drunk. He saw her drink ale and liquor.

John Turner (alias 'Jack the Nailer') said that Mrs. Corfield drank two half pints of gin and peppermint with him that night; and was very drunk. He also spoke to the row and fight; but said he did not see the prisoner kick the deceased.

Joseph Walton also spoke to the deceased pulling his jacket off, and showing fight. The prisoner did not kick the deceased. He was within a few feet of him, and he should have seen him if he had.

Mr. Corbett (for the prosecution) replied; and animadverted with some warmth upon Mr. Godson's charge of malice. He inquired what malice, and by whom exhibited? By the respectable surgeons who had given evidence on this occasion? By the persons who had the misfortune to be eyewitnesses of this unfortunate transaction? He indignantly disclaimed the imputation. With regard to Mrs. Corfield; if the Jury gave more credit to the prisoner's witnesses than to her, the case was, nevertheless, complete without her evidence; but they must recollect that she humanely took charge of the unfortunate man who was hurt, and at her house he found an asylum when suffering from the severe injury which had been described to them.

The Learned Judge, in summing up, observed upon the necessity of learned counsel engaged in the defence of prisoners putting some restraint upon themselves. However ingenious Mr. Godson's speech, his observations had certainly been stretched far beyond the limits of the facts in this case. His lordship then went over the evidence. Verdict, guilty.

His Lordship observed that the verdict was perfectly satisfactory to his mind. As, however, the prisoner had been in confinement for three months, he should pass a lenient sentence upon him – though he must mark his opinion of this case, death having ensued from a kick and not a blow in fair fighting, by awarding some punishment. The prisoner, however, would himself, he thought, consider the sentence not a severe one. To be imprisoned one week. And (his Lordship to the prisoner), take care that, in any other encounter, if you are compelled to fight, you fight fairly.”

[Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/4/1837 - Advert](#)

[“Valuable Freehold Premises, Darlaston.](#)

[To be Sold by Auction, by Danl. Taylor, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on](#)

Monday the 24th of April inst, at four in the afternoon, subject to conditions (unless previously disposed of by private contract, of which due notice will be given).

The above old established Inn or Public House, known by the name of the WHITE LION, situate in the centre of the town of Darlaston, with the Brewhouse, Stable, Garden, and appurtenances thereto belonging, now occupied by Mr. *Herbert Wilkinson*.

The house was rebuilt a few years ago. The cellars are commodious, and the premises are replete with every convenience.

For further particulars apply to Mr. J. F. Adams, Solicitor, Darlaston, or to the Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/5/1838 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Property at Darlaston, in the county of Stafford.

By R. Adams. To be Sold by Auction (by order of the Mortgagee by virtue of a power of sale), on Friday the 18th day of May inst, at the house of Mr. *Jones*, the WHITE LION INN, in Darlaston aforesaid.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/2/1839 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale of Superior Port and Sherry Wines, meriting the attention of wine merchants, innkeepers, private families, and others.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Adams, on Monday next, the 18th day of February, 1839, by direction of the assignees of a bankrupt, and removed for the mere convenience of sale to a large room at Mr. *Jones's*, the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston.

One hundred dozen of choice Port and Sherry Wines, of superior quality, in lots of two, three, and four dozen each.

The whole of the above wines being positively to be sold without the least reserve, the Auctioneer particularly calls the attention of his friends and the public to this valuable stock, and feels confident that the purchases which may be made will be satisfactory, the whole being of the choicest flavour, and superior to any that ever came under the hammer.

The corks will be drawn and the wine tasted from the bulk at the time of sale.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock am precisely.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/3/1839

“On Monday the 11th instant, being the day fixed to celebrate the coming of age of Mr. Thomas Jones, WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, a sumptuous dinner was provided, which was attended by about one hundred of his friends. After the cloth had been drawn, and the usual toasts disposed of, the health of Mr. Thomas Jones was given, and went merrily round with musical honours and the Conservative fire. The dinner was followed by a ball, which was graced by a numerous assemblage of ladies, and the merry dance was kept up with the greatest spirit until morning. The decoration of the room was at once splendid and tasteful, and the firing of cannon, with a display of fireworks, added not only to the satisfaction of the guests, but created a scene of general hilarity seldom if ever before witnessed in Darlaston. The entertainment, it is due to the worthy giver to observe, was free; and it is determined that in future the anniversary of his birthday shall be annually celebrated.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/4/1839 - Advert

“To Drapers, Tailors, Private Families and Others.

By R. Adamas, to be Sold by Auction, on Tuesday next, April 9, and two following days, in the large Room at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston – a large and valuable assortment of Fashionable and Superfine West Country Broad and Narrow Cloths, Kerseymeres, Kerseys, Fancy Goods, Table Covers, and other Effects. Sale to commence each day precisely at ten o'clock am.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/11/1839 - Advert

“Commercial Sales Rooms, back of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston.

By R. Adams. To be Sold by Auction, on Monday and Tuesday the 11th and 12th days of November inst, on the above-named premises, a large assortment of Ready-made Clothes and Wearing Apparel.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/12/1839 - Advert

“WHITE LION INN, Darlaston.

Richard Fiskin respectfully informs his friends and the public that he has entered upon the above Establishment, which he has fitted up with every convenience requisite for conducting the business in a first-rate manner.

Commercial Gentlemen will find the WHITE LION particularly deserving their support, as every attention will be paid to their comfort, and the accommodations are of a character to give general satisfaction.

Darlaston, December 6, 1839.”

1841 Census

Church Street

[1] *Richard Fiskin* (40), victualler;

[2] Charlotte Fiskin (40);

And 5 others

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/6/1844

“An inquest was held at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Thursday last, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on view of the body of John Snelson, who was killed on the previous night, in consequence of being struck and knocked down by a person named William Butler, who immediately absconded.

It appeared in evidence that the deceased met a party on Wednesday morning at the BELL INN, Darlaston, where those assembled spent the day in drinking and playing at marbles, and otherwise amusing themselves. Between nine and ten o'clock at night, William Butler went into the house and began quarrelling with the deceased, and each accused the other of having committed a recent robbery on the premises of Mr. Foster, at Darlaston. In the course of the quarrel Butler was heard to say to the deceased, ‘I'll give it thee tonight.’ Before twelve o'clock Butler got up, and said he would go and fetch the police to take the deceased into custody, for the robbery at Foster's, and he left the house. The party, including the deceased, left soon after, and, after going a few yards from the BELL INN, Butler was met coming towards them. He said nothing, but turned round and joined them. In going along the deceased, who was then very tipsy, had some words with one of the party, named William Webb, about fighting, and, after going about twenty yards farther, the deceased was struck violently in the face by some one, and knocked heavily down on the back of his head, which was so injured that he died in a very short time afterwards; in fact he was perfectly senseless after he fell, and showed no signs of life after the fall.

Joseph Shore proved that he saw Butler strike the deceased somewhere on the face, and that the deceased immediately fell backwards and fell heavily on his head on some hard stones in the street.

Obadiah Shore proved hearing the deceased fall, and that he ran to him immediately and found him lying insensible on his back, and Butler standing near him; he (Shore) asked him if he had done it, and Butler said, ‘I have given him one blow, and I think that will straighten him;’ and on Shore telling him he ought to be ashamed of himself, Butler said, ‘If that ain't straightened him, I'll straighten him before I go.’

Another witness, named William Webb, proved that he heard one of the party say in the hearing of Butler that he (Butler) had knocked the deceased down, and he had better be off.

Mr. John Howell Thornhill, surgeon, went to the deceased soon after he was knocked down, but he was then dead. He proved that upon examination of the face of the deceased, and afterwards upon a post mortem examination of the head, he had received two violent blows on the face and forehead, as if from being struck by a person's fist; and he found most extensive injuries on the back of the head and the brain, which were sufficient to cause almost immediate death.

There were many witnesses examined, and some of them prevaricated so much that the coroner threatened to commit them; in fact there was the greatest difficulty in getting anything like a clear statement out of the witnesses of what had taken place.

The Jury, after some lengthened observations from the coroner, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against William Butler; and a description of him was immediately sent to the police stations, with a view to his apprehension. He was taken on Thursday, between Willenhall and Walsall, and the coroner issued his warrant for committing him to Stafford gaol to take his trial at the next assizes for the offence.”

[At Staffordshire Summer Assizes, in July 1844, William Butler was found guilty of manslaughter

and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/12/1844

“On Tuesday last a Lodge was opened at the house of Mr. *Jones*, WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, under very auspicious circumstances, by the officers of the Bescott Bridge district of Odd Fellows, M.U. After the transactions of the usual business, about 50 sat down to a sumptuous supper, Mr. Henry Richards, a member of the Friendly Retreat Lodge, discharging the duties of president, supported by several officers of the order. A number of loyal and appropriate toasts were drunk in the course of the evening amidst great applause; amongst them the toast of the evening, ‘the Loyal Prince Albert Lodge,’ with the expression of a hope that the principles of the Odd Fellowship would be fully carried out by its members. The toast was responded to by P. G. Smith, the newly-elected NG of the Lodge. Several other toasts followed; a variety of songs were sung, and the company separated reluctantly.”

Paul Jones was also a cattle dealer and farmer. [1845], [1849], [1850]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/12/1846 - Advert

“Freehold Building Land, Darlaston, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, on Friday the 22nd day of January, 1847, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Paul Jones*, the WHITE LION, in Darlaston aforesaid.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/8/1846

“On Monday se'nnight, Charles G. Brown, Esq, solicitor, of Bilston, the assessor of the court for Bilston and neighbourhood, sat in his official capacity for the first time since his appointment. The court was holden at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, when a number of cases were brought before him.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1847

“An inquest was held at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Friday last, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Joseph Butler, aged four years. On the previous Wednesday morning the mother of the deceased went out, and left him in bed, and soon afterwards he came down stairs and got upon a chair, and fell into the ash-pan; his clothes caught fire, he was badly burnt, and died the next day. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/9/1851

“On Saturday last, at the Borough Police Court, William Hall was charged with stealing one ram, the property of Mr. *Paul Jones*, cattle dealer, of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston. The ram was missed from a field in this borough, on the 28th August. It appeared that on Wednesday evening, the 27th of August, the prisoner sold the sheep in question to Mr. Wm. Fowler, butcher, in the Horse-fair. The prisoner said in answer to the charge, that prosecutor (by whom he had been employed to drive sheep) gave him permission to sell the ram. He was committed for trial at the next sessions.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/10/1851

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions.....

William Hall was indicted for stealing a ram sheep, the property of *Paul Jones*, at Wolverhampton. Mr. Davis prosecuted.

It appeared, from the testimony of Thomas Jones, son of the prosecutor, a cattle dealer, living at Darlaston, that he employed the prisoner, on the 27th of August, to take some sheep from the market, at Wolverhampton, to a field in the occupation of the prosecutor, at Dunstall, where there were nearly 300 other sheep, one of which was missed on the following morning. William Fowler, a butcher at Wolverhampton, deposed that he bought a sheep from the prisoner on the 27th August, for which he gave him £1 4s; and John Williams, police officer, who apprehended the prisoner at Tunstall on the 18th September, proved that he obtained a skin from the house of Fowler, which he produced, and which was identified by *Paul Jones* as his property.

The prisoner, in his defence, did not deny the charge, but said he was not accountable for his actions when he had taken liquor, in consequence of a severe injury he had received on his head. The jury, however, re-

turned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to be transported for seven years.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/12/1851

“On Tuesday, the Magistrates, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, were occupied a considerable time in hearing a charge of threatening, preferred by Mr. *Paul Jones*, of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, against a painter named William Wood. Mr. Holland appeared for the complainant, and Mr. H. Barnett for the defendant. It appeared from the evidence of the complainant and his witness that Mr. Thornhill, surgeon, had fixed some water spouts over the complainant’s premises, and the defendant having been engaged to paint them, had placed a ladder upon Mr. *Jones*’s premises to enable him to do so. Mr. *Jones* required the defendant to remove it, and he refused. Mr. *Jones* then removed it himself, and the defendant said that if he had a hammer he would knock his brains out. Mr. Barnett, for the defendant, showed that there was a dispute over a right of road, but with this the Court decided they could not interfere. He then called witnesses to prove that the complainant did not threaten Mr. *Jones*. The result was that the Bench ordered the defendant to enter into his own recognizances in £20, for six months, and pay the expenses.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 11/4/1853 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Fallows and Smith, at the house of *Paul Jones*, the WHITE LION, at Darlaston, this present Monday the 11th day of April, at four o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced – all that valuable Freehold Mill, with the Steam Engine of 20 horse-power.....”

Birmingham Journal 17/3/1855

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

Isaac Kimberley and Robert Bailey, ‘rodney’ looking fellows, were indicted for setting fire to some farming stock, the property of Wm. Smith, on the 7th of November last. The evidence against the prisoners was to the effect that, on the night before the fire, they were seen together at the WHITE LION, Darlaston; that they were seen coming from the Delves Farm (that occupied by the prosecutor) just after the fire broke out, and sundry recriminatory statements were made by the accused, when in the Walsall Borough Gaol. The most extraordinary proceeding in the whole transaction was the fact of one John Bird and another person taking the prisoners into custody, after hearing the statement of Bailey. The Jury found both the prisoners guilty, but sentence was deferred.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/3/1855

“Isaiah Kimberley and Robert Bailey, found guilty of feloniously setting fire to a stack of clover hay and an oat stack, the property of William Smith, on the 7th of November, 1854, at Wednesbury, whereby the said stacks, and divers farm buildings and produce, were destroyed. Kimberley had received a good character, which was taken into consideration, and he was sentenced to twelve months’ imprisonment. With reference to Bailey, the learned Judge remarked that no person’s character could be worse than his, and it appeared that after committing the crime he sought to make money out of it, by trying to obtain a reward. He was sentenced to four years’ penal servitude.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1855

“Rejoicings for the Fall of Sebastopol.

As we announced last week would be the case, Darlaston was on Monday alive with gaiety, flags, music, and though last not least, the best of good cheer....

Two sheep were roasted at Mr. *Burford*’s, the WHITE LION.....

