

HITCHMOUGH'S BLACK COUNTRY PUBS



WEDNESBURY

(INC. KINGS HILL, MESTY CROFT, WOOD GREEN)

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INTRODUCTION

It is with regret that we report the death, in September 2023, aged 73, of Tony Hitchmough, local pub historian. Tony believed that the pub had always been the heart of the community; pubs were places where people met and talked, played games and sports, held meetings, took trips, and the buildings themselves also had a story to tell.

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I hope you find these files useful. Please, if you can, show your appreciation by contributing information or photographs.

With the assistance of Gavin, the work continues.

Janet Parker (Mrs.Hitchmough)
January 2024

hbcpinfo@yahoo.com



Hitchmough

DISTRICTS

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ACORN

52, (68), Birmingham Street, (68, Back Street), Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

James Pritchards Brewery [1921]
William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Hammonds [1871] – [1881]
John Burford [1885]
William Woodhall [1891] – [1896]
George Plimley [1901]
Harry Plimley [1904]
Frederick Charles William Martin [1911]
William Smith [1912]
Sam Horton [1921]
Stephen Horton [1921]
John Thomas Corns [1939] – [1940]
Clara Corns [1952] – [1957]

NOTES

68, Back Street [1871]
68, Birmingham Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1921]
52, Birmingham Street [1940]

John Hammonds = John Hammond

1871 Census

Kings Hill Field, 68, Back Street – ACORN

- [1] *John Hammonds* (46), licensed victualler and bricklayer, born Dalbury, Shropshire;
- [2] Emma Hammonds (41), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Hannah Hammonds (17), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Richard Hammonds (14), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] William Hammonds (12), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Samuel Hammonds (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] William Simcox (67), step-father, bricklayer, born Dalbury, Shropshire;
- [8] Elizabeth Simcox (67), step-mother, born Holdgate, Shropshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1878 - Advert

“Found, on Friday, liver-and-white Pointer Dog. Will be sold in three days if not owned.
Apply, ACORN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.”

FOUND, on Friday, liver-and-white Pointer Dog. Will be sold in three days if not owned.—Apply, Acorn, King's Hill, Wednesbury.



Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1880 - Advert

“Important Freehold Property, the ACORN INN, Old Park Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, near the Road leading from Darlaston to Walsall.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the CASTLE HOTEL, Darlaston, Tomorrow (Tuesday), the 21st of December, at 6 for 7 o’clock in the evening.....

All that Valuable Freehold Beerhouse, known by the Sign of the ACORN INN, situate in the Old Park Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, and near to the Road leading from Darlaston to Walsall, comprising Attic, two Bed Rooms, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Kitchen, two Cellars, Brewhouse, Workshop, Stable, Shed, Garden, Yard, and Draw-in Gateroad, and Out-buildings belonging thereto, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Hammond*.

Possession will be given on completion of the purchase.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury; or to Messrs. Smith and Howl, Solicitors, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.”

1881 Census

68, Birmingham Street

[1] *John Hammonds* (57), widower, bricklayer, born Ludlow, Shropshire;

[2] *Samuel Hammonds* (19), son, bricklayer, born Darlaston;

[3] *Arthur Hammonds* (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] *Hannah Hammonds* (27), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Martha Simcox* (15), relative, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1881 - Advert

“Beerhouse. To be Let or Sold, a good substantial Beerhouse.

For particulars, apply *John Hammond*, the ACORN, Kings Hill, near Wednesbury.”

John Hammonds – see also ACORN, Darlaston.

BEERHOUSE.—To be Let or Sold, a good substantial Beerhouse.
—For particulars, apply *John Hammond*, The Acorn, King's Hill, near Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/1/1885

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, today (Tuesday), *John Evans*, Chapel Street, Kings Hill; *Pheneas Bullock*, Walsall Road; and *William Walters*, of Darlaston, were charged with being on licensed premises during prohibited hours.

Police-constable *Beech* said that on the 17th [sic] January, about 1am, he visited the ACORN INN, Birmingham Street, Wednesbury, in company with Police-constable *Rowbottom*. While outside he heard a rattling as if someone was playing at dominoes, and also heard someone say, ‘Who won the last game?’ He rapped the door, and the noise ceased, but shortly after the rattling again took place, as if someone was clearing dominoes away. When admitted they found four men inside. The landlord said they were lodgers. Witness waited outside, and saw all three defendants leave. Mr. *Rose*, for the defence, admitted that the men were in the house, but contended that there was no case, there being no evidence of the sale of beer. He called the landlord, who said they had not had any beer there, and all the men were sober. There being a doubt about the case, it was dismissed.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1885

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *John Evans*, *Phineas Bullock*, and *William Walters*, tramcar-drivers, were charged with being on the premises of *John Burford*, the ACORN INN, Darlaston, during illegal hours. Mr. *Rose* appeared for the defence.

Police-constables *Beech* and *Rowbotham* deposed to going to the back of the ACORN INN at one o’clock in the morning, and to hearing persons in conversation inside, and a rattling as if a game of dominoes was being played. They went back at two o’clock, and knocked and waited about five minutes before they were admitted. Then they found the three defendants and a fourth man, who was said to be a lodger. Some of them were the worse for liquor. For the defence it was stated that the defendants, with the fourth man and the landlord of the house, went into the ACORN before eleven o’clock, and sat talking till nearly two, but had no drink. One of them was said to be ‘courting the daughter,’ but on being closely pressed it appeared that he had only ‘talked to her.’

Mr. *H. Williams*, one of the magistrates, said, after consultation with his colleagues, the weight of evidence, such as it was, was on the side of the defendants; but for four or five persons to be in a public house from eleven till after two, without having anything to drink, one of them being rather beery when he went in, was such a state of things as had never happened before. The evidence threw some very shadowy doubt upon the matter, and the case would be dismissed.”

1891 Census

68, Birmingham Street – ACORN INN

- [1] William Woodhall (31), fitting maker, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Alice Woodhall (31), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Lilian F. Woodhall (9), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary P. Woodhall (7), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Edwin J. Woodhall (5), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Anne Bloucher (14), domestic servant, born Ocker Hill:

Wednesbury Herald 9/3/1895

“On Tuesday night a meeting of the Prince of Wales Lodge of the Staffordshire Conservative League was held at the ACORN INN, Birmingham Street. There was a large attendance.....”

William Woodhall, beer retailer, 68, Birmingham Street. [1896]

1901 Census

68, Birmingham Street – ACORN

- [1] George Plimley (25), fitter and publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Florence Plimley (23), wife, born Darlaston:

Harry Plimley, beer retailer, 68, Birmingham Street, Kings Hill. [1904]

1911 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] Frederick Charles William Martin (49), beerhouse manager, born Spain, British Subject;
- [2] Rachel Martin (42), wife, married 22 years, born Brownhills;
- [3] Donal Martin (15), son, labourer, ironworks, born Walsall;
- [4] Harold Martin (8), son, born Walsall:

William Smith, beer retailer, 68, Birmingham Street, Kings Hill. [1912]

1921 Census

Birmingham Street – ACORN INN

- [1] Stephen Horton (64), publican, born Willenhall;
- [2] Amelia Horton (50), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Percy Horton (18), son, stump moulder, born Willenhall;
- [4] Fanny Horton (26), daughter, born Willenhall;
- [5] Emily Horton (15), daughter, packer, casting foundry warehouse, born Willenhall;
- [6] Elihu Horton (12), son, school, born Willenhall:

Rugeley Times 20/8/1938

“Wednesbury and District Darts League.....

There will be a meeting of the league on Thursday, August 25th, at the ACORN INN, Birmingham Street, and the league matches will commence on September 7th.”

1939 Register

Birmingham Street – ACORN INN (3 of 4)

- [1] John T. Corns, date of birth 20/11/1896, foreman, nuts and bolts, married;
- [2] Clara Corns, dob 30/9/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Alma D. (Corns) Hampton, dob 17/10/1930, at school, single;

Lichfield Mercury 19/12/1952

“The engagement is announced between Ben, second son of Mrs. C. Corns, ACORN INN, Darlaston, and Ena, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Stevens, 9, Beech Crescent, Chasetown. Congratulations from both families.”

Lichfield Mercury 29/3/1957

"The union of Chasetown and Darlaston families took place on Thursday last week when at St. Annes Church, Chasetown, the Rev. J. A. Turner married Miss Ena Marion Stevens, the youngest daughter of Mr. C. W. Stevens of 9 Birch Crescent to Mr. Benjamin James Corns, the eldest son of Mrs. Clara and the late Mr. J. T. Corns of the ACORN INN, Darlaston.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a beige suit with kingfisher blue accessories with a buttonhole of lilies of the valley and carried a white bible. Her bridesmaids were Miss Alma Corns, a sister of the bridegroom, who was dressed in a beige suit and Miss Dorothy Smith, a cousin of the bride, who wore a grey suit. Both had pink accessories and a spray of lilies of the valley. The best man was Mr. T. Corns, a brother of the groom. The bride is self employed as a draper at Chasetown.

At the reception held at the Park Gate Inn, Cannock Wood, there were 40 guests present."

Closed

It was delicensed in the 1960s.

Important FREEHOLD PROPERTY. "THE ACORN INN,"
Old Park Road, King's Hill, Wednesbury, near the Road leading
from Darlaston to Walsall. - To be Sold by Auction.
BY Mr. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, at the Castle Hotel,
Darlaston, TO-MORROW (Tuesday), the 21st of December,
at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions which incor-
porate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society
- all that Valuable FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE, known by the
Sign of "THE ACORN INN," situate in the Old Park Road, King's
Hill, Wednesbury, and near to the Road leading from Darlaston to
Walsall, comprising Acre, two Bed Rooms, Smoke Room, Tap
Room, Kitchen, two Cellars, Brewhouse, Workshop, Stable, Shed,
Garden, Yard, and Draw-in Gateroad, and Out-buildings belonging
thereto, now in the occupation of Mr. John Hammond.
Possession will be given on completion of the purchase.
For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Church Street,
Wednesbury; or to Messrs. Smith and Howl, Solicitors, Lower
High Street, Wednesbury.

ALBERT

Albert Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Gester [1875]

NOTES

Midland Examiner 17/4/1875

“On Monday afternoon and evening the half-yearly district meeting of the Greets Green and Wednesbury districts of the Ancient Order of Foresters was held at the ALBERT INN, Albert Street, Wednesbury. The following delegates representing 2,300 members were present.....

At the close of the business the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by Host Brother *Gester*, and a very agreeable evening was spent.”

ANCHOR HOTEL

26, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Watson

Messrs. Marston, Thompson, and Evershed, Burton-on-Trent [1913]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1923) [1987]

LICENSEES

William Watson [1868] – [1881]

Joseph Watson [1870]

Henry Watson [1871]

Thomas Staley (1882 – [1884]

Henry Staley (1885 – [1892]

R Minett []

Robert Flint [1894] – [1895]

George William Chamberlin [1896]

E and H Clarke [1900]

Miss Charlotte S Mundy [1901]

William Goshawk Bartlett [1905] – [1907]

Mrs. Gertrude Annie Bartlett [1908] – [1912]

W J Wall [1913]

Major George Cox [1915] – [1916]

Thomas Atkiss [1921] – [1921]

Edwin A E Oman [1925]

Douglas George Young [1927] – [1929]

G F L Noot [] – 1933;

Harold Osmond Jones (1933 – [1939]

Roy Taylor [1953]

Clifford Harvey Dale [1954] – [1966]

Ken Burrows [1975] – 1976)

Kathleen Jeavons [1985] – [1987]

NOTES

Commercial hotel and posting house [1892], [1896]

Commercial hotel [1911]

The Court Leet met here every November.

Auctions were frequently held here.



TUBE TRADE LOCK-OUT AT WEDNESBURY AND WALSALL

Upwards of 1,000 HANDS are NOW LOCKED OUT in consequence of refusing to forego the Nine Hours' and return to the Ten Hours' system of working. SUBSCRIPTIONS in aid of their support to be sent to WILLIAM DODSWORTH, Treasurer; and all communications to be sent to JOHN HOLBERRY, Secretary, Committee Rooms, Anchor Hotel, Holyhead-road, Wednesbury, Staffordshire

TUBE TRADE OF WEDNESBURY AND WALSALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

FELLOW-WORKMEN.—Notices have been issued by two of the largest Firms in the above trade for a return from the Nine Hours to the Ten Hours system of working. The notices expired on Saturday, January 30, 1875, and we beg to state that upwards of One Thousand Men and Boys have turned out, and are determined not to go in again on the old system of working ten hours per day.

As we have no union at present in existence in the Tube Trade, we have to enlist the sympathies and support of ALL who are interested in the present system of working nine hours per day.

Feeling assured that this is only the thin end of the wedge, we hope it will be taken up by the whole working community of Great Britain.

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

GEORGE BULMAN, President.

WM. DODSWORTH, Treasurer.

JOHN HOLBERRY, Secretary.

All communications to be addressed to Mr. John Holberry, Secretary, and all Post Office Orders to be made payable to Mr. William Dodsworth, Treasurer, Committee Rooms, the Anchor Hotel, Holyhead-road, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1868

“On Tuesday and Wednesday last, a couple of treats of unusual liberality and excellence were given by Mr. *W. Watson*, of the Station Refreshment Rooms and the ANCHOR INN and Stores, Holyhead Road, to his workmen and a few of his personal friends, in celebration of the completion and opening of the last-named house. The first took place at the ANCHOR INN, where, on Tuesday evening, about forty persons sat down to a sumptuous repast, under the presidency of Mr. Jellyman. After the usual loyal toasts, the health of the founder of the feast (Mr. *Watson*) and his family was given in highly complimentary terms and enthusiastically drunk; and subsequently Mr. Harris, in the name of the workpeople, presented Mr. *Watson* with a costly and beautiful timepiece, bearing the following inscription on a gold plate, ‘Presented to Mr. *Watson*, of the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, by his employés, as a token of respect. September 8, 1868.’ Mr. *Watson*, who was evidently deeply moved, feelingly acknowledged the gift, and other toasts were afterwards given, interspersed with vocal performances by a party of glee singers, consisting of Messrs. Harris, Smith, Riley, and Abbotts, the party at last breaking up at about eleven o’clock.

On the following day about thirty-five of the guests were taken by Mr. *Watson* to Burton, and after being conducted over the principal breweries, were entertained at dinner by him at the Trafalgar Hotel; S. Evershed, Esq, presiding. Here Mr. *Watson* was again enthusiastically toasted, and the health of the Chairman was also heartily drunk. Dinner over, the party went in procession to the Chairman’s residence, at Stapnell, and roamed at will through his beautiful grounds and flower gardens, the glee party still attending, and by their vocal efforts, at frequent intervals, contributing to the pleasure of the excursionists. Fruit and refreshments, of a recherche character, were generously served out, and after more complimentary toasts, the procession reformed, and, headed by S. Evershed, Esq, and Mr. *Watson*, walked to the station, the entire party thoroughly delighted with the day’s proceedings, and warmly acknowledging the kindness of their entertainers.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/2/1869 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction.....

Lot 2. All that most valuable and eligible Plot of Freehold Building Land, situate between the Aenon Chapel, and Mr. *Watson*’s Ale and Porter Stores, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, and having a frontage of 8 yards to the said Holyhead Road, and also a frontage of 12 yards 2 feet 6 inches to Albert Street, and containing in the whole 505 square yards, or thereabouts.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1869

“The annual Sessions for the hearing of applications for new licenses to sell spirits, was held at 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 Watson, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, applied through Mr. Hooper. House own property, rated at £58; 80 yards from nearest licensed house. No opposition. Application refused.”

1871 Census

26, Holyhead Road – ANCHOR INN

[1] *William Watson* (40), innkeeper, born Stapenhill, Derbyshire;

[2] *Eliza Watson* (45), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Eliza Walker* (21), domestic servant, born Chester;

[4] *Mary Parker* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/9/1871

“Henry Tibbitts, an elderly man, was charged with robbing the till of Mr. *William Watson*, of the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury. Miriam Maybury, the barmaid to prosecutor, stated that on Monday morning, while she was from the bar a few moments, she heard the clink of money, and on going to the till found that there was 6d missing. She noticed at the same time the prisoner had a 6d piece in his mouth. She immediately sent for the police, and the prisoner was taken into custody by Police-sergeant Langdon. Committed to the Sessions for trial.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1872

“Edge-tool, Hoe, and Spade and Shovel Makers.

The delegates of the above trades who were appointed to wait on their employers met, on Saturday evening last, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury; and, after hearing the reports of the various delegates, it was resolved to carry out the resolution passed at the general meeting, to give fourteen days’ notice for a rise of 20 per cent on every article made, which notice has been duly given. Several small works, which were not represented at the general meeting, sent delegates to the meeting on Saturday.”

William Watson was also described as a wine and spirit merchant and HOPE AND ANCHOR, 136, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1874

“A meeting of miners on strike was held on Wednesday evening, at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury.

Mr. Amos, who presided, regretted that the men had been dragged into the present conflict; took credit to the miners for adopting a quieter and more intelligent course of action than on the occasion of the strike in 1864; and congratulated his hearers that the public were on their side. Their ability to resist the demands of the masters he attributed to the power of the Amalgamation, and said the gauntlet having been thrown down they must press the battle forward to victory.....”

South Staffordshire Examiner 10/10/1874

“Thomas Lyons, 24, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a ring from the person of *William Watson*, landlord of the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury.

Prosecutor stated that prisoner and his two brothers were creating a disturbance, and he ordered them out of the house. As they refused to go, he took hold of prisoner, and after a ‘scuffle’ got him into the street. He then missed his ring, and fetched prisoner back again. Sergeant Curtis was sent for, and he apprehended the prisoner, who said he knew where the ring was, and, upon his brother visiting him at the police station, told him to fetch it.

The Bench sent prisoner to gaol for one month.”

Midland Counties Evening Express 3/11/1874

“The Strike at the Wednesbury Globe Tube Works and the Great Bridge Victoria Tube Works.

At a mass meeting of the men on strike at the above works, held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, an offer was made from the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Globe Tube Works Company to forego the question of hours, and to allow the men still to work on at the 9 hours so long as other firms in the same district continued the same practice. The question of 10 per cent reduction in welders’ and scalp turners’ wages, he also offered to modify – the future basis to be calculated upon the price list of one of the oldest and largest firms in the town. The men, after considering these amended terms, unanimously adopted a resolution pledging themselves to accept the average price of twelve firms, six to be named by the directors and six by the men; the average to be deduced by a practical accountant. These terms were forwarded to the chair, and the meeting was adjourned for the purpose of receiving the directors’ reply. At present the strike effects between 200 and 300 men, both works belonging to the company being closed.”

Midland Counties Evening Express 15/1/1875

“The Threatened Strike in the Wednesbury Tube Trade. Yesterday evening a large meeting of the tubemakers of Wednesbury was held at the ANCHOR INN, in that town, to consider a notice which has been posted in the works of Messrs. Russell and Company, the Crown Tubeworks, Wednesbury, for a discontinuance of the nine hours system on the 1st of February and a return to the ten hours system.....”

Midland Counties Evening Express 2/2/1875

“Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the tube makers on strike against the notice for the reintroduction of the ten hours system at the Crown Tubeworks and the Church Hill Tubeworks and the Alma Tubeworks, Walsall, was held in the Assembly room at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, which was crowded to excess. Mr. Bullman presided, and said that the men must either fight or run, and the question for them to decide was would they go in and work ten hours? (Shouts of No.).....”

[A motion to continue the strike was unanimously carried.]

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 4/2/1875 - Advert

“Tube Trade Lock-Out at Wednesbury and Walsall.

Upwards of 1,000 Hands are Now Locked Out in consequence of refusing to forego the Nine Hours and return to the Ten Hours system of working. Subscriptions in aid of their support to be sent to William Dodsworth, Treasurer; and all communications to be sent to John Holberry, Secretary, Committee Rooms ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.”

Forest of Dean Examiner 19/2/1875 - Advert

“Tube Trade of Wednesbury and Walsall, Staffordshire.

Fellow-Workmen,

Notices have been issued by two of the largest Firms in the above trade for a return from the Nine Hours to the Ten Hours system of working. The notices expired on Saturday, January 30, 1875, and we beg to state that upwards of One Thousand Men and Boys have turned out, and are determined not to go in again on the old system of working ten hours per day.

As we have no union at present in existence in the Tube Trade, we have to enlist the sympathies and support of All who are interested in the present system of working nine hours per day.

Feeling assured that this is only the thin end of the wedge, we hope it will be taken up by the whole working community of Great Britain.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

George Bulman, President; William Dodsworth, Treasurer; John Holberry, Secretary.

All communications to be addressed to Mr. John Holberry, Secretary, and all Post Office Orders to be made payable to Mr. William Dodsworth, Treasurer, Committee Rooms, ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.”

Dudley Guardian 27/2/1875

“The Strike in the Wednesbury Tube Trade.

On Tuesday more than five hundred tube operators, including boys, received their strike pay, at the back of the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury. The amount, more than £200, was distributed 11s to married men, 7s to single men, and 4s to boys. The contributions from friendly societies have been coming in pretty freely. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers has sent during the week £35; the Newcastle Union Maintenance League, £15; the Gateshead Relief Committee, £10; and the miners of the district, £10. In addition to these sums, the trades organisations of the district have subscribed more than £80.....”

Midland Counties Evening Express 10/3/1875

“A large meeting of representatives of trade societies was held on Monday evening, at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, to consider the desirability of forming a Trades Council for the borough of Wednesbury and district Eventually the following resolution was unanimously agreed to.

That this meeting, recognising the increasing need for unity among the various trade organisations in the district, considers that a Trade Council for the borough of Wednesbury and district should at once be formed, and that steps should be taken to bring the matter before the various trade societies, with a view to their co-operation.”

Midland Counties Evening Express 12/3/1875

“A meeting of the tubemakers on strike at Wednesbury was held yesterday afternoon at the ANCHOR INN in that town, under the presidency of Mr. G. Bullman. In the course of the proceedings it was stated that several of those who came out on strike had got work elsewhere, at a higher rate of wages in every instance than they had received at the Crown Tube Works. The old cry of ‘No surrender’ was as enthusiastically given as at the outset of the dispute.”

Midland Examiner 3/4/1875

“The inaugural dinner of the Wednesbury Coach Ironworkers Association was given on Saturday last, at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury. The society, which was formed about a month ago, numbers nearly 130 members.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/4/1875

“The strike in the Wednesbury tube trade, which has now lasted nine weeks, was terminated yesterday, to the satisfaction of both masters and men.....

Yesterday afternoon a deputation of sixteen of the workmen (headed by Mr. Bullman) waited upon Mr. Smith, the general manager of the Crown Tube Works, and after a long conversation that gentleman proposed the following terms, which were agreed to. That nine hours a day should constitute a day's work pure and simple; that overtime should be abolished as a standing regulation; but that if, owing to a pressure of work, it should be needed, then a separate arrangement should be made between the man and the foreman, each to use his own discretion as to the terms. If the man refused to work overtime it would not jeopardise his situation. Mr. Smith was thanked for the kind and courteous manner in which he had received the deputation.

A portion of the men will go in today, and the remainder as soon as it is convenient for them to do so.

During the continuance of the strike something like £2,000 has been distributed to the men.”

Birmingham Mail 7/5/1875

“The first annual meeting of the Wednesbury Trades Council took place at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, on Wednesday night. There was a large number of delegates present, and it was stated that since the last meeting over 1,000 members had joined.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/9/1875

“The first half-yearly meeting of the Amalgamated Association of Wrought-iron Gas and Boiler Tubemakers was held yesterday evening, at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury. Mr. G. Bullman, the president, occupied the chair; and in the course of the proceedings regretted that the Wednesbury branch of the society could not boast more than 130 members, his conviction being that, considering the number of men in the trade, there should be, at least, 1,500 members. He was satisfied, however, that the time would come when the men generally would recognise the necessity and importance of being combined.....”

Post Office Directory 1876 - Advert

“*William Watson*, ANCHOR Commercial Hotel, and Inland Revenue Office, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/4/1876

“On Saturday evening the gas fitting makers of Wednesbury presented Mr. *Watson*, landlord of the ANCHOR INN, Holyhead Road, with a gold signet ring, as a token of their gratitude to him for having placed a room at their disposal for holding their meetings.”

Midland Examiner 30/12/1876

“On Tuesday night the annual meeting of the No.7 Lodge of the Miners Pride Lodge of the National Union of Miners was held at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, under the presidency of Mr. T. Amos.....

The proceedings ended with votes of thanks to the speakers, to Mr. *Watson*, the keeper of the house, for the gratuitous use of the room; and to the trustees of the Camp Street and Ridding Lane Chapels, for the use of various articles.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/4/1877

“On Monday, the members of the Midland Counties Branch of the Polishers and Grinders Society held their annual dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/11/1877

“An inquest was held yesterday afternoon, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, touching the death of George Henry Conroys (52), timekeeper, who died suddenly at Russell and Sons Crown Tube Works, on the 31st ult. The deceased, when in the act of stooping to feed some kittens, broke a main artery, which caused him to lose a large quantity of blood, from the effects of which he died. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/12/1877

“On Thursday night the 34th Staffordshire Rifle Volunteers celebrated their annual dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, when the distribution of prizes also took place.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1878

“The fourth annual dinner of the Wednesbury Conservative Association took place on Monday evening, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, under the presidency of Mr. Wilson Lloyd. The principal speaker was the Rev. W. Randall, whose observations for the most part had reference to Mr. Gladstone, whom he described as belonging to ‘the political party of the imbeciles,’ and as belonging to the ‘Church of the Imbeciles,’ if he belonged to any church at all.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/7/1879

“Henry Clark, a cabman, formerly in the employ of Mr. *William Watson*, ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, has been apprehended in Manchester on a charge of embezzling moneys belonging to Mr. *Watson*, which he had received as cab fares. He absconded on the 26th of May last. Police-constable Noble brought him from Manchester yesterday, and during the afternoon the prisoner was taken before a magistrate and remanded till Tuesday.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/7/1879

“Henry Clarke was charged with embezzling the sum of 20s, from Mr. *William Watson*, landlord of the ANCHOR HOTEL, and cab and car proprietor, Wednesbury.

Joseph Callaway, publican, of Ocker Hill, stated that he had arranged with the prisoner, who was in the employ of the prosecutor, to drive him and others to Kidderminster on the 21st of May, and agreed to give him a sovereign for the fare. In returning he paid the prisoner the money, and asked him if he was satisfied, and he replied in the affirmative. He gave him 1s 6d for himself.

The prosecutor stated that the prisoner received 10s a week, in addition to his board and lodging, and he was provided with a book to make all entries, but on this occasion he said Mr. Callaway had not settled with him.

As there were several other charges against the prisoner, he was remanded until Monday.”

AND

Dudley Herald 26/7/1879

“.....Mr. Job Calloway paid the prisoner 20s for a wagonette to Kidderminster. The next day prisoner left his horse and cab on the Great Western stand and absconded, He pleaded guilty to the charge of embezzlement and was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment, with hard labour.”

Wednesbury Herald 6/12/1879

“The members of the Wednesbury Town Swimming Club, with friends, held their annual dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Monday night. In the absence of Mr. Richard Williams, the President of the Club, Mr. W. H. Bytheway presided, and Mr. T. H. Walton occupied the vice chair.....”

Wednesbury Football Charity Association was founded here on 13th February 1880.

Wednesbury Herald 14/2/1880 - Advert

“*William Watson*, ANCHOR, Commercial and Family Hotel, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Wines and Spirits of the Choicest Quality.

An Ordinary at 1.15 Daily.

Every Convenience for Commercial Gentlemen.

Funerals Economically Conducted. Neat Hearse, and Morning Coaches, &c.

Wedding Carriages. Cabs, Cars, Breaks, and Waggonettes, for Pleasure Parties, &c.”

Wednesbury Herald 14/2/1880

“Through the kindness of the members of the Wednesbury Local Board and a number of other gentlemen, the members of the Wednesbury Fire Brigade were entertained on Saturday night at dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL, the catering of which reflected great credit upon the host, Mr. *Watson*.

After the removal of the cloth Captain Lever, of Walsall, occupied the chair, and Captain Friend, of West Bromwich, the vice chair.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1880

“On Monday night, Mr. James Taylor, auctioneer, who is about to go to New Zealand, was entertained by a number of the tradesmen of Wednesbury to an excellent dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL.....”

Wednesbury Herald 28/7/1880

“On Tuesday evening last, the 20th inst, a meeting of the Committee of the Wednesbury Football Charity Association, was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, when the sub-committee brought up the splendid challenge cup, for the inspection of the full committee. It was then stated by the president that the original design for the cup did not meet with the approval of the sub-committee, who set about to procure some fresh, and more appropriate design, which delayed the completion of the cup for some considerable time. If in consequence of the lapse of time being taken up in procuring fresh designs and of the urgent requests by the Stafford Road club [Wolverhampton], the winners, to have the cup in time for their annual dinner on Monday next, it was resolved to forego for the present, a formal presentation in Wednesbury, and endeavour to arrange for the attendance of a deputation of the president and vice-president of the association, and the presidents of the three leading football clubs in the town to attend the dinner of the Stafford Road club on Monday next. It was decided to present the cup and medals, and in the event of the deputation being unable to attend the dinner the cup will be handed to the Stafford Road club, and arrangements made for a formal presentation afterwards.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the sub-committee for their labours in so beautiful a cup, which was supported by the representatives of the Stafford Road club. We understand that at the next meeting the committee will consider the various local charities, amongst which the balance of the proceeds of the matches is to be distributed.”

Dudley and District News 27/11/1880

“The annual supper of the Wednesbury Rifle Volunteers (F Company, 3rd Staffordshire Battalion) took place at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday evening, when upwards of 100 members of the corps and a few friends sat down, under the presidency of Captain Nayler.....”

Wednesbury Herald 15/1/1881

“A large meeting of brewers, wine and spirit merchants and licensed victuallers was held on Monday, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, to protest against the oppressive extra charges for retail spirit licenses and to condemn the introduction of Local Option and Sunday closing into the licensing system. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. Dicken (the Chairman of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association). There were also present Messrs. R. Rooke, Mason, and H. Bailey (Birmingham), S. Burghope, W. Dawes, J. Taylor, Plant, Wood, Stevenson, G. Lloyd, Sheldon, Birch, Whick, Tyler, Candelet, and Ellis.

The Chairman said it was highly important that licensed victuallers, and in fact, all who were engaged in the beer trade, should enter a strong protest against the oppressive charges imposed by Mr. Gladstone upon them as tradesmen. (Hear, hear.) He regretted to say that he had received letters of apology for non-attendance from Mr. Wadhams and Mr. H. C. Edwards of Birmingham, and Mr. Foster of Derby.

Mr. S. Burghope, of Wednesbury, moved, ‘That this meeting is of opinion that the Act of last Session, in greatly increasing the charges on licenses, is very unjust and oppressive to the trade, and should be repealed or amended. We further complain (as traders here assembled, engaged in a legitimate calling, supplying public wants and ministering to public comfort and enjoyment) of the constant worry to which we are subjected through Parliament lending too ready an ear to, and adopting theories leading to all kinds of experimental legislation, and while sternly protesting against the treatment we have received, and are still further threatened with, we call on Parliament to desist, and not force us against our wills into party combination, by which the safe and sensible solution of an intricate social problem will be much complicated and hindered.’ The speaker said the licensed victuallers were not desirous of being harsh or vindictive, but they wished to protest in a proper manner against the action of the Government in increasing the license charges, and also the restrictions. They were also not wishful of introducing politics into their discussion, but, as a matter of right, they were compelled to speak out most strongly against the action taken by the present government against the licensing trade. (Hear, hear.) With reference to the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1880, the speaker said several members of Parliament had been consulted, and in reply had openly stated that they were obliged to vote in favour of it in consequence of being passionate followers of Mr. Gladstone. (Shame.) Everyone was at a loss to know why the duty should have been taken off the raw malt and put on the fermented malt. It had been said that Mr. Gladstone had imposed the additional duty in consequence of the publicans doing their best to oust the Liberal Government in 1874. (Laughter.) It appeared to him most singular that Mr. Gladstone should have singled out the licensing trade for additional taxes. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Mason, of Birmingham, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. H. Bailey moved in forcible language a resolution condemning Local Option.

Mr. E. Ellis in seconding the resolution, said the increase in the Excise during the past nine months amounted to £470,000, and through the action taken of the Government taking the duty off raw malt, and putting it on fermented malt, and the extra charges imposed, caused the Excise to be raised during the past nine months to £1,570,000. Who had to pay the extra money? Why the publicans. This was indeed class legislation of the most diabolical kind, and should not be tolerated. (Applause.) The increased money had been paid by the publicans on their increased licenses and beer tax. He was at a loss to know why coffee shops, and the Liberal and Conservative clubs should not be taxed. It was also necessary that the coffee shops be inspected by the police, for he verily believed that more gambling took place in the coffee shops than anywhere else. (Hear, hear.) He also contended that grocers who sold spirits should also be taxed. The speaker afterwards referred to other heavy taxes that were imposed upon publicans, which he characterised as being very unjust, and concluded by urging the persons interested in the licensing trade to band together and demand justice and equality from the Government.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. Reuben Rooke moved, and Mr. R. S. Taylor seconded, a resolution protesting against Sunday closing.

It was also decided that the resolutions be forwarded to the Prime Minister and the members of Parliament for the borough and county.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings. The visitors and members of the association were afterwards entertained to dinner.”

1881 Census

26, Holyhead Road – ANCHOR HOTEL

[1] William Watson (51), married, hotel keeper, born Stapenhill, Derbyshire;

[2] William Watson (17), son, inn servant, born Wednesbury;

[3] Jane Stevens (37), housekeeper, born Wednesbury;

[4] Eliza Fletcher (29), barmaid, born Sutton, Warwickshire;

[5] Phoebe Wood (21), domestic servant, born Whiteheath;

[6] Joseph Spittal (22), servant, cabman, born Wednesbury;

[7] Martha Gill (5), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 30/4/1881

“The annual dinner in connection with the Wednesbury Cricket Club was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday night.....”

Tamworth Herald 18/6/1881

“On Monday night, at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, a complimentary dinner was given to Mr. W. Perry, on his resignation of the office of president of the Wednesbury Liberal Association. The room had been very tastefully decorated for the occasion, the walls being hung with a rich maroon cloth, surmounted by a handsome lace vallance, whilst shields, inscriptions, and other ornamentation lent additional attraction to the scene.....

The President presented Mr. Perry with a handsome illuminated address and a fine timepiece with an inscription, and two handsome bronzes, dwelling on Mr. Perry’s great service to the Liberal party and to the public institutions of Wednesbury. Mr. Perry’s health was drunk with musical honours, and Mr. Perry responded with feeling.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1881

“At the annual dinner of the Strollers Football Club, held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday night, Mr. Richard Williams, who had occupied the position of president of the club during the past ten years, was presented by the members with a beautifully-carved oak fruit dish and an illuminated address. The presentation was made by Mr. F. Hackwood, and Mr. Williams suitably responded.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/10/1881

“A meeting of the creditors of *William Watson*, hotel keeper Wednesbury, was held yesterday, and all the creditors present or represented voted for liquidation by arrangement, but the resolution was vetoed by the principal creditor (Mr. Evershed), and consequently no resolution was passed. In the course of the day a petition in bankruptcy was filed in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court.”

AND

“A meeting of the creditors of *William Watson*, ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, and HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, licensed victualler, was held at the first-named house yesterday, when there was large attendance of creditors. Mr. Drewry was voted to the chair as the representative of the largest creditor, Mr. Evershed, brewer, Burton-on-Trent. Mr. Williams read the statement of affairs. This showed that there were creditors to the amount of £7,912 10s 5d entitled to rank for dividend The assets were £1,581 17s 3d.

Mr. Evershed had a mortgage of £3,500 upon the premises in which they were assembled, which the debtor estimated had cost him £7,000, but which Messrs. Roderick in July valued at £3,000, the premises in their opinion being too large for the place; and Mr. Evershed also had a mortgage for £1,000 upon the HOPE AND ANCHOR premises, which were valued at £900.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1881 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire. Valuable Freehold Property, Old-Licensed Houses, Beerhouse, Posting and Livery Stables, Ale Stores, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Leedam & Harrison, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Thursday, the 22nd day of December, 1881, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening precisely (by order of the Trustee of the Estate of *William Watson*, Bankrupt), the following very eligible Freehold Properties.....

Lot 1. All that Old-established Full-licensed Public House and Commercial Hotel, known as the ANCHOR HOTEL, situate on the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, with the Spirit Vaults, Office, extensive Warehouses, Cellarage, large Coach-house, Stores, Livery Stables, and Premises attached thereto, as late in the occupation of the said *William Watson*.

The House has an important frontage to the Holyhead Road, and contains on the ground floor large Vaults and private Bar, with fittings thereto; Smoke Room, fitted with leather seating; back Parlour, Commercial Room, and Kitchen. Upstairs, large Sitting Rooms, seven Bed Rooms, w.c., and Bath Room, with hot and cold water supply.

There is also an Office and Wine Store at the rear.

The Premises fronting Albert Street comprise on the basement very extensive Cellarage, 148 feet long, with Cart Entrance from the street; Stabling for fourteen horses, three Coach-houses. On the ground floor there is a large Room, used as a Drill Hall; and Carriage House, Stable, Bottling Store, and Brewhouse.

On the first floor a large Club Room, 55 feet long by 23 feet wide, with movable partition communicating internally by a verandah with the front portion of the House. There is also a detached Coach-house, part of which is occupied by the Fire Brigade, a large covered Shed, and a good Yard.

The whole comprises an area of 1,168 square yards, or thereabouts, has a frontage of 66ft 6in to Holyhead Road, and a frontage of 80ft 6in to Albert Street. It occupies a first-rate situation, within a few minutes' walk of the London and North Western and Great Western Railway Stations, and is admirably adapted for the carrying on of a large Wine and Spirit Business, all of which have been carried on there for some years. It offers, on the whole, one of the best opportunities that has recently been placed before the public, the arrangements being most complete in every respect. The whole of the Trade Fixtures and Fittings will be Sold with the Property, and included in the purchase.

The Purchaser will also have the opportunity, if he wishes, of taking to the Furniture and Stock-in-Trade at a valuation.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/1/1882

“At the Walsall County Court yesterday *William Watson*, licensed victualler and car and carriage proprietor, the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, applied for his public examination, supported by Mr. J. E. Sheldon, and passed unopposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1882 - Advert

"Re *William Watson*, Bankrupt. ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury.

Messrs. Leedam & Harrison have received instructions from the Trustee of this Estate to Sell by Auction, This Day (Tuesday) and Tomorrow (Wednesday), February 7 and 8.

The whole of the useful Household Furniture of the above important Commercial Hotel; together with the Stock-in-Trade of Wines and Spirits, including several consignments of Brandy, Rum, Whisky, Port, and Sherry, in bond; a quantity of sparkling Wines and Claret, in bottle; also, a valuable Mourning Coach, and the whole of the Trade Utensils, of Glass, China, Crockery, and Effects.

Order of Sale.

First Day. Furniture, Glass, China, Silver, &c.

Second Day. Stock-in-Trade, Wines, Spirits, Dock Warrants, Mourning Coach, &c.

Sale to commence each day at 11 o'clock.

Particulars in catalogues, which may be had at the Place of Sale; and from the Auctioneers, 179, Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1882 - Advert

"General Servant Wanted, immediately; one from the country preferred.

Apply, or address, ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury."

GENERAL Servant Wanted, immediately; one from the country preferred.—Apply, or address, Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury

Thomas Staley = *Thomas Stayley* = *Thomas Stanley* = *Thomas Staylor*

Wednesbury Herald 14/10/1882

"On Wednesday night, Mr. *Thomas Staylor*, late director of the Imperial Gardens, of the Shah of Persia, and who has lately taken to the ANCHOR HOTEL, and the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill....."

Darlaston Weekly Times 4/11/1882

"A well-attended meeting was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Wednesday evening, under the presidency of Mr. E. Smith, jun. Considerable discussion took place as to the action of the Wednesbury Local Board in reference to the gas and sewer question and also in reference to the apathy shown in the treatment of small pox cases. It was unanimously agreed to form a Ratepayers Protection Society for the town, Mr. E. Smith, jun, was chosen president; Mr. J. Oldbury, hon sec; and Mr. *Thomas Stayley*, hon treasurer. A committee was appointed."

Wednesbury Herald 11/11/1882

"On Saturday evening the members of the Strollers Football Club held their annual dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road The dinner was served up in excellent style, and reflected great credit upon the host, Mr. *Staley*."

Wednesbury Herald 18/11/1882

"The first annual dinner held under the auspices of the Wednesbury Bicycle Club, took place at the ANCHOR HOTEL....."

Wednesbury Herald 2/12/1882

"A meeting of District No.7 of the Licensed Victuallers National Defence League was held yesterday at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, under the presidency of Mr. Henry Mason, of Birmingham. A long discussion took place respecting the Sunday closing question, and ultimately it was resolved to request the whole of the licensed victuallers to petition to the House of Commons not to pass the Bill."

Wednesbury Herald 16/12/1882 - Advert

"Wednesbury Ratepayers Protection Association.

This is to give notice that the Committee of the above Association meet at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, every Wednesday evening at eight o'clock for the purposes of enrolling Members and other Business.

John Holloway, secretary."

Wednesbury Herald 30/12/1882

“On Tuesday Mr. *T. Staley*, the landlord of the ANCHOR HOTEL, and also of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, entertained about 200 persons to a substantial dinner consisting of roast beef, suckling pigs, cheese and salad, and ale. The recipients were highly pleased with Mr. *Staley*, and in response to a vote of thanks Mr. *Staley* said it was customary at many of the hotels in Persia, and he might say Burton on Trent, for the landlord of the hotels to entertain a number of persons at Christmas time. It was an old custom and he was pleased to revive it at Wednesbury.”

Wednesbury Herald 20/1/1883

“On Tuesday night, Dr. Collins entertained the secretaries of the various friendly societies and other friends at dinner, at the ANCHOR HOTEL. The health of Dr. Collins was drunk amidst cheers. Upwards of fifty persons partook of dinner.”

Wednesbury Herald 27/1/1883

“The members of the Wednesbury Fire Brigade held their annual dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL, on Saturday night. The chair was occupied by Captain Corral.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/12/1883

“Volunteer Dinner at Wednesbury.

The annual dinner and meeting for the distribution of prizes to members of the F Company of the 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment took place at the ANCHOR HOTEL, on Saturday.....”

Darlaston Weekly Times 23/2/1884

“On Wednesday, a dinner was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, when the employees of Messrs. Edward Pugh and Co, Hall Green, Wednesbury (numbering 200), were invited by their employer, Mr. Berners B. Lee, for the purpose of celebrating his marriage with Miss Gertrude Tegner, of Stoke Newington, London. Mr. Albert Smith (the representative of the firm) presided. Mr. W. Hawkins occupied the vice chair. After the removal of the cloth, the chairman in an interesting address, spoke very highly of their employer, and hoped that the good feeling would continue as it had in the past. The vice chairman proposed a toast to the ‘Bride and Bridegroom,’ to which Mr. Smith responded on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Lee. ‘Success to Hall Green Foundry’ was proposed by Mr. O. Banks, and responded to by Mr. Hawkins. ‘The Host and Hostess’ was proposed by Mr. A. Smith, and was responded to by Mr. *Stanley*. A concert by the workpeople was given, which was thoroughly appreciated, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. A. Smith officiated as accompanist at the pianoforte.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/4/1885 - Advert

“Under an Execution from the Sheriff.

ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

On Friday, May 1st, 1885, Mr. William Potts will Sell by Auction, upon the premises as above.

The whole of the Furniture, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, and contents of Spirit Vaults, comprising Mahogany-top Counter, Eight-pull Patent Beer Machine, Copper Hot Water Apparatus, Spirit Machine, 12 Taps, Two-pull Porter Machine, Glass Shelving, with plate-glass back partition; Half-glazed Door, Copper Measures, Spirit and Ale Measures, Two China Spirit Barrels, Wine and Ale Glasses, Decanters, Stock of Wines, Spirits, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock prompt.

Auctioneer’s Offices, Athenaeum, Queen Street, Wolverhampton.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 13/11/1886

“On Tuesday night the Mayor of Wednesbury (Mr. R. Williams) entertained the Corporation officials and workmen, numbering between fifty and sixty, to dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1888

“The annual dinner to the members of the G and H Companies of the 2nd Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment took place at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, on Saturday night.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/6/1889

“Last night, on the occasion of the presentation of the cup and shield belonging to the Wednesbury Football Charity Association, a smoking concert and social gathering took place at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury The Committee had, after full consideration, decided to have a smoking concert instead of a dinner, that they might have a larger sum of money to divide among the charities of the district.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1889 - Advert

“Housemaid-Waitress Wanted, immediately.
Apply, ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

HOUSEMAID-WAITRESS Wanted, immediately. — Apply,
Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 10/1/1890

“At West Bromwich, yesterday, *Henry Staley*, landlord of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, was charged with selling intoxicating liquors by retail, on the 27th December, without a license. Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended. Inspector Bishop said he visited the West Bromwich Town Hall on the 27th ult, at 2.10. A ball was being held, at which about 300 people were present. He saw one of Mr. *Staley*’s waiters supply a man with two glasses of ale, for which he paid. Behind the counter he saw the defendant, and asked him how long his license was for, and defendant replied till eleven o’clock. Witness informed defendant of what had occurred, and added that he would have the place cleared. He left the hall, and returned at three o’clock, when the place was cleared. Mr. Sharpe, for the defence, pleaded guilty, but contended that the beer was supplied without the knowledge of the defendant. He was fined £1 0s 6d, including costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1890

“The annual meeting of Wednesbury Old Athletic Club took place at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, last night It was a matter of congratulation that the club should be one of the few in the country to run out as winners in two charity competitions, open to the football world.....”

Wednesbury Herald 3/1/1891 - Advert

“*Henry Staley*, Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchant, ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.
Ordinary Daily, 1.15 pm.
Families supplied with Evershed’s Ales and Porter in Cask, all sizes, at Brewery Prices.
Dinners, Suppers, &c, supplied to Clubs and Societies on Economical Terms, or by Special Contract.”

Wednesbury Herald 117/1/1891

“On Thursday night the engine drivers, conductors, and others in the employment of the South Staffordshire and Birmingham District Tramway Company, numbering about 200, were entertained at dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL. Traffic was suspended on all routes at nine o’clock, and the men were able to sit down for dinner half an hour later. The proceedings did not conclude until one o’clock the next morning, the magistrates having conceded an extension. Mr. W. J. Carruthers-Wain presided.....”

1891 Census

Holyhead Road – ANCHOR HOTEL

- [1] *Henry Staley* (30), unmarried, hotel proprietor, born Burton-on-Trent;
- [2] *Jennie Staley* (27), sister, born Burton-on-Trent;
- [3] *Leslie Webster* (14), nephew, born Burton-on-Trent;
- [4] *Clara Hawthorne* (20), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Beatrice Hester* (26), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1891

“The H Company of the Wednesbury Volunteers held their annual dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL on Saturday night The Chairman, Captain E. H. Smith, gave the usual loyal toasts, after which he said it was with pleasure that he met the men at their annual dinner once again. Their conduct both in and out of camp during the past year had been most exemplary. Their numbers he was glad to note were now 100, having increased from 76 last year..... The Mayor, Councillor Thursfield, congratulated the men upon the satisfactory report, and believed, if they were ever called upon for active service, they would prove themselves worthy of standing alongside the regulars. He then distributed the prizes to the successful competitors for shooting, attendance, and drill.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1892

"A meeting of the Wednesbury Football Charity Association was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Thursday The committee voted the following money to charities: Wednesbury School Board Clothing Fund, £8 8s; Wednesbury Indigens Sick Society, £3 3s; West Bromwich Hospital, £2 2s; Walsall Cottage Hospital, £1 1s; Birmingham Eye Infirmary, £1 1s."

Midland Sun 15/4/1893

"Edward Turner, butcher, of Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was charged at the instance of Police-sergeant Maguire with being drunk on the premises of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, on the 29th ult. He was ordered out of the house by the landlord.

Defendant: I don't know that I was drunk. I could walk and talk.

The magistrates, in inflicting a fine of 5s and costs, or seven days, hoped it would be the last time defendant would appear in that Court.

Defendant: I hope it will, sir."

Walsall Advertiser 3/3/1894

"Bankruptcy. Amongst the *Gazette* notices there appears the following.....

Henry Staley, WOOLPACK HOTEL, High Street, Walsall, lately Wednesbury, hotel manager, late hotel proprietor."

Walsall Advertiser 17/3/1894

"Re *Henry Staley*, late of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, hotel proprietor.

The public examination of this debtor took place on Thursday, at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. Registrar Clarke. Mr. Plant appeared for debtor.

The statement showed liabilities £382 5s 4d, assets £20 18s 10d, deficiency £361 6s 6d.

The bankrupt was a wine merchant's traveller until August 1885, when he took to the ANCHOR INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, for Messrs. Evershed and Co., brewers, agreeing to pay £300 for fixtures, stock, &c. He attributed his failure to bad trade and bad debts, and loss upon sale of stock and fixtures.

The examination was adjourned till the 22nd inst."

R. Minett was also a cab and car proprietor.

Birmingham Daily Post 7/8/1894

"The second annual two-days' flower show of the young and enterprising Wednesbury Floral and Horticultural Society was opened yesterday in the Town Cricket Ground, Wood Green The Mayor spoke of the contents of the tents as forming a very creditable exhibition, showing what Wednesbury could do in the way of the cultivation of flowers and vegetables.....

Luncheon was served in an adjacent marquee by Mr. *R. Flint*, of the ANCHOR HOTEL....."

Wednesbury Herald 19/1/1895

"A very enjoyable smoking concert, in connection with the Wednesbury Cricket Club, took place at the ANCHOR HOTEL on Monday evening....."

Wednesbury Herald 2/3/1895

"The annual dinner in association with the Wednesbury Fire Brigade took place at the ANCHOR HOTEL on Monday evening; a very satisfactory menu being provided by the host, Mr. *R. Flint*. Captain Scott presided....."

Wednesbury Herald 6/4/1895

"The first annual dinner in connection with the Wednesbury Swimming Club took place at the ANCHOR HOTEL, on Tuesday evening, when an excellent repast was provided by the host, Mr. *R. Flint*. Alderman Walton, Chairman of the Baths and Parks Committee presided....."

Robert Flint moved to the Lorne Hotel, Rhyl, where he was examined in bankruptcy in 1909, stating that he paid £536 ingoing to the ANCHOR, leaving with £500, but owing £600.

Wednesbury Herald 2/11/1895

“At a meeting of the Grocers Association on Wednesday at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Mr. Richard Grainger presiding, reference was made to the increased rates for the carriage of goods enforced by the Railway Companies since 1892. It was stated that statistics had been furnished to the Board of Trade showing that several charges were excessive, and the members of the Board had expressed their willingness to receive a deputation from the association with a view to the rates being further revised.

It was unanimously decided that Mr. Chilwell, a former president of the association, should be the delegate to confer with the Board of Trade.

It was stated that if the association succeeded in getting the rearrangement, the railway companies would have to refund the overcharges made since 1892.”

Wednesbury Herald 25/12/1895

“The annual Copyhold Court in connection with the Manor of Wednesbury was held last Friday evening at the ANCHOR HOTEL. Mr. Young (steward) presided.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/6/1898 - Advert

“To Let, Michaelmas next, ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury.
Apply Mr. Sanders, Evershed’s Brewery, Burton-on-Trent.”

TO Let, Michaelmas next, Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury.—Apply
Mr. Sanders, Evershed’s Brewery, Burton-on-Trent.

The Wednesbury Fire Engine was kept here until 1899.

George William Chamberlin = George William Chamberlain

Walsall Observer 20/10/1900

“On Monday night, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner), held an inquest at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, concerning the death of Samuel Morgan (50), formerly residing at Piersey Street, Wednesbury.

It transpired that about 9.30 on Sunday last deceased left home to see a cousin on the tram at Wood Green. Whilst they were waiting in the street for the arrival of the car, deceased fell down and expired.

Dr. Garman, who had made a post mortem examination of the body, attributed death to syncope, and a verdict of Natural Causes was returned.”

1901 Census

26, Holyhead Road

[1] Charlotte S. Mundy (27), unmarried, hotel manageress, born Highgate, Middlesex;

[2] George Thomas Morgan (24), accountant, hotel, born Burton-on-Trent;

[3] Nellie Southall (24), waitress, born Wolverhampton;

[4] Benjamin Knights (19), boots, hotel, born Burton-on-Trent;

[5] Polly Fido (18), domestic servant, born Stafford:

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

“On Tuesday afternoon the members of St. Bartholomew Lodge of Staffordshire Freemasons held their annual festival and installation by dispensation from the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master (the Earl of Dartmouth), in the Town Hall, Wednesbury At the conclusion of the business the brethren adjourned to banquet at the ANCHOR HOTEL.”

Wednesbury Leader 2/11/1901

“On Tuesday evening last Court Foresters Retreat held their usual smoking concert in the Masonic Hall, ANCHOR HOTEL, in aid of the Widows and Orphans Fund. The room was crowded. Alderman J. Oldbury presided.....”

Walsall Observer 17/1/1903

“The ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was the scene of a fire on Tuesday morning, discovery of the outbreak being made at about 7.30. In response to the alarm, the Borough Fire Brigade promptly turned out under Captain Scott, and on their arrival found that the floor of the Masonic Room was ablaze. It is stated that the outbreak was due to improper construction of the flooring. Mastery of the flames was obtained after an hour and a half’s work, a good portion of the flooring having to be cut away to get at the smouldering joists. It is supposed that the fire had its origin near the fire-place, and a mahogany table and chair near there were burned. Twenty pounds is the amount at which the damage is estimated, and it is understood to be covered by insurance. But for the smart attendance of the Brigade the consequences must have been more serious, as upon the arrival of the firemen the flames had already reached the roof, and some of the timbers had caught.”

Freemasons (St. Bartholomew Lodge, Wednesbury, No.696) (G. Wilson, secretary), ANCHOR HOTEL. [1904], [1912]

Birmingham Mail 15/9/1905

“Mr. Betham held an inquest at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, today, touching the death of Elizabeth Ann Archard, aged 53, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. The evidence showed that on the night of September 12 deceased was retiring to rest, and turned at the top of the stairs to wish a visitor ‘Good-night’ when she was apparently attacked with giddiness and fell downstairs, sustaining fatal injuries to her head. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”
[Elizabeth Ann Archard – see ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street.]

Wednesbury Leader 17/8/1906

“On Tuesday, a well-known Wednesbury tradesman named George Lowe (64) was found dead in the bedroom of his residence in Russell Street, under somewhat mysterious circumstances. It appears that Mr. Lowe, who has carried on the business of a photographer for over twenty years, came downstairs early on Tuesday morning and in and about the place as usual. About five minutes to eight he went upstairs, and at eight o’clock was found lying on the bed partly dressed and quite dead. By the side of the bed on a dressing table was found a bottle containing a small quantity of cyanide of potassium, and marked ‘poison.’ It is supposed that he drank some of this, which he used in his business, and which is a very poisonous liquid. Dr. A. H. Montford, assistant to Dr. Dingley, was called in after death. It is stated that deceased had been troubled a great deal of late owing to bad trade. He leaves a widow and family.

On Thursday, Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, concerning the case. The widow, Harriet Lowe, identified the body, and said her husband had been very despondent lately about having no work. Witness had heard him complain of this, and he had said that if he could not get work he should have to put an end to it. Deceased retired to bed on the 13th inst in his usual health about eleven o’clock. The next morning witness rose about 6.30 and took deceased a cup of tea up to bed. Her husband went downstairs shortly before eight o’clock, but went back to bed again. At eight o’clock witness called her husband five or six times, but as he did not answer she went upstairs to see what was the matter. Witness found him lying on the bed, and she thought he was in a fit. She called her son, and also a neighbour, and they all went upstairs, but they then found that death had taken place.

George Henry Lowe, the son, who lives with his parents, said he assisted his father in the business. On the 13th inst deceased said he had nothing to do, so he would walk round and see his daughter at Tipton. He returned late at night, and witness was then in bed. When witness was called the next morning he noticed a bottle marked ‘poison’ on the dressing table near deceased’s bed, and he thought it contained a strong solution of ammonia.

Dr. Montford deposed to being called to see deceased between eight and nine o’clock on the 14th inst. He attributed death to poisoning by means of cyanide of potassium, a very deadly poison.

The Coroner said it seemed that it was a constant source of worry to deceased to be without work.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.”

[George Lowe’s suicide was covered nationally.]

Fleetwood Chronicle 20/8/1907

“For three weeks, a Blackpool visitor, named *William Goshawk Bartlett*, a well-known Wednesbury hotel keeper, has been missing, and his strange disappearance is an inexplicable mystery. Neither the Blackpool nor Wednesbury police know what to make of the affair, and all efforts to trace the missing gentleman’s whereabouts have met with baffling failure. Mrs. *Bartlett* is equally unable to find the least clue as to what has become of her husband, both she and her children being in a state of terrible suspense.

Mr. *Bartlett*, who is the licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, and is 34 years of age, left home in cheerful mood on July 29th, taking a six days’ excursion ticket for Blackpool. He took with him a portmanteau and a mackintosh, and on arriving at Blackpool booked a bedroom at the County and Lane Ends Hotel. Here his portmanteau and mackintosh are still awaiting his return. It was his intention to return home on Saturday, August 3rd.

On August 1st, Mrs. *Bartlett* received a picture postcard from her husband, bearing the postmark ‘Blackpool, July 31st, noon.’ The message ran, ‘Thanks very much for yours, weather is fine today, awfully rough at sea. Am going to Douglas via Fleetwood today, may stop one night there, shall see. Tell boys I have got their watches. Hope all well. My cold bad. Had turkish bath yesterday. Saw Arthur here. Shall stop till Saturday.’ This was the last communication of any kind that was received from Mr. *Bartlett*. The Arthur he refers to was on the missing man’s staff when he was manager of the Queens Palace at Rhyl, which position he occupied for two years prior to going to Wednesbury. In view of the postcard she received from her husband from Blackpool and when he did not return home when he should have done, Mrs. *Bartlett* at once put herself in communication with the hotel where he was in the habit of staying at Douglas, but there they have seen nothing of him. It is, in fact, according to latest developments, very doubtful whether Mr. *Bartlett* crossed to the Isle of Man, and, according to the *Midland Advertiser*, the theory that he is still at Blackpool is very strongly supported by additional information that has now been gleaned.

On Tuesday, July 30th, the day before he wrote the postcard to his wife, Mr. *Bartlett*, it appears, met a former Wednesbury publican named Mr. William Hatfield. They had a talk together, and Mr. *Bartlett* then complained to Mr. Hatfield that he had had a bad cold, and inquired the way to the Turkish Baths. Mr. Hatfield directed him to the baths, and then he arranged to go with the missing man on the next day to Douglas from Fleetwood. The two agreed to meet in the Blackpool Tower, and Mr. Hatfield kept his appointment, but he saw nothing further of Mr. *Bartlett*. Thinking there had been some misunderstanding, Mr. Hatfield went to Fleetwood, and searched the boat on which they had agreed to travel to the Isle of Man, but he could not find any trace, or hear anything of Mr. *Bartlett*, and he has not seen him or heard of him since they parted on the Tuesday.

Apparently, it was Mr. *Bartlett*’s intention to go over to Douglas, for he left word at the hotel at Blackpool, when he went out on Wednesday, that this was his destination. Mr. *Bartlett* had not much money with him, for he only took £6, and he left his cheque book at home. Inquiries made by the bank officials at Wednesbury show that Mr. *Bartlett* has not drawn on his account during his absence from home. When he left Wednesbury Mr. *Bartlett* was wearing a gold chain worth about £10, and also a valuable diamond and signet ring. Attached to the chain was a four-fold locket, containing photographs of his wife and his two boys. His watch and cuff links have his stamp upon them, and he also had in his possession a silver tobacco box. Mr. *Bartlett* is tall and of very striking personality.

The Wednesbury police are continuing their inquiries into the affair, and they have forwarded a photograph of the missing man to the Blackpool police with the object of tracing him. He has been licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, for nearly two years.

Relatives of the missing man were making anxious inquiries in Blackpool yesterday, and paid a visit to the police station. The police have been supplied with a full description of the missing gentleman, as well as with his photograph, but up to last evening no clue as to his whereabouts had been discovered.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1908

“At West Bromwich yesterday William John Fisher Hodgkins (39), pattern maker, of Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, was charged on remand with obtaining by means of false pretences £4 10s from Harry Stockley, tobacconist, of High Street, and £6, the money of William Herbert Cooke, licensee of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Dove Street.....

The prisoner obtained the £4 10s from Mr. Stockley by means of a bogus cheque The cheque which prisoner utilised was obtained from a Mrs. *Bartlett*, licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, by means of a false statement. The same methods were employed in the other case.....

The magistrates decided to deal with the prisoner under the Probation of Offenders Act, and bound him over to come up for judgement in three months.”

Walsall Advertiser 24/7/1909

“A meeting of the Wednesbury Football Charity Association was held on Saturday, the Mayor (Councillor I. Griffiths) in the chair. The hon. secretary, Mr. S. Tranter, reported that the total amount of money for distribution to the various charitable institutions was £46, this being an increase of £11 on the previous season. The Mayor said the committee could congratulate themselves on a very successful season.....”

1911 Census

Holyhead Road – ANCHOR HOTEL

- [1] *Gertrude Annie Bartlett* (33), married, hotel keeper, born Lyston, Leicestershire;
- [2] *Hannah Mary Cotton* (54), mother, widow, domestic housekeeper, born Birstall, Leicestershire;
- [3] *Holly Cotton* (16), sister, born Leicester;
- [4] *John Barratt* (19), hotel barman, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Matilda Jane Hinett* (26), hotel kitchen maid, born Horseley Heath;
- [6] *Elizabeth Bayley* (19), hotel housemaid, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Alice Elizabeth Cowell* (33), visitor, domestic cook, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Samuel Ortzen* (36), visitor, widower, jeweller's clerk, born Bermondsey, London:

Wednesbury Herald 21/10/1911

“In the Divorce Court on Tuesday, before Mr. Justice Bargrave Dean, Mrs. *Gertrude Annie Bartlett*, of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, petitioned for the dissolution of her marriage on the ground of the desertion and misconduct of her husband, Mr. *William G. Bartlett*. There was no defence.

Mr. R. J. Willis, counsel for the petitioner, said the marriage took place on October 25th 1899, the parties afterwards living in Grantham, and then at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury. In July 1907, the husband went to Blackpool and never returned home. It was alleged that he went off to America with a barmaid, Mary Sophia Davies, with whom he lived in America.

Petitioner, giving evidence, said she received a written statement from her husband in America, admitting his relations with the girl Davies, and she afterwards discovered their previous relations while at the hotel.

Arthur B. Knight, barman of the SANDWELL HOTEL, West Bromwich, said he was formerly employed at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury. Davies was also there, and he noticed acts of familiarity between her and Mr. *Bartlett*. In August 1906, when Mrs. *Bartlett* was away on a holiday, witness saw Miss Davies visit Mr. *Bartlett*'s room at night, and remain there.

A decree nisi was granted with costs and custody of the two children.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/3/1912

“The fourth annual dinner of the Staffordshire Metallurgical Old Boys Association was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening.....

During the evening, the Chairman presented, on behalf of the members, a large framed photograph of Mr. W. Macfarlane, who for 16 years has been principal of the County Metallurgical Classes, which have their centre at Wednesbury, to the latter gentleman, and also a similar photograph to the County Education Committee, to be hung in the school. Mr. Macfarlane expressed his deepest thanks to the members, who, he said, by their long labours, had brought lustre to the name of the classes. He looked forward to the time when they would have the new County Metallurgy and Engineering School in Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 8/2/1913

“The members of the Wednesbury Fire Brigade held their annual dinner on Saturday evening, when about thirty sat down at the ANCHOR HOTEL. The captain of the brigade, Mr. E. M. Scott, was in the chair, and in response to the toast of the Corporation Fire Brigade he stated that the brigade were not troubled much during the past year, having been called to only seven fires, the damage being estimated at £500, while property valued at £10,000 was involved. Other toasts were honoured, and during the evening musical items were rendered by Messrs. White, Butler, Scott, and Oakley.”

Birmingham Mail 28/3/1913

“Mr. A. J. Glover applied to the Wednesbury magistrates today for a temporary transfer of the license of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road. He stated that he did so on behalf of the owners, Messrs. Marston, Thompson, and Evershed, of Burton, and the incoming tenant, Mr. *M. G. Cox*. Only that morning he had heard that the present tenant, Mr. *W. J. Wall*, did not propose to appear. The position was that Mr. *Wall* had given notice to terminate his agreement with the company, and the notice expired on the 25th inst. Valuers were called in and an arrangement as to financial matters come to. On the 26th Mr. *Cox* took possession, but Mr. *Wall* suddenly changed his attitude and declined to leave unless he was paid a certain sum of money. He (Mr. Glover) submitted that if Mr. *Wall* had any claim against the company it was a matter for a civil court, and that in refusing to allow Mr. *Cox* to remain on the premises the present tenant had broken his agreement with the company. The Bench intimated that as the present license holder did not consent to the proposal, they must refuse the application.”