Some beautiful fireworks and balloons were let off during the course of the night two bands paraded the town, which with flags, banners, &c, that floated in every direction, made the scene, in every sense of the word, a most imposing one. Although a vast concourse of people were present, the police, under Sub-inspector Went, maintained the most perfect order.”

Birmingham Journal 3/11/1855 - Advert

“Malt Crushers.

Parties requiring Malt Crushers would do well before purchasing to inspect those made by Richard Thomp-

son, Pot House Bridge Foundry, Bilston, Staffordshire.

They can be seen at work at the following places.....

Mr. *Burford's*, LION INN, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Journal 17/11/1855 - Advert

“To Maltsters, Brewers, Publicans, &c.

Improved Malt Mills, Double Geared, to gain either Speed or Power, and constructed to meet the requirements of the Excise Commissioners, are now being manufactured by Dixon, Bell, and Co.

These Mills may be seen in operation at the following places.....

Darlaston – At Mr. *John Burford's*, WHITE LION....

Agent. Mr. Edmund W. Otway, Meyers Green, West Bromwich.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/1/1856

“On Monday night last, the workmen, to the number of ninety, employed by the Bradley Hall Iron Company were entertained by their masters at dinner, at Mr. *Burford's*, the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston. The dinner, which was of an excellent and substantial character, having been done ample justice to, Mr. Joseph Hadley, one of the proprietors of the works, was called upon to preside. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been submitted to the company from the chair, and duly honoured, the health of the firm was proposed by one of the workmen, and drunk with great enthusiasm. Messrs. Hadley, *Burford*, and J. Thompson, members of the firm, replied, and in the course of their remarks expressed the pleasure they felt at meeting their employees; and remarked how much the success of the firm depended upon the good feeling and co-operation of their workmen. Other toasts were proposed, and songs sung; and the meeting, after passing an evening of great hilarity, separated at a late hour.”

Birmingham Journal 12/11/1856

“James Graney and William Gowan were charged with having, on Saturday night last, at the WHITE LION public house, Darlaston, stolen 17s from the pocket of Martin Gately. The parties had been drinking at the public house, and at a late hour on Saturday night stood up to fight. Prosecutor had previously shown a handkerchief containing 17s, which he returned to his coat. When he stood up to fight he took off his coat, and it was sated that Gowan took the property from the pocket and handed it to Graney. Graney was discharged, and Gowan was committed for trial at the Sessions.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/2/1858 - Advert

“Re *John Burford*, a Bankrupt.

Sale at the WHITE LION INN, King Street, Darlaston, of all the Household Furniture, Bed-Room Suites, Kitchen Requisites, and Stock In Trade, comprising several hogsheads of Ale, Table Beer, Gin, Rum, and Brandy, Beer Machines, Liquor Shop and Public House Fittings, superior Ale Casks, Brewing Utensils, Horse and Trap, and other Effects, which will be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Danks, on Friday next the 12th day of February (by order of the Assignee of Mr. *John Burford*, a bankrupt, of the WHITE LION INN, King Street, Darlaston).

NB. The licenses and Goodwill will be offered precisely at one o'clock in the afternoon on the day of sale. The sale to commence at ten o'clock in the morning.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1858 - Advert

“Sale at the WHITE LION, Darlaston.

By Mr. T. Danks, This Day (Friday), the 12th of February (by order of the Assignees of Mr. *John Burford*, a Bankrupt) – the whole of the Household Furniture, together with the Licenses and Goodwill.

The Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/4/1858 - Advert

“Valuable & Extensive Manufacturing Premises, with Steam Engine and Excellent Dwelling House, known as the Phoenix Screw Bolt Works, situated in Wolverhampton Street, Catherines Cross, Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by S. Bloore, on Friday the 14th day of May next, at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Dar-

laston, at four o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/7/1858 - Notice

“County Of Stafford. Weights And Measures. District C, or South Staffordshire.

Notice is hereby given, that William Tullett, the Inspector of Weights and Measures.....

Will attend at the undermentioned times and places, for the purpose of comparing and examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to him for that purpose, and Stamping such of them as shall be found correct.....

At the WHITE LION at Darlaston, on Fridays, July 23rd, August 20th, and September 16th, 1858, at one o'clock pm.”

Western Daily Press 9/11/1858

“On Thursday last the adjourned inquest was held at the WHITE LION, Darlaston, before Mr. Hinchliffe, coroner, in reference to the death of Edward Corbett, a youth sixteen years old, who was killed on the 26th October, owing to having been drawn over the pulley, at the Old Fields Colliery, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mr. William Butler. After hearing the evidence the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, accompanying it by the expression of an opinion that the manager of the colliery was much to blame for not complying with the special rules in providing proper apparatus.”

Birmingham Journal 24/11/1860 - Advert

“Freehold Estate, in the Parish of Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, with all the Ungotten Mines and Minerals.

To be Sold by Auction, by C. Wootton, on Tuesday, the 18th day of December next, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, at Six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions of sale then to be produced.

All that valuable Freehold Property, known as the Victoria Colliery, situated at Darlaston Green.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/1/1861 - Notice

“County Of Stafford. Weights And Measures. District C, or South Staffordshire.

Notice is Hereby Given that William Tullett, the Inspector of Weights and Measures.....

Will attend at the undermentioned Times and Places for the purpose of Comparing and Examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to him for that purpose, and Stamping such of them as shall be found correct.....

At the WHITE LION INN, at Darlaston, on Fridays, January 11th, February 8th, and March 8th, 1861, at two o'clock pm.....

All persons residing in the said District, desirous of having their Weights and Measures Stamped, may bring or send them to any of the above places for adjustment, as shall be convenient; or to No.29, King-street, Wolverhampton, on any other than the days above appointed.”

1861 Census

King Street – WHITE LION

[1] *Thomas Jones* (43), innkeeper and cattle dealer, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah Jones* (37), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *George Henry Jones* (18), son, butcher, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Paul Grange Jones* (16), son, butcher, born Darlaston;

[5] *Thomas Jones* (14), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[6] *John Jones* (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] *William Jones* (10), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[8] *Jesse Ann Jones* (8), daughter, scholar, born Aldridge;

[9] *Betsy Grange Jones* (6), daughter, scholar, born Aldridge;

[10] *Sarah Jane Jones* (2), daughter, born Darlaston;

[11] *Ann Blewes Jones* (67), mother, widow, landed proprietress, born Wednesbury;

[12] *William Moore* (33), widower, servant, butcher, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[13] *Rebecca Thompson* (20), barmaid, born West Bromwich;

[14] Hannah Leyland (25), kitchen maid, born, Staffordshire;

[15] Elizabeth Ann Sivern (14), nurse, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1863 - Advert

“Instant Relief from Coughs, Colds, Influenza, Sore Throat, &c.

Davenport’s original and genuine ‘Dr. Clarke’s Linctus.’ In Bottles, at 1s 1½d and 2s 9d each.

It has the extraordinary property of immediately relieving the most violent Cough, Cold, Hoarseness, Difficulty of Breathing, Huskiness of the Throat, in a few seconds, by dissolving the congealed phelgm, consequently causing free expectoration.

More wonderful Cures of Asthma, Coughs, &c, by Dr. Clarke’s Linctus.

‘December, 1862. Mr. *Thomas Jones*, Dealer, Whitmore Reans, late of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, having suffered from a very severe Cough for three months, not having had a good night’s rest, was cured by taking one bottle of Dr. Clarke’s Linctus, and begs to recommend it to his friends as the most wonderful medicine he ever heard of.....”

Job Stanway = Job Stanaway

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1863

“Richard Cooper, a boy of thirteen, was brought up at the West Bromwich Police Court, on the charge of having stolen a gunlock from the premises of Mr. *Job Stanway*, of the WHITE LION INN, gunlock manufacturer. It appeared from the testimony of Samuel Weston, the prosecutor’s foreman, that on the previous Wednesday the boy took to the shop some work which had been entrusted to his uncle to get up. Witness chancing to look through the window, observed him take up the lock produced, and put it into his pocket, and had him taken into custody.

The mother of the lad said she was a widow, with ten children, and had never known him to be guilty of any offence before this.

Samuel Constable, the prisoner’s master, gave him a good character, and undertook to enter into a recognisance of £10 for his good behaviour for the next two years, and under these circumstances, the accused was set at liberty.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1863

“Hezekiah Webb (one of the men charged with being concerned in the murder of Mr. Baggott, at Bilston) was charged with stealing a sugar crusher from the house of Mr. *Job Stanaway*, the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston. It appears that on the previous night the prisoner and a number of his companions were in the prosecutor’s house, when the attention of the landlord was called to them. He saw a glass abstracted from the table, which was afterwards replaced. He sent for a police officer, and upon the prisoner being searched, a sugar crusher was found upon him belonging to prosecutor. He was sentenced to two months’ hard labour.”

John Stanway was also a gunlock manufacturer. [1864]

* possibly the same person

Walsall Free Press 4/6/1864 - Advert

“WHITE LION INN, Darlaston.

To Be Let, the above Capital Inn, Fixtures and Stock-in-Trade to be taken to in the usual way.

Apply to H. Farrington, Appraiser, Walsall.”

[The pub was advertised to be let for several months.]

Birmingham Daily Post 11/8/1864

“An inquest was held at the WHITE LION INN, Kings Street, Darlaston, yesterday, before Mr. E. Hooper, district Coroner, touching the death of a boy named Paul Page, who resided with his parents in New Street. Samuel Owen, a boy of fourteen years of age, was called as a witness. In answering some enquiries made

by the Coroner, he displayed great ignorance, having never read the Bible, and never having been taught the Lord's Prayer, or any other prayer. Witness stated that he was walking by the side of the Birmingham canal on Sunday afternoon, about half-past four o'clock, and, when close to the aqueducts, he heard some lads say that a boy was drowning. A man and a woman were passing by, and witness asked them to endeavour to save deceased. The man unfeelingly told him to 'jump in the water and fetch him out himself,' and passed by. Witness afterwards got into the water and endeavoured to drag the boy out, but was obliged to desist or he would himself have been taken out of his depth.

Thomas McDermot, a man employed at Mr. Mills works, subsequently stripped himself, and fetched the body out of seven or eight feet of water.

A boy, named John Gilpard, who was with the last witness at the time, corroborated his evidence. This boy also appeared to be excessively ignorant.

The Coroner advised the witnesses to go to some school, and remarked that it was disgraceful to see boys their age in such a condition.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

A lock-fitter, named Riley, was summoned on the jury, but failing to answer his name, was fined 10s by the Coroner."

Job Stanway was also a gunlock manufacturer. [1865]

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/3/1866 - Notice

"County of Stafford. Weights and Measures. District C, or South Staffordshire.

Notice is hereby given, that William Tullett, the Inspector of Weights and Measures.....

Will attend at the under-mentioned times and places for the purpose of comparing all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to him for that purpose, and stamping such of them as shall be found correct.....

WHITE LION INN, at Darlaston, on Thursdays, April 5th, May 3rd, and May 31st, 1866, at ten o'clock am.....

All persons in the said district, desirous of having their Weights and Measures stamped may bring or send them to any of the above places for adjustment as shall be most convenient; or to the NEW MARKET INN, St. Peter's Walk, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday or Saturday in every week.

Persons within any local jurisdiction, for which a separate Inspector is appointed, cannot have their Weights and Measures examined or stamped by the County Inspector.

William Tullett, Inspector of Weights and Measures for the said District, Wolverhampton, March 28th, 1866."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/11/1866

"G. Probert of Birmingham takes a benefit on Monday, Nov 26, at the WHITE LION, Darlaston."

[Boxing]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1868

"On Saturday, Mr. J. Kinnersley Smythies, Revising Barrister, held a Court at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, for the purpose of revising the list of voters for that section of the Eastern Division of Staffordshire....."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1870 - Advert

"Taken Up, on Sunday, February 27, a Brown Mare, about 11 hands high. The Owner may have her again on paying expenses.

Apply to *Wm. Taylor*, WHITE LION INN, Darlaston. If not owned within seven days, will be sold to defray expenses."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1871

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary, Mr. I. Spooner, John [sic] *Taylor*, owner of the WHITE LION public house, Darlaston, was summoned for allowing, on the 9th ult, gambling in his house. Mr. Bayley defended.

On the evening in question, two or three men went into the bagatelle room, and commenced playing at bagatelle for beer; as they were doing so, one of the party asked change for 2s 6d, when the money was

snatched out of his hand by a man in the room, who was taken into custody, and when at the station stated that gambling was allowed in the house. In consequence of this, the present summons was issued against the landlord.

Mr. Spooner said that although the game of bagatelle was in his opinion one of the most harmless of games that could be played, yet the mischief was that when people began to play they went on with it to such an extent that their families suffered; that was the reason why it should be checked.

The defendant was fined in costs only, as there had not hitherto been any complaint against him.”

1871 Census

King Street – WHITE LION INN

[1] *William Taylor* (54), victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Mary Taylor* (47), born Wednesbury;

[3] *Samuel H. Ball* (5), step-son, born Darlaston;

[4] *Priscilla Fowkes* (17), domestic servant, born Whitchurch:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/4/1872 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong Man, as Bundler and Bar Cropper. Good wages given.

Apply, WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, Staffordshire.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1872

“A large meeting of the labourers and horse-drivers of Wednesbury and district was held on Monday evening, at the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, whither the Darlaston contingent marched in a body. Statements were made showing that the men’s recently-established union had obtained a firm footing, the head-quarters being at the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, and the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston; and that the Darlaston men’s notice for an advance of 6d per day had been acceded to. The notice expired on Saturday night, and that morning the men had an interview with the representatives of Messrs. Addenbrooke, the Rough Hay Works, the Darlaston Steel and Iron Company, and the other employers in that neighbourhood, who had received them most courteously, and readily granted their request. Before the meeting ended a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the employers who had granted the advance.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1872

“A numerously attended meeting of chartermasters was held at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Tuesday night. The following resolutions were adopted:

1st, That this meeting form itself into an association, to be styled or called ‘The Chartermasters’ Association; 2nd, That, considering the various changes taking and about to take place in the hours of workmen, standing, as we do, between masters and men, we feel that it is our duty to give expression to our views in relation to these very important changes, inasmuch as our interests are greatly affected thereby. We beg to suggest to the masters that they regulate and divide the working hours of the men. We are of opinion (taking the arguments of the men on the score of health) that they should commence to descend the pits at 6.30am, so that the bands may commence winding at 7am, and that there be one hour allotted for meals, from eleven to twelve o’clock, and cease their day’s work at 4pm, as at present. With regard to the regulation of stints and percentage upon tonnage, we, the chartermasters, will leave the matter for the further consideration of the Iron and Coal Masters’ Association. That the following ten members of the above association be appointed as a deputation to wait upon the Iron and Coal Masters’ Association tomorrow (Wednesday), at Wolverhampton, namely: Messrs. W. Foster, J. Middleton, T. Vaughan, S. Bayley, F. Degville, S. Burton, W. Powis, T. Bayley, R. Letts, and C. Kitson.

The meeting was adjourned until the 5th inst, to receive a report of the conference with the masters at Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/7/1872

“An adjourned meeting of the newly-formed Chartermasters’ Association was held on Tuesday night, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, and there was a large attendance. Mr. S. Bayley, of Walsall, presided.

With reference to the conference of mine agents and chartermasters, which, according to the programme

fixed on Friday, should have taken place at an earlier hour, it was stated that the several mine agents of the district had been seen on the subject, and had expressed an opinion that, bearing in mind the different conditions upon which the charters were fixed in various parts of the district, no united action on their part could possibly arise from a conference with the association, and that therefore the better course would be for each agent to deal separately with the chartermasters associated with him. Under these circumstances no conference had taken place. Attention was given to the subject of the increased advantages requisite to compensate the chartermasters for the concessions granted to the men, but in the end it was deemed advisable to defer the further consideration of the subject until a future meeting. A decided opinion was expressed, however, that the advance of one-ninth was not sufficient, it being merely an advance of the same extent as that granted to the men, while the chartermasters were deprived of one hour's work per day from which to gain a profit. The idea that the association was animated by a spirit antagonistic to the men's interest, was strongly deprecated.

About 100 members were enrolled, and a subscription of £1 from each of the local associations towards the funds of the central association received. Meetings were then fixed for Thursday evening, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Bilston; the CASTLE INN, Willenhall; and the COMMERCIAL INN, Walsall; and for Friday evening, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/7/1872

"At a meeting of the Chartermasters' Association, held at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Friday evening, it was resolved that, with the view of comparing notes and arranging for concerted action, four members of the association attend a meeting of the Chartermasters' Association about to be held at the SWAN INN, Woodsetton, near Tipton."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1872

"Darlaston Labourers' and Horsedriers' Association.

At a meeting of the above association, held at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Saturday evening last, it was shown that one of the two large employers of labour in Darlaston who were first to give the men the 6d per day advance, gave notice on Saturday when the men received their wages that they would not continue the advance after that date. It was also said that these masters had written to other employers, urging them not to continue the advance. The members of the association, who had been paid at the advance, unanimously agreed to cease work until they should be able to regain the wages last paid them. About thirty new members were enrolled, who showed a great desire to obtain the advance of wages said to be so long due to their particular class of industry."

Liverpool Mercury 1/2/1873

"Petitions for Liquidation by Arrangement.....

Thomas Whitmore Perry, Jun., WHITE LION INN, Darlaston."

London Gazette 6/5/1873

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Thomas Whitmore Perry*, of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualer.

The creditors of the above-named *Thomas Whitmore Perry* who have not already proved their debts, are required on or before the 20th day of May, 1873, to send particulars of their debts or claims to me, the undersigned, George Perry, of King-street, Darlaston, Ironmaster, the Trustee under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated this 1st day of May, 1873.

George Perry, Trustee."

London Gazette 7/10/1873

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

A First and Final Dividend of 1s 1½d in the pound has been declared in the matter of proceedings for liqui-

dation by arrangement or composition with creditors, instituted by *Thomas Whitmore Perry*, of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, and will be paid at the offices of Mr. James Slater, Solicitor, Butcroft, Darlaston, on and after the 10th day of October, 1873.

Dated 3rd October, 1873.

George Perry, Trustee.”

Thomas Whitmore Perry – see also GREEN DRAGON.

George Perry was also an ironmaster of Regents Ironworks, Bilston. [1873]

Forest of Dean Examiner 24/4/1874

“A special meeting of the Walsall and District Trades Council was held at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Thursday evening, Mr. S. Welsh, the president, in the chair.

The Chairman stated that one of the objects for which the meeting was called was to take into consideration the case of the locked-out farm labourers.....”

Cannock Chase Examiner 11/7/1874

“On Wednesday a numerously attended general meeting of the Darlaston Conservative Association was held at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston. Mr. W. Marshall presided.....”

Cannock Chase Examiner 3/10/1874

“On Tuesday, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, Mr. J. K. Smythies held a court for the revision of lists of voters for the Eastern Division of the county of Stafford living in the parish of Darlaston, and also for the revision of the lists of voters for the borough of Wednesbury living in the same parish. Mr. Wainwright (Dudley) appeared for the Liberals, and Mr. Drewry (Burton) for the Conservatives. In respect to the county lists five Liberals were struck off, and there were sustained four Liberal claims, thirty-five Conservative claims, and six independent claims. The revision of the borough lists was of a purely formal character.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 24/10/1874 - Advert

“For Sale. To Gun Lock Makers or Gas Fitters.

For Sale, a Stamping Machine, in good working order, equal to new.

Apply at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 14/11/1874 - Advert

“To Gun Lock Makers.

The Co-Operative Gun Lock Works, Back of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, will supply Store or Rifle Forgings on advantageous terms.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/11/1874 - Advert

“Darlaston Conservative Association.

A General Meeting of the above Association will be held at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Wednesday Next, December 2, at 7 o'clock in the evening, Richard Mills, Esq. (President of the Association) in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen (with others) are expected to attend, and Address the Meeting:

S. C. Allsopp, Esq, MP; Wilson Lloyd, Esq; John Addenbrooke, Esq; Thomas Underhill, Esq; J. W. Marsh, Esq.

All Friends of the Conservative cause are earnestly invited to attend.

George Taylor, Secretary to the Association. November 25th, 1874.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/12/1874

“A meeting of the Darlaston Conservative Association was held on Wednesday night, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston. Mr. R. Mills presided, and Mr. S. C. Allsop, MP, was among those who attended.....”

Midland Examiner and Times 19/12/1874

“The adjourned meeting of the shareholders of the Darlaston Co-Operative Gun-Lock Association was held at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Monday evening, December 14th.....”

Cannock Chase Examiner 19/12/1874 - Advert

“To Gun Lock Makers.

The Co-operative Gun Lock Works, Back of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, will supply Store or Rifle Forgings on advantageous terms.”

Walsall Observer 10/4/1875

“Darlaston. Local Board Elections. Nominations.

The gentlemen who retire this year by rotation are *George Perry*.....

Twelve gentlemen have been nominated to fill the seven vacancies *George Perry*, King Street, licensed victualler.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1875

“Darlaston. Local Board Elections. The newly-elected members of the Local Board are *George Perry*.”

Wednesbury Herald 4/1/1879

“A dinner, consisting of roast beef, plum pudding, and ale, was given at Darlaston on Boxing Day, at the WHITE LION HOTEL, to upwards of 150 of the aged poor of the town. The fund for providing the dinner was raised by means of a concert given on the 9th ult. The amount realised, including a donation of £1 each from Messrs. Allsopp, Bass, and Brogden, being £15 3s 1½d.”

Wednesbury Herald 22/2/1879

“From a statement of the financial condition of the Darlaston Conservative Association, submitted to the members at the annual general meeting, held at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Wednesday evening, we gather that, after the payment of all liabilities the treasurer has in hand the sum of £10 13s 8d.....”

Wednesbury Herald 26/4/1879

“On Thursday evening last, Mr. J. C. Hackett, of Wednesbury, delivered a lecture under the auspices of the Darlaston Conservative Association, at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston. The subject was ‘Church and State Defended.’ The lecture was of a very able character. R. Mills, Esq, JP, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance.”

Wednesbury Herald 13/9/1879

“Conservatives are reminded that the revising barrister, J. R. Smythies, Esq, will sit for the purpose of revising the list of voters for the borough as follows at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Tuesday, September 30th, at 11.30am. Voters attending in person to substantiate their claim will be heard first, and it is necessary that in cases of objection, &c, the notice of each objection should be produced.”

George Perry was also a maltster. [1880]

Walsall Observer 2/4/1881

“Darlaston. Local Board Election.

Mr. James Slater (returning officer) has received the nominations of the following for the seven vacant seats on the Local Board *G. Perry*, hotelkeeper, King Street.”

[He was elected.]

1881 Census

36, King Street – WHITE LION INN

[1] *George Perry* (55), maltster and licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Nancy Perry (51), wife, born Darlaston;

- [3] Sarah Ann Marriot (26), barmaid, born Darlaston;
[4] Phoebe Ann Whitehouse (33), cook, born Darlaston;
[5] Margaret Smith (26), housemaid, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/11/1881

“The Strike in the Nut and Bolt Trade.

An adjourned conference between employers and employees’ representatives was held at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Thursday evening. Mr. Whitley, who presided, assured the operatives’ delegates that the Masters’ Association had carefully considered the list they had drawn up, and had given such concessions on the deviations as in their judgment would be conducive to the interests of the trade. He read over the various points of the masters’ list objected to by the men, which were very considerable, but he added that the employers could not see their way to concede more than two of them.

Mr. Juggins, on behalf of the men, stated that the employers had only considered two of the objections raised by the men, and he hoped the masters would allow the operatives’ delegates to retire for a short time to consider their position. This request was granted, and the delegates, after a short consultation, returned.

Mr. Juggins said the men were prepared to accept the two amendments agreed to by the employers, but seeing there were only two out of a great number of objections they regretted that it was impossible for them to accept the Darlaston employers’ list of prices, as in many cases it would place them in a much worse position than they would be in under the 1881 list agreed upon at Birmingham. However, he (Mr. Juggins) undertook on behalf of the delegates present to lay the matter before a mass meeting of the men, which will be held this evening, the result of which he would communicate to the secretary of the Employers’ Association.”

Wednesbury Herald 11/3/1882

“On Wednesday evening, at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, the first of a series of meetings of the Darlaston Conservative Association took place. H. Mills Esq, presided. There was a large attendance.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 25/3/1882

“4th Staffordshire Rifle Volunteers G and H Companies.....

The above Companies will attend Divine Service in St. Leonard’s Church, Bilston, on Easter Sunday. H Company will parade at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, at 9am, and march to Bilston under the command of Lieutenant Guy.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/9/1882 - Advert

“WHITE LION SPIRIT VAULTS, Darlaston.

To be Sold, after a most successful occupancy of many years, this well-known Spirit Vaults and Tavern. In-coming £550.

Apply, Roderick and Son, Auctioneers, Birmingham.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/9/1882

“We regret to announce the death of Mr. *George Perry*, the highly respected proprietor of the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, which took place on Wednesday evening. Mr. *Perry* has been ailing for the past six months, but no serious results were anticipated until 10 days ago, when he took to his bed, his death resulting as stated. Mr. *Perry*’s face and figure were familiar to every one in Darlaston, where he had hosts of friends, gained by his uniform kindness and courtesy to all with whom he came in contact.

A few years ago Mr. *Perry* was well known in Bilston and Bradley, as the proprietor of the Regent Works, now belonging to Mr. G. Onions. To the deceased gentleman properly belongs the credit of having been one of the originators of the volunteer movement in Darlaston, and, up to the time of his death, he showed a remarkable interest in the welfare of the corps, one of his many acts of liberality being the free use of an armoury and drill ground, a valuable privilege which will, we trust, be conceded in the future. As a local ruler, Mr. *Perry* was for a long time a member of the Darlaston Local Board, in the deliberations of which, his integrity and excellent business experience proved a valuable help. He also earned the estimation of the Walsall Board of Guardians, in whose work he took an earnest and continued interest. The poor of the town

will miss his kind and ready aid, and it is only due to his memory to say that in his loss Darlaston has sustained the loss of one of her most highly respected townsmen.

The body will be interred at one o'clock on Monday, in the Parish Churchyard, and it is understood that as a tribute of respect, the funeral will be attended by many local gentlemen. Mr. *Perry* leaves a wife and one son to mourn his loss, and we feel sure their sorrow will be joined in by all who knew the deceased gentleman."

Darlaston Weekly Times 14/10/1882

"At Wednesbury, on Tuesday, the license of the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, formerly held by the late Mr. *George Perry*, was transferred to Mr. *W. M. Clift*, of Burton."

William Clift = William Clift

Wednesbury Herald 11/11/1882

"On Tuesday night Mr. *Clift* who has recently taken to the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, entertained a number of gentlemen to dinner. The chair was occupied by Mr. G. F. Butler, and the vice chair by Mr. Thomas Staley, landlord of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury....."

Walsall Observer 11/11/1882 - Advert

"Important Sale, at WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston. Tuesday, November 21st, 1882.

Mr. James Belcher will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above Premises and date.....

The Brewing Plant belonging to Mr. *W. M. Clift*, he having no further use for them, comprising two capital Copper Boilers, Vats, Coolers, Casks, &c, 30 doz stone Jars, 2 and 4 quarts....."

Darlaston Weekly Times 10/3/1883

"By the kindness of Mr. *Clift*, landlord of the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, two rooms have been placed at the disposal of the Darlaston Corps of Volunteers, one of which is to be used as an armoury, and the other as an office. The rooms have been loaned by Mr. *Clift* entirely free of charge."