Walsall Observer 6/3/1915

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, William Thomas Hayes, of Baker’s Lodging House, was charged with disorderly behaviour and refusing to quit licensed premises, also with assaulting *George Cox*. Complainant stated that owing to prisoner’s behaviour on Monday he was obliged to put him outside his licensed premises, the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road. There was a severe struggle, in which prisoner punched and struck him about the head and face, inflicting wounds. Sidney Smith, who was passing at the time, stated that prisoner and Mr. *Cox* were struggling on the floor in a pool of blood. He thought it advisable to send for the police. A fine of 10s and costs, in each case, or fourteen days, was imposed.”

The Stage 22/7/1915

“Wanted, Smart Juvenile Lead for Revue. Open immediately. Also Smart, Tall Chorus Ladies, good voices. Ismay, ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, Smart Juvenile Lead for Revue. Open immediately. Also Smart, Tall Chorus Ladies, good voices.—ISMAY, Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury.

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 well-known and popular old-established Fully Licensed Hotel, the ANCHOR COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Thomas Atkiss = Thomas Atkins

Thomas Atkins, ANCHOR HOTEL, 26, Holyhead Road. [1921]

1921 Census

26, Holyhead Road

- [1] *Thomas Atkiss* (63), hotel manager, born Little London;
- [2] *Maria Atkiss* (59), wife, hotel manageress, born Deepfields;
- [3] *Annie Richards* (25), barmaid, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *William H. Hearn* (28), boarder, motor car engineer, born Ironbridge:

Thomas Atkiss – see also NEW MARKET, Cleveland Road, Wolverhampton.

South Staffordshire Times 3/12/1921

“Wednesbury Police Court Mr. A. J. Glover made an application for the extension of one hour in respect to the Masonic Hall attached to the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road.

Mr. Glover, as representing the licensee, explained that dancing classes were held in the Masonic Hall, which really only commenced about eight o’clock, though timed for 7.30, and by leaving off at 10pm they found the time was too limited. The application was for one hour’s extension, till 11pm, but no refreshment of any kind, not even tea, would be served after 10pm, and no possible access to the licensed premises would be available. The police would have free access at any time. The Masonic Hall was attached to the ANCHOR HOTEL, but had distinct separate entrance, and the communicating door would be closed and locked after 10pm.

After retiring, the magistrates, through the chairman, said a full bench had lately fixed the hour of closing at 10pm, and they could not make the extension.”

South Staffordshire Times 18/2/1922

“After a lapse of about 40 years Buffaloinism at Wednesbury under the Grand Surrey Banner has been honoured by the raising of a member of the Royal Oak Lodge to the Third Degree KOM. Primo H. W. Davies, who was the brother selected for the honour, has been associated with the order for 29 years. The ceremony took place at the Masonic Lodge room at the ANCHOR HOTEL, which was consecrated for the occasion.....”

South Staffordshire Times 10/3/1923

“A meeting of the licensed trade of Wednesbury, Tipton and Darlaston was held at the Masonic Hall, ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury on Tuesday, when there was a good attendance, which included a number of ladies.....”

South Staffordshire Times 2/2/1924

“.....Mr. A. J. Glover made an application for certain alterations at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, of a sanitary nature and put in a plan. Granted.”

Edwin A. E. Oman died in the 3rd quarter of 1925.

Dudley Chronicle 30/7/1925 - Thanks

“Mrs. Oman and daughter, ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, wish to express sincere thanks to the many friends and customers who sent expressions of sympathy and floral tributes on the occasion of their recent bereavement.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 12/12/1925

“A smoking concert was held by the members of Messrs. John Spencer’s Sports Club, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening, for the purpose of making a presentation to Mr. C.W. J. Purnell, the works manager, who is shortly leaving the town to take up an appointment under the British Indian Corporation in Northern India. Mr. J. Willis Pearson, who made the presentation, which took the form of a silver cigarette case, said the present was a token of their appreciation of Mr. Purnell’s efforts in helping to build up the sports club. Other eulogistic remarks were made, and in expressing his thanks Mr. Purnell said he had only tried to make matters happier and better for everyone. During the evening a musical programme was contributed to by Messrs. H. Sims, R. Jenkins, C. Spencer, J. E. Brown, E. Morris, W. Onions and J. Stanley.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 19/12/1925

“When the licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL made four applications for extensions to music, dancing and drinking licenses to one o’clock in the morning on the occasion of private dances, Superintendent Sault asked the magistrates if they did not think that midnight was plenty late enough for such occasions, and added, ‘We shall have public houses open all night the way we are going on.’

The Chairman: It is for the police to take care in proper supervision of the houses. He added that the magistrates were of the opinion that midnight was late enough, and granted licenses until that hour upon the understanding that only those parties should partake of the privilege.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/1/1927 - Advert

“Wanted, experienced General; good references.
Apply, Mrs. Young, ANCHOR, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, experienced General; good references.—Apply, Mrs. Young, Anchor, Holyhead-rd., Wednesbury.

Dudley Chronicle 28/4/1927

“A social event of some importance took place at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday week, when the Brunswick Steel Smelters, Branch No.2 of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation met at a dinner, which was followed by a presentation.

The chief event of the evening was the presentation to Bro. A. Hoggins on his retirement from the secretarial position after 15 years service The presentation was a gold watch, suitably inscribed.....”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 7/1/1928

“The annual dinner of the Wednesbury Cricket Club was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL on Thursday evening when the president (Alderman Mr. Albert Pritchard) was in the chair, being supported by the Mayor (Councillor W. H. Wesson).....”

Dudley Chronicle 27/6/1929

“Serious charges were preferred at Wednesbury Police Court on Friday against George Anderson, 67, Well Lane, North Walsall. They were (1) being in possession of counterfeit coin with intent to utter the same, (2) uttering a counterfeit two shilling piece, and (3) having in custody and possession moulds for the manufacture of counterfeit coins.

Mr. B. G. Saywell (of London) appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions, and outlined the facts of the cases. On June 4th, at 1.30pm, accused went to the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, and tendered half-a-crown for half a pint of ale. In consequence of something said by the customers, the landlord spoke to prisoner, who made some excuse, and asked for the coin back, then leaving the bar. The next heard of him was on June 11th, when he went to the WHITE HORSE and tendered a two shilling piece, receiving change. Something was said to the daughter of the licensee. She looked at the coin again, and subsequently handed it to the police. Prisoner the same day went to the BELL INN and the MIDLAND VAULTS, where he tendered two shilling pieces, and afterwards went to the GRAPES INN, where he was spoken to by PC Taylor. He asked him to go to the Police Station, and this the prisoner willingly did. When there he handed PS Nixon four counterfeit coins, also giving him a key, and telling him he would find all he wanted in a drawer at his home. A search was made and moulds and other articles necessary for the making of counterfeit coins were found.....

Joseph Glaze, jeweller and silversmith, High Bullen, Wednesbury, said he was shown the coins produced by PS Nixon and tested them with aqua fortis. He also weighted them and found them deficient. The whole of the coins were counterfeit.

Miss Edna King, daughter of the licensee of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, said that on June 11th, she served a man with half a pint of mild and bitter, for which he tendered a two shilling piece (produced). She could not recognise the man. After he left something was said to her by another customer, and she looked in the till. She took out the two shilling piece, and testing it with another coin found that the edge rubbed soft.

Mrs. Higgins, wife of the licensee of the MIDLAND VAULTS, said she remembered prisoner calling for half a pint of ale on June 11th, for which he tendered a two shilling piece. She picked accused out the following day at an identification parade at the Police Station.

Archibald Cross, licensee of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, also stated that he served prisoner with beer and cigarettes, which he paid for with a two shilling piece. Subsequently, from something which was said to him, he took it out of the till, and upon testing it found it to be a bad one.

Douglas George Young, licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, identified two half-crowns (produced), one dated 1923, and the other 1924, which were found in his takings on May 20th and June 4th respectively. He knew prisoner and saw him in the bar on both the dates mentioned Joseph Glaze said that the two half-crowns which Mr. *Young* found in his takings were counterfeit and light in weight.....

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Staffordshire Assizes. He intimated that it was his intention to plead guilty.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/7/1929

“Pleading guilty to uttering counterfeit coins at Wednesbury, and to having in his possession moulds for making counterfeit coins, George Anderson, aged 38, a french polisher, committed from Wednesbury, was sentenced to three years penal servitude at the Staffordshire Assizes yesterday.

It was stated for the prosecution that prisoner also admitted charges relating to embezzlement and the uttering of counterfeit coins five years ago.”

Midland Advertiser 22/2/1930

“The staff of the Great Western Railway goods department, Wednesbury, held their annual dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday last. The chair was taken by Councillor W. H. Wesson.....”

Walsall Observer 15/3/1930

“The Wednesbury Motor Cycle and Car Club are holding a half-day reliability trial for Walsall Observer Cup on Sunday, March 30. The route will be approximately 50 miles of country lanes, etc, at an average speed of 20 miles per hour. The start will be from the club’s headquarters, the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, in one minute intervals after 2pm and the finish at the YEW TREE INN, Wall Heath.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/2/1936

“At a meeting of Wednesbury teachers at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, last night, a silver tea service was presented to Mr. G. A. Robinson, former secretary of the Wednesbury Education Committee as a token of appreciation and regard.....”

Rugeley Times 17/4/1937

“The second annual dinner and dance in connection with the Staffordshire Iron and Steel Institute (Associate Section) took place in the Masonic Hall of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, last night.....”

1939 Register

26, Holyhead Road

[1] *Harold Osmond Jones*, date of birth 12/12/1892, licensee, public house, married;

[2] *Emily Violet (Jones) Austin*, dob 28/7/1895, unpaid domestic duties married;

[3] *Emily Anne Barlow*, dob 20/7/1865, incapacitated, widowed;

[4] *Gwendoline Riley*, dob 9/8/1915, bar general, single;

[5] *Mary Elizabeth Osbourne*, dob 23/12/1920, domestic servant, single:

Birmingham Mail 27/5/1942 - Advert

“Tricycle Wanted for Boy 5.

The ANCHOR, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

TRICYCLE Wtd. for Boy 5—The Anchor
Holyhead Rd. Wednesbury

Birmingham Mail 27/5/1942 - Advert

“Bar-Generals 2 Required, also Domestic Help.

The ANCHOR, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Under new management.”

BAR-GENERALS 2 Reqd. also Domestic
Help—The Anchor Holyhead Rd. Wednes-
bury Under new management

Birmingham Mail 11/6/1942 - Advert

“Barman week-ends.

The ANCHOR, Wednesbury.”

BARMAN week-ends—The Anchor Wednes-
bury

Birmingham Mail 1/12/1945 - Advert

“Dolls House complete with furniture best offer over £5 also Dolls Furniture 30/-.

The ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

DOLL'S House complete with furniture best
offer over £5 also Doll's Furniture 30/-
—The Anchor Hotel Wednesbury

Rugeley Times 2/3/1946

“On Saturday evening a supper and concert was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, when the returning employees of the Gas Department were welcomed back to their peace-time calling, and the ladies who had filled the gap during the war period were thanked for their services and their farewell taken.”

Rugeley Times 3/12/1949

“There was an attractive array of cups and prizes at the annual dinner of the Wednesbury Angling Society held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday. Mr. W. Ellis received the Harville Cup, the chief award at the prize-giving.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/11/1951

“Midland butchers were asked last night to stop being polite with the Government and to demand the right to run the meat trade in their own wayMr. S. E. Clews, secretary of the Wednesbury Meat Traders Association, demanded that private enterprise meat traders, the men who know the trade inside out, be allowed again to go overseas and buy the meat for import. He was speaking at the annual dinner of the association at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, and he was supported by the past president of their National Federation, Ald. H. W. Rymill, who said that while Argentinian supplies might help the present ration, next April would be the testing time. He added that whatever Government was in power no real change in the present meat supplies could be expected in the next 18 months.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1950/51]

The assembly room (known as the Ski Room) was popular with works functions in the 1950s.

The 1952 Friar Park Allotments and Tenants Society held their annual dinner here in October 1952.

A team from here competed in the Shropshire, Staffordshire and Derby division of *The People* National Darts Teams Championship of England and Wales in 1952/3.

Evening Despatch 10/4/1953

“Wednesbury magistrates today refused the Licensed Victuallers Association a midnight drinking concession for their annual banquet. The application, by Mr. *Roy Taylor*, of the ANCHOR HOTEL, was supported by Mr. S. W. Smith, solicitor, who said it was the only time in the year when licensees had an opportunity of getting together. Mr. *Taylor* said they expected between 100 and 120 people at the banquet, and all the guests would be licensees, civic chiefs and trade representatives.

Police Supt. H. J. Brookes did not oppose the application, but the chairman, Mr. A. Bowker, said the extension would be granted until 11pm.

The Mayor, Coun. J. F. Postins, who has accepted an invitation to attend the function, was sitting on the bench.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 5/12/1954

“For 12 years silver-haired Mrs. Ethel Sheldon has waited on thousands of mid-day diners at Wednesbury’s only catering hotel. Yesterday she herself was the chief diner, and her colleagues waited on her. For Mrs. Sheldon became a bride a second time when she was married at the little Ridding Lane Methodist Church to Mr. Thomas Coles of Marshbrook Road, Pye Hayes, Birmingham. She had been a widow for eight years, and her married son and daughter, with her colleagues and the host and hostess of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Mr. and Mrs. *Clifford Dale*, and former hostess, Mrs. *Roy Taylor*, were among the 40 guests. Mr. and Mrs. Coles will live at her home, 13, Ridding Lane, Wednesbury.”

Evening Despatch 17/3/1955 - Advert

“Bar Staff required. Mornings, evenings and week-ends. Experience not essential.

ANCHOR, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

BAR STAFF required. Mornings, evenings and week-ends. Experience not essential. —“Anchor,” Holyhead Road, Wednesbury

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/5/1955

“What’s on in the women’s organisations Today, May 5.....

Cookery demonstration to Wednesbury Ladies Circle at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, 7.30pm.”

Tipton Herald 5/11/1955

“Former marathon runner Jack Holden was welcomed by the Mayor (Ald. Arthur Bissell) at the annual dinner of Wednesbury Division of the Police Sports Club at the ANCHOR HOTEL last week.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 26/2/1961

“Twelve months ago St. Bartholemew’s Church, Wednesbury, was down to five bellringers, so an appeal was made to the church youth club. Five boys and four girls volunteered to help out temporarily, but they stayed, and last night, during a dinner at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, they all received certificates of membership of Staffordshire Change Ringing Society.”

Walsall Observer 15/11/1974

“Wednesbury Rugger Club’s annual dinner will take place at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, this evening, 7.30pm.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/10/1975 - Advert

“The ANCHOR, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, requires attractive Barmaids to work in Ski room lounge, 3/4 nights per week. Good rates of pay and working conditions. Apply Manager.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1975 - Advert

“Ken and Sally of the ANCHOR INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, wish all their customers a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1976 - Advert

“Bob and Sue of the ANCHOR INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, wish all their customers a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/12/1979

“A well-known West Bromwich pub has changed its name and image with a multi-thousand pound facelift. The FLASH HARRY at Hill Top has become the HILLCREST The change of style coincides with the third anniversary of landlord *Ken Burrows* and his wife Sally’s move to the pub from the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/2/1980 - Advert

“The ANCHOR INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.
Hot meals and home-made pies and a cold table Tuesday to Friday.
Also Disco Monday, Friday and Saturday.”

Walsall Observer 22/2/1980

“Wednesbury Football Charity Association held their Centenary dinner at the place where it all started 100 years ago, the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, last week. Probably the oldest charity soccer organisation in Britain, the association organise three local competitions.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/5/1980 - Advert

“The ANCHOR INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.
Appearing in Cabaret, Wednesday, May 21, Paul Trevelion and Sadie Nine, special comedy duo, plus music by Skipper. Admission 80p (open until 10.30pm).
Friday, May 23, Pete Duffy, top comedy entertainer, plus The Dave Laine Duo. Admission 80p before 8.30pm (£1 after 8.30pm). Doors open 7.15pm, tables can be booked (open till 11pm).
Sorry no denim or leathers.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/11/1980

“Sandwell rock and roll fans pay tribute to Elvis Presley with a special memorial disco at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, tomorrow.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/8/1981

“An appeal has gone out from the Sandwell Roadcraft Club for more members. The club, who are helping to organise the *Sandwell Mail*’s Driver of the Year contest, meets monthly. Learner and qualified drivers are welcome to the meetings, every second Thursday in the month at 8pm, at the ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/10/1987

“Rock musicians and regulars at a Black Country pub have sent a petition to brewers complaining about plans to close it on Monday. Mr. Ian Hough, aged 25, leader of the Cybernauts band, said everyone was upset about plans to close the ANCHOR in Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. He said, ‘We have always enjoyed playing there and six Black Country bands will miss the facility we have had there and I’m sure the punters will miss the pop music.’ Mr. Hough, of Russell Street, Dudley, said his five-piece band had regularly met at the ANCHOR for nearly twelve months. ‘The rotten thing about it is that we were only given a week’s notice and Mitchells & Butlers are closing the place down on Monday,’ he said. Tenant at the ANCHOR for more than five years, Mrs. *Kathleen Jeavons*, said the pub was badly in need of repairs and general maintenance.
An M&B spokesman said the ANCHOR was being sold off and had just been placed in the hands of the estate agents. She said it was closing on October 26 and would probably be sold for some other purpose than a public house. ‘The brewery acquired the premises in 1923, but it had been a pub since the turn of the century,’ she added.”

It was used as a dance academy. [2004]

WILLIAM WATSON,
ANCHOR COMMERCIAL HOTEL,
 AND
Inland Revenue Office,
HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

1876

WILLIAM WATSON,
ANCHOR,
COMMERCIAL & FAMILY HOTEL
HOLYHEAD ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.

WINES & SPIRITS of the CHOICEST QUALITY.

An Ordinary at 1.15 Daily.

EVERY CONVENIENCE FOR COMMERCIAL GENTLEMEN.

Funerals Economically Conducted. Next Hours,
and Morning Coaches, &c.

WEDDING CARRIAGES.

CABS, CARS, BREAKS, AND WAGGONETTES,
for Pleasure Parties, &c.

1880

Lot 1.—All that old-established Full-licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE and COMMERCIAL HOTEL, known as the "ANCHOR HOTEL," situate on the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, with the Spirit Vaults, Office, extensive Warehouses, Cellarage, large Coach-house, Stores, Livery Stables, and Premises attached thereto, as late in the occupation of the said William Watson.

The House has an important frontage to the Holyhead Road, and contains on the ground floor large Vaults and private Bar, with fittings thereto; Smoke Room, fitted with leather seating; back Parlour, Commercial Room, and Kitchen. Upstairs, large Sitting Rooms, seven Bed Rooms, w.c., and Bath Room, with hot and cold water supply.

There is also an Office and Wine Store at the rear.

The Premises fronting Albert Street comprise on the basement very extensive Cellarage, 148 feet long, with Cart Entrance from the street; Stabling for fourteen horses, three Coach-houses. On the ground floor there is a large Room, used as a Drill Hall; and Carriage House, Stable, Bottling Store, and Brewhouse.

On the first floor a large Club Room, 55 feet long by 25 feet wide, with movable partition communicating internally by a verandah with the front portion of the House. There is also a detached Coach-house, part of which is occupied by the Fire Brigade, a large covered Shed, and a good Yard.

The whole comprises an area of 1,163 square yards, or thereabouts, has a frontage of 66ft. 6in. to Holyhead Road, and a frontage of 83ft. 6in. to Albert Street. It occupies a first-rate situation, within a few minutes' walk of the London and North-Western and Great Western Railway Stations, and is admirably adapted for the carrying on of a large Wine and Spirit Business and Wholesale Ale Trade, or for an extensive Posting Business, all of which have been carried on there for some years. It offers, on the whole, one of the best opportunities that has recently been placed before the public, the arrangements being most complete in every respect. The whole of the **TRADE FIXTURES and FITTINGS** will be sold with the Property, and included in the purchase.

The Purchaser will also have the opportunity, if he wishes, of taking to the **FURNITURE and STOCK-IN-TRADE** at a valuation.

1881

By William Watson, Bankrupt.—Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury.
MESSRS. LEEDAM & HARRISON have received instructions from the Trustee of this Estate to Sell by Auction, **THIS DAY (Tuesday) and TO-MORROW (Wednesday), February 7 and 8**—the whole of the useful **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE** of the above important Commercial Hotel; together with the **STOCK-IN-TRADE of WINES and SPIRITS**, including several consignments of Brandy, Rum, Whisky, Port, and Sherry, in bond; a quantity of sparkling Wines and Claret, in bottle; also, a valuable **MOURNING COACH**, and the whole of the Trade Utensils, of Glass, China, Crockery, and Effects.

ORDER OF SALE.

FIRST DAY.—Furniture, Glass, China, Silver, &c.

SECOND DAY.—Stock-in-Trade, Wines, Spirits, Dock Warrants, Mourning Coach, &c.

Sale to commence each day at 11 o'clock.

Particulars in catalogues, which may be had at the Place of Sale; and from the Auctioneers, 179, Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent.

1882

UNDER AN EXECUTION FROM THE SHERIFF.
ANCHOR HOTEL, HOLYHEAD-ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.

ON FRIDAY, MAY 1st, 1885.

MR. WILLIAM POTTS will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, upon the premises as above, the whole of the **FURNITURE, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, and contents of Spirit Vaults**, comprising Mahogany-top Counter, Eight-pull Patent Beer Machine, Copper Hot Water Apparatus, Spirit Machine, 12 Taps, Two-pull Porter Machine, Glass Shelving, with plate-glass back partition; Half-glazed Door, Copper Measures, Spirit and Ale Measures, Two China Spirit Barrels, Wine and Ale Glasses, Decanters, Stock of Wines, Spirits, &c., &c.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock prompt.

Auctioneer's Offices: Athenæum, Queen-street, Wolverhampton.

1885

HENRY STALEY,
WHOLESALE
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT
ANCHOR HOTEL,
HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY
(Ordinary Daily, 1.15 p.m.)

Families supplied with **Evershed's Ales and Porter** in Cask, all sizes, at **Brewery Prices.**

Dinners, Suppers, &c. supplied to Clubs and Societies on Economical Terms, or by Special Contract.

1891

THE ANCHOR, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Requires attractive Barnaids to work in Ski room lounge, 3/4 nights per week. Good rates of pay and working conditions. — Apply Manager or Tel 021-556 0314.

KEN AND SALLY
of

**THE ANCHOR INN,
Holyhead Road,
Wednesbury,**

wish all their customers a Very
Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

1975

BOB AND SUE
of

**THE ANCHOR INN,
Holyhead Road,
Wednesbury,**

wish all their customers a Very
Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

1976

THE ANCHOR INN

**HOLYHEAD ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.**

Hot meals and home-made
pies and a cold table
Tuesday to Friday. Also
Disco Monday, Friday and
Saturday.

Tel. 556 0314.

THE ANCHOR INN

HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY

Tel: 556 0314

Appearing in Cabaret,

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

PAUL TREVELION AND SADIE NINE

SPECIAL COMEDY DUO

Plus Music by Skipper

Admission 80p (open until 10.30 p.m.).

FRIDAY, MAY 23

PETE DUFFY

TOP COMEDY ENTERTAINER

Plus The Dave Laine Duo

Admission 80p before 8.30 p.m. (£1 after 8.30 p.m.).

Doors open 7.15 p.m., tables can be booked (open till 11 p.m.).

SORRY NO DENIMS OR LEATHERS!

1980

ANCIENT BRITON

6, Potters Lane, (6, Potters Street), (Portway Road), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Noah Collins [1841] – **1864**);
Thomas Cawood (**1864 – 1865**);
Joseph Smith (**1865** – [1875]
Mary Smith [1881]

NOTES

6, Potter Street [1871]
6, Potters Lane

ANCIENT BRITONS [1868]

Noah Collins, beer retailer, Potters Lane. [1841]

1841 Census

Potters Lane

- [1] Noah Collins (53), coach bolt maker, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Mary Collins (53), wife, born Staffordshire;
- [3] Joseph Collins (21), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Tamar Collins (18), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Ann Collins (16), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Noah Collins (12), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Aaron Collins (10), born Staffordshire;
- [8] Samuel Collins (9), born Staffordshire;

Noah Collins, retailer of beer, Potters Lane. [1842]

Noah Collins was also a coach bolt maker. [1845], [1849], [1850]

Birmingham Journal 17/10/1846

“Fever of a malignant character is very prevalent in the neighbourhood of Wednesbury. On Thursday morning an inquest was held before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the house of *Noah Collins*, ANCIENT BRITON, Wednesbury, upon the body of a child 2½ years old, who died from typhus fever. It appeared that on Tuesday last it was apparently well and went to school, but on Wednesday morning it was found dead in its bed. A surgeon was called in, and he made a post mortem examination of the body, and gave it as his opinion that the child died from malignant typhus fever.”

Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850

“On Saturday evening, an inquest was held at the ANCIENT BRITON, Potters Lane, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a little girl named Ann Spooner, about eighteen months old, whose parents reside in the locality, and who had been drowned on the previous evening by falling into a pan of water which stood on the kitchen floor. Both father and mother were absent at the time, and an alarm was first raised by a brother of deceased. The Jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

TO-MORROW (THURSDAY), APRIL 18TH.
UNRESERVED SALE OF PUBLIC HOUSE FITTINGS
AND FIXTURES.

Five-pull Beer Machine, new; Seating, in leather;
Screens, Tables, 12ft BAGATILLE BOARD, slate
bed; BREWING PLANT, 180-gallon Copper Boiler,
with tap; refrigerator, sweet and sound ale casks,
coolers, gathering tubs, mash tub, LARGE WOOD
SHED, 40ft by 20ft, with wood floor and gas fittings;
useful Slide Lathe, 4ft dia. bed, 8in centre; Slide
Lathe, 13ft. bed and overhead gear; half-pocket
Worcester Hops, and numerous Effects.

ANCIENT BRITON INN, POTTERS-LANE,
WEDNESBURY.

J. MORRELL and SONS are instructed by
J. Mr. B. Smith, who is leaving (the premises being
about to be converted into private houses), to SELL by
AUCTION, at the above Inn, TO-MORROW (THURSDAY),
April 18th.

Sale at 11 a.m. prompt.
Auction Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.

1889

1851 Census

Potters Lane

- [1] Noah Collins (63), coach bolt maker and victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] Mary Collins (63), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Joseph Collins (32), son, coach bolt maker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Aaron Collins (21), son, coach bolt maker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Samuel Collins (19), son, coach bolt maker, born Wednesbury;

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/4/1851

“An inquest was held on Tuesday last at the ANCIENT BRITON, Wednesbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of William Morton, aged thirty-five, a miner, who was killed by a fall of coal in a pit belonging to Mr. Joseph Hinckley. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

Potters Lane

- [1] Noah Collins (73), widower, coach bolt manufacturer and victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] Aron Collins (30), son, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sarah Collins (15), grand-daughter, housemaid, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 26/4/1870

“Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, yesterday held an inquest at the ANCIENT BRITON INN, Potters Lane, Wednesbury, on the body of John Williams, aged 2 years and 9 months, son of parents living in New Street.

It was shown that the child left home at half-past two o'clock on Friday, and although a strict search was made, nothing was heard or seen of him until about half-past six o'clock on Saturday morning, when his brother and a young man, named Thomas Wordle, found the poor little fellow's lifeless body in a cellar, containing about 4 feet of water, beneath the office, at the works of Mr. Smith, Potters Lane. It is supposed the child was making his way to the works, to see his brother, who worked there, when he fell into the cellar, and was drowned.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and at the same time blamed the parents for not having taken better care of the child.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/1/1871

“On Christmas Eve last a man named Richard Sant called at the ANCIENT BRITON public house, Potters Lane, Wednesbury, and remained there for a considerable time drinking. He left about nine o'clock, as was supposed, for the purpose of going home, as he was far advanced in liquor. Nothing further was seen or heard of him till Tuesday afternoon, when his body was found in the stream which runs near to Hatton's flour mill, in the West Bromwich Road. The body could be seen from the bridge which crosses the road near the mill. It was first discovered by James Dewitt, a boatman, and William Wheatley, who is employed at the Globe Tube Works close by. The body was at once got out and removed to the WHITE LION INN, Bridge Street. It is believed that deceased missed his way on the night in question and walked into the water. He had been in the employ of the Patent Shaft and Axle Company, as a labourer, and was noted for his intemperate habits. He was about 57 years of age, and unmarried.”

1871 Census

6, Potters Street

- [1] Joseph Smith (59), landlord, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Mary Smith (61), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Benjamin Smith (20), son, traveller, born Smethwick;
- [4] Thomas Smith (22), son, warehouse man, born Darlaston;
- [5] Mary Smith (19), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Eliza Smith (37), daughter, assistant to landlord, born Stearchley, Shropshire;
- [7] William Smith (10), nephew, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Midland Examiner 21/8/1875

“Albert Holroyd and James Hayes were fined 10s 6d each, with the option of fourteen days' imprisonment, with hard labour, for having refused to leave the house of *Joseph Smith*, the ANCIENT BRITON, IN Potters Lane, Wednesbury.”

1881 Census

6, Potters Lane – ANCIENT BRITON

[1] Mary Smith (71), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Eliza Smith (48), daughter-in-law, assistant, born Sturckley, Shropshire;

[3] William Smith (20), grand-son, coach iron finisher, born Wednesbury;

[4] John Parker (52), lodger, widower, carter, born Broughton, Lancashire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/4/1889 - Advert

“Tomorrow (Thursday), April 18th.

Unreserved Sale of Public House Fittings and Fixtures.

Five-pull Beer Machine, new; Seating, in leather; Screens, Tables, 12ft Bagatelle Board, slate bed; Brewing Plant, 180-gallon Copper Boiler, with tap; refrigerator, sweet and sound ale casks, coolers, gathering tubs, mash tub, Large Wood Shed, 40ft by 20ft, with wood floor and gas fittings; useful Slide Lathe, 4ft 9in bed, 8in centre; Slide Lathe 13ft bed and overhead gear; half-pocket Worcester Hops, and numerous Effects.

ANCIENT BRITON INN, Potters Lane, Wednesbury.

J. Morrell and Sons are instructed by Mr. B. Smith, who is leaving (the premises being about to be converted into private houses), to Sell by Auction, at the above Inn, Tomorrow (Thursday), April 18th.

Sale at 11am prompt.

Auction Offices, Swan Bank, Bilston.”

Closed

ANGEL

Bilston Road, (Old Road), Monway Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Glover [1834] – [1845]
Mrs. Joice Glover [1848] – [1851]
Isaac White [1860] – [1862]
Mrs. Elizabeth White [1862] – [1863]

NOTES

1841 Census

Bilston Road

- [1] John Glover (60), victualler;
- [2] Joice Glover (60);
- [3] Samuel Glover (25), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Phebe Taverner (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

TO be LET, and may be entered upon at Christmas next, that old established PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the sign of the "ANGEL INN," situate at Wednesbury, on the main road leading to Bilston, surrounded by coal and iron works; the tenant may take to any part of the fixtures and brewing utensils or not, to suit his convenience.—Apply to Mr. JOSEPH LOWE, near the Duke of York Inn, Darlaston.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/10/1844 - Advert

"To be Let, and may be entered upon at Christmas next, that old established Public House, known as the sign of the ANGEL INN, situate at Wednesbury, on the main road leading to Bilston, surrounded by coal and iron works; the tenant may take to any part of the fixtures and brewing utensils or not, to suit his convenience.
Apply to Mr. Joseph Lowe, near the DUKE OF YORK INN, Darlaston."

Joice Glover = Joyce Glover

Birmingham Journal 2/9/1848

"On Wednesday last a Special Sessions was held The principal business consisted of the annual renewal of licenses, and the whole were granted, with the following exceptions, without remark.....
John Glover (now *Joyce*, his wife), Wednesbury, admonished."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/2/1849

"Henry Jackson was charged with passing a counterfeit half-crown to Mrs. *Joice Glover*, of the ANGEL INN, on the Bilston Road, in the parish of Wednesbury, on Friday, the 2nd instant. The prisoner came to the house and asked if a man he described had been there. He was told he had not. Afterwards he came again and had a pint of ale and some bread and cheese. No man came to him, and he offered in payment for what he had had a counterfeit half-crown. After it had been examined it was refused, and he gave Mrs. *Glover* a good one. He then went away. Thomas Antony Ellis, licensed victualler, living at the BLUE BALL INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, said that subsequently on the same day, the prisoner, with another man, who said his name was Clancey, came to his house, and he showed them into the back kitchen; one of them called for a pint of ale, which was served by his wife. The prisoner Jackson offered in payment a counterfeit half-crown, which he took from among others in his breeches pocket. The half-crown being refused, the man in company with the prisoner said, 'If that's bad, give another; you know where you had it from.' Jackson then gave another half-crown, and received 2s 3d in change. The prisoner then said to the man in his company, 'Let's have another pint.' The man said, 'No, let us go and take that half-crown where you had it from.' They then went out, and Harrison, a constable, and Mr. Ellis, followed them, and saw Jackson putting money into Clancey's hand. They afterwards pursued them on the Darlaston road, and saw Jackson leave his companion in the road and go up a yard. He came out of it as Mr. Ellis and Harrison got opposite to it.

Harrison then apprehended the prisoner soon after he came out of the entry. In his mouth was found a bad half-crown, and in the yard, under some dirt, three other half-crowns of the same date and dye as that offered at Mr. Ellis's were found. The prisoner was committed."

[At the Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions Jackson was found guilty and sentenced to be imprisoned 12 calendar months with hard labour.]

1851 Census

Bilston Road

[1] Joice Glover (71), widow, innkeeper, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[2] Hepzibah Glover (16), grand-daughter, servant, born Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire;

[3] Betsy Glover (39), daughter-in-law, married, born Bury, Lancashire:

Joice Glover died on 13th November 1852.

1861 Census

Bilston Road

[1] Isaac White (54), victualler, born Bilston;

[2] Betsy White (56), wife, born Billingsley, Shropshire;

[3] Ann Golcher (14), niece, born Darlaston;

[4] Ellen Norton (20), servant, born Belbroughton, Worcestershire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/4/1862 - Deaths

"On the 3rd instant, Mr. *Isaac White*, ANGEL INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, aged 55 years."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1862

"On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Police Court, a woman named Mary Price, was charged with having broken a pane of glass at the house of Mrs. *Elizabeth White*, the ANGEL INN, Bilston Old Road, on Monday afternoon. The evidence showed that the woman entered the house drunk, and behaved in a disorderly manner. She was ejected from the premises, and she then broke the window. Ordered to pay the damage, 1s and costs, together with a fine of 1s, or in default one month's imprisonment."

Birmingham Journal 5/12/1863 - Advert

"Clearance Sale at the ANGEL INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, in consequence of damage done to the Property by mining operations.

To be Sold by Auction by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, December 14, 1863, upon the Premises, as above.

The whole of the Public House Fixtures, Screens, Drinking Tables, 4-pull Beer Machine, Buffet, Oven, and other grates, Brewing Vessels, Mashing Tubs, Boilers, Wood Vats, Lead and Iron Piping, well-seasoned Casks, Household Furniture, Chairs, Tables, four-post Bedsteads, Feather Bed, Washing Stand, and Dressing Tables, and other Effects, belonging to Mrs. *Betsy White*.

Catalogues may be had from the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock."

CLEARANCE SALE
At the ANGEL INN, BILSTON ROAD, WEDNESBURY,
In consequence of damage done to the Property by mining
operations.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
BY Mr. HAWKINS, on MONDAY, December
14, 1863, upon the Premises, as above, the whole of the
PUBLIC-HOUSE FIXTURES, Screens, Drinking Tables, 4-pull
Beer Machine, Buffet, Oven, and other grates, BREWING
VESSELS, Mashing Tubs, Boilers, Wood Vats, Lead and Iron
Piping, well-seasoned Casks, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Chairs,
Tables, four-post Bedsteads, Feather Bed, Washing Stand, and Dress-
ing Tables, and other Effects, belonging to Mrs. Betsy White.
Catalogues may be had from the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

ANGEL

Lowe's Buildings, Wednesbury Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Eccles [1820] – [1830]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/5/1820 - Died

"On Saturday se'nnight, in the 9th year of his age, John, son of Mr. *J. Eccles*, of the ANGEL INN, Wednesbury Field."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/5/1827 - Notice

"Whereas a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against *John Eccles*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, dealer and chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to the commissioners in the said commission named, or the major part of them, on the eighteenth and nineteenth days of May instant, and on the twenty-second day of June next, at seven o'clock in the evening of the first-mentioned day, and at ten of the clock in the forenoon of each of the last-mentioned days, at the Littletons Arms Inn, Penkridge, in the county of Stafford, 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, and at the second sitting to choose Assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. 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 give notice to Messrs. Wheeler and Bennett, Solicitors, John Street, Bedford Row, London; or to Mr. Smith, Solicitor, Walsall, Staffordshire."

WHEREAS a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against JOHN ECCLES, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Victualler, dealer and chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to the commissioners in the said commission named, or the major part of them, on the eighteenth and nineteenth days of May instant, and on the twenty-second day of June next, at seven o'clock in the evening of the first-mentioned day, and at ten of the clock in the forenoon of each of the last-mentioned days, at the Littleton's Arms Inn, at Penkridge, in the county of Stafford, 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, and at the second sitting to choose Assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. 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 give notice to Messrs. Wheeler and Bennett, Solicitors, John-street, Bedford-row, London; or to
Mr. SMITH, Solicitor,
Walsall, Staffordshire.

BACHELORS ARMS

Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Peter Lee [1845] – [1851]

NOTES

Peter Lee = Peter Lees

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/8/1845

“Wednesbury Petty Sessions.....

Messrs. Sharp, Madley, and *Peter Lees*, were charged by Major M’Knight with having their beer-shops, in Wednesbury, open at hours prohibited by the Act of Parliament. The defendant Sharp was fined 10s and costs; and Madley and *Lees* 2s 6d and costs.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/10/1846

“Thomas Taylor of Kings Hill Field, Wednesbury, is prepared to fight any man of his weight, within four miles of Darlaston, from £5 to £10 a side. His money will be ready any time next week at *Peter Lee*’s BACHELORS ARMS, Kings Hill Field, Wednesbury.”

BARLEY MOW

Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Mansfield [1851] – **1857**)

William Wesley (**1857** – []

NOTES

1851 Census

Bridge Street.

[1] *Thomas Mansfield* (44), publican, born Somerset;

[2] *Sarah Mansfield* (42), wife, born Lincolnshire;

[3] *William Newton* (12), lodger, born Yorkshire

[4] *Ann Reeves* (20), servant, born Bilston;

[5] *Joseph Webb* (22), lodger, labourer, born Walton, Warwickshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/7/1852 - Advert

"Wednesbury. Freehold Houses, Manufactory, and Premises, opposite the RED LION, INN, Wednesbury.

Messrs. Hammond and Oldfield, will Submit to Competition by Auction, at the house of Mr. J. B. Palmer, the QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Monday next, the 12th day of July, at six o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then read, in the following lots, or such other lots as shall be agreed upon.

Thomas Mansfield, Tenant. The Retail Public House, called the BARLEY MOW; consisting of front room, parlour, bar, back kitchen, or smoke room; Grocer's and Butcher's Shop, Brewhouse, six bed-rooms, two Stables, and Yard.

William Cope, Tenant. Front and back Sitting-Room, three bed-rooms, cellar, &c.

William Griffiths, Tenant. Retail Grocer's Shop, back-sitting room, cellar, two chambers, Stable, and Yard.

One House void.

Edwin Richards, Tenant. Consisting of three-story Manufactory, Stack, with Yard, room, &c.

The Property is in the most improving part of the town, within a few doors of the Post Office, at the junction of the Wolverhampton Turnpike Road, only a short distance from the South Staffordshire Railway Station, and having a frontage of 27 yards 10 inches to the main street, may with advantage be converted into Retail Shops; containing in the whole 1261 square yards.

NB. This Property will comprise the Mines underneath, which are ungotten.

For further particulars apply to Mr. S. Danks, No.3, Waterloo Street; or to the Auctioneers, 21, Waterloo Street, all of Birmingham."

Thomas Mansfield (46), widower, railway contractor, Wednesbury, married *Sarah Flintham* (51), widow, Birmingham, on 15th December 1853.

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/9/1855

"On Tuesday last, *Thomas Mansfield*, who keeps a public house in Bridgman Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for allowing drunkenness and disorderly conduct in his house on the 1st instant. The police proved that a number of navvies were in the house and were very disorderly and drunken. The defendant is a sub-contractor. Mr. Sill, for the defence, called several witnesses to speak to the good and orderly character of the house, one of whom, Mr. Fruer, saddler, spoke very emphatically of the remarkable care taken by the defendant and his wife to preserve order in the house. The defendant was fined 10s and costs, Mr. Bagnall remarking that, from his own knowledge, he was able to say the house was conducted in anything but a respectable manner."

Birmingham Journal 12/1/1856 - Advert

"To Contractors, Farmers, Carriers, & Others.

Great Western Railway. Important Sale of Horses.

Mr. G. B. Nichols begs most respectfully to announce that he is favoured with instructions from Mr. *Thomas Mansfield*, Contractor, to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, January 14, at Eleven o'clock punctually.

Eighteen young powerful Draught Horses and Gearing, in excellent condition.....

The Auctioneer begs to call the attention of Parties to this Sale of Horses, as they are really well-known good workers, and sold solely on account of Mr. *Mansfield* having finished his Contract on the above line of Railway, and having no further use for them."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/8/1859

"At Walsall Guildhall, on Wednesday, Mr. Beaton applied, on behalf of Mrs. Sarah Mansfield, for an order of protection under the Act of Parliament providing that the property of married women, accumulated subsequently to desertion by their husbands, shall be protected from such husbands in case of their return.

The appellant stated that she was married to *Thomas Mansfield*, at St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, in 1853, that they went to Wednesbury, and kept a public house till 1857, when he left her, and went to Australia, leaving a number of debts owing, which she paid, so far as the property he left enabled her to do. Since then she had maintained herself by her own industry, and had not heard from her husband for twelve months. He had never sent her any money, and she now desired that what goods she had got together might be protected.

The order was granted."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/11/1857

"Richard Longmore of Wednesbury will fight Alf Newton of the Staffordshire Potteries, at 9st weight, for £25 or £50 a side; or Martin Hopkins or Jacob Cotterbath of Birmingham on the same terms; first come first served. Man and money ready next Wednesday, at Mr. *William Wesley's*, BARLEY MOW, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

WEDNESBURY. FREEHOLD HOUSES, MANUFACTORY, AND PREMISES,

Opposite the Red Lion Inn, Wednesbury,

MESSRS. HAMMOND and OLDFIELD will SUBMIT to COMPETITION by AUCTION, at the house of Mr. J. B. Palmer, the Queen's Arms Inn, Holyhead-road, Wednesbury, on Monday next the 12th day of July, at six o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then read, in the following lots, or such other lots as shall be agreed upon:—

Thomas Mansfield, Tenant.—The RETAIL PUBLIC HOUSE, called "THE BARLEY MOW;" consisting of front room, parlour, bar, back kitchen, or smoke-room; Grocer's and Butcher's Shop, Brewhouse, six bed-rooms, two Stables, and Yard.

William Cope, Tenant.—Front and back SITTING-ROOM, three bed-rooms, cellar, &c.

William Griffiths, Tenant.—RETAIL GROCER'S SHOP, back sitting-room, cellar, two chambers, Stable, and Yard.

One HOUSE void.

Edwin Richards, Tenant.—Consisting of three-story Manufactory, Stack, with Yard, room, &c.

The Property is in the most improving part of the town, within a few doors of the Post Office, at the junction of the Wolverhampton Turnpike Road, only a short distance from the South Staffordshire Railway Station, and having a frontage of 27 yards 10 inches to the main street, may with advantage be converted into Retail Shops; containing in the whole 1261 square yards.

N.B.—This Property will comprise the Mines underneath, which are ungotten.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Samuel Danks, No. 3, Waterloo-street; or to the Auctioneers, 21, Waterloo-street, all of Birmingham.

BEEHIVE

Dale Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Charles Whitehouse [1881]

NOTES

Wednesbury Herald 30/4/1881

“Charles Whitehouse, landlord of the BEE HIVE INN, Dale Street, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises.

Police-constable Watson stated that upon visiting the defendant’s house on one of the evenings in the previous week, he found the defendant very drunk.

Mr. Superintendent Holland and Police-constable Lightfoot stated that on the evening the defendant was alleged to be drunk, he came to the police station to make a complaint, and he was then very drunk.

The Bench said they considered the case proved, and fined defendant 10s and costs, or, in default 14 days imprisonment.”

BEEHIVE

2, Trowse Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Gee [1862]
Samuel Yates [1866]
Walter William Bright [1868] – **1871**;
George Horton Moon **(1871 – []**
William Wall [1871]
George Morris [1872]
Edward Jay [1879] – [1881]



Token

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1862

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, *George Gee*, of the BEEHIVE beerhouse, was charged, upon two informations, with having opened his house for the sale of ale during prohibited hours, on Sunday, the 2nd of November. Mr. Travis, of West Bromwich, supported the information, and Mr. Slater appeared for the defence. One summons was dismissed, and in the other case a fine of 20s and costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1862

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Police Court.....

George Gee, beerhouse keeper, of Walsall Street, was charged with having his house open during prohibited hours on the 2nd inst. Mr. Slater, who appeared for the defendant, urged that two separate offences being named in the summons it was contrary to law. The case was therefore dismissed, and the police were instructed to take out fresh summonses.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/8/1866

“At Walsall County Court, yesterday, Joseph Sims, miner, Hill Top, brought an action to recover the sum of £25, for damages done to him on the 22nd of June last, by the defendant, *Samuel Yates*, who keeps the BEEHIVE beerhouse, at Wednesbury.

From the evidence of the plaintiff, his brother, and a woman named Elizabeth Jones, it appeared the plaintiff and defendant were playing at dominoes in defendant’s house, when defendant, suspecting plaintiff of ‘palming’ one of the cards, knocked him down and broke his leg.

The Jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict for the plaintiff for £17 and costs, and his Honour made an order for the payment to be made at three times.”

Walter William Bright, beer retailer, Trowse Lane. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/5/1870

“John Shenton, a gunlock filer, of Wednesbury, was charged with obtaining ale under false pretences. The evidence showed that on the 28th December last, the prisoner went to the BEE HIVE INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, and obtained one gallon and a half of ale from the agent, William Wall, on the pretence that it was for a man named John Francis, at the Gas Works. Prisoner has since been out of the way, and was apprehended on Thursday at Darlaston by Police-constable Stanton. The prisoner acknowledged his guilt, as was committed for trial.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/7/1870

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Pleaded Guilty.....

John Shenton, 39, gunlock filer, to obtaining, by false pretences, six quarts of ale and 1½ ounces of tobacco, from William Wall, at Wednesbury, on the 28th December. The prisoner had been a considerable time in prison, and he was accordingly sentenced to seven days’ imprisonment.”

1871 Census

Trouse Lane – BEEHIVE INN

[1] William Wall (41), publican, born Redmerly, Worcestershire;

[2] Eliza Wall (37), wife, born Ireland:

TO be Let, that well-known good business Public House, **THE BEE HIVE**, situate in the High Bullen, Wednesbury, in a densely populated place, and close to extensive manufactories. —Apply on the Premises, or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/6/1871 - Advert

“To be Let, that well-known good business Public House, the BEE HIVE, situate in the High Bullen, Wednesbury, in a densely populated place, and close to extensive manufactories.

Apply on the Premises, or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

George Morris, beer retailer, 2, Trowse Lane. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 28/3/1874 - Advert

BEERHOUSE for Disposal, in consequence of other engagements. 1st First-class situation.—Apply, Beehive, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.

“Beerhouse for Disposal, in consequence of other engagements. First-class situation.

Apply, BEEHIVE, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.”

Wednesbury Herald 19/4/1879

“At the Walsall County Court, on Thursday, a petition in liquidation was filed on behalf of *Edward Jay*, the landlord of the BEE HIVE INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury. The liabilities are £420 and the assets are estimated to about £70. Mr. Travis, of Tipton, is the solicitor for the debtor.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/11/1879

“Mary Hill (29), a married woman, residing in Cleveland Street, Dudley, was charged with stealing a quantity of bedclothes, the property of *Edward Jay*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.

On Thursday the prisoner went to the prosecutor’s house and obtained furnished lodgings at the rate of 3s 6d a week, promising that her husband would pay the lodging money on Saturday night. On Saturday afternoon prisoner, after locking the door of her room, left the house, and as she did not return on Sunday morning the door was forced open, when it was discovered that the whole of the bedclothing and other articles were missing. The prisoner was subsequently apprehended by the police at Dudley.

A married woman named Ann Bray, residing in Holyhead Road, said that on Saturday afternoon the prisoner came to her house and offered a blanket for sale for 1s 9d. She cried bitterly, and said that she had five children starving, and hoped witness would purchase the blanket. Witness consented to lend her 1s 9d on the blanket, and gave her some food for the children. Sarah Lewis, Dudley Street, said she gave the prisoner 1s for a pillow, the prisoner having told her that she wanted money to make up her rent.

When apprehended the prisoner said, ‘I took the goods as my children were starving.’

She was committed for trial at the next Staffordshire sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 10/1/1880

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Pleaded Guilty.....

Mary Hill, 29, no occupation, seven days’ imprisonment (on account of ill health, and this being her first conviction), for stealing, on November 1st, 1879, at Wednesbury, one blanket, one counterpane, and other articles, the property of *Edward Jay*.”

1881 Census

2, Trowse Lane – BEE HIVE

[1] Edward Jay (48), railway wheel turner, born Dudley Port;

[2] Rose H. Jay (57), wife, born Tividale;

[3] Charlotte Jay (19), daughter, born Toll End;

[4] William Jay (17), railway wheel turner, born Toll End:

BELL AND CASTLE

21, Union Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Moses Howl Lowe [1919]

LICENSEES

Philip Cowle [1854] – [1891]

George Cooke [1901]

Thomas Colclough [1903]

Samuel Griffiths [1911]

George Green [1919]

UNION STREET, WEDNESBURY.
Lot 4.—An Important and Valuable, Large and Commodious, FREEHOLD BUSINESS Premises, formerly the “ Bell and Castle ” Inn, now de-licensed. UNION STREET, WEDNESBURY aforesaid, with IMMEDIATE POSSESSION of the Business part of the premises.

These Premises are electrically lighted throughout, occupies a capital business position, has a long frontage to the street, particularly good living accommodation and premises at the rear suitable for the carrying on of a light trade, or stores.

1920

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Philip Cowle = Philip Cowles = Philip Cole

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/7/1854

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury, Thomas Madeley was charged, before J. Leigh, Esq, with stealing a valuable gig whip, the property of Mr. W. K. Gibbs, grocer, of Dudley. The whip, which was a very handsome one, bore the following inscription on an ivory handle, ‘Stolen from William Kinton Gibbs, Wellington Park, Bristol.’

Mr. Gibbs had called, in the way of business, at the house of Mr. *Philip Cowles*, beerhouse keeper and grocer, on the evening of the 31 instant; he left the whip in his trap at the door, and on his return, found it had vanished. He gave information to Inspector Blayney, by whose directions Police-constable Whittaker proceeded to Mr. *Cowles*’s, and having ascertained that the prisoner had been seen to take the whip down an entry, apprehended him, and discovered the missing article behind the door of the cabinet d’aisance. The prisoner, who said he knew nothing about it, was committed for trial.

A charge of assaulting a police-officer was then heard. It appeared that in consequence of the Police Station being under repair, the prisoners are, pro tempore, conveyed to the lock-up at West Bromwich. Mr. Blayney, knowing that Madeley was a violent character, took the precaution of sending two men with him. On the road to West Bromwich, the fellow wanted the police to permit him to enter a public house, for the purpose of begging some tobacco; on receiving a refusal to his request, he kicked one of the constables most brutally on the legs, lay down in the road, and swore he would not walk any further. The officers had great difficulty in conveying him to his destination.

Mr. Leigh, in default of his paying a penalty of 10s and the expenses, committed the prisoner for fourteen days to hard labour.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/7/1854

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions Pleaded Guilty.....

Thomas Madeley, 31, was found guilty of stealing a whip from a gig, the property of William Kinton Gibbs, at Wednesbury, and was sentenced to one month’s imprisonment.”

1861 Census

Union Street

[1] *Phillip Cowle* (43) beerhouse keeper and grocer, born Radley, Berkshire;

[2] Elizabeth Cowle (41), wife, born Dursley, Gloucestershire;

[3] Selina Holmes (16), house servant, born Oakengates, Shropshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 18/9/1861

“Ann Tierny was charged before the sitting Magistrates, yesterday, with having stolen a copper kettle, the property of *Philip Cole*, of the BELL AND CASTLE, Union Street, Wednesbury. The wife of the prosecutor deposed that on Thursday last, at eleven at night, she missed the kettle produced, and that it was subsequently found concealed behind a shutter. It was left in the concealed place, and the prisoner was watched, and in half an hour she was seen to take the kettle away. She was followed and given into custody. She said she had been drinking and had only picked the kettle up. She had been previously convicted, and was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment, with hard labour.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/2/1863

“William Brothers, a carpenter, living in Union Street, Wednesbury, was charged with cutting and wounding Elizabeth Cowle, landlady of the BELL AND CASTLE INN, mother-in-law of the prisoner. Mr. Slater, who was retained for the defence, applied that the charge might be dismissed on the recommendation of the prosecutrix; but to this the learned magistrate, W. Partridge, Esq, would not consent until he had heard the evidence.

Mrs. Cowle then proved that on Saturday night, about twelve o’clock, she went to the prisoner’s house, and saw him quarrelling with his wife (her daughter). She did not see him strike her, but he was very violent. Witness remonstrated with him, but no sooner had she spoken than he came up and struck her on the arm. Witness then ran out into the street, and the prisoner followed her, cutting her over the eye. She bled profusely, and Mr. Proctor, surgeon, was sent for.

Mr. Proctor stated that the prosecutrix had a severe cut over her left eye, and bruises on her arm.

Sergeant Walter Gasson gave evidence of the prisoner’s apprehension, and of finding in his hand a poker and under the table a knife.

Mr. Partridge treated the case as one of common assault, and fined the prisoner 40s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1863

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, Marina Yates was charged with obtaining a dress under false pretences, from Mrs. Jane Bishop, second-hand clothes dealer, High Bullen.

Mrs. Bishop deposed that on Friday last the prisoner entered her shop and said that Mrs. *Cowle*, her mistress had sent her for a dress. The prosecutrix, believing the story, selected a dress, and entrusted it to the prisoner; but later in the evening, finding the girl did not return, prosecutrix made enquiries, and found she had left Mrs. *Cowle*’s service. Information was given to the police, and the prisoner was subsequently apprehended by Police-constable Brakewell.

Mrs. *Cowle* deposed that she had not authorised the prisoner to obtain the dress in question.

The prisoner was also charged with stealing a piece of ribbon, value 5s 6d, the property of her mistress, Mrs. *Cowle*, of the BELL AND CASTLE INN. The prosecutrix stated that on Wednesday evening, as she was looking out of the window of her house, she saw the prisoner hand something to her brother. Prosecutrix waited until the prisoner re-entered the house, and then followed the lad, upon whom she found the piece of ribbon, produced, her property. She dismissed the girl the same night, and upon hearing of the charge of obtaining goods under false pretences, gave information to the police.

The prisoner, who had nothing to say in her defence, was committed on both charges to take her trial at the ensuing Quarter Sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 7/3/1863

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions Pleaded Guilty.....

Mary Ann Yates, 18, servant, to stealing four and a half yards of ribbon, the property of *Philip Cowle*, at Wednesbury; twelve months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/5/1863

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, Delia Langdon, a woman who last week was charged with larceny, but against whom the charge was withdrawn, on account of her family, appeared to answer a charge of having used threatening language to Mrs. Elizabeth Cowle, of the BELL AND CASTLE public house, Union Street. It seemed that the defendant suspected Mrs. Cowle of having given information to the police in the case of larceny referred to, and, accordingly, took every opportunity of annoying her. On Tuesday, the 12th inst, the defendant threatened to take the complainant’s life, and said she would burn the house down, in order to have her revenge. The complainant now said she went in bodily fear of the defendant, and applied for sureties of the peace against her. Sergeant Gasson having proved that the defendant was a short time ago bound over for six months upon a charge of cutting and wounding, the Bench ordered her to find another surety in £20, for her good behaviour for six months, or, in default, to be imprisoned for two months.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/1/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a Piano-Forte Player. One who can Sing preferred.
P. Cowle, BELL AND CASTLE, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a PIANO-FORTE PLAYER. One who can Sing preferred.—P. Cowle, Bell and Castle, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/11/1865

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, George Eldershaw was charged with having stolen a great-coat, value 10s, the property of *Philip Cowle*, beerhouse keeper, Union Street. On the night of Thursday last the prisoner and some other men were at the prosecutor’s house, and soon after they had left the coat was missed. The prosecutor communicated with the police, and Sergeant Langdon went after the prisoner at once, and apprehended him in the High Bullen, with the coat on his back. Sentenced to two months’ imprisonment, with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/2/1869 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, a First-class Home-brewing and Refreshment House, in the centre of Wednesbury, where a thriving Business has been carried on by the present Tenant for sixteen years. Apply at the BELL AND CASTLE INN, Union Street, Wednesbury.”

TO be LET, with immediate possession, a First-class Home-brewing and REFRESHMENT HOUSE, in the centre of Wednesbury, where a thriving Business has been carried on by the present Tenant for sixteen years.—Apply at the Bell and Castle Inn, Union Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/5/1870

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before Mr. Spooner, Stipendiary.....

Philip Cowle, of the BELL AND CASTLE, Union Street, was fined 1s and costs (total 11s), for allowing drunkenness on his premises, on the 23rd ult.”

1871 Census

21, Union Street

- [1] *Phillip Cowle* (54), carpenter and publican, born Farringdon, Berkshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Cowle* (52), wife, assists in public house, born Dursley, Gloucestershire;
- [3] *Emily Brothers* (32), daughter, married, dressmaker and milliner, born Dursley, Gloucestershire;
- [4] *Emily Brothers* (14), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Brothers* (12), grand-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Annie Brothers* (10), grand-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *William Neile* (60), boarder, widower, waiting clerk, born Salisbury;
- [8] *James Neile* (39), boarder, tailor, born Cheltenham;

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/6/1872

“John Yardley, filer, Union Street, Wednesbury, was charged at the instance of *Philip Cowle*, carpenter, grocer, and publican, of the same street, with having, on the 6th of May, committed perjury while giving evidence in a case heard in the County Court. Mr. Underhill (instructed by Mr. Ebsworth) appeared in support of the charge, and Mr. Young (instructed by Mr. Sheldon for the defence.

The perjury was alleged to have been committed in a case in which the present prosecutor was plaintiff and Yardley defendant, and the words giving rise to the charge were deposed to by Thomas Edward Walker, County Court clerk. He proved the entry of the plaint and the hearing of the case, during which the Judge directed him to take down certain statements made by the parties. What Mrs. *Cowle* stated was, ‘On the 22nd February, 1870, my husband, *Philip Cowle*, lent the defendant, in my presence, 1s 6d. On March 29, I lent him 2s. I also lent him 6d at the same time. In the following week I lent the defendant 1s to get two tickets for a theatrical benefit. My daughter and

grand-daughter were present at the time.’ What the defendant stated was, ‘It is not true. There is not a particle of truth in it. No part of it is true.’ This was read over to the defendant, and the case was then adjourned sine die.

Mrs. *Cowle*, her husband, her daughter, her grand-daughter, and another witness, all gave evidence bearing out Mrs. *Cowle*’s statement given above; but in cross-examination the prosecutor admitted that before the end of 1870 differences arose between his family and the defendant’s. His attention was also called to the fact of the entry of February 22 coming between two entries in May, and he said he could not account for it, but he was sure the entry was made at the time the money was lent.

For the defence, Mr. Young attributed the prosecution to vindictive feelings arising out of the quarrel between the two families, and quoted various discrepancies in the evidence to show that the case for the prosecution was not worthy of credence.

The Magistrates deliberated in private for some time, and on their return into Court, Mr. Newman said they had carefully considered the case in all its bearings, and with all the surrounding circumstances, and their opinion being that, if they sent it before a Jury, the evidence would not justify a conviction, they determined to dismiss it. Dismissed accordingly. The case lasted between three and four hours.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/2/1878 - Married

“On the 18th inst, at St. Paul’s Church, Wood Green, Wednesbury, by the Rev. Toothill, William Slater to Emily, eldest daughter of Mr. William Brothers, of this town, and grand-daughter of Mr. *Philip Cowle*, of the BELL AND CASTLE INN, Union Street, Wednesbury.”

1881 Census

20+21, Union Street, east side – Beer and Tobacco Shop, also Lodging House

- [1] *Phillip Cowle* (64), publican and carpenter, born Berkshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Cowle (61), wife, housekeeper, born Dursley, Gloucestershire;
- [3] William Slater (24), grand-son, striker, smith, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Emily Slater (24), grand-daughter, striker’s wife, born Wednesbury;
- [5] W. P. Slater (2), great-grand-son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Harriet Slater (1 month), great-grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] William Taylor (54), boarder, solicitor’s clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Jane Taylor (34), boarder, solicitor’s wife, born Bedgelly, Pembroke;
- [9] William Neile (70), boarder, widower, commercial clerk, born Spain;
- [10] Sarah Hunstone (47), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [11] James Owen (42), boarder, widower, tailor, born Hereford;
- [12] Joseph Longworth (47), boarder, musician, born Manchester;
- [13] Isaiah Field (74), boarder, stone breaker and labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [14] Sarah Field (64), boarder, stone breaker’s wife, born Wednesbury;

Evening Express 7/4/1881

“A petition has been filed in the Walsall County Court on behalf of *Philip Cowle*, of the BELL AND CASTLE INN, 21, Union Street, Wednesbury, publican and carpenter. The liabilities are stated to be £220; assets not yet defined. Mr. J. E. Sheldon, Wednesbury, is solicitor to the bankrupt, at whose offices the first meeting of creditors will be held.”

Wednesbury Herald 7/5/1881

“A meeting of the creditors of *Philip Cowle*, landlord of the BELL AND CASTLE INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, at the offices of Mr. J. E. Sheldon, solicitor, High Street, Wednesbury. The liabilities were reported to amount to £198 13s 10d, and the assets to £10 10s. It was decided to accept a composition of 1s in the pound.”

Wednesbury Herald 14/1/1882

“On Friday evening a number of the friends and supporters of Mr. *Philip Cowle*, the landlord of the BELL AND CASTLE INN, Union Street, sat down to an excellent dinner, which was held in commemoration of the opening of the house Mr. *Cowle* had kept the house for a number of years.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1889

“At the West Bromwich County Police Court, yesterday, Harriet Shaw (22), of no fixed abode, was charged with stealing a watch, valued at 7s, the property of Tillie Hammond, of Dale End, Tipton.

Prosecutrix said that she had known the prisoner for some time. On the 27th of July witness placed the watch in the cupboard at her residence. Prisoner was there at the time, and when she left witness missed the watch. Police-constable Heatherley arrested the prisoner, who, in reply to the charge, said she was very sorry, and thought of sending it back. She then pulled the watch out of her pocket. Prisoner pleaded guilty. She was further charged with stealing a suit of clothes belonging to *Philip Cowle*, of the BELL AND CASTLE INN, Union Street, Wednesbury. Emily Slater deposed to having given the clothes to a little girl named Price to take to her father's, at Holyhead Road, Handsworth. Prisoner obtained the clothes from Price, and was afterwards missing. Matilda Bull said that prisoner gave her the clothes to pawn. Witness had 1s 3d in her hand, which prisoner asked her to give her to hold while she pledged the articles. The pawnbroker would not accept the clothes, and when she returned prisoner was missing. The Bench sentenced prisoner to two months' hard labour, the sentence to run concurrently. Superintendent Whitehurst said there were other charges against prisoner, and she was also wanted by the police at Wednesbury, Smethwick, and Dudley.”

1891 Census

21, Union Street

- [1] *Philip Cowle* (74), publican, born Bisley, Berkshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Cowle* (72), wife, born Dursley, Gloucestershire;
- [3] *William Hater* (35), son-in-law, coil fitter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Emily Hater* (35), daughter-in-law, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Philip Hater* (12), grand-son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *George Tallboys* (57), lodger, rope maker, born Cheltenham;
- [7] *Enoch Mint* (47), lodger, baker, born Stourbridge;
- [8] *David Shepherd* (39), lodger, tailor, born Canton, Glamorganshire:

Philip Cowle died in the 1st quarter of 1893.

1901 Census

Union Street – BELL AND CASTLE

- [1] *George Cooke* (30), silver plater, born Walsall;
- [2] *Edith Cooke* (25), wife, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] *George Cooke* (3), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Lydia Tonks* (15), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/3/1903

“Yesterday at the Wednesbury Police Court, *Thomas Colclough*, landlord of the BELL AND CASTLE INN, Union Street, was summoned for permitting drunkenness and also for selling ale to a drunken person.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe, who prosecuted on behalf of the police, called evidence showing that three men from Walsall went on to the defendant's premises on the night of the 16th ult, one of whom, named McCrunden, was drunk. Defendant refused to supply him, but he permitted him to remain, and he drank out of a jug supplied to the other men. Mr. Sharpe contended that defendant, in neglecting to get rid of the drunken man more expeditiously, had contravened the new Licensing Act.