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/10/1883

"The inspection of the Darlaston (H Company) of Volunteers belonging to the 4th Staffordshire Battalion took place on Tuesday evening, on the parade ground at the WHITE LION HOTEL, in the presence of Major Blake-Burke, the Adjutant. Judging from the number on parade, and the clean, smart, and soldierlike appearance of the men, Darlaston has reason to be proud of its company of soldier citizens, who, in their turn, appear to be desirous of maintaining the reputation of the Company, and doing justice to the training of their instructor, Sergeant Major Woods....."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1883 - Advert

"Turnout. Well-bred Mare, 15.2, 7 years old; warranted. Shooting Cart, by Gold, Windsor; nearly new; purchased at Royal Agricultural Show. Harness, &c. Cheap.

Apply, WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston."

Darlaston Weekly Times 22/12/1883

"Mr. *Clift*, landlord of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, made an application for an extension of time on the 24th, 26th, and 31st instant. In reply to the Bench, he said he had no special reason for making the application only there was a precedent in an extension being granted to licensed victuallers in other towns. Mr. Superintendent Holland said the magistrates in the division had made a rule, and the same had been in existence two or three years, not to grant any extension of time unless under special circumstances. By this course, Mr. *Clift* contended, he was unfairly handicapped. The Bench refused to grant the application, and the applicant said the application was simply a matter of form, but he should test the grounds of refusal in another Court."

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/2/1884

“A new lodge of Grand United Order of Odd Fellows has just been opened at the house of Brother *William Cliff*, WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston. The lodge was opened in due form by representatives from Wolverhampton, who read the dedication ceremony. It is to be known under the title of the Loyal White Lion Lodge No.882. Mr. T. M. Green, solicitor, was elected as the first Noble Grand; Mr. F. Smith, vice; Mr. J. H. Jones, secretary; Mr. Vincent Magrane, surgeon; and Mr. *W. M. Cliff*, treasurer. All these gentlemen had had previous experience in the actual work of the Order.....”

Walsall Observer 26/4/1884 - Advert

“Sale at WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston. Monday, April 28th, 1884.

Messrs. J. Belcher and Son have received instructions from Mr. *W. M. Cliff*, who is leaving the town, to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above premises and date, the Surplus Superior Household Furniture and Effects, comprising superior Cottage Pianoforte (full trichord), in Walnut Case; capital 6ft Mahogany Sideboard, with mirror back; handsome Gents Wardrobe, in polished Birch, with mirror door; Mahogany, Birch, and Iron Bedsteads, Mahogany and Birch Toilet Stands, Three Feather Beds, Straw Palliasses, Walnut Loo Table, Walnut Card Table, Mahogany and Birch Chairs, Gents Easy Chair, Chest of Drawers, Chamber Ware, Toilet Services, Dessert Service, Brussels, Kidderminster, and Felt Carpets; Oil Paintings, Steel Engravings, Lace Curtains, Poles and Rings, Avery’s Scales and Weights, Treadle Sewing Machine, and numerous Culinary Requisites, together with superior first-class Dog Cart (nearly new), by Gold Bros, Windsor; useful Whitechapel, Sets of Harness, Cooling Vat, Lawn Mower, and numerous other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock prompt.

Catalogues from the Hotel, or Offices of the Auctioneers, Walsall and Darlaston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 6/9/1884

“The usual monthly meeting of the Darlaston Local Board was held at the Boardroom, WHITE LION INN, on Tuesday.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/10/1884

“Volunteer Dinner. The annual dinner of the H (Darlaston) Corps of the 3rd Staffordshire Battalion took place at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Monday evening, Captain Graham presiding, and among those present being Major Wood, Captains Thomas (Willenhall), Caddick (West Bromwich), Hickman (Bilston), Rigby (Brownhills), and Smith (Wednesbury); Lieutenants Guy, Smith, Duce, Chapman, Manby; Quartermaster McBean; the Rev. B. Wright; and Messrs. J. Slater, T. Green, S. Partridge, &c. In the course of the evening Mr. Slater and the Rev. B. Wright distributed the prizes to the successful competitors.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/1/1885

“The annual supper of the Darlaston All Saints Football Club was held at the WHITE LION HOTEL, when about 30 members did justice to the excellent spread kindly provided by the host (Mr. *Watts*). After supper Mr. Jones was voted to the chair, and Mr. Chalker to the vice-chair. The customary loyal toasts, also the several trades of Darlaston, were given and heartily responded to. The toast of the evening, ‘Success to All Saints Football Club,’ was given by Mr. M. Foster, and responded to by Mr. J. Chalker (captain). Mr. Simkin, on behalf of the members, heartily thanked Mr. *Watts* for the kindly manner in which he had treated the club; and the host, in replying, briefly expressed his intention of similarly entertaining the club next year. The remaining portion of the evening was devoted to harmony.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/2/1885

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, today, *James Watts*, WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, was fined 1s and costs for keeping a dog without a license.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 28/2/1885

“The annual meeting of Darlaston Conservative Association was held at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Thursday evening.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/3/1885 - Advert

“Strong Cob, 14.1 hands, 8 years, good in harness and saddle; 9 guineas.
WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/8/1885 - Advert

“Darlaston Wake.

To Showmen, Sea-on-Land, Roundabouts, &c.

The Field adjoining the old wake field will this year be Open for the Wake.

Application for space to be made at once.

Address, *Watts*, WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 5/6/1886

“On Saturday last the committee of All Saints Football Club relieved over one hundred of the unemployed at their headquarters, WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, with bread, bacon, tea, and sugar, being part of the proceeds of the match ‘Conservatives v Liberals’ played the previous Saturday. A second distribution will be given shortly.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1887

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday – before Messrs. R. Williams (Mayor) and W. Lloyd – John Heaven (17), New Road, Darlaston, labourer; Thomas Walters (17), Cock Street, Darlaston, labourer; and John Thomas (16), 40, Blakemores Lane, Darlaston, labourer, were brought up on remand, charged with having, on the 17th inst, stolen eight fowls, the property of William France, of the GEORGE INN, Church Street; and Heaven and Thomas were also charged with having, on the 10th inst, stolen four fowls, the property of Joseph Cheshire, Bilston Street, Darlaston; with having, on the 26th November, stolen six fowls, the property of *James Watts*, of the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston; with having, on the 17th inst, stolen two fowls, the property of John Westmoreland; with having stolen three fowls, the property of Reuben Fellows; with having, on the 3rd instant, stolen four fowls, the property of John Blackham; and with having stolen one fowl, the property of John Booth, all of Darlaston. The first two cases in the list were gone into.

It was shown that Heaven and Thomas had sold the fowls – one to Aaron Butler for 3s 2d, three to Thomas Wells, a miner, for 4s 6d, and the others at equally low prices to other persons.

Police-sergeant Curtis had the twenty-eight fowls to which the charges related in court, and he said he had traced twenty-eight more which had been sold by the prisoners and eaten; but the prisoners had really stolen more than one hundred ducks and fowls within a comparatively short period, and for some time the police were baffled in their inquiries, the stolen booty having been purchased by persons whom the police would never have suspected. Heaven and Walters had previously been caught in the act of robbing a fowl pen. The Bench sentenced the prisoners to three months’ imprisonment with hard labour in each case, the sentences to run concurrently. Mr. Lloyd said he and his colleague felt very much annoyed that so many people should have been found ready to receive these goods, and to take them at prices which must have shown them that the sellers could not have come honestly by them. But for such receivers there would not be the thieves. The magistrate hoped there would be more care in the future.”

The Local Board of Health met here until 1888.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/8/1889

“Darlaston Floral and Horticultural Society.

The Fourth Annual Exhibition of Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables in connection with the above Society will be held on Monday and Tuesday, August 12th and 13th, 1889, in the Enclosed Grounds of Mr. J. Yates, Entrance Victoria Road.....

A Luncheon will be provided for ladies and gentlemen by Mr. *Joseph Yates*, of the WHITE LION HOTEL, on the Ground at Three on Monday. Tickets 2s 6d each.”

1891 Census

36, King Street – WHITE LION

[1] *Joseph Yates* (53), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Jeannette Yates (39), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Clara Johnson (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“Dancing, Music, and Singing Licenses.

At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a special session for the hearing of applications for the above-named licenses was held.....

The Rev. T. E. Hamer, vicar of Darlaston, presented a memorial from the clergy and ministers of the town, submitting that it was not for the public good, nor did it promote the morals of the people, that dancing should be permitted in licensed houses at any time, or that music or singing should be allowed in such houses on Sundays. The Rev. G. Oliver, vicar of St. George’s, presented a like memorial on behalf of the superintendents and teachers of his schools; and the Rev. J. B. Wilkinson, All Saints’, another of a similar character.

The following licenses were granted: Singing and music.....

Joseph Yates, WHITE LION, King Street.....

All these were for six days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Music and singing licenses were renewed to the following persons in Darlaston, dancing being asked for, but objected to in several cases, and the objections being yielded to in every case, except the Town Hall.....

Joseph Yates, the WHITE LION, King Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/5/1893

“At a meeting of the Darlaston Local Board, on Tuesday evening, a deputation of tradesmen attended and asked the Board to support a scheme for the construction of a railway from Willenhall to Blockall and for a station on the Wake Ground. Mr. E. Gender, a member of the deputation, said a meeting of tradesmen was held at the WHITE LION HOTEL on Monday night, at which it was decided to submit the scheme, subject to the approval of the Board, to the London and North-Western Railway Company. It would be necessary to construct a tunnel 200 yards in length. Mr. Blackham, another member of the deputation, supported the proposal. Mr. Slater, Mr. Simpson, and other members of the Board said they did not think the railway company would entertain the scheme, and the subject afterwards dropped.”

Wednesbury Herald 7/12/1895

“Darlaston Havelock Brass Band. On Wednesday night the first general meeting of this band was held at the WHITE LION HOTEL. Mr. R. Reynolds presided over a very good attendance.....”

Walsall Observer 12/9/1896

“The annual dinner of the Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers’ Protection Society took place on Thursday night at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston.....”

Walsall Observer 20/3/1897

“Carpenters and Joiners. On Saturday evening last, at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, a meeting was held, consisting of representatives from Darlaston, Wednesbury, Willenhall, and Wolverhampton. Statements were made as to the wretched conditions of labour at some of the shops of the district; also that the bricklayers had obtained an advance of wages last year. The Wolverhampton carpenters had recently had granted a code of working rules, including a rise in wages of 2s 3d per week. It was unanimously resolved to hold a meeting of the trade at an early date with a view to obtaining a standard rate of wages and a code of district working rules.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 25/3/1899

“At Birmingham Assizes, on Monday, *Joseph Yates*, of the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, claimed damages for injuries received through the negligence of the London and North-Western Railway Compa-

ny. While plaintiff was sitting in a train in the bay at New Street an engine with some carriages or trucks was backed into the train with great force. Mr. Oakley, a gentleman sitting opposite to plaintiff, was thrown against Mr. *Yates*, striking him violently on the left chest with his elbow. The back of plaintiff's head collided with the partition. Mr. *Yates* was so much put about that when a porter came to see if anyone was hurt he could not speak. At James Bridge plaintiff took some brandy to revive him, but he had to be assisted home. A doctor was called in, but plaintiff passed sleepless nights, suffered from noises in the head, and was bed-ridden for five weeks. His doctors' bill was £50, and his business fell off to the extent of £3 a week during his illness. The Jury found for the plaintiff, damages £125."

AND

Walsall Observer 25/3/1899

".....During his illness his takings at the public house fell off, as he was a popular man, and his presence in the smokeroom attracted customers. As an element in the case, counsel for the plaintiff contended that in consequence of this accident *Yates* was in such a nervous condition that he did not feel equal to carrying on his business, and at Christmas gave three months' notice to leave the public house. Plaintiff, in his evidence, said that at the present time he felt a pain in the ribs, and his hearing was not so good as previously. He could not lift a quart jug on to the counter with his left hand owing to the pain in the shoulder. He had to engage a cellarman to undertake the lifting of heaving barrels, &c....."

Joseph Yates – see also GREEN DRAGON and RAILWAY.

It was used as a courtroom c.1900.

Walsall Observer 5/5/1900

"The members of Darlaston Cricket Club held their annual supper on Monday evening at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston.

On behalf of the members of the club, the Chairman presented Mr. H. Sheargold with an umbrella, suitably inscribed, as a mark of appreciation for services rendered to the club, especially in the case of his magnificent score of 128 not out at Netherton last season. Mr. J. J. Robbins' prize bat for last season was won by Mr. S. Robinson, who secured the top average in all matches."

1901 Census

36, King Street – WHITE LION HOTEL

- [1] *William T. Baker* (53), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Emma Baker* (48), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William T. Baker* (20), son, draper's assistant, born Bilston;
- [4] *George D. Baker* (16), son, draughtsman's apprentice, born Bilston;
- [5] *Harold B. Baker* (13), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Mary Butler* (44), sister-in-law, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Elizabeth Butler* (36), sister-in-law, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Edith Salt* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/6/1901

"Last night Volunteers and Reservists, who have recently returned from South Africa, were entertained at dinner at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, and the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, and enthusiastically received."

County Advertiser 29/4/1905

"At the Salvation Army Barracks, Cock Street, Darlaston, the Midland Counties Trades Federation opened its 19th Annual Conference on Tuesday last.....
In the evening a complimentary dinner was given by the Nut and Bolt Makers' Society to the delegates at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston. At the same time, occasion was taken to present to the local branch of the Nut and Bolt Makers' Society, a portrait of the late general secretary of the trade and of the Federation, Mr. Richard Juggins. An excellent spread was put upon the table by the host and hostess....."

Empire News & The Umpire 18/11/1906

“Elijah Evans, jun, who was stated to be a married man, with a wife and four children living at Kings Hill, Darlaston, was summoned at Walsall by a domestic servant named Agnes Cook, aged 23 years, of Church Hill, to show cause. The story told for the young woman was that while she was a domestic servant at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, she saw the defendant, who was connected with a club which met at the house, and consented to walk out with him. He bought her a 30s ring, and afterwards met her in Walsall, when he went home with her. He was accepted by the father in the capacity of his daughter’s young man, and made one of the party at the celebration of the young woman’s birthday, and he took advantage of her. They had their photos taken together.

Complainant in cross-examination denied that while she was a domestic servant at the WHITE LION HOTEL she was caught in bed with a barman named Dick Baker, or that she had been engaged to a Darlaston widower named Blakemore, and would not marry him because of his family. She denied that she was in the habit of asking Minnie Marks (who was also employed at the hotel) to stop on the staircase while she went into the barman’s bedroom. It was not true, she said, that when she met the defendant in Walsall she told him she was keeping company with a nice young man from Stockport, who was working on the alterations at the TURF TAVERN HOTEL at Walsall; and that as the young man was spending the weekend at Stockport, he (defendant) could go home with her.

The defendant admitted that he misconducted himself with the girl, but his case was that she knew he was married and accepted money from him. He admitted that he gave her 30s for a ring for her, but he said he gave her the ring, just the same as he gave her money, for what occurred between them.

Mr. Smith, for complainant, pointed out that people were not in the habit of having their photos taken or giving 30s rings to a person and then trying to make believe that such persons were of loose character.

The Bench made an order for 3s per week.”

Walsall Observer 12/1/1907

“L&NWR Goods Staff. The third annual dinner took place on Saturday last, when about 53 sat down to an excellent repast at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston. After the cloths had been drawn the Agent, Mr. Cook, took the chair, supported by Messrs. S. Richards, Meek, &c, and the following programme was excellently rendered: Toast, ‘The King,’ the Chairman; songs, ‘Drake’s Drum’ and ‘The Gladiator,’ Mr. C. Fenton; ‘Faithful Sailor Boy,’ Mr. Dawson; ‘The Gondolier’ and ‘When a fellow is twenty-one,’ Mr. S. Butler; ‘Bedouin Love Song’ and ‘The Veteran,’ Mr. G. Littler; ‘The old brown hat’ and ‘We have had a good day today,’ Mr. Thomas; ‘The old log cabin,’ Mr. Ellard; toast, ‘The Chairman,’ Mr. F. B. Williams; accompanist, Mr. F. Ford. Mr. F. York proposed the health of the donors, and expressed the thanks of the staff to the tradespeople for so generously supporting the movement. Messrs. S. Richards and Meek replied, and stated that it gave them much pleasure to accept the invitation to the dinner, and on behalf of the donors they could only say that the traders approved of this annual gathering, and hoped there would be many more in the future. After sundry other toasts the singing of the National Anthem brought a most successful gathering to a close.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1909

“A supper and general meeting took place on Monday evening at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, in connection with the Darlaston Central Bowling Club, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. Fullwood. Mr. G. Lawley presented the club with a silver challenge cup on behalf of Messrs. Butler and Co., Springfield Brewery, to be competed for annually. The trophy was received by Mr. E. D. Wright (vice-president), who thanked the firm for their generosity, and handed it over to Mr. S. Slater (captain). Previous to the gathering Messrs. Foulkes and Wright competed in the final for the prize offered by the president (Mr. W. T. Lees), and the former won by 15 points to 8.”

1911 Census

36, King Street

[1] *John Wood* (47), widower, licensed victualler, born Brierley Hill;

[2] *Justina Wood* (19), daughter, barmaid, born Darlaston;

- [3] Jack Wood (15), son, apprentice, born Darlaston;
- [4] William Wood (12), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [5] Polly Wood (11), daughter, school, born Darlaston;
- [6] Louisa Capewell (70), relative, widow, born West Bromwich;
- [7] Fanny Wright (31), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Advertiser 10/2/1912

“The seventeenth annual ball in connection with the Darlaston Conservative and Unionist Club is fixed for Thursday next, February 15th. Williams’ Scarlet Band is engaged for dancing and Mr. Hans Harrison will again officiate as Hon. MC. The catering is in the capable hands of Mr. *John Wood*, WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston. The function promises to be as usual one of the jolliest in the district. The Borough Member and Mrs. J. Norton Griffith are expected to attend.”

John Wood – see also ROSE AND CROWN.

Edward Henry Tomlinson = Edwin Henry Tomlinson

South Staffordshire Times 2/2/1924

“The Cosmopolitan Lodge of the R.A.O.B. held a successful meeting on Thursday of last week at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston. The occasion was the raising of four of its members to the second degree.....”

South Staffordshire Times 19/4/1924

“The opening of the green at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, where the Central Bowling Club play, took place on Saturday afternoon, there being a good number of members present. The green is in perfect condition, the proprietor of the hotel, Mr. *Harry Tomlinson*, having spared no effort to bring it up to pitch.....”

Walsall Observer 28/3/1925

“The Darlaston magistrates were engaged for over three hours on Wednesday in hearing a case in which *Edwin Henry Tomlinson* (49), licensee of the WHITE LION HOTEL, King Street, Darlaston, pleaded not guilty to three charges: being drunk in charge of a motor-car; using obscene language; and driving in a manner dangerous to the public.

Prosecuting for the police, Mr. Frank Cooper said that at about 9.50 on the night of Tuesday, March 10, Police-constable Bradley was standing talking to two men named Read and Palmer at the junction of Victoria Road, King Street, and Church Street, when he saw a motor-car being driven up Victoria Road in the direction of King Street in a zig-zag fashion. There was plenty of room for the car to pass in any direction, but in spite of the fact that it was carrying headlights and the men must obviously have been easily visible, the driver apparently did not see them until quite close, when he jammed on his brakes, and they had to jump out of the way. The driver was the defendant *Tomlinson*, and he immediately began to use most obscene language and certainly not the sort of expressions one would have expected from a man in his position if he had been normal. Defendant and his wife got out of the car, and Mrs. *Tomlinson* made her way into the WHITE LION, which was close at hand. Defendant had to support himself against the car to get round to the front. Obviously under the influence of drink, he staggered to the starting-handle and swung his arm around without catching hold of it at all. At a second attempt he partly swung it, and the car then began to roll backwards. Defendant staggered after it and got his hand on the door, lost his balance, and was dragged along the road for a distance of about twenty yards. Police-constable Bradley and Read tried to hold the car back, but eventually, Palmer, who was a motor mechanic, jumped on the footboard, steered the car out of the way of others which were standing outside the SWAN HOTEL, and with which it might have collided, and applied the hand brake, bringing it to a standstill. With Police-constable Bradley’s assistance defendant walked to the police station, where he was charged with being drunk.

Mr. Cooper said he understood that Dr. Lowe (police surgeon) who saw defendant later, was to be called for the defence, and could only assume he would say defendant was not drunk. While not helplessly drunk,

however, it was suggested that defendant was not in a fit condition to have charge of a motor-car, and his arrest would probably have a sobering effect upon him. Such charges were a very serious matter for a licensee.

Evidence bearing out Mr. Cooper's statements was given by Police-constable Bradley, who said *Tomlinson* spoke thickly and incoherently and was not able to walk without assistance. When witness told him he should take him into custody, he replied, 'I'm all right, Sam.' When charged at the police station he said, 'Well, where? Why? I've come over the Bullstake, and I can't pull up where I like.' So far as witness knew, he had not been near the Bullstake.

Mr. E. E. Brown (cross-examining for the defence): On the night of March 10 only one charge of being drunk in charge of a motor-car was made against him? – Yes, sir.

A fortnight ago there were simply two charges against defendant, that previously mentioned, and one of using obscene language. Does it mean that defendant, in asking for an adjournment for 14 days had been penalised in having a third charge brought against him today? – I cannot say.

Did you hear the superintendent say a fortnight ago that his evidence was complete and that he was prepared to go on with the case? Can you tell us why it is that no charge of driving to the danger was then made? – I know nothing further than having the summons to serve.

Do you know that up to this very moment defendant has not been summoned for using obscene language? – No.

Mr. Brown: When I say that Dr. Lowe will state that when he saw defendant, defendant was not drunk, do you still maintain that he was? – Yes, sir.

Isaac Palmer, 4, Narrow Lane, Pleck, Walsall, and William Read, 53, Gower Street, Walsall, gave evidence in support, and Mr. Brown, having asked to see a written statement made by Palmer, Mr. Cooper objected, remarking, 'I have nothing to hide, but it is most irregular.'

The Clerk (Mr. L. A. Shirlaw): I don't think you are entitled to it, Mr. Brown.

Sergeant Bailey said *Tomlinson*, in the police office, was drunk and unfit to have charge of a car. He kept on asking, 'What am I here for?' after he had been charged. He was much better at 10.20. Inspector Willetts corroborated, and this closed the case for the prosecution.

Addressing the Bench, Mr. Brown said the police knew Dr. Lowe was convinced that when he saw defendant he was not drunk, and he suggested the other charges were brought because it was thought the first might fail.

Tomlinson, in the box, said he held the license of the WHITE LION for three years. On the day in question he drove round Birmingham and Smethwick, Walsall and Walsall Wood, and all he drank was four small glasses of beer. He denied using obscene language or that he was drunk, and said Police-constable Bradley simply asked him to go for a walk down the road. The car ran back two or three yards because his gears were not in properly. He was an inexperienced driver, and had only had the car a short time.

Dr. Lockhart Lowe said *Tomlinson* was not drunk when he saw him at about 10.15. 'I told Inspector Willetts that I could not possibly certify him as being drunk,' he added.

Witness was closely examined by Mr. Cooper, and said there was no evidence of drink.

Did you find he was perfectly sober? – The question is an extremely difficult one to answer, and has never been really settled. He was not under the influence of drink, in my opinion.

Simply through conversing with him and seeing him walk round the police station and corridor? You applied none of the well-recognised tests, doctor – It was not necessary. He added that that it was a question of degree.

Why did you tell Inspector Willetts you would not like to trust your life with him? – He was in a state of mental perturbation due to having been arrested.

That is a sign sometimes of drunkenness? – I agree.

Further evidence was given by Mrs. *Tomlinson* and John Eaton, licensee of the FOUNTAIN INN, Fallings Heath, who said he knew nothing of *Tomlinson* running his car on to the footpath outside his house.

The magistrates ordered defendant to pay a fine of 20s and £4 11s special costs on the first charge; a fine of 10s for using obscene language, and dismissed the third charge."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 20/6/1925

"At Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, the license of the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, was trans-

ferred from *Edwin Henry Tomlinson* to *Leonard Brown*, of Kidderminster.”

Walsall Observer 10/4/1926

“On the Bowling Green.....

The green at the NEW INNS, Darlaston, the headquarters of the Darlaston Central League, was opened by Councillor N. Peach (president); that at the WHITE LION, Darlaston, by Councillor C. Foster (chairman of the Central Bowling Club); and that at the RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, by Councillor C. Simmonds.”

Dudley Chronicle 27/1/1927

“There have been three interesting ceremonies at Wednesbury and Darlaston last week in connection with the R.A.O.B. On Wednesday, January 19th at the SWAN HOTEL, Darlaston, Bros. Troman, H. M. Browne, J. Price, and Percy Davies, members of the Empire Lodge (GC) were raised to the second degree, the installing officer being Bro. J. Whistance, KOM, Grand Primo of Wednesbury Province, while Bro. Lockhart Lowe was the SP.

On Thursday evening at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, Primos A. Johnson and J. Hague, of the Cosmopolitan Lodge (GLE) were raised to the third degree (KOM), the installing officer being Bro. C. G. Harding, ROH. There was a large attendance from members of visiting lodges, both GC and GLE and Bro. J. Whistance, KOM, responded to the toast of ‘The Visitors.’

On Friday evening Primo P. H. Davies, of the Anchor Lodge (GC), Wednesbury, was also installed to the third degree, the ceremony being performed by Mr. C. F. Kay, KOM.”

Walsall Observer 25/1/1930 - Marriages

“At St. Lawrence Parish Church, Darlaston, on Tuesday, January 21, by the Rev. J. W. Augur, MA, José Bennetto, of Exeter, and of the T. W. L. Nature Cure Centre, Hall Green, West Bromwich, to Bertha Millie Holloway, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *G. Holloway*, of the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, and formerly of Hawridge, Buckinghamshire.”

Dudley Herald 20/6/1931 - Advert

“Re The South Staffordshire Tramways (Lessee) Co. Ltd. (in Voluntary Liquidation).

By Direction of the Joint Liquidators, Messrs. R. P. Beddows, Esq, and T. H. Underhill, Esq, both of 88, Kingsway, London, WC8.

Darlaston. Seven o’clock. Sale of the Valuable Freehold Property known as the Darlaston Tram Depot, situate in an important position close by the junction of the Walsall and Darlaston Road, having Frontages to Birmingham Street and Darlaston Road.....

Cecil Carriss & Co., FAI, will offer the above Property by Auction (in One Lot), at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Tuesday, June 30th, 1931.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/11/1935

“Death of Mr. John Wesley. A licensee bearing the honoured name of John Wesley, who held the licence of the TRAVELLERS REST, Walsall Wood, for over 30 years, has just died. He formerly held the licence of the Queens Hotel, Chasetown, for nine years. Deceased, who was interested in all forms of sport, leaves two sons and five daughters. The husbands of two of his daughters are licensed holders, Mrs. *C. Nicholls*, WHITE LION, Darlaston, and Mrs. J. Lowe, RED LION, Moxley. Mr. Wesley’s wife died some thirteen years ago.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/5/1938

“Mr. Harmar *Nicholls*, of Darlaston, who is well known in Midland political circles, has been adopted as the prospective National Government candidate for the Nelson and Colne Division of Lancashire, where Mr. S. Silverman (Labour) is the sitting member.

Mr. *Nicholls*, who is 25, received his education at Queen Mary’s Grammar School, Walsall. He is a partner in the firm of Nicholls, Jordan and Airston, valuers and estate agents, of Wolverhampton and Stafford, and he is the Midland agent of Structural Painters Ltd., Newcastle. He was a founder member of Walsall Round

Table, and is the present chairman of Wednesbury and District Divisional Council of the Junior Imperial League.....

His father is licensee of the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, treasurer of the Darlaston Football Club, and vice-chairman of the Wednesbury and Darlaston District Licensed Victuallers' Association."

[Harmar *Nicholls* became a member of Darlaston Council in 1938, and served as the Conservative party Member of Parliament for Peterborough from 1950 to 1974. He was created a Baronet in 1960, and in 1975 he was given a life peerage. He served as a member of the European Parliament for Greater Manchester South from 1979 to 1984. He died in September 2000.]