Mr. Glover, who defended, said the case was of one of considerable importance to the trade, because he submitted that the defendant had taken all reasonable steps to comply with the law. He refused to supply the man with drink, and ordered him to leave, and when the police arrived he was in the act of turning him out of the house.

The Bench held that the defendant had not exercised reasonable care, and fined him £3 13s 6d, including costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1904

“Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

Eight licenses were objected to by the police.....

BELL AND CASTLE, Union Street.

In each instance a conviction was recorded against the house. License renewed.”

1911 Census

21, Union Street – BELL AND CASTLE

- [1] *Samuel Griffiths* (63), beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Griffiths* (60), wife, married 40 years, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Alfred Griffiths* (34), son, plate layer, railway, born Sedgley;
- [4] *John Thomas Randle* (43), son-in-law, bricklayer, born Tipton;
- [5] *Eliza Randle* (39), daughter, married 20 years, tailoress, born Sedgley;
- [6] *William Thomas Randle* (19), grand-son, edge tool grinder, born Tipton;
- [7] *Rebekah Thorpe* (78), boarder, widow, born Leebotwood, Shropshire:

Samuel Griffiths – see also GLADSTONE.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1919

“Wednesbury Borough Licensing Justices, yesterday.....

The following licenses were to be served with opposition notices on the ground of redundancy.....

BELL AND CASTLE beerhouse, Union Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1919

“The Principal Meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Thursday.....

In the Wednesbury division The Committee referred two ante-’69 beerhouses on in Wednesbury borough, the CROSS KEYS, Earps Lane, and the BELL AND CASTLE, Union Street.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/11/1919

“The following amounts have been settled by the Licensing Compensation Authority for Staffordshire to be paid in respect of licenses the renewal of which was refused by them at the principal meeting on July 24 last. The sums mentioned will be apportioned amongst the parties interested.....

BELL AND CASTLE, Union Street, Wednesbury, beerhouse ‘on,’ ante 1869, licensee *George Green*, registered owner *Moses Howl Lowe*, £1,200.”

South Staffordshire Times 7/2/1920

“Wednesbury Police Court.....

The reduction in the numbers had been brought about by the license of the BELL AND CASTLE beerhouse having been referred for compensation and extinction at the Adjourned Licensing Sessions last year. The house was closed on 27th December 1919.”

Smethwick Telephone 20/3/1920 - Advert

“Tuesday Next, March 23rd.

Important Sale by Auction of Freehold Shop and Dwelling House Properties, situate at West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton, and Horseley Heath, near Great Bridge.

Jones, Sons & Vernon, FAI, at the SANDWELL HOTEL, West Bromwich, on the date as above, at 7pm sharp..... Union Street, Wednesbury.

Lot 4. An Important and Valuable, Large and Commodious, Freehold Business Premises, formerly the BELL AND CASTLE INN, now de-licensed. Union Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, with Immediate Possession of the Business part of the premises.

These Premises are electrically lighted throughout, occupies a capital business position, has a long frontage to the street, particularly good living accommodation, and premises at the rear suitable for the carrying on of a light trade, or stores.”

BELLWETHER

3+4, (3), Walsall Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1961]

Philip Paras Ram Pawar and Ravi Sarup Mahay [1986], [1987]

J. D. Wetherspoon

LICENSEES

Mary Hyde [1818]

Richard Parkes [1822]

Joseph Sheldon [1828] – **1865**;

Thomas Shorthouse **(1865 – [1873])**

Thomas Field [1874]

Henry Field [1875] – [1876]

Timothy Riley [1879] – [1881]

Isaac Riley [1881] – [1882]

David Gorton [1883] – [1885]

Walter Perry [1889]

William Perry [1891] – [1909]

William Richards [1904]

John Brown [1911] – **1922**;

Mrs. Emily Selfe **(1922 – [])**

Archibald Cross [1929] – [1932]

Benjamin Higgs [1930s]

Vincent W Fletcher [1939] – [1940]

Henry Stokes [] – **1961**;

George Henry Stevenson **(1961 – 1963)**;

George Thomas Huckerby **(1963 – [1966])**

M S Bratch [1983]

Peter Lythuda and Nicky Hutorka [2001]

Kirsty Hopkins [2011]



2008

NOTES

BLUE BELL [1818], [1822], [1828], [1830], [1834]

OLD BELL [1855]

1841 Census

Walsall Street

[1] Joseph Sheldon (42), victualler, born Staffordshire;

[2] Harriot Sheldon (43), born Staffordshire;

[3] Joseph Sheldon (8), born Staffordshire;

[4] Mary Sheldon (10), born Staffordshire;

[5] Caroline Brown (17), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[6] Samuel Bagott (22), labourer, born Staffordshire;

[7] Sarah Bagott (23), born Staffordshire;

[8] John Yeomans (41), agricultural labourer, born Staffordshire:



2025

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/1/1850

“On Thursday last, William Mills, market gardener, of Lichfield, was charged with furiously driving along the road between Wednesbury and Walsall, and thereby seriously, if not fatally, injuring Job Taylor, a man in the employ of Mr. *Sheldon*, BELL INN, Wednesbury. It appears that Taylor was leading a pony towards Wednesbury, and met the prisoner, Mills, in his cart, driving at a furious rate. He called out to the prisoner, but before he could get out of the way of Mills’s horse and cart knocked him down and went over him, the prisoner’s horse falling at the same time. Taylor was carried home insensible and continued so for several days, the surgeon in attendance (Mr. Palin) pronouncing him in a very precarious state, the accident having caused contusion of the brain. The prisoner was admitted to bail till Taylor is sufficiently recovered to appear against him.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/4/1850

“Wednesbury Public Office.....

Mr. Mills, gardener, from Lichfield, was fined 5s and costs for furious driving in January last, whereby James Taylor was seriously injured, and for whose recovery the case was adjourned to allow him to give evidence.”

1851 Census

Walsall Street

- [1] Joseph Sheldon (50), victualler, born Barr, Staffordshire;
- [2] Harriett Sheldon (56), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] Harriett Sheldon (21), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary Sheldon (20), daughter, servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Joseph E. Sheldon (19), son, solicitor’s articled clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Sarah Dooley (19), general servant, born Ireland;
- [7] John Clark (50), brewer, born Hampshire;
- [8] Joseph Perry (24), lodger, tailor, journeyman, born Lichfield;
- [9] Robert Debner (33), lodger, tailor, journeyman, born Shrewsbury;
- [10] Dennis Moloney (19), lodger, tailor, journeyman, born Ireland;
- [11] Thomas Downes (50), lodger, tailor, journeyman, born Ireland;
- [12] Charles Francis (22), lodger, tailor on tramp, journeyman, born Welshpool, Montgomeryshire;
- [13] Sarah Francis (24), lodger, born Newtown, Montgomeryshire;
- [14] Charles Francis (3), lodger, 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.....

Joseph Sheldon, Wednesbury, cautioned.....

Those cautioned had that remark written on the back of their license.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/6/1852

“At Wednesbury Town Hall, on Tuesday.....

Joseph Williams, a waggoner, was ordered to pay 3s 6d for allowing his waggon and three horses to remain in the road, near the BELL INN, while he was drinking in the house. John Aldridge was fined 6d and costs, for a similar offence at the same time and place.”

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1853

“Annual Licensing Day.....

The whole of the renewals were duly granted, with the following exceptions of parties convicted and fined.

The following were cautioned, and the same entered on the back of their respective licenses.....

Joseph Sheldon, BALL [sic] INN, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1855

“At the petty sessions, on Tuesday, *Joseph Sheldon*, of the BELL INN, Wednesbury, was charged with keeping his house open after the proper hour for closing.

The evidence of the police-officer who appeared to prove the case was to the effect that he found five men in one room, who, however, were not drinking, and two gentlemen in another who were drinking gin and water.

Mr. Duignan, who appeared for the defendant, called evidence to show that the five men belonged to a trade society, and slept at the house that night; and also called Mr. Batch, one of the gentlemen referred to by the officer, who stated that he and a friend called at the defendant's on the night in question to leave a message for a person who was to call there, when Mr. *Sheldon*, who was an old acquaintance, pressed them to take a glass of something as it was Christmas time. They did not pay for anything, and were never expected to do so.

The magistrates, on hearing the evidence, dismissed the case.”

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.....

Wednesbury, at Mr. *Sheldon*'s, OLD BELL.....

Agent. Mr. Edmund W. Otway, Meyers Green, West Bromwich.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/2/1860

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, six persons, named William Corbett, Mary Corbett, George Robinson, Ann Robinson, John Gibbons, and William Robinson, were severally charged by Evan Butler, lock filer, of Darlaston, with highway robbery. They were also charged with committing an assault upon George Butler, brother of the former complainant. Evan Butler had been so frightfully injured that he had to be carried into Court, and was accommodated with a seat during the examination.

It appeared that early on the morning of the 14th inst they were at the BELL INN, where they met with the prisoners. A disturbance arose over a wager, and George Butler was knocked down and kicked. The landlord then turned the prisoners out of the house, and soon after George Butler left to go home. Evan Roberts [sic] shortly afterwards followed him, and in Bilston Street he saw his brother upon the ground, and all the prisoners except the Robinsons, who were standing by, were kicking him. On going up he himself was knocked down, his pockets were searched, and a half-crown was stolen from his waistcoat pocket. They jumped upon him and kicked him in a brutal manner, and he had been spitting blood and had been unable to stand or walk ever since.

The surgeon's evidence went to show that Evan Butler had been very dangerously hurt and was suffering from rupture caused by recent violence. George Butler was no so badly injured although much bruised.

A number of witnesses were called on either side, and the result was that the charge of highway robbery was not established, and four of the prisoners were fined 40s each and the expenses, or in default two months' imprisonment. Two of the Robinsons were discharged, the evidence against them being somewhat slight.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/2/1860

“Samuel Hackwood, who occupies the offices of town crier, beadle of the parish church, royal mail carrier, and parish constable, brought up a man named Solomon Lees in custody before the Wednesbury magistrates for having violently assaulted him. Mr. Hackwood appeared to bring the dignity of all his offices into the witness box with him, and stated that in his capacity of town crier he had occasion to cry a child that was lost, and which child it appeared the defendant had found crying in another part of the town, and had very good naturedly taken charge of, and brought to the house of Mr. *Sheldon*, of the BELL INN. On Mr. Hackwood becoming aware of this fact he proceeded, bell in hand, to the BELL INN, and rather unceremoniously demanded the child, which being refused, he made Lees aware that he was bellman by making the bell sound on his cranium, whereupon Lees knocked down with one blow the town crier, the beadle, the royal mail carrier, and the parish constable. Mr. Hackwood then called himself in his latter capacity to his aid, and conveyed Lees to the police station; but the bench informed him, however, that he had not right to take the defendant into custody, but should have proceeded in the regular way by a summons. Lees was accordingly discharged.”

1861 Census

Walsall Street

- [1] Joseph Sheldon (63), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Harriett Sheldon (65), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] Mary Sheldon (28), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Timothy M. Carty (40), boarder, private soldier, born Ireland;
- [5] Ann Potts (16), servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Benjamin Winterbottam (36), servant, born Saddleworth Warwickshire;
- [7] a stranger (40), unknown:

Birmingham Journal 14/2/1863

"The General Hospital. At the weekly board, held yesterday, the following new annual subscriptions were announced Mr. *Joseph Sheldon*, BELL INN, Wednesbury, £1 1s."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/11/1863

"*Joseph Sheldon*, of the BELL INN, Wednesbury, was fined 2s 6d and costs for selling in prohibited hours on the 1st inst."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1863

"On Saturday an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Sheldon*, the BELL INN, Wednesbury, before Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, on the body of Phoebe Massey, eighteen months old, the child of parents residing in Walsall Street. The evidence went to show that the child was left alone in the house for a few moments on Tuesday afternoon, and that having approached the grate, her clothes caught fire, and the poor little creature was so severely burned that, although proper professional assistance was obtained, she expired on the following day. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and the Coroner censured the mother of the deceased for not having placed a fire-guard in front of the grate, and strongly advised her to get one at once."

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/3/1864

"Alexander Meakin, a young man, was charged with assaulting Rebecca Rillet, a dancer, of Walsall. The woman had been amusing the company at the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, on the previous evening, and when she was about leaving she stopped to pick up her pattens from under the table. The prisoner was in the corner, and had one on his foot, which he refused to give up. She then threw the other towards him, telling him to keep them both if he had most right to them. Upon which he struck her under the eye with one of the pattens, inflicting a wound an inch long, and threw the other at her head, which also inflicted a wound. Mr. Spooner sent the fellow to gaol for four months with hard labour."

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..... *Joseph Sheldon*, BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, open on Sunday, fined 2s 6d and costs, November 1863..... 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 stated below, whose licenses were suspended, all conducted their houses since the several convictions in a very orderly manner.....

Joseph Sheldon, BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury license renewed."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1864

"Yesterday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *J. Sheldon*, the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, on the body of Thomas Ellis, a lad thirteen years of age, who lost his life at a Patent Shaft and Axletree Works, on Wednesday. The evidence went to show that, on the morning of the day named, the deceased, with some other boys, who, like himself, were employed at the works, was playing in the yard attached to the establishment. In attempting to climb upon a stack of timber he dislodged a log, weighing about 16cwt, and, falling backwards, the piece of wood rolled over upon his head and chest, and caused such injuries that when he was raised from the ground death was found to have taken place. Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon, was called in, but his services were, of course, of no avail. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1865

"On Saturday, the following licenses were temporarily transferred by the West Bromwich Magistrates..... BELL INN, Walsall Street, from *Joseph Sheldon* to *Thomas Shorthouse*."

Birmingham Daily Post 31/1/1865 - Advert

"For Sale, cheap, Two Cobs, about 14 hands high, standing at the BELL INN, Wednesbury; also, Silver-plated Harness."

FOR SALE, cheap, Two COBS, about 14 hands high, standing at the Bell Inn, Wednesbury; also, Silver-plated HARNESS.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/11/1865

"Westley's, HALL GREEN TAVERN, Westbromwich Hall, near Wednesbury, New Pedestrian Grounds. Wilcox of Hill Top and Dudley of Wednesbury are matched to run 100 yards, for £10 a side, Dudley receiving two yards start, to come off at the above grounds, on Tuesday, December 26. £2 10s a side is down in the hands of Mr. *Shorthouse*, of the BELL INN, Wednesbury, who is final stakeholder, to be made into £4 a side, this (Saturday) evening at Dudley's, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/11/1866

"Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held before Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, at the BELL INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Samuel Hawkins, 15, who met his death under the following circumstances.

George Hollyhead, miner, stated that he was engaged at the Burrs Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co, and on Friday last he was working in the mine. The deceased had been engaged for the last three weeks in keeping the powder magazine. The magazine was stationed at about thirty yards from the bottom of the shaft, and the powder was sent down in a barrel containing about half-a-cwt. On Friday, at four o'clock, witness was working at about 60 yards from the magazine, when an explosion occurred, and he was knocked down. After recovering himself he got a light, and went towards the magazine, when he found a man named Thomas Eagles lying on the ground severely injured. He then went nearer to the magazine, where he found the deceased with his clothes on fire, and quite dead. The door of the magazine had been blown out. He saw no candles lying about the magazine, nor could he say what had caused the explosion.

The Coroner: Were you aware that the powder was sent down in barrels? Don't you know that by the rules the powder should have been sent down in 5lb canisters?

The witness: I did, but it was not my business to interfere. None of the men ever complained about the practice. About half of the half-cwt of powder had been used out of the barrel which exploded.

Thomas Mullinder corroborated Hollyhead's evidence, and after the body had been identified, the case was adjourned until the 3rd of December for the attendance of the man Eagles, who was at present in a precarious condition from the effects of injuries sustained at the explosion."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/4/1867

"The excitement occasioned in Wednesbury by the lectures of Mr. Murphy reached its climax on Friday evening last The lecture was intended to be delivered, like the previous ones, in the United Methodist Free Church, Ridding Lane. This building was found to be much too small for the large number of persons who thronged to hear Mr. Murphy, and the accommodation was endeavoured to be increased by the erection of a temporary gallery over the rear of the chapel.....

About half-past six an accident of a most alarming nature occurred. There was first a slight crash, followed by a slight sinking of one end of the gallery, which did not at first appear to occasion much alarm Presently the whole erection, with its living load, came to the ground with a frightful crash. The occupants of the gallery were pitched topsy-turvy over the heads of each other on to those in the body of the chapel below.....

Amongst the persons who are most seriously injured by the catastrophe in the chapel, are.....

Thomas Shorthouse, licensed victualler, who keeps the BELL INN, Walsall Street, has been badly bruised about his legs.”

Walsall Advertiser 15/2/1868

“At the County Court, on Wednesday, Frederick Ball, confectioner, The Butts, sought to recover £6 3s from *Thomas Shorthouse*, publican, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, for the loss of a pony through the defendant’s negligence. Mr. Glover appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Sheldon for the defendant.

The plaintiff’s case was that on the 27th December last, he sent his son to the defendant’s house to put up his pony. On the lad going to fetch the pony in the afternoon he found that one of its legs was broken; the ostler told him that the mischief had been done by a big horse, which stood by the pony, and which was known to be a ‘kicker,’ it having more than once smashed the stable door. Plaintiff had to kill the pony which about two years previously cost him £4 15s, and he put in a claim for its value, and for £1 8s, which he had to pay for hire of another. He said he had received 18s from his friends, who had raised a subscription for him, but he had refused moneys which the defendant, the owner of the ‘big horse,’ and others had collected for him.

For the defence it was alleged that the pony was put into the stable by the plaintiff’s son, without the knowledge of the ostler or the defendant, and that after the discovery of the accident nothing was said about the big horse being a ‘kicker,’ it having been known as a very quiet animal, although more than once it had fallen down in the stable from a disease under which it laboured, and broken the door. It was also sought to be shown that the pony was not worth more than 50s.

His Honour thought there would be a good defence if it could be shown that the pony had provoked the kick, but that had not been shown, and, therefore, he looked upon the case as a misfortune. It would be hard upon the plaintiff to lose his pony, and it would be hard upon the defendant to pay its value; but he thought he ought to give judgement for the plaintiff for £5 5s to be paid in six weeks, and perhaps the defendant’s friends would aid him to pay it. Judgement accordingly.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/4/1868

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, the following publicans were summoned for offences against the tenour of their licenses.....

Thomas Shorthouse, BELL INN, Walsall Street, for selling ale during prohibited hours on Good Friday, 1s and costs.”

Bells London Life and Sporting Chronicle 26/6/1869

“*T. Shorthouse*, of the BELL INN, Wednesbury, will match his dog Bob at 17¼lb or 17½lb weight against any other dog in the world at the like weight, at once or twice their weight, for £25 or £50 a side. Money ready as above.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/9/1869

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, a young man named Edward Perry, who was formerly employed at the BELL INN, Walsall Street, kept by Mr. *Thomas Shorthouse*, was charged with attempting to commit suicide.

Joseph Morris said a week that day he was working with the prisoner, who behaved in a strange manner, amongst other things, shaking hands with him twice, bidding him ‘good bye,’ and telling him he would not see him much longer. The mistress of the house told him to watch the prisoner, and shortly afterwards he saw him with a rope inside the apron that he wore. He saw the prisoner go up the yard and put the rope over the door, as if he was going to commit suicide. He informed the persons in the house, and on going to the spot afterwards, they found the man hid amongst the hay.

The prisoner said this was the first time he had attempted to do anything of the kind, and he was discharged with a caution.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1870 - Correspondence

"T. H., Walsall, writes, 'A meeting of the journeymen wheelwrights and smiths of Wednesbury, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Bilston, and the surrounding districts, was held at the BELL INN, Wednesbury, on the 6th instant, to devise means whereby the sixty hours a week system may be established in the place of the sixty-two hours, and to regulate the hours of labour so as to have only seven and a half hours on a Saturday. It was suggested that the working hours should be 10½ for five days a week, and 7½ on Saturday, instead of 10½ for five days a week and 9½ on Saturday, leaving work on that day at 2pm, instead of 5pm. After some conversation, it was unanimously resolved that the short time movement should commence on Saturday, the 7th of January next, and that after that date all wheelwrights and their blacksmiths should work only sixty hours a week, unless paid overtime at the rate of one quarter every two hours extra.'"

1871 Census

3, Walsall Street

- [1] *Thomas Shorthouse* (42), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Shorthouse* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ann Winchurch* (19), general servant, born Dudley;
- [4] *Samuel Smith* (26), ostler, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Henry Spittle* (39), boarder, gunlock maker, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *William Johnson* (42), boarder, bricklayer, born Leamington:

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1871 - Advert

"To Coal Dealers. To be Sold or Let, a Coal Wharf, at Darlaston Green; contains Cottage, Stabling, Machine and House.

Apply, *Thomas Shorthouse*, BELL INN, Wednesbury."

TO Coal Dealers.—To be SOLD or Let, a COAL WHARF, at Darlaston Green; contains Cottage, Stabling, Machine and House.—Apply, *Thomas Shorthouse*, Bell Inn, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/12/1871

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary).....

Thomas Shorthouse, of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, was summoned for having his house open during prohibited hours on Sunday week last. Mr. Ebsworth defended.

At about half-past nine o'clock on the day named, a policeman visited the house, and found four men and three women there. It was attempted to be shown for the defence that the parties who were found in the place were not there for the purpose of drinking. The Stipendiary, disbelieving this, fined defendant 40s and costs."

Thomas Shorthouse was also a breeze dealer. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 25/7/1874 - Died

"On the 20th inst, after a long illness, aged 70 years, Mr. *Thomas Field*, of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury; deeply lamented by his family and friends."

Midland Examiner 21/8/1875

"Bridget Dodd, a woman whose distinguishing characteristic was a most voluble tongue, was fined 10s and costs or 14 days' imprisonment, for having refused to leave the house of *Henry Field*, the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury."

Dudley Herald 2/9/1876

"On Wednesday the Annual Licensing Sessions for the parishes of West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton, &c, was held at the Public Office, West Bromwich.....

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston presented the following 'black' list of offences against publicans and beersellers which had been committed during the year ending 30th August last.....

Henry Field, licensed victualler, BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, prohibited hours, 40s and costs The offending publicans were ordered to appear at the adjourned licensing meeting before their licenses could be renewed."

AND

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“West Bromwich Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The magistrates granted the renewal of the licenses of ten public houses and twenty beerhouses that had been adjourned from the general licensing day in consequence of the non-appearance of the applicants, or from convictions.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/6/1878 - Advert

“Man (steady and sober) Wanted; one well used to Drive a Pair or Four.

Apply, BELL INN, Wednesbury.”

MAN (steady and sober) Wanted; one well used to Drive a Pair or Four.—Apply, Bell Inn, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 3/5/1879 - Advert

“*Timothy Riley*, BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, embraces this opportunity of thanking his numerous customers for the patronage he has received during the past, also to inform them that he has remodeled the above premises, in order to meet the requirements of his increasing business. He has added to his stock of conveyances several Hansom Cabs, and also purchased a large portion of the Stock lately disposed of by Mr. Birch, of the Boro’ Mews.

Breaks for Pleasure Parties, Pic-Nics &c.

Wedding Equipages &c.

Neat Hearse and Mourning Coaches.

Goods Carefully Removed.

Wines, Spirits, and Ales of the Choicest Quality.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1881 - Advert

“Wednesbury Staffordshire. Important Unreserved Sale.

Four Valuable Hearses and Mourning Coaches, Twelve Valuable Horses, Four handsome Well-built Brakes (nearly new) to carry from sixteen to thirty persons, Wagonettes, Cars, Cabs, Broughams, Barouche, Gigs, Dogcarts, Carts, twenty sets of Double and Single Harness, &c, &c.

Mr. E. B. Scholefield has received instructions from Mr. *Timothy Riley*, of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury (who is retiring from business and leaving the neighbourhood), to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, the 25th day of January.

The whole of his Valuable Stock, comprising four Valuable Hearses, with Ostrich Feather Plumes, four C Spring Mourning Coaches, one entire and eleven other Valuable Horses, twenty sets of Double and Single Harness, four Handsome Breaks, to carry from sixteen to thirty persons; Four Wagonettes, Two Broughams, Barouche, Four Cabs, Cars, Three Gigs, Dogcarts, Goods Vans, Plumes, Sidecloths, Black Rugs, Coloured Rugs, Bridles, Saddles, Chaff Machine, Brushes, Forks, and numerous other valuable Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock punctually.

Catalogues may be obtained at the Office of the *Birmingham Daily Post*, *Chronicle* Office, Wolverhampton, and at the Auctioneer’s Offices, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/2/1881 - Advert

“BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

Sale of Two Ponies, Mourning Coach, Wagonette, Dogcarts, Gigs, Traps, Harness, Plumes, Brushes, Chaff Machines, &c, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, on Tuesday Next, February 15.

Two Useful Ponies, Mourning Coach, Wagonette, Traps, Dogcarts, valuable Harness, white and black Plumes, Rugs, Whips, Brushes, Hames, Collars, Chaff Machines, and other valuable Effects (remaining unsold from the last sale, on January 25 last); the property of Mr. *Timothy Riley*, who is leaving Wednesbury.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock punctually.

Catalogues may be obtained at the Offices of the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1881 - Advert

“Mourning-Coach (grand C-spring); equal to new; a bargain.

Apply, *T. Riley*, BELL HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

MOURNING-COACH (grand C-spring); equal to new; a bargain
—Apply, T. Riley, Bell Hotel, Wednesbury.

1881 Census

3, Walsall Street – BELL INN

- [1] Eliza Riley (33), innkeeper's wife, born Moxley;
- [2] Anne Riley (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] William Riley (10), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] John T. Riley (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Alice E. Riley (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Jane Wood (16), general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Hannah Waghorn (15), general servant, born West Bromwich:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1881

"James Roberts, puddler, residing in a common lodging house, at High Bullen, Wednesbury, pleaded guilty to stealing two pairs of boots and one pair of clogs, belonging to *Isaac Riley*, of the BELL INN, Wednesbury. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment."

The Commercial Gazette 27/4/1882

"Extracts from the Register of County Court Judgements.....

Isaac Riley, BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, cab proprietor, 15 March 1882, £22 9s 1d."

Wednesbury Herald 6/1/1883 - Death

"On the 21st ult, of congestion of the lungs, Maria, oldest daughter of *David* and *Emma Gorton*, of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, aged 17 years. Beloved to those who knew her."

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.....

D. Gorton, BELL INN, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/12/1883

"Last night a meeting of miners of Wednesbury and neighbourhood was held at the BELL INN, Walsall Street, and as the result of some deliberation, a resolution was passed to the effect that, seeing that the notice for an advance had been suspended by the District Committee for the present, the meeting left the matter entirely in the hands of the committee, at the same time pledging themselves to use every legitimate means to secure a better and more united effort to obtain the advance asked for."

The Commercial Gazette 24/9/1885

"Extracts from the Register of County Court Judgements.....

Daniel Gorton, BELL INN, Wednesbury, publican, 20 August 1885, £17 19s 4d."

Birmingham Mail 25/2/1889

"Yesterday morning Henry Hammond (65), moulder, in the employ of the Patent Shaft Company, was found dead in the yard of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury. It seems that he was drinking on Saturday night, and it is supposed he made his way into the yard before the house closed, lay down, and fell asleep, and was killed by the cold, which was intense."

Birmingham Daily Mail 8/4/1889

“At West Bromwich Police Court this afternoon Mr. Loxton, of Walsall, appeared on behalf of *Walter Perry*, the occupant and manager of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, to appeal against the ratable value of the house named, as fixed by the Assessment Committee of the West Bromwich Union. Mr. H. Ward represented the Assessment Committee of the Board of Guardians

Mr. Wattis rate collector and assistant overseer for Wednesbury, explained that the gross ratable value of the BELL INN, upon which the last rate was made, was gross £85, and net to the poor £68.

In reply to Mr. Loxton, witness said the last rate was paid on that, but Mr. Loxton pointed out that it was paid under protest. The premises were rated previously gross £60, and rateable £48. Mr. Loxton said that the present ratable value was an increase on the gross of £25, or nearly 50 per cent. He added that the increase of the ratable value was made without any notice whatever, even to the occupants of the premises or Messrs. Fletcher and Sons, the lessees. The first intimation Messrs. Fletcher had of the increased ratable value was the demand note. The matter had been before the Assessment Committee, who had decided against the appellants, but it was only right to point out that the full particulars were not laid before that committee. They considered the former ratable value excessive, and one that ought not to have been allowed. The increased ratable value seemed to be on the supposition that the premises had been improved by cementing the front, and making certain alterations inside the house. So far as trade purposes were concerned, the house was not a bit better, and there was no more accommodation than before. In fact, there was considerably less public accommodation than before, because a club room had been converted into bedrooms, and a place formerly used for brewing had been taken into the house. They were paying a gross rental of £70 per annum under a lease for seven years, and there was a covenant to spend £300 within the tenure of the lease in improving the property. As a matter of fact they had spent £325. He contended that the gross estimated rental should not come to more than between £60 and £70.

The Bench confirmed the decision of the Assessment Committee with costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1891

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held two inquests at the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury; one being on the body of Ada Emily Mosely, aged nine weeks child of parents living in 5 Court, Union Street, and whose death took place suddenly on Friday, and the other being on the body of Ellen Susannah Thickett, aged five months, whose death took place at her parents house, 10, Church Street, on Saturday. The intense cold seemed to have been the predisposing cause of death in each instance. Death from Natural Causes was returned in each case.”

1891 Census

3, Walsall Street – BELL HOTEL

- [1] *William Perry* (35), licensed victualler, born Bloxwich;
- [2] *Elizabeth Perry* (43), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Thomas Perry* (16), son, railway porter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Job Perry* (14), son, iron works labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Perry* (12), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Eliza Hinkinson* (19), domestic servant, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Charles Clayton* (17), boarder, iron works labourer, born Birmingham:

Walsall Advertiser 31/7/1897

“On Saturday night John Stanyard, aged 71 years, a bricklayer’s labourer, of Pleck Road, Walsall, died at the Walsall Hospital from the effects of injuries received by falling from a ladder at Wednesbury on the previous day. Deceased had been engaged in gas-tarring a shed at the BELL INN, Walsall Road, Wednesbury, and fell from the ladder, breaking an arm and his collar-bone, and afterwards succumbed to his injuries. An inquest was held at the hospital on Monday before Mr. T. H. Stanley, when a verdict of Accidentally Killed was returned.”

1901 Census

3, Walsall Street

- [1] *William Perry* (43), licensed victualler, born Bloxwich;
- [2] *Teresa Perry* (44), wife, born Erdington, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Robert Perry* (29), brother, barman, born Bloxwich;
- [4] *Samuel Williams* (54), boarder, commercial clerk, born Tipton;
- [5] *Florence Dyke* (19), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/10/1909

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Edward Morris, 27, turner, on bail, was indicted for unlawfully uttering a false and counterfeit coin at Wednesbury, on July 27. Mr. Cranston prosecuted, and Mr. R. J. Lawrence defended.

Theresa Lewis, a barmaid, employed at the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, stated that at 8.15pm on July 27 she was serving in the bar when the prisoner came in and asked to be supplied with half a pint of ale. Subsequently, he produced a coin resembling a half-crown from his waistcoat pocket, and tendered it in payment for the ale. Witness thought the coin was a bad one, so she took it to the manager.

Frank Jones, manager of the hotel, said when he told the prisoner that the half-crown was a ‘dead wrong one,’ the prisoner said, ‘No, it isn’t; I have plenty more like it.’ Later witness communicated with the police.

William Perry, licensee of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, stated that at about 7.30pm on July 27 the prisoner came into the bar and asked for a glass of beer. Witness served the prisoner, who tendered him a half-crown, which he found to be a bad one. On his telling the prisoner that the coin was a false one, the prisoner said, ‘I know where I had it from.’ Witness recommended the prisoner to take it back, and get it changed while it was new, remarking that if he tried to ‘plant’ it he would get ‘pinched.’

Harry Odhams, a cycle-maker, of Wednesbury, gave corroborative evidence.

Charles Albert Westley, silversmith, of Wednesbury, stated the coin in question was counterfeit and valueless.

Police evidence having been given, the prisoner, on oath, said he honestly believed the coin to be a good one.

The jury found the prisoner guilty and recommended him to mercy on account of his previous good character.

Sentence of one month in the second division was passed.”

Birmingham Daily Mail 26/8/1910

“John O’Connell, hawker, of no fixed abode, was at Wednesbury today, committed for trial to the Quarter Sessions on a charge of stealing three hampers, value 5s, belonging to Sidney Jowett, fruiterer, Market Place, on the 20th inst. It was stated that the hampers were taken from the yard at the BELL INN, Walsall Street, where they had been stored by prosecutor. Prisoner afterwards sold two of them in another public house.”

[At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, O’Connell was sentenced to 9 months for another theft, and was not sentenced on this indictment.]

1911 Census

Walsall Street – BELL INN

[1] *John Brown* (56), public house manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Charlotte Brown* (56), wife, married 28 years, assisting in business, born Stourbridge;

[3] *May Brown* (26), daughter, waitress in the business, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Ethel Brown* (20), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Leonard Brown* (17), son, invoice clerk, born West Bromwich;

[6] *George Brown* (13), son, school, born West Bromwich:

Walsall Observer 6/7/1912

“Mr. Glover applied for sanction to various alterations to be made at the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury. These consisted of improved domestic accommodation, the re-opening of a door in Church Street for out-door trade, and the provision of a club-room over the domestic rooms. The Mayor said they would not allow the Church Street entrance asked for, or the club-room over the domestic rooms. They were in favour of increased domestic accommodation, and they thought a roof garden might well be made where they proposed to put the club-room. Mr. Glover said they would fall in with the suggestions of the justices, and the application was granted.”

1921 Census

3, Walsall Street – BELL INN

[1] *John Brown* (66), public house manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Charlotte Brown* (66), wife, home duties, born Stourbridge;

[3] *Ethel Brown* (30), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Marjory Crisp* (15), grand-daughter, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Harold Brown* (6), grand-son, school, born Handsworth:

Emily Selfe – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON, Lower High Street.

Dudley Chronicle 27/6/1929

“Serious charges were preferred at Wednesbury Police Court on Friday against George Anderson, 67, Well Lane, North Walsall. They were (1) being in possession of counterfeit coin with intent to utter the same, (2) uttering a counterfeit two shilling piece, and (3) having in custody and possession moulds for the manufacture of counterfeit coins.

Mr. B. G. Saywell (of London) appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions, and outlined the facts of the cases. On June 4th, at 1.30pm, accused went to the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, and tendered half-a-crown for half a pint of ale. In consequence of something said by the customers, the landlord spoke to prisoner, who made some excuse, and asked for the coin back, then leaving the bar. The next heard of him was on June 11th, when he went to the WHITE HORSE and tendered a two shilling piece, receiving change. Something was said to the daughter of the licensee. She looked at the coin again, and subsequently handed it to the police. Prisoner the same day went to the BELL INN and the MIDLAND VAULTS, where he tendered two shilling pieces, and afterwards went to the GRAPES INN, where he was spoken to by PC Taylor. He asked him to go to the Police Station, and this the prisoner willingly did. When there he handed PS Nixon four counterfeit coins, also giving him a key, and telling him he would find all he wanted in a drawer at his home. A search was made and moulds and other articles necessary for the making of counterfeit coins were found.....

Joseph Glaze, jeweller and silversmith, High Bullen, Wednesbury, said he was shown the coins produced by PS Nixon and tested them with aqua fortis. He also weighted them and found them deficient. The whole of the coins were counterfeit.

Miss Edna King, daughter of the licensee of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, said that on June 11th, she served a man with half a pint of mild and bitter, for which he tendered a two shilling piece (produced). She could not recognise the man. After he left something was said to her by another customer, and she looked in the till. She took out the two shilling piece, and testing it with another coin found that the edge rubbed soft.

Mrs. Higgins, wife of the licensee of the MIDLAND VAULTS, said she remembered prisoner calling for half a pint of ale on June 11th, for which he tendered a two shilling piece. She picked accused out the following day at an identification parade at the Police Station.

Archibald Cross, licensee of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, also stated that he served prisoner with beer and cigarettes, which he paid for with a two shilling piece. Subsequently, from something which was said to him, he took it out of the till, and upon testing it found it to be a bad one.

Douglas George Young, licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, identified two half-crowns (produced), one dated 1923, and the other 1924, which were found in his takings on May 20th and June 4th respectively. He knew prisoner and saw him in the bar on both the dates mentioned Joseph Glaze said that the two half-crowns which Mr. Young found in his takings were counterfeit and light in weight.....

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Staffordshire Assizes. He intimated that it was his intention to plead guilty.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/7/1929

“Pleading guilty to uttering counterfeit coins at Wednesbury, and to having in his possession moulds for making counterfeit coins, George Anderson, aged 38, a french polisher, committed from Wednesbury, was sentenced to three years penal servitude at the Staffordshire Assizes yesterday.

It was stated for the prosecution that prisoner also admitted charges relating to embezzlement and the uttering of counterfeit coins five years ago.”

Benjamin Higgs – see also SIR TATTON SYKES, Wolverhampton, BUSHBURY ARMS, Wolverhampton, and MYVOD, Wednesbury.

He was born in 1881.

He died in 1970.

Evening Despatch 1/4/1938 - Advert.

“Bar-General Wanted. References. Good home, liberal outings. BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.”

BAR-GENERAL Wanted. References. Good home, liberal outings.—Bell Inn, Walsall-street, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 19/8/1939 - Advert

“Wanted, Bar-General, live in, domesticated; good home. BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.”

WANTED. Bar-General, live in, domesticated; good home.—Bell Inn, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

1939 Register

3, Walsall Street (2 of 3)

[1] Vincent W. Fletcher, date of birth 29/1/1904, publican, manager, married, AFS;

[2] Iris P. Fletcher, dob 18/6/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1950/51]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1948], [1962]

George Thomas Huckerby – see also OLD BARREL.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1975 - Advert

“Don and Rita of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, wish all their customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/11/1978

“*Sandwell Mail* sponsored women’s 301 individual darts championship.....

Former Staffordshire county player, Sharon Shinton, from Wednesbury Labour Club will be on foreign territory, away to Jessie Smith, of BELL INN, Wednesbury.”

[Sharon Shinton won the competition.]

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/11/1982

“A Wednesbury youth facing two charges of malicious wounding with intent appeared before West Bromwich magistrates. Paul Charles Hunt, 17, of Freeman Road, was charged in connection with an alleged incident at the BELL pub, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, on Friday. Hunt was remanded on bail until December 6 on condition that he stay away from the BELL pub.”

[Hunt pleaded guilty to unlawfully and maliciously wounding, this plea was accepted by the prosecution, and he was sent for Borstal training.]

Closed

It was sold to Philip Pawar for £27,500 to be converted into the New Carousel Club.

The license was refused on 20th December 1984.

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/11/1986 - Notice

“Licensing Act 1964.

To the Clerk to the Licensing Justices for the Licensing District of West Bromwich.

To the Chief Officer of Police. To all others whom it may concern.

I, John Wilkins, now residing at TOP CATS, Hall Street, Bilston, in the County of West Midlands, having during the past six months carried on the trade or calling of a licensed victualler, and being a person interested in the premises described below, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply at the Transfer Sessions for the said District to be held at the Magistrates Court, West Bromwich, on the 4th day of December next, for the provisional grant to me of a Justices License authorising me to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption either on or off the premises about to be altered situate at and known as the NEW CAROUSEL, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, in the County of West Midlands, of which premises Philip Paras Ram Pawar and Ravi Sarup Mahay are the owners. Given under my hand this 10th day of November 1986.

Underhills, 7 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands. WV1 4DW.

Solicitors for and on behalf of John Wilkins.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/7/1987

"A Wednesbury pub which has been empty for years could get a new lease of life. A plan to turn the BELL INN in Walsall Street into a private snooker club is to be considered by Sandwell councillors. The applicants, Messrs. P. Pawar and R. S. Mahay, of the THREE TUNS pub, Queen Street, Bilston, said eight snooker tables would be provided."

Sandwell Chronicle 13/8/1999

"An £800,000 restoration of a dilapidated Wednesbury pub will create 20 new jobs, pub chain Wetherspoon has revealed. The renovation of the former BELL INN, at the corner of Walsall Street and High Bullen, was given the go-ahead last week when magistrates granted the licence. A large, single storey extension will be built to provide a larger bar area, bottle store, and office, and a beer garden to the rear is also planned. The site is currently in a dilapidated state with the yard area being used by a taxi firm, which will vacate the premises....."

It reopened as the BELLWETHER. [2000]

[2025]

TO COAL AND IRONMASTERS, CONTRACTORS,
AND OTHERS.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY J. WHITEHOUSE, on TUESDAY NEXT,
November the 8th, (under a Bill of Sale)—the EFFECTS of
Mr. Edwin Griffiths, and removed to the Bell Inn, Walsall Street,
Wednesbury, for the convenience of sale; consisting of Three power-
ful WAGON HORSES, two useful Cart Colts, three half-bred
Horses, handsome Yearling; Seven 4-inch-wheel CARTS, four
2-inch ditto, one 3-inch ditto, one 4-inch ditto, 21-inch-wheel Wagon,
Three Spring TRAPS, 8-inch-wheel BOILER CARRIAGE, to carry
50 tons; Two PHAETONS, Two GIGS, eleven Sets of Thiller Tackle,
two Sets of Gig Harness, two Side Saddles, and other Effects, accord-
ing to catalogue.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock, with the usual conditions.

Catalogues can be had at the Bell Inn; or at the Auctioneer's Office,
Turk's Head, Wednesbury.

1859

TIMOTHY RILEY

BELL INN,

WALSALL STREET, WEDNESBURY

EMBRACES this opportunity of thanking his
numerous customers for the patronage he has
received during the past, also to inform them that he
has remodelled the above premises, in order to meet
the requirements of his increasing business. He has
added to his stock of conveyances several Hancock
Cabs, and also purchased a large portion of the Stock
lately disposed of by Mr. Birch, of the Boro' Mews.

**BREAKS FOR PLEASURE PARTIES
FIO-NICE &c.**

WEDDING EQUIPAGE, &c.

NEAT HEARSE AND MOURNING COACHES

GOODS CAREFULLY REMOVED.

**WINES, SPIRITS, AND ALES OF THE
CHOICEST QUALITY.**

1879

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

IMPORTANT UNRESERVED SALE.

**FOUR VALUABLE HEARSES AND MOURNING
COACHES.**

TWELVE VALUABLE HORSES,

Four handsome Well-built BRAKES (nearly new) to carry from
sixteen to thirty persons, WAGONETTES, CABS, CABS,
BROUGHAMS, BAROUCHE, GIGS, DOGCARTS, CARTS,
twenty sets of Double and Single HARNESS, &c., &c.

MR. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD has received instructions
from Mr. Timothy Riley, of the Bell Inn, Walsall Street,
Wednesbury (who is retiring from business and leaving the neigh-
bourhood) to Sell by Auction, on **TUESDAY NEXT**, the 25th day
of January—the whole of his VALUABLE STOCK, comprising
four Valuable HEARSES, with Ostrich Feather Plumes, four C
Spring MOURNING COACHES, one entire and eleven other
Valuable HORSES, twenty sets of Double and Single HARNESS,
four Handsome BREAKS, to carry from sixteen to thirty persons;
Four WAGONETTES, Two BROUGHAMS, BAROUCHE, Four
CABS, CABS, Three GIGS, DOGCARTS, GOODSVANS, Plumes,
Sidecloths, Black Rugs, Coloured Rugs, Tridies, Saddles, Chaff
Machine, Brushes, Forks and numerous other valuable Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock punctually.
Catalogues may be obtained at the Office of the Birmingham
Daily Post Chronicle Office, Wolverhampton, and at the Auc-
tioneer's Office, Church Street, Wednesbury.

Bell Inn, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.—Sale of TWO PONIES,
MOURNING COACH, WAGONETTE, Dogcarts, Gigs, Traps,
Harness, Plumes, Brushes, Chaff Machines, &c., &c.—To be Sold by
Auction

BY Mr. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, on TUESDAY NEXT,
February 15, two Useful PONIES, MOURNING COACH,
WAGONETTE, Traps, Dogcarts, Gigs, Carts, valuable Harness,
white and black Plumes, Rugs, Whips, Brushes, Hames, Collars,
Chaff Machines, and other valuable Effects (remaining unsold from
the last sale, on January 25 last); the property of Mr. Timothy
Riley, who is leaving Wednesbury.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock punctually.
Catalogues may be obtained at the Offices of the Auctioneer, Church
Street, Wednesbury.

1881

DON AND RITA
of
THE BELL INN,
Walsall Street,
Wednesbury

wish all their customers a
Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year.

1975

BIRD IN HAND

Camp Hill Lane, (Campo Lane), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Corfield [1834] – [1842]

NOTES

Campo Lane [1834]

Camp Hill Lane [1835], [1841], [1842]

It had a beerhouse license.

William Corfield, retailer of beer, Camp Hill Lane. [1835], [1842]

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/9/1839

“An inquisition was held at Wednesbury, on Wednesday last, before Henry Smith, Esq, on the body of John Shore, a miner, aged 33 years.

William Corfield deposed that he is the landlord of the BIRD IN HAND beer-shop, at Wednesbury. On Monday last, being Wednesbury wake, deceased and James Wardle were at his house the greater part of the day, drinking with other persons. About half-past five in the afternoon, witness heard the deceased and Wardle having some words, and presently saw them strip to fight in the yard. Witness ran to them, and said they should not fight, and persuaded them to put on their shirts. Witness then turned away from them, on which they jumped over the yard wall into the adjoining field, and the rest of the company followed. Witness also went into the field, where deceased and Wardle were again both stripped, and he caught hold of the deceased and would not let him fight, until some of the persons present wrested him out of his hands. They then commenced fighting, and witness went into the house and saw no more of them until someone said the deceased was dead. Witness returned to the field, and saw some persons rubbing the deceased's head and body, and Mr. Reynolds, the surgeon, was applied to, and tried to bleed him, but without effect. Not more than five minutes elapsed from the time of their getting over the wall to the death of the deceased, who had received a bad bruise on the right side of his neck, a little under the ear. Wardle has absconded. William Bourn, of Wednesbury, and Mr. Jabez Rubery, of Darlaston, deposed to the fight taking place as mentioned by the last witness. The former stated that the dispute originated about a wager of 3d, and that the deceased said if Wardle did not pay it he would punch it out of him. Mr. Rubery was returning from Westbromwich at the time of the fight, and, knowing the combatants, stopped his horse and was a witness to the fatal occurrence. The Jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against James Wardle, who absconded immediately after he had killed the deceased.”

[James Wardle appeared at Staffordshire Lent Assizes in March 1840, was found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.]

1841 Census

Camphill Lane

[1] William Corfield (45), miner, born Staffordshire;

[2] Sarah Corfield (45), born Staffordshire;

[3] Selina Corfield (15), born Staffordshire;

[4] Caroline Corfield (15), born Staffordshire;

[5] John Barfoot (15), apprentice;

[6] Thomas Jenkins (15), apprentice;

[7] William Parker (15), apprentice;

BIRD IN HAND

Portway Road (Lane), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Farley [1852]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Mrs. Farley = Mrs. Fairley

Birmingham Journal 15/5/1852 - Advert

“Wednesbury. BIRD IN HAND, Portway Lane.

By George Allin. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, the Goodwill and Possession of the above well-frequented Beerhouse, doing a good Business, and is situated at the entrance of Messrs. Bagnall and Marshall's Works, where several Hundred Men are employed. Coming-in about £100.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to George Allin, Auctioneer and Surveyor, Bridge Street, Walsall; or to Mrs. Fairley, on the Premises.”

Birmingham Journal 12/6/1852 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

Sale at the BIRD IN HAND, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

George Allin will Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, the 14th day of June instant, at Ten o'clock in the morning, on the Premises as above.

All the clean and useful Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, quantity of Ale and Porter, capital Ale Casks, and other Effects, comprising four-post and other Bedsteads, three prime feather Beds, handsome mahogany Chests of Drawers, Washstands and Dressing Tables, six excellent Clocks, mahogany and other Tables, Sofa in mahogany frame, capital four-pull Beer Machine, two excellent Mash Tubs, sixteen capital Ale Casks, from 9 to 160 gallons, superior bred Sow in pig, four couples of Fowls, &c, &c, belonging to Mrs. Farley, who is leaving.

Catalogues, and further particulars, may be had at the Auctioneer's Office, Bridge Street, Walsall.

NB. The House and Premises to be Let, and any portion of the Fixtures may be taken to at a valuation, prior to the sale.”

WEDNESBURY.
“BIRD-IN-HAND,” PORTWAY LANE.
BY GEORGE ALLIN.—To be DISPOSED OF
by PRIVATE TREATY, the GOODWILL and POSSESSION
of the above well-frequented BEERHOUSE, doing a good Business, and
is situated at the entrance of Messrs. Bagnall and Marshall's Works,
where several Hundred Men are employed. Coming-in about £100.
For particulars, and to treat, apply to George Allin, Auctioneer and
Surveyor, Bridge Street, Walsall; or to Mrs. Fairley, on the Premises.

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.
SALE AT THE BIRD-IN-HAND, PORTWAY ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.
GEORGE ALLIN will SELL by AUCTION,
on MONDAY NEXT, the 14th day of June instant, at Ten
o'clock in the morning, on Premises as above—all the clean and useful
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING UTENSILS, quantity
of ALE and PORTER, capital ALE CASKS, and other Effects,
comprising four-post and other Bedsteads, three prime feather Beds,
handsome mahogany Chests of Drawers, Washstands and Dressing
Tables, six excellent Clocks, mahogany and other Tables, Sofa in ma-
hogany frame, capital four-pull Beer Machine, two excellent Mash
Tubs, sixteen capital Ale Casks, from 9 to 160 gallons, superior bred
Sow in pig, four couples of Fowls, &c., &c., belonging to Mrs. Farley,
who is leaving.
Catalogues, and further particulars, may be had at the Auctioneer's
Office, Bridge Street, Walsall.
N.B.—The HOUSE and PREMISES to be LET, and any portion of
the Fixtures may be taken to at a valuation, prior to the sale.

BLACK BOY

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Parkes [1791]
James Goodman [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/3/1791 - Advert

“Reversion.

To be Sold by Auction, by Farror and Goode, on Monday the 11th of April, 1791, at Four o’Clock in the Afternoon, at Mr. *Thomas Parkes*, the BLACK BOY, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford (subject to such Conditions as will be then produced) a Messuage, Dwelling House, or Tenement, together with a Brewhouse, Stable, Pigstye, and Garden, now in the Tenure of the above Mr. *Thomas Parkes*, being a desirable Situation, lying nearly opposite the Market House. The Premises (except the Garden and Pigstye, which are Freehold) are Copyhold of Inheritance, but little inferior to Freehold, paying neither Fine or Heriot, and are subject to the Estate for Life of a Lady who is now upwards of 70 Years of Age. The Tenant will shew the Premises, and for further Particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, in the Bull Ring, and New Street, Birmingham.”

R E V E R S I O N.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by FARROR and GOODE, on Monday the 11th of April, 1791, at Four o’Clock in the Afternoon, at Mr. *Thomas Parkes*, the Black Boy, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford (subject to such Conditions as will be then produced) a Messuage, Dwelling House, or Tenement, together, with a Brewhouse, Stable, Pigstye, and Garden, now in the Tenure of the above Mr. *Thomas Parkes*, being a desirable Situation, lying nearly opposite the Market House. The Premises (except the Garden and Pigstye, which are Freehold) are Copyhold of Inheritance, but little inferior to Freehold, paying neither Fine or Heriot, and are subject to the Estate for Life of a Lady who is now upwards of 70 Years of Age. The Tenant will shew the Premises, and for further Particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, in the Bull Ring, and New-street, Birmingham.

BLACK HORSE

1, Old Park Road / Kings Hill Field, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Highgate (Walsall) Brewery Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939)
Daniel Thwaites and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Dabbs [1850] – **1852**);
Joseph Benton (**1852 – 1856**);
John Hampton (**1856 – [1857]**)
James Yates [1859] – **1865**);
Isaiah Yates (**1865 – [1873]**)
Thomas Whormby [1881]
Mrs. Emma Whormby [1884] – [1909]
Harry Howard Wilkes [1911] – **1924**);
Archibald 'Archie' Constable (**1924 – []**)
James H Godwin [1932]
Ernest Kendrick [1939] – [1940]
Leslie Allen Astbury [1961] – **1966**);
Robert Joseph Mahon (**1966 – 1967**);
Everett William Lord (**1967 – []**)
Sam Lucas [1971] – [1978]
John 'Buster' Lucas [1980] – [1981]
Christine Ann Edwards []
John Hughes (**1997 – [1998]**)

NOTES

1851 Census

Kings Hill

- [1] James Dabbs (42), ironstone miner and farmer of 20 acres, employing 3 labourers and 20 men as miners, born Upton Cressett, Shropshire;
[2] Rosannah Dabbs (35), wife, born Wednesbury;
[3] Emma Dabbs (13), daughter, born Bilston;
[4] Samuel Dabbs (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;
[5] Elizabeth Shepherd (6), niece, orphan, scholar, born Bilston;
[6] Emma Webb (2), visitor, born Brierley Hill;
[7] Joseph Dickenson (45), brother-in-law, unmarried, born Wednesbury:
[Dinah Dabbs (64), widow, who was born in Upton Cressett, is the next entry.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/9/1851

“An inquest was held on Saturday, the 20th inst, at the BLACK HORSE, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Joseph Baker, 11 years of age. It appeared that the deceased was at play with some other lads on a pit bank, when a boy named Joseph Davies pushed him; he lost his balance and fell down the pit. He was taken up shortly afterwards quite dead. Verdict, Accidental Death.”



1999

Joseph Benton = Joseph Burton = John Benton

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 Burton, BLACK HORSE, Wednesbury, 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.....

John Benton, BLACK HORSE INN, Wednesbury, who had once been fined, did not attend the last meeting; he came today, and after a serious caution had his license restored.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/3/1856 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

To be Disposed Of, with immediate possession, the Licenses and Goodwill of that well-known Old Licensed Public House, known as the BLACK HORSE, Kings Hill, in the parish of Wednesbury. The above-named house is now doing a good business, and satisfactory reasons will be given for the present occupiers leaving. Coming-in will be low.

To treat, apply on the premises, or to Mr. Benton Dawes, Surveyor and Architect, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 1/11/1856 - Advert

“To be Let, an Old-licensed Public House, known by the name of the BLACK HORSE, situate at Kings Hill, near Darlaston, in the parish of Wednesbury. Good Stabling; rent low. Coming-in moderate, and business excellent.

Apply to the present tenant, Mr. *Benton*; or to Mr. Dickenson, SEVEN STARS, High Street, Bilston.”

John Hampton = James Hampton = John Hampson

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/5/1857

“Mr. *James Hampton*, landlord of the BLACK HORSE, Kingshill, Wednesbury, was summoned for allowing gambling in his house on the night of the 20th ult. The police have for some time been suspicious of the house, but its isolated situation and convenient outlet at the back, had, as the police supposed, hitherto enabled the proprietor to conceal anything which might render him amenable to legal proceedings. On the night in question, however, Police-constable Wooley, attired as a soldier, went to the house, and pretending to have been in the chief engagements in the Crimea, succeeded in lulling suspicion so far as to be a witness to gambling with dice for money, although some of the company remained doubtful as the truth of his pretensions to service on the ground that he had no medal. The landlord, who has not long been at the house, was fined 40s and costs, and warned that another detection would endanger his license.”

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.....

John Hampton, BLACK HORSE, Wednesbury, cautioned.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/8/1857

“Wednesbury Annual Licensing Meeting.....

John Hampson, of the BLACK HORSE, Kings Hill, was reprimanded and cautioned. He had been previously convicted in a fine of 40s for permitting gambling in his house, and the police complained that generally his house was badly conducted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1859

“At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, *James Yates*, of the BLACK HORSE public house, was charged with having on Sunday, the 3rd instant, kept open his house until past eleven o’clock, contrary to the statute. Defendant said that he had his house open, but not for the sale of liquor. The fact was it rained heavily, and his customers would not go out till the storm had abated. A witness was called in support of this statement, but the Bench ordered a fine of 7s 6d, including costs.”

1861 Census

Kingshill – BLACK HORSE INN

- [1] *Isiah Yates* (50), publican, born Walsall Wood;
- [2] *Manian Yates* (49), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Sarah A. Yates* (20), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [4] *L. Yates* (20), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Jane Yates* (18), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [6] *Enoch Yates* (14), son, born Birmingham;
- [7] *Isiah Yates* (15), son, born Birmingham;
- [8] *William Garrington* (65), visitor, widower, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 5/11/1863

“*James Yates*, of the BLACK HORSE, Kings Hill, was charged with having, on the morning of Sunday, the 25th October, kept his house open during prohibited hours. Police-constables Evans and Johnson deposed to having found a man in the defendant’s house on the morning named, drinking a glass of rum, but it was proved that this person was connected with the establishment, and that the rum was given to him, and the summons was therefore dismissed.”

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.....

Isaiah Yates, BLACK HORSE, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, obstructing the police.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/1/1869 - Marriage

“On the 28th of October last, at All Saints Church, by the Rev. J. B. Gabriel, *Isaiah Yates*, licensed victualler, Wednesbury, to Emma Price, late of the Orange Tree, Rushton Street North, in this town.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1870 - Marriage

“On the 22nd ult, at West Bromwich Old Church, by the Rev. F. Willett, Henry Walker to Lydia, eldest daughter of *Isaiah Yates*, of Kings Hill. No cards.”

1871 Census

1, Old Park Road – BLACK HORSE INN

- [1] *Isaiah Yates* (60), widower, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Arabella Price* (28), daughter, housekeeper, born Birmingham;
- [3] *James Price* (7), grand-son, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Rebecca Slater* (19), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/10/1877

“A painful occurrence took place at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday morning. At about half-past six o’clock Henry Lane (50), of Kings Hill, who was engaged as a carpenter at the Patent Shaft and Axle Tree Works, was seized with violent pains in his stomach, and left his work for the purpose of obtaining a stimulant which would have a tendency to remove the pain. On arriving at the OLD PARK HOTEL Lane asked for fourpennyworth of brandy, and having been supplied he took the glass, and was about to drink, when he fell down, and died before medical assistance could be obtained. The deceased was greatly respected by his fellow-workmen.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/10/1877

“Yesterday morning Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the BLACK HORSE INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, touching the death of Henry Lane (56), who died under circumstances already recorded in the *Daily Gazette*. Mr. W. C. Garman, surgeon, said, after examining the deceased, he was of opinion the death had been caused by heart disease. A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/7/1878

“On Tuesday, at the BLACK HORSE INN, Wednesbury, Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an enquiry touching the death of Mrs. Mary Ann Bruerton, age 36, the wife of Mr. Edwin Bruerton, Old Park Road, Kings Hill, who cut her throat with a penknife on Saturday morning, and died from the effects of the injury on the same night.

The general evidence showed that she had been living apart from her husband on account of her dislike to living at Darlaston, and that she had been in a low depressed condition for some years.

Mr. Partridge, surgeon, confirmed this evidence, stating that he had attended her professionally for seven or eight years, his attendance having been almost constant of late. She had been suffering from depression of spirits and melancholia, and by his advice she had been to Rhyl for a fortnight, but on her return the depression continued.

Verdict, Temporary Insanity.”

Wednesbury Herald 13/9/1879

“On Thursday, Edwin Hooper, Esq, District Coroner, held an inquiry at the BLACK HORSE INN, Kings Hill, relative to the death of a child named Lizzy Bond, aged six months, who was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning. The evidence showed that the deceased was a healthy child, and on Monday night it was put to bed in an apparently healthy condition. On Tuesday she was found dead by her mother. Death was supposed to have been caused by suffocation, but as there was no evidence to show how death was really caused the jury returned an Open Verdict.”

1881 Census

1, Old Park Road

[1] *Thomas Whormby* (45), pattern maker, born Tunstall, Staffordshire;

[2] *Emma Whormby* (43), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Kate Wilkes* (12), wife's daughter, born Smethwick;

[4] *Arthur Wilkes* (10), wife's son, born Smethwick;

[5] *Florence Wilkes* (9), wife's daughter, born Smethwick;

[6] *Harry Wilkes* (5), wife's son, born Smethwick;

[7] *Eliza Webb* (19), servant, born New York:

Thomas Whormby died on 23rd July 1889.

1891 Census

1, Old Park Road

[1] *Emma Whormby* (53), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Clara E. C. Wilkes* (22), daughter, born Smethwick;

[3] *George A. Wilkes* (20), son, medical student, born Smethwick;

[4] *Ann F. Wilkes* (19), daughter, born Smethwick;

[5] *Harry H. Wilkes* (15), son, clerk, born Smethwick:

Wednesbury Herald 2/11/1895

“On Monday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the BLACK HORSE INN, Walsall Road, on the body of Ann Ridding (65), School Street, Kings Hill.

The deceased had been in failing health for eight or ten weeks, and took to her bed on the 21st. On Friday she attempted to go downstairs, and, falling, sustained a severe scalp wound from the effects of which she died later in the day.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, the jury also desiring that a representation as to the condition of the stairs should be made to the owner of the house.”

Mrs. Emma Whormby was described as *Miss Emma Whormby*. [1896]

It was rebuilt c.1900.

1901 Census

1, Old Park Road – BLACK HORSE INN

[1] *Emma Whormby* (63), widow, licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Emily Wilkes* (30), daughter, born Smethwick;

[3] *Harry Wilkes* (25), son, born Smethwick:

Midland Evening News 15/6/ 1909

“*Emma Whormby*, licensee of the BLACK HORSE INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, was summoned at the instance of Mr. Van Tromp (Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act) for selling whisky, which was diluted with water 9% beyond the statutory limit. Mr. R. A. Willcock (Wolverhampton) defended.

The offence was admitted, and it was urged in defence, that the defendant had kept the house for thirty years without a complaint. The excessive dilution had been brought about by the defendant failing to use the proper instrument provided for the purpose.

The Bench said that in view of the excellent way the house had been conducted in the past, a fine of only 10s and costs would be inflicted.”

Emma Whormby died in the 4th quarter of 1910.

1911 Census

1, Old Park Road

[1] *Harry Howard Wilkes* (37), publican, born Smethwick;

[2] *Marian Wilkes* (37), wife, married 12 years, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Fred Wilkes* (11), son, school, born Bilston;

[4] *Bert Wilkes* (6), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Florence Baines* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Dolly Wilkes* (4), daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[7] *Florence Wilkes* (3), daughter, born Bilston:

Walsall Observer 14/6/1919

“A fatal motor-car accident in Wolverhampton Road, Darlaston, was described to the Walsall Deputy Coroner (Mr. Frank Cooper), at the General Hospital on Wednesday afternoon, when an inquest was held on the body of Joseph Hadley (6), son of an ironworks labourer, and his wife, living at Hewitt’s Buildings, Foundry Street, Darlaston.

Evidence of identification having been given by the mother, *Harry Howard Wilkes*, licensee of the BLACK HORSE INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, stated that on the previous Friday afternoon he was travelling along Wolverhampton Street in his motor car, which was being driven by his step-son, Frederick McKay. When the car was opposite a passage leading from Dorset Road Schools a little boy ran out, and darted into the road. He was struck and knocked down by the near side mudguard, but the wheels of the car, which was travelling at only eight miles an hour, did not go over his body. Witness’s step-son was a careful driver, but could not possibly have avoided the accident. The injured boy was taken to his home and then to Walsall Hospital in the motor car.

McKay, who has held a driver’s license for only two months, gave evidence bearing out Mr. *Wilkes*’s version of the accident. He also put the speed of the car at eight miles an hour.

The Deputy Coroner: That is rather a slow speed, is it not? – Witness: It is a bad road.

Sergeant Shepard (Coroner’s Officer) reported that neither he nor the Darlaston police had been able to trace any independent person who witnessed the accident, but people who saw the car before it reached the scene of the accident agreed that it was travelling slowly.

Dr. Ivy Keiss (house surgeon) informed the Court that the child died on the day of admission on account of a fractured skull, and the Deputy Coroner returned a verdict of Accidental Death, exonerating the driver of the car.”

1921 Census

1, Old Park Road

[1] *Harry Howard Wilkes* (48), licensed victualler;

[2] *Marian Wilkes* (48), wife, home duties;

[3] *Dorothy Gwendolen Wilkes* (14), daughter, school, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *George Dickenson Wilkes* (10), son, school, born Wednesbury:

South Staffordshire Times 29/3/1924

“Wednesbury Police Court.....

Mr. C. L. Hodgkinson appeared for *Archibald Constable*, who asked for a temporary transfer of the license of the BLACK HORSE INN, Old Park Road, from *Harry Howard Wilkes*, for whom Mr. Brown appeared. The magistrates granted the application.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1935

“The Wednesbury Licensing Bench yesterday.....

All licenses were renewed except BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road.....

Application for renewal of these, it was stated would be heard at the adjourned sessions.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/3/1935

“Wednesbury justices renewed the license of the BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, subject to an undertaking that plans were submitted for reconstruction.”

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.....

BLACK HORSE, Kings Hill.”

1939 Register

Old Park Road – BLACK HORSE INN (3 of 4)

[1] *Ernest Kendrick*, date of birth 7/11/1899, public house manager, married;

[2] *Kate Kendrick*, dob 21/11/1897, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] *John Kendrick*, dob 27/5/1935, school, single:

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

BLACK HORSE, Wednesbury, 2s 6d.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/10/1962 - Advert

“Barmaid and Pianist required.