1939 Register

36, King Street

[1] *Charles E. C. Nicholls*, date of birth 5/6/1880, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Sarah A. Nicholls, dob 5/7/1885, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Harmar Nicholls, dob 1/11/1912, surveyor and estate agent, single;

[4] Doris I. (Rose) Downen, dob 30/11/1922, paid domestic, single:

Rugeley Times 27/4/1940

"Allocations of £2 2s each to the Wednesbury and Darlaston nursing institutions, Hednesford Accident Home, and the Darlaston and Wednesbury war comforts fund were made at a meeting of the Wednesbury Football Charity Association at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, Mr. T. Horton presiding. Other allocations were: £1 11s 6d, Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary and Walsall General Hospital; £1 1s, the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, Birmingham Royal Cripples Hospital, and Birmingham Midland Nerve Hospital. Mr. J. Smith (hon. secretary) stated that the financial returns in the difficult times were most commendable."

Rugeley Times 8/6/1940

"Darlaston special constables were praised for their services since the commencement of the war, at a dinner and concert at the WHITE LION, Darlaston, on Wednesday evening Councillor Harmar *Nicholls* said they realised the great work the Specials were doing and the great sacrifice that many of them made to carry out that work....."

Walsall Observer 29/11/1941 - Advert

"The Estate of the late Councillor Charles Simmonds.

Sale No.1, Monday, 8th December, 1941

"Belcher & Son have been instructed by the Executors to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, the Properties belonging to the above Estate, in a Series of Sales, the First to be held at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on the above date at 2-30 in the Afternoon, promptly (Subject to Conditions to be then produced).....

Note. Owing to the prevailing Black-out conditions, this Sale has been fixed at the time stated for the convenience of interested parties, and will Commence Promptly."

[There were over 30 properties. Further auctions were held at Wednesbury, Walsall, Penkridge and Darlaston.]

Walsall Observer 7/2/1942

"About sixty members of the South Staffordshire Old Contemptibles Association spent a very enjoyable evening at their fifth annual supper at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Saturday evening. Mr. H. Shemmens, of Walsall, presided, and Colonel J. T. Page, commander of the 37th (Darlaston) Battalion Home Guard, was the master of ceremonies. Entertainment was provided by Darlaston Home Guard Band, and Messrs. Joe Beech (tenor), Larry Wolverson (magician), and Harry Wood (elocutionist)."

Walsall Observer 28/3/1942

"A presentation of a cigarette case was made to Corporal Cyril Perks by Lieutenant Baynes at the first social event arranged by the No.10 Platoon of 'B' Company of the 37th South Staffs Home Guard at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Saturday. The rest of the evening was agreeably devoted to community singing, with solos and duets by Messrs. J. Bush and S. Reynolds, and an exhibition of tap dancing by Miss J.

Ray. Private J. Hughes was at the piano.”

Walsall Observer 12/2/1944

“The officers, W.O.s and senior N.C.O.s of ‘A’ Company 37th Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment Home Guard attended a dinner and smoking concert at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, on Saturday last.....”

Rugeley Times 18/1/1947

“At the staff and management dinner in connection with the firm of James Bass and Son, held at the WHITE LION HOTEL, Darlaston, last weekend, Mr. Louis Levy, a cabinetmaker who had been in the employ of the firm for 33 years, was presented with a cheque by the managing director, Mr. W. T. Bass, in recognition of his services.”

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Darlaston) Darts League in 1948.

Rugeley Times 10/12/1949

“All smiles was the order of the day at the WHITE LION, Darlaston, on Saturday, at the wedding reception of Miss Irene Linford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Linford, of Ocker Hill, Tipton, and Mr. Norris Potts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Potts, 95, Station Street, Darlaston, who were married at Ocker Hill.”

Charles Edward Craddock Nicholls was married to Sarah Ann (‘Sally’).
See also OLD BUSH, Pelsall, Walsall, and DUKE OF YORK, Darlaston.

Walsall Observer 12/9/1958

“Darlaston Inner Wheel resumed its meeting after the summer recess on Tuesday afternoon at the WHITE LION, Darlaston. Mrs. M. K. Jones presided and activities for the year were planned. It was decided to hold a jumble sale on October 4 in aid of the club charities and it hoped to plan a Christmas party for the old people of the town.”

Sports Argus 18/10/1958

“Birmingham and Southern [Football] League.....

Darlaston are calling a public meeting at the WHITE LION, Darlaston, on Wednesday next, to discuss the club’s future. ‘We want suggestions to keep us going,’ says chairman Sam Hale.”

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....

WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.”

Walsall Observer 17/3/1967

“Forty members of Walsall and South Staffordshire Province of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes attended a ceremony for the third degree raising of Mr. Cyril Carless, of 29, Ward Street, Bilston, at the WHITE LION, Darlaston. Mr. Carless, a long-distance lorry driver, joined the Order in 1962 and was raised to the second degree in 1963. The ceremony was conducted by Mr. Fred Whitehall, accompanied by Grand Lodge officers and the Knights Chapter of Walsall and South Staffordshire Province.”

Walsall Observer 18/4/1969

“Estate. Mr. *Leo Plumb*, of the MITRE, Lower Green, Tettenhall, late licensee of the WHITE LION HOTEL, King Street, Darlaston, who died on November 18 last, left £18,844 gross, £18,113 net (duty £2, 185).”

It closed c.1994.

It was converted into flats in June 1997.

It was the offices of the Accord Housing Association. [2007]

WHY NOT

Bilston Road, Catherines Cross, DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Rodgers [1861]

NOTES

1861 Census

Bilston Road – WHY NOT

[1] *Thomas Rodgers* (26), engine smith and retail brewer, born Tipton;

[2] *Charlotte Rodgers* (26), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Betsey Rodgers* (3), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *John Rodgers* (1), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Maria Whitehouse* (10), nurse, born Wednesbury:

WHY NOT

146, The Green / (12, St. Georges Street), (5, George Street), DARLASTON

OWNERS

Ann Bayley

Highgate Brewery Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939)

LICENSEES

John Humpage [1861]

Miss Ann Humpage [1871]

Richard Foster [1880] – [1881]

John Wilkes [1881]

George Nightingale [1890]

James Nightingale [1891] – [1901]

Joseph Thomas Bayley [1911] – **1914**)

Ann Bayley [1919] – **1927**);

John William Emery (**1927 – 1931**);

Albert Henry Owen (**1931 – 1933**);

Frank Wyers (**1933 – 1958**);

Ernest Jarvis (1958 – 1963);
Derrick Smith (1963 – 1966);
Horace Perry (1966 – 1967);
William John Towler (1967 – []
Gary Cooper [1989]
Graham Pinches [1994]
Robert Starkey (1999 – [2000]
Mark Chambers (2019 – [2022]

NOTES

12, St. Georges Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911]
5, George Street [1900]
146, The Green [1912], [1940]

It was originally the WHY NOT.

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

St. Georges Street – WHY NOT INN

- [1] *John Humpage* (44), gun lock filer and beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Maria Humpage* (45), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Hannah Humpage* (76), mother, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Francis Humpage* (21), son, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [5] *John Humpage* (18), son, button forger, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Job Humpage* (15), son, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Ann Humpage* (14), daughter, servant, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Maria Humpage* (12), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Mary Humpage* (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [10] *Hannah Humpage* (3), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [11] *Alfred Humpage* (1 month), son, born Darlaston:

John Humpage – see also GEORGE INN, Church Street.

1871 Census

St. Georges Street – WHY NOT TAVERN

- [1] *Ann Humpage* (24), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Maria Philips* (22), sister, dressmaker, born Darlaston;
- [3] *John Philips* (22), brother-in-law, tap and die maker, screw factory, born Darlaston:

1881 Census

12, St. Georges Street – WHY NOT

- [1] *Richard Foster* (31), beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Ann Foster* (33), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Lewis S. Foster* (4), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Clara W. Foster* (1), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Ann Thacker* (11), servant, born Darlaston:

Evening Express 28/10/1881

“Thomas Glover, miner, 4, Bush Street, Darlaston, was charged with stealing a dog’s collar and strap, the property of *John Wilkes*, landlord of the WHY NOT INN, Darlaston.

The prosecutor stated that between seven and eight o'clock on Saturday evening he saw the collar and strap produced hanging up in the kitchen, the prisoner being in the house at the time, and on the following day he missed it.

John Lambert, nut and bolt forger, said he was in the BUSH INN at half past ten o'clock on Saturday night, when he took the collar produced out of the defendant's pocket and brought it to the prosecutor.

William Waldron said he saw Lambert and the defendant standing close together in the BUSH public house, the former having the collar and strap in his hand.

Police-constable Clarke said when he apprehended the prisoner he denied stealing the collar, and said, 'It seems Lambert and Waldron have arranged to plant it on me.'

Mr. R. A. Willcock, who appeared for the defendant, said the statement made by the policeman was the true facts of the case.

The Stipendiary said the evidence was too unsatisfactory for him to say who committed the theft, and he therefore dismissed the case."

Darlaston Weekly Times 11/12/1886

"On Sunday afternoon the different lodges of the National United Order of Free Gardeners attended divine service at the St. George's Church, The Green, Darlaston. Previous to entering the Church, the Darlaston Havelock Brass Band met at the WHY NOT INN, The Green, and from thence they marched through the principal streets of the town, calling en-route at the various lodge rooms. At the Church the Rev. George Oliver, BA, vicar, preached a very suitable and interesting sermon, at the conclusion of which a collection was made on behalf of the Wolverhampton Hospital and Eye Infirmary."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1890

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *George Nightingale*, landlord of the WHY NOT beerhouse, St. Georges Street, Darlaston, was summoned for selling ale during prohibited hours. Mr. S. M. Slater appeared for the defence.

Police-constable Edwards and two other witnesses gave evidence showing that at 10.35 on the night of the 19th inst the constable saw a woman leaving the defendant's house with a jar which contained half a gallon of ale. She told him that she had paid for it at nine o'clock.

Mr. Slater said that was the defence, and he urged, citing Stone's Justices' Manual, that under the circumstances no offence had been committed.

The Stipendiary said he had always held that it was an offence under the Licensing Act to pay for beer before hours and fetch it after closing hours. He should impose a penalty of 10s and costs, but should be pleased to grant a case for the Court above if Mr. Slater wished it.

Mr. Slater said he was afraid he could not take one in this case. The defendant was only a beerhouse keeper."

1891 Census

12, St. George's Street

[1] *James Nightingale* (64), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Nightingale (60), wife, born Ireland;

[3] George Whistance (35), lodger, nut and bolt maker, born Darlaston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/12/1895

"*James Nightingale*, landlord of the WHY NOT INN, St. George's Street, Darlaston, was summoned for permitting drunkenness. Mr. F. W. Topham defended.

For the prosecution it was shown that Annie Maria Donaldson went to the defendant's house drunk and was supplied with half a pint of beer. She afterwards had to be assisted to her home. One of the witnesses for the prosecution was Donaldson's son, who said his mother was frequently getting drunk and neglecting her family. Mr. Topham said he could not deny that the woman was found drunk on the licensed premises, but when she went into the public house she was to all appearances sober. Mr. Williams said it was quite evident that the woman was drunk when she went into the house. The defendant some years ago had been convicted of selling during prohibited hours, and would now be fined 40s and costs. Annie Maria Donaldson,

for being drunk on the premises, was fined 13s.”

1901 Census

12, St. George's Street – WHY NOT INN

[1] *James Nightingale* (74), beer retailer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Hannah Nightingale* (74), wife, born Ireland;

[3] *Mary Richmond* (25), domestic servant, born Birmingham:

Walsall Advertiser 4/7/1908

“The annual supper of the Darlaston Wanderers Football Club was held at the WHY NOT INN, on Saturday evening. The chair was occupied by Councillor H. Hemming, and Mr. T. Jones (president) took the vice-chair.

The Secretary read the report and balance-sheet. The financial loss on the season's workings was £1 3s 11½d, the income being £16 13s 10d, and the expenditure £17 17s 9½d. From a playing point, the team had created a record by winning the Heath Town and District League Cup without losing a match, and also by winning five other cups. They had played 37 matches, won 31, lost 1, and drawn 5, scoring 131 goals for to 30 against.”

1911 Census

12, St. Georges Street – WHY NOT INN

[1] *Joseph Thomas Bayley* (41), beer retailer, born Darlaston;

[2] *Ann Bayley* (42), wife, married 19 years, assisting in the business, born Darlaston;

[3] *Joseph Nightingale Bayley* (18), son, fitter, bolt and nut work, born Darlaston;

[4] *Norah Bayley* (13), daughter, school, born Darlaston;

[5] *Winnifred Bayley* (6), daughter, school, born Darlaston;

[6] *Sarah Bucknal* (25), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

1914 Probate

“*Joseph Thomas Bayley*, of the WHY NOT, St. Georges, Darlaston, Staffordshire, died 12 March 1914. Probate Lichfield 22 May to John Tomas Simmonds, licensed victualler, and Mary Ann Simmonds (wife of the said John Thomas Simmonds). Effects £642.”

Closed

Demolished

It was rebuilt in 1923.

Walsall Observer 5/3/1927

“At the annual dinner in connection with the Why Not Lodge of Free Gardeners, at the WHY NOT INN, Darlaston, on Saturday, upwards of fifty members and friends sat down to a repast served by the hostess (Mrs. *A. Bayley*). Mr. A Staite, PDM (treasurer), who presided, supported by Messrs. W. Horton, J. Drayton, PDM (trustee) and T. Morris, PDM (secretary), made a sympathetic reference to the death of Mr. W. King, and the company endorsed it by standing in a silence. Mr. J. Drayton then presented a framed certificate to Mr. W. J. Rymill for services rendered as Master, and Mr. Staite handed a framed emblem to Mr. T. Morris for services to Lodge and District, both recipients suitably responding. An appreciative programme was given by Messrs. J. Jones, J. Keay, A. Staite, W. Horton, W. Burden, J. Watson, and H. Etchells.”