Apply, the BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.”

BARMAID and Pianist required. Apply—
The Black Horse, Old Park-road, Kings
Hill Wednesbury.

Robert Joseph Mahon – see also BUSH, Wallbrook Street, Coseley

Wednesbury and Darlaston District Licensed Victuallers Association held their annual meeting here in 1969.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Birmingham Mail 24/7/1970 - Advert

"Barmaid Required, evenings only, good rate of pay.
BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, Wednesbury."

BARMAID Required, evenings only,
good rate of pay. — Black Horse, Old
Park Road, Wednesbury. Phone 526
2119.

Birmingham Mail 24/12/1971 - Advert

"Flo and *Sam* of the BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, wish all their customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1973 - Advert

"Cleaner Required, 5 mornings.
Apply, BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, Wednesbury."

CLEANER REQUIRED, 5 mornings.
Apply — Black Horse, Old Park
Road, Wednesbury. 021 526 2119.

A team from here qualified for the *Sunday People's* Great Pub Sports Quiz (128 teams). [1973]

A team from here took part in the *Sports Argus* Inn Quiz competition. [1973/74], [1974/75]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/12/1976 - Deaths

"Flo Lucas. Beloved wife of *Sam* and dearly loved mother of Bobby, John, Mavis and Alan, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 1.

Funeral from the BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, Wednesbury, at 10.35am, Wednesday, December 8, for 11.00am service at Newton Road Crematorium, West Bromwich. Flowers to the BLACK HORSE."

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/9/1978

"They call him Sandwell *Sam Lucas*, the Black Country grafter of the BLACK HORSE in Wednesbury. That's because he's 65 next birthday, and due to retire in March after 17 years as a licensee, 10 of them in Wednesbury. An ex-Bull Ring barrow boy, and an unashamed brummie, *Sam* had no reservations about becoming a 'guvner' of a Black Country Pub. 'They thought I was a bit funny at first, but we soon got to know one another, and I never want to leave this place.' But Wednesbury's locals just can't help liking a bloke like *Sam*, who's just as much their side of the bar as he is behind it. A tall, stocky figure with an admitted beer belly, he has the bar in stitches when he gets up on the stage to do his song and joke act dressed in a cowboy hat and scarf. He still thinks he's a Desert Rat, and sings all the old time songs like 'Pack Up Your Troubles.'

All the local people rallied round *Sam* when his wife Florrie died about two years ago. It was then that his son and daughter-in-law John and Yvonne Lucas stepped in to help. They have been saving to buy the tenancy and hope to take over when *Sam* retires. Although *Sam* will become eligible for a council flat it looks as though he will stay on with the family at the BLACK HORSE, as soon as he's been on his retirement world cruise....."

Walsall Observer 30/5/1980

"Mac Chambers became the star of the BLACK HORSE fancy dress pub crawl when he even went to the lengths of shaving his head to play the part of Kojak Over 90 people joined Mac on a crawl of 10 Darlaston pubs. And between them they managed to raise over £600 for Cystic Fibrosis.

'Mac shaved his head a couple of days before the fancy dress pub crawl,' said Mrs. Yvonne Lucas, wife of landlord *Buster Lucas* at the pub in Old Park Road. 'It was only when he arrived fully dressed up that we realised why he had done it.'

The annual event was organised by the pub football team and they will be handing over the money at a special presentation evening to be held at the Overstrand Restaurant in Walsall."

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/3/1981

"Families in a Wednesbury road are complaining about 'beer and bother' nights involving pub customers. People in Old Park Road say they are being troubled by the noise of customers leaving the nearby BLACK HORSE INN, and by occasional street fights.....

Mr. *John Lucas*, licensee of the BLACK HORSE, said he appealed every night to his customers to leave the pub in a quiet manner."

Sandwell Evening Mail 31/12/1981 - Advert

"The BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, Wednesbury, wish all their customers a Prosperous New Year and Thank You for the last.

Best Wishes, *Buster* and Yvonne."

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."

Sandwell Chronicle 1/11/1996 - Advert

"BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, Wednesbury.

Tuesday 5th November, Firework Display. Food available, Karaoke, everybody welcome.

Your Weekend Starts Here!

Friday, Karaoke, 8.30pm-11pm.

Saturday and Sunday, Free 'n' Easy with Play Your Cards Right. Daily cash prizes. Starting approx. 10pm.

Open Mon-Fri 7pm-11pm, Saturday all day, Sunday 12-4pm; 7pm-10.30pm."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/1/1998 - Advert

"Auction Tuesdays 7.30pm, the BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, Wednesbury.

No commission, lots wanted."

**AUCTION Tuesdays 7 30pm, The
Black Horse, Old Park Road,
Wednesbury No commission.
lots wanted — 0121 526 3282**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/2/1998 - Live Entertainment

"60s, 70s Sing A Long with Alan. Fridays, 8pm start.

The BLACK HORSE, Old Park Road, Wednesbury."

The Gazette 20/7/1998

"Christine Ann Edwards, 8 Malkit Close, Bentley, Walsall WS2 0LY, and formerly carrying on business as the BLACK HORSE, Public House, Old Park Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 9JE.

Court - Walsall.

Date of Filing Petition - 1st July 1998.

Date of Bankruptcy Order - 1st July 1998.

Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition - Debtor's.

[2025]

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.
TO be **DISPOSED OF**, with immediate possession, the **LICENSES** and **GOODWILL** of that well-known Old Licensed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, known as the **Black Horse**, King's Hill, in the parish of Wednesbury. The abovenamed house is now doing a good business, and satisfactory reasons will be given for the present occupiers leaving. Coming-in will be low.—To treat, apply on the premises, or to **Mr. BENTON DAWES**, Surveyor and Architect, Wednesbury.

TO be **LET**, an Old-licensed **PUBLIC HOUSE**, known by the name of the "**BLACK HORSE**," situate at King's Hill, near Darlaston, in the parish of Wednesbury. Good stabling; rent low. Coming-in moderate, and business excellent. Apply to the present tenant, **Mr. Benton**; or to **Mr. Dickenson**, Seven Stars, High Street, Bilton.

1856

**FLO AND SAM of
 THE BLACK HORSE
 OLD PARK ROAD, KINGS HILL,
 WEDNESBURY**
 wish all their customers a very
 Merry Christmas and a Happy
 New Year.

1971

THE BLACK HORSE

**Old Park Road
 Wednesbury**

*wish all their
 customers*

**a Prosperous New Year
 and Thank You for the
 last**



**BEST WISHES
 Buster and Yvonne**

1981

BLACK HORSE
 Old Park Road, Wednesbury TEL: 0121-526 2149
TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER - FIREWORK DISPLAY
 Food available, Karaoke, everybody welcome
**YOUR WEEKEND
 STARTS HERE!**
 Friday - Karaoke - 8.30 pm-11 pm
 Saturday and Sunday - "FREE 'N' EASY"
 with 'Play Your Cards Right'
 Daily cash prizes - Starting approx 10 pm
 Open Mon-Fri 7 pm-11 pm
 Saturday - All day, Sunday 12-4 pm; 7 pm-10.30 pm



1996

Live Entertainment

60'S, 70'S SING A LONG with
 Alan Friday's. 8pm start The
 Black Horse, Old Park Road,
 Wednesbury 0121 526 3282

1998



2011



2014

BLUE BALL

13, Earps Lane / Church Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Henry Spittle
William Bird [1895]
Charles William Exley
Darby's Brewery Ltd. [1921], [1936]

LICENSEES

William Spittle [1846] – [1851]
Henry Spittle [1857] – **1881**;
Jesse Wilkes **(1881 – [1882])**
Henry Whitehall [1883] – [1886]
William Bird [1888] – [1892]
Charles William Exley [1895]
William Bird [1895] – [1896]
John A Evans [1899] – [1901]
Benjamin J Ludlow [1904] – [1908]
Alfred Richard Lowe [1909]
Henry Asbury [1911] – [1912]
William Samuel McGill [1916] – [1921]
John William Knowles [1929]
David Fletcher [1932]

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 17/10/1846 - Advert

“Freehold Premises in Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Dawes, at the dwelling house of *William Spittle*, known by the sign of the BLUE BALL, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday, the 20th October, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

All those Five Messuages, with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances, situate in and fronting to Church Street, Wednesbury.....”

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] *William Spittle* (61), unmarried, victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Joseph Spittle* (59), brother, unmarried, victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Mary A. Thursfield* (22), general servant, born Birmingham:

Henry Spittle = Henry Spittal = Henry Spittell

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/7/1855

“George Dangerfield will run Buck Barlow of Birmingham 160 yards, for from £10 to £15 a side, at Lichfield. Money ready at the BLUE BALL, Church Street, Wednesbury, any night next week.”

FREEHOLD PREMISES

IN WEDNESBURY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by J. DAWES, at the dwelling house of William Spittle, known by the sign of the “Blue Ball,” in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on TUESDAY, the 20th October, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read—all those Five MESSUAGES, with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances, situate in and fronting to Church Street, in Wednesbury aforesaid, and in the respective occupations of William Wheatley, William Miller, James Matthews, Richard Pugh, and the Widow Onions.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Adams and Son, Solicitors, Darlaston; or to the Auctioneer, in Wednesbury.

1846

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY JOSEPH DAWES, on THURSDAY NEXT, the 20th day of January, 1859, at the house of Mr. John Dudley, known as the Royal Exchange Inn, in Wednesbury, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read:—

Lot 1.—Six undivided SEVENTH SHARES of and in all that FREEHOLD MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, for many years occupied as a Retail Beer House, and known by the sign of “THE BLUE BALL,” with the Yard, Brewhouse, Malt Room over the same, two Workshop, and other Out-buildings, and Premises thereto belonging, situate in Church Street, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and late in the occupation of Mr. Henry Spittle.

The House is eligibly situated in a central part of the town, and is very commodious and convenient, and is particularly well arranged for a Retail Beer-house, having the Brewhouse supplied from a cistern on the top of house.

Lot 2.—Six undivided SEVENTH SHARES of and in all that FREEHOLD MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, with the Premises thereto belonging, situate in Meeting Street, in Wednesbury aforesaid, and occupied by Edward Humpage.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. John F. Adams, Solicitor, Darlaston; or to the Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

1859

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/4/1857

“George Dangerfield of Wednesbury will run Buck Barlow of Birmingham, 120 yards, if Barlow will give him four yards start, for £25 a side, to come off in six weeks from the first deposit. Money ready at the BLUE BALL, Wednesbury, any time next week.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/4/1857

“On Tuesday last, the Wednesbury Campanalogian Society of Ringers and Friends held their second anniversary at Mr. *Henry Spittle*’s, BLUE BALL, Church Street, and partook of an excellent dinner. After the cloth was drawn, E. Blackmore, Esq, was called to the chair, and in a neat speech expressed his pleasure at the great progress this society had made. The usual loyal toasts were drunk. During the evening the Society of Ringers enlivened the proceedings by playing a choice selection of popular airs and waltzes upon their new peal of 57 handbells.”

Birmingham Journal 15/1/1859 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, on Thursday Next, the 20th day of January, 1859, at the house of Mr. John Dudley, known as the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, in Wednesbury.....

Lot 1. Six undivided Seventh Shares of and in all that Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House, for many years occupied as a Retail Beer House, and known by the sign of the BLUE BALL, with the Yard, Brewhouse, Malt Room over the same, two Workshop, and other Out-buildings, and Premises thereto belonging, situate in Church Street, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and late in the occupation of Mr. *Henry Spittle*.

The House is eligibly situated in a central part of the town, and is very commodious and convenient, and is particularly well arranged for a Retail Beer House, having the Brewhouse supplied from a cistern on the top of the house.”

Birmingham Journal 30/4/1859

“On Monday last 120 members of the St. Patrick Friendly Society met at the house of Mr. *Henry Spittle*, BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, formed in procession, headed by a brass band, to join the Darlaston branch of the society, and then proceeded to chapel, where an address was delivered by the Rev. G. Montgomery. After their return to the club-house, an excellent dinner was provided. The Rev. George Montgomery, of Wednesbury, was called to the chair, and made a lengthy speech on the rapid progress of the society since its establishment. Addresses had also been delivered by the Revs. J. Davis and Father Terry, of Bilston.”

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.....

Henry Spittle, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, supported by Mr. Bailey Refused.”

1861 Census

Earps Lane – BLUE BALL

[1] *Henry Spittle* (37), gas burner maker and retail brewer, born Wednesbury;

[2] Rebecca Spittle (36), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] Ellen Spittle (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] Sarah Whitton (15), niece, general servant, born Wednesbury;

[5] May A. Goodwin (20), housemaid, born Tipton:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/10/1861

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held on Thursday last.....

The following is a list of applicants for wine and spirit licenses.....

H. Spittle, Earps Lane Refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1862

“Annual Licensing Day The following is a list of the applicants for spirit licenses.....

Henry Spittle, Earps Lane.

These will be taken into consideration by the Magistrates on the 28th of September at a special Sessions.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1862

“On Thursday the following applications for spirit licenses were heard.....

Henry Spittal, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1863

“Wednesbury Mutual Friendly Society Festival.

The annual festival of this old-established society took place on Monday last. The members mustered at the Old Church Schoolroom, and from thence proceeded in procession to the Parish Church where an excellent sermon was preached by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Lyons. The members afterwards separated into three sections, and partook of dinner at the houses of Mr. *Henry Spittell*, the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane; Mr. Joseph Brittain, the OLD BLUE BALL, Church Hill; and Mr. William Brittain, the ROYAL OAK. The annual balance sheet shows that the society numbers 372 members, and possesses a balance in hand of £3,498 13s 3d.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/8/1863

“The anniversary dinner of the Wednesbury Lodges of the Operative Bricklayers took place on Tuesday. The members mustered at a comparatively early hour in the morning, and, headed by the Rifle Corps Band, proceeded in procession, through Darlaston, Walsall, Willenhall, and Bilston, returning to Wednesbury in the afternoon, where, after perambulating the principal streets in the town, and having been joined by friends from the surrounding towns, they sat down to dinner at the house of Mr. *Henry Spittle*, the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane. Mr. John Sanson presided over a company numbering about 150, and dinner having been disposed of, toast, song, and sentiment followed each other in rapid succession, and contributed to make the evening a very enjoyable one to all present.”

Henry Spittle was also a gas burner and gas cock manufacturer. [1864], [1865]

Bee-Hive 6/2/1864

“Operative Bricklayers Society. The following are the Lodge Houses of this Society.....

37 BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1864

“The anniversary of the Wednesbury Mutual Friendly Society, better known, perhaps, as the Old Church Club, was celebrated on Monday, when the members mustered at the Old Church School Room, and marched thence to the Church, where a sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Maurice. About 100 of the members subsequently sat down to dinner at the NEW BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, and the OLD BLUE BALL INN, Church Hill. The annual statement of accounts shows the affairs of the society to be in a prosperous state, there being a balance of £3,519 15s 4d standing to the credit of the society, and 371 members belonging to it. The income during the past year, from all sources, has amounted to £552 19s.”

St. Giles' Rowley Regis Parish Register - Marriages

10th April 1865. Albert Eland Barnsley (22), bachelor, clerk, West Bromwich, father Benjamin Barnsley, manager. Ellen Spittle (18), spinster, Wednesbury, father *Henry Spittle*, publican.

Sporting Life 14/11/1866

“Mr. Harding's New Shooting and Pedestrian Grounds, Wednesbury.

On Monday last, the announcement that Joe Spittle, a local shot, and Jem Dickens, of Hill Top, would come together for the fifth time, brought out an extraordinary concourse of people. The match was to shoot at thirteen pigeons each, subject to ordinary conditions, for £15 a side.....

[Joe Spittle won 8-4.]

Hearing that Mr. Boothroyd, of Sheffield, wishes to match Mr. G. Clayton, of Birmingham, to shoot a match with J. Spittle, he will accommodate him, for £25 a side, at twenty-five-pigeons, to shoot at the Beacon Barr, near Birmingham. Money ready any time at Mr. Hartwell's LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, or at *Henry Spittle's*, BLUE BALL, Wednesbury.”

Henry Spittle was also a gas cock maker. [1868], [1870], [1872]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/6/1868

“United Order of Free Gardeners.

At a district meeting held at Brother *Spittle*’s BLUE BALL, Wednesbury, after the general business of the quarterly meeting, it was resolved to present, as a mark of respect to Mr. Thomas Sturmey, brass lock manufacturer, of Temple Bar, Willenhall, a massive gold watch guard, and address, in acknowledgement of his perseverance and unremitting attention to the duty of district secretary for the past eleven years.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1870

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Henry Spittle*, the BLUE BALL INN, and Elizabeth Griffiths, Fallings Heath, were charged with having had their respective houses open during prohibited hours on Christmas Day. There being some extenuating circumstances in the cases, the defendants were merely ordered to pay costs. Thomas Mills, the RED LION INN, was charged with a like offence, but the evidence being incomplete, the case was dismissed.”

1871 Census

13, Earps Lane

[1] *Henry Spittle* (48), innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] Rebecca Spittle (47), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Mary Whitton (17), niece, born Wednesbury;

[4] William T. Barnsley (5), grand-son, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1872

“The Wednesbury Mutual Friendly Society.

The annual festival of this old-established and flourishing society took place on Monday. After attending Divine service in the Parish Church, the members repaired to the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, and sat down to an excellent repast. The statement of account showed that the income for the year had amounted to £692 7s 2d, and the disbursements to £640 4s 8d, and the society possesses a revenue fund of £4,116 13s 6d.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 26/9/1874 - Advert

“*Henry Spittle*, BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury.

Begs to return his best thanks for past favours, and respectfully solicits a continuance of the same.

Superior Wines and Spirits, Bottled Ales and Stout.

A large Club-room adopted for Public and other Meetings, Dinners, &c.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 31/10/1874

“On Monday evening a very strong muster of the members of Good Samaritan Lodge, No.2888, Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows, took place at the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, on which occasion Host *Spittle* invited the members to dinner with the view of inaugurating the removal of the lodge to his house. After full justice had been done to a very excellent spread, Brother Burghope was called to the chair, and PG Brother Richard Tillison, secretary, to the vice-chair. The Chairman gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were well received.....”

Midland Examiner 30/1/1875

“On Monday evening the annual dinner of the members of Foresters Court, No.2873, Court Empire, took place at the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane. An excellent spread was provided by Host *Spittle*, and a good attendance of members were present.....”

Forest of Dean Examiner 19/2/1875

“*Henry Spittle*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, was summoned for having his house open during illegal hours. Mr. Sheldon defended.

Police-constable Green deposed that on Friday morning, the 29th ult, about one o’clock in the morning, he was on duty in High Street, and saw a man come out of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane. He went to the door and rapped. Defendant said, ‘Who’s there?’ Witness said, ‘Police.’ He opened the door, and he asked if he had anyone in. Defendant said, ‘No.’ Witness walked into the back room and saw three men there. They asked him to drink, but there was nothing in the jug before them. There was something in the glasses. They said they would have another pot, and in reply to inquiries defendant said he thought he had some more eggs. He waited to see if there would be any more brought and a jug was brought in a few minutes. He was asked to drink and he did to see what it was. He

told the men that they had better come out. Defendant said the men were friends of his, they had been to the pantomime. Two of the men were Wednesbury people. He did not see anyone pay for anything.

Cross-examined: He was perfectly sober. He was in the house about ten minutes. He told him that the man he first saw come out had been looking after his horse. He believed it was raining. He did not know who said 'We will have another jug.' He had had some drink at the RISING SUN about ten o'clock. He did not stay to see the house closed. He did not know if he was in three other public houses that night. He did say at defendant's that it was good and they had better have some more. He was told that they were friends defendant had in the house. He did not report the case until the afternoon of the next day. He had been reported himself for being in another house that morning. He was at Eadburr's Lane. He did not say in defence that he should not have been there if he had not been drinking at defendant's. It was five o'clock the next day when he reported. Defendant did not tell him that his friends had been out in his own vehicle.

Superintendent Holland: Did not you go the next morning to Bilston with a prisoner, which accounts for you not having made the report? Witness: Yes, I had forgotten that.

Mr. Sheldon addressed the bench for the defence at great length. His defence was that the persons in the defendant's house were private friends, and that he was not amenable to the information, under the exemption clauses of the Licensing Act of last year. He called the defendant, who said he was asked on the day in question to provide a horse and trap and two others to take three friends to Wolverhampton. It was ten minutes to twelve o'clock when they got back to his house from Wolverhampton. It was a very rough night, and when they arrived at his house he told them that he had a nice piece of supper, if they would partake of it, they were as welcome as himself. He never charged, and never intended to charge anything for what they had. They were all personal friends of his, and he entertained them at his own expense.

The magistrates said they would take Mr. *Spittle's* word, and the summons would be dismissed."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/9/1880

"A petition has been filed in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court, on behalf of *Henry Spittle*, of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, licensed victualler and gas fitting manufacturer."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/9/1880

"Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the creditors of *Henry Spittle*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane and gas fittings manufacturer, 13, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, was held at the offices of Messrs. Thursfield and Messiter, solicitors, High Street, Wednesbury. Mr. Edwin Proctor, of West Smethwick, was elected chairman.

The statement of accounts showed unsecured creditors £1,057 9s 11d; secured £734 18s 5d; total £1,792 8s 4d. The available assets for unsecured creditors were estimated at £659 9s 7d. Mr. Messiter, on behalf of the debtor, offered a composition of 5s in the pound, and after some discussion the creditors rejected the offer, and decided to wind up the estate in liquidation."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/11/1880 - Notice

"Re *Henry Spittle*. In Liquidation. Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

Valuable Freehold Property, including a well-known Old-Licensed Public House.

To be Sold by Auction by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, the 15th day of November, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 2. A very valuable Freehold Old-Licensed House, known by the sign of the BLUE BALL INN, in Earps Lane, Wednesbury, comprising three Attics, two Bed Rooms, two Closets, large Club Room, Liquor Vault, Smoke Room, Bar, Tap Room, China Closet, three Cellars, Wine Cellar, Scullery, Brewhouse, Malt and Hop Room. Attached to the premises and belonging thereto are valuable Manufacturing and Business Premises, comprising Casting Shop, Turning Shop, Engine Shed, Forging Shed, Stable and Cowhouse, with Loft over, and large Yard, with draw-in gate road.

This Lot will also comprise the Freehold Messuage adjoining the said Licensed Public House, containing two Bed Rooms, Parlour, Kitchen, Cellar, Brewhouse, Yard, and Out-buildings, such Messuage being lately in the occupation of Alfred Barnsley, but being now void."

1881 Census

13, Earps Lane – BLUE BALL INN

[1] Jesse Wilkes (25), publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] Maria Wilkes (24), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] George Wilkes (1), son, born West Bromwich;

[4] Jane Lucas (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 18/6/1881

“*James Wilkes*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, was summoned for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the 8th inst. Mr. Sheldon defended.

Police-sergeant Curtis stated that on the night in question at 11.40 he visited the defendant’s house in company with Police-constable Noble and heard some persons laughing in one of the rooms. He rapped once at the door, and the wife of the defendant opened it, but on seeing witness she shut the door again. It was afterwards opened and in the tap room found John Hughes, Rosannah Hughes, and Thomas Stanley. On the table was a jug containing ale which the landlady said belonged to the servant. Stanley said he had come to the house for some eggs.

By Mr. Sheldon: He did not know that Hughes was in the employ of the defendant, there was only one pint of ale in the tap room The stipendiary said he thought the police acted properly in bringing the case before the Court, however, he did not think the evidence would warrant him in convicting defendant, and he should therefore be discharged.”

London Gazette 10/2/1882

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

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Jesse Wilkes*, residing at the BREWERS ARMS, Spon-lane, West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, and carrying on business there as a Retail Brewer, and also carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler at the BLUE BALL INN, Earps-lane, Wednesbury, in the said county.

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. William Shakespeare, 51, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 24th day of February, 1882, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 7th day of February, 1882.

Wm. Shakespeare, 51, Church-street, Oldbury, near Birmingham, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Wednesbury Herald 17/2/1883

“Ancient Order of Foresters, Court Empire, 2873. The members of this Court met on Tuesday evening last, at the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, being the 20th anniversary of the Court, when 40 members sat down to a very substantial supper, provided by the host, Mr. *Whitehall*. After ample justice was done, and the cloth was drawn, the chair was taken by C. Smith PDCR, and the vice chair by W. Keen PCR. During the evening Brother John Rogers, secretary, was presented with a large oil painting of himself, executed by Mr. G. Lowe, the free gift of the members, for valuable services rendered to the Court.....”

Lichfield Mercury 26/2/1886

“Cases of swine fever were reported to the Chief Constable last week as having occurred on the premises of Joseph Hyden, Boney Hay, Burntwood, and *Henry Whitehall*, publican, Wednesbury. One pig died in each case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/7/1888

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *William Bird*, BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, was summoned for having assaulted Police-constable Williams.

The officer’s evidence was to the effect that at about half-past twelve on the night of the 28th ult, whilst on duty in the Vicarage Road, his attention was called to a fight in a yard there rented by the defendant, and on going in he found perhaps twenty men there, several of whom were stripped, and some of whom had evidently been fighting. He asked what was the matter, and someone replied that it was all over; they had settled it. The defendant also said, ‘What is that to you? Get out of my yard; you have no right here,’ and pushed him across the yard, afterwards pushing him roughly into the street, and using threats. Police-constable Parton afterwards came, and was also threatened by the defendant.

The defence was that the defendant was giving a birthday party to about forty of his friends and customers, and that when Williams entered he annoyed some of the men, who threatened him, but that he was not threatened by the defendant himself. Ultimately, to save him from being molested, the defendant put him out into the road. Two of the men did come to blows, but they were soon separated.

The Stipendiary said the birthday festivities were no doubt too freely indulged in, and the policeman was fully justified in going in, but perhaps he would have shown more wisdom if he had gone out sooner. Under the circumstances the justice of the case would be met by the defendant being ordered to pay the costs, 18s 6d. Order made accordingly."

1891 Census

13, Earps Lane – BLUE BALL INN

[1] William Bird (36), brewer, born Wednesbury;

[2] Hannah M. Bird (39), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Joseph Owen (43), boarder, bricklayer, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[4] Emily A. Garratt (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/10/1891

"William Bird of the BLUE BALL INN, Wednesbury, was summoned at the instance of Mr. Morris (inspector under the Food and Drugs Act) for supplying whisky that was not of the quality required. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the defence.

Evidence was given of the purchase on August 28 of half a pint of whisky, which on analysis was found to be 34 degrees under proof. Mr. Smith said he relied on the case of 'Sandys v Small.' He should prove that there was, in 'Sandys v Small,' a notice posted, though, as in the other case, the purchaser did not see it. He produced the notice, which was, 'All spirits sold at this establishment are diluted according to price.'

The Stipendiary said he did not know what that meant; and in the course of a discussion that followed he pointed out that the notice in the case of 'Sandys v Small' was all 'liquors sold here are mixed – 28 and 29 Vic. 8 and 9.' Mr. Smith, for the defence, read the decision of Chief Justice Cockburn in that case, and said the 8th clause did not apply.

The defendant said the notice had been in the bar for three and a half years, and it was impossible for anyone to stand in front of the bar window without seeing it. The barmaid was also called.

The Stipendiary said the case did not come under either 'Sandys v Small' or 'Morris v Johnson.' In the first place, the notice did not convey to the purchaser the idea that the article he got was not whisky. The price was named by the barmaid without a word to indicate that it was of low quality, and the liquor was not of such a low price as that the notice would apply. Then the notice, worded as it was, would not protect a man under Clause 8. It was uncertain, but the one in 'Sandys v Small' was certain. He imposed a fine of 20s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1893

"At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, William Bird, the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, was summoned for having permitted gaming in his house on the 22nd and 29th ult. Mr. A. Whitehouse defended.

The evidence of Police-constables Farrell and Burton was to the effect that on the first-named day 'drawing' for walking-sticks, which a hawker had brought in, took place; and that on the second day three games at bagatelle were played for beer, bets being also made by some of the men present, and money being handed over whilst the landlord was in the room. Whilst he was out fetching a quart of ale which had been played for, the two losers arranged to play which should pay for it; and on his return he was asked to wait for the money, as they were playing which should pay.

In cross-examination they said there was a placard in the room prohibiting gambling and swearing.

Mr. Whitehouse said his client admitted the offence with regard to the sticks, but denied that he had any knowledge on the second day that any irregularities were going on. He had kept different public houses for twenty-four years without any complaint having been made against.

The Stipendiary dismissed the summons with regard to the 22nd on payment of costs, and imposed a fine of 5s and costs in the other, holding that it was proved that the defendant knew that the third match was being played for beer."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

“The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday.... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of *William Bird*, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/1/189 - Advert

“To Brewers, Publicans, and Others.

Important Sale of Freehold Fully-Licensed House, with Model Brewery, BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, and Freehold Cottage Property.

Bill and Son have been favoured with instructions from Mr. *William Bird* to Sell By Auction, on the Premises, on Tuesday, January 22, 1895, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely....

Lot 1. All that Freehold Fully-Licensed Public House, known as the BLUE BALL INN, with Cottage adjoining, situate in Earps Lane, Wednesbury, together with the Model Steam Brewery, Stabling, and Storehouses at the rear. The Public House is well fitted, and contains Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Club Room, five Bed Rooms, Spirit Store, excellent Cellarage with private Yard, and every business and domestic convenience. The Brewery, which has a four-quarter Steam Plant, is built on the Tower principle, and is fitted up in most modern style. There is an excellent supply of well water. The whole of the premises are well and substantially built, and are in a good state of repair.

The Cottage produces a rental of £13 per annum, and the Public House (which is at present in the occupation of the owner) is well worth a rental of £55 per annum. It has only changed hands once in thirty years, and has been in the occupation of the present owner for the past seven years, and he is now selling in consequence of ill health. Immediate possession would be given to a purchaser, who would be required to purchase at a valuation in the usual way the whole of the fixed and loose Brewery Plant, Casks, Horses, Carts, &c, the Public House Fixtures, Fittings, Furniture, Utensils, and the Stock-in-trade, both in the Brewery and Public House.

It is probable that arrangements could be made for the purchaser to secure the tied trade of two other Public Houses in Wednesbury belonging to the vendor. At the present time there is no ale and stout bottling business carried on in Wednesbury, and these premises are eminently suitable for the establishment of such a business.”

Wednesbury Herald 8/6/1895

“Richard Bridgwood, of Vale Street, Ruiton, was charged with stealing 1s from a till, the property of *William Bird*, BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, on Saturday afternoon. It is alleged that prisoner first took the money and then hid it in a wall in a closet at the rear of the house, where it was found by Police-constable Woolley. Prisoner was remanded until Friday.”

Wednesbury Herald 29/6/1895 - Advert

“BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, Wednesbury.

Unreserved Clearing-out Sale of the Surplus Brewing Utensils, Household Furniture, also a substantial Set of Double Harness (silver-mounted), One Set of Gig Harness, Driving Reins, Collars, Bridles, and sundry Harness, and a number of Well-Built Vehicles, comprising nearly new Landau Phaeton, by eminent Builder; capital Pony Phaeton, upholstered; Greengrocer's Cart, strong Spring Cart, a useful Dog Cart, Spring Hand Cart, Maltster's Cart, Cushion-tyred Bicycle, and other Effects.

Mr. L. C. Price has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, on the premises above, on Monday, July 1st, 1895.

Sale to Commence at 11 o'clock, Usual conditions.

Auctioneer's Offices, 32, Union Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/8/1895

“At Wednesbury Borough Police Court yesterday, *William Bird*, a proprietor of public houses, residing at Dudley Port, was charged with refusing to quit the BLUE BALL HOTEL, Earps Lane.

Mr. Sharpe, who appeared to prosecute, stated that the defendant was formerly the owner of the licensed premises, and disposed of them to Mr. Charles William Exley, a short time ago. On several occasions recently the defendant had visited the place, and on the night of the 23rd inst he visited the house, accompanied by a pugilistic individual, known as ‘Joey.’ The defendant described in the smoke room ‘Joey’ as a light weight, who was prepared to fight any man his own weight. He backed ‘Joey’ and went so far as to place a sovereign in ‘Joey’s’ hand in order to make a match. Mr. Rollinson, the prosecutor’s manager, hearing the conversation, directed ‘Joey’ to leave, and as he refused to do so he was speedily ejected. Defendant entered into conversation with customers, and as he became abusive, and challenged several persons, he was requested to leave, but he refused.

Witnesses having been called in support of Mr. Sharpe’s statement, defendant denied that he refused to quit, but admitted that something took place respecting a challenge to fight. His reason for visiting the hotel was to have a settlement respecting financial matters.

The Chairman (Mr. W. H. Lloyd) said the magistrates regarded it as a serious offence, and fined defendant £2 and costs.”

William Bird was also the licensee of the JUNCTION, Trowse Lane. [1896]

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/2/1897

“On Saturday night a meeting of engineers, stokers, &c, was held at the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, under the auspices of the Engine Drivers, Crane Drivers, Hydraulic and Boiler Tenders Amalgamated Protection Union for the purpose of furthering the agitation in favour of discountenancing Sunday labour and late hours on Saturday.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/7/1899

“Mr. *J. A. Evans* has at considerable expense had a new quoiting pitch laid at the rear of the BLUE BALL HOTEL headquarters of the Wednesbury and District Quoit League.”

J. A. Evans, Wednesbury Brewery, Earps Lane. [1900]

Birmingham Daily Post 21/3/1900 - Advert

“Wanted, Man, to Assist in Brewing and make himself useful.
BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, Man, to Assist in Brewing and make himself useful.—Blue Ball, Earps Lane, Wednesbury.

1901 Census

13, Earps Lane

[1] *John A. Evans* (46), publican, born Openshaw, Lancashire;

[2] *Elizabeth Evans* (41), wife, born Manchester;

[3] *Florence B. Evans* (21), daughter, born Manchester;

[4] *Amy B. Evans* (9), daughter, born Manchester;

[5] *Annie Porris* (34), domestic servant, born Worcester:

Blackcountryman (Summer 2014)

‘Colliery Fatality at Wednesbury’ from a newspaper of June 1906.

“On Friday an inquest was held at the BLUE BALL INN, Wednesbury, on the body of *John David Cooper* (45), pikeman, formerly residing in Earps Lane, Wednesbury, who was killed whilst following his employment at the Barebone Colliery, Leabrook, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, 29th ult. Mr. W. N. Atkinson (chief inspector of mines) attended.

Laura Maud Cooper, the widow, formally identified the body.

The son of deceased, *Samuel Cooper*, horse driver at the colliery, said he went down the pit at six o’clock. Deceased went down into the workings half an hour before witness. At the time of the accident witness and deceased were engaged in shifting dirt, and witness was working about three yards away from his father. Witness heard a noise, and upon turning round he noticed that there had been a fall of coal, and deceased, who was behind him, had been buried. Between five and six tons of coal came down. When got out deceased was lying on his face, and was quite

dead. Witness did not see the place tested that morning, but deceased and a man named Samuel Beddows usually went down first in the morning for this purpose.

By Mr. Atkinson: Deceased was knocking out a tree when the fall occurred, and he was using a hammer with a handle 2ft 6in in length. Before deceased could knock the tree out the weight of the coal forced it out, and the fall came without any warning, and there was no cracking, bumping, or any sound whatever. The coal was very hard at the spot, and they had got a hole in ready to fire it when the tree was removed.

Thomas Corfield, one of the proprietors of the colliery, said he was responsible for the underground workings. He tested the roof several times prior to the accident. Witness was facing deceased at the time the coal came down and buried him, and a portion of the coal struck witness on the back, and knocked him out of the way. Deceased was in the act of cutting at the top of the tree, with the object of loosening it, when the crash came, and the weight crushed a part of the tree into shreds. Deceased was an experienced man.

Mr. Atkinson said he had seen the place and it was well-timbered, and he saw nothing to complain about. He, however, thought the place was so crushed that it was difficult to work with safety. He believed the pit was worked as safely as circumstances permitted.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Tipton Herald 10/4/1909

“At a special Court at Wednesbury, on Saturday, Charles Bullock (25), Longmore Street; William Yates (23), Meeting Street; and George Harvey (19), Church Street, all of Wednesbury, were charged with stealing a bottle of whisky, the property of *Mary Ann Lowe*, licensee of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury.

It was alleged that prisoners went into the inn and had some beer. The servant who was in the bar had occasion to leave it. When the prisoners left the house a bottle of whisky was missing, and it was stated that the jug in which they had been served with beer only was found to contain beer and whisky. An empty whisky bottle was found on a rubbish heap at the rear of the premises.

The accused men were remanded.”

Tipton Herald 17/4/1909

“At Wednesbury Police Court, three men named William Yates, Meeting Street; Charles Bullock, Little Hill; and George Harvey, Church Street, all of Wednesbury, were charged with stealing a bottle of whiskey, the property of *Alfred Richard Lowe*, of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury. Mr. A. J. Glover defended.

It was alleged that during the absence of the servant from the bar the prisoners went round the counter and took a bottle of whiskey, which they emptied into some beer and drank in the house. Mr. Glover urged that the men were so drunk that they were not responsible for their actions. One of them could not walk when he got out of the house, and had to be carried home.

Prisoners were each fined 20s and costs or 14 days.”

1911 Census

13, Earps Lane – BLUE BALL INN

- [1] *Henry Astbury* (49), foreman gas producer and publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Eliza Jane Astbury* (47), wife, married 28 years, assisting in business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Florence Hannah Astbury* (26), daughter, assisting in business, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Henry Astbury* (22), son, gas stoker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Gertrude Maud Astbury* (14), daughter, assisting in business, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Bert Alfred George Astbury* (11), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Neville Astbury* (6), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Ivy Irene Astbury* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/11/1912

“At Wednesbury Police Court this (Tuesday) morning, before the Stipendiary, *Henry Astbury*, licensee of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours on September 22nd. Further summons for being on licensed premises during prohibited hours were heard against *Titus John* and *Florence Fellows*, Church Hill; *Thomas Price*, Dale Street; *Joseph Longmore*, Oakeswell Street; and *Harry Evans*, Old Union Street, all of Wednesbury. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the Chief Constable, and Mr. A. J. Glover defended.

Mr. Sharpe said that 11.30pm Sergeant Harris's attention was drawn to the BLUE BALL INN by seeing the electric light flash up in the front bar. Harris went to the window to see what was going on. Miss *Astbury*, aged 17, the daughter of the licensee, went into the bar, drew several drinks of beer and whiskey, which were carefully measured, and then carried them into the back room. Sergeant Harris saw the defendant Longmore put his hand into his pocket and pull out either a two-shilling-piece or half-a-crown, which he gave to Miss *Astbury*. She then went back to the bar, and did something with the money, afterwards switching of the light. If that was a genuine entertaining of friend, said Mr. Sharpe, it was rather strange that the drinks should have been so carefully measured, and that there should be a suggestion of paying.

Two other officers were with Sergeant Harris, and one was left at the front while Harris and another constable scaled the wall at the back. The front door was knocked, but there was some hesitation in opening it. Meanwhile the two officers had opened a door at the back, and walked into the room. Mrs. *Astbury* said those present were her friends, and that they were celebrating her birthday, which was on the following day. A suspicious circumstance was that when Sergeant Harris asked Mrs. *Astbury* whether those were all the men that were in the house she replied, 'Yes.' After Sergeant Harris told her he should search the house he saw one of the men give Mrs. *Astbury* a signal. She then said there were two more men upstairs, and as Harris proceeded to go upstairs Mrs. *Astbury* shouted, 'The police are here. You have come to have some supper, haven't you?' Longmore was deaf, however, and did not hear the warning, while the other man, John Fellows, answered glibly enough, 'I have come to sit up all night with Mr. *Astbury*' (who was ill), afterwards saying he had come to supper. Between one and two o'clock some of the men were seen to leave, which showed it was a 'cock and bull story' that they were going to sit up all night.

Sergeant Harris gave corroborative evidence of the forgoing statement.

Cross-examined, the sergeant said he was certain Longmore paid for the drinks, but he denied that Mrs. Fellows said she had helped the landlady to prepare the supper. Neither was he aware that Price was the man who killed the duck which the party had for supper (laughter).

Corroboration of Sergeant Harris's evidence was given by Police-constables Day and Bate.

Mr. A. J. Glover outlined the defence, which was supported by *Astbury* and the others. It was to the effect that a party was being held in honour of Mrs. *Astbury*'s birthday, which was the next day. As several of the men would be employed on the night shift, it was decided to hold the party on the Sunday. Further, if drink was being supplied illegally, it was hardly likely that the light would be flashed on in the manner described by the police.

Florence Fellows said that they had cold duck and pork for supper, and drinks were supplied, but no money whatever was paid. Witness cleared the table and washed up the crocks, afterwards putting them away. She should think they had been washed up nearly an hour when the police came.

The defendant Longmore absolutely denied paying for any drinks, stating that he only had a few coppers in his pocket. He had no silver or gold coins. He also denied that there was any whisky or port wine served. All those present were drinking ale.

Thomas Price spoke to killing the duck and feathering it for Mr. *Astbury* a few days before, as the landlord told him he was giving it away at his wife's birthday supper.

Miss *Astbury*, daughter of the licensee, said she served all the drinks that were supplied, but denied taking any whisky or port into the room. Her mother forbade her taking any money for drinks that were supplied after closing time.

The Stipendiary said he did not doubt that it was a bona fide supper party. The case would be dismissed."

The Stage 15/6/1916 - Advert

"Tom Kuner, Manager. At Liberty at once.
Late Manager, Hippo., and Kings Hall, Wednesbury.
Exp. Drama, Var., and Pic. (inelig.).
Address, BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, Wednesbury."

T O M K U N E R,
Manager. At Liberty at once. Late
Manager, Hippo., and King's Hall, Wednesbury.
Exp. Drama, Var., and Pic. (inelig.). Address,
Blue Ball, Earps Lane, Wednesbury.

South Staffordshire Times 25/10/1919 - Advert

"Clarke's Home Brewed Ales, BLUE BALL Brewery, Earps Lane, Wednesbury.
In 36, 18, 9, and 4½ gallon casks.
Also Guinness, Bass and Worthington in bottles."

South Staffordshire Times 15/11/1919

"The BLUE BALL HOTEL, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, was the scene of an accident on Tuesday. Frederick Sant, of 47, Church Street, Wednesbury, a window cleaner, was engaged cleaning the hotel windows of the second storey, when his ladder snapped into three pieces. He fell to the ground. The ambulance conveyed him to the West Bromwich Hospital, where it was found necessary to amputate the leg just below the knee and to insert eight stitches in the right leg, which was terribly gashed. He was only demobilized a month ago, after serving since August 1912. He has a wife and children, the youngest being nine weeks only. It is unfortunate for him, as he was not insured against accidents and has nothing to fall back on whatever. He still lies in hospital in a very serious condition. The accident happened on the second day of his working."

1921 Census

Earps Lane – BLUE BALL INN

[1] William McGill (44), married, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Vera McGill (18), niece, born Walsall;

[3] Robert Ruff (36), boarder, barman, born Wednesbury;

[4] William Perry (63), boarder, widower, retired licensed victualler, born Bloxwich;

[5] Mary Kerry (50), boarder, born Wednesbury:

William Samuel McGill – see also THREE FURNACES, Brierley Hill; BELL, High Street, Brierley Hill; STAR, Brierley Hill; OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Wednesbury; and GEORGE AND DRAGON, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 11/4/1925

"The monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held on Wednesday afternoon, at the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, when alderman J. H. Sheldon presided....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/10/1926

"Harriers Runs.....

Wednesbury Harriers meet at the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, at 3.15pm."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/11/1927

"Cross Country.....

Wednesbury Harriers receive Sunbeam A.C. for a social run at their headquarters, the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, Wednesbury. Run to commence at 3.30pm."

Rugeley Times 5/10/1929

"New Headquarters for Wednesbury Harriers.

About 30 members of this Club reported at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, to participate in a social run of about five miles. The youths, however, only covered a distance of about three miles.....

The above address is the new headquarters of this Club.....

Walsall members of this Club will greatly benefit by the change as they will be a mile nearer their residences. The open country is readily reached, it being only necessary to cover 220 yards of road before the meadowland is reached.

Mr. and Mrs. *J. Knowles* are to be presented with a hall stand in recognition of their wonderful services to the Club during their tenancy of the Club's previous headquarters."

Tipton Herald 16/1/1937

"Wednesbury lost a well-known townsman, when on Monday Mr. *John W. Knowles* passed away after a short illness. A native of the town, he was 59 years of age.

Mr. *Knowles* was best known to hundreds, even thousands, of Wednesbury and Midland people as a sportsman and licensed victualler. In his younger days he was a professional footballer, and the clubs with which he was connected included Cannock Town, Wednesbury Old Athletic, Darlaston, Dudley Town, and West Bromwich Albion. He was known as a nippy inside-forward, and occupied each of the three positions in the centre of the attack.

He became a licensee when he took over the UNION INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, and he remained there for a period of nine years, before moving to the OLD BUSH INN, Great Bridge. He returned to Wednesbury to take over the license of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, which he retained for five years, and during the past four years he

has held the position of steward at the Charlemont Social Club and Institute, Stone Cross, where he took a keen interest in all sports, and was extremely popular with the whole of the membership. He was previously a member of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association, and when he was at the BLUE BALL INN he was prominently associated with the Wednesbury Harriers, being a vice-president. His son was a member of the Harriers.

Mr. *Knowles* leaves a widow and two sons.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1936

“‘There is no opposition as far as the Churches are concerned, and one might almost say my application has their blessing,’ stated Mr. S. W. Smith at Wednesbury annual Licensing Sessions, yesterday, when he made application on behalf of Messrs. Darbys Brewery Co., for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the license of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, to a site at the junction of Rydding Lane and Hall Green Road.

Mr. R. H. Norris, for J. Hanson and Sons Ltd., Dudley, owners of the GOUGH ARMS, nearly half a mile from the new site, opposed the application on the grounds that there was no necessity for another licensed house in the area. Mr. Smith said that the opposing parties’ house was in the borough of West Bromwich, and Mr. Smith alleged they were trying to seize trade from Wednesbury. ‘Is the Bench at West Bromwich coming to rule this Bench?’ he asked. ‘They are in another borough, and we want provision for our own people,’ he said.

The applicants intimated that they would surrender the license of the OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, if the application was granted. ‘We are giving up two houses worth thousands of pounds and are doing excellent trade,’ added Mr. Smith. They would also give the land on which the BLUE BALL INN stood as a gift to the Corporation. The Justices made a provisional order subject to the surrender of the license of the OLD PACK HORSE, and the free conveyance of the other site to the Corporation.”

Walsall Observer 26/6/1937

“At Wednesbury special licensing sessions, yesterday week.....

The justices made a final order sanctioning the removal of the license of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, to premises to be erected in Rydding Lane, to be known as the MILLFIELD.”

Closed

The building was used as a laundry.

HENRY SPITTLE,
BLUE BALL INN, EARP'S LANE,
WEDNESBURY,
Begs to return his best thanks for past favours, and
respectfully solicits a continuance of the same.

Superior WINES & SPIRITS, BOTTLED ALES
AND STOUT.

A large Club-room adopted for Public and other
Meetings, Dinners, &c.

1874

Re Henry Spittle.—In Liquidation.—Wednesbury, Staffordshire.—
Valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY, including a well known
OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE.—To be Sold by Auction
BY Mr. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, at the Green Dragon
Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury, on MONDAY NEXT, the
15th day of November, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening, subject to
conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of
the Birmingham Law Society.

Lot 1.—All those Two FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES,
being Nos. 15 and 16, in Earp's Lane, Wednesbury, with the Yard,
Brew-house, and Outbuildings belonging thereto, the Premises being
in the occupation of John Lealan and John Hill, at rents amount-
ing to £20. 16s. a year.

Lot 2.—A very valuable FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED HOUSE,
known by the sign of "THE BLUE BALL INN," in Earp's Lane, Wed-
nesbury, comprising three Attics, two Bed Rooms, two Closets,
large Club Room, Liquor Vault, Smoke Room, Bar, Tap Room,
China Closet, three Cellars, Wine Cellar, Scullery, Brew-house, Valt
and Hop Room. Attached to the Premises and belonging thereto
are valuable Manufacturing and Business Premises, comprising
Casting Shop, Turning Shop, Engine Shed, Forging Shed, Stable
and Cowhouse, with Loft over, and large Yard, with draw-in gate
road.

This Lot will also comprise the FREEHOLD MESSAGE ad-
joining the said Licensed Public-house, containing two Bed Rooms,
Parlour, Kitchen, Cellar, Brew-house, Yard, and Out-buildings, such
Message being lately in the occupation of Alfred Barnsley, but
being now void.

Lot 3.—A desirable Piece of FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND,
situate at Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, having a frontage of 9 yards
to the main road leading from Darlaston to Walsall, and containing
459 square yards, or thereabouts.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Thursfield and Messiter,
Solicitors, Lower High Street, Wednesbury; W. Shakespeare, Esq.,
Solicitor, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wed-
nesbury.

1880

**TO BREWERS, PUBLICANS, AND OTHERS.
IMPORTANT SALE OF
FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED HOUSE,
With MODEL BREWERY, "BLUE BALL," Earp's Lane,
Wednesbury, and
FREEHOLD COTTAGE PROPERTY.**

BILL and SON have been favoured with instructions from Mr. Wm. Bird, to SELL by AUCTION, on the Premises, on TUESDAY, January 22, 1895, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions then to be produced—

Lot 1.—All that FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as "THE BLUE BALL INN," with COTTAGE adjoining, situate in Earp's Lane, Wednesbury, together with the MODEL STEAM BREWERY, Stabling, and Storehouses at the rear. The Public-house is well fitted, and contains Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Club Room, five Bed Rooms, Spirit Store, excellent Cellarage, with private Yard, and every business and domestic convenience. The Brewery, which has a four-quarter Steam Plant, is built on the Tower principle, and is fitted up in most modern style. There is an excellent supply of well water. The whole of the premises are well and substantially built, and are in a good state of repair.

The Cottage produces a rental of £13 per annum, and the Public-house (which is at present in the occupation of the owner) is well worth a rental of £55 per annum. It has only changed hands once in thirty years, and has been in the occupation of the present owner for the past seven years, and he is now selling in consequence of ill-health. Immediate possession would be given to a purchaser, who would be required to purchase at a valuation in the usual way the whole of the fixed and loose Brewery Plant, Casks, Horses, Carts, &c., the Public House Fixtures, Fittings, Furniture, Utensils, and the Stock-in-trade, both in the Brewery and Public House.

It is probable that arrangements could be made for the purchaser to secure the tied trade of two other Public Houses in Wednesbury belonging to the vendor. At the present time there is no ale and stout bottling business carried on in Wednesbury, and these premises are eminently suitable for the establishment of such a business.

BLUE BALL, EARP'S LANE, WEDNESBURY.

UNRESERVED Clearing-out Sale of the Surplus BREWING UTENSILS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, also a substantial Set of Double Harness (silver-mounted), One Set of Gig Harness, Driving Reins, Collars, Bridles, and sundry Harness, and a number of WELL-BUILT VEHICLES, comprising nearly new Landau Phaeton, by eminent Builder; capital Pony Phaeton, upholstered; Green-grocer's Cart, strong Spring Cart, a useful Dog Cart, Spring Hand Cart, Maltster's Cart, Cushion-tyred Bicycle, and other Effects.

MR. L. C. PRICE has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, on the premises as above, ON MONDAY, JULY 1st, 1895.

Sale to Commence at 11 o'clock. Usual conditions. Auctioneer's Office, 32, Union Street, Wednesbury

BOARD

High Bullen, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mary Sutton [1828] – [1835]

John Parish [1841] – [1843]

James Parrish [1841] – [1847]

NOTES

1841 Census

High Bullen

[1] *James Parish* (25), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *William Bailey* (50), butcher, born Staffordshire;

[3] *Michael Wiggin* (25), butcher, born Staffordshire;

[4] *Catharine Wiggin* (20), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Mary Hughes* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

James Parrish was also a horse dealer. [1845]

Birmingham Journal 21/11/1846

“On the night of Friday, Mr. William Plows unfortunately sustained injuries from a fall, which terminated his existence in a very short time. He had been going up stairs to bed with his wife, when a weakness suddenly came upon him, and he fell backwards to the bottom of the stairs; he immediately complained of his neck and back, and expressed his fear that he was a dead man. He was taken up and attended to with all speed, but nothing could save him; and on the ensuing night death terminated his sufferings. On Monday an inquest was held at the BOARD TAVERN, Wednesbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, when a verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/7/1847

“On Friday evening, an inquest was held at the house of *James Parish*, the BOARDS INN, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the bodies of two men named William Twall and John Boys, who were killed on Thursday morning by a fall of coal, while at work in a pit of the Messrs. Davis, Wittons Lane, West Bromwich. Evidence was given to show that the pit was properly worked, and that no blame attached to any person, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

BOARD

Market Place, (High Street), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Charles Adshead Loxton [1850] – [1864]

NOTES

HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.
TO WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS AND
OTHERS.
TO be SOLD, by PRIVATE CONTRACT, the
House, Shop, Warehouses, Stables, Cart-house, Garden, Fixtures,
Goodwill, and Stock in Trade of the late Charles Adshead Loxton, by
his executors.—Apply to Mr. Jno. Loxton, Architect, Wednes-
bury.

1865

Charles Adshead Loxton = Charles Ashted Loxton

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/3/1851

“Wednesbury. Proposed Application of the Public Health Act.

At the Public Office, on Wednesday last, Thomas Webster Rammell, Esq, one of the Government Inspectors appointed under the Public Health Act, entered upon an enquiry relative to the sanitary condition of the town. Most of the influential inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood were in attendance.....

Mr. Seaman, solicitor, read a memorial signed by 2,298 persons, which set forth that the inhabitants were badly supplied with water, and that there was a total want of drainage. The memorial then referred to the frightful devastation caused by the cholera, which was mainly attributable to the filthy state of the town, thereby shewing the imperative necessity of an improved system of sanitary measures to secure the health and well-being of the inhabitants.....

Mr. *Charles Ashted Loxton*, brewer and spirit merchant, also spoke of the inadequate supply of water, and the expense the inhabitants were put to in obtaining fresh water.”

1851 Census

Market Place

- [1] *Charles Adshead Loxton* (60), maltster, brewer, and retailer of wines and spirits, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Sarah Loxton* (55), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Joshua Loxton* (22), son, servant in the trade, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *John Loxton* (18), son, engineer's apprentice, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Mary Loxton* (15), daughter, waiter in the shop, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Samuel Loxton* (71), brother, widower, retired japanner, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Esther Loxton* (73), sister, partner, maltster, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Lois Harrison* (67), boarder, widow, annuitant, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Elizabeth Newman* (61), wife's sister, unmarried, servant to *Lois Harrison*, born Wolverhampton;
- [10] *William Mear* (36), widower, brewer, hostler, &c, born Stapenhill, Derbyshire;
- [11] *Ann Gutteridge* (19), waiter in the shop, born Wednesbury;
- [12] *Elizabeth Vaughan* (20), house servant, born Leominster, Herefordshire;

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/12/1852 - Marriages

“On the 14th instant, at the parish church of Wednesbury, by the Rev. Isaac Clarkson, vicar, Mr. Joshua Loxton, second son of Mr. *Charles Adshead Loxton*, wine and spirit merchant, of Wednesbury, to Miss. Hannah Jeavons, eldest daughter of Mr. Jeavons, of the WHITE LION INN, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 12/5/1855

“At Wednesbury Police Court Abraham Mole, a fitter, was on Tuesday charged, before J. Leigh, Esq, with an assault on the police, under the following circumstances.

It seemed that on Saturday night the defendant entered the liquor vaults of Mr. *Loxton*, of the Market Place, and asked for drink. Miss Loxton, seeing that he was intoxicated, refused to supply him. He afterwards returned, when the landlord, who is particularly scrupulous in such matters, was in the shop, and told him to leave. The defendant refused, whereupon Constable Bowen was called in. The officer endeavoured by mild means to remove him, and was grossly assaulted. Mr. Sale appeared on the part of the defendant, and a gentleman from the office of Mr. Wilkinson, of Walsall, conducted the prosecution.

Mr. Leigh inflicted a penalty of 40s and expenses.”

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last. Mr. Allin and Mr. *Charles Loxton*, wine and spirit merchants, set the example, and in a short space of time the subscriptions amounted to a handsome sum.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *Loxton*, wine and spirit merchant, Market Place.

At night the town was brilliantly illuminated. Some of the devices were admirable, among which we particularly noticed those at Mr. *Loxton*’s.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/7/1860

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Joshua Loxton, son of Mr. *C. Loxton*, innkeeper, appeared to answer a charge of having participated in an affray. The case excited some interest from the fact that the two parties most prominent therein are a publican’s son and a temperance lecturer, the latter being John Kemp, of Bilston. It appeared that on Wednesday last the zealous advocate of total abstinence was lecturing in the market place, when suddenly his platform was upset, and he was ignominiously precipitated to the ground. Mr. Kemp, in making a statement to this effect, said he was assaulted by Mr. Loxton, the defendant, but he did not wish to press the charge, his simple object there being to testify to the fact that the police did their duty.

Mr. Leigh thought it well not to go no further into the case, but reminded all concerned that lecturers in the public thoroughfares were just the same in the eyes of the law as street ballad singers. He advised the advocates of temperance, as well as the believers in malt and hops, to conduct their future proceedings in such a manner as would not give offence.”

1861 Census

Market Place

[1] *Charles A. Loxton* (70), wine and spirit merchant, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Sarrah Loxton* (66), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Sarrah Dufan* (24), waitress in shop;

[4] *Sarrah Harrison* (18), house girl, born Dudley:

Charles Adshead Loxton died in the 4th quarter of 1864.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1865 - Advert

“High Street, Wednesbury.

To Wine and Spirit Merchants and Others.

To be Sold, by Private Contract, the House, Shop, Warehouses, Stables, Cart-house, Garden, Fixtures, Goodwill, and Stock in Trade of the late *Charles Adshead Loxton*, by his executors.

Apply to Mr. Jno. Loxton, Architect, Wednesbury.”

BOAT

Crankhall Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Chilton [1881]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/11/1863

“At the BOAT INN, Crank Hall Lane, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, on Wednesday, November 11, the lovers of the trigger mustered in good force to witness a match between Messrs. White and Spittle, for £10 a side, to shoot at 7 birds each, on the usual conditions, which was won by Mr. Spittle killing his 5 birds, Mr. White 4. A second match was shot between the same gentlemen, at 3 birds each, for £5 a side, which was won by Mr. White killing his 3 birds, Mr. Spittle 2. After which a case of stuffed birds was shot for by 20 members, 5s each, which, after a well-contested match, was won by Messrs. White, Armstrong and Haseldine tying, killing 5 birds each in succession.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/10/1881

“On Saturday evening Mr. F. W. Topham, Deputy Coroner, held an inquiry at the BOAT INN, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, as to the death of George Bates (34), of Oakeswell End, and Catherine Grainger (10), of Wednesbury Bridge, who were drowned under sad circumstances on Thursday night.

The evidence showed that on Thursday evening, at about half-past five o'clock, the girl Grainger, while laying on the side of the Birmingham Canal, in Crankhall Lane, suddenly slipped into the water. The deceased Bates observing what had taken place ran to the spot, and, although unable to swim, courageously jumped into the water after the girl. The canal is of considerable depth at this point, and as neither person came to the surface a few minutes afterwards a man named Farr plunged into the water and brought to the surface the body of Bates, but life was found to be extinct. The girl's lifeless body was found some time afterwards. The bodies were afterwards removed to the malt room adjoining the BOAT INN, and between Thursday night and Saturday morning rats or mice attacked Bates's body and disfigured his face beyond recognition, large portions of the flesh being removed from the bones. Several of the jurymen spoke highly of the gallantry displayed by Bates in endeavouring to save the girl's life.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned in each case.

For a number of years Bates has been a sergeant in the local Volunteers, and his remains will be followed to the Cemetery today by his late comrades headed by their band. Much sympathy is expressed for the deceased's widow and four children, for whom a subscription has been started.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 27/1/1888

“During the present week a granite obelisk has been erected in the Wednesbury Cemetery to the memory of Sergeant Bates, who lost his life while trying to save a girl from being drowned. The obelisk bears the following inscription. ‘This monument is erected in memory of Sergeant George Bates by the officers, non-commissioned officers, privates, and other friends of the F company (Wednesbury) 2nd V.B.S.S. Regiment, who was drowned while gallantly attempting to save the life of Catherine Grainger, 29th September, 1881. Aged 34 years.’”

BOAT

38, Lea Brook Road, (38, Dudley Street), Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Ann Woolley

Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson, maltsters [1921]

Thomas Oliver Ltd.

Darby's Brewery Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1968]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Henry Pitt [1834] – [1855]

Thomas Small [1858] – [1865]

James Harding [1866] – [1896]

Francis Joseph 'Frank' Lloyd [1898] – **1905**);

Thomas Arthur Reynolds (**1905** – []

Joseph Arnold 'Joe' Large [1908] – [1911]

Charles Taylor Snr. [1912] – [1916]

Mrs. Martha Taylor [1921]

Charles Taylor [1921] – [1940]

Martha Taylor [1961] – **1964**);

Charles Joseph 'Charlie' Taylor (**1964** – **1966**);

Peter John Wellings (**1966** – [1967]

S Gobey [1973]

Marie Smith [1977]



c1965



1968

NOTES

Dudley Street [1865]

38, Dudley Street [1891]

38, Lea Brook Road [1871], [1881], [1911], [1921], [1939]

Lea Brook Shooting grounds were here. [1870]

BOAT INN and recreation grounds. [1896]

It had recreation grounds. [1872], [1892], [1928]

Rabbit coursing and trotting took place here.

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/5/1836 - Married

“On Wednesday, the 4th instant, Mr. Richard Oldacre, eldest son of Mr. William Oldacre, hat-manufacturer, Wednesbury, to Miss Mary Pitt, eldest daughter of Mr. *Henry Pitt*, of Lea Brook, near Wednesbury, coal-master.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/9/1839 - Advert

“To be Sold, a twenty-horse High-pressure Winding Engine, new Winding Apparatus if required, or without. For particulars apply to Mr. *Henry Pitt*, BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.”

TO be **SOLD**, a twenty-horse High-pressure **WINDING ENGINE**, new Winding Apparatus if required, or without.—For particulars apply to Mr. *Henry Pitt*, Boat Inn, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/7/1840 - Advert

"Adelaide Lodge, BOAT INN, Wednesbury.

Mr. *Henry Pitt* begs to inform the Gentlemen of Wednesbury and its vicinity, that the First Anniversary of the above Lodge will take place on Monday the 13th of July inst, when the company of any friend will be esteemed a favour. Dinner on the table at two o'clock."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/1/1841

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Lawton was indicted for stealing a malt mill, the property of Henry Pitt, at Wednesbury.

The prosecutor stated that on the 16th of December the prisoner went to his house and asked him to allow him to cut his malt mill. After some hesitation, he consented to allow the prisoner to take it home, under pretence of cutting it more conveniently. The prisoner never brought the mill back; and he afterwards found it in the possession of W. Middlemore, a publican, at Walsall, who had bought it of the prisoner for 24s.

The prisoner confessed to Palmer, the constable, that he took the wheel, but that the mill was placed in his hands by Mr. *Pitt*, to be repaired.

To be imprisoned six months."

1841 Census

Lea Brook

- [1] *Henry Pitt* (46), coal master;
- [2] Ann Pitt (45), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Ann Pitt (17), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Mary Cottrell (50), servant, born Staffordshire;
- [5] Mariah Salt (14), servant, born Staffordshire;
- [6] John Jevon (28), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Hannah Jevon (21), born Staffordshire;
- [8] Hannah Jevon (4 months), born Staffordshire:

Henry Pitt was also a coalmaster. [1845], [1849], [1850]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1845

"South Staffordshire Junction Railway.

Two lines of Railway having been submitted to the public, connecting the Mineral Districts of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire with the Midland Railway at or near Alrewas, we the undersigned Merchants, Coal and Iron Masters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other inhabitants, residing at the boroughs of Wolverhampton, Walsall, and Dudley, at the towns of Wednesbury, Darlaston Bilston, Willenhall, Tipton, West Bromwich, and other places in these districts, also at the city of Lichfield, and its neighbourhood, do hereby express our opinion that the projected South Staffordshire Junction Railway, which will communicate with the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railways, at Dudley, and at Wolverhampton, and with the Grand Junction Railway, and also with the intended Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton, and South Staffordshire Junction Railway, at one Grand Central Station in the town of Wolverhampton, where all the Railways will meet, is the line best calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the districts and places enumerated, and we promise to it our strenuous support.....

Henry Pitt, coalmaster, Lea Brook, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 27/12/1845

"On Tuesday last one of those sudden and fearful accidents, to which, notwithstanding the greatest care, miners are constantly subjected, occurred in a pit at Lee Brook, Wednesbury, belonging to Mr. *Henry Pitt*, and by which a young man named Samuel Easthope lost his life.

It appeared from the account given by John Green, a fellow workman, that on Saturday week while they were engaged in one of the workings a quantity of foul air suddenly exploded, by which poor Easthope was so dreadfully burnt that after lingering for a week death put an end to his sufferings. Green had a very narrow escape, and was also burnt, but not dangerously, at the time of the explosion; he was only a few yards from the place where his companion was at work.