Walsall Observer 7/2/1931

“‘I would sooner hear of five men being convicted of drunkenness than one woman,’ said Alderman C. W. D. Joynson, presiding on Wednesday morning at Darlaston Brewster Sessions, when it was reported that no female had been convicted in the district for that offence during the past twelve months. The number of convictions for drunkenness increased from nine, in 1929, to thirteen last year, the lowest recorded being eight in 1928. The highest total in the last ten years was seventeen in 1921.

The police intimated that they should object to the renewal of the MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross,

and the WHITE DOG, Bilston Street, on the grounds of redundancy. All other licenses were renewed with the exception of the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street, the WHY NOT, St. George's Street, which were objected to because of alleged defective sanitary arrangements, and the STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Pinfold Street, which was objected to on the ground that the premises had been ill-conducted. These licenses were referred for consideration on the adjourned day, March 4.

In his report, Police-inspector Adams stated.....

All the licensed premises in Darlaston, said the Superintendent, had been visited, and generally speaking were clean, though many urinals and lavatories required white-washing more frequently. The following instances were specially mentioned: MINEBORERS ARMS, Catherines Cross ('a very poor house in accommodation, and the public sanitary arrangements needed alterations'); the GOLDEN CUP, Willenhall Street ('a small house with poor private accommodation and sanitary arrangements'); the WHY NOT, St. George's Street ('a small house with poor sanitary arrangements'); the BRITISH OAK, Willenhall Road ('which requires internal renovation'); and the NAGS HEAD, the Green ('good house, but dirty condition generally'). The Superintendent suggested that swing doors on some of the lavatories would be a great improvement."

Plans were approved for alterations, including sanitary accommodation, on 4th March 1931.

Plans for rebuilding were approved on 9th March 1938.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/4/1939

"The County Licensing Confirmation Committee for Staffordshire, their meeting at Stafford yesterday The following applications were granted..... License to sell wine at the WHY NOT, St. Georges Street, The Green, Darlaston."

Walsall Observer 29/7/1939

"More than fifty licensed premises in Walsall and neighbouring place become Mitchells and Butlers houses this week as a result of the well-known Cape Hill brewery company's acquisition of the whole of the undertakings of the Highgate-Walsall Brewery Co. Ltd., and the Walsall Breweries Proprietary Ltd., and of all the licensed and certain un-licensed properties of Messrs. John Lord, brewers, of Short Acre.....

A list of the licensed premises that form part of the properties acquired by Mitchells and Butlers is as follows.....

Highgate houses.....

WHY NOT INN, St. Georges Street, Darlaston."

1939 Register

St. Georges Street – WHY NOT INN

[1] *Frank Wyers*, date of birth 23/8/1890, manager, licensed public house, married;

[2] Lily Wyers, dob 8/7/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Gladys M. (Wyers) Hope, dob 14/8/1917, fancy leather handbag work, single;

[4] Olive L. (Wyers) Darby, dob 17/7/1921, typist, single:

Rugeley Times 10/2/1940

"Darlaston Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent J. H. Hall, in his report to the justices, said that the number of licensed houses in the town was 74; the same as last year, except that the license of the WHY NOT INN, The Green, had been altered from a beerhouse 'on' to a beer and wines 'on.' At the census of 1931, the population of the parish was 19,736, according to which there was one licensed house to every 267 inhabitants....."

A team from here won the Darlaston Darts League Challenge Shield 1942/3.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Darts League, Division A, in 1948.

A full license was confirmed on 25th April 1949.

Ernest Jarvis – see also ROYAL OAK.

Plans were approved for alterations on 14th April 1965.

Walsall Observer 24/11/1967

“Wednesbury, Darlaston, and Tipton licensees plan to find a licensee to contest the next General Election to speak with authority in the House of Commons on all matters affecting Britain’s licensed trade. The decision was approved at a meeting at the WHY NOT INN, Darlaston, on Thursday last. Members also decided to join a national letter-writing-to-MPs campaign now being launched to oppose the Government’s breathalyser laws, and to make block applications to the valuation authorities for an immediate decrease in the rateable values of licensed premises to offset the heavy losses in income which licencees are suffering by Government legislation.....”

Gary Cooper was married to Barbara.

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/12/1989

“A mother on her way to a celebration meal died today when a private hire car was hit head-on by a car being followed by police in the Black Country. Mrs. Jenny Lunn, aged 43, was killed in the smash in Darlaston Road, Walsall. The accident happened at 12.30am moments after the Toyota – said by witnesses to have been doing 80 miles an hour – sped over traffic lights on red and accelerated away from the police car tailing it. Firemen used cutting gear to free the occupants of two cars as a flying squad of paramedics gave emergency first aid and oxygen to the victims. A senior Walsall police officer said, ‘It was carnage. The vehicles were a real mess. We couldn’t recognise one of them.’

Two other passengers, licensee Mr. *Gary Cooper* and his wife, Barbara, suffered multiple injuries in the crash, which also left the private hire car driver critically ill. The driver of the Toyota Celica Coupe car, Lisa Clemence, aged 21, and a female passenger, were critically ill in hospital with major injuries. Two other passengers from the Celica, which the police said was being followed because it had been driven erratically, escaped with shock and minor injuries.

Mrs. Lunn’s 44-year-old husband, David, who was in the car, escaped with severe shock and facial cuts. Today Mr. Lunn said he and his wife, who had been married for 20 years, were on their way to a restaurant to celebrate Boxing Day. ‘It all happened too quickly,’ said Mr. Lunn of Hall Street East, Darlaston. ‘The police were chasing a car and we were in a taxi. We were on the opposite side of the Darlaston road. We had been for a drink, and we were going to a restaurant. Mr. Lunn, a self-employed decorator whose wife helped him in his business, said he did not know how he was going to break the news to his wife’s mother. His only child, 20-year-old Amanda, was today at his side.

Mr. *Cooper*, aged 51, and his 48-year-old wife, who run the WHY NOT INN, at Darlaston, were in Walsall’s district general hospital. Hire car driver Mr. Mohammed Salim, of Walsall Road, Darlaston, was critically ill in the same hospital.....”

It was renamed ST. LAWRENCE TAVERN. [1993]

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/2/1993 - Advert

“Full Time Chef required. Male or female. 7061/7062. The shift is Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday (split shifts) plus Sunday Lunch. Bar staff also required for lunchtimes and eves. Cleaner 3 mornings per week. LAWRENCE TAVERNS, St. George Street, Darlaston. O215263744.”

Graham Pinches was married to Margaret.

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/9/1994

“Down Your Local. ST. LAWRENCE TAVERN, St. Georges Street, Darlaston.

Where else but the Black Country could you find a pub with an Italian chef – renowned for his egg and chips? It’s not the latest funny doing the rounds. The Italian is Guiseppe Guascone, better known as Joe to

locals at the ST. LAWRENCE TAVERN. Born in Turin, he has worked in hotels and restaurants all over the Midlands. But there isn't much call for his Italian specials. In this part of the world they're perfectly content with their local dishes. 'He does a wonderful egg and chips,' says landlord *Graham Pinches*. 'There can't be many Italian chefs working at pubs in the Black Country. We like to be different here.'

Graham, aged 55, and wife Margaret have worked in the pub trade all over the country for 34 years – and *Graham's* first job was at a social club in Darlaston 30 years ago. He never thought he'd return to the town – but is pleased that he did. 'People told me the place was dead these days but I'm glad I came back,' says *Graham*, whose four sons, Graham, Darren, Craig and Mark, are all in the pub trade too.

Built in the 1920s on the site of a former pub, the tavern's name was changed when the current leaseholder took over the premises. The pub had been called the WHY NOT, and the intention was to name the pub after a church which had been demolished. The church was called St. George's, but the pub appears to take its name from the nearby by-pass instead.

It's set back from the road with two entrances. Use the left entrance for food, or the right if you just want a drink. Both rooms are smart and comfortable. There's an extensive and reasonably-priced menu and food is available seven days a week but not on Sunday evenings.

The pub counts several talented musicians among its regulars, including harmonica player Ron Longdon and pensioner Eric Dunton who used to play the French horn with the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra. Before he retired, Eric ran a string of shoe shops in Walsall. 'The business had been established more than 100 years but the shoe trade in Walsall was in decline,' he recalls. His first love is music and he can still be found occasionally entertaining customers on the pub's piano.

Regulars Ivy and Arthur Hurley are both in their 70s used to run the ORANGE TREE and STARTING GATE pubs in Walsall. The couple celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary this week. 'That's longer than the train robber got!' laughs Arthur. Ivy, aged 70, was born just ten doors away in the Darlaston street where she still lives. 'Darlaston is great,' she says. 'People say that it's a Ghost Town, but it's not. The town centre may have died but the community is alive and well.'

Pub Facts.

Price of a Pint: Highgate mild £1.12, Bass bitter £1.46, Worthington bitter £1.22, Carling Black Label £1.46, Tennents Extra £1.66.

Food: Homemade steak and kidney pie, gammon and eggs (£2 50). Rum steaks (£3.95).

Car Parking: Car park at the front.

Transport: WMT bus routes No.325 and 333.

Opening Hours: Noon to 2.30pm and 6.30pm to 11pm (Monday to Saturday); noon to 3pm and 7pm to 10.30pm (Sundays)."

A new restaurant opened in 1996.

Robert Starkey was from Smethwick.

His partner was Marlene Evans.

He played drums professionally and semi-professionally.

[Black Country Bugle 24/12/1998 - Advert](#)

"ST LAWRENCE TAVERN, The Green, Darlaston.

Tuesday to Friday evenings – 3 course menu £5.95

Plus usual steak menu – 16oz T-Bone, 16oz Rump or Mega Grill ~~£6.95~~ £5.95

Saturday Evenings – Bookings taken for full menu and special board menu 2 sittings at 6.30pm and 8.30pm

Sunday Lunch – choice of 3 roasts, or chicken or fish, served with fresh vegetables – £4.25 (2 sittings – 12 and 2pm)

(•Normal steak menu also available at all times above)

Karaoke every Thursday and Sunday night. Free and Easy every Saturday night.

Lunches – Tuesday to Saturday

Try our all £2.95 menu – choice of 12 dishes, plus Sizzlers (£2.95). Sandwiches from £1.45.

Booking being taken for New Years Eve. 3 Course Menu – £9.95."

It was renamed the TALK OF THE TOWN [2005], [2007]

It was renamed WHY NOT. [2009]

[2022]

WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE

16, Pinfold Street, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company [1890], [1907]

LICENSEES

Cartwright [1866]

Mary Ann Lunn [1871]

John Sheldon [1880] – [1881]

Mrs. Betsy (Sheldon) Page [1891]

Mary Ann Webb [1900]

John Henry Marrison [1901] – [1907]

George Whitbrook [1901]

NOTES

It was originally the MANCHESTER HOUSE.

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1866

“At the West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, before Mr. Kenrick, and Major Elwell, Joseph Cotterill was charged with passing counterfeit coin at Darlaston.

On Tuesday night the prisoner went into the MANCHESTER ARMS, Pinfold Street, and called for a glass of ale, for which he tendered a shilling, and received the change. He afterwards paid for another glass of ale with another shilling, both of which were subsequently discovered to be counterfeit. The prisoner afterwards went to the RAILWAY JUNCTION INN in the same street and paid for a glass of ale with a bad sixpence. This was discovered, and the police were sent for, and took the prisoner into custody. A counterfeit florin was found in his pocket.

The prisoner denied all knowledge that the coins were counterfeit, but was committed for trial.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/7/1866

“At the West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, a rough-looking man, named Joseph Cotterill, was charged with uttering two base shillings, at the house of Mr. *Cartwright*, retail brewer, Pinfold Street. On Tuesday night last the prisoner visited the house of the prosecutor, and had two glasses of ale, tendering for each glass a shilling, and receiving each time 10½d change. A short time afterwards the shillings were found to be counterfeit, and he was given into custody. There were other cases against him, but in these the evidence was not deemed sufficient. The prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Assizes. Mr. Bay-

ley, of Wednesbury, appeared for him, and applied that he might be admitted to bail, but the Bench refused the application.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/7/1866

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Joseph Cotterill, 36, blacksmith, was indicted for uttering two counterfeit shillings and a counterfeit six-pence at Darlaston, on the 10th instant, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Leighton conducted the prosecution, and Mr. George Browne defended the prisoner.

The evidence showed that on the evening in question the prisoner uttered three counterfeit coins at two different public houses at Darlaston, and that on being apprehended the same evening he dropped a shilling which was also counterfeit.

Mr. W. Parker, chemist, of Darlaston, who was one of the jury that tried the prisoner, was sworn as a witness and gave him a good character for honesty.

The jury, after some deliberation, found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy on account of his previous good character, and his Lordship sentenced him to six months' imprisonment.”

1871 Census

16, Pinfold Street – Beerhouse

[1] *Mary Ann Lunn* (41), married, beerhouse keeper, born Abberabet, Wales:

John Sheldon, beer retailer, Pinfold Street. [1880]

1881 Census

16, Pinfold Street – MANCHESTER HOUSE

[1] *John Sheldon* (47), shoe tip forger, born Darlaston;

[2] *Betsey Sheldon* (47), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Louisa Sheldon* (18), daughter, barmaid, born Darlaston;

[4] *Mary Ann Sheldon* (14), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Betsey Sheldon* (6), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

16, Pinfold Street – MANCHESTER HOUSE

[1] *Betsey Sheldon* (50), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Richard Jones* (37), brother, moulder, born Darlaston;

[3] *Thomas Page* (37), lodger, horse driver, born Darlaston;

[4] *Annie Brittain* (15), domestic servant, born Bridgnorth:

Betsy Sheldon (50), widow, married *Thomas Page* (34), bachelor, labourer, on 13th March 1891.

1895 Probate

“*Thomas Page*, of Pinfold Street, Darlaston, Staffordshire, furniture remover, died 17 April 1895. Administration Lichfield 21 May to *Betsy Page*, widow. Effects £110.”

Walsall Observer 31/10/1896

“On Monday morning, a woman named *Betsy Page*, aged 60, a widow, WOLVERHAMPTON beerhouse, Pinfold Street, Darlaston, died suddenly. Deceased is stated to have been in her usual health when she retired to bed on Sunday night.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1890 - Advert

“Freehold Residences, Old-Licensed House, Dwelling Houses, and Valuable Mineral Estate, at Moxley, in the parish of Wednesbury; and Beerhouse at Darlaston.

Mr. Thomas J. Barnett is instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. David Skidmore, to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, in Wednesbury, on Monday, March 31, 1890.....

Lot 7. A Well-known Licensed Beerhouse, known as the WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE, being No.16, in Pinfold Street, Darlaston, with Out-offices and large Yard, as in the occupation of Messrs. Banks and Co., Brewers, or their sub-tenant, on yearly tenancy.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1900

“At Wednesbury, yesterday – before Mr. N. C. A. Neville (stipendiary) – *Mary Ann Webb*, landlady of the WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE beerhouse, Pinfold Street, was summoned for permitting gaming on April 23, 24, 28, and May 4. Mr. A. Turton prosecuted, and Mr. R. A. Wilcock defended.

Police-constable Haynes, of Tipton, said he visited the house in plain clothes, accompanied by a man named Kerr, who was said to be a butcher, but was assisting the police in the supervision of licensed houses. It was alleged that the defendant’s husband played with the customers at ‘tippit’ in the house and at skittles in the back yard, the losing side paying for beer, which defendant herself brought in.

Kerr, in cross-examination, made contradictory statements, and appeared to have an indistinct idea of what occurred.

Mr. Wilcock denied that gaming took place, and complained of the police allowing nearly six weeks to elapse before they issued a summons, so that it was impossible for defendant to call any witnesses, as she had no idea who the customers were at her house on those particular dates. He considered such a course was exceedingly unfair to the licensed victualler.

The Stipendiary said he endorsed every word of Mr. Wilcock as to the unfairness of making charges so long after the offences were alleged to have taken place. He saw no reason why, when the police had completed their investigations, they should not have given notice to the defendant that the charges would be preferred. It was grossly unfair. The police apparently considered the evidence of the officers was not of itself worthy of credence, and they got someone, whom they termed a ‘civilian,’ to act as a spy and accompany them. For some most extraordinary reason, in every case the police chose the most stupid man in the county for this duty; he did not know if this was done on purpose. PC Haynes gave his evidence very straightforwardly, but the man who accompanied him contradicted him in regard to every date. As the police could not trust their own officer, he (the Stipendiary) could not be expected to do so. Had the police trusted him, he should have been prepared to do the same, but he could not believe the dolt who was called to corroborate. He dismissed the cases in respect of the first three dates; but, as regarded May 4, he was satisfied, from the evidence of PCs Haynes and Walford, that gambling was committed in the skittle alley, and fined the defendant 40s and £1 13s 6d costs.”

John Henry Marrion = John Henry Marion

1901 Census

16, Pinfold Street

[1] *John Marrion* (30), beerhouse keeper, manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Maud Marrion* (29), wife, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Leader 19/10/1901

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, before Councillors C. W. D. Joynson and J. Handley, and E. Hunt, Esq, a publican named *George Whitbrook*, of WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE, Pinfold Street, Wednesbury, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 15th inst, and also with serving intoxicating drink to a drunken person named John Owen, of Pinfold Street. Owen was charged with being drunk on licensed premises. Mr. A. J. Glover defended *Whitbrook*.

PC Watson (Darlaston) stated that at 4.20pm on the 5th he saw Owen staggering along Pinfold Street, Darlaston, and afterwards enter the WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE, kept by defendant, which is in the borough of Wednesbury. Witness entered the house at 4.40, and saw defendant leaning on the counter with a pint jug before him, which he emptied in his presence and called for another pint of ale, which was supplied by the landlady. Witness spoke to the woman, who, in reply, said, ‘If you say he’s drunk I won’t let him stay in.’ Owen then said, ‘I ain’t drunk,’ and walked down the room, but staggered. Witness reported the matter to Inspector Williams, and they again visited the house, and afterwards went to Owen’s house, where they saw Owen, who was still very drunk.

Inspector Williams stated that in consequence of the complaint he received from Watson he went to the WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE and asked the landlady who was in charge. She said, 'I am, as the master is in charge of the poultry shop.' Witness told her what the officer had said, and she replied, 'He was not drunk, Inspector, he was not on the premises two minutes. I did not supply him with anything. He didn't leave work till four o'clock, so he hadn't time to get drunk.' Witness afterwards went to Owen's home. He saw the man, and told him he had had a complaint of his being drunk, and also said to him, 'And I must say you are very drunk.' Witness asked what time the man left work, and he said, 'One o'clock, but I got a lot of beer on the way up. I was not in the WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE above half an hour before the police came in, and I only had two pints there.' Witness then returned to the public house and saw the landlady again, to whom he repeated what Owen had said. She replied, 'He tells a lie.'

Elizabeth Owen, wife of defendant, also gave evidence, and said her husband was neither drunk nor sober. He was 'middling.'

PC Marshall corroborated PC Watson's evidence.

Mr. Glover addressed the Bench for the defence, denying that Owen was drunk, or was even supplied with drink in the house to be consumed there. He called witnesses, who said Owen was not drunk.

The magistrates, after retiring, said they would convict only on the charge of permitting drunkenness, and the penalty would be 40s and costs or one month. There would be no adjudication on the charge of selling drink to a drunken person. Owen was fined 2s 6d and costs."

Chard and Ilminster News 11/7/1903

"An extraordinary licensing difficulty is reported to have occurred at Wednesbury. A short time ago the licensing justices refused to renew the license of the WOLVERHAMPTON INN, near Darlaston, and the owners, the Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company, appealed against the decision, and the Quarter Sessions magistrates ordered the license to be renewed, but suggested improvements being carried out. When the plan for carrying out the improvements, amounting to £400, was submitted to the borough magistrates, they refused the application on the ground that it would be increasing the licensing area!"

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/1/1907

"The value of the modern system of finger print identification was illustrated in a case at the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday.

At the WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE, Pinfold Street, a bag containing 7s 11d was missed. The licensee, *John Henry Marion*, instituted a search, during which Charles West produced the bag and put in on the counter.

West was charged yesterday with stealing the bag and its contents, and Superintendent Salt said that finger print impressions and also photographs of the prisoner had been circulated throughout the kingdom, with the result that a message had been received stating that the prisoner had been identified as having been connected with other thefts. Under these circumstances West was remanded in custody until next week."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/2/1907

"Charles West, no fixed abode, was committed to the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions at Wednesbury, on a charge of stealing 7s 11d belonging to *John Henry Marion*, the landlord of the WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE, Pinfold Street."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, Charles West, who had several aliases, was sentenced to 12 months.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1907

"County Licensing Compensation Authority.....

Mr. Disturnal stated that the following houses had been reported by the justices from Wednesbury borough.....

WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE, Pinfold Street, beerhouse (licensee *John Henry Marrion*). No opposition. Renewal refused."

Lichfield Mercury 3/1/1908

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee presented a report of the business transacted during the year.....

The committee went very carefully in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard, upon oath, evidence put forward by the claimants. The committee considered that the amounts of compensation agreed upon are satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the compensation fund.....

WOLVERHAMPTON HOUSE, Pinfold Street, Wednesbury, was awarded £650.”

John Henry Marrion – see also ROYAL OAK, Moxley.

WONDER

DARLASTON

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Stewart [1861]

NOTES

It had a ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/9/1860

“Darlaston. To Be Let with immediate possession, that well-known Public House, the WONDER, now in the occupation of Mr. *William Stewart*; with Shop attached, suitable for Tailor, Draper, or any other Business. Coming-in moderate. Good thoroughfare; populous neighbourhood. An excellent opportunity. Apply on the premises; or to Mr. R. Heseltine, Auctioneer and Appraiser, Market Place, Bilston.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/1/1861

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Thomas Davis and Henry Williams, Esqs, *William Stewart*, of the WONDER beerhouse, was charged with allowing gambling in his house. The informant was a man named Joseph Harris, who lived as tenant under the defendant, and the latter said that the information was laid out of spite, because he had threatened to distrain for a month’s rent. Harris swore that on the 24th of December last he went to defendant’s house, and there saw a number of people playing ‘Billy Fair Play.’ This was also sworn to by Harris’s wife. Several witnesses for the defence swore that they were in the defendant’s house on the day named, and that they did not see any gambling. Fined 40s and costs.”

WOODMAN

39, (Upper) Blakemore Lane, DARLASTON

OWNERS

Charles Penrice
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

J Hughes [1834]
George Spruce [1861]
Wilkes [1861]
Moses Fisher [] – **1872**;
John Sheldon (**1872** – [])
Charles Penrice [1880] – [1891]
Mrs. Fanny Penrice [1895] – [1904]
William Horton [1909] – [1912]
William Hinton [1919] – **1924**;
George Henry Wilkes (**1924** – **1937**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Upper Blakemore Lane – WOODMAN

[1] *George Spruce* (27), ironstone miner and retail brewer, born Shiffnall, Shropshire;

[2] *Emma Spruce* (27), wife, housewife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *George Spruce* (5), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] *Samuel Spruce* (3), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] *Larius Spruce* (1), son, born Darlaston;

[6] *Thomas Spruce* (2 months), son, born Darlaston;

[7] *Amanda Booth* (16), servant, born Wednesbury:

George Spruce – see also BLACK HORSE, Pinfold Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1872

“The under-mentioned persons, all residing in Darlaston, were, on the complaint of Mr. J. G. Horder, inspector of weights and measures, fined in the sums set against their names, with 14s 6d costs in each instance, for the offences specified.....

John Sheldon, tobacconist and publican, Blakemores Lane, weighing paper with tobacco; the paper weighed a dram and a half to each half ounce of tobacco, and tobacco and paper together were slightly below the ostensible weight; fined 40s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/11/1861

“At West Bromwich Public Office, on Saturday last, before A. Kendrick, and H. Elwell, Esqs, a man named William Page, of Darlaston, charged James Wood, a brewer, with assaulting him, and cutting him with a knife on the hand. From the evidence of complainant, confirmed by a companion named Penrice, it seems they went to Mr. *Wilkes*’s, the WOODMAN, and there saw the defendant, who had come that night to brew. He drank some of their beer, and subsequently agreed to toss for a pint, which losing, he refused to pay for. Page, upon this, having asked for an explanation, the brewer, according to his story, cut his hand with a knife. The wound was rather a serious one.

Mr. Jackson, for the defence, called some respectable witnesses, who gave such testimony that the Magistrates were induced to order the complainant (Page) into the dock on a charge of assaulting Wood. From this man’s evidence, confirmed by that of Mr. *Wilkes*, the landlord of the WOODMAN INN, and by an iron-

master of Darlaston, who happened to be at the inn at the time, it was shown that Wood had committed no assault, much less that he had used the knife, but that Page struck and ill-used Wood. It also appeared that Page was the worse for liquor, and that the injury in his hand must have been inflicted subsequently to what had occurred between him and the brewer.

The Bench fined Page for the assault upon Wood 20s, and costs 12s 6d, in default to be sent to gaol for 21 days.”

1881 Census

39, Blakemores Lane – WOODMAN INN

- [1] *Charles Penrice* (34), beer retailer and gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Fanny Penrice* (35), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Unis Penrice* (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Lucy Penrice* (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Charles Penrice* (3), son, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Archibald Penrice* (6 months), son, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

39, Blakemore Lane

- [1] *Charles Penrice* (44), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Fanny Penrice* (45), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Unis Penrice* (20), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Lucy Penrice* (18), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Charles Penrice* (14), son, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Archibald P. Penrice* (10), son, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 5/1/1895

“The annual dinner to the employees of Messrs. Hammond Bros., builders and contractors, Darlaston, generously given by the firm, was held on Saturday, at the well-known hostelry, the WOODMAN INN. A capital spread of Xmas fare was well placed on the board by the genial hostess, Mrs. *Penrice*.....”

1901 Census

39, Blakemores Lane

- [1] *Fanny Penrice* (55), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Charles Penrice* (23), son, machine fitter, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Archie Penrice* (20), son, iron moulder, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Miriam Eaton* (23), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Mrs. *Fanny Penrice*, beer retailer, 39, Blakemore Lane. [1904]

Archibald Paul Penrice – see OLD BUSH, Bush Street.

Walsall Advertiser 6/2/1909

“The general annual Licensing Sessions for Darlaston were held at the Police Court on Wednesday morning.....

In the case of the WOODMAN beerhouse, Blakemores Lane, the licensee, *William Horton*, was informed that alterations ought not to have been carried out without the sanction of the magistrates to plans. The renewal of his license would, therefore, be adjourned until March 3rd, to allow him to produce plans of the alterations carried out, and also plans which would meet with the approval of the Bench.”

Walsall Observer 6/3/1909

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Darlaston took place on Wednesday.....

The license of the WOODMAN beerhouse, Blakemores Lane, was renewed subject to alterations being carried out to render the premises less difficult of police supervision.”

1911 Census

39, Blakemores Lane

- [1] *William Horton* (43), beer retailer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Eunice Horton (40), wife, married 17 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] Amy Horton (12), daughter, school, born Darlaston;
- [4] Jessie Downes (19), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

William Horton, beer retailer, 39, Blakemore Lane. [1912]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/11/1912 - Advert

“Wanted, a General.

Apply, *W. Horton*, WOODMAN INN, Darlaston.”

The license was surrendered as part of the grant for the ROUGH HAY TAVERN.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/3/1936

“At the adjourned licensing sessions at Darlaston yesterday.....

The Justices approved an application on behalf of the Holt Brewery Co. for the removal of the license of the BOAT INN, Hurst Hill, Bilston, to new premises proposed to be erected in Rough Hay Road, Darlaston, to be known as the ROUGH HAY TAVERN. It was stated that the company were prepared to surrender the license of the WOODMANS INN, Blakemores Lane, and an off-license, Catherines Cross.”

It closed on 18th May 1937.