The part of the pit where the explosion took place had been examined by the 'doggy,' or overlooker, in the morning with the safety lamp, but he could discover the presence of no foul air, which must have subsequently accumulated, as the men were in the pit three hours before the accident occurred. As it appeared that every care had been taken by the owner of the pit to guard against occurrences of this kind, the Jury, at the conclusion of the inquiry subsequently held before Mr. Hinchliffe, the Coroner, returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/2/1851

"We briefly stated in our last paper the particulars of an outrage committed by several Irishmen upon an unfortunate countryman of theirs, named Welch, and which resulted in the death of Welch.

An inquest was held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on Friday last, at the house of *Henry Pitts*, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, on the body of the deceased, who was thirty-nine years of age.

It was proved by the evidence of Peter King, Mark Sarrs, and Michael Welch, that on Sunday night, the 9th of February, Patrick M'Farling, William Morram, Francis Cosgrave, and Patrick Morram, with other Irishmen, were in the road at Lea Brook, after they had left a beershop there, and M'Farling said, 'We will kill the Welchs as soon as we can lay hold of them.' There were several Welchs of the same family living at Lea Brook. The deceased, John Welch, soon after was going along the road, and both Patrick M'Farling and William Morram said the moment they saw him, 'We have one of the birds, now let us be at him,' and Patrick M'Farling, who had a long stick like the handle of a broom in his hand, began beating the deceased violently about the head with it, and William Morram picked up a brick and a large stone, and struck the deceased a terrific blow on the forehead with it, and he fell instantly to the ground, where they continued beating him and kicking him, assisted by Patrick Morram, who kicked him, and Thomas Cosgrave, who jumped violently upon him. They then left him lying in the road apparently dead, and he lay there for a quarter of an hour before any one dare go and remove him to his house.

The party who had attacked him then went to the house of Mark Sarrs, where Micheal Welch, a nephew of the deceased, lodged; they called to him to come out, and said they would serve him the same as the deceased. Patrick M'Farling said, 'I want you out, Welch, I have one of your — killed, and I should serve you the same.' They tried to force the door; but luckily there were several men and women in the house, who secured it. They then broke in the roof of the pantry, but something disturbed them and they went away.

John Welch, the deceased, was afterwards taken to his house, and became sufficiently sensible to say who had struck and kicked him, but shortly afterwards he became insensible, and remained so until his death on the Tuesday following. His skull was dreadfully fractured in the front.

It was proved by Michael Welch, nephew of the deceased, that the prisoners entertained an ill feeling against the deceased, in consequence of the deceased, about four months ago, having summoned M'Farling and William Morram before the magistrates for an assault.

The parties who committed the violence absconded, but sub-inspector William Mills and police-constable George Whittaker succeeded in finding and apprehending Patrick M'Farling and William Morram in Birmingham, and the jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against them, and also against Francis Cosgrave and Patrick Morram. The coroner committed the former two to Stafford goal, and issued his warrant for the apprehension of the latter two.

On Tuesday, at the Public Office, before John Leigh, Esq, three men of the party, named Thomas Varley, John Moran, and John Murphy, were charged by Inspector Mills with being accessories to the murder of John Welch, and were committed to take their trial at the next assizes. The evidence was precisely similar to that given at the inquest."

AND

Birmingham Journal 22/3/1851

"Staffordshire Assizes.....

Patrick M'Farling, William Morram, John Morran, Thomas Varley, and John Murphy were indicted for the wilful murder of John Welch, on Sunday, the 9th of February last, at the parish of Wednesbury.....

After a most patient and protracted inquiry, the Jury found the prisoners guilty of manslaughter. M'Farling and William Morram were sentenced to eight months' hard labour; and the others to half the term of punishment."

1851 Census

Lea Brook

- [1] *Henry Pitt* (55), publican, born Dudley;
- [2] Ann Pitt (54), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Hannah Javons (30), daughter, widow, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary Oldacre (13), grand-daughter, born Oldbury, Shropshire;
- [5] Hannah Javons (10), grand-daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Sarah Robinson (18), house servant, born West Bromwich:

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/1/1852

“An inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Pitt*, BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, on the body of Catherine Griffiths, aged nine years and nine months, who had been lost from Monday, the 22nd till the 26th. The body was ultimately found by a man named Timothy Stanton in the canal. Verdict, Found Drowned.”

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.....

Henry Pitt, BOAT INN, Wednesbury, open on Sunday.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/5/1853

“BOAT INN, Lee Brook, near Wednesbury.

At this new ground, on Whit Monday will be run for the following handicap races.

A mile and a half, £4 to first, and entrance money (2s 6d each) to second; a mile, for a silver watch, or £3 in money, entrance money (2s each) to second; a hurdle race, quarter of a mile, £2 for the first prize, entrance (2s 6d each) to second; open to all comers. The proprietor has spared no expense to make this ground (which is near the Wednesbury station on the South Staffordshire Railway) second to none in the Midland Counties, and intends giving further prizes throughout the year. Entries to be made at the BOAT, as above, or at Mr. Hewson's, Thatched House, Duddeston Row, Birmingham.”

AND

“Handicap Race open to all. Mr. *Pitt* of the BOAT INN, Wednesbury, will give a silver cup to be run for in a 10 mile handicap race, on Tuesday the 10th inst. Entrances 5s each; the second man to have the entrance money, and the third to save his stakes; entrance to be made on or before 12 o'clock on the day of the race, to Mr. *Pitt* as above. Wyatt of the Lye Waste, Rhodes of Wolverhampton, and Stepfine of Oldbury have already entered.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/5/1853

“At the BOAT INN, Lee Brook, Wednesbury, tomorrow, a silver cup is to be shot for, value £10, at Mr. *Pitt*'s new shooting ground (which is 100 yards square and walled in), by 20 members, at 10s each, 7 birds each, 21 yards rise, 2oz of shot, guns $\frac{3}{4}$ bore, the gun to be held below the elbow till the bird is on the wing; the first best shot to take the cup or the money, and the proprietor will present the second with £2. On the same day a sweepstakes of £10, by 20 members, 10s each, three prizes. Conditions as above. To commence at two. The best blue rocks will be supplied.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/4/1854

“On Monday, Eliza English was committed for stealing two shawls, the property respectively of Mr. *Pitt*, the landlord of the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, and of Mary Oldacres, his grand-daughter. From the 11th to the 17th instant the prisoner lived as domestic servant in Mr. *Pitt*'s family.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/7/1854

“Walsall Quarter Sessions.....

Eliza English, for stealing, on the 4th April, a silk dress worth £10, the property of *Henry Pitt*, her master, and a scarf shawl worth 30s, the property of Mary Oldacre, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to four months' imprisonment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/12/1854

“At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, held on Tuesday last.....

Henry Pitt, licensed victualler, at Lee Brook, was fined 50s and costs for having kept open his house after the hours allowed by law.”

Birmingham Journal 11/8/1855 - Advert

“To Persons about to Enter the Public Business.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the valuable Old-licensed Public House, known by the sign of the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford.

The House is surrounded by the extensive Iron Works of Messrs. Bagnall, the Patent Shaft Company's Works, and Messrs. Solley's, &c. &c. The neighbourhood is densely populated.

The Premises consist of front and back Parlours, Tap Room, Bar, and a private Sitting Room adjoining the Bar, large Club Room, excellent Cellaring, two Brewhouses, Malt Room, lock-up Coach-house, Stabling, Piggeries, and a well stocked Garden.

There is also attached to this excellent House, the Victoria Pedestrian Running Grounds.

A highly respectable Odd Fellows Lodge, consisting of about one hundred members, belongs to the Premises.

The sole reason of the present Proprietor retiring is in consequence of his being advanced in life, and having realised an independent income upon the Premises.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *Henry Pitt*, upon the Premises.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/8/1855 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others requiring a First-Rate Public House.

Mr. Altree has been favoured with instructions to Dispose of that highly respectable House of Business, the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, where a new Railway Station is being built opposite; brewing twenty-four bushels per week the year through, and over £400 a year in spirits (proof).

The premises are in first-rate condition, have a commanding appearance, with every convenience, Coach-house, Stabling for ten horses, five Piggeries, large Kitchen Garden, with Fish Pond, half an acre of Land for Pleasure or Racing Ground, where many matches have been run, also large Tea Gardens, the whole of which is walled ten feet high. The present proprietor having been in thirty-nine years, is now retiring.

Apply to Mr. Altree, Auctioneer, Bilston.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/10/1858

“Mr. *Thomas Small*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, appeared to prefer charges against Henry Davis, puddler, of Tipton, and William Taylor, also a puddler, of Westbromwich, a charge of having assaulted him and his wife on the night of the 28th ult. Both the prosecutor and his wife were persons advanced in life, and both bore distinct marks of violence on their faces. Mr. Bayley, who appeared to support the complaints, stated that Davis had absconded; Mr. Burbury appeared for Taylor, who had answered to his summons.

The two men were drinking at the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, kept by the prosecutor, on the night in question, and on being refused some ale and spirits at twelve o'clock became very violent, Taylor striking the landlord and Davis the landlady, who went to his assistance. Jugs and glasses were thrown about, and Mr. *Small* was knocked down and most shamefully used.

The magistrates fined the defendants £5 each, in default to be imprisoned for three months, Mr. Leigh remarking that offences of the kind were becoming very frequent, and that the magistrates had inflicted a severe punishment because they felt that landlords ought to be protected in preserving order in their houses.”

Birmingham Journal 29/10/1859 - Advert

“To Butchers.

To be Let, an old-established Butcher's Shop and House, and Appurtenances thereto, situated at Lea Brook, parish of Tipton. The above is well situated, with good Stabling, Slaughter-house, Coach-house, Piggeries, &c.

Apply to Mr. *Thomas Small*, BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.”

TO BUTCHERS.
TO be LET, an old-established BUTCHER'S SHOP and HOUSE, and Appurtenances thereto, situated at Lea Brook, parish of Tipton. The above is well situated, with good Stabling, Slaughter-house, Coach-house, Piggeries, &c.—Apply to Mr. Thomas Small, Boat Inn, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

1861 Census

Lea Brook

- [1] *Thomas Small* (56), victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Jane Small* (55), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *John Small* (28), son, victualler's agent, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ann Small* (23), daughter, general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Mary Small* (22), daughter, general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Joseph Small* (19), son, labourer in iron works, born Rugeley;
- [7] *Albert Small* (17), son, moulder, born Rugeley;
- [8] *William Small* (15), son, scholar, born Rugeley;
- [9] *Richard Small* (12), son, scholar, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/8/1862

"At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Nicholas Sheppy and Thomas Barker were charged with committing a burglary upon the premises of Mr. *Thomas Small*, the BOAT INN, Lee Brook. Prosecutor was called up about five o'clock on Sunday morning by a man named Harris, who informed him that his house had been broken open. On going downstairs he found that the sitting room shutters had been forced, the window broken, and a quantity of wearing apparel, together with a shoulder of mutton, stolen therefrom.

Edward Harris, watchman at Mr. Russell's factory, said that at about half-past four o'clock he was on his way home, when he saw two men, one standing outside the prosecutor's house, and the other getting through the window. The man outside had a bundle of clothes in his arms. The man inside was the prisoner Sheppy, but the other he could not swear to, although, to the best of his belief, Barker was the man who stood outside.

Inspector Gasson deposed to taking Sheppy into custody at his own house on Saturday morning, and to finding the clothes produced on the floor, together with a poker, which corresponded with marks on the shutters of prosecutor's premises.

Police-constable Ashbury said he apprehended Barker on Monday morning, and found a couple of skeleton keys in his possession.

The Bench, after a careful hearing, committed both prisoners for trial at the Assizes, but admitted Barker to bail."

[At Staffordshire Winter Assizes Nicholas Thomas Shippey was found guilty and was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment with hard labour. William Barker was acquitted.]

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1864

"Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, on Saturday afternoon, opened an enquiry at the house of Mr. *Thomas Small*, the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Thomas Chalk, a miner, aged thirty-eight years, who had been killed on the 12th inst, at the colliery of Messrs. Grazebrook and Aston, at Gospel Oak.

Patrick Mack said that the deceased and himself were 'loaders,' in the employment of the firm, and that on the previous Tuesday they were both in the 'dip,' near a gate road, which was behind a pillar where the workings had been 'spragged.' They were engaged in 'holeing,' when a rail came off the side, and a large quantity of coal fell upon the deceased. The deceased was knocked down, and much injured, his back being severely hurt, and one of his thighs and wrist badly fractured. The deceased was taken to his home, where Mr. Thomas Underhill, surgeon, of Toll End, was promptly in attendance, but all that medical skill could do was fruitless.

In reply to the Coroner, the witness stated that in the morning in question, the pit had been examined by Thomas Woolley, the doggy, but he could not say that that portion where the deceased had been at work was thoroughly looked after. The witness had been employed at the colliery for a month, but had not seen, and did not know anything of, the colliery rules; but he had heard that the doggy was bound to examine the workings before the men commenced their employment.

The Coroner here observed that the efforts of the Government would be perfectly futile unless the workmen could be induced to look after their own safety. Another fact, of which the men appeared to be ignorant, was that any neglect of the colliery rules rendered them criminally responsible. According to the evidence of Mack, the men were accustomed to descend the shaft with naked candles; there was no proper means of communication from the pit to the bank.

Mr. Wallis, one of the doggies, stated that he had made an examination of the pit on the morning in question, and of the particular spot where the fall had occurred. He had never read over the rules to the last witness when he employed him.

In reply to further questions by the learned Coroner, the witness evinced sad ignorance of the colliery rules, and was informed by Mr. Hooper that he had rendered himself liable to a penalty of 40s, or three months' imprisonment. The Coroner added that he would communicate with the Government Inspector on the subject.

The general tenour of the evidence went to prove that a slip had occurred in the seam of coal. The Coroner, in sending the case to the Jury, observed that he considered it most disrespectful to the Jury and himself that no person had been deputed to attend the enquiry on the part of the owners of the colliery. He had no doubt, in this case, that the rules had been infringed, and he was equally positive that, if they had been carried out in their integrity, such accidents would be avoided. So far as he was concerned, he was fully determined to see that the colliery rules were strictly adhered to, and he desired that this should be distinctly understood by colliery owners. The inquest was then adjourned until Wednesday, for the attendance of Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Inspector of mines."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/4/1864

"Mr. E. Hooper, yesterday, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *Thomas Small*, the BOAT INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Thomas Chalk, aged thirty-eight, a miner.

Mr. Joseph Woodley, the ground bailiff for Messrs. Grazebrook and Company, said he was not at all aware that the Coroner was about to hold an inquiry in the course of the past week, or he should most certainly have attended. The Coroner remarked that the explanation was satisfactory. He fully believed that the firm were most anxious to bring into operation any suggestions for the protection of their workmen, but he desired that the butties and doggies of the pit should distinctly understand that it was his intention to see that the Colliery Rules were carried out in their full integrity.

Mr. Baker, after having closely questioned the witnesses observed that he had examined the spot where the occurrence had taken place, and that he found that a piece of coal had fallen from above where the 'sprags' had been put in. He considered that the 'sprags' should be of greater length, in addition to the shorter pieces of timber. He must state that there was an ample supply of timber in the pit, and that the men were personally culpable for not having used it.

The Jury found a verdict of Accidental Death, with a recommendation that the suggestion of the Coroner and Government Inspector should be carried out at the works."

Birmingham Journal 14/10/1865 - Advert

"Old-Licensed House, the BOAT, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

To be Disposed Of, the Lease, Licenses, and Possession of the above well-known Old-licensed House, near Wednesbury. Very roomy convenient Premises, held upon fourteen years lease. No Goodwill required. In-coming £200.

Apply to John Gray, 35½ Cannon Street, Birmingham; or to R. L. Courtney and Son, West Bromwich."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/7/1866

"*J. Harding*, Licensed Victualler, the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

J. H. respectfully informs his friends and the public that he has taken the above house, with the spacious running and shooting grounds, and hopes by strict attention to business, and keeping wines, spirits, ales, stouts, &c, of the best quality, to meet with a liberal share of their kind patronage and support. First-class American cork bagatelle table. American bowling saloon, &c."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/7/1866

"*J. Harding* of the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury (late of the COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Station Street, Walsall), is open to shoot any man in the world, for £25 or £50 a side, at 50 starlings each, 1oz of shot, 21 yards rise, the ground the boundary, H and T traps, one man to supply the birds, the trapper and referee to be chosen on the ground, ¾in bore guns, the gun to be held below the elbow until the bird is on the wing. To shoot at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, and *Harding* to allow £5 for expenses. *Bells Life* to be stakeholder. *J. H.* has sent us £5."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/8/1866 - Advert

“Assembly Room, BOAT INN, Lea Brook. Sale by R. L. Courtney and Son.

About 150 Lots of Modern Household Furniture, large Ale Casks and other Effects, without reserve, on Monday Next, August 6. To commence at Eleven o'clock.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/8/1866

“Shooting Match for Fifty Pounds. BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

A match which attracted all the shooting fraternity of the locality for miles round came off yesterday at Mr. *Harding*’s grounds, the competitors being the host, one of the crack shots of the Midlands, and Mr. Warrall, of Portsmouth, a well-known hand. To shoot at 50 starlings each, for £25 a side, 1¼oz shot, 19 yards rise, 60 yards boundary; hand T traps. As the match progressed the greatest interest was evinced. At 12 birds they were on level terms, having killed 8 each. From this point, however, Mr. *Harding*, who was slightly the favourite in the betting, gradually drew away, and eventually won by four birds, dropping 35 out of his quantum, Mr. Warrall killing 31 only.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/8/1866

“*Harding v Rowson*.

This was an action tried in the Sheriff’s Court at Newtown, on Saturday last, before the Under-Sheriff, A. Howell, Esq, and a respectable jury, and was brought under the following circumstances.

The plaintiff is Mr. *J. Harding*, of the SEA [sic] BOAT INN, Wednesbury, and the defendant, Mr. H. Rowson, of the Cambrian Vaults, Newtown, and it appears that in January last the defendant had a pigeon match for a mare, and among other conditions was ‘double guns, 19 yards rise use of one barrel, or 24 yards rise use of both barrels.’ Amongst the competitors was the plaintiff *Harding*, and at the conclusion of the match for the mare *Harding* put up a double-barrelled gun by 12 subscribers at 20s each, conditions same as for the mare. The plaintiff *Harding* took up two chances himself, and the other competitors deposited their £10 with the defendant as stakeholder until the match should be fairly concluded. About the middle of the match it was discovered that *Harding*, although only professing to use one barrel, and standing at 19 yards rise, was in reality using both barrels each time, and on his gun being taken from him and examined it was found that there was an internal communication at the breech, and both barrels would go off from one nipple. Upon this the referee declared *Harding* disqualified, and the match at an end, the other competitors having decided to have nothing to do with *Harding* or his gun, and to shoot for the £10 staked with the defendant. The money was duly won, and paid over to the winners, Messrs. Brookes and Dunn, and the plaintiff’s gun was offered to him, but he refused to take it, and said he would have £10 instead, and hence the action.

The fraud of the plaintiff *Harding* was most distinctly proved, and the defendant’s attorney characterised the action as one of the most dishonest that ever was brought into a court of justice. The plaintiff’s attorney, whilst admitting the fraud on the part of his client (which, as he said, nothing could justify or excuse), relied upon the point of law that the money was received by Rowson for *Harding*, and that no fresh arrangements could be made without *Harding*’s consent.

The Under-Sheriff, in summing up, said the jury had to consider first, was the gun given up to the plaintiff, and accepted in discharge of claim; second, was it an understanding that the money should only be handed over to the plaintiff in the event of all the proceedings being fairly carried out; third, whether the referee had power to stop the whole proceedings; lastly, whether the fraud on the part of the plaintiff was distinctly proved, and if so did it invalidate the proceedings and justify a fresh arrangement.

The jury found for the defendant on all the pleas. The verdict was received with applause, which was quickly suppressed.”

[Henry Rowson was at the Cambrian Vaults, Newtown, Montgomeryshire.]

Sporting Life 3/4/1867

“BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

Mr *Harding*’s excellent enclosure, which is daily increasing in popularity, was extensively patronised on Monday, when the preliminary heats of the 130 yards handicap were run.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1868

“Meeting of the Local Board of Health.....

The Inspector of Nuisances reported that one of the water-cart drivers, in the employ of the Board, had been caught in the act of taking water to the running ground of Mr. *Hardy* [sic], the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, instead of distributing it on the public roads. It was resolved to mulct the man in the sum of 5s, and it was stated that in all probability the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company would take notice of the case.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/8/1869

“BOAT INN, Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

A monstre gathering took place at Mr. *Harding*’s enclosure yesterday, the programme embracing a sprint race, a mile race, and Mr. *Harding*’s great velocipede handicap, an event that completely crammed the grounds, the meeting being by far the largest witnessed yet.....

The grounds were then cleared for the great event of the day, Mr. *Harding*, the enterprising proprietor, ever ready to appreciate and put in practice any novelty in sport, having offered several money prizes for a Mile Bicycle Handicap Contest, which drew all the principal performers in the district. The first prize offered was £8 and a splendid silver cup; second, £1 10s; third, 10s. No less than a level score entered at a crown to contend, and some capital running was witnessed, competitors being handicapped in accordance with diameter of wheel and merits of performers.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/9/1869

“On Saturday night, between eight and ten o’clock, during the temporary absence of the occupants, who had gone to market, there was stolen from the house of Mr. Thomas Griffith, gas tube manufacturer, of 27, Piercy Street, New Town, Wednesbury, articles, value about £30. The property stolen incudes one gold patent lever watch, a gold chain, a gold locket (containing a portrait of a gentleman), a gold ring, with locket; one suit of black cloth clothes, a Paisley shawl, several flannel petticoats, pocket book, containing marriage certificate, a bottle of brandy, and about £4 in gold and silver. It is supposed that entrance was effected by means of skeleton keys. The above couple are newly married.

Between 8.15 and 9.20 on the evening of Tuesday, the following property was stolen from the house of Mr. Joseph Bennett, of 26, Leabrook, Wednesbury: five £5 Bank of England notes (the numbers of which are unknown), £40 in gold, a five-shilling piece, one pair of coral earrings, two odd earrings, gold-washed; one old-fashioned verge watch (maker’s name and number unknown), two silver guard chains, one gold-plated lady’s guard chain, one gold-plated brooch, a gold seal value about 30s, a gold wedding ring, a marriage certificate, and a small box, of the total value of about £70. The father had gone to his lodge at the CROSS KEYS, and he ordered his son and daughter to stay in the house to take care of it, but they went out, the daughter going to a friend’s house in Albert Street, and the boy with some of his companions. On the lad coming home he found the door and back window opened, and saw some drawers and boxes strewn about the place. He gave the alarm, and Mr. *Harding*, of the BOAT INN, took a double-barrelled gun and went through the house, but found no one. The youth then went to the police-station and informed Sergeant Steele, who, accompanied by Sergeant Langdon, went to the house. The daughter informed them that when she left the house she fastened the doors and windows. The officers were of opinion that the house could not have been entered by opening the back window, unless it had been left unfastened; but they inclined to the belief that it had been entered by skeleton keys. Fortunately the thief or thieves missed a cheque for about £300. The police are making inquiry into the affair.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/11/1869

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Mr. *James Harding* respectfully announces to his friends and lovers of the deadly tube that he intends giving a splendid central fire breech-loading double gun to be shot for in a handicap on Monday, November 15. Tickets 10s each, 3 pigeons each, 1¼oz of shot, handicapped from 17 to 21 yards rise, first bird in the trap at one o’clock precisely.

The above handicap is to assist the widow and children of the late Mr. J. Wedge, of the MARKET HALL TAVERN, Willenhall, who so unfortunately met with his death by being thrown out of a trap. The gun will be put up for £6, the cost price; all the overplus and the whole of the gate money will be handed over to Mrs. Wedge. *J. H.* sincerely hopes that the old proverb may not be forgotten, ‘A friend in need is a friend indeed,’ as Mr. Wedge was a thorough sportsman in every sense of the word.”

James Harding was the patentee of a central fire breech-loading gun. [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 19/1/1870

“On Monday, at Mr. W. Dearn’s, the PLOUGH INN, Bristnal Fields, Worcestershire, there was a pretty good sprinkling of lovers of the trigger present, in anticipation of witnessing the shooting for a fat pig, but, the list not filling, three crown sweepstakes were shot off.....

Messrs. Hockland, Dearn, and Knock divided the first, Messrs. Dearn and Hockland divided the second, and Mr. Dearn, who shot with a centre fire breech-loader, made by G. [sic] *Harding*, of Lee Brook Ground, Wednesbury, carried off the third prize by killing five birds out of six. Between thirty and forty persons afterwards sat down to a well served up dinner, in Mr. Dearn’s usual good style.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/11/1870

“An inquest was held yesterday, at the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, by Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, touching the death of William Wright (8), who had lived with his parents at Lea Brook. On Friday last the deceased went to Messrs. Bagnall’s works to take his father’s dinner, and as he was returning, he fell into a large ‘bosh’ (an iron vessel full of water, in which the men cool their irons), and before he could be got out he was badly scalded, nearly over the whole surface of his body. He was taken home, and Mr. Garman, surgeon, was called in to dress his injuries. Deceased lingered till Saturday morning, when death put an end to his sufferings. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/2/1871

“There was a large muster of spectators at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, yesterday, to witness a match between C. Thrasher, of Birmingham, and *J. Harding*, proprietor of the BOAT, they having to shoot at 25 pigeons each, for a stake of £100. 1oz shot, 21 yards rise, the field boundary, and to find and trap against each other, Thrasher to receive one dead bird. *Harding* was the first to face the trap, and betting immediately become brisk, at 5 to 4 on Thrasher, which odds, however, varied as the match proceeded. *Harding*’s first two birds went away with flying colours which put Thrasher’s friends in high glee, but as the match proceeded *Harding* improved in position, and at the fourteenth bird they were on even terms, but from this point he fell off, and was eventually defeated by two birds. Score, Mr. Thrasher (1 given) 18; Mr. *Harding* 15.”

1871 Census

38, Lea Brook Road – BOAT INN

[1] *James Harding* (31), publican, born Weston, Cheshire;

[2] *Martha S. Harding* (30), wife, born Bromley, Staffordshire;

[3] *Mary W. Harding* (5), daughter, born Walsall;

[4] *Mettie U. Harding* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 4/3/1872

“We have received the following donations for the Eye Hospital.....

Mr. *J. Harding*, Lea Brook, 10s 6d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1872

“At West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, Mr. J. T. Bayley applied to the Sitting Magistrates – Major Williams and Mr. J. A. Kenrick – on behalf of a publican named *Harding*, of Lea Brook, for permission to keep open his house on Monday till twelve o’clock. Mr. Bayley said he was aware that the new Licensing Act was very stringent in its provisions for earlier closing, but the present was an exceptional case, as a fête had been arranged to take place at a considerable outlay, on the day named.

Mr. Hebbert (Magistrates’ Clerk) said the tendency of the Licensing Bill, as Mr. Bayley knew, was to cut down the hours as much as possible.

Mr. Bayley said his client had no idea that the Act would come into operation before the date of his fête, and he (Mr. Bayley) thought it was not too much to ask for an extra hour on the two fête days.

Mr. Kenrick: But you don’t know how much mischief may be done in those extra hours; and I, for one, shall not give my sanction to the granting of the application. The Legislature having decided to close public houses at eleven o’clock, it is our duty to carry out the provisions of the Act.

Mr. Bayley pointed out that the Act also gave discretionary power to the Magistrates to grant an extra hour. Mr. Kenrick, whilst admitting that, thought the power applied only to exceptional cases – to certain servants, bakers, market gardeners, and printers.

Mr. Bayley again referred to the loss which his client would sustain if the application was not granted. Mr. Kenrick said that whilst it might injure Mr. *Harding* to have to close at eleven o'clock, to keep open till twelve might do a great deal more injury to the persons visiting the house.

Mr. Hebbert was of opinion that the case before the Magistrates and the cases which the Act legislated upon as exceptional were not at all parallel. He said the Bench had no discretionary power in the case. The application was refused."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/11/1872

"Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury. Saturday, November 2.

The above enclosure was attended by upwards of 600 spectators, to witness the running of Mr. *Harding's* fortnightly 130 Yards Handicap, for which he offered £7 for the first, £2 the second, and £1 for the third prize, and for which one of the largest entries of pedestrians ever known in the midland districts entered to contend for the money, 214, who were divided into 43 heats, most of which were closely contested....."

AND

"Lea Brook Recreation Grounds, Wednesbury, Proprietor, Mr. *J. Harding*.

Mr. *J. Harding* begs most respectfully to inform his friends and lovers of the sport that he will give £15 for a Rabbit Coursing Leger, on Monday and Saturday, November 11 and 16. Entrance: large dogs, over 30lb, 5s; dogs over 24lb, 4s; dogs under 24lb, 3s.....

All entries to be made to Mr. *Harding*, BOAT INN, on or before 1 o'clock on the day of running. A good supply of rabbits will be provided. The grounds and house are two minutes' walk from the Great Western Railway Station, and five minutes' walk from the London and North Western Station."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/3/1873

"On Saturday an inquest was held at the BOAT INN, Leabrook, on the body of Thomas Joyce, aged 50, who on Wednesday, while at work at Messrs. Bagnall's Forge, Leabrook, fell down and instantly expired. He had been unwell for some days previously. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/11/1873

"*James Harding*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Wednesbury, was summoned for having, on the 20th of October, unlawfully kept an enclosed place, called the Leabrook Grounds, for the purpose of baiting rabbits with dogs. Mr. Ebsworth prosecuted, and Mr. Young, barrister, defended.

Mr. Ebsworth said he appeared for Mr. Theodore George Woodhouse, the hon. sec. to the Smethwick and District Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the defendant was summoned under the 3rd section of the 12th and 13th Victoria, chap. 29, for keeping a place for the purpose of baiting rabbits. The defendant had been summoned under this section because it enacted 'that any person who shall keep, or use, or act in the management of any place for the purpose of fighting or baiting any bull, bear, badger, dog, or other kind of animal, whether of domestic or wild nature, or shall permit or suffer any place to be so used, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.'

It appeared to be the practice of the defendant to superintend what the evidence would disclose, that rabbits were taken there – he did not care whether they were wild or domestic – in hampers, and then taken out and placed 20, or 30, or 40 yards from the dogs, which were kept in a leash, and then allowed to run after the rabbits, which were generally killed after running about 20 yards by one of the dogs, and sometimes both dogs would get hold of a rabbit at the same time. The grounds were enclosed with high palings, so that the rabbit when pursued by the dogs had no chance of escape. This, he pointed out, involved an amount of cruelty to the rabbits which would make the defendant liable under the Act of Parliament for keeping the grounds for this purpose.

Evidence having been called in support of Mr. Ebsworth's statement, Mr. Young addressed the Court for the defence. He argued that the Act, which was designed for the suppression of certain cruel sports which were in vogue at the time it was passed, could never have been meant to apply to the grounds such as his client's, which were some 70 yards wide, and from 150 to 200 yards long, with a means of escape at the far end under the railings, which were raised from six to twelve inches from the ground. Had the place enclosed so that the rabbits had no chance of escape, he could not have contended that it did not come within the meaning of the Act, but, as it was, the sports carried on there differed in no essential respect from what was often seen at coursing matches and at fox-hunts.....

Several witnesses were then examined with a view to show that the rabbits had a chance of escape, upon which the learned Stipendiary decided to go and inspect the locus in quo. On his return he said the fencing was raised at the top of the railway bank, and in many cases the slope was cut down perpendicularly. There were certain holes at the bottom of the palings, but in other respects there was no chance for the rabbits to escape. The question he had to

decide was whether the place came within the meaning of the Act, and, which was one and the same thing, whether it had been used as alleged for baiting rabbits; and as there could be no doubt that the place had been used for baiting rabbits, he should decide against the defendant, and inflict a nominal fine.

At Mr. Young's request a case was granted, the points of which were that coursing is not baiting, that a wild rabbit does not come within the meaning of the 3rd section of the Act, and that the defendant's grounds are not 'a place' within the meaning of the Act.

Subsequently, at Wolverhampton, Mr. Spooner intimated that the fine would be 5s and costs; and the notice of appeal was withdrawn."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/2/1874

"Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner) dealt with a number of persons charged with rioting at the recent Wednesbury election.....

John Lalley, James Lavelle, John Miller, William Rose, Daniel Taylor (13), and Thomas Taylor were charged with having done wilful and malicious damage to the property of Mr. *J. Harding*, the BOAT INN, Leabrook. Lavelle and Miller did not appear. Mr. Ebsworth appeared to prosecute.

The evidence of Thomas Price, the prosecutor's assistant, Mrs. *Harding*, and John Grimes, was to the effect that at about four o'clock on the day in question, a crowd of about 200 youths and men, many of whom were armed with bludgeons, marched down to the house, and demanded beer, but before the witness could leave the door-step to get them some, they began smashing the windows, knocked Price down, and forced their way into the house, where they broke the beer machine and did other damage. In addition to this damage, sixty-four panes of glass, some of the window sashes, and the panel of the door were broken.

The younger Taylor was dismissed, the Stipendiary telling Superintendent Holland he had better whip him. An attempt to prove an alibi on the part of Thomas Taylor having failed, he and Lalley were sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour. Warrants were ordered to be issued against Lavelle and Miller. Rose, getting the benefit of a doubt as to whether he was not at work at the time of the attack, was dismissed."

[The cases occupied from eleven till nearly five o'clock.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/11/1877

"At the Walsall County Court yesterday, before the Judge (Mr. W. D. Griffiths), *James Harding*, of Lea Brook Grounds, sued James Birch, cab proprietor, and keeper of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, for £9 5s 6d, the value of a gun and satchel. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. J. Smith for defendant.

From the evidence it appeared that in May plaintiff lent defendant the gun for a few days rook shooting, on the understanding, plaintiff alleged, that it could be either returned or paid for.

Defendant denied that he had undertaken to pay for it. Defendant never complained about the gun not suiting him, and never saw the plaintiff again until they met in the street at the end of August. Plaintiff had then begun his action, after sending several letters, but the defendant then told him that he would try the gun again for one day. After this he returned it as unsuitable.

Mr. Smith maintained that his client could not try the gun until September, and that no unreasonable time had elapsed; but Mr. Ebsworth maintained that the time was unreasonable.

Ultimately verdict was given for plaintiff, payment to be made in a month."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/11/1877

"Mr. *James Harding*, of Lea Brook Grounds, sued Mr. James Birch, of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, for the sum of £9 5s 6d, being the value of a gun and satchel. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. Smith for the defendant.

The evidence was to the effect that in May last the defendant had a gun from the plaintiff for a day's rook shooting, with the understanding that if it suited him he would buy it, or otherwise he would return it in two or three days. No complaint of the gun was made, and the parties did not meet till the end of August, by which time plaintiff, after having written some letters, had commenced the proceedings in the court. The defendant then said he would try the gun for two or three days more, and early in September he returned it, objecting that the catch was too small and the stock too short. Mr. Ebsworth urged that the time the defendant had taken to ascertain this was unreasonable, and his Honour came to the same conclusion, and found for the plaintiff, payment to be made in a month."

Wednesbury Herald 5/7/1879

"Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, relative to the death of John Whitehouse (36), labourer, who died suddenly at his residence on Thursday. The deceased was taken ill with violent pains in the back at half past six o'clock in the morning and died at eight. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

1881 Census

38, Lea Brook Road – BOAT INN

- [1] *James Harding* (40), licensed victualler, born Weston, Cheshire;
- [2] *Martha Saville Harding* (40), wife, domestic, born Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Mary White Harding* (15), daughter, barmaid, born Walsall;
- [4] *Metty Una Harding* (12), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Walter White Harding* (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Hugh Joseph Harding* (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *James White Harding* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/12/1881

"At the West Bromwich Police Court, today.....

James Harding, of the BOAT INN, also keeper of the Lea Brook Grounds, was charged with having in his possession an unstamped measure, and also with fraudulently using the same. The latter charge was dismissed, and for the former he was fined 2s 6d and costs."

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/8/1882

"The final heat in the £8 dog handicap at the grounds of Mr. *Harding*, Lea Brook, was run on Saturday evening. Baylis's Jenny came in first, Mason's Spot second, and Cotton's Luce third. Mr. J. Dudley was starter, and Mr. J. Sims acted as referee."

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/7/1886

"The Election Rioting at Wednesbury.

The political excitement in the borough of Wednesbury culminated last night and early this morning in considerable damage to property and several persons being injured. It appears that at the termination of the Gladstonian meeting at Dudley Port last night in favour of the Hon. Philip Stanhope, a procession was formed, and the candidate was escorted to Wednesbury. On arrival at the BUSH INN, Leabrook, stones were thrown at the windows by the crowd, who also subjected the windows of Mr. *Harding*, the BOAT INN, a well-known Conservative, to similar treatment. The mob then proceeded to smash the windows of a number of other Conservative tradesmen, and finally the Conservative Club was visited, and the whole of the windows more or less damaged. This greatly exasperated the Constitutionalists, and a large body retaliated by leaving the club and smashing the windows of the Liberal Central Committee Room, also the Liberal Club, and other properties. More disturbances followed, in the course of which several persons were injured, and the police were unable to clear the streets until an early hour this morning."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/1/1890 - Died

"On the 17th inst, aged 52, *Martha Saville*, the beloved and affectionate wife of *James Harding*, Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury; beloved and respected, now deeply lamented, by all who knew her."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/2/1890 - Advert

"At the Sale Rooms, No.1, Newhall Street, Birmingham. By direction of the Trustees of the late Ann Woolley. Freehold Properties, including a Full-Licensed Inn, in the town of Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Grimley & Son, on Wednesday, March 5, 1890.....

Lot 1. A Highly-important Freehold Full Licensed Public House, known as the BOAT INN, Lea Brook Road, with the extensive Grounds in the rear, called the Lea Brook Running Grounds, and a Plot of Building Land, having a frontage of 68 yards to the road. The Premises contain every accommodation for conducting a large business, with Brewery, Malt Room, Stabling, Yard, and Out-buildings; also Five Cottages, Nos.39, 40, 41, and 42, Lea Brook Road, and No.6 Pitt Square adjoining. This desirable Freehold Property is in the tenure of Mr. *James Harding*, who holds the premises under a repairing lease, which expires on the 25th of March next, at the inadequate rent of £90 4s 4d per annum; the landlord paying rates on four of the Cottages. Total area of land, 10,196 square yards."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1890

“Last night Messrs. Grimley and Son offered for sale, at the Estate Sale Rooms, Newhall Street, several important properties.....

The freehold property known as the BOAT INN, Lea Brook Road, Wednesbury, realised £1,350.”

1891 Census

38, Dudley Street

- [1] *James Harding* (51), widower, licensed victualler, born Weston, Cheshire;
- [2] *William Savile Harding* (26), son, MRCVS vet, born Barton, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Mary White Harding* (25), daughter, born Walsall;
- [4] *Mettie Una Harding* (22), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *James White Harding* (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Joseph Martin* (22), general servant, born Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire;
- [7] *Hannah Rhodes* (23), domestic servant, born Princes End:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/6/1892

“The leaders of the Unionist party in Wednesbury were much gratified to receive yesterday morning a letter from the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, in which he definitely promised to attend a meeting at nine o’clock on Monday evening next, in support of the candidature of Mr. Wilson Lloyd. Mr. *James Harding*, of the Lea Brook Recreation Grounds, has offered the use of his very extensive grounds to the Unionist party, and the offer has been accepted. Arrangements have been made for the erection of a large marquee, capable of accommodating at least 4,000 persons. The Gladstonians are very much chagrined at the proposed visit of the right hon. gentleman to the town, and annoyance to the speakers is threatened. Arrangements will, however, be made to prevent organised opposition, such as that experienced at Coventry last week.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/6/1893

“John Rawlings, Tipton Green, was sent to gaol for two months for unlawfully wounding John [sic] *Harding*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Lea Brook. The prisoner went to the house begging, and seeing that he was the worse for beer the prosecutor ordered him out. He would not go, became abusive, struck the landlord in the eye, and then tore down the chandelier and hit *Harding* a heavy blow on the head with it. The room was in total darkness, and for some time there was great consternation. *Harding* had to be attended by a doctor.”

James Harding – see also RAILWAY, Station Street, Walsall.

Sporting Life 12/2/1898

“Mr. George Sheldon (of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Great Bridge, Tipton), Mr. John Russell (proprietor of the Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton), and Mr. *Frank Lloyd* (proprietor of the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury) run fifty yards on Monday next, for £15; Mr. Russell and Mr. Sheldon to receive 2 yards 22½ inches start. This meeting between these well-known sportsmen and knights of the bung is creating a keen lot of interest amongst the sporting schools of the Black Country. Mr. *F. Lloyd* has been a ped of first-class merit, Mr. Sheldon, too, has in bygone days performed in many sprint handicaps in the Midlands, whilst nothing is known of the sprinting abilities of Mr. Russell. He is, however, the 18 yards champion quoit player of England, and is considered one who knows what he is doing. A close race, however, is sure to be witnessed between these veterans. The *Sporting Life* is stakeholder, and appoints pistol firer and referee. To be on their marks at 11am prompt.”

Sporting Life 16/2/1898

“Lea Brook Grounds Wednesbury.....

Mr. George Sheldon, of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Great Bridge, Tipton; Mr. John Russell, proprietor of the Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills, Wolverhampton; and Mr. *F. Lloyd*, proprietor of the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, were matched to run fifty yards, for £5 each, the winner to take the £15, Mr. *Lloyd* to concede Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Russell two yards 22½in start. Mr. *Lloyd* highly fancied his chance. Unfortunately, however, for him and his friends, whilst having a trial with a well-known Midland pedestrian, Mr. *Lloyd*’s leg suddenly gave way. This breakdown of Mr. *Lloyd*’s was more serious than thought, for consequently he had no other alternative than forfeit his money down.....

In the match between two licensed victuallers, odds of 5 to 2 were freely laid on Mr. Russell. Mr. Sheldon being too anxious to get away, got over, and was, to the chagrin of his followers, penalised one yard. At the second attempt both got well away. Russell, however, soon showed that he could run as well as play at quoits, he finally winning by three yards."

Dudley Herald 17/3/1900

"On Tuesday at the Police Court, *Francis Joseph Lloyd*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the 20th ult, and James McKenzie was charged with being drunk on licensed premises. There was great excitement in Wednesbury in consequence of Cronje's surrender. McKenzie and two other men named Cresswell and Morgan went to the BOAT INN to celebrate the victory, and imbibed between them four quarts of ale. Two bottles of whiskey were afterwards ordered, and McKenzie drank a portion of one bottle and the whole of the second bottle at one gulp. Naturally became very drunk and excited, and declared his intention of 'killing a large number of Boers.' He was removed from the house, and was subsequently found by PC Maddox in a scrap yard in an unconscious state, foaming at the mouth, and apparently dying. The officer removed him to the police station, where he was attended by Dr. Garman for three hours. The stomach pump was used, and restoratives were applied, but McKenzie did not get better, and he was taken to the Workhouse Infirmary. He did not, however, regain consciousness until half past five on the following day, and he had to remain in the infirmary for a week.

McKenzie admitted that he had acted very foolishly in the hour of victory, and was thankful his life had been saved. Mr. Sharpe, who defended *Lloyd*, urged that his client had no idea that McKenzie intended to drink the whiskey in the way he did, there being at the time over 30 people in the room.

The Stipendiary said in periods of national rejoicing it was necessary people should be discreet and cool headed. *Lloyd* was fined £3 4s 6d and McKenzie 10s and costs."

[Pieter Arnoldus Cronjé was a Boer general who played a prominent part in the early stages of the South African War.]

Sporting Life 10/9/1904

"Leabrook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Before a good gate, the second and concluding rounds of Mr. *F. Lloyd*'s £9 Rabbit Coursing Sweepstakes were concluded on Tuesday, the final heat resulting in a win for Mr. Noah Corbett's Mary Ann....."

Walsall Observer 11/3/1905

"Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

An application was made by Mr. Thursfield for the transfer of the license of the BOAT INN, Leabrook, from *Frank Lloyd* to *Thomas Arthur Reynolds*.

The Mayor reminded Mr. Thursfield that the grounds, known as the Leabrook Running Grounds, which were connected with the premises, had not yet been done away with. He pointed out that last year, when the renewal of the license was applied for, the Bench understood that the owners then gave a promise to close the grounds. There was a feeling amongst the justices that this should now be done. The transfer was granted, and Mr. Thursfield promised to convey to the owners of the premises the wishes of the Bench."

1911 Census

38, Lea Brook Road – BOAT INN

- [1] *Joseph Large* (55), hotel manager, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Harriet Large* (52), wife, married 34 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Martha Large* (27), daughter, barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Mary Large* (26), daughter, barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *James Large* (21), son, edge tool worker, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *William Large* (17), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Henry Large* (15), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Fanny Large* (12), daughter, school, born Wolverhampton:

Martha Large married *Charles Taylor* in the 3rd quarter of 1911.

1921 Census

38, Leabrook Road

[1] *Charles Taylor* (37), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Martha Taylor* (37), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Charles Joseph Taylor* (7), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Harry Large* (25), brother-in-law, furnaceman's helper, out of work, born Wolverhampton:

London Gazette 10/4/1925

"Re *Joseph Arnold Large*, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given, that all creditors and other persons having any debts, claims or demands against the estate of *Joseph Arnold Large*, late of the BOAT INN, Leabrook, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Retired Licensed Victualler, deceased (who died on the 24th day of December, 1924, and whose will was proved in the Lichfield District Registry of the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 31st day of March, 1925, by *Harriett Large*, Widow, and *Aubrey Cupiss*, of 19, Prince's-avenue, Walsall, the executors therein named), are hereby required to send in the particulars of their debts, claims or demands to us, the undersigned, the Solicitors for the said executors, on or before the 18th day of May, 1925, 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 debts, claims or demands they shall not then have had notice.

Dated this 9th day of April, 1925.

Manby and Steward, 100, Darlington-street, Wolverhampton, Solicitors for the said Executors."

Tipton Herald 24/12/1927

"The staff of the goods department of the Great Western Railway, Wednesbury, had a dinner at the BOAT INN on Saturday last, some of all grades being present. The guest of the evening was the Mayor of Wednesbury (Councillor *W. H. Wesson*).

After an excellent repast, served under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. *Taylor*, the Mayor proposed the toast of the 'King.' Following this, his Worship delivered a very instructive and interesting speech. He thanked the staff most heartily for the honour they had bestowed on him in asking him to this, their first annual function, and said he had accepted the invitation with great happiness and pleasure. Co-operation was a great ideal among employees, and he was pleased to see the good and friendly spirit which existed between the agent, clerks and staff at the Wednesbury goods department....."

1939 Register

38, Lea Brook Road – Public House

[1] *Charles Taylor*, date of birth 13/4/1884, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Martha Taylor*, dob 6/3/1883, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Charles Joseph Taylor*, dob 28/8/1913, electrical wireman, married;

[4] *Annie Taylor*, dob 5/6/1914, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[5] *Harriett Large*, dob 17/9/1859, retired, pensioner, widowed:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

Tipton Herald 9/1/1960

"The night after being caught buying intoxicating liquor when under the age of 18, two Tipton youths went to a Wednesbury cinema and stole soft drinks. At the Wednesbury Juvenile Court on Thursday the youths, both 16, admitted the two offences. It was stated that they were discovered by a police officer in the BOAT INN, Leabrook, Wednesbury. One was drinking shandy and the other beer. The following night police were called to the Rialto Cinema, Wednesbury, where they learnt that the youths had taken two cartons of orange squash worth 1s from a refrigerator.

Percy William Jones, of 2, Clarence Road, Bilston, a projectionist at the cinema, said he saw the youths talking near the refrigerator in the lounge balcony. As he was walking down the stairs he heard the click of one of the refrigerator clamps. He went back to the balcony and saw one of the youths with two drinks in his left hand. He told the manager, Mr. N. W. Wright, who called the police.

In statements, the youths admitted the offences. One of them said, 'We went to the pictures at the Rialto and just before the interval we felt thirsty so we took the drinks out of the 'fridge.'

Mr. Norman Tasker, probation officer, said one of the youths had a record of several previous convictions. He was of low intelligence and 'he has drifted into trouble through lack of outside interests, although recently he took up pigeon breeding at which, I understand, he had been quite successful.' The other youth was said to have a clean record. Mr. Ernest Brown, the Clerk, told him, 'You have opened a record that will live with you for life – all for the sake of 6d which you had got in your pocket anyway.'

Each of the youths was fined £1 on the drinking charges and for stealing the squash one youth was given a conditional discharge on payment of 21s costs and the other was fined £3 with 6s 2d costs."

Martha Taylor died in the 4th quarter of 1963.

BARMAN and Barmaids wanted, evenings, for new patchbox, Willis Pearson avenue, Bradley, opening shortly; apply at present or write to—Manager, Boat Inn, Leabrook, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/10/1965 - Advert

"Barman and Barmaids wanted, evenings, for new PATCHBOX, Willis Pearson Avenue, Bradley, opening shortly; apply at present or write to Manager, BOAT INN, Leabrook, Wednesbury."

Charles Joseph Taylor – see also PATCH BOX, Bradley, Bilston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/6/1967

"Eight representatives of West Midland pubs have been awarded a licensed trade catering diploma after passing an exhaustive 'beer and victuals' examination. The examination, arranged by the National Trade Development Association, followed a part-time course which licensees' wives attended in 16 centres throughout the country....

Passes were gained by....

Mrs. Rita Wellings, BOAT INN, Leabrook Road, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1967 - Advert

"Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and Family, of the PATCHBOX INN, Bradley, would like to wish all customers and friends of the PATCHBOX and old customers and friends of the BOAT INN, Wednesbury, a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/5/1971

"In a closely fought women's darts match at the BOAT INN, Wednesbury, the home team beat the QUEENS ARMS 5-4."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/1/1973

"Mark the Ball. This week's winners Consolation Prizes, £5 each to....

Mr. S. Gobey, BOAT INN, Leabrook, Wednesbury."

JUMBLE SALE at Boat Inn, Leabrook Road, Wednesbury, tonight (Friday) at 7 pm.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/4/1973 - Advert

"Jumble Sale at BOAT INN, Leabrook Road, Wednesbury, tonight (Friday) at 7pm."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/5/1977 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1964. West Midlands Metropolitan County.

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 Council Chambers, Council House, Smethwick, Warley, on the 24th day of June, 1977, at 3pm.

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 Act, 1964, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard....

BOAT INN, Leabrook Road, Wednesbury. Intoxicating liquor of all descriptions. Licensee, Marie Smith."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/7/1977 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1964. West Midlands Metropolitan County.

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 24th day of June, 1977, to refuse the renewal of the licenses 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 owners of the said premises) are required to send to the compensation authority notice of their claims before the 2nd day of August, 1977.....

BOAT INN, Leabrook Road, Wednesbury. Intoxicating liquor of all descriptions. Licensee, *Marie Smith*."

It was demolished to make way for redevelopment of the Patent Shaft and Black Country spine road.

ADELAIDE LODGE, BOAT INN, WEDNESBURY.

MR. HENRY PITT begs to inform the Gentlemen of Wednesbury and its vicinity, that the First Anniversary of the above Lodge will take place on Monday the 13th of July inst. when the company of any friend will be esteemed a favour.

Dinner on the table at two o'clock.

1840

TO PERSONS ABOUT TO ENTER THE PUBLIC BUSINESS.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, the valuable Old-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of "THE BOAT INN," Lea Brook, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford.

The House is surrounded by the extensive Iron Works of Messrs. Bagnall, the Patent Shaft Company's Works, and Messrs. Salley's, &c., &c. The neighbourhood is densely populated.

The Premises consist of front and back Parlours, Tap Room, Bar, and a private Sitting Room adjoining the Bar, large Club Room, excellent Cellaring, two Brew-houses, Malt Room, look-up Coach-house, Stabling, Piggeries, and a well stocked Garden.

There is also attached to this excellent House, the "Victoria Pedestrian Running Grounds."

A highly respectable Odd Fellows' Lodge, consisting of about one hundred members, belongs to the Premises.

The sole reason of the present Proprietor retiring is in consequence of his being advanced in life, and having realised an independent income upon the Premises.

For particulars, apply to Mr. Henry Pitt, upon the Premises.

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS, REQUIRING A FIRST-RATE PUBLIC HOUSE.

MR. ALTREE has been favoured with instructions to DISPOSE of that highly respectable House of Business, the "BOAT INN," Lea Brook, Wednesbury, where a new Railway Station is being built opposite; brewing twenty-four bushels per week the year through, and over £400 a year in spirits (proof.)

The premises are in first-rate condition, have a commanding appearance, with every convenience, Coach-house, Stabling for ten horses, five Piggeries, large Kitchen Garden, with Fish Pond, half an acre of Land for Pleasure or Racing Ground, where many matches have been run, also large Tea Gardens, the whole of which is walled in ten feet high. The present proprietor having been in thirty-nine years, is now retiring.—Apply to Mr. ALTREE, Auctioneer, Bilston.

1855

OLD-LICENSED HOUSE, "THE BOAT," LEA BROOK, WEDNESBURY.

TO be DISPOSED OF, the LEASE, LICENSES, and POSSESSION of the above well-known Old-licensed HOUSE, near Wednesbury. Very room convenient Premises, held upon fourteen years' lease. No Goodwill required. In-coming £200. Apply to John Gray, 35½, Cannon Street, Birmingham; or to R. L. Courtney and Son, West Bromwich.

1865

AT THE SALE ROOMS, No. 1, NEWHALL STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

BY DIRECTION OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE LATE ANN WOOLLEY.)

FREEHOLD PROPERTIES,

Including a FULL-LICENSED INN, in the town of Wednesbury.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

By Messrs. GRIMLEY & SON, on WEDNESDAY, March 5, 1890, at the Estate Sale Rooms, No. 1, Newhall Street, Birmingham, at Seven o'clock to the minute:—

WEDNESBURY.

"THE BOAT INN,"

With extensive Grounds, comprising a total area of 10,196 square yards.

Lot 1.—A Highly important FREEHOLD FULL LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the "BOAT INN," Lea Brook Road, with the extensive Grounds in the rear, called "The Lea Brook Running Grounds," and a Plot of BUILDING LAND, having a frontage of 68 yards to the road. The Premises contain every accommodation for conducting a large business, with Brewery, Malt Room, Stabling, Yard, and Out-buildings; also Five COTTAGES, Nos. 33, 40, 41 and 42, Lea Brook Road, and No. 6, Pitt Square adjoining. This desirable Freehold Property is in tenure of Mr. Jas. Harding, who holds the premises under a repairing lease, which expires on the 25th of March next, at the inadequate rent of £30. 4s. 4d. per annum; the landlord paying rates on four of the Cottages. Total area of land, 10,196 square yards.

1890

MR. AND MRS. TAYLOR AND FAMILY

of

THE PATCHBOX INN, BRADLEY

would like to wish all customers and friends of the Patchbox and old customers and friends of the

BOAT INN,

WEDNESBURY

A very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

1967

BOILERMAKERS ARMS

31, Camp Hill Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Richards [1865] – **1871**);
William Hughes (**1871** – []
John William Smith [1872]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Joseph Richards, coachfitter and beer retailer, Camp Street. [1865]

Joseph Richards, beer retailer, Camp Hill Lane. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/10/1869

“*Joseph Richards*, of the BOILERMAKERS ARMS, Camp Hill, was charged with having a bagatelle board and using it without a license. Police-constable Stanton was called to prove the case, but as the defendant pleaded guilty the magistrates said they should allow the proceedings to be settled on his paying the costs.”

1871 Census

31, Camp Hill Lane – Beerhouse

[1] *Joseph Richards* (51), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Ann Richards* (50), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Harriet Richards* (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Edwin Richards* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Joseph Richards* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/4/1871

“*Joseph Richards*, BOILER MAKERS ARMS beerhouse, Camp Hill Lane, Wednesbury, was summoned for permitting disorderly conduct in his house. Mr. Superintendent Holland went to the house on the 7th inst and heard the defendant himself and his wife and daughter using bad language and conducting themselves disorderly. A fine of 40s and costs was inflicted, and the license to be endorsed.”

John William Smith, beer retailer, 31, Camp Hill Lane. [1872]

BOROUGH ARMS

114, (100), (100+101), Cobden Street, Fallings Heath, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1911]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Benjamin Kendrick [1871] – [1891]
John Whitehouse [1901]
John Hassall [1911] – [1912]
Frederick Arthur Wood [1917] – [1924]
Mrs. Alice E Wyer [1939] – [1941]
Mrs. Robinson [early 1950s]
Jack Causer [1950s]
Ernest Aston **(1955 – 1959)**
John Wallace [] – **1961**;
Albert Harry Parkes **(1961 – [1966])**

NOTES

100, Cobden Street [1871], [1891]
100+101, Cobden Street [1881]
114, Cobden Street [1911], [1921], [1939], [1940], [1941]

It had a beerhouse license.

It was known locally as “Blue Eyed Kelly’s”.

1871 Census

100, Cobden Street – BOROUGH ARMS

- [1] *Benjamin Kendrick* (34), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
[2] *Maria Kendrick* (21), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Benjamin Kendrick, beer retailer, Cobden Street, Fallings Heath. [1872]

1881 Census

100+101, Cobden Street – BOROUGH ARMS

- [1] *Benjamin Kendrick* (44), unmarried, publican, born Wednesbury;
[2] *Harriett Ethell* (16), niece, general servant, born Shifnal, Shropshire;
[3] *William Lucas* (35), lodger, rag and bone merchant, born Bedworth, Warwickshire;
[4] *Sarah Lucas* (34), wife, born Darlaston:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/9/1885

“Thomas Beck and George Greenhouse, of Fallings Heath, were charged with doing wilful damage to shutters and a window to the house of *Benjamin Kendrick*, publican, of Fallings Heath; and Greenhouse was also charged with assaulting *Kendrick*. Each was fined 1s and the costs, including 2s 6d each for the damage done. Greenhouse, for the assault, was further fined 2s 6d and costs.”

1891 Census

100, Cobden Street

[1] *Benjamin Kendrick* (49), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Ethall* (24), niece, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 16/3/1895

“On Tuesday evening a meeting of the members of the Fallings Lodge of the Staffordshire Conservative League was held at the BOROUGH ARMS INN, Darlaston. There was a large number of members present. After the ordinary business of the lodge was gone through a smoking concert was held, and a capital programme was given....”

William Pymm, beer retailer, 8, Lower Dudley Street. [1896]

1901 Census

Cobden Street – BOROUGH ARMS

[1] *John Whitehouse* (35), publican, born Bloxwich;

[2] *M. Whitehouse* (35), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Fred Whitehouse* (9), son, born Darlaston:

1911 Census

114, Cobden Street – BOROUGH ARMS

[1] *John Hassall* (55), widower, license holder, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *William Gittings* (30), nephew, married, boot maker and repairer, born Bury, Lancashire;

[3] *Kate Gittings* (26), niece, married 1 year, born Darlaston;

[4] *Charlotte Mace* (22), domestic servant, born Kingswinford;

[5] *Jack Gittings* (1), grand-nephew, born Darlaston:

John Hassall, beer retailer, 100, Cobden Street. [1912]

Walsall Observer 26/5/1917 - Roll of Honour

“Gunner Dennis Wood, only son of Mr. and Mrs. *F. A. Wood*, of the BOROUGH ARMS, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, is in hospital at Camberwell London, suffering from severe burns of the hands and face received while in action in France with the Royal Garrison Artillery on April 26. Before joining the Colours on February 28, 1916, he was a clerk employed by Messrs. J and R. Rose, Ltd., Darlaston. In his school days he attended All Saints School, Kings Hill. He is 20 years of age.”

1921 Census

114, Cobden Street

[1] *Frederick Arthur Wood* (51), publican, born Harts Hill, Dudley;

[2] *Emma Wood* (49), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Dennis Wood* (25), son, wages clerk, bolts and nuts, born Darlaston;

[4] *Maud Wood* (25), daughter-in-law, born Smethwick;

[5] *Kathleen Wood* (18), daughter, wages clerk, foundry, born Wednesbury:

South Staffordshire Times 5/1/1924

“Wednesbury Police Court.....

Mr. A. Slater (Darlaston) applied on behalf of Messrs. Butler and Co., who desired to introduce alterations at the BOROUGH ARMS, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, and the plans put in.

The application was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/5/1924

“The following is a list of payments made during the last few days to registered readers of the *Gazette* who have met with accidents which entitled them to benefit under our free insurance scheme.....

Payments of £5..... *Mrs. E. Wood*, BOROUGH ARMS, Cobden Street, Wednesbury, broken leg.

Newsagent: *Mr. Smith*, Walsall Road, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 28/2/1925

“The presentation of the cup and medals in connection with the Walsall and District Bowling League, which were won last season by Wilkes Bowling Club, Bloxwich, was made by the Mayor (Councillor H. Hucker) at the league’s annual smoking concert, held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Digbeth, on Monday. Mr. J. Wilson, on behalf of the club, suitably responded. At a short meeting prior to the concert the SPREAD EAGLE BC, Bloxwich, and the BOROUGH ARMS BC, Fallings Heath, were elected members of the league.....”

It had a sports pavilion, at the rear, which was used as a boxing gym.
Eric Skidmore, Midland area welterweight champion, trained here.

BOROUGH ARMS Athletic Club was based here. [1938]

1939 Register

114, Cobden Street (5 of 6)

- [1] Alice E. Wyer, date of birth 17/6/1891, publican, widowed;
- [2] George E. Wyer, dob 26/5/1916, engineer, shaper, single;
- [3] Harold F. Wyer, dob 27/1/1918, aluminium moulder, single;
- [4] Arthur Wyer, dob 29/11/1905, barman, married;
- [5] Elsie A. (Wyer) Gutteridge, dob 9/12/1912, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Walsall Observer 20/9/1941

“A violent collision between two cars at the Bridle Lane and Aldridge Road crossroads at Streetly, on the afternoon of August 24, had a sequel when James Thomas Hunt (38), 37, Harden Crescent, Coalpool, Walsall, and George Ernest Wyer (25), 114, Cobden Street, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, appeared before the Aldridge magistrates on Monday, for driving without due care and attention. As a result of the collision Hunt and his daughter (aged 6) were injured, as also were Wyer and four passengers, one of whom was detained in hospital.

Hunt, in a statement to the police, said he was driving along the Aldridge Road, Streetly, at about 25 miles per hour, and slowed down as he approached the crossroads to 20 miles per hour. He was actually on the crossroads when he was struck by the other car. He could not see the other vehicle because of a hedge which obscured his view.

Wyer said he was travelling along Bridle Lane at about 18 miles per hour, and slowed down, sounded his horn, and was almost over the crossroads when another car shot across in front of him. There was a collision and both cars turned over. Mr. E. E. Brown (prosecuting) alleged that if both drivers had taken ordinary care there would not have been an accident. Hunt (represented by Mr. C. L. Hodgkinson) and Wyer (represented by Mr. H. A. Tucker) were each fined £2 with £2 each costs.”

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1946], [1958]

A spirit license was granted in the 1950s.

It was remodelled inside in the 1950s.

Ernest Aston was born in Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/7/1964

“When police raided the BOROUGH ARMS in Cobden Street, Wednesbury, just before 11pm, six people in the bars had drinks in front of them, Mr. J. W. Woodward, prosecuting, said at Wednesbury yesterday. Four customers, Bhajai Mockerjee (29), of The Green, Darlaston, Clara Ghosh (33) and her husband Neroid Ghosh (36), of Cobden Street, and Colin Read (19), of Walsall Road, Darlaston, were found guilty of drinking liquor after hours and fined £5 each. The licensee, *Albert Harry Parkes* (57) was found guilty of four offences of aiding and abetting them and was fined a total of £28. All were ordered to pay £2 2s costs. Two other customers, Hilde Cooper (43), of Edward Street, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, and Raymond Challenor (29), of Cobden Street, were found not guilty and the licensee was acquitted of two offences of aiding and abetting them. Only Read pleaded guilty.

Mr. Peter Woolley, defending, said that as both Challenor and Cooper worked voluntarily for *Parkes* they were ‘entitled to drink round the clock.’ Before the police arrived, he said, there had been more than 60 people in the bars and these had been cleared out, apart from the defendants and one or two others.”

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1965], [1966], [1967], [1968]

Wolverhampton Express & Star 10/5/1968

“A Wolverhampton man who embezzled £506 19s from his former employers was fined a total of £250 and ordered to pay £400 compensation by West Bromwich magistrates today. Kenneth Webb (46), of Lynton Avenue, Tettenhall, pleaded guilty to fraudulently embezzling the money from Whit Products (Direct Supplies) Ltd. He also admitted false entry of sales of £26 6s 6d inferring that the MINERVA public house had received credit. He admitted two further charges of falsification concerning £54 8s on the account of the BOROUGH ARMS, Wednesbury, and £36 14s 9d at the OLD TROUPER public house. He was fined £100 on the embezzling charge and £50 on the other three.

Mr. Michael Chance, prosecuting said the defendant had failed to make invoices in 18 transactions and made out false invoices later. The 18 cases were all included in the omnibus charge totalling £506 19s. Webb asked for 15 cases to be taken into consideration. The company's accountant had become suspicious, and when visiting 18 customers found that none had been given invoices. Mr. Chance said the defendant would give the customers who bought small quantities a slip of paper with the details on. Later he would get the number of transactions together and make out an omnibus fictitious invoice.

In a statement to the police, Webb said he had to entertain a lot of people in the course of his job. He found this very expensive, and used the money he embezzled only for the promotion of the firm's business.

Mr. Richard Wood, defending said, ‘It was absolutely obvious that the falsifications were going to come to light very soon. My instructions are that the money was used for the promotion of Whit Products business and none of it for personal gain.’”

BOROUGH ARMS

8, (Lower) Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

J. and J. Yardley and Co. Ltd. [1906]

LICENSEES

Isaac Whick [1871] – [1888]
Daniel Garbett [1891]
William Pymm [1896]
William George France [1901]
James Denton [1904]
Edwin Beesley [1906]

**THE NOTED HOUSE FOR FINE
HOME-BREWED
AND OTHER SPARKLING ALES AND PORTER,
ETC., IS AT THE
BOROUGH ARMS, DUDLEY STREET,
WEDNESBURY.**
Proprietor, ISAAC WHICK.
Choice Cigars, &c. N.B.—Quoit Grounds FREE.

1874

NOTES

8, Lower Dudley Street [1871], [1872], [1880], [1896], [1901], [1904]
8, Dudley Street [1881], [1891]

It had a beerhouse license.

Isaac Whick = Isaac White

1871 Census

8, Lower Dudley Street – BOROUGH ARMS
[1] *Isaac Whick* (38), innkeeper, born Sedgley;
[2] *Keziah Whick* (38), wife, born Sedgley;
[3] *Frances L. Whick* (17), daughter, barmaid, born Coseley;
[4] *Elijah Whick* (16), son, hatter, born Coseley;
[5] *Mary L. Whick* (15), daughter, barmaid, born Coseley;
[6] *Martha M. Whick* (13), daughter, scholar, born Coseley;
[7] *Carmi R. Whick* (12), son, scholar, born Coseley;
[8] *Sarah E. Whick* (10), daughter, scholar, born Coseley;
[9] *Kezia Whick* (7), daughter, scholar, born Coseley;
[10] *Victoria A. Whick* (5), daughter, scholar, born Coseley;
[11] *Isaac R. Whick* (3), son, born Coseley:

Isaac Whick, beer retailer, 8, Lower Dudley Street [1872], [1880]

Birmingham Daily Post 18/2/1874

“Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner) dealt with a number of persons charged with rioting at the recent Wednesbury election.....

Thirteen youths and young men were charged with having done wilful and malicious damage to the property of *Isaac White*, the BOROUGH ARMS beerhouse, Dudley Street. Only five of the accused put in an appearance. Mr. Slater appeared to prosecute, and Mr. J. T. Bayley for Thomas Ashmore.

The complainant stated that at about five o’clock, on the 15th instant, some forty or fifty boys, armed with sticks and bludgeons, forced their way into his beershop, and violently hammering the counter with their sticks demanded ale. He told them he would give them some if they would go away and do no mischief, but they smashed all the jugs and glasses they could reach – about a dozen – wrenched off the end of the counter, and jumping upon the counter,

smashed the glass shades over the gas. Ashmore also attempted to get at some cigars stored on a shelf, but they were put out of his way. The police were fetched, and while they were clearing the crowd away, a pebble was thrown through a large plate of glass in the shop front.

Several other witnesses were called, but their evidence was weak, to say the least of it, and in the end the Stipendiary sentenced Timothy Lavelle to six weeks' imprisonment, and dismissed the other defendants.

Mr. Slater said that as his witnesses had not made the statements in Court which they made to him in private, he could not rely upon them, and, therefore, would not apply for warrants against those of the defendants who did not appear."

[The cases occupied from eleven till nearly five o'clock.]

Midland Examiner 28/11/1874 - Advert

"The Noted House for Fine Home-Brewed and other Sparkling Ales and Porter, etc, is at the BOROUGH ARMS, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

Proprietor, *Isaac Whick*.

Choice Cigars, &c. NB. Quoits Grounds Free."

1881 Census

8, Dudley Street – BOROUGH ARMS

- [1] *Isaac Whick* (48), agent, innkeeper, brewer, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Kezia Whick* (49), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Louisa Whick* (27), daughter, barmaid, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Mary Whick* (24), daughter, dressmaker, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Martha Whick* (22), daughter, teacher of music, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Carnie Whick* (20), son, labourer, born Sedgley;
- [7] *Eugine Whick* (19), daughter, no occupation, born Sedgley;
- [8] *Kate Whick* (16), daughter, pupil teacher, born Sedgley;
- [9] *Roland Whick* (12), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

**BOROUGH BREWERY,
DUDLEY STREET, WEDNESBURY.**

ISAAC WHICK

BECS to tender his best thanks to the inhabitants of Wednesbury and district, for the kind patronage bestowed upon him for the past 13 years, and hopes by strict attention to the quality of his noted Ales to merit a further portion of their favours. I. W. would remind Private Families and others that he is now supplying his noted Home Brewed Ales in Casks of 9 and 18 gallons, at Wholesale Prices.

N.B. — Terms, &c., upon application to the Brewery, as above.

1881 - Advert

"BOROUGH BREWERY, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

Isaac Whick begs to tender his best thanks to the inhabitants of Wednesbury and district, for the kind patronage bestowed upon him for the past 13 years, and hopes by strict attention to the quality of his noted Ales to merit a further portion of their favours. I. W. would remind Private Families and others that he is now supplying his noted Home Brewed Ales in Casks of 9 and 18 gallons, at Wholesale Prices.

NB. Terms, &c, upon application to the Brewery, as above."

Walsall Observer 28/10/1882 - Marriages

"On the 26th inst, at St. John's Church, Wednesbury, by the Rev. Mr. Vaux (by license), Horatio Samuel Fellows, youngest son of the late William Fellows, of Oakland Terrace, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, to Frances Louisa Whick, eldest daughter of *Isaac Whick*, of the BOROUGH ARMS, BREWERY, Wednesbury."

Shepton Mallet Journal 15/6/1888 -Advert

"(From the *Wednesbury Herald*.) We have recently noticed in the columns of our exchanges an article from a well-known citizen of this place which was so unusual in its nature, and so remarkable withal, that a reporter of this paper was commissioned to investigate its details and verify its facts. The article referred to was a statement made by Mr. *Isaac Whick*, of the BOROUGH ARMS, secretary of the Retail Brewers Protection Association.

Mr. *Whick* was visited by our reporter, and upon being questioned, said, 'Well, sir, logically I have been dead, but really I am as you can see me. Six years ago I was taken ill with pains in the small of my back which gradually grew in intensity, until I was obliged to call in my medical adviser. He diagnosed my case, and stated that I was suffering from disease of the kidneys. He gave me the usual remedies, treated me for three years, but I gradually grew worse. In the summer of 1885, after years of suffering and wasting away, an old physician to our family was, upon my request, called from a neighbouring city to consult with my regular medical attendant. A difference of opinion rose between them as to whether my complaint was kidney trouble or stone in the bladder. The result was that a surgical examination was decided upon, and I was carried to Birmingham that I might have the benefit of the most eminent surgeon in that city. That examination resulted in my being informed that no medicine could cure me; and my

medical man was told that I could not possibly live three months. Returning home I was naturally very despondent, when a little book was placed in my hand, in which the symptoms of my disease were clearly put and the name of the remedy given which would cure it. In sheer desperation I purchased a bottle, and after taking it, experienced some benefit. I bought more, and with each bottle could see and feel an improvement. My friends also noticed my changed appearance, and congratulated me upon my recovery. I have taken none of the medicine since last autumn, and am today a perfectly well man. I weigh half-a-stone more than I ever did in my life, and have no sign of the disease about me. I consider that I owe my life to Warner's Safe Cure....."

[This was covered nationally.]

1891 Census

8, Dudley Street

[1] *Daniel Garbett* (41), beerhouse keeper, born Shropshire;

[2] *Emily Garbett* (27), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *George Garbett* (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *James Washington* (23), brother-in-law, coal miner, born Staffordshire;

[5] *Annie Washington* (24), sister-in-law, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Eliza Bridge* (16), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

County Express 25/7/1891 - Advert

"Important Sale of Freehold Public House Property.

To Brewers, Trustees, Capitalists, and Others.

Messrs. Bill, Son, and Gamble have received instructions from Messrs. J Marston and Co, Brewers, Burton-on-Trent, to Sell by Public Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Stourbridge, on Friday, the 7th day of August, 1891, at Five for Six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 2. That Capital Freehold Beerhouse, known as the BOROUGH ARMS, and situate in Dudley Street, Wednesbury, together with the Dwelling House adjoining; the Public House being let to Mr. *Daniel Garbett* on a tenancy terminable by three months' notice from any quarter-day, at the totally inadequate rent of £24 per annum. Area 577 square yards or thereabouts.....

The Auctioneers beg to call the special attention of Trustees and small Capitalists to this Sale, as the properties are all let to substantial tenants, and there is therefore no trouble in the collection of the rents nor management of the Properties, which the Auctioneers recommend as being thoroughly sound investments.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. J. and W. J. Drewry, Solicitors, Burton-on-Trent; or the Auctioneers, Grenville Buildings, Cherry Street, Birmingham."

William Pymm, beer retailer, 8 Lower Dudley Street. [1896]

1901 Census

8, Lower Dudley Street

[1] *William G. France* (34), publican and brewer, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Miriam France* (34), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *William George France* (9), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Phoebe France* (11), daughter, born Darlaston;

William George France – see also SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, and WAGGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston.

James Denton, beer retailer, 8, Lower Dudley Street. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1906

"The adjourned licensing sessions at Wednesbury were held yesterday.....

Superintendent Salt opposed the licenses of BOROUGH ARMS, Dudley Street.

The magistrates after private deliberation sent all the cases to the quarter sessions for compensation."

Lichfield Mercury 29/6/1906

"The members of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee resumed the hearing of the cases referred to them by the justices of the licensing districts, at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday.....

The Wednesbury borough justices referred the BOROUGH ARMS, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, for consideration. Mr. Disturnal was for the justices, and Mr. Willcock, Wolverhampton, was for the owners.

Supt. Salt gave evidence as to the structural character of the house, and he mentioned the fact that there had been five transfers within a few years. Within an area of 500 yards there were 45 licensed houses, and he thought that there were too many. In regard to the BOROUGH ARMS, he said that the facilities for police supervision were not good, and if the license were refused in his opinion there would be ample accommodation in the district. In cross-examination, the witness gave reasons why in his opinion this house differed from others in the locality.

In addressing the committee, Mr. Willcock said he could not for the life of him see on what ground this house had been selected for consideration, pointing out that there were worse houses on either side of it, and that the BOROUGH ARMS, unlike neighbouring houses, was not situated near to a fully-licensed house.

Mr. Tomlins, surveyor, Wolverhampton, stated that the house did a trade of an average of 155 barrels a year, and he gave it as his opinion that the BOROUGH ARMS were not inferior to the other houses.

William Henry Adams, the tenant of the house, said it belonged to Yardleys, and that he was satisfied with the trade that was being done at the house.

Mr. Disturnal said the fact that there had been four transfers in four years did not bear out the statement that a good trade was done at the house.

The license was refused by the committee."

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/7/1906 - 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 11th day of June, 1906, and by several Adjournments thereof on the 18th, 25th, and 30th of June, 1906, 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 30th day of July, 1906, 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.....

BOROUGH ARMS, Dudley Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse 'on' (ante 1869). Licensee, *Edwin Beesley*. Registered Owners, J. and J. Yardley Limited."

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/8/1906

"Staffordshire Licensing Committee. Compensation Awards.....

Upon consideration of the case of the BOROUGH ARMS, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, owned by Messrs. J. and J. Yardley Limited, Mr. Darby stated it was the subject of Chancery proceedings by the various sets of debenture-holders. The amount claimed as compensation was £1,080, and the committee offered £800. Mr. Darby said the lowest figure his clients were prepared to accept was £900, out of which they proposed to pay £75 to the tenant. He asked the committee if they could see their way to allow £850; otherwise the case must be referred to the Inland Revenue Commissioners. The Chairman, after consultation with his colleagues, said the committee, to save further expense to the parties, were willing to offer £850, but the decision must not be regarded as a precedent. The sum was apportioned £45 to the tenant (William Henry Adams) and £5 to the licensee (*Edwin Beesley*), the remainder to be dealt with by the Court of Chancery.

The Chairman announced that the committee had fixed September 12 as the date for payment of compensation in all the cases which had been agreed upon."

THE SECRETARY SPEAKS.

The following circumstances, drawn from the personal experience of Mr. Isaac Whick, of the "Borough Arms," Dudley Street, Wednesbury, are so important and really remarkable that they cannot help but be of interest and value to all readers:—

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—My motives for the publication of the most unusual statements which follow are, first, gratitude that I have been saved from a most horrible death, and secondly, a desire to warn all who read this statement against some of the most deceptive influences by which they have ever been surrounded. It is a fact that to-day thousands of people are within a foot of the grave, and they do not know it. To tell how I was caught away from just this position, and to warn others against nearing it, are my objects in this communication.

During 1882 I felt pains in the small of my back, gradually growing in intensity until I was forced to call in my medical adviser. He diagnosed my case, and confirmed my own ideas by stating that I was suffering from disease of the kidneys. He gave many of the usual remedies, put me on a strict diet, and for nearly three years I was under his treatment, but constantly grew worse. I was forced to pass water every few minutes during the day and night, and always with the greatest pain and burning sensation. If allowed to stand for a short time, a heavy white sediment would form in the bottom of the vessel. Several times my urine was analysed by the most competent men. I was frequently confined to my bed for several weeks at a time, could not attend to my business, and had wasted away in flesh until I was a mere shadow of my former self. My appetite left me, and I began to consider my case a hopeless one, as my friends showed by their actions that they did. In the early summer of 1885, after five years of suffering and wasting away, an old physician to our family from a neighbouring city was, at my request, called in consultation with my regular medical attendant. A difference of opinion arose between them as to whether my complaint was kidney trouble or stone in the bladder, and a surgical examination was decided upon, but could not then be made, owing to my reduced condition and the inflamed state of my bladder. In the meantime, though confined to my bed, it was decided to consult the most eminent medical man of Birmingham as soon as my condition would allow, in company with my medical men, all of whom reported large quantities of albumen as passing from me, and all agreed that I was in a dangerous condition. I went to Birmingham, suffering greatly from the effects of the journey, and after a full examination and consultation, was told by the physician no medicine would cure me. When I asked what was the matter with me, he stated that the acids passing through my bladder from the kidneys had entirely eaten away the inner lining of the bladder, and that this was true had been before proved by the analysis of my urine, in which particles of this lining had been found. I then asked regarding my chances of recovery, but he said to me that my own medical man would tell me when we got home; but this the latter refused to do, always putting me off with one excuse or another whenever I would ask him what Sir ——— had said about me. In September, 1885, I read a book left at my house, in which the symptoms of my disease were clearly put, and also some letters from people suffering as I was, and statements from them that Warner's SAFE Cure had effected cures in their cases. I argued that all these people certainly could not lie, and that, as I could get no benefit from my medical men, I would try Warner's SAFE Cure. I bought one bottle, and after taking it experienced some benefit, my appetite improved, and I was just a little better. I bought more, and with each bottle I could see and feel an improvement, until, in January, 1887, I was so much improved that all my friends were amazed, and were congratulating me on my recovery. During part of this time my regular attendant gave me medicine, which I put untasted in the cupboard, and continued taking only the Warner's SAFE Cure, and constantly improving under its use. It was now that my medical man told me that in the August previous Sir ———, of Birmingham, had said I could not live three months, and at most not until Christmas (1885). In all, I have taken only twelve bottles of Warner's SAFE Cure, the last some months ago, and during the time I took no other medicine of any kind; and to-day I am a perfectly well man, and weigh seven pounds more than I ever did in my life, my weight now being thirteen stone and eleven pounds; my appetite is as good as it ever was, and I have no sign or symptoms of any disease or disorder of any nature; and I consider that I owe my health, if not, indeed, my life, to Warner's SAFE Cure.

(Signed) ISAAC WHICK,

Secretary of Retail Brewers' Protection Association.

A statement like the above needs no comment. Those who are suffering should profit by the experience of Mr. Whick before it is too late. The remedy he used can be had of all chemists, at 4s. 6d. per bottle, or of H. H. WARNER AND CO., 56, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

LOT 2—That Capital FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE, known as the "BOROUGH ARMS," and situate in Dudley Street, Wednesbury, together with the DWELLING HOUSE adjoining the Public House being let to Mr. Daniel Garbett on a tenancy terminable by three months' notice from any quarter-day, at the totally inadequate rent of £24 per annum. Area 577 square yards or thereabouts.

1891

BRICKLAYERS ARMS

Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Isaiah Nash [1860]
Edward Millington [1861] – [1862]
Thomas Hayes [1862]

NOTES

[1853]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/6/1860

“Booth of Wednesbury will run either Baylis or Jinks of Westbromwich from 100 to 120 yards, for £5 to £25 a side. Money ready at J. [sic] *Nash*’s, BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Wednesbury, at any time.”

1861 Census

Portway Road – BRICKLAYERS ARMS

- [1] *Edward Millington* (49), blacksmith and beer retailer, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Dinah Millington* (52), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ann E. Millington* (19), daughter, general servant, born Walsall;
- [4] *Thomas Millington* (17), son, blacksmith, born Bilston;
- [5] *Richard Millington* (15), son, blacksmith, born Bilston;
- [6] *Diana Millington* (12), daughter, scholar, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/7/1861

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Barnet Solomon and Henry Solomon, on bail, were indicted for having feloniously forged a certain promissory note for £5, at Wednesbury, on the 29th of May, 1860, with intent to defraud. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Kenealy and Mr. Pritchard; Mr. Huddleston, QC, and Mr. Henry James were engaged on behalf of the prisoner. Mr. Kenealy, in opening the case, said that in May, 1860, prosecutor kept an inn called the BRICKLAYERS ARMS, at Wednesbury, and the prisoners were travelling jewellers, hawking and selling watches to any person who could be induced to deal with them. On the 29th of May, 1860, they went to the house of the prosecutor, whom they persuaded to take a watch for £6 6s. The prosecutor paid a £1 and was to pay the remainder at the rate of 4s a fortnight. Henry Solomon then asked for a piece of paper and wrote something on it. He requested the prosecutor to sign it, telling him that it was merely an acknowledgement that he had had the watch, and promised to pay the balance of the money by instalments. Prosecutor being an illiterate man, his housekeeper signed on his behalf what the prisoner Henry Solomon wrote on a piece of ruled paper taken from a book in a drawer and given to him. A fortnight afterwards they called upon the prosecutor’s housekeeper and obtained the first instalment of 4s. About 4 months afterwards an attorney applied for £5, and in December last the prosecutor was proceeded against in the Under Sheriff’s Court upon a promissory note drawn in these terms. ‘Birmingham, May 29th, 1860. Three months after date I promise to pay Henry Solomon and Barnet Solomon, or order the sum of £5 for value received. Signed *Isaiah Nash*, BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Portway Road, Wednesbury.’ It was that document which the prosecutor alleged was a forged one.

Mr. J. Nevitt, clerk to Mr. Hand, Under Sheriff, produced the note, stated that at the trial of *Stone v Nash*, in December last, the prisoners were witnesses for *Stone*, and declared that the note was a genuine one, and that they had received it from *Nash*.

Isaiah Nash, gas tube inspector at Wednesbury, said that in May, 1860, he kept a public house. On the 29th of May he saw the prisoners at his house in reference to a watch about which he had previously spoken. His daughter, his housekeeper, and Thomas Booth were present. He bargained with them for a watch for £6 6s, to pay £1 down, and he was to have it valued, and if it was not worth the money he was to return it. If it suited he was to pay 4s a week. A sovereign was paid by his housekeeper at his request. Henry Solomon then asked for a piece of paper, and the housekeeper took a piece of paper from a book and gave it to him. He asked for a pen and some ink, and then he wrote something on the piece of paper that was taken out of the book. He (prosecutor) saw the paper, which was ruled like a leaf from an account book. Henry wrote something on it, and requested him to sign it, saying it was only an acknowledgement that the watch had been sold for six guineas. He requested his daughter to sign his name, but she referred to the housekeeper, who then signed it. He saw her write something. She made a big blot on the paper. He (witness) never wrote anything nor did he make a mark. The piece of paper was not more than half the size of the note produced, and was ruled. The piece of paper which his housekeeper signed was written across the paper, and had no stamp on. After it was signed Henry Solomon put it in his pocket. He next saw the prisoner about a month after, at his house. He never gave authority to the prisoners to get 4s from the housekeeper on account of the watch. He found the watch was not worth the money.

Cross-examined. £1 4s was all that had been paid for the watch. He (witness) was married, but did not live with his wife. The trial was postponed at the last assizes in consequence of the absence of his daughter. He cohabited with his housekeeper, who was confined at the last assizes. That was not the real reason why the application was made for the postponement of the trial. His daughter did not tell him she left home because she would not take care of his illegitimate child. About four months after he had the watch the prisoner's attorney made an application for the money.

Susanna Nichols, housekeeper to *Isaiah Nash*, corroborated his evidence, and added that a fortnight after the sale of the watch the prisoners made an application for 4s, and she refused to pay it because *Nash* had told her he had had the watch valued, and it was not worth the money. They went away and returned, stating that *Nash* had authorised them to apply to her for 4s, and she, therefore, paid 4s. Further applications were made for the instalments, but she and *Nash* refused, and both offered the watch back again.

Witness was cross-examined relative to several bills which were receipted, and she stated that she was not able to say whether they were receipted by her or not. She had not brought the book from which the piece of paper was taken.

Martha Nash, daughter of the prosecutor, a little girl thirteen years of age, corroborated the evidence of the last witness, excepting as to the nature of the writing of the piece of paper taken from the book.

Thomas Booth, fitter and turner, gave similar evidence to that of *Isaiah Nash*.

Mr. Nevitt, on being recalled, said that the note was produce at the trial of Stone against *Nash*, by the attorney for the plaintiff. The prisoners were examined as witnesses, and he remembered Henry said that he received the note for the watch from *Nash*.

Mr. Henry Jackson deposed that he acted as attorney for Charles Stone on the occasion referred to by Mr. Nevitt. He received the promissory note from Charles Stone, and the prisoners were examined as witnesses; he put the note into their hands. They both swore that it was signed by *Nash*'s housekeeper for him, and that it was a genuine note.

Cross-examined. He believed the body of the note was in the handwriting of the wife of one of the prisoners. He was convinced that the prisoners could not have imitated the handwriting.

Re-examined. He never saw the prisoners write anything.

This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Huddleston addressed the jury for the defence, and contended that the prosecution of the prisoners was a cruel one, and was an attempt to convict them of a serious offence for the purpose of avoiding payment of £5.

Mr. J. Phillips, member of the Town Council; Mr. J. Lazarus, manufacturer, Birmingham; Mrs. Marks, jeweller, Birmingham; and Mr. G. Rose, Birmingham, gave the prisoners a good character.

His Lordship, in summing up, explained that there were two counts in the indictment – one for forging the note, and one for uttering it, knowing it to have been forged. He thought they might dismiss the first from their minds, as there was no evidence that the note or the signature was in the handwriting of either of the prisoners. They must consider whether the note was a forged one, and then whether the prisoners uttered it, knowing it to have been forged.

The jury retired for a short time, and found a verdict of not guilty."

Edward Millington was also a blacksmith. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/11/1862 - Advert

“Wednesbury. BRICKLAYERS ARMS INN, Portway Road.

Clearing-Out Unreserved Sale by Auction, by R. L. Courtney, on Monday, the 24th day of November; comprising the whole of the capital Brewing Plant, with fourteen iron-bound Ale Casks, Ale Machine, Malt Crusher, Screws, Benches, wood Partitions, with doors and cases; wood Sheds and Stables, excellent Force Pump, Lifting Screws, Swage Block, 1¾-inch Pit Rope. 150 yards long (new); three sets of strong Cart Harness, three sets of Chain Tackle, Dog Cart; all the Wood Spouting round the Premises; Household Furniture, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Thomas Hayes*, who is declining the Public Business.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock.”

WEDNESBURY.

“BRICKLAYERS’ ARMS INN,”

PORTWAY ROAD.

CLEARING-OUT UNRESEVED

SALE BY AUCTION.

BY R. L. COURTNEY, on Monday, the 24th
day of November; comprising the whole of the capital
BREWING PLANT, with fourteen iron-bound Ale Casks, ALE
MACHINE, Malt Crusher, Screws, Benches, wood Partitions, with
doors and cases; wood Sheds and Stables, excellent Force Pump,
Lifting Screws, Swage Block, 1¾-inch Pit Rope, 150 yards long
(new); three sets of strong Cart Harness, three sets of Chain
Tackle, DOG CART; all the Wood Spouting round the Premises;
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and other Effects, belonging to Mr.
Thomas Hayes, who is declining the Public Business.
Sale to commence at eleven o'clock.

BRITANNIA

Darlaston Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Drew [1834] – [1846]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 12/9/1846

“A man named Davidson was brought before the Magistrates, at Wednesbury, on Tuesday, charged with having been found in the pigsty of Mr. *Drew*, a publican, with a felonious intent. The prisoner was endeavouring to get the pig out of its domicile, and was taken into custody. The Rev. I. Clarkson, the Magistrate, reprimanded the prisoner, but as he said he only made use of the sty as a temporary lodging, he was fined 10s and costs.”

BRITANNIA

100, Holyhead Road / Chapel Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

James Henshaw

LICENSEES

James Henshaw [1868] – [1872]
Joseph Holmes [1876] – [1891]
Mrs. Ann Holmes [1896] – [1904]
John Ricketts [1912] – **1922**;
Mrs. Mary Ann Ricketts (**1922 – 1924**);
Harry Pitcock (**1924 – []**)
Charles Albert Taylor [1939] – [1940]
Frederick Noakes (**1946 – 1953**)

NOTES

OLD HOUSE AT HOME [1881]

It had a beerhouse license.

James Henshaw, beer retailer, Holyhead Road. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

100, Holyhead Road – BRITANNIA ARMS

- [1] James Henshaw (50), beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] Mary Henshaw (44), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sarah Cartwright (13), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

James Henshaw, beer retailer, 100, Holyhead Road. [1872]

Dudley Herald 5/8/1876 - Advert

“Freehold Property at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Jabez Bywater, at Mr. Francis Dicken’s, PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Leabrook Road, Wednesbury, on Tuesday Evening, August 22nd, 1876, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that Public House and Premises known by the sign of the BRITANNIA INN, situated and being No.100, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, together with the Greengrocer’s Shop adjoining, being No.101, Holyhead Road aforesaid, and five Houses in Chapel Street, being Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, and one at the back of No.4, in the respective occupations of *Joseph Holmes*, Samuel Fisher, J. Jones, and others, and producing an annual rental of £87 8s 4d.

This Property is pleasantly situated and substantially built, and in a prominent position, and will always command first-class tenants.

For further particulars apply to Joseph Stokes, Esq, Solicitor, 1, Priory Street, Dudley, or to the Auctioneer, 64, High Street, Princes End.”

FREEHOLD PROPERTY AT WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY
MR. JABEZ BYWATER, at Mr. Francis Dicken’s, Plough and Harrow Inn, Leabrook Road, Wednesbury, on TUESDAY EVENING, August 22nd, 1876, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read :—

All that PUBLIC-HOUSE and Premises known by the sign of the Britannia Inn, situated and being No. 100, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, together with the Greengrocer’s Shop adjoining, being No. 101, Holyhead Road aforesaid, and five HOUSES in Chapel Street, being Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and one at the back of No. 4, in the respective occupations of Joseph Holmes, Samuel Fisher, J. Jones, and others, and producing an annual rental of £87 8s. 4d.

This Property is pleasantly situated and substantially built, and in a prominent position, and will always command first-class tenants.

For further particulars apply to Joseph Stokes, Esq., Solicitor, 1, Priory Street, Dudley, or to the Auctioneer, 64, High Street, Princes End.

1881 Census

100, Holyhead Road – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

- [1] *Joseph Holmes* (45), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Ann Holmes* (39), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Eliza Holmes* (16), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Joseph Holmes* (14), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Hannah Holmes* (12), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Sarah J. Holmes* (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Agnes Holmes* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Samuel Holmes* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Ann Holmes* (9 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 15/7/1882 - Advert

“Mr. E. B. Scholefield has received instructions from the Trustee of the late *James Henshaw* to submit by Auction, at the house of Mr. Francis Dicken, the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, on Thursday, the 20th day of July, 1882.....

Lot 1. All that Valuable Freehold Beerhouse, known by the sign of the BRITANNIA INN, situate in the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, and containing Three Bedrooms, Parlour, Tap Room, Kitchen, Cellar, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, Pigsty, with joint use of the Yard, Outbuildings, and a road from Chapel Street, now in the occupation of *Joseph Holmes*; also the Two Freehold Messuages adjoining, one used as a Retail Shop, No.101, in Holyhead Road, in the occupation of Thomas Skeldon, and the other situate in and being No.1, Chapel Street, in the occupation of Thomas Bishop, the whole producing a rental of £50 12s 4d per annum.”

1891 Census

100, Holyhead Road

- [1] *Joseph Holmes* (53), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ann Holmes* (48), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Joseph Holmes* (24), son, steel worker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Hannah Holmes* (22), daughter, school teacher, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Sarah Jane Holmes* (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Agnes Holmes* (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Samuel Holmes* (15), son, clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Annie Holmes* (9), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Alice Holmes* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Mrs. *Annie Holmes*, beer retailer, 100, Holyhead Road. [1896]

1901 Census

100, Holyhead Road

- [1] *Ann Holmes* (58), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Annie Holmes* (19), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Alice Holmes* (17), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Mrs. *Ann Holmes*, beer retailer, 100, Holyhead Road. [1904]

Evening Despatch 3/3/1911

“Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

It was decided, on the application of Mr. A. J. Glover, to sanction alterations to the BRITANNIA INN, Holyhead Road, Mr. Scott, architect, putting in plans showing that it was proposed to put a 7ft wall at the back.”

1911 Census

100, Holyhead Road

- [1] *Mary Ann Ricketts* (49), married 30 years, beerhouse keeper, born Coventry;
- [2] *Edith Small* (17), general servant, born Wednesbury;

John Ricketts, beer retailer, 100, Holyhead Road. [1912]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/11/1912 - Letters to the Editor

“Sir. Will you kindly state through your widely-read paper that the BRITANNIA INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was not the same BRITANNIA INN, mentioned at the adjourned inquest held at the Law Courts, West Bromwich, on the 15th inst, on the man Benjamin Knowles, who met his death from burning. By making this public I shall be greatly obliged.

Yours, *John Ricketts*, proprietor.”

1921 Census

100, Holyhead Road

[1] *John Ricketts* (57), home-brewed beerhouse keeper, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Mary Ricketts* (58), wife, home duties, born Coventry:

South Staffordshire Times 7/1/1922

“Mr. *John Ricketts*, of the BRITANNIA INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, passed away on Wednesday last, at the age of 59 years. He leaves a widow, Mrs. *Mary Ricketts*, towards whom local sympathy has been extended.”

South Staffordshire Times 14/1/1922

“Wednesbury Police Court.....

The temporary transfer of the BRITANNIA beerhouse, Holyhead Road, was granted to the widow of the late Mr. *Ricketts*.

Evening Despatch 7/2/1936

“Presiding at Wednesbury Police Court today, Coun. Paul Griffiths expressed the disapproval of the Bench towards brewery companies who turned tenants out on the streets without first learning whether they found alternative accommodation. ‘I do not think it is fair that any brewery company should think they have the right to put publicans and their families on the street,’ he said. There should be some accommodation found for them before they were turned out.

The remarks were made when application was made for the temporary transfer of the license of the BRITANNIA INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Coun. Griffiths said the Bench visited that particular house yesterday and regarded it as one of the worst in Wednesbury as far as accommodation was concerned. Supt. J. H. Hall agreed and Mr. Griffiths asked the solicitor representing the brewery company to see that they took an early opportunity of remedying the defects. The living conditions were deplorable, he said. Mr. S. W. Smith, for the brewery company, intimated that plans for alteration were at the moment being prepared.”

1939 Register

100, Holyhead Road (3 of 4)

[1] *Charles A. Taylor*, date of birth 19/8/1890, public inn manager, married;

[2] *Elsie M. Taylor*, dob 28/10/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Charles A. Taylor*, dob 4/8/1922, brewery bottler, single;

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

BRITANNIA INN, Wednesbury, 2s 6d.”

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.....

F. Noakes, BRITANNIA, Wednesbury.”

Frederick Noakes was married to *Ria*.

A crib team from here won the Wednesbury District Cup c.1950.

‘Wednesbury Revisited’ by Ian M. Bott

“When T. Marshall and Company, grocers of Holyhead Road, was demolished in August 1963 family members undertook the removal themselves, to temporary premises at the delicensed BRITANNIA INN across the road.”

All that Valuable FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE, known by the sign of "The Britannia Inn," situate in the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, and containing Three Bedrooms, Parlour, Tap Room, Kitchen, Cellar, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, Pigsty, with joint use of the Yard, Outbuildings, and a road from Chapel Street, now in the occupation of Joseph Holmes, also the Two FREEHOLD MESSUAGES adjoining, one used as a Retail Shop, No. 101, in Holyhead Road, in the occupation of Thomas Skeldon and the other situate in and being No. 1 Chapel Street, in the occupation of Thomas Bishop, the whole producing a rental of £50 12s. 4d. per annum.

BRITANNIA

31, Trowse Lane, (Dale Street), (Bilston Road), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Edward Wilding Phillips

LICENSEES

Thomas Finch [1861] – [1865]
Mrs. Elizabeth Finch [1865] – [1871]
Elizabeth Barrett [] – **1881**;
Samuel Barrett (**1881** – []
Arthur Waldron []
Moses Mills [1891]
Edward W Phillips [1901]
Harold Lyeach [1911]

NOTES

Bilston Road [1861]
Dale Street [1861], [1864], [1865]

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Finch, beer retailer, Dale Street. [1861], [1864], [1865]

1861 Census

Bilston Road

- [1] *Thomas Finch* (50), moulder, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Finch* (46), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Martha Finch* (17), daughter, born Shifnal, Shropshire;
- [4] *Henry Finch* (10), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Charlotte Finch* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1861

“Yesterday an inquest was held before Edwin Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a newly-born male child, which had been concealed in a store-room at the house of Mr. *Thomas Finch*, beerhouse keeper, Dale Street, Wednesbury. The evidence went to show that, suspecting from certain circumstances what had occurred, Mrs. *Finch* taxed her niece with having given birth to a child, and that this led to the discovery of the body. Mr. Garman, surgeon, who was called as a witness, gave it as his opinion that the infant had not breathed, and after a careful enquiry, the Jury, under the direction of the Coroner, returned as their verdict that the infant was still-born. The Coroner then made out his warrant of committal on the charge of concealment of birth, and Elizabeth Brown, the mother, will be brought before the West Bromwich Magistrates today.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/1/1862

“On Friday an inquest was held on the body of a new-born child, which had been found dead in a storeroom in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Finch*, beerhouse keeper, of Dale Street, Wednesbury. Mr. Garman, surgeon, gave it as his opinion that the child was still-born, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly. The next day Elizabeth Brown, a niece of Mr. *Finch*, was charged before the sitting magistrates at Westbromwich with concealing the birth of the child, and was committed for trial.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/3/1862

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Elizabeth Brown, 22, no occupation, was indicted for concealing the birth of her illegitimate male child, at Wednesbury. Mr. M‘Mahon appeared to prosecute.

Elizabeth Finch, the aunt of the prisoner, with whom she lived, said that on the 22nd of December she heard her niece moaning upstairs, and on going up found her apparently in great pain. She thought she had an attack of spasms, and told her she would send her up some kind of remedy. Next day, the prisoner went about her work as usual; but witness having suspicions as to the nature of her illness, asked her whether she had been confined. She admitted that she had, and said that she had put the body of the child in the malt-house, so that it might be seen. The body was afterwards found there in a sack.

Mr. Proctor, a surgeon, who had examined the child, gave evidence of its having been still-born.

The jury did not think the evidence supported a charge of concealment, and accordingly returned a verdict of not guilty.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/5/1864 - Died

“On the 27th ult, of bronchitis, in his 53rd year, *Thomas Finch*, of Dale Street, Wednesbury; deeply regretted. Also, on the 30th ult, aged 75 years, *Jane Finch*, of Church Lane, Tipton, mother of the above.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/8/1865 - Advert

“Lost, on July 15, in Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, a Brown English Terrier Dog, weighs about 5lbs, name ‘Vixen.’ Whoever will restore the same to Mrs. *Finch*, BRITANNIA, Dale Street, Wednesbury, shall receive 10s Reward.”

LOST, on July 15, in Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, a Brown English TERRIER DOG, weighs about 5 lbs, name “Vixen.” Whoever will restore the same to Mrs. Finch, Britannia, Dale Street, Wednesbury, shall receive 10s. Reward.

1871 Census

31, Trowse Lane

- [1] *Elizabeth Finch* (52), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Charlotte Finch* (19), daughter, governess, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Juliatte Hill Sivener* (5), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Eliza Plant* (14), general servant, born Wednesbury:

1881 Census

31, Trowse Lane – BRITANNIA INN

- [1] *Samuel Barnett* (35), beerhouse keeper, born Warminster, Wiltshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Barnett* (32), wife, born Stone, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Charlotte Harrington* (16), general servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham 4/3/25 15/10/1890

“At Wednesbury Police court, yesterday, *Arthur Waldron* applied for the transfer of the GLADSTONE INN, Portway Road, to him from Martha Harvey. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared in support of the application, and Superintendent Holland opposed.

The applicant, in answer to questions, said he had kept the BRITANNIA INN, Wednesbury, for some time without complaint, and that afterwards he became manager of the TALBOT INN, Queen Street, West Bromwich. Whilst there, about two months ago, he was proceeded against for allowing gaming on the premises, and was fined in two cases. Since then he had faithfully carried out the promise which he made to the Bench that he would not have anything more to do with betting. He was fined £5 in one case and 40s in the other.

Inspector Ainsworth deposed to the convictions, and to the defendant having previously been warned with respect to card playing on his premises.

The Bench refused the application.”

1891 Census

31, Trowse Lane – BRITANNIA INN

- [1] *Moses Mills* (51), wheel slotter, coachbuilder, born Bentley;
- [2] *Isabella Mills* (52), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Aldridge* (27), nephew, metal refiner, born Bilston:

1901 Census

31, Trowse Lane – Tavern – BRITANNIA

- [1] *Edward W. Phillips* (44), coach builder, born Breulth, Breconshire;
- [2] *Annie Phillips* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *John E. Phillips* (19), son, labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Frederick S. Phillips* (17), son, blacksmith, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Bertie H. Phillips* (15), son, apprentice to coach builder, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Sybil A. Phillips* (14), daughter, apprentice to dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Bernard R. Phillips* (13), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Edith W. Phillips* (10), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Gertrude M. Phillips* (8), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Alice May Phillips* (6), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [11] *Amy Dorothy Phillips* (5), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, before Aldermen R. Williams, I. Oldbury, and Mr. F. W. Hackwood, a man named Edwin Hudson (50), of no fixed abode, but who has been living in apartments at Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, and with intent to defraud, between the 17th September and 3rd October.

The evidence showed that prisoner represented himself to be in the employ of the Midland Advertising Company, Wolverhampton, and canvassed for advertisements for the Wolverhampton Wanderers Fixture Card. He secured 2s 6d from Frank Turbot, manager of the South Staffordshire Coffee House, Market Place; 4s 6d from Benjamin E. Pewtriss, tobacconist, Market Place; 5s from Herbert E. Kent, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN; 5s from William H. Hadley, GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place; 2s 6d from James Faulkner, BULLS HEAD INN; 2s from William Macdonald, THREE SWANS INN; 5s from Frank Bateman, licensed victualler, High Street; 2s 6d from *Edward Phillips*, BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane; 2s 6d from John Jones, FORRESTERS ARMS, Portway Road; and 2s 6d from Albert Newbould, OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street.

Frederick L. Hodgetts, of the Penn Road, Wolverhampton, said he was a partner in the Midland Advertising Company. Prisoner had been in their employ, but left on the 27th April. He had not been connected with the company since, and was not authorised to canvass for advertisements.

Detective Truswell deposed to effecting the arrest of prisoner.

Alderman Oldbury (to prisoner): Didn't you consider you had a lot of 'flats' to deal with in Wednesbury? I am surprised that tradesmen should give their money away without even asking for a receipt. They must be very confiding.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Sessions, which commence on Tuesday next.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1901

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Edwin Hudson, 50, traveller, pleaded guilty to having obtained various sums of money by false pretences at Wednesbury, on September 17. There were previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sentenced to three years' penal servitude.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1910

“The licensing sessions for Wednesbury borough were held yesterday.....

All the licenses would be renewed except where transfers were pending, and that of the BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane, to which notice of opposition had been given.”

Birmingham Mail 3/3/1911

“Wednesbury adjourned annual Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. C. H. Darby applied for the renewal of the license of the BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane, which was objected to on the ground of redundancy.

The Bench referred this license for compensation.”

AND

Evening Despatch 3/3/1911

“Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

The BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane, was referred to the compensation authority, Superintendent Salt remarking that there had been six transfers of this license in ten years, and one conviction during the last year.

Mr. C. H. Darby, representing the tenant, said the latter desired to maintain the license, but he could not controvert the statement which had been made.”

1911 Census

31, Trowse Lane

[1] *Harold Lyeach* (34), publican, born Yorkshire;

[2] *Annie Lyeach* (28), wife, married 1 year, born Bromyard, Herefordshire;

[3] *Grace Lyeach* (6), daughter, born Bromyard, Herefordshire;

[4] *Gladys Lyeach* (4 months), daughter, born Wednesbury:

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.....

BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869, Cider and Wine. Licensee, *Harold Lyeach*. Registered Owner, Edward Wilding Phillips.”

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.....

BRITANNIA, Wednesbury, referred to Inland Revenue.”

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.....

Cases referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, the committee being unable to approve the amounts submitted.....

BRITANNIA, Wednesbury.”

Lichfield Mercury 3/1/1913

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee presented the following report.....

The Commissioners of the Inland Revenue gave their decisions in the eight cases referred to them last year, and the total amount awarded was £5,277.....

BRITANNIA INN, Wednesbury, £410.....

The compensation money has been divided amongst the interested parties and will be paid on the 21st December.”

BRITISH QUEEN

40+41, (41), Trowse Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Stone
Showell's Brewery Co. Ltd. [1895]

LICENSEES

Thomas Stone [1830] – [1831]
Adam Fairburn [1834] – [1837]
Joseph Hall [1841] – [1842]
Samuel Cook [1844] – [1846]
Thomas Hyde [1848] – [1850]
Samuel Smith [1851] – **1854**);
Samuel Cook (**1854** – [1855]
Mrs. Sarah Cook [1860] – [1870]
Patrick Flynn [1869] – [1888]
Harry Paxton Nash [1890] – **1891**);
James Patten (**1891** – [1896]

NOTES

41, Trowse Lane [1871], [1873], [1896]
40+41, Trowse Lane [1881], [1888]

It was originally the KING AND CONSTITUTION.

QUEENS HEAD [1861]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/2/1830 - Advert

“Whereas a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against *Thomas Stone*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Inn-keeper, dealer and chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Commissioners in the said commission named, or the major part of them, on the fifteenth day of February inst, at four o'clock on the afternoon, on the sixteenth day of the same month, and on the 9th of March next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the Whiston Cross Inn, in the parish of Albrighton, in the county of Salop, 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, and at the second sitting to choose Assignees, and the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the creditors to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. 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 Mr. Hunt, Solicitor, Craven Street, Strand, London, or to Mr. Caddick, Solicitor, West Bromwich.”



Token

WHEREAS a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against THOMAS STONE, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Inn-keeper, dealer and chapman, and he being declared a bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to the Commissioners in the said commission named, or the major part of them, on the fifteenth day of February inst. at four o'clock in the afternoon, on the sixteenth day of the same month, and on the 9th of March next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the Whiston Cross Inn, in the parish of Albrighton, in the county of Salop, 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, and at the second sitting to choose Assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination, and the creditors are to assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate. 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 Mr. Hunt, Solicitor, Craven-street, Strand, London, or to Mr. CADDICK, Solicitor, West Bromwich.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/4/1830 - Advert

"Freehold Inn and other Dwelling Houses, in Wednesbury, Staffordshire; also a Life Annuity and Growing Crops. To be Sold by Auction, by J. W. Perks, at the KING AND CONSTITUTION INN, Wednesbury (by order of the Assignees of *Thomas Stone*, a bankrupt) on Friday next, the 23rd of April, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced.

Lot I. All that above-mentioned Inn or Public House, situate in Trowse Lane, in Wednesbury aforesaid, together with the Licenses and Good-will, Stable, Garden, Brewhouse, and Outbuildings; and also two other Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, now in the respective occupations of the said *Thomas Stone*, John Lawton, and Henry James.

The above premises, which have lately been erected, are freehold, and have an excellent pump of water at the back.

Lot II. Five Freehold Dwelling House, in Old Meeting Street, in Wednesbury.....

Lot III. Five other Dwelling Houses, in Old Meeting Street.....

Lot IV. The Interest and Annual Produce during the Life of the said *Thomas Stone* (who is now in his 60th year) of and in the principal sum of £1,000, and of and in a Piece of Land in Shrewsbury, in the county of Salop, now used as a Timber Yard, in the occupation of Messrs. Chune and Son, at an annual rental of £20.

Lot V. About Five Acres of Growing Wheat in a Field in the parish of Wednesbury aforesaid, called Whitehead's Piece, and One Acre and a Quarter of Growing Wheat in Darlaston Field.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Caddick, Solicitor, West Bromwich."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/5/1830 - Advert

"The Creditors who have proved their debts under a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued forth against *Thomas Stone*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper, dealer and chapman, are requested to meet the Assignees of the said bankrupt's estate and effects on Monday the 7th day of June next, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely, at the KING AND CONSTITUTION INN, in Wednesbury aforesaid, in order to assent to or dissent from the said Assignees selling and disposing of by private contract, or in such other manner, at such price or prices and upon such terms and conditions as the said Assignees may consider most beneficial, the whole or any part of the freehold, leasehold, and personal estates and effects of the said bankrupt in and to any property, goods, chattels, debts, or effects to any person or persons whomsoever; and in case of a sale or sales, to execute all necessary conveyances, assignments, and assurances, and to do all and every necessary act to carry the same into effect; and also to the said Assignees making any arrangement or compromise with any person or persons having or claiming to have any mortgage, lien, or other securities on any of the said bankrupt's estate and effects, or to their resisting the same; and also to the said Assignees compounding with any debtor or debtors to the said bankrupt's estate, and taking any reasonable part of the debts or debts in discharge of the whole, or giving time or taking security for the payment of such debt or debts, or submitting any dispute between such Assignees and any persons concerning any matter relating to such bankrupt's estate to arbitration; and also to the said Assignees commencing, prosecuting, compromising, or defending any actions at law or suits in equity for the recovering, protection, or defence of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt, and generally to authorise and empower the said Assignees to take such measures and make such arrangements in and about selling, disposing, and settling the said estate of the said bankrupt as to the said Assignees may seem expedient; and on other special affairs.

E. Caddick, Solicitor of the Commission."

London Gazette 28/9/1830

"The Commissioners in a Commission of Bankrupt, bearing date the 7th day of January 1830, awarded and issued forth against *Thomas Stone*, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Inn-keeper, Dealer and Chapman, intend to meet on the 25th day of October next, at Eleven in the Forenoon, at the Winston-Cross Inn, situate in the Parish of Albrighton, in the County of Salop, in order to Audit the Accounts of the Assignees of the estate and effects of the said Bankrupt under the said Commission; and the said Commissioners also intend to meet on the same day, at One o'clock in the Afternoon, at the same place, to make a 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."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/7/1831 - Died

"On the 2nd inst, of apoplexy, Mr. *Thomas Stone*, of the KING AND CONSTITUTION, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/8/1831 - Advert

"To be Sold by private Contract, the Licenses, Good-will, and immediate Possession of the KING AND CONSTITUTION INN, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, late in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Stone*, deceased.

The premises are well situate (and particularly adapted to the public business) in a populous neighbourhood, and contiguous to extensive Collieries and Iron Works.

The purchaser to take to the brewing vessels, barrels, household furniture, stock (which is very limited), &c, at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter post paid,) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/3/1832 - Advert

"Freehold Inn and Other Dwelling Houses, in Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Daniel Taylor, at the HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Wednesbury (by order of the Assignees of *Thomas Stone*, a bankrupt) on Friday the 9th day of March, 1832.....

Lot I. All that the above-mentioned Inn or Public House, called the KING AND CONSTITUTION, situate in Trowse Lane, in Wednesbury aforesaid; together with the Stable, Garden, Brewhouse, and Outbuildings. Also two other Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/3/1832 - Advert

"A most eligible opportunity for an industrious Person.

Public House to be Let, with immediate possession, the KING AND CONSTITUTION INN, Wednesbury, fitted up in the most complete manner, with large tap-room, two parlours, bar, &c, six lodging-rooms, detached cooking kitchen, brewhouse, stable, piggeries, large garden, and abundant supply of water, late in the occupation of Mr. *T. Stone*, deceased.

Apply to Mr. Hobbins, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury.

NB. No Good-will, Stock, or Fixtures to be taken to."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/3/1832 - Advert

"A Desirable Public House.

To Let, with immediate possession, the KING AND CONSTITUTION INN, in Wednesbury; consisting of Bar, two Parlours, large Tap Room, and six Sleeping Rooms, with detached Cooking Kitchen, Stable, and Piggeries, a large Garden, and an excellent supply of Water, with every requisite convenience for carrying on the public business to advantage, late in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Stone*, deceased.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. J. Hobbins, GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury.

NB. No good will or stock to take to."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/8/1836 - Advert

"Freehold Inn, Dwelling Houses, Building Ground, &c, in Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Daniel Taylor, at the KING AND CONSTITUTION INN, Wednesbury, on Monday the 15th of August inst, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then and there produced.

Lot I. All that valuable Inn called the KING AND CONSTITUTION, situate in Wednesbury aforesaid, with the Stable, Brewhouse, and other outbuildings, Garden, Yard, &c, now in the occupation of Mr. *Adam Fairburn*, as tenant from year to year; also two Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, now or late in the holding of James Ray and Mrs. Haughton.

Lot II. Two Freehold Dwelling Houses, situate in Workhouse Lane, in Wednesbury, in the respective holdings of William Harper and John Jones, and an undivided third part or other share (which will be specified at the sale) of and in a Dwelling House and other premises adjoining, now or late in the holding of Thomas Biddle.

Apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. Adams, Solicitor, Darlaston; Mr. Holland, Solicitor, West Bromwich; Mr. C. R. Wace, Solicitor, Ellesmere, Salop; or at the Auctioneer, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/2/1837 - Advert

“Freehold Inn, Dwelling Houses, and Building Ground, at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Private Contract, all that valuable Inn, called the KING AND CONSTITUTION, in Wednesbury, with the stabling, brewhouse, outbuildings, garden, yard, &c, in the occupation of Mr. *Fairburn*, as tenant from year to year, and two Freehold Dwelling Houses adjoining. These premises have been erected within a few years, and are substantially built.

To view the above, apply to Mr. Richard Tibbitts, Butcher, Wednesbury; and for further particulars, to Mr. Adams, Solicitor, Darlaston; Mr. Holland, Solicitor, Westbromwich; or to Mr. C. R. Wace, Solicitor, Ellesmere, Salop.”

[Queen Victoria acceded to the throne following the death of William IV on 20th June 1837.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/7/1839 - Advert

“.....To be Sold by Auction on Tuesday, the 16th day of July, 1839.....

Lot II. Two recently erected and substantial Freehold Dwelling Houses, situate near the BRITISH QUEEN public house, in Wednesbury, and fronting the turnpike road there.....”

1841 Census

Trouse Lane

[1] *Joseph Hall* (45), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Hall* (19), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Henry Hall* (17), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Roger Hall* (11), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Jane Smith* (18), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/9/1841 - Advert

“BRITISH QUEEN, Wednesbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, on unusually favourable terms, all that old and well established Public House, situate on the road side leading from Wednesbury to Bilston and Darlaston, and near to the Collieries and Iron Works belonging to Messrs. Lloyds, Foster, and Co.

The Proprietor is leaving in consequence of other engagements.

The Stock, Fixtures, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation. Rent moderate, and coming-in unusually low.

For detailed particulars and to treat apply to Messrs. Taylor and Bills, Auctioneers, Land and Building Agents, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/10/1844

“A correspondent states that there is in the possession of Mr. *Samuel Cook*, BRITISH QUEEN INN, Wednesbury, an extremely beautiful hog pig of the Berkshire breed. It is perfectly white, twenty-two months old, and from the snout to the end of the tail measures eight feet, and it stands three feet two inches high. This pig is considered by excellent judges not to be excelled in England.”

Samuel Cook was also a builder. [1845]

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1845

“Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway.

We, the Undersigned, Landowners, Merchants, Coal and Ironmasters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other Inhabitants residing in the boroughs of Birmingham and Walsall, and the towns of Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Handsworth, and other places in those Districts, do hereby express our opinion that the projected Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway is calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the places and districts above mentioned, and we promise it our strenuous support.....

Samuel Cook, Victualler, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 28/11/1846

“On Tuesday last, at Wednesbury, *Samuel Cook* was charged with detaining a box, value 12s, and three books, value 4s, belonging to a club of Odd Women. Mr. Hall appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Dalby for the defence. It appeared that the defendant keeps the BRITISH QUEEN, at Wednesbury, and formerly the complainants held their lodge at his house. In July last the lodge was removed in consequence of some dissatisfaction, but Mr. *Cook* refused to give up the books. He had been repeatedly asked for the property, but always refused to give it up. After a consultation by the Bench, it was thought advisable that the matter should be settled by arbitration of the Court, and the parties retired for that purpose.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/11/1846

“Mr. *Samuel Cook*, publican, Wednesbury, at whose house a female benefit society was held, was charged with stealing the cash box and books belonging to the club. Defendant had a lien on the property, and the magistrates dismissed the case.”

Birmingham Journal 19/2/1848 - Advert

“Freehold Dwelling Houses, in Monway Field, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jos. Dawes, on Monday, February 28, at the House of Mr. *T. Hyde*, BRITISH QUEEN, Wednesbury aforesaid, at Seven o'clock in the Evening.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/1/1851

“An inquest has been held before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, at the BRITISH QUEEN, Wednesbury, on the body of Elizabeth Small, who, from the fact of her living with a man not her husband, and other suspicious causes, was supposed to have poisoned herself; but, upon the evidence of E. Russell, Esq, surgeon, it appeared that she died of apoplexy. Verdict accordingly.”

Birmingham Journal 25/1/1851 - Advert

“The BRITISH QUEEN, Wednesbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above-named Old-Licensed Public House, now doing a good Business, and is well-situated. Valuation about £180.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph Dawes, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

1851 Census

Trouse Lane

[1] *Samuel Smith* (23), gun lock filer and victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Martha Smith* (23), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Ann Pew* (17), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/7/1852

“Thomas Stokes was charged with breaking four panes of glass by throwing a stone through the window of the BRITISH QUEEN INN, at Wednesbury, and was ordered to pay the damage 4s, and costs 9s 6d, in default 14 days' imprisonment.”

Samuel Cook = Samuel Cooke

Birmingham Journal 1/7/1854 - Advert

“Mr. *Samuel Cook*, late of the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, begs to inform his Friends and the Public generally, that he has Removed to his former residence, the BRITISH QUEEN, situate in Trowse Lane, and in tendering his thanks to his Friends, the Gentry, and Public, begs to assure them that every possible attention shall be paid to the accommodation and comfort of all his customers.

Fine Ale and Porter. British and Foreign Wines and Spirits of every description, and of the best quality. Good Stabling.”

Birmingham Journal 15/7/1854

“On Tuesday Michael Flanagan and Anthony Conolly were brought up at Wednesbury Public Office, to answer the following charge.

Police-constable Clarke said that on Saturday night he was sent for to the BRITISH QUEEN, to take Flanagan into custody for smashing a window, when he was knocked down, kicked, and bitten by him. A mob of Irish assembled and rescued the prisoner, who was, however, retaken when assistance arrived. The clothes of the constable were produced; they were actually clogged with blood, and completely spoiled. Police-constable Gettings confirmed the testimony of his brother officer, and stated that he himself was severely beaten.

Mr. *Samuel Cooke*, landlord of the house, said Flanagan went to his house drunk, and was refused to be served. He then challenged every one there to fight. He (the witness), in ejecting him, was nearly strangled, and when at length expelled, the prisoner flung a large stone through the window, and the police were called in.

The other prisoner (Conolly) was shown to have taken a prominent part in the assault on the police and the rescue of Flanagan, and the Bench fined them both £10 each, or two months to hard labour.

Mr. Bagnall made some forcible remarks on the prevalence of such affrays, and thought that they would never be done away with till the publicans, in the absence of any legislative enactment on the subject, came to an agreement amongst themselves to close their houses on the Sunday. Mr. *Cooke* said he, for one, would gladly do so if the other persons in the trade would consent to adopt a similar course.”

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *S. Cooke*, BRITISH QUEEN, Trowse Lane.”

Samuel Cook – see also LAMP.

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/12/1858

“The only meeting yet held in South Staffordshire in connection with the present movement in favour of a reform of the representation took place on Tuesday evening at the BRITISH QUEEN, Wednesbury. Mr. Benjamin Danks presided, and urged the extension of the suffrage and the direct representation of the district about Wednesbury. Mr. John Arnott, the secretary pro tem, read the following as the principles on which the association should be based. Registered manhood suffrage, vote by ballot, shortening the duration of parliaments, and more equal electoral districts. After an animated discussion, in which Messrs. William Perry, William Taylor, Thomas Wood, John Jackson, and others took part, this basis of principle was unanimously adopted.”

Reynolds Newspaper 6/2/1859

“A Reform Meeting was lately held at Wednesbury. An address to the Reformers of South Staffordshire was resolved upon, advocating the enfranchisement of the district, registered manhood suffrage, the ballot, and a re-distribution of seats. The secretary of the association is Mr. John Arnott, and the address of the committee-room the BRITISH QUEEN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.”

1861 Census

Trowse Lane – BRITISH QUEEN

- [1] *Sarah Cook* (52), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Thomas Danks* (45), lodger, married, gun lock smith, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Sarah Danks* (18), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Thomas Danks* (14), son, gun lock smith, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *David Danks* (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Frances Danks* (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Joseph Parry* (55), lodger, married, bricklayer, born Churchill, Staffordshire;
- [8] *Andrew Parry* (35), lodger, bricklayer, born Churchill, Staffordshire;
- [9] *Edward Mathen* (23), lodger, bricklayer, born Churchill, Staffordshire;

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/3/1864

“Spect and Whittaker. These district novices run at Ash Tree Grounds, Tividale, on Monday the 28th, a six-score yards match, for £5 a side. A further deposit for the same must be made to Mr. T. Danks, BRITISH QUEEN INN, Frouse [sic] Lane, Wednesbury, on Monday, March 21.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/11/1864

“E. Cattle of Wood Green, Wednesbury, will shoot a match with Mr. Nuttall of Wednesbury at pigeons or sparrows, or Mr. W. Edwards can have a match on. Cattle will be at Mr. Dank’s, BRITISH QUEEN INN, Wednesbury, this evening, or any other during the week to make a match, for their own sum.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/5/1866

“125 Yards Handicap (All England). Mr. Tranter (the proprietor of the Britannia Grounds, Tipton) will give £5 as a first prize, £2 as second, and 10s as third prize, distance 125 yards in an All England Handicap, to come off on Monday, June 11. Entrance 1s each, no acceptance, to be made on or before Tuesday, June 5, at the grounds, or to T. Rogers, CROSS KEYS, Bilston; Tim Thomas, RAILWAY INN, Dudley Port; Danks, BRITISH QUEEN, Wednesbury; Wedge, ALBION INN, Willenhall; or Thompson, ROEBUCK, Brettell Lane. Any one entering falsely will be disqualified. The above is for the benefit of T. Watkinson (better known as Darby Tom), who has been lamed in the coal mines. The proceeds of the above benefit will go towards defraying his expenses to a watering place for the recovery of his strength. We hope he will receive a bumper on this occasion, as he is well deserving of the same, he having hitherto acted as master of the ceremonies of the above grounds, although suffering from lameness in the feet, &c.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/4/1867

“E. Whittaker of Wednesbury will give F. Stadham of Darlaston two yards start in six score yards, for £10 a side; or will give Dudley of Wednesbury one yard in the like distance, for £10 a side; or will take a yard start of T. Tonks or Wareing in six score yards, for £10 a side. Money ready at T. Danks’s, BRITISH QUEEN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/8/1868

“An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon last before Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner for South Staffordshire, at the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, concerning the death of John Fallin, a child three months old, whose parents lived in Blakemores Square, Trowse Lane. The deceased had been a weakly child ever since his birth, and his mother dying a fortnight afterwards, he lingered and wasted away until his death on Thursday last, when he was a mere skeleton. Notwithstanding the child’s weak condition his father never sought the attendance of a doctor for him, and for such conduct he was severely reprimanded and cautioned by the coroner. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 7/11/1868 - Advert

“Wednesbury.

To Let, all that excellent Old-Licensed House, the BRITISH QUEEN, Trowse Lane, comprising Bar, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Tap Room, Club Room, Chambers, good Cellaring, Stables, Yard, and Garden.

The above is suitable for a Spirit Vault, and it is near to Lloyds Foster’s, and other Ironworks.

Apply, Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 21/11/1868 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the BRITISH QUEEN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Whitehouse, on Tuesday Nex, November 24th, 1868 (under a distress for rent).

All the Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, &c, belonging to Mrs. *Sarah Cook*, comprising Mahogany and other Tables, Chairs, Sofa, Oak Wardrobe, Tent Bedsteads, Feather Beds, 4-pull Beer Machine, Copper and Iron Boilers, Mash Tub, Ale Coolers, 17 Ale Casks, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock am.

The House and Premises to Let.

The Licenses and Goodwill and Possession will be sold the first Lot.

Catalogues can be had at the place of Sale, or the Auctioneer’s Office, Russell Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/11/1869

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before Mr. Spooner, Stipendiary, *Patrick Flynn*, keeper of the BRITISH QUEEN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, was charged with permitting disorderly conduct on his premises, by suffering persons to remain fighting and drinking and making a great disturbance, at nine o'clock on the 25th October.

Mr. Spooner asked the defendant if he had brought his license, when he said he had not. Mr. Spooner said that if the defendant did not bring his license on another occasion he would fine him £5.

Police-constable Farnell stated that on the day in question he was on duty in the High Bullen, and there was a crowd around the defendant's house. He went in to ascertain the cause of the disturbance, and on going inside he found two men fighting. A third man was standing near covered with blood. The men continued fighting whilst he was there; and the tables and benches had been removed from the centre of the room. There were a great many persons standing round witnessing the fight, and betting upon the issue. He went to the landlord, who was in another room, and spoke to him of what was taking place, when he said he could not help it.

Mr. Ebsworth represented the defendant, who was fined £5.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/1/1870

“About six o'clock last night Mr. *Flynn*, landlord of the BRITISH QUEEN, Trowse Lane, near the High Bullen, Wednesbury, went to the police station, in that town, and stated that he wanted assistance to get a man named Stephen McFarlane out of his house. Police-constable John Stanton and Police-constable Thomas Henbery went, and found the man outside the house. On them requesting him to leave, he went away. He, however, returned, and the officers again asked him to go, which he did. When he had got out of sight, a roller, named Robert Savage, of Dale Street, came to the officers, and said McFarlane had assaulted him. They went towards the spot where the alleged assault took place, and saw McFarlane coming towards them. They decided to take him into custody for being drunk and disorderly, as they could not prove the assault, as it had not taken place in their sight. The prisoner came along very quietly until he got to the High Bullen, when he began to desist. When he got into Camp Street he pulled out a knife, and stabbed Police-constable Stanton under the left eye, and in the left hip. Prisoner stabbed Police-constable Henbery, and the knife went through his clothing into his side, just above his heart. Police-constable Reeley, who was not on duty, happened to be passing at the time, and he rushed to the assistance of the officers. He took the knife out of the prisoner's hand, but, in doing so, he was cut across the right wrist. Superintendent Holland at once sent for Mr. Iliffe, surgeon, and he ordered that Police-constable Stanton should go to bed. The surgeon is of opinion that Stanton will not be fit for duty for some weeks; but the other officer has escaped with such a comparatively slight wound, that he will commence his ordinary duties in a few days. Stanton has had a very narrow escape of losing his left eye; and but for the thick materials of which the police have their clothing made, the other officer would inevitably have been killed.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/3/1870

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Stephen McFarlane (21), striker, was indicted for maliciously wounding John Stanton on the 17th of January at Wednesbury, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm.....

The wound over Stanton's eye was considered a very dangerous one, and he was incapable of performing his duties for a month.

The prisoner said he could not remember anything about the matter, as he was drunk at the time. He was very sorry for what he had done. The jury found him guilty.

The learned judge remarked that the offence was a very serious one, and he could not do otherwise than pass a severe sentence upon the prisoner. Prisoner was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

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

At the previous Sessions several applications for renewals of spirit licenses were adjourned in consequence of the applicants having infringed the terms of their licenses in various ways.....

Patrick Flynn, BRITISH QUEEN, Wednesbury, for permitting drunkenness in his house....

The magistrates retired to consult together, and on their return the Chairman announced that they had decided to grant renewals to *Patrick Flynn*.”

1871 Census

41, Trowse Lane

[1] *Patrick Flynn* (60), licensed victualler, born Ireland;

[2] *Mary Flynn* (50), wife, born Ireland;

[3] *Ellen Fitzgerald* (40), niece, born Ireland:

Birmingham Daily Post 6/4/1872

“Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest, on Thursday, at the BRITISH QUEEN INN, House [sic] Lane, Wednesbury, on the body of *Hannah Monaghan*, aged five years, the daughter of parents living in that locality. On Monday evening deceased was running across the road near her parents’ house, when she was knocked down by a horse and trap belonging to Mr. Clews, of James Bridge, and driven by a man named Shaw, the wheel of the vehicle passing over her head. She was taken home and attended by Mr. J. C. Garman, but death ended her sufferings early on the following morning. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Patrick Flynn issued tokens from here, made by C. Dipple, Wolverhampton Street.

1881 Census

40+41, Trowse Lane – BRITISH QUEEN

[1] *Patrick Flynn* (67), licensed victualler, born Ireland;

[2] *Mary Flynn* (52), wife, born Ireland;

[3] *Ellen Fitzgerald* (48), niece, born Ireland;

[4] *Margaret Moruhon* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 16/12/1882

“Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Trowse Lane, on the body of *Ann Morris* (40), wife of a miner living in that locality.

It appeared that the deceased was prematurely confined on the 8th, and died somewhat suddenly on the following day, before which time a midwife named *Elizabeth Jordan*, who had been in attendance upon her, had taken the child to the parish sexton and had it buried, handing in a kind of certificate which she had got her husband to write for her, and to which she had affixed her mark. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.

The Coroner severely censured Mrs. Jordan in respect of the preparation of the certificate, and burial of the body, and said he should report her conduct to the public prosecutor, with a view to a prosecution being instituted against her. He also directed Sergeant Lightfoot, the officer in charge of the case, to make enquiries as to the burial.

Mrs. Jordan said she was under the impression that she had a legal right to give a certificate of still born children. She had for years given certificates. The Coroner said she had acted illegally.”

In 1884, during the investigation of the Dynamite Society, a group of Irish nationalists (Fenians), planning a bombing campaign against English cities, *Patrick Flynn* voluntarily attended a police interview. He stated that at one time he had clubs meeting at his house, but that he got rid of them when he found that they were of an illegal or questionable character. It was stated that when the news of the assassination of Lord F. Cavendish and Mr. Burke was received, he publicly expressed his abhorrence of the crime, and, further, that he lent the police valuable assistance in discovering the whereabouts of a man who was accused of complicity in the murder of Lord Mountmorris.

[See the ROYAL OAK, King Street, for further details.]

Birmingham Daily Post 21/5/1884

“A Partisan of the Dynamitards.

At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Kate Molloy*, and elderly Irishwoman, was charged with having been drunk and disorderly at the house of *Patrick Flynn*, the BRITISH QUEEN, High Bullen, on the 6th instant, and with having refused to leave the house. The evidence of *Ellen Fitzgerald*, assistant at the house, and *Flynn*, was to the effect that she went to the house very drunk, and abused Mr. *Flynn* with the grossest language, accusing him of having ‘rounded’ on some of the Irish brotherhood. The abuse was continued until a constable was sent for, and then she went away. It will be remembered that *Flynn*’s name and address were found written on a piece of paper in *Daley*’s possession at the time of his apprehension in Liverpool. The defendant said she only repeated what she had seen in the papers. She was fined 5s and cost, or fourteen days’ imprisonment in default.”

Wednesbury Herald 21/2/1891

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Trowse Lane, on Tuesday, respecting the death of the illegitimate child of a girl named Elizabeth Shady. It was stated that the mother of the child was 14 years of age, and employed on a pit bank. On the 13th inst she gave birth to the child, and on the 14th it was seized with a fit and died before assistance could be obtained. There was no suspicious circumstances, and the jury returned verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/3/1891

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest, at the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, on the body of William Cooper (22), nut and bolt forger, who took his life on Saturday, under the circumstances stated in yesterday’s *Post*.

Jane Cooper, widow of the deceased, identified the body, and said she was married to the deceased on the 16th of December last, but she lived at her mother’s for a month afterwards, and they had been living in Trowse Lane between two and three weeks. Her husband had been very funny in his ways ever since they were married, saying one thing and meaning another. Usually he came home from work to dinner at one o’clock, but on Saturday he did not return until three o’clock. He then fetched her from her mother’s, and when they had entered their own home he told her to sit by his side. She sat down, and in a short time she saw him take a pistol from his pocket. He told her to turn towards him, and then he pointed the pistol straight at her face and let it off, but she turned her head at the moment and fell into his arms. She tried to shout, but he put his hand over her mouth and told her to be quiet. She did not shout, however, and then he gave her the key of the door. He had locked the door and put the key into his pocket when they entered the house, and told her to go upstairs and when she came down she would find him dead. When she had got the key she unlocked the door and ran down the yard, and when she came back in two or three minutes he was lying on the ground outside the house dead. He had never tried to shoot himself before, but he had wished for a pistol. When she saw him take it from his pocket she asked him where he got it from, but he would not tell her. She did not know any of his family had been insane, but his father had told her that when at home he was a big trouble. He had never complained to her about her being intimate with any young man, but he had complained about his head. He was very jealous of her, and used to take notice of the time she was away on an errand, and find fault with her if she was away more than a few minutes. He brought her only 4s 11d on Saturday, and said he was vexed he had not been able to get more; but she told him not to mind, and gave him some tea, which was all she had for dinner.

In answer to jurors, she said it was true that she was away from home one night; that was on Tuesday. She stayed at her mother’s, because she was afraid of her husband. When he gave her the money on Saturday he said he had paid for the coal, which was 5d. He appeared to have been drinking, but he said he had only a pint. On the Monday night he came home drunk, and picked up a lamp to her. He had walked about the room more than once with a knife or razor in his hand. She had, however, got possession of the razor, and had given it to his father, who advised her, so recently as Friday, to get a situation if she could not do anything with her husband.

Thomas William Nicholls deposed that hearing the report of a pistol at about a quarter to four o’clock on Saturday, and hearing from the neighbours that the deceased had a revolver, he went to the house, and, finding the door fastened, looked through the window. The deceased had his wife across his knees on the chair, but he released her on hearing witness’s raps at the window. He seized her again, and put a pistol on the table. The wife then unlocked the door, and sought refuge in the next house, the people unlocking the door to let her in. Her husband followed, and after saying something to her went back into his own house; but in a minute or two came out again and fired the pistol into the air. He then re-entered the house, but quickly reappeared, and putting the pistol to his right temple, cried out, ‘Here goes; I told you what she would bring me to.’ From what witness had known of him he was steady, and without any peculiarities. Witness knew nothing against the wife.

Police-sergeant Betts deposed to finding the pistol by the side of the deceased on the ground, and caps, powder, and shot on the table in the house. There was also a bit of paper, on which was written in pencil, ‘William Cooper, I have come to shoot myself.’ He could not find that there was any ground for the deceased’s jealousy of his wife, nor could he hear that the deceased’s fellow workmen at Mr. Richards’s had been chaffing him.

John Hardwick, ironmonger, Trowse Lane, deposed to selling the deceased the pistol produced on Saturday afternoon for 1s 6d, and also caps, powder, and shot, a pennyworth of each.

The Coroner summed up briefly, and the jury returned a verdict of Suicide during Temporary Insanity.”

1891 Census

41, Trowse Lane – BRITISH QUEEN

- [1] *Harry P. Nash* (39), publican, born Droitwich;
- [2] *Amelia Nash* (31), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Wallace Nash* (11), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Harry Nash* (4), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *May Nash* (2), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Bertie H. Nash* (1), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Florence Nash* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Lois Jones* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

The renewal of the license of *Harry Paxton Nash*, the BRITISH QUEEN, Trowse Lane, had been opposed on several grounds, the principal being that last year he was convicted of permitting drunkenness. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the applicant, and stated that the license had been transferred to *James Patten*. Superintendent Walters withdrew the objection Granted, subject to transfer being made to *James Patten*.”

Harry Paxton Nash – see also PRINCE OF WALES, Wood Street, Wolverhampton.

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/11/1892

“Patrick Gastley, labourer, Trowse Croft, Wednesbury, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and doing wilful damage. On Tuesday night he was drunk, when he threw some bricks through the plate-glass window of the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Trowse Lane, doing damage to the extent of £3. He was fined 10s and costs for the drunkenness, and 1s and costs, together with £3 damage, for breaking the window; or, in default, six weeks’ hard labour altogether.”

James Patten was convicted of permitting drunkenness in November 1894. He was fined £5 and costs.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1895

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the borough of Wednesbury took place yesterday.....

Superintendent Salt opposed the renewal of the licenses in respect of.....

BRITISH QUEEN, Trowse Lane, kept by *James Patten*, on the ground of the disorderly character of the house, the premises being so arranged as to be difficult of police supervision, two convictions for breaches of the Licensing Acts, that the house was not required in the locality, and that *Patten* had failed to produce satisfactory evidence of good character.....

The magistrates refused to renew the license for the BRITISH QUEEN.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/10/1895

“Messrs. Showell and Sons, the owners of the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, the renewal of the license of which was refused by the Licensing Justices, have decided to appeal against the decision at the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1895

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

James Patten, landlord of the BRITISH QUEEN public house, Wednesbury, and Showell’s Brewery Company, the owners, appealed against a decision of the Wednesbury borough magistrates not to renew the license, Mr. A. Young and Mr. Jesse Herbert for *Patten*, and Mr. Plumptre for the company.

The BRITISH QUEEN was a fully-licensed house, and the police objected to the renewal on the usual grounds, viz, the disorderly character of the house, inability to properly supervise it, the convictions against tenants, that the house was not required, and that *Patten* had failed to produce satisfactory evidence as to character. In November, 1890, *Nash*, a former tenant, was fined 40s and costs for permitting drunkenness, and in October last year *Patten* was fined £5 and costs for a like offence.

It was contended that the house was situated in a low neighbourhood, and that there was no necessity for increasing the facilities for obtaining drink, there being a number of other licensed houses near.

An argument ensued as to the production of evidence, and in the end the Court decided to hear it. Police-constable Eden said the house during the last three years had been badly conducted, and evidence of a corroborative character was given by Police-constable Golby, while Police-sergeant Williams stated that for about four years prior to April of the present year the house had been of a very disorderly character. Superintendent Shaw spoke as to the inability of the police owing to the construction of the house to give it proper supervision. Mr. Plumptre, in the course of his address, mentioned that his clients gave £1,800 for the house, and he contended that they were in no way to blame for the management of the house. When they assumed possession of the house they took the precaution of having a very stringent agreement by which they could discharge the tenant immediately upon any serious misconduct. As to the conviction against *Patten*, he submitted that it would be a very harsh proceeding to deprive a man of his license because of one conviction against him. With regard to the difficulties complained of by the police as to supervision, the owners were prepared to make such alterations as the Court might consider desirable. Several witnesses were called to speak to the good character of *Patten* and as to the general good conduct of the house, and afterwards counsel addressed the Court. The appeal was dismissed with costs. Lord Hatherton stated that the feeling with respect to the hardship to the owners of public houses had been in the mind of the magistrates, and no doubt was the reason why some appeals had been successful. He thought the law on the point required alteration."

**FREEHOLD INN AND OTHER DWELLING HOUSES,
In Wednesbury, Staffordshire;**

Also a LIFE ANNUITY and GROWING CROPS.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by J. W. PERKS, at the King and Constitution Inn, Wednesbury (by order of the Assignees of Thomas Stone, a bankrupt) on Friday next, the 23d of April, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced;—

LOT I. All that above-mentioned Inn or Public House, called the KING and CONSTITUTION, situate in Trowse-lane, in Wednesbury aforesaid, together with the Licences and Good-will, Stable, Garden, Brewhouse, and Outbuildings; and also two other Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, now in the respective occupations of the said Thomas Stone, John Lawton, and Henry James.

The above premises, which have lately been erected, are freehold, and have an excellent pump of water at the back.

LOT II. Five Freehold Dwelling Houses in Old Meeting-street, in Wednesbury aforesaid, in the respective occupations of Thomas Barnett, Thomas Glover, Wm. Harper, Elizabeth Holland, and ———.

LOT III. Five other Dwelling Houses, in Old Meeting-street, in the respective occupations of Elizabeth Price, Thomas Wright, Thomas Smith, Amuel Griffiths, and ———.

LOT IV. The Interest and Annual Produce during the Life of the said Thomas Stone (who is now in his 60th year) of and in the principal sum of £1000, and of and in a Piece of Land in Shrewsbury, in the county of Salop, now used as a Timber Yard, in the occupation of Messrs. Chune and Son, at an annual rental of £20.

LOT V. About Five Acres of Growing Wheat in a Field in the parish of Wednesbury aforesaid, called Whitehead's Piece, and One Acre and a Quarter of Growing Wheat in Darlaston Field.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Caddick, Solicitor, West Bromwich.

THE Creditors who have proved their debts under a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued forth against THOMAS STONE, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper, dealer and chapman, are requested to meet the Assignees of the said bankrupt's estate and effects on Monday the 7th day of June next, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely, at the King and Constitution Inn, in Wednesbury aforesaid, in order to assent to or dissent from the said Assignees selling and disposing of by private contract, or in such other manner, at such price or prices and upon such terms and conditions as the said Assignees may consider most beneficial, the whole or any part of the freehold, leasehold, and personal estates and effects of the said bankrupt, and of all the estate and interest of the said bankrupt in and to any property, goods, chattels, debts, or effects to any person or persons whomsoever; and in case of a sale or sales, to execute all necessary conveyances, assignments, and assurances, and to do all and every necessary act to carry the same into effect; and also to the said Assignees making any arrangement or compromise with any person or persons having or claiming to have any mortgage, lien, or other securities on any of the said bankrupt's estate and effects, or to their resisting the same; and also to the said Assignees compounding with any debtor or debtors to the said bankrupt's estate, and taking any reasonable part of the debt or debts in discharge of the whole, or giving time or taking security for the payment of such debt or debts, or submitting any dispute between such Assignees and any persons concerning any matter relating to such bankrupt's estate to arbitration; and also to the said Assignees commencing, prosecuting, compromising, or defending any actions at law or suits in equity for the recovering, protection, or defence of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt, and generally to authorise and empower the said Assignees to take such measures and make such arrangements in and about selling, disposing, and settling the said estate of the said bankrupt as to the said Assignees may seem expedient; and on other special affairs.

E. CADDICK,
Solicitor to the Commission.

TO be SOLD by private Contract, the Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of the **KING and CONSTITUTION INN**, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, late in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Stone, deceased.

The premises are well situate (and particularly adapted to the public business) in a populous neighbourhood, and contiguous to extensive Collieries and Iron Works.

The purchaser to take to the brewing vessels, barrels, household furniture, stock (which is very limited) &c. at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c. Wednesbury.

1831

**FREEHOLD INN
AND OTHER DWELLING HOUSES,
IN WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

TO be SOLD by Auction, by DANIEL TAYLOR, at the Hare and Hounds Inn, Wednesbury (by order of the Assignees of Thomas Stone, a bankrupt) on Friday the 9th day of March, 1832, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced:—

LOT I. All that the above-mentioned Inn or Public House, called the **KING and CONSTITUTION**, situate in Trowse-lane, in Wednesbury aforesaid; together with the Stable, Garden, Brewhouse, and Outbuildings. Also two other Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, now or late in the respective occupations of John Lawton and Henry James.

A most eligible opportunity for an industrious Person.
PUBLIC HOUSE.

TO be LET, with immediate possession, the **KING and CONSTITUTION INN**, Wednesbury, fitted up in the most complete manner, with large tap-room, two parlours, bar, &c. six lodging-rooms, detached cooking kitchen, brewhouse, stable, piggeries, large garden, and an abundant supply of water, late in the occupation of Mr. T. Stone, deceased.

Apply to Mr. Hobbins, Green Dragon, Wednesbury.

N.B. No Good-will, Stock, or Fixtures to be taken to.

A DESIRABLE PUBLIC HOUSE.

TO LET,

With immediate possession,

THE **KING AND CONSTITUTION INN**, in **WEDNESBURY**; consisting of Bar, two Parlours, large Tap Room, and six Sleeping Rooms, with detached Cooking Kitchen, Stable, and Piggeries, a large Garden, and an excellent supply of Water, with every requisite convenience for carrying on the public business to advantage, late in the occupation of Mr. THOMAS STONE, deceased.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. J. HOBBS, Green Dragon Inn, Wednesbury.

N.B.—No good will or stock to take to.

1832

**FREEHOLD INN,
DWELLING HOUSES, BUILDING GROUND, &c.
IN WEDNESBURY.**

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by DANIEL TAYLOR, at the King and Constitution Inn, Wednesbury, on Monday the 15th of August inst. at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then and there produced—

LOT I. All that valuable Inn, called the **KING AND CONSTITUTION**, situate in Wednesbury aforesaid, with the Stable, Brewhouse, and other outbuildings, Garden, Yard, &c. now in the occupation of Mr. Adam Fairburn, as tenant from year to year; also two Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, now or late in the holding of James Ray and Mrs. Haughton.

LOT II. Two Freehold Dwelling Houses, situate in Workhouse-lane, in Wednesbury, in the respective holdings of William Harper and John Jones, and an undivided third part or other share (which will be specified at the sale) of and in a Dwelling House and other premises adjoining, now or late in the holding of Thomas Biddle.

Apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. Adams, Solicitor, Darlaston; Mr. Holland, Solicitor, West Bromwich; Mr. C. R. Wace, Solicitor, Ellesmere, Salop; or to the Auctioneer, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

1836

**FREEHOLD INN, DWELLING-HOUSES, AND
BUILDING GROUND, AT WEDNESBURY.**

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,

ALL that valuable INN, called the **King and Constitution**, in Wednesbury, with the stabling, brewhouse, outbuildings, garden, yard, &c. in the occupation of Mr. Fairburn, as tenant from year to year, and two Freehold Dwelling-Houses adjoining. These premises have been erected within a few years, and are substantially built.

To view the above, apply to Mr. RICHARD TIBBITTS, Butcher, Wednesbury; and for further particulars, to Mr. ADAMS, Solicitor, Darlaston; Mr. HOLLAND, Solicitor, Westbromwich; or to Mr. C. R. WACE, Solicitor, Ellesmere, Salop.

1837

BRITISH QUEEN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, with immediate possession, on unusually favourable terms, all that old and well established **PUBLIC HOUSE**, situate on the road side leading from Wednesbury to Bilston and Darlaston, and near to the Collieries and Iron Works belonging to Messrs. Lloyds, Foster, and Co.

The Proprietor is leaving in consequence of other engagements.

The Stock, Fixtures, &c. to be taken to at a fair valuation. Rent moderate, and coming-in unusually low.

For detailed particulars and to treat apply to Messrs. Taylor and Bills, Auctioneers, Land and Building Agents, Wednesbury.

1841

THE BRITISH QUEEN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, with immediate possession, the above-named **OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE**, now doing a good Business, and is well-situated. Valuation about £180. For particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph Dawes, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

1851

MR. SAMUEL COOK, late of the Lamp Tavern, Wednesbury, begs to inform his Friends and the Public generally, that he has REMOVED to his former residence, the **BRITISH QUEEN**, situate in Trowse Lane, and in tendering his thanks to his Friends, the Gentry, and Public, begs to assure them that every possible attention shall be paid to the accommodation and comfort of all his customers.

Fine Ale and Porter, British and Foreign Wines and Spirits of every description, and of the best quality. Good Stabling.

1854

WEDNESBURY.

TO LET, all that excellent **OLD-LICENSED HOUSE**, the "**BRITISH QUEEN**," Trowse Lane, comprising Bar, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Tap Room, Club Room, Chambers, good Cellaring, Stables, Yard, and Garden. The above is suitable for a Spirit Vault, and is near to Lloyds Foster's, and other Ironworks.

Apply, Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

UNRESERVED SALE

At the "**BRITISH QUEEN**," **TROUSE LANE, WEDNESBURY.**
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, on **TUESDAY NEXT**, November 24th, 1868 (under a distress for rent) all the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING PLANT, &c.**, belonging to Mrs. Sarah Cook, comprising Mahogany and other Tables, Chairs, Sofa, Oak Wardrobe, Tent Bedsteads, Feather Beds, 4-pul Beer Machine, Copper and Iron Boilers, Mash Tub, Ale Coolers, 17 Ale Casks, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock a.m.

The House and Premises to Let.

The Licenses and Goodwill and Possession will be sold the first Lot.

Catalogues can be had at the place of Sale, or the Auctioneer's Office, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

1868

BRITISH WORKMAN

Walsall Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Dudley Herald 8/2/1873

“Since the opening of the BRITISH WORKMAN public house, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, the attendance has been quite equal to the expectations of its promoters. On Saturday evenings it is much frequented, and those patronising this institution appear to fully appreciate the advantages and facilities that are offered to them.”

[Was this a temperance house?]

BROUGHAMS ARMS

Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Webb [1834] – [1842]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

William Webb, beer retailer, Kings Hill Field. [1841]

William Webb, retailer of beer, Kings Hill Field. [1842]

BROWN LION

Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Holroyd [1834] – [1835]

NOTES

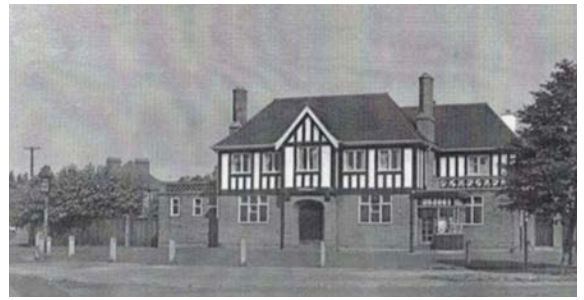
It had a beerhouse license.

BRUNSWICK

301, Crankhall Lane / Woden Road East, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Thomas William Crockford Smith
Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired on 11th June 1937)
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.
Ansells Ltd.
Punch Taverns [2006]



LICENSEES

Stanley Southall [1961] – **1964**);
Derrick Graham Burston (**1964**);
Norman John Betts (**1964** – [1966]
Eric Selvey [1960s]
John Brookes (**1968 – 1976**)
Frank Pritchard [1982] – [1983]
Brian Styzaker (**1984** – [1993]
Elle Thomas [1995]
John Bagley (**2002 – 2006**)



2008

NOTES

Rugeley Times 23/7/1938

“Wednesbury Darts News.....

In the semi-final of the darts competition for the Rubin Cup, in aid of the funds of the Mesty Croft Carnival and Children's Peace Treat, the MAZEPPA INN defeated the BRUNSWICK INN by six games to four. There was a large attendance present at the match, which was played at the MAZEPPA and the home side gained an early lead, BRUNSWICK being unable to get on level terms with them. The winners now meet VINE INN in the final match.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/2/1940

“Comforts Fund for men at the front.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £297 11s 4½d.

Proceeds of boxes.....

BRUNSWICK INN, 8s 4d.”

Rugeley Times 21/9/1940 - Advert

“Bar-General (experienced); wages 35s; live out.

The BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.”

BAR-GENERAL (experienced); wages
35s.; live out.—The Brunswick, Crank-
hall Lane, Wednesbury.

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

BRUNSWICK INN, Wednesbury, £1 4s.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

Walsall Observer 21/6/1947 - Advert

"S.S. Jaguar, in showroom condition, only wants seeing; going cheap. Before 1pm.
BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury."

S.S. Jaguar, in showroom condition, only wants seeing; going cheap. Before 1 p.m.—
"Brunswick," Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 12/7/1947 - Advert

"Car Trailer, ex-W.D., new all round, including tyres. Apply Sunday morning.
BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury."

CAR Trailer, ex-W.D., new all round, including tyres. Apply Sunday morning.—
"Brunswick," Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1948]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/1/1962

"Last night was party night for 72 elderly people who are either customers at or live near to the BRUNSWICK INN, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury. For the inn's social club provided the old people with a dinner and concert from money raised by customers of the BRUNSWICK. This was the second such event organised by the social club, of which the licensee of the inn, Mr. *Stanley Southall*, is president. In addition to providing the dinner, which it is hoped to make an annual event, the social club also donates money to Wednesbury's old people's welfare committee and look after the aged and needy people living in the Crankhall Lane area."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/8/1962

"More than 300 children of customers of the BRUNSWICK INN, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, were taken on a half-day outing at Drayton Park yesterday. The trip, costing about £100, was financed by the BRUNSWICK INN Social Club, which also, at Christmas, looks after the needs of old people of the area. Six coaches were hired for the trip and the children, accompanied by a number of adults, were provided with a packed meal and 2s each to spend."

Stanley Southall was convicted at Wednesbury Borough Magistrates Court for permitting Clarence Henderson to use licensed premises for the purpose of betting transactions. He was fined £20 and special costs of £13 17s.

A Christmas savings club was held here. [1964]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/6/1965

"The first application from a licensee for permission to instal a one-arm bandit at his public house was turned down by Wednesbury's general purposes committee last night. The application was from Mr. *Norman Betts*, licensee of the BRUNSWICK INN, Crankhall Lane. The committee heard from Mr. *Betts* and a representative of a firm which installs machines. The machine would be operated by threepenny pieces and the maximum coinage return was a shilling. A jackpot was 5s which was given in the form of a voucher exchangeable for goods behind the bar...."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/7/1967 - Advert

"Young Lady required as barmaid at BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, experience not essential."

Eric Selvey – see also HAWTHORN, Dial Lane, West Bromwich, and FORRESTERS, Bramley Road, Walsall."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/11/1968 - Advert

"Opening This Tuesday!
The Double Diamond Saloon at the BRUNSWICK INN, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/2/1970 - Advert

"The BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.
Double Diamond Saloon Entertainment.
Every Friday from 8.0pm. Admission 2/6."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/11/1973 - Advert

“The BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.

Make a change see a good group ‘The Truth’ Tonight!

Coming Tuesday, December 4th, Special!! ‘The Californians.’”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/4/1975

“High noon at the Diamond Bar as Cyril Squire guns down Ian Shepherd. The ‘cowboys’ are members of the British Westerners Association, who meet weekly at the BRUNSWICK INN, Wednesbury, to play cards and listen to Western music. All are clad in expensive outfits and tote six-shooters. Cyril is a TV rental district manager from Burntwood and Ian a fireman from Brownhills.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/1/1978 - Advert

“Staff required, lunch or evenings.

Apply, the BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.”

**STAFF required, lunch or evenings.
– Apply The Brunswick, Crankhall
Lane, Wednesbury**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/9/1978 - Advert

“Ansells Mild. Spot the Mystery Mild Man.

Watch out for this man! He is the Ansells Mild Man! His is currently appearing on posters in local Ansells pubs. If you spot him, you could win £5 cash – just like that. So pop into your local, have a pint of Genuine and Familiar Ansells Mild and maybe win a fiver too!

He will be visiting the following Ansells pubs in this area next week....

BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 25/5/1979 - Advert

“Win a Pint of Beer a Day for a Year.

What goes into the making a good pub? Place the list below in your order of priority when deciding.

Choice of Beers, Clean Loos, Availability of Food, Cheerful Staff, Good Beer, Pleasant Publican, Hygienic Service, Interesting Bar Display, Bar Games, Separate Bars, Atmosphere, Comfort.

Entry forms from the following houses.....

BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/8/1980 - Advert

“Lunchtime and Evening Bar Staff required.

Apply, Manager, BRUNSWICK, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.”

**LUNCHTIME and Evening Bar Staff
required.
Apply Manager, Brunswick,
Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury 021
556 2240.**

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/12/1982

“Sandwell licensees have given a mild and bitter response to a survey which shows Britons lagging behind their European counterparts in the beer-drinking stakes. Most pubs blame the recession and, with less money about, drinkers are staying at home during the week, saving their money for a weekend tippie. Many Sandwell pubs find they are losing trade because of ‘stay at home’ drinkers, the emergence of wine-bars and the advent of home video systems. Britain lies ninth in the European beer-drinking league, a recent survey has revealed, and Sandwell people are going out to pubs later at night and many settle for just one pint.....

Mr. *Frank Pritchard*, licensee at the BRUNSWICK, Friar Park, Wednesbury, said that Britain’s position in the table reflected the standards of living.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/2/1985

“Glamorous girls in the Sandwell and Dudley Evening Mails darts team will be aiming to score another bullseye at their second charity Wheels Appeal challenge. The five-strong girls A and B teams are travelling to the MIDLAND VAULTS pub, known locally as the LAMP, in Upper High Street, Wednesbury. The head-to-head match against locals tomorrow night is sponsored by Birmingham-based computer firm Software World. The lovely lasses have already notched up a victory against the BRUNSWICK pub at Wednesbury. They raised £85 towards a target of £25,000 needed to buy a special minibus each for the Albert Bradford Special School, Smethwick, and Old Park School, Dudley. Team member Leigh Churchill said, ‘The darts match is sure to be a good laugh for a good cause but we will be aiming to give the men a run for their money.’”

[The match was drawn. A further £62.71 was raised.]

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/2/1993

“Top Poppy Day collectors in Wednesbury have been rewarded for increasing their efforts. Shields were presented to businesses that had increased their appeal totals by the greatest percentage at a presentation hosted by licensee *Brian Styzaker* of the BRUNSWICK pub in Woden Road East, who received an award for increasing his total by 45 per cent.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/1/1995 - Family Announcements

“*Brian Styzaker* sadly passed away, on January 24, 1995.

Much loved partner of *Elle* and beloved Son of Cis.

Will be sadly missed by all Family and Friends and Customers of the BRUNSWICK.”

Birmingham Mail 22/6/1995

“A charity which gives holidays to handicapped and terminally ill children is £1,000 better off thanks to customers at a Wednesbury pub. Regulars at the BRUNSWICK, in Crankhall Lane, raised the money in just nine weeks by supporting raffles for the charity Mascot. Landlady *Elle Thomas* said the charity had been a favourite of her late partner, Mr. *Brian Styzaker*, who died suddenly in January, aged 53. ‘They know it is a very worthwhile charity and that *Brian* always supported it. We are delighted with the money raised.’ The cheque was presented to a Mascot representative on Saturday.”

Birmingham Mail 28/6/1995 - Advert

“The BRUNSWICK.

Homemade Food at reasonable prices.

We cater for small functions, any occasions, including children’s parties.

Conservatorie, extended beer garden with children’s play area including Tree House.

Regular Entertainment. Karaoke Wednesday, Friday and Sundays. Every Saturday, Barbeques.

For a warm friendly atmosphere call in at 301, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/8/1995

“.....A sponsored vehicle pull and events including a donkey wash will be held at the BRUNSWICK public house in Crankhall Lane on September 9 to raise £300 to send 100 Friar Park youngsters to the Sandwell Musical Theatre Company’s production of Snow White pantomime in October.....”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 12/11/1995 - Advert

“Local Comedian Matt Silvester as appeared on New Faces and Gary Wilmot Show.

Live and Fat! Appearing Tuesday 14th November, BRUNSWICK INN, Wednesbury.

No Admission Tel. 0121 556 2240.”

Sandwell Chronicle 1/11/1996 - Advert

“The BRUNSWICK, 301 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury. Tel. 0121-556 2240.

Karaoke Wednesday and Friday. Live Entertainment Sunday Evenings.

Ladies Night Tuesday 12th November. Phone for details.

Tuesday 5th November Firework Display. BBQ, Face Painting, Everybody Welcome.

Bar Meals 12-2pm, 6pm-9.30pm Mon-Sat, Sunday lunch 12-2pm.

3 Course £4.99 Adult, £2.99 Children.

Home Cooked Food, Friendly, Warm Atmosphere.”

Birmingham Mail 3/4/1998 - Advert

“Come to the BRUNSWICK.

Charity Raffle of a ‘C reg’ Ford Fiesta on Easter Monday.

Tickets £1.00. Draw takes place 6.00pm.

301 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.”

**COME TO THE
BRUNSWICK**

Charity Raffle of a ‘C reg’ Ford Fiesta
on Easter Monday.
Tickets £1.00.
Draw takes place 6.00pm

301 Crankhall Lane,
Wednesbury WS10
0121 556 2240

Sandwell Evening Mail 31/10/1998 - Advert

"The BRUNSWICK.

Homemade food at reasonable prices.

We cater for small functions, any occasions, including children's parties

Regular Entertainment. Karaoke Wednesday, Friday. Live Entertainment on Sunday.

Christmas Lunch £9.99. Sunday Lunch 12-2.

For a warm friendly atmosphere call in at 301 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury."

London Gazette 1/4/2012

"C & M Pubs Limited (Company Number 07053479).

Registered office: Station House, Midland Drive, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B72 1TU.

Principal trading address BRUNSWICK INN, 301 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury WS10 0QQ.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Insolvency Act 1986, that Final Meetings of Members and Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the office of Irwin & Company, Station House, Midland Drive, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B72 1TU, on 18 May 2012, at 10.00am and 10.15am respectively, for the purpose of having an account laid before them showing the manner in which the winding-up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of, and of hearing any explanations that may be given by the Liquidator."

[12 pubs in Birmingham and the Black Country were named in the principal trading address.]

[2025]



1968



1973



1970

THE BRUNSWICK
Homemade Food
at reasonable prices
 We cater for small functions, any occasions, including childrens parties
 Conservatorie - extended beer garden with childrens play area including Tree House
Karaoke
Wednesday, Friday and Sundays
Every Saturday, Barbeques
 For a warm friendly atmosphere call in at
 301, CRANKHALL LANE, WEDNESBURY, WS10
0121 556 2240

REGULAR ENTERTAINMENT



THE BRUNSWICK
Homemade food at reasonable prices
 We cater for small functions, any occasions including children's parties
KARAOKES
 Wednesday, Friday+ Live Entertainment on Sunday
CHRISTMAS LUNCH £9.99.
 Sunday Lunch 12-2
 For a warm friendly atmosphere call in at
 301 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, WS10
0121 556 2240

REGULAR ENTERTAINMENT



1998

Leased pub opportunities in your local area.

Local Comedian
MATT SILVESTER
 As appeared on NEW FACES and GARY WILMOT SHOW
Live & Fat!
Appearing Tuesday 14th November
Brunswick Inn, Wednesbury
 <NO ADMISSION>
Tel. 0121 556 2240

1995



Punch are currently looking for people with the skills, passion and business acumen to take on pub lease and tenancy opportunities in the West Midlands and across the UK.



(N.B. the above image is an example and may not be true to what the exterior will look like post refurbishment)

One pub currently available is

The Brunswick:

- Prominent main road location, near to local amenities
- Capacity and scope to cater for all sections of the local community
- Garden area with children's play equipment
- Punch funded investment to be considered for the right partner

Find out more about running this pub or similar pubs in the area by contacting **Polly Vickery on 0844 848 3264** or **polly.vickery@punchtaverns.com**

PUNCH TAVERNS IPHONE APP (Powered by Find My Pub)
 is now on ITUNES and FREE to download



PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR PUBS

2012

THE BRUNSWICK
 301 Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury
 Tel: 0121-556 2240

KARAOKE WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT SUNDAY EVENINGS
LADIES NIGHT
 Tuesday 12th November
 Phone for details
 Tuesday 5th November
FIREWORK DISPLAY
 BBQ, Face Painting, Everybody Welcome
 Bar Meals 12-2 pm, 6 pm-9.30 pm Mon-Sat, Sunday lunch 12-2 pm
3 COURSE
£4.99 Adult, £2.99 Children
 Home Cooked Food, Friendly, Warm Atmosphere



1996

BRUNSWICK

49, Great Western Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Julian Hanson & Sons Ltd.

LICENSEES

Arthur Evans [1861]
Mrs. Sarah Holroyd [1868] – **1870**;
John Male* **(1870 – [1877])**
John Bale* [1873]
Joseph Harper [1878]
George Oldham [1880] – [1881]
John Price [1891]
William Henry Davies [1896] – [1912]
Parker [1912]
William James Thomas Bayliss **(1916 – [1921])**
Thomas Atkiss [1928]



NOTES

It was named after the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company's Brunswick Ironworks.

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/6/1861

"A wine license was granted under the recent Act of Parliament to Mr. *Arthur Evans*, of the BRUNSWICK TAVERN, Great Western Street, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/10/1861

"Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held on Thursday last.....
The following is a list of applicants for wine and spirit licenses.....
Mr. *A. Evans*, Great Western Street Refused."

Birmingham Journal 19/4/1862 - Advert

"Clearing Out Sale, at the BRUNSWICK INN, Wednesbury, near the Great Western Station.
By Edward Cox, on Monday Next, April the 21st.
The Surplus Stock of Wines and Cordials, Spirit Barrels and Show Bottles, Barrels, large Lamp, Furniture, Chimney Glass, iron Bedsteads, and other Effects.
Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock.
Auctioneer's Office, Michael Street, West Bromwich."

Birmingham Journal 17/5/1862 - Advert

"BRUNSWICK INN. To be Let, with immediate possession, near the Great Western Station, a compact neatly fitted-up Public House. Rent Moderate.
Apply to Mr. Thomas Jones, KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, Wednesbury."

Mrs. *Sarah Holroyd*, beer retailer, and wine and refreshment rooms, Great Western Street. [1868], [1870]

* possibly the same person

1871 Census

49, Great Western Street – Beerhouse

- [1] John Male (44), furnaceman, born London;
- [2] Harriet Male (36), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] John Male (14), son, iron worker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary Jane Male (11), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] William Male (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] George Male (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Ann E. Male (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Harwin Farley (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Benjamin Butler (37), boarder, forge roller, born Wednesbury:

John Male, beer retailer, 49, Great Western Street. [1872]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/12/1875

“John Male, living with his father at the BRUNSWICK INN, Great Western Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for firing a gun near the highway. Police-sergeant Curtis, in company with another constable, was, on the 29th ult, walking down the street, when the defendant fired a gun within three feet of where persons were standing; and Curtis himself had a narrow escape of being shot. The defendant, who said that he did not know the ‘rules,’ was fined 40s and costs.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/3/1877

“Harriet Male, of the BRUNSWICK INN, Great Western Street, Wednesbury, and Mary Male, her daughter, were charged with assaulting Maria Hall. The complainant stated that on the 20th ult she went to look for her husband, and found him drunk at the defendant’s house. Upon her asking him to go home, the elder defendant seized her and nearly strangled her, using most abusive language. Her husband had been on too friendly terms with the elder defendant for the past two years. The charge against Mary Male, the daughter, was that she had assisted her mother in committing the assault. Mr. Spooner ordered both of the defendants to find one surety each, in the sum of £5, to keep the peace.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/4/1877

“John Male, formerly landlord of the BRUNSWICK ARMS beerhouse, Great Western Street, Wednesbury, applied for the transfer of the license from John Wright to himself of a public house known as the JENNY LIND, Hill Top, West Bromwich. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the applicant. He said he believed that Mr. Superintendent Holland intended to oppose the application on the ground of Mrs. Male’s misconduct in connection with a man named Hall, with whom she had eloped some eighteen months since. Her husband had forgiven her, and since her return she had conducted herself in every way most exemplary. He therefore contended that this unfortunate circumstance should not induce the Bench to deal harshly with applicant. Mr. Superintendent Holland said he had a simple duty to perform. He did so without the slightest prejudice in any way. He then gave several reasons why the transfer should not be granted, which he submitted should be brought to the knowledge of the Bench. The magistrates decided to refuse the application.”

John Male – see also PRINCE REGENT.

Midland Advertiser 9/3/1878

“Joseph Harper, landlord of the BRUNSWICK INN, Great Western Street, was summoned for being drunk. Police constable Brown said he saw the defendant drunk in Great Western Street, and creating a disturbance on the 26th ult. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1878 - Advert

"Inn (Wednesbury). The BRUNSWICK INN, opposite Great Western Railway Station, close to large ironworks; excellent vaults, smoke room, club room, &c. Wine licenses may be had. Immediate possession. Apply, E. B. Scholefield, Hotel and Public House Valuer, Church Street, Wednesbury."

1881 Census

49, Great Western Street – BRUNSWICK INN

- [1] George Oldham (50), beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Esther Oldham (50), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] William Oldham (20), son, tinman, unemployed, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Frederick Oldham (18), son, puddler, unemployed, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Samuel Oldham (10), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Herbert Oldham (8), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [7] Albert Oldham (6), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [8] Jane Smith (60), sister, widow, born Kinver:

1891 Census

49, Great Western Street

- [1] John Price (56), beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;
- [2] Mary Ann Price (55), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Richard Price (71), father-in-law, born Shropshire;
- [4] Ann Price (81), mother, born Whitchurch, Shropshire;
- [5] Clara Price Williams (21), niece, dressmaker, born Wednesbury:

William H. Davies, beer retailer, 49, Great Western Street. [1896], [1904], [1912]

Birmingham Daily Post 13/6/1900

At the West Bromwich County Court, yesterday, before Mr. R. C. E. Plumptre (deputy judge), Samuel Woodhall, brewer and wine and spirit merchant, of High Street, West Bromwich, sued *William Henry Davies*, of the BRUNSWICK INN, Victoria Street, Wednesbury, to recover 15s claimed by the plaintiff for his attendance as a witness on a subpoena in a case of *Davies v Osborne*, in which the present defendant appeared as the plaintiff. Mr. J. Clark appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Peace defended.

Mr. Peace raised the point that under the decisions in certain cases which he quoted the plaintiff was not entitled to any allowance for loss of time.

The Judge, who said it was a most important point, and one not easily decided owing to the numerous rules, held that, according to a decision in a recent case, and by inference from certain rules in bankruptcy, the plaintiff, in addition to travelling expenses, was entitled to remuneration for his loss of time. He, therefore, gave judgement for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed and costs. He also allowed the solicitor's fee, remarking that it was a difficult point to settle, and certainly needed professional assistance."

1901 Census

49, Great Western Street

- [1] William H. Davies (53), publican, born Studley, Warwickshire;
- [2] Rosannah Davies (60), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Percy H. Davies (17), son, coal dealer, born Princes End;
- [4] Fanny Hodson (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Leader 19/10/1906

"Samuel Davis, of Baker's Lodging House, West Bromwich; and Percy Davis, son of the licensee of the BRUNSWICK INN, Wednesbury, were summoned at the instance of the S.P.C.A., the former with working a horse, and the latter with causing the animal to be worked, in an unfit state on the 9th inst.

Police-constable Savery spoke to seeing the animal being worked by the defendant Samuel Davis in the Holyhead Road, Moxley, on the date in question. He stopped the horse, and upon examining it found a raw sore on its crest which was being pressed by the saddle. When witness saw Percy Davis in regard to the matter he said it was the defendant Samuel Davis's own fault, as he put the wrong saddle on the horse.

For the defence Mr. Frankham urged that the defendant Percy Davis was ignorant that the horse was being worked in an unfit condition.

The Stipendiary considered the case proved. Each of the defendants had been fined before, and Percy Davis would have to pay £2 and costs, in all £3 11s 6d; and Samuel Davis 7s 6d and costs, or suffer fourteen days' imprisonment, altogether £1 0s 6d."

1911 Census

49, Great Western Street

[1] William Henry Davies (64), beerhouse keeper, born Studley, Warwickshire;

[2] Rosehannah Davies (70), wife, married 43 years, born Dudley;

[3] Florence Staite (24), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/11/1912 - Advert

"Respectable Girl Wanted, for public house work; one to play piano preferred.

Mrs. Parker, BRUNSWICK INN, Wednesbury."

RESPECTABLE Girl Wanted, for public house work; one to play piano preferred.
- Mrs. Parker, Brunswick Inn, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/2/1921

"Wednesbury annual Licensing Sessions.....

The justices intimated that opposition would be offered to the renewal of the licenses of the MARKET HOUSE TAVERN, Church Street; BRUNSWICK INN, Great Western Street; and the COACH AND HORSES, Lower High Street, on the grounds of redundancy."

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

"Wednesbury Licensing Sessions.....

BRUNSWICK INN. Mr. Shepard (Tipton) represented Mr. J. T. Bayliss, license holder.

Superintendent Salt said the license was opposed on the grounds of redundancy. The license had been held since 1916, and no complaints and no convictions. It was a beerhouse and there were several and sufficient houses nearby. Mr. Shepard considered the superintendent's report satisfactory, as the house was in good condition, and the nearest house was 78 yards away.

The chairman said the BRUNSWICK INN license would be renewed."

1921 Census

49, Great Western Street – BRUNSWICK INN

[1] William James Thomas Bayliss (61), teemer of steel ingots, born Bilston;

[2] Fanny Bayliss (62), wife, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] William Francis Bayliss (24), son, invalid, born Wednesbury;

[4] Nelly Bayliss (21), daughter, milliner, born Wednesbury;

[5] Caroline Bayliss (18), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[6] Arthur Silvester (28), boarder, shunter, L.N.W.R. Bescot, born Gnosall, Staffordshire:

Walsall Observer 3/3/1928

"The BRUNSWICK beerhouse, Great Western Street, objected to on the ground of redundancy, was at the Wednesbury Adjourned Brewster Sessions yesterday, referred for compensation.....

Recalling that the magistrates refused to close the BRUNSWICK in 1921, Mr. E. Brown, for the owners, asked Police-sergeant Gillman if circumstances in the district had changed since. The sergeant replied that various works had been closed and other works had their own canteens. When he called at the BRUNSWICK at 11am recently there was no customer, and the licensee had said he sold two barrels and three dozen bottles per week.

Applying for the renewal of the license, Mr. Brown pointed out that there were two houses in close proximity owned by W. Butler & Co. Ltd., of Wolverhampton, and asked why one of these had not been selected as redundant instead of the BRUNSWICK, which is opposite the railway station."

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.....

BRUNSWICK INN, Wednesbury (*Thomas Atkiss*), ante-'69 beerhouse."

Dudley Chronicle 26/7/1928

"Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority.....

In the case of the BRUNSWICK INN, Wednesbury, an ante-69 beerhouse, there was no opposition to the justices decision, and the license was referred for compensation."

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.....

BRUNSWICK INN, Great Western Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licensee, *Thomas Atkiss*. Owners, J. Hanson & Sons 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.....

BRUNSWICK INN, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante 1869, £900.

The amounts awarded had been apportioned between the interested parties and paid."

Closed

Walsall Observer 13/4/1929

"Wednesbury Town Council meeting Plans approved include.....

Conversion of the BRUNSWICK INN, Great Western Street, now de-licensed, into two dwelling houses by Mr. Jacob Perry."

CLEARING OUT SALE.
At the BRUNSWICK INN, WEDNESBURY, near the Great Western Station.
BY EDWARD COX, on MONDAY NEXT, April the 21st.—the Surplus STOCK of WINES and COEDIALS, Spirit Barrels and Show Bottles, Barrels, large Lamp, FURNITURE, Chimney Glass, iron Bedsteads, and other Effects.
Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock.
Auctioneer's Office, Michael Street, West Bromwich.

INN (Wednesbury).—The Brunswick Inn, opposite Great Western Railway Station, close to large ironworks; excellent vaults, smoke room, club room, &c. Wine licenses may be had. Immediate possession.—Apply, E. B. Scholefield, Hotel and Public-house Valuer, Church Street, Wednesbury.

1878

BRUNSWICK INN.—To be LET, with immediate possession, near the Great Western Station, a compact neatly fitted-up PUBLIC HOUSE. Rent moderate.—Apply to Mr. Thos. Jones, King's Arms, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

1862

BUILDERS ARMS

Portway Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 3/3/1855 - Advert

“BUILDERS ARMS, Portway Lane, Wednesbury.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the above Public House, now doing a steady Business, which may be considerably improved, being situated in the midst of extensive Iron Works. The Premises are convenient, consisting of Stable, Piggeries, Brewhouse, and enclosed Yard, all well adapted for a Retail Beerhouse.

For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply upon the Premises; or to Mr. Lewis, 14, Oxford Street, Bilston.”

BUILDER'S ARMS, PORTWAY LANE, WEDNESBURY.
TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, the above PUBLIC HOUSE, now doing a steady Business, which may be considerably improved, being situated in the midst of extensive Iron Works. The Premises are convenient, consisting of Stable, Piggeries, Brewhouse, and enclosed Yard, all well adapted for a Retail Beerhouse.—For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply upon the Premises; or to Mr. Lewis, 14, Oxford Street, Bilston.

BULLS HEAD

29, (28), (28+29), Camp Hill Lane, (Campo Lane), High Bullen, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Espley
Walter Showell and Co. Ltd. [1896], [1921]
Ansells Ltd. [1961]

LICENSEES

Thomas Espley [1822] – [1830]
Joseph Edwards [1834] – [1835]
Mrs. Ann Edwards [1841] – **1858**);
James Edwards (**1858** – []
Joseph Edwards [] – **1859**);
Henry Thorp (**1859** – []
James Thorp [1860]
Henry Thorp [1861] – [1883]
Thomas Price [1891]
James Faulkner [1901]
Joseph Causer [1904]
George Henry Wearing [1908] – [1921]
C A Reynolds [] – **1924**)
Edward Freer [1932] – [1935]
John Enoch Gore [1939] – [1940]
William Fellows Knight [1943]
Tom Braine [1955]
Clarence Joseph Pearson Bagnall []
Daniel Charles Boden [] – **1961**);
Joseph James Roden Sisson (**1961** – **1964**);
Frederick Davies (**1964**);
Stanley Southall (**1964** – **1965**);
John Thomas Davidson (**1965**);
Henry Leonard Gulliver (**1965** – **1966**);
John Vincent Harrison (**1966** – []



NOTES

Campo Lane [1834]
Camphill Lane [1822], [1828], [1830], [1841], [1842], [1845], [1849], [1850], [1851], [1860], [1865], [1874]
29, Camp Hill Lane [1873], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1940]
28+29, Camphill Lane [1871], [1881]
28, Camp Hill Lane [1901], [1921]

Thomas Espley = Thomas Espeley

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/1/1823 - Advert

"Whereas Mary, wife of *Thomas Espley*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, has left him without provocation; this is to give notice, that he, the said *Thomas Espley*, will not hereafter be accountable for any debt or debts she may contract.

Thos. Espley. Wednesbury, Jan. 9, 1823."

Thomas Espley died in 1832, aged 62.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/2/1833 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Sept. Davis, on Friday next, Feb. 22, at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the BULLS HEAD INN, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford.....

Also the above-named Copyhold Public House, with three Copyhold Tenements adjoining, with Gardens, &c, now let to *Joseph Edwards*, Harling, Rogers, and Aston, belonging to the late *Thomas Espley*, in such lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.

Particulars may be had by application at the office of Mr. Heeley, Solicitor, in Walsall, or at the Auctioneer's, West Bromwich."

1841 Census

Camphill Lane

- [1] *Ann Edwards* (40), publican;
- [2] *George Edwards* (6), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Richard Edwards* (5), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Sarah Needham* (13), f.s.;
- [5] *Jane Adams* (25), f.s.:

Birmingham Journal 12/2/1848

"On Monday last, an inquest was held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, upon the body of *Edward Cornwall*, aged 20 years. It appeared that on Thursday night last, between eleven and twelve, the deceased was at work in Mr. Baylis's colliery, where also two other men and a boy were employed; and that whilst the deceased was cutting into an old hollow, excavated some years ago, a quantity of dirt fell upon him, and before he could be extricated from his perilous position, he was suffocated by the foul air. Verdict, Accidental Death."

1851 Census

Camphill Lane

- [1] *Ann Edwards* (53), widow, licensed victualler, born Coalport, Shropshire;
- [2] *George Edwards* (15), son, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Richard Edwards* (13), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ellen Madeley* (20), servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Richard Jones* (47), lodger, iron forgerman, born Coalport, Shropshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/2/1855

"On Saturday last three men and a boy, in the employ of Mr. Foley, boiler-maker, of Bilston, were engaged in repairing one of two balloon boilers, at Darlaston Green Colliery, of which Messrs. Mills are proprietors. The other boiler was used to keep the engine at work, when about half-past seven in the morning it suddenly exploded, the upper part being torn completely away from the lower, and carried to a great height, alighting at the distance of about eighty yards from the spot. The brickwork in which the boiler rested was scattered about the place, and the hot water contained in the boiler drenched those near. Some of the poor men who stood near were carried to a distance of twenty yards. Two were taken up dead, two others died shortly afterwards, and a fifth was so fearfully scalded that his recovery is very uncertain. A minute before the explosion the boy, whose name is *Joseph Rock*, and who is fourteen years old, was sent for a hammer which was underneath the boiler that was being repaired, and while getting it the explosion took place, and thus his life was saved.

Joseph Wood and Henry Gough are the two boiler-makers killed; two colliers, named John Harrison and Michael Nicholls, were also killed, and George Ford, a boiler-maker, is dreadfully scalded.

On Thursday, an inquest was opened on the body of Joseph Wood, at the BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner. A number of witnesses were examined. They were closely questioned as to the state of the boiler, which, though it had been in use some years, appeared to have been in good condition. No cause could be assigned for the accident, some of the witnesses ascribing it to want of water, others to excessive steam, and another to the steam clutch being frozen. The inquiry was adjourned till Thursday next."

[At the adjourned inquest a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.]

Henry Thorp = Henry Thorpe

Birmingham Daily Post 18/5/1859

"*Henry Thorpe*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Camphill Lane, Wednesbury, was summoned by the police on a charge of harbouring drunken and disorderly characters in his house. Sergeant M'Crea stated that on the 23rd April he went to the house of defendant at about half-past eleven o'clock, and there saw several men drinking, and in a state of intoxication. They were most disorderly in their behaviour. Police-constable Quincey and another constable gave confirmatory testimony. Defendant said that the charge was brought against him out of spite, as the police had a grudge against him. He denied that the men were disorderly, and called as witnesses his brewer and housemaid. The learned Magistrate, considering the charge full proved, ordered a fine of 40s and costs."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/10/1859

"A special licensing sessions was held on Wednesday, at the Scott Arms Inn, Great Barr.....

At the general annual licensing day, in August last, Mr. G. [sic] *Thorp*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, had his license suspended, he having been twice fined for suffering disorderly conduct in his house. The Bench now said that *Thorp* had had a narrow escape in not losing his license; but the Magistrates had decided to give him one more trial, and he really must look carefully to his conduct in future."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/1/1861

"At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Mr. Partridge and Mr. Jesson, Charles Paget was charged with uttering base coin. Mr. Bayley appeared for the defence.

It appeared that on Monday night the prisoner went to the house of Mrs. *Thorpe*, the BULLS HEAD INN, Camp Street, had some ale, and gave a bad florin in payment. Police-constable Woolley was in the house at the time, and the prisoner was given into custody. He said he was not aware that the coin was a bad one; but, as he was being taken to the station, he admitted that he had another bad coin in his possession, and, on being searched, a bad sixpence was found in his pocket. Mr. Bayley objected to the evidence as to what the prisoner told the police, on the ground that Baron Wilde had, at the last assizes, held that statements made by prisoners to the police should not be admitted unless the police had previously cautioned such prisoners. Mr. Partridge did not think the objection valid in this instance, as it appeared to him that it did not apply to statements voluntarily made. Such statements might at times be favourable to prisoners, and, therefore, it would be unjust to exclude them. A good character was given to the prisoner, and he was, on the application of Mr. Blayney, remanded to West Bromwich on Saturday next, his own recognizances in £20 being accepted for his appearance.

Abraham Walters, charged with attempting to rescue the prisoner Paget from the custody of police-constable Woolley, was fined 5s and costs, or 21 days' imprisonment."

1861 Census

Camphill Lane – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Henry Thorp* (34), licensed victualler and huckster, born Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire;
- [2] *Ellen Thorp* (45), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Charles Thorp* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ellen Thorp* (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Mary Ann Thorp* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Thomas Keeling* (21), step-son, engine fitter, born Scotland;
- [7] *Mary Burke* (16), general servant, born Ireland:

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/1/1862

“John and Mary Slater, of Bilston, both Irish, were charged with begging and committing a violent assault upon police-constable Birch. The officer stated that on Saturday night last he saw the defendants enter the BULLS HEAD public house in Wednesbury, and the male prisoner commenced to beg from the company in the house. Witness told him he must desist, but he refused to do so, and the officer attempted to take him into custody. As soon as he did so the male prisoner became very outrageous, kicked witness violently about his legs, knocked him down, and jumped on him, and ill-used him in such a brutal manner that he had since been attended by a doctor. The female prisoner also incited her husband in his ruffianly attack upon the officer by exclaiming, ‘Don’t go; we kill such — as them in Bilston.’ She also seized the complainant by the hair of his head, struck him several times, and by calling on a number of Irishmen, who were also in the house, not to ‘see a fellow countryman taken,’ she ultimately rescued her husband out of complainant’s custody.

The male prisoner was sent to prison for a month for begging, and fined £6, or three months’ imprisonment, for the assault. The woman was discharged with a caution.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1863

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, Mary and James White, husband and wife, were brought up in custody, the former charged with stealing and the latter with receiving, twelve packages of tea, several pieces of bacon, and various other grocery goods, the property of *Henry Thorpe*, licensed victualler and grocer, Camp Street, Wednesbury. The wife of the prosecutor identified the various articles produced, and stated that she weighed up several of the packages of tea on Thursday night last, and missed them, together with a piece of bacon, on the following morning. The other packages of tea and pieces of bacon she had missed at various times previously.

Thomas Keeling, son of the previous witness, stated that early on Friday morning the female prisoner entered the prosecutor’s house, and passed through the shop, remarking that she was going to call the servant girl. She returned in about ten minutes’ time, and left the house.

Sergeant Gasson deposed that he searched the prisoner’s house on Friday, and in the chimney of one of the bed rooms found a parcel containing 10¼lbs of tea and 1lb of sugar, while in various other parts of the house he discovered large quantities of tea, sugar, soap, and other groceries, made up in half-pound, quarter-pound, and one-ounce packages.

The prisoners were further charged – the female with stealing and her husband with receiving, knowing them to have been stolen – three sheets and a blanket, the property of the county.

Police-constable Asbury deposed that he searched the prisoner’s house in company with Sergeant Gasson, and found the three sheets produced between two mattresses in the bed room, and the blanket on the bed. The sheets bore the county mark, and had been stolen from a store-room at the Wednesbury Police Station, where the female prisoner had been employed as charwoman. The blanket had been stolen from one of the constable’s beds at the police station, and was identified by Sergeant Gasson, who corroborated the previous witness’s evidence.

Mr. Salter addressed the Bench for the defence, but the Magistrates decided to commit the prisoners for trial, the female on a charge of obtaining and the male on a charge of receiving. The Bench, however, consented to accept bail.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/4/1863

“Staffordshire Easter Sessions.....

Mary White and James White surrendered to their bail, to answer a charge of stealing some bacon and other provisions, the property of *Henry Thorpe*, at Wednesbury, on the 20th of March last. Mr. M’Mahon prosecuted; the prisoners were defended by Mr. Kenealy.

The female prisoner, who was washerwoman to the prosecutor, was seen on the day in question to enter the premises of Mr. *Thorpe* at an unseasonable hour. On the following morning the articles which the prisoners were alleged to have stolen, were missing. The prisoners’ house was searched, and the articles were found concealed in the chimney, and under the sink.

The Chairman decided that there was no evidence against the male prisoner; the female prisoner was found guilty. A second indictment against the prisoners, the female prisoner with stealing three sheets and one blanket, from the Police Station, at Wednesbury, on the 30th of March last, and the latter with feloniously receiving the same. No evidence was offered against the male prisoner. The female prisoner was occasionally employed at the Wednesbury Police Station, and she took advantage of her position to steal the articles mentioned in the indictment. She was found guilty, and sentenced to six months’ hard labour.”

Henry Thorp was also a provision dealer [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1865 - Advert

“Important Unreserved Sale, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Camp Hill Lane, Wednesbury.

To Publicans, Shopkeepers, Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. B. Scholefield, This Day (Monday), April 10, under distress for rent and Gas, and instructions from Mr. *Henry Thorpe*.

The Stock-in-Trade, comprising Brandies, Whiskey, Rum, Gin, Port and Sherry; 600 gallons of Ale, well-made English oak Ale Casks, from 36 gallons to 450 gallons; thirteen bushes of Malt, Pocket of prime Kent Hops, Malt Crusher, Ale Coolers, 120-gallon Copper Boiler, 18-bushel Mash Tub, mahogany Shop Counter, with ornamental front; superior 7-pull stop-tap Ale Machine, Copper Boiler, for Counter; Liquor Casks, painted Liquor Bottles, metal-top Tables, a very useful Gilt, in pig, a superior 10ft 6in Slate-bottomed Bagatelle Board, with Pockets, &c, complete. The Household Furniture comprises five prime feather Beds, four-post, tent, and French Bedsteads, Flock Mattresses, mahogany and painted Chests of Drawers, handsome mahogany-framed Sofa, mahogany Cheffioniere, a very fine-toned 6½-octave Cottage Piano-Forte, in mahogany case, by C. Scotcher; mahogany Centre Table, six Chairs, with loose horse-hair seats; eight-day Clock, Chimney Glass, Ornaments, oak Dresser, Couch, Pembroke Tables, together with the contents of a Grocer's Shop, &c, belonging to Mr. *Henry Thorpe*.

Sale to commence punctually at Ten o'clock am.

Auctioneer's Office, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

1871 Census

28, Camp Hill Lane

[1] *Henry Thorpe* (44), licensed victualler, born *Whitchurch*, *Buckinghamshire*;

[2] *Ellen Thorpe* (55), wife, born *Wednesbury*;

[3] *Ellen Thorpe* (20), daughter, barmaid, born *Wednesbury*;

[4] *Mary Ann Thorpe* (18), daughter, barmaid, born *Wednesbury*;

[5] *Charles Thorpe* (15), son, bricklayer, born *Wednesbury*;

[6] *Jane Shaw* (13), visitor, born *Birmingham*;

[7] *Ruth Nicholls* (13), domestic servant, born *Wednesbury*;

AND

29, Camp Hill Lane – BULLS HEAD

[1] *John Peel* (67), lodger, bricklayer, born *Market Drayton*, *Shropshire*;

[2] Not Known (55), carpenter, birthplace not known:

Wednesbury Herald 22/3/1873

“At a special meeting of the members of the Operative Bricklayers Society, held at the BULLS HEAD INN, the following resolution was unanimously adopted ‘That an increase of one halfpenny per hour in summer (7½d) and one penny per hour for twelve weeks in winter (8d) for red brick work; also one penny upon furnace work at 1s 6d per hour to be requested.....”

Cannock Chase Examiner 12/12/1874

“Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest on Saturday, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on the body of *John Holland*, aged 15, of *Union Street*, *Wednesbury*, who was employed at *Messrs. James Russell's Crown Tube Works*, as a drawer out for tube welding.

George Talbot, tube welder, said: I was with the deceased about 10.15am on the morning of the accident. He was drawing out a tube, and one end broke off and caught in the chain which worked by machinery, and the other end caught the deceased on the chest, throwing him over the wheel and fencing, which is four feet high. The lad fell head foremost amongst the wheels and was terribly injured. Dr. Kerr was sent for, and attended to his injuries. There was a large hole in his head; his thigh, arm and wrist were broken, and he died the same night at 10pm.

Mr. Johnson, manager, said: If the deceased had loosed his hold of the tube at once the accident would not have occurred.


The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Mail 10/2/1880 - Died

"On the 4th inst, aged 64 years, Ellen, the beloved wife of *Henry Thorp*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Camp Hill Lane, Wednesbury; respected by her family and friends."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1880 - Advert

"General Servant Wanted, clean, active, and good character.
BULLS HEAD INN, Camphill Lane, Wednesbury."

 GENERAL Servant Wanted, clean, active, and good character.—
Bull's Head Inn, Camphill Lane, Wednesbury.

1881 Census

28+29, Camphill Lane – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Henry Thorp* (54), widower, innkeeper, born Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire;
- [2] *Mary A. Perry* (28), daughter, housekeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Mary A. Perry* (3), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Julia Willmore* (21), domestic servant, born Worcester:

Wednesbury Herald 31/3/1883

"*Henry Thorpe*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Camp Hill Lane, was summoned for selling ale during prohibited hours on the 25th inst.

Police-constable Watson stated that he saw a man leave the defendant's house on the morning in question at half past nine o'clock with a quart bottle of ale in his possession.

Defendant said the ale was supplied by a visitor during his absence. He was very sorry that an offence had been committed in his house.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said defendant had kept the house 21 years, during which period not a single complaint had been made about him. The Bench said they believed it was by accident that the ale was supplied. A fine of 5s and costs was imposed."

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.....

Henry Thorpe, BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1889

"Yesterday, Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the BULLS HEAD INN, Camp Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of *John Wilson* (45), travelling draper, 57, High Bullen.

Edward Wilson, Tettenhall, brother of the deceased, said that he and his brother met in Wednesbury on Friday evening, and it was arranged the latter should visit Tettenhall on Sunday. The arrangement was not carried out, and on Monday morning witness came to Wednesbury, and reached his brother's lodgings before half-past nine. His brother was in bed, and he declined to get up and come out with witness, stating that he was not well; and after they had had some conversation about business matters, witness went to see their sister and brother-in-law in Holyhead Road. He returned about a quarter to eleven o'clock, and told his brother that their relatives said he could pull himself together and pay certain debts which he owed; but the deceased said he should not do anything of the sort, and witness had told him that it was all nonsense to say that, and endeavoured to induce him to get up and come out. The deceased refused, and told witness to go his rounds and return in the evening, and by that time he would decide what he would do with regard to the money. Witness went downstairs, and was taking up his samples, when he heard a noise which induced him to go upstairs again. He then saw his brother lying on his back in bed, with a wound in his forehead, and a revolver in his hand; and he was so terrified and excited that he ran off and fetched his brother-in-law, never thinking about sending for a doctor. When the brother-in-law came a doctor was sent for. Deceased had for some time given way to drink, and had spent much of his time at the BELL AND CASTLE INN, in Union Street. He had also been in the habit of taking laudanum to induce sleep. The night when witness slept with him he was apparently suffering from delirium tremens. When they met on Friday night the deceased produced a letter, dated 27th December, which he had received from Mr. J. E. Barton, 37, Union Passage, Birmingham, and handed it to witness. In it the writer stated that he was surprised and disappointed that the deceased had not called on the

previous Saturday, as he always kept his payments before, and advised him to leave off the miserable drink and pull himself together, otherwise his life would only end in misery, adding, 'I shall depend on your coming on Saturday.' The deceased, when he handed witness this letter, said he believed he owed Mr. Barton about £17. At the same time he showed the revolver produced, which he brought with him from America, on his return from that country about four years ago, and said he did not know what he should do with himself; but witness told him not to talk such nonsense about a bit of money, and that he could soon make himself right. A memorandum from Mr. W. Morris, Freeman Street, Birmingham, giving notice of a call for payment of account of £5 12s 1d, was found on the bed. John Ingram, a boy, who was at work in the shop below the room in which the deceased committed suicide, gave corroborative evidence, though in a confused way; and Police-constable Parton produced the revolver, one chamber of which was still loaded. A verdict of Temporary Insanity was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1890

"Yesterday, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Camp Hill, Wednesbury, Mr. E. Hooper held two inquests.

The first was on the body of George Challinor, one month old, child of parents living in 5 Court, Meeting Street. The mother took the child to bed with her on the night of the 26th inst, when it was apparently in good health; and in the morning she awoke and found that it was dead on her arm. She said her husband was a labourer, earning 3s 4d a day, and she had four children. A witness named Jones and Police-constable Platt gave him a good character for sobriety and steadiness A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.

The second enquiry was touching the death of John Hutchinson (61), blacksmith's striker, 24, Camp Hill Lane. The deceased went to bed on the night of Christmas Day with his reputed son, Arthur Turton, and for some time he lay awake talking to the boy, and advising him as to his future life. In the morning the boy noticed that he was cold, and covered him with more clothes, but after a time discovered that he was dead. Verdict, Death from Natural Causes."

1891 Census

Camphill Lane – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Thomas Price* (51), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Price* (52), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Jessie Price* (4), daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] *Susan Smith* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

1901 Census

28, Camp Hill Lane –BULLS HEAD TAVERN

- [1] *James Faulkner* (47), publican, born Burford, Oxfordshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Faulkner* (46), wife, born Burford, Oxfordshire;
- [3] *Edith Faulkner* (18), daughter, barmaid, born Cheltenham;
- [4] *John Faulkner* (17), son, labourer in ironworks, born Cheltenham;
- [5] *Eliza Faulkner* (10), daughter, school, born Cheltenham:

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

"At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, before Aldermen R. Williams, I. Oldbury, and Mr. F. W. Hackwood, a man named Edwin Hudson (50), of no fixed abode, but who has been living in apartments at Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, and with intent to defraud, between the 17th September and 3rd October.

The evidence showed that prisoner represented himself to be in the employ of the Midland Advertising Company, Wolverhampton, and canvassed for advertisements for the Wolverhampton Wanderers Fixture Card. He secured 2s 6d from Frank Turbot, manager of the South Staffordshire Coffee House, Market Place; 4s 6d from Benjamin E. Pewtriss, tobacconist, Market Place; 5s from Herbert E. Kent, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN; 5s from William H. Hadley, GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place; 2s 6d from *James Faulkner*, BULLS HEAD INN; 2s from William Macdonald, THREE SWANS INN; 5s from Frank Bateman, licensed victualler, High Street; 2s 6d from Edward Phillips, BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane; 2s 6d from John Jones, FORRESTERS ARMS, Portway Road; and 2s 6d from Albert Newbould, OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street.

Frederick L. Hodgetts, of the Penn Road, Wolverhampton, said he was a partner in the Midland Advertising Company. Prisoner had been in their employ, but left on the 27th April. He had not been connected with the company since, and was not authorised to canvass for advertisements.

Detective Truswell deposed to effecting the arrest of prisoner.

Alderman Oldbury (to prisoner): Didn't you consider you had a lot of 'flats' to deal with in Wednesbury? I am surprised that tradesmen should give their money away without even asking for a receipt. They must be very confiding.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Sessions, which commence on Tuesday next."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1901

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Edwin Hudson, 50, traveller, pleaded guilty to having obtained various sums of money by false pretences at Wednesbury, on September 17. There were previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sentenced to three years' penal servitude."

1911 Census

28+29, Camp Hill Lane

- [1] George Henry Wearing (54), manager of hotel, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Georgina Wearing (52), wife, married 34 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Rose Wearing (21), daughter, assistant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Jon Wearing (15), son, assistant, born Wednesbury:

Rose Wearing married Frederick Charles Poulton in the 3rd quarter of 1920.

1921 Census

28, Camp Hill Lane

- [1] George Henry Wearing (64), hotel manager, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Georgina Wearing (63), wife, home duties, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Rose Poulton (33), daughter, boarder, home duties, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Frederick Charles Poulton (34), son-in-law, boarder, turner, out of work, born Wednesbury:

South Staffordshire Times 5/7/1924

"An interesting ceremony took place at the BULLS HEAD, Camphill Lane, Wednesbury, on Tuesday night, when, at a meeting of the Victory Lodge (G.L.E.) of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Bros. J. E. Hunt and Sidney Hill were raised to the second degree. The room had been tastefully decorated for the occasion by the hostess Mrs. *Reynolds*, and Br. J. Dain, K.O.M, Provincial Grand Primo of the Walsall and South Staffs Province, presided over a large attendance....."

South Staffordshire Times 30/8/1924

"An interesting ceremony took place at the BULLS HEAD INN, Camphill Lane, Wednesbury, on Thursday evening, when Mr. and Mrs. *C. A. Reynolds*, who have been the tenants of that house for some time were made a presentation by the many customers frequenting their establishment, on the occasion of their leaving the town. Mr. *Reynolds* received from the gentlemen a lovely case of razors, and Mrs. *Reynolds* was presented by the ladies with a handsome clock. Mr. and Mrs. *Reynolds* both thanked the donors for their kindness. They expressed the hope that although they were leaving the town, their friendship would continue. The evening was spent in harmony."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/5/1935

"*Edward Freer*, aged 67, licensee of the BULLS HEAD, Camphill Lane, Wednesbury, was today found hanging from the banister. He was dead. It is stated that his wife went downstairs to prepare his breakfast, and returning to his room, found him hanging from the banister. *Freer* had been ill for about two years, and underwent an operation shortly before Christmas. He has been in the licensed trade for 14 years, and previously held a license at Willenhall."

Walsall Observer 7/1/1939

“Established at Wednesbury twelve months ago and now, with a membership of 163, covering also the neighbouring areas of Walsall, Bloxwich, Darlaston, Wednesfield, Willenhall and Wolverhampton, the Wednesbury and district branch of the Old Contemptibles Association held its first annual meeting at the BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury, on Wednesday evening.....”

1939 Register

Camp Hill Lane – BULLS HEAD

[1] John E. Gore, date of birth 12/5/1894, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Elizabeth Mary Gore, dob 11/1/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Walsall Observer 10/7/1943

“Failing to perform fire prevention duties, three defendants – *William Fellows Knight*, licensee of the BULLS HEAD INN, Camp Hill Lane, Wednesbury; Dorthy Jacques, of 271, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury; and John Edwin Legge, of 13, Meeting Street, Wednesbury – appeared before the Stipendiary (Mr. B. G. Grimley) at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday.

It was stated that *Knight* went to live in Wednesbury after the registration had taken place. He was told to register and did so, but it was found that he did not report for duty and no explanation was given for his absence. *Knight*, giving evidence, said he went to hospital on March 18 suffering from appendicitis, and was discharged on April 6. He served in the last war for four years and nine months, and was discharged suffering from gas and shell shock. He was a 100 per cent disability man and he still received a disability pension.

Alfred Ernest Allen, fire guard officer for Wednesbury, said that he interviewed defendant last November about his absence. Defendant told him he was ill and could not carry out his duties. After the interview he wrote two letters, and after receiving them defendant did his duty for a time. He had not known that defendant was a 100 per cent disability man. He had advised him to go before the hardship committee, but he had not done so. Defendant said it had slipped his memory.

This case was adjourned for 14 days, so that defendant might go before the hardship committee.....”

Walsall Observer 4/3/1944

“Two Wednesbury vicars and a Roman Catholic priest were among a number of Wednesbury people who were ordered by the Stipendiary (Mr. B. G. Grimley) at Wednesbury on Tuesday to pay fines for obtaining more coal than they were entitled to. Defending Mr. Walter Randle, trading as F. C. Randle and Co., coal merchants, of Wednesbury, summoned for supplying the coal, Mr. O. L. Bergendorf said their stocks of coal were so plentiful that they requested the colliery company not to send any more supplies for the time being; but the colliery company replied that they could not suspend the supplies and that his clients must have the coal. Those summoned for unlawfully obtaining coal they were not entitled to were.....

William Fellows Knight, BULLS HEAD INN.....

Randle was fined £5 for each of the twelve offence, 4s costs on two delivery note offences, and £16 5s 6d costs, making a total of £76 9s 6d.....”

[*William Fellows Knight* was fined 30s.]

Bromyard News 24/3/1955

“Licensing business took up most of the Bromyard Justices; time at the Magistrates Court on Tuesday. Temporary orders were issued to.....

Mr. *Tom Braine*, BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury, for the Hop Pole Hotel, Bromyard.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1960

“Bankruptcy. Receiving Orders.....

Clarence Joseph Pearson Bagnall, 235, Washwood Heath Road, Saltley, tool-setter, lately carrying on business at the BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury. Order dated October 24.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/7/1962 - Notice

"Notice is Hereby Given that the Minister of Housing and Local Government, in pursuance of the powers vested in him by the Housing Act, 1957, on the 18th day of July, 1962, confirmed with modifications the 'Borough of Wednesbury (Russell Street Clearance Areas Nos.1-4) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1961,' submitted to him by the Wednesbury Borough Council authorising them to purchase compulsorily under Section 43 of the said Act the lands described in the Schedule to this notice, which lands are lands in areas declared to be Clearance Areas by a resolution of the Council, dated the 25th day of July, 1960, and also lands surrounded by or lands adjoining the said clearance areas.....

Lands outside the clearance areas.....

BULLS HEAD INN, Camphill Lane."

WHEREAS MARY, wife of Thomas Espley, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, has left him without provocation;—this is to give notice, that he, the said Thomas Espley, will not hereafter be accountable for any debt or debts she may contract.

THOS. ESPLEY.

Wednesbury, Jan. 9, 1823.

1823

TWO be SOLD by AUCTION, by SEPT. DAVIS, on Friday next, Feb. 22, at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the Bull's Head Inn, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, all those SIX FREEHOLD HOUSES, with their Appurtenances, situate in Union-street, in Wednesbury aforesaid, and now occupied by Jos. Hackwood, — Oldbury, Earp, Smith, and B. Hackwood.

Also the above-named Copyhold Public House, with three Copyhold Tenements adjoining, with Gardens, &c. now let to Joseph Edwards, Harling, Rogers, and Aston, belonging to the late Thomas Espley, in such lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.

Particulars may be had by application at the office of Mr. Heeley, Solicitor, in Walsall, or at the Auctioneer's, West Bromwich.

1833

IMPORTANT UNRESERVED SALE,
At the BULL'S HEAD INN, CAMP HILL LANE,
WEDNESBURY.
TO PUBLICANS, SHOPKEEPERS, PARTIES FURNISHING, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, THIS DAY (Monday), April 10, under distress for rent and Gas, and instructions from Mr. Henry Thorpe: the STOCK-IN-TRADE, comprising Brandies, Whiskey, Rum, Gin, Port and Sherry; 600 gallons of Ale, well-made English oak Ale Casks, from 36 gallons to 450 gallons; thirteen bushels of Malt, Pocket of prime Kent HOPS, Malt Crusher, Ale Coolers, 120-gallon Copper Boiler, 18-bushel Mash Tub, mahogany Shop Counter, with ornamental front; superior 7-pull stop-tap Ale Machine, Copper Boiler, for Counter; Liquor Casks, painted Liquor Bottles, metal-top Tables, a very useful Gilt, in pig; a superior 10ft. 6in. Slate-bottomed BAGATELLE BOARD, with Pockets, &c., complete. The HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE comprises five prime feather Beds, four-post, tent, and French Bedsteads, Flock Mattresses, mahogany and painted Chests of Drawers, handsome mahogany-framed Sofa, mahogany Cheffonere, a very fine-toned 61-octave Cottage PIANO-FORTE, in mahogany case, by C. Scotcher; mahogany Centre Table, six Chairs, with loose horse-hair seats; eight-day Clock, Chimney Glass, Ornaments, oak Dresser, Couch, Pembroke Tables, together with the contents of Grocer's Shop, &c., belonging to Mr. Henry Thorpe.

Sale to commence punctually at Ten o'clock a.m.
Auctioneer's Office, Church Street, Wednesbury.

1865

BULLS HEAD

West Bromwich Road, Tame Bridge, The Delves, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. [1927]
Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Adams [1840] – [1851]
Henry Russell [1860] – **1862**;
Samuel Wilkes **(1862 – 1867)**;
Leonard Dursley **(1867 – [])**
James Wilkes [1868] – [1870]
Leonard Dursley [1871] – [1872]
James Dursley [1871] – [1892]
Joseph Parker **(1893)**;
Mrs. Sarah Ann Parker **(1893 – 1896)**
Miss Catherine Conlan [1900] – [1912]
John Taylor [1901] – [1904]
Joseph Humphries [1908]
Thomas Joseph Johnson [1916] – [1921]
Edward Toon [1920] – **1924**);
Mrs. Kate Toon **(1924 – [])**
Isaiah Thompson [] – **1927**);
Arthur Wesson **(1927 – [])**
Daniel 'Dan' Smith [1928] – [1932]
Mrs. Lily Frances Sandford [1947] – [1953]
Mrs. Lilian Jones **(1955 – 1961)**;
Edward Goodwin **(1961 – 1963)**;
Albert Frederick Hutton Clewer **(1963 – 1965)**;
George Horace Seaman **(1965 – 1966)**;
Frederick Hutton Clewer **(1966 – 1967)**;

NOTES

RED COW [1861]

PURSUANT to the Act to further Amend the
Law of Property, and to relieve Trustees,
22 and 23 Vict., c. 35.

IN THE MATTER OF JOB WILKES, DECEASED.

THE Creditors and Others having Claims upon
the Estate of JOB WILKES, late of the Old Still
Inn, Digbeth, Walsall, in the County of Stafford, Licen-
sed Victualler, deceased, who died in the month of
September, 1865, and whose Will was proved in the
Lichfield District Registry on the 10th day of October,
1865, by SAMUEL WILKES, of Tame Bridge, in the
parish of Wednesbury, in the said County, Licensed
Victualler, and JAMES GRAY, late of Hednesford, but
now of Wolverhampton, respectively in the County of
Stafford, Farmer, the Executors of the said Will, are on
or before the 24th day of June, 1866, to send in the
particulars of their Debts or Claims to the said Execu-
tors at the Office of their Solicitor, MR. SAMUEL
WILKINSON, jun., No. 7, BRIDGE STREET, WAL-
SALL, or in default thereof the said Executors will
after the said 24th day of June, 1866, proceed to dis-
tribute the Assets of the deceased, amongst the persons
entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of
which they shall then have notice.

Dated this 8th day of March, 1866.

SAML. WILKINSON, JUNR.,
Walsall,
Solicitor to the Executors.

1866

BULL'S HEAD INN, TAME BRIDGE

MR. J. DURSLEY

Wishes to thank his Customers for their kind support,
and begs to inform them that he has engaged

PIANO AND HARP

For every MONDAY during the Summer. Every
accommodation.

—
SPIRITS DIRECT FROM BOND.
FINE HOME-BREWED ALES.

1886

DANCING! DANCING! DANCING!

JAMES DURSLEY,
BULL'S HEAD INN,

WEST BROMWICH ROAD, TAME BRIDGE,

Begs to inform the Public that he has OPENED
his large Room for

DANCING ON MONDAY EVENINGS.

—
The Room can be secured for Private Parties on
other Evenings.

—
A choice selection of ALES, WINES, and SPIRITS, &c.

1888

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/2/1833

“On Tuesday last, John Barber, aged twenty-five, and Thomas Startin, aged twenty-one, residents of Walsall, repaired to a field in the vicinity of that town, accompanied by their seconds, &c, to decide a pugilistic engagement previously entered into between the parties. At the end of the 42nd round both the combatants fell, and Startin being undermost, was severely hurt by the elbow of Barber coming in contact with the side of his neck; the 43rd round was, however, fought, but, on preparing for the 44th, the unfortunate Startin suddenly sunk his head upon the shoulder of his second (his brother), and never spoke afterwards. He was conveyed to the nearest public house, the BULLS HEAD, at Tame Bridge, where he expired almost immediately. Several persons are implicated as accessories in this melancholy affair, some of whom, with Barber, are in custody. Barber is much bruised about the head. No money was depending upon the issue of this combat. An inquest, we understand, will be held this day (Saturday).”
[At the inquest a verdict of Manslaughter was returned against John Barber and Thomas Bedworth, who were committed to jail, and against the four sidemen who had absconded.

At the Staffordshire Assizes, in March 1833, Barber was charged with killing and slaying Startin, and the others as accessories. The jury found them not guilty.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/7/1837 - Advert

“Sale of young and useful Waggon Horses, at the BULLS HEAD, Tame Bridge, near Walsall.
To be Sold by Auction, by Farrington and Son, without reserve, on Tuesday, the 25th of July instant, at the BULLS HEAD, Tame Bridge, eleven valuable Waggon Horses, the property of Mr. W. Riddles.
The above horses have lately been worked on the Grand Junction Railway, and are known to be capital workers, and in consequence of the railway being completed, the proprietor has no further use for them.
The sale to commence at three precisely.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/1/1840 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Timber, at the Delves Green Farm, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford.
To be Sold by Auction, by Farrington and Son, at the house of Mr. *James Adams*, the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, near Walsall, on Tuesday, the 4th day of February next, a five o’clock in the afternoon.....”

1841 Census

Tame Bridge

- [1] *James Adams* (50), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Adams* (50), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Sarah Adams* (20), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Matilda Salisbury* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Mary Stevenson* (55), born Staffordshire;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/12/1841

“In our last we had the painful task of recording that a burglary and murder had been committed very early in the morning of the 1st instant, at Delves Green, in the vicinity of Walsall, on the road leading to West Bromwich, and that the victim was a respectable old man, named Matthew Adams, 74 years of age, who was the only inmate of the dwelling burglariously broken into.....

An inquest was summoned to meet at the BULLS HEAD, at Tame Bridge, which is kept by Mr. *James Adams*, the son of the deceased.....

Mr. Thomas Pitt, surgeon, Walsall, visited Mr. Adams. He found him in a state of insensibility, accompanied with great exhaustion, and directed his attention to Mr. Adams’s head, upon the left side of which he discovered two contused wounds, both attended with extensive fracture of the skull. The deceased lingered throughout the day in a dying condition, and expired about seven o’clock the same evening. On the Friday morning following, witness, by order of the coroner, made a post mortem examination of the body Witness considered the fractures the cause of death, and they were such as would be produced by some blunt instrument.....

The Jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against Joseph Wilkes, as principal in the first degree, and against James Wilkes, Thomas Boswell, and George Giles, as principals in the second degree; and the prisoners were forthwith committed upon the coroner’s warrant to take their trial at the ensuing assizes.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/3/1842

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Joseph Wilkes (stated in the calendar to be 17, but who appeared to be under that age), James Wilkes, his brother, aged 25, Thomas Boswell, aged 21, and George Giles, aged 21, were indicted for the wilful murder of Matthew Adams, on the 1st December last, at the parish of Wednesbury.....

Matthew Adams, the deceased, an old man between seventy and eighty years of age, had by his labour and frugality obtained a comfortable independence. He had erected four houses at a place called Delves Bank, in the parish of Wednesbury, in one of which he resided, and the others were occupied by tenants. On 30th November the deceased had been to a place called Bell Green, and on his return retired to rest about half-past ten o'clock. A person named Brown lived in one of the four cottages built by the deceased, and which adjoined each other. During the night he was awakened by a cry of murder, on which he immediately got up, and went to the back part of the house which was occupied by the deceased, and there found that the tiles had been removed from the roof of a low pantry, and a hole made sufficiently large to admit the body of a man; he went through the hole into the pantry into the house, and found the deceased desperately wounded standing near the front door, which was closed. It would be shown in evidence that the prisoner Joseph Wilkes had inflicted the deadly injury with a hammer which he found on the premises of the deceased, and a concert on the part of the prisoners. The grand-daughter of the deceased was about to be married, and the old man was to have given her £100 as a marriage portion, and it was understood by the prisoners that the money so to be given was in the house of the deceased.....

The Jury consulted for about ten minutes, and then found Joseph Wilkes guilty of the murder, and acquitted the other three prisoners.

His Lordship, after putting on the fatal coif, addressed the prisoner, ‘Joseph Wilkes, You have been convicted upon evidence, which could leave no doubt upon the minds of either judge or jury, that you are guilty of the heinous crime, for which you have been tried, and for which you will have to forfeit your life Your earthly trial is over. Prepare for a more fearful tribunal beyond the grave. It only remains for me to pass upon you the awful sentence of the law, which is that you be taken to the place from whence you came; and from thence to the place of execution; and that you be there hanged by the neck until you are dead; that your body be buried within the precincts of the prison; and may Almighty God have mercy on your soul!’”

AND

Morning Advertiser 4/4/1842

“Execution of Joseph Wilkes at Stafford.

Saturday morning, at eight o'clock, this wretched young man, who was indicted, with others, for the wilful murder of Matthew Adams, at Delves Bank, near Wednesbury, paid the forfeiture of his crime on the drop in front of the county gaol. His associates, James Wilkes (his brother), Thomas Boswell, and George Giles, were acquitted of the murder, the Jury taking a very merciful view of the case with reference to them. They were afterwards convicted of burglary. James Wilkes and Boswell were sentenced to transportation for life, and Giles for 15 years.”

1851 Census

Tame Bridge – BULLS HEAD

[1] *James Adams* (63), victualler and farmer of 14 acres, born Wednesfield;

[2] *Elizabeth Adams* (63), wife, born Rushall;

[3] *Elizabeth A. Wilkes* (8), grand-daughter, visitor, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] *Matilda Haycock* (30), victualler's general servant, born Willenhall;

[5] *John Haddick* (17), lodger, iron moulder, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1861

“District Annual Licensing Day.....

The list of parties fined for various breaches of the law it appeared was rather less than that of preceding years, and comprised of the following persons.....

Henry Russell, RED COW, Wednesbury, open on a Sunday, fined 10s and costs; decision on renewal of the license adjourned to the 26th September.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/10/1861

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held on Thursday last.....

The following licensed victuallers, fined for various infringements of the law, and whose cases had been ordered to stand over from the former licensing meeting in August last, were called before the Magistrates, and after their respective cases had been referred to they were admonished and warned that a second offence would be of serious consequence.....

Mr. *H. Russell*, BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Free Press 10/3/1866 - Advert

“In the matter of Job Wilkes, Deceased,

The Creditors and Others having Claims upon the Estate of Job Wilkes, late of the OLD STILL INN, Digbeth, Walsall, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, deceased, who died in the month of September, 1865, and whose Will was proved in the Lichfield District Registry on the 10th day of October, 1865, by *Samuel Wilkes*, of Tame Bridge, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the said County, Licensed Victualler, and James Gray, late of Hednesford, but now of Wolverhampton, respectively in the County of Stafford, Farmer, the Executors of the said Will, are on or before the 24th day of June, 1866, to send in the particulars of their Debts or Claims to the said Executors at the Office of their Solicitor, Mr. Samuel Wilkinson, junior, 7, Bridge Street, Walsall, or in default thereof the said Executors will after the said 24th day of June, 1866, proceed to distribute the Assets of the deceased, amongst the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have notice.

Dated this 8th day of March 1866. Samuel Wilkinson, junior, Walsall, Solicitor to the Executors.”

Leonard Dursley – see also COTTAGE, Wood Green.

1871 Census

Delves – BULLS HEAD

[1] *James Dursley* (28), hoe maker, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Betsey Dursley* (33), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Harriet Dursley* (18), sister, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Leonard Dursley* (1), son, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 26/4/1871

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday.....

Leonard Dursley, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, was charged with allowing ale to be consumed on his premises during prohibited hours. Police-constable Hill deposed that on Sunday, the 16th inst, he went to the defendant’s house at five minutes past twelve o’clock, and in the bar found five men sitting, with three glasses full of ale before them, and several empty ones. He asked for an explanation, and the defendant’s brother told him that the men asked him for a drop of ale, and he thought it better to supply it. He also asked Hill if he would have a glass himself, but the officer was proof against the temptation, and gave such information as led to the present charge. The plea for the defence was that the men were bona fide travellers; but the Bench thought otherwise, and imposed a fine of 40s and costs.”

Wednesbury Herald 20/9/1879

“On Thursday morning Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, on the body of a male child, which was discovered in a drain at the Tame Bridge. A boy named Benjamin Bayley stated that as he was walking through some fields he noticed a satchel in the drain by the side of the footpath. He opened it, and found that it contained the dead body of a child wrapped in a handkerchief.

The jury found a verdict of Found Dead, but there was no evidence to show whether the child was born alive or not.”

1881 Census

Tame Bridge

[1] *James Dursley* (38), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Betsey Dursley* (43), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Leonard Dursley* (11), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Annie Dursley* (5), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Harriet Dursley* (28), sister, domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

West Bromwich Weekly News 12/11/1881

“Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest on Wednesday, at the STONE CROSS INN, touching the death of Joseph Martin (28), platelayer, of Birmingham, whose body was found on the London and North Western Railway near Bescott Junction, on Friday night. It appeared that deceased was working the earlier part of Friday with an extra gang, but owing to the wretched weather the men left work and went to the BULLS HEAD INN, Wednesbury. Deceased left to catch a train to Birmingham, and was not seen alive again. His head was completely smashed. The jury returned an Open Verdict.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 17/12/1881

“On Wednesday, an inquest was held before Mr. E. Hooper, at the STONE CROSS INN, relative to the death of James Green (39), living at Newton Road, who met with his death on Saturday, near Bescot Station. The evidence went to show that the deceased had been at work all day on Friday, and on Friday night he was on duty as a fog-signal man. He continued at work all day on Saturday. Shortly before four o’clock in the afternoon he called at the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, and had two pints of ale. When there, he complained that he felt ill and giddy. He shortly afterwards left, and was not seen again alive. The body was found the following morning lying in the four foot, horribly mutilated.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased had been Accidentally Killed on the railway, but by what train there was no evidence to show.”

Walsall Observer 8/3/1884

“Walsall Town Council.....

The following resolutions, recommended by the Sewage Farm Committee, were unanimously agreed to.....

‘That a new footpath be made through the sewage farm from the West Bromwich Road to the BULLS HEAD at Tame Bridge, in substitution for the existing footpath, and that the lower part of such footpath and the road at the end of the osier beds be fenced off with unclimbable hurdles, at an estimated cost of £154 5s 0d.’

Councillor Newman explained that the greater part of the cost would be for fencing, but that the alteration was made in consequence of the agreement come to with the Wednesbury Local Board.”

Walsall Observer 26/6/1886 - Advert

“BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge.

Mr. *J. Dursley* wishes to thank his Customers for their kind support, and begs to inform them that he has engaged Piano and Harp for every Monday during the Summer. Every accommodation.

Spirits Direct from Bond. Fine Home-Brewed Ales.”

Walsall Advertiser 2/6/1888 - Advert

“Dancing! Dancing! Dancing!

James Dursley, BULLS HEAD INN, West Bromwich Road, Tame Bridge, begs to inform the Public that he has Opened his large Room for Dancing on Monday Evenings.

The Room can be secured for Private Parties on other Evenings.

A choice selection of Ales, Wines, and Spirits, &c.”

Walsall Advertiser 21/6/1890 - Death

“On the 20th inst, aged 21 years, Leonard, only son of *James* and *Elizabeth Dursley*, of Tame Bridge.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/3/1891

“*James Dursley*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, near Wednesbury, was charged with two summonses with selling ale during prohibited hours, and also for opening his premises. Mr. W. S. Smith prosecuted and Mr. J. G. Thursfield defended.

The evidence of two police-officers named Eden and Carter showed that on Sunday morning, the 15th ult, they went in disguise on to a footpath near the defendant’s house at about ten o’clock, and when near a fence which separated the defendant’s garden from the road Carter asked a man named Poole, who was employed by the defendant as a waiter, for a pint of ale, and he was supplied without being questioned as to where he came from. Upon the other officer asking for a pint of ale, Poole told them to have a walk round and come again. Upon returning in the course of ten minutes they again asked for more drink, and Poole advised them to be careful, at the same time remarking that the ‘coppers’ were about. When they asked for beer a third time they were asked where they came from, and

they replied Wednesbury, and Poole then told them that they would not be supplied with more drink as the ‘coppers’ were about. Shortly afterwards Police-constable Parton and Detective Platt put in an appearance. In reply to the Stipendiary the officers stated that from 50 to 60 persons were supplied with drink, the majority of whom were not asked if they were bona fide travellers.

The Stipendiary said this was one of the worst cases of illicit trading he had ever had before him. As the defendant had hitherto borne a good character, he should only convict in one case, and the defendant would be fined £10, including costs.”

1891 Census

The Delves – BULLS HEAD

[1] *James Dursley* (48), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Betsey Dursley* (53), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Anne Dursley* (15), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

Mr. W. S. Smith applied for the renewal of the license of *James Dursley*, of the BULLS HEAD, Tame Bridge. The ground of opposition was that the applicant was convicted in March last of selling in prohibited hours. Mr. Smith said the applicant had kept the house for twenty years without complaint, except in the one instance, and that was due to a waiter. He would make every effort to conduct the house properly in future Granted, with a caution.”

James Dursley – see also UNION, Union Street.

Joseph Parker married Mrs. *Sarah Ann Clark*, widow, on 5th July 1893.

He died on 17th December 1893.

Joseph Parker – see also RAILWAY, Oldbury Road, Smethwick, and SANDWELL, High Street, West Bromwich.

Black Country Bugle 6/5/2020

Article by Ken Ford

“I have looked after All Saints Church clock for the past 19 years. The clock was donated on 5th March 1905 by the wife of *Joseph Parker*, in his memory, twelve years after his death.....

The clock was made by J. Smith and Sons of Derby Smith of Derby (the same firm) have informed me that in their ledger is an entry dated 4th March 1905 for ‘a new clock with an old, restored dial, cost £81 2s 6d’.....

Joseph Parker was born in 1839 in Smethwick and started to work as an errand boy at Henry Mitchell’s Crown brewery in Oldbury Road, Smethwick. He later became a publican at the RAILWAY TAVERN in Galton Street, and was recorded at the BIRMINGHAM HOUSE INN on High Street, West Bromwich, in 1871. His first wife Emma died in 1892, and there is no evidence of any children. A year later *Joseph* married *Sarah Ann Clark* at Christ Church, West Bromwich. She was 47 and he was 54. They moved to the BULLS HEAD INN at Tame Bridge, but sadly *Joseph* died later that year, aged 55. *Joseph* was buried at Christ Church with his first wife Emma, at the same church where he had married *Sarah* less than six months before. *Joseph* left a staggering £9,422 18s 1d to John Edwin Mitchell, brewer; John Edward Cambers, accountant; to his widow *Sarah*, and Ada Edwards, his niece. *Sarah Parker* continued to run the BULLS HEAD INN until 1896.

Ada Edwards married brewer Charles Darby in 1893, and her legacy enabled Charles to purchase the BUSH INN from his father George. He was soon expanding his business and building his own brewery at Greets Green which became the most successful brewery in West Bromwich.

The BULLS HEAD INN was in a rural setting, situated on the road to Walsall near to the River Tame, and was then in the borough of Wednesbury. It later became part of West Bromwich when the boundary was moved to just past the Yew Tree Estate.....

Christ Church was decommissioned on 31st May 1978 due to a falling congregation In 1987 the remains were all removed and brought to All Saints Church and reinterred near to the Jubilee extension graveyard. Mrs. *Parker* or anyone else would not have known that after 82 years any remains of *Joseph* and his first wife Emma would move to the same site as the clock donated in his name!”

Walsall Observer 27/4/1895

"A Concert and Entertainment was given in the school-room, The Delves, on Monday evening, in aid of the children's trip which is proposed to be given to them during the summer. There was a very good attendance, although the bad state of the weather prevented a great many from attending.....

The following programme was rendered in a very pleasing manner, several of the lady performers being encored..... The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies, who had been so kind to give their services; and also to Mrs. *Parker*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, who had generously lent them the pianoforte for the evening, which had saved them several shillings. This was carried amidst loud applause, and the singing of the National Anthem closed the proceedings."

Sarah Ann Parker died on 30th July 1930 and was buried at Heath Lane Cemetery, West Bromwich, in the same plot as her first husband Christopher Clark. She left £4,587 8s 7d to Harry Rosco Laban, solicitor's clerk, and Charles Darby, brewer.

Walsall Advertiser 11/11/1899

"On Thursday evening a dinner was given at the BULLS HEAD HOTEL, West Bromwich Road, to a number of friends, in all about fifty. The catering, which was in the hands of the hostess, Miss *Conlan*, was everything that could be desired, and after justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr. Smith, of The Delves, was voted to the chair, whilst the vice-chair was occupied by Mr. Inshaw, manager for P. Collins Limited. The following were the principal items from the programme rendered. Song, 'Soldiers of the Queen,' Mr. Thornley; song, 'As you hair grows whiter,' Mr. Poole, junior; recitation, 'Dream of Eugene Aram,' B. Ross; pianoforte solo, Mr. Breeze; song, 'Sailing,' Mr. Smith; song, 'Our Lodger,' Mr. Mellor; piano solo, Mr. Cooper; song, 'Got a long way to go,' Mr. Thornley; song, 'Blue Eyed Nellie,' Mr. W. Poole; recitation, Mr. B. Ross; song, 'The Welsh Fusiliers,' Mr. Poole, junior. Toasts were also given, that of the hostess, Miss *Conlan*, being received with great enthusiasm. 'Our Soldiers in South Africa,' 'The Chairman and Vice-Chairman' were also toasted, and a very pleasant evening was spent."

Walsall Advertiser 11/8/1900

"Private Joe Pattison, of the 2nd Manchester regiment, whose residence was with his aunt, Miss *Conlan*, BULLS HEAD INN, the Delves, writes home from Hammonia, Orange River Colony, under date July 8th.

Our voyage out here was a very good one, the first three days only being anything like rough. It was, however, very lonely, as we only touched land twice before reaching Port Elizabeth, once at Las Palmas, where we arrived at 12 midnight, when most of the men were asleep, and once at Cape Town, where we waited about eight hours for orders which sent us to Port Elizabeth. There we disembarked. Our food on board was very good; we had bread three or four times a week, butter or jam daily for breakfast and tea, fresh meat, salt meat, pork and tinned meat in turn for dinner. Beer we could buy three times a week for 3d per pint, but were only allowed one pint each issue. There was also a free issue of rum twice a week, on Sunday and Wednesday. Concerts were numerous as we had good talent on board, and there was also band playing every evening. Although we had a splendid voyage it was marred by five deaths, three of the Royal West Kent and two of ours. We got a good reception on landing at Port Elizabeth and were just in time to see the Guards leave for the front. We stopped for two days, leaving for the front by train. After travelling with little stoppage we arrived at Edinburgh on Good Friday. On the way up we saw hundreds of ostriches. From Edinburgh we marched, with our horses, to a place called Reddersburg, reaching there about 7am. It was a very rough march, about 18 miles over a bad country, crossing rivers waist-deep, and the troops were half asleep, as we had had no proper rest for 48 hours.....

We are still in Hammonia, and the hills round about are full of Boers. We amuse ourselves by sniping the enemy, and they do the same to us when they get the chance. I do not think they will last long, as we expect a large force down here shortly, and I hope that it will be soon, as it is about time the war was over."

1901 Census

Delves – BULLS HEAD INN

[1] *John Taylor* (43), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Frances Ellen Taylor* (40), wife, born Gloucestershire;

[3] *Lilian Taylor* (15), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Phoebe Taylor* (5), daughter, born Walsall;

Walsall Observer 4/6/1904

“At Wednesbury Borough Police Court, on Friday, *John Taylor*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted, and Mr. Willcock defended.

The evidence of police-constable Yeomans showed that on Sunday, the 1st inst, at 8 o'clock in the morning, he, in company with police-constable Walkeden, were watching defendant's house. They saw the servant supply a man named John Griffiths and a young woman, she fetching the ale out of the house and handing it to them over the garden wall. After these people had been supplied the officers appeared on the scene, and the servant then informed them that they had stated they came from Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, and she thought she was doing right in serving them. The landlord was down the cellar at the time, but it transpired that he was also under the impression the people supplied were bona fide travellers, and that they had walked over three miles. The officers had measured the distance from Dartmouth Park, and found it to be two miles 1,297 yards 2 feet, whilst the addresses given by the persons who were supplied were also under the three miles limit.

Mr. Willcock, for the defence, submitted that the servant when she supplied the ale was under the impression that these people had come the required distance, and he pointed out that there was no concealment whatever in the case, and the ale was drunk in the highway and in an open a manner as possible. He urged that it was merely a mistake in judgement on the part of the servant in the absence of her employer, and on behalf of the management he stated that no bona fide traveller would be supplied at the house in the future.

The Bench took a lenient view of the matter, and allowed the case to be withdrawn on the payment of the costs, amounting to £2 9s.”

Walsall Observer 21/10/1905

“On Thursday afternoon, Mr. A. A. Beetham (acting coroner) held an inquiry at the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, Wednesbury, into the circumstances attending the death of Lilian Pymm (16), whose parents reside at Delves Cottages, Wednesbury, and whose dead body was found in the water at an old disused marl hole at Fulbrook, on Monday morning.

Julia Pymm said the deceased was her daughter, who was a very generally quiet and reserved girl. She was employed as a tailoress at Messrs. Shannons, clothiers, George Street, Walsall. About three weeks ago she remained away from work to look after the home whilst witness was ill. On Sunday last she went out as she said to attend service at the Baptist Chapel, Walsall, and she then appeared to be in good health. As she did not return, search was made, and her dead body taken home by the police on Monday morning. Last Sunday deceased remarked in a jocular manner to her uncle, ‘You don't know we are going to drown ourselves?’ referring to herself and her sister. She knew of no motive that was likely to induce her to take her life. Some three weeks ago she (witness) had a baby girl, and previous to that time several other children had died, always leaving her with three boys and three girls. On Sunday deceased remarked, ‘Well, we have got four girls now; I don't think we ought to have but three boys and three girls. I wonder who will be the next.’ Witness replied that there was not much fear that she would be next, as she was the healthiest in the family. She had been in the habit of attending the revival meetings at the Baptist Chapel, Walsall, and she appeared to be very much impressed by the services. The previous week, however, she did not go to the mission.

William Pymm, bricklayer, said he last saw his daughter alive on Saturday evening. On the Sunday night he should have met her as he was going home if she had gone to Walsall, but he did not do so. She had no business near the marl hole, which was about a hundred yards from the main road. When she did not return he reported the matter to the police. They had always led a happy life at home.

Florence Pymm, sister, said she did not think deceased cared much about going to work, but she never complained, and no pressure was brought to bear upon her by her parents to keep her at her employment. On Sunday her sister said to her uncle, ‘You don't know I am going to drown myself do you?’ adding afterwards, ‘It's not them that talk about it that generally do it.’ When she went out on the Sunday night she said that she was going with another girl to the Baptist Chapel at Walsall. She asked her who the girl was, but she replied that witness did not know her. She talked a great deal about the mission, and she often sang the hymns that were used at the chapel. Deceased told her that ‘When the Missioner was singing he seemed as though he wanted to go to heaven.’

Joseph Goodwin, uncle, said he did not recollect hearing deceased make the statement spoken of by the mother and sister, but he remembered Florrie saying, ‘That's the girl that's talking of drowning herself.’ He could ascribe no motive that would lead to deceased taking her life, but his opinion was that she had been discontented at having to remain at home whilst her mother was ill.

Sergeant Sims said that on receiving information at 8.30am on Monday morning that deceased was missing, he proceeded with two other constables to the marl hole, which they dragged, and at 9.30 they recovered the body. The depth of the water at that particular spot would be about twelve feet. He found no traces of a struggle in the vicinity of the hole, and there were no marks of violence on the body when he examined it afterwards at the home of the parents. There was no footway near the hole. He had made enquiries, but was unable to trace deceased's movements after she left home.

Dr. Garman said that death was due to drowning.

The Coroner, in summing up, said that it was possible that the girl had been impressed a great deal by what she had heard about another world, and that she was discontented with this, but that was for the jury to decide upon.

An open verdict of Found Drowned was returned."

Walsall Observer 3/11/1906 - Advert

"BULLS HEAD HOTEL, Tame Bridge, West Bromwich Road.

Pigeons and Sparrow Shooting every Saturday at 2 o'clock. Pigeons in stock for practice any week day."

BULL'S Head Hotel, Tame Bridge, West Bromwich Road.—Pigeons and Sparrow Shooting every Saturday at 2 o'clock. Pigeons in stock for practice any week day.

1911 Census

Tame Bridge – BULLS HEAD INN

[1] Catherine Conlan (56), unmarried, publican, born Monaghan, Ireland;

[2] Joseph Pattison (40), nephew, unmarried, barman, born Manchester;

[3] Mary Southall (20), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/9/1912 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, age about 20; good reference.

BULLS HEAD, Tame Bridge, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a good General Servant, age about 20; good reference.—Bull's Head, Tame Bridge, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 19/10/1912

"The marl hole which lies some hundred yards from the West Bromwich Road near the Fullbrook pool and just outside the borough boundary, was on Wednesday night the scene of a distressing tragedy. A sixteen-year-old girl jumped into the water in the presence of her sister-in-law, and was drowned. The girl, whose name is Evelyn Elsie Pymm, lived with her parents, William and Julia Pymm, at 132, West Bromwich Road, and has lately been employed as a learner in the costume department of Messrs. John Shannon & Sons.

The case presents many remarkable features. It appears from the evidence given at the inquest that the deceased girl had of late been receiving a number of filthy anonymous letters, which were immediately handed over to the police, who have been investigating the matter. Then again, it is of somewhat sordid interest to note that Wednesday was the seventh anniversary of the deceased's sister's death, her body, too, being recovered from this same marl hole when she had reached the age of 16 years.

The inquest concerning the case was held yesterday afternoon by the Deputy County Coroner, Mr. W. C. Checkley, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge.

The father of the deceased girl, William Pymm, a bricklayer, stated that he last saw his daughter alive on Tuesday night, when she was in her usual cheerful spirits. He had never heard her threaten to do herself harm. Asked if he had noticed any change in her demeanour of late, witness replied that beyond being very quick and hasty-tempered, he had not observed anything unusual in her manner.

The Deputy Coroner: Had she been in receipt of some very disgusting anonymous letters?

Witness: Yes. They were handed over to the police, who made enquiries in order to find the writer.

Your daughter had no idea who the sender of these letters was? – Not the slightest.

Do you think the receipt of these letters had some effect on her mind; had they worried her? – Yes; they had not improved the state of her mind.

A number of the letters mentioned were produced, and Mr. Checkley said they were all of a most disgusting character.

Florence Pymm, sister of the girl, said deceased had been working next to her since she commenced at Messrs. Shannon's. On Wednesday afternoon deceased was called to see the foreman of the department, who made a complaint about the bad felling she had done on a coat. Deceased, when she returned to her place in the workroom, remarked, 'The foreman hasn't given me another coat.' There did not seem to be anything the matter with her then, and apparently she was quite content. Later she again went to see the foreman, and when she returned she was upset and excited. Witness advised her not to cry, and at 5.30 she left work to go home.

Florence Frances Pymm, wife of Frederick William Pymm, of Fullbrook Cottages, and sister-in-law of the deceased, told the story of the tragedy itself. She said that at 6pm on Wednesday deceased came to her house and asked witness if she would walk across with her to the stable in the brickyard at the rear of the house, and bring a lamp with her. This was not an unusual request, and witness went with her. It was then quite dark, and while they were going along the pathway across the field to the brickyard, deceased remarked upon the road being a nasty one, and added that she did not like to go along it alone. She seemed as if she was glad of witness's company. The marl hole was near to the stable, and when they were nearing it, deceased called attention to the rubbish which was being tipped into the water, and said, 'They are putting a lot of stuff in here.' She then almost ran towards the pool, and witness said, 'Are you going to look?' 'Like a lightning flash,' continued witness, 'she took off her coat and plunged into the water.' She shouted something which sounded like, 'Tell mother I am saved.' She then disappeared beneath the water, and witness shouted for help, afterwards fetching two men. However, when they arrived on the scene there was no trace of the girl's body.

William Henry Allen, foreman of the costumes and juvenile department at Messrs. Shannon's, said that at 3.30 on Wednesday afternoon his attention was drawn to a coat made by deceased, which was very badly felled, and he pointed out to the girl in a kindly way that she would have to improve greatly. He also told her that if she did not do better work, it would be as well for her to get something more suitable. He saw the girl was very excited, and he told her to go and sit down. She went to him later on and asked if she could have any more work, and when he told her that he did not think she could do any good, she said, 'Well, I suppose I can go home.'

Police-constable Hall deposed to receiving information of the affair at 8.30. He went, in company with Superintendent Salt, to the marl hole, and said he found the hat and coat produced on the bank. They commenced dragging operations, but did not recover the body until about 10.15.

Detective-Sergeant Burrell, of Walsall, said that about 30 anonymous letters and postcards of a most filthy nature had been handed to him by the deceased and her mother. He had been unable to trace the writer of them. He had had conversations with the girl about the letters, and they seemed to greatly upset her. There had also been some window-smashing going on at her parents' house. Deceased was a witness in one case of window-smashing, that came up at the Walsall Court, and this had also seemed to affect her. In answer to Superintendent Salt, witness said that with the exception of two or three, all the letters had been received since she gave evidence at the police court. She had received quite a volley of these letters, sometimes at the rate of two a day. Most of them had come through the post, but some had been put through the letter-box.

Dr. Garman, of Wednesbury, said he had made an external examination of the body. There was no reason to doubt that the girl came to her death by drowning. From further examination, it was conclusively proved that any reports which had been circulated as to the girl's condition were without foundation.

A verdict of Suicide during Temporary Insanity was returned. The foreman of the jury remarked that he thought the letters had upset her. The Coroner said he hoped that the writer of the letters would be found and severely dealt with."

Birmingham Mail 7/7/1913

"Joseph Capewell (29), metal worker, The Delves, was charged on remand at Wednesbury today with wounding the Rev. John Howl, curate of St. Paul's Church, Wood Green, on Sunday, the 29th ult. Complainant's evidence, already given, was repeated, and showed that he was shot from behind, and wounded in the head, whilst on the way to conduct a service at a mission church at The Delves.

Frank Baker, brass-caster, Cobden Street, Walsall, related an extraordinary story with regard to the pistol with which it is alleged complainant was shot. He stated that he found the weapon and also a box of pellets whilst walking across the Walsall sewage farm on the same Sunday morning. Subsequently he met Capewell and other men in the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge. When they left there, about 2.30, they started off towards Walsall, and Mr. Howl passed them. Whilst in the public house witness had shown the pistol to Capewell, who, when in the road, said, 'Lend us that pistol.' Witness handed it to him, and prisoner fired it off. At that time Mr. Howl was thirty or forty yards in front. The weapon was only discharged once, and Capewell then returned it to witness. All of them then turned round and walked towards West Bromwich. At Stone Cross they got to the canal side, and witness threw the pistol into the canal.

Frank William Farmer, polisher, Weston Street, Walsall, another of the prisoner's companions, said that Capewell, when borrowing the pistol, remarked, 'Let me have a try.' After firing it he exclaimed, 'It's hit the parson.' After this they cleared straight away.

John Samuel Johnson, Alexadra Terrace, Palfrey, Walsall, another member of the party, described the pistol as about a foot long. He also stated that the clergyman ducked his head after the pistol was fired, but afterwards walked on. Police-sergeant Harris said that Capewell, when arrested, said, 'I discharged the pistol into the air as I thought.' Later he added, 'I am sorry it occurred. I don't think it would have happened if I had not had drink. I had no wish to injure Mr. Howl.'

Prisoner was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions, bail being allowed."

[In October, at the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, the jury found Capewell guilty of firing a pistol recklessly, but with no intention of hitting anyone. The Court interpreted this verdict as one of unlawful wounding. He was ordered to pay the costs of the prosecution, or 14 days' imprisonment.]

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1914

"The Wednesbury Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Superintendent Salt reported Since the last annual sessions three licensees had been proceeded against, and one convicted. Opposition was taken to the renewal of the license of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge.....

The Bench renewed all the licenses with the exception of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge; the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street; and the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Foster Street. The two latter were opposed on the ground of redundancy. Consideration of these objections were deferred until the adjourned meeting."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1914

"At Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions yesterday.....

The renewal of the license of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, was objected to on the ground that the premises had been ill-conducted.

Mr. H. H. Jackson (Walsall) in applying for renewal said a conviction was recorded against a former licensee for allowing Sunday trading, but the present licensee had given an undertaking to open only during the hours prescribed by law. Mr. J. S. Sharpe (West Bromwich) supported the application on behalf of the owners, and the license was renewed."

1921 Census

Wednesbury – BULLS HEAD HOTEL

- [1] Edward Toon (39), licensed victualler, born Walsall;
- [2] Kate Toon (42), wife, licensed victualler, born Walsall;
- [3] Kate Toon (16), daughter, clerk, born Walsall;
- [4] Jennie Toon (15), daughter, cashier, born Walsall;
- [5] Annie Toon (14), daughter, born Walsall;
- [6] Edward Toon (13) son, school, born Walsall;
- [7] Phillip Toon (9), son, school, born Walsall;
- [8] Arthur Toon (6), son, born Walsall;
- [9] Florence Cooper (27), domestic servant, born Walsall;
- [10] Lily Cooper (18), domestic servant, born Walsall;

Lichfield Mercury 16/3/1923

"The ceremony of Beating the Bounds of Wednesbury was observed. At Tame Bridge, where the three parishes of Wednesbury, Walsall, and West Bromwich come together, a number of boys were thrown into the River Tame – not an uncommon part of the ancient custom as observed in many parishes – a practice which was supposed to impress on their youthful memories both the situation and the substance of the parish boundary at that point. The boys were never unwilling to submit themselves to the ordeal, as this participation in the day's proceedings entitled them to a due share of the refreshment – generally in the form of bread and cheese and beer – served out at the adjacent hostelry, the BULLS HEAD at the Delves."

South Staffordshire Times 12/1/1924

"Mr. E. Toon, licensee of the BULLS HEAD, Tame Bridge, Wednesbury, died somewhat suddenly on Wednesday. He was engaged at work in the cellar and met with an accident, being promptly removed to the Walsall Hospital, where he passed away. Deceased who was much respected, was only 42 years of age, and leaves a widow and family to mourn his loss."

South Staffordshire Times 19/4/1924

"Mr. *Edward Toon*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge, Wednesbury, formerly of the ROYAL OAK INN, Lord Street, Palfrey, Walsall, who died on January 9th last, left estate of the gross value of £3,507, with net personality nil. Probate on the will has been granted to his widow, Mrs. *Kate Toon*, of the same place."

Edward Toon – see also SEVEN STARS, Stafford Street, Walsall, and ROYAL OAK, Lord Street, Walsall.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 11/10/1924

"The monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held at the BULLS HEAD, Tame Bridge, Wednesbury, on Tuesday when Alderman J. H. Sheldon presided....."

Birmingham Mail 28/7/1925 - Advert

"Good Reliable Girl (20 to 24), references essential.

GOOD reliable Girl (20 to 24), references essential.—E. Toon, Bull's Head Hotel, Tame Bridge, near Wednesbury.

E. Toon, BULLS HEAD HOTEL, Tame Bridge, near Wednesbury."

Walsall Observer 23/4/1927

"When Mr. J. S. Sharpe applied for the transfer of the license of the BULLS HEAD, Tame Bridge, from *Isaiah Thompson* to *Arthur Wesson*, *Thompson* stated that he had not been able to secure other accommodation for his wife and family. He added that he gave up employment in Walsall which he had had for 30 years to take the BULLS HEAD, and he thought he would be there permanently as long as he did the right thing, which he had tried to do. He had, moreover, no work to go to, and he understood that *Wesson* had other employment besides the public house. Mr. Sharpe pointed out that the question of alternative accommodation did not arise in connection with licensed premises, but under the circumstances arrangements could be made for *Thomson* and his family to remain at the BULLS HEAD for the time being, provided the new licensee was given sufficient accommodation. The transfer was granted."

Walsall Observer 9/7/1927

"Monday's meeting of the Wednesbury Town Council Plans approved include.....

Structural alterations at the BULLS HEAD HOTEL, Delves Road, for the Holt Brewery Ltd."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/12/1928

"The defence of 'joy riding' was unsuccessfully pleaded at Walsall in cases in which two owners had been deprived of the use of their motor-cars. In the first instance Edgar Stokes (24), motor-driver, 57, Whitehall Road, and Thomas Harber (22), slater, 359, Pleck Road, were jointly charged with stealing on December 18 a motor-car, value £125, the property of *Daniel Smith*, licensee of the BULLS HEAD INN, West Bromwich Road, Tame Bridge; also with stealing four gallons of petrol, value 6s 1d, at the same time.

In the second case Stokes was charged with the theft of a motor-car, value £190, and six gallons of petrol, value 8s 7d, the property of Eleanor Josephine Yardley, 7, Sutton Crescent, on November 22.

It transpired that Mr. *Smith's* car disappeared after it had been 'parked' in Bradford Place. Information was at once circulated to the various police forces throughout the country, and later the same day Police-constable James Smith, of the Birmingham City Police, whilst on point duty at the junction of Hockley Hill and Great King Street, noticed the car pass. He at once obtained the use of a motor-car and gave chase, eventually getting level with accused, but when called upon to stop they accelerated. The officer again caught them up, and accused then jumped out of the car, leaving the engine running, and bolted, but Smith followed and captured them. Stokes then admitted having taken the car from Walsall 'to visit some friends,' and added, 'I suppose we are unlucky.'

Detective Lee (Walsall) said that when received in custody by him Stokes said, 'We only went for a joy ride.' Harber said, 'He asked me to go, and I went with him.'

Prisoners now denied any intention to steal the car, but pleaded guilty to the theft of the petrol which they used. Stokes read a long statement, in which he asserted that he and Harber contemplated going to Coventry in search of work, and that their 'confirmed intention' was to 'take the motor-car back to the place from which they had purloined it.' The statement concluded, 'We are extremely repentant for the trouble our misdeeds have caused, and we undertake never again to be guilty of so base an act.'

In the second case the motor-car was taken from outside Walsall Post Office. Miss Yardley saw it being driven away, and, running after it, managed to jump on the footboard, but Stokes put on speed and she had to dismount. Next morning the car was found abandoned in Sutton Road.

Chief Constable Ballance remarked that in this case also every police force was notified of the disappearance of the car, adding, 'It costs money to do it apart from the trouble.'

Stokes denied any intention to steal the car, and said he went to Coventry to look for a job.

Harber, who was said to have a wife and child, was put on probation for twelve months, with a warning as to the consequences if he got into trouble again. Stokes was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for stealing the cars, the other charges being merged."

Walsall Observer 9/2/1935

"At the coming-of-age party of Miss Lily Smith, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *Dan Smith*, of the BULLS HEAD, The Delves, on Monday evening, it was announced that Miss Smith had become engaged to 'Ted' Sandford, the well-known West Bromwich Albion forward. There were about fifty guest to congratulate Miss Smith on the 'double event,' and a happy evening e spent in games and dancing."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/5/1937

"The marriage took place at St. James' Church, Handsworth, yesterday of Mr. 'Ted' Sandford, the popular captain of West Bromwich Albion, who is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sandford, of 367, Holyhead Road, Handsworth, and Miss Lily Frances Smith, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *Daniel Smith*, of the BULLS HEAD HOTEL, West Bromwich Road, Walsall.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a dress of Duchesse satin trimmed with seed pearls and a girdle, a lover's knot of pearls being worked in the train. She wore orange blossoms at the neck and had a tulle veil with a head-dress of lilies and carried a bouquet of arum lilies and lilies of the valley.....

There was a large attendance at the ceremony, including several of Mr. Sandford's Albion colleagues, and subsequently a reception was held at the Friar Park Hall, West Bromwich, at which there were nearly 70 guests."

Walsall Observer 1/2/1947 - Personal

"The Women of the Bar at BULLS HEAD, Delves, wish to thank Mrs. *Sandford*, Mr. Gosling, and Mrs. Henley for Pantomime and tea, January 27."

Walsall Observer 28/8/1953 - Acknowledgments

"The Wife and Family of the late Charles Gosling wish to thank neighbours and friends, Doctor, Mr. and Mrs. *Sandford* and Customers of the BULLS HEAD and Delves for kindness and floral tributes in their sad bereavement."

It closed on 30th January 1967.

BUSH

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Jones [1822] – [1830]
Samuel Willis [1834]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/7/1819 - Advert

"Leasehold Building, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by private Contract, three Dwelling Houses, with their Appurtenances; one of which is used as a Public House, and known by the Name of the OLD BUSH; the other two adjoin the same, and are situate in the High Street, Wednesbury.

For further Particulars, and to treat, apply to Mrs. Mary Smith, Shoe Warehouse, High Street, Wednesbury."

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TO be SOLD by private Contract, three Dwelling Houses, with their Appurtenances; one of which is used as a Public House, and known by the Name of the OLD BUSH; the other two adjoin the same, and are situate in the High Street, Wednesbury.
For further Particulars, and to treat, apply to Mrs. Mary Smith, Shoe Warehouse, High Street, Wednesbury.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/5/1832 - Advert

"To be Let, with the Licenses, Good-will, and Possession, all that well accustomed and old established Public House called the OLD BUSH, situate in High Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford.

The present occupier is leaving on account of other peculiar engagements.

The Stock, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/10/1837 - Advert

"An Excellent Opportunity of taking an Old Established Public House, the OLD BUSH INN, Wednesbury.

By I. Allen and Son. To be disposed of by private Treaty, the valuable Licenses, Good-will, and Possession of the above well-accustomed Public House, in the principal street in Wednesbury, possessing every convenience for the business in all its branches, and might at a trifling expense be converted into a very excellent Spirit Vaults.

The Fixtures, Brewing Utensils, part of the Furniture, Stock, and effects to be taken at a fair appraisement.

For other particulars apply at the offices, West Bromwich; at I. Allen's offices, Smithfield, Birmingham; or of the Proprietor, on the premises."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/1/1838 - Advert

"Multum In Parvo. OLD BUSH INN, Wednesbury.

Commercial Sale Room, West Bromwich, and Smithfield, Birmingham.

By Allen and Son. To be Sold by Auction, this day (Monday), the valuable Good-will, Licenses, and Possession, Brewing Utensils, Stock in Trade, Fixtures, and splendid Household Furniture and effects of the BUSH INN as above.

On Wednesday next, at their Sale Room as above, a variety of miscellaneous Effects, comprising elegant Household Furniture, a quantity of Welsh butter, strong black tea, druggist's fixtures, blue, French pickles, brushes, mangle, brewing utensils, &c, &c, described in catalogues to be had at either of the above places, where may be had the largest list of Public Houses, Grocers' Shops, Building and other property on sale and wanted in Birmingham and the Mining districts."

TO be LET, with the Licences, Good-will, and Possession, all that well accustomed and old established Public House called the OLD BUSH, situate in High-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford.—The present occupier is leaving on account of other peculiar engagements.

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1832

AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY OF TAKING
AN OLD ESTABLISHED PUBLIC HOUSE,
THE OLD BUSH INN, WEDNESBURY.

BY I. ALLEN and SON.—To be disposed of by private Treaty, the valuable Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the above well-accustomed Public House, in the principal street in Wednesbury, possessing every convenience for the business in all its branches, and might at a trifling expence be converted into a very excellent Spirit Vaults.

The Fixtures, Brewing Utensils, part of the Furniture, Stock, and effects to be taken at a fair appraisement.

For other particulars apply at the offices, West Bromwich; at I. Allen's offices, Smithfield, Birmingham; or of the Proprietor, on the premises.

1837

MULTUM IN PARVO.
OLD BUSH INN, WEDNESBURY.

Commercial Sale-room, West Bromwich, and Smithfield, Birmingham.

BY ALLEN and SON.—To be SOLD by AUCTION this day (Monday), the valuable Good-will, Licences, and Possession, Brewing Utensils, Stock in Trade, Fixtures, and splendid Household Furniture and effects of the Bush Inn as above.

On Wednesday next, at their Sale-room as above, a variety of miscellaneous Effects, comprising elegant Household Furniture, a quantity of Welsh butter, strong black tea, druggist's fixtures, blue, French pickles, brushes, mangle, brewing utensils, &c. &c. described in catalogues to be had at either of the above places, where may be had the largest list of Public Houses, Grocers' Shops, Building and other property on sale and wanted in Birmingham and the Mining districts.

1838

BUTCHERS ARMS

34, Union Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Bissell [1868] – [1872]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/5/1868

“Lee Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Mr. *Bissell* of the BUTCHERS ARMS, Wednesbury, will give £6 10s to be run for in a 130 Yards All England Handicap, to come off on Mondays, May 18 and 25. Entries 1s each (no acceptances), to be made on or before Wednesday, May 13, at the grounds; T. Fleming’s, RING OF BELLS, Walsall; T. Chidloe, OLD QUEENS HEAD, Hill Street, Walsall; or to Mr. *Bissell*, as above. Any one entering falsely will be disqualified.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/2/1870

“ROYAL OAK, Burnt Tree, Dudley Port.

Mr. Nuttall had a capital attendance yesterday, when a trio of events were down for decision.....

80 yards spin, for £5 a side, between F. Lloyd and T. Plant, two Wednesbury representatives of the minimum size, neither topping four feet, and the elder ‘going in thirteen.’ They got off quickly, Lloyd, the younger and smaller lad, winning by a yard and a half. Betting: 6 and 7 to 4 on the winner. Mr. *B. Bissell*, BUTCHERS ARMS, Wednesbury, stakeholder and referee.”

1871 Census

34, Union Street – Beerhouse

[1] *Benjamin Bissell* (32), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah Bissell* (31), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Benjamin Bissell* (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *William Bissell* (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Annie Bissell* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Jane Cliff* (12), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/4/1872

“W. Rose of Wednesbury (alias Billy Piggy) will run any man in England 40 years of age, from four to ten miles (he, W. Rose, being above 40 years old), for £15 or £20 a side, and will give £1 to run at the BOAT INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, or he will run B. Spooner of Wednesbury one mile level, for £5 a side, by calling or sending to *B. Bissell*, BUTCHERS ARMS, Union Street, Wednesbury, a match can be made at any time.”

Benjamin Bissell – see also JOLLY BREWER and LAMP.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Colbeck [1841] – [1842]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/5/1841 - Advert

“CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.

To be Let, the above old licensed Public House.

Apply to J. Gilbert, Estate Agent, 4, Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE INN,
High-street, Wednesbury.
TO be LET, the above old licenced PUBLIC HOUSE.
Apply to J. Gilbert, Estate Agent, 4, Cherry-street,
Birmingham.

CASTLE

37, (31), Walsall Street (31, Walsall Road), (New Street) / Windmill Street, (31, Oakeswell End), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1961]

LICENSEES

William Hampson [1841] – **1852**;

Mrs. Ellen Hampson (**1852**)

William Tolley (**1852** – [])

James Proffitt [1857] – **1858**;

Mrs. Ellen Hampson (**1858** – **1861**);

John Burroughs Powell (**1861** – **1863**);

Samuel Poulton (**1863** – [1872])

James Edwards [1873]

John Baddley Jones (**1880** – [1885])

John Knowles [1881]

Richard Sillitoe [1891]

James Archer [1891] – [1892]

Thomas Henry Neale [1894]

Henry Deighton Millner [1896] – [1908]

Albert Jeffs [1911] – [1912]

Charles Meakin [1916]

Charles Burrows [1921]

Joseph Burrows [1921]

Annie Burns [] – **1925**;

Alfred James Merrick (**1925** – [1932])

Mrs. Ellen Merrick [1939] – [1940]

Geoff Fletcher [] – **1961**;

Ben Wood (**1961** – **1962**);

Sidney Jones (**1962** – **1964**);

Raymond Richard Matthouse (**1964**);

Alan Simcox (**1964** – **1965**);

Dennis Schofield (**1965** – [1966])

William Johnson [1978]



c1968

NOTES

New Street [1841]

Oakeswell End [1850], [1860]

31, Walsall Road [1881], [1891]

37, Walsall Street [1911], [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

CASTLE TAVERN [1850]

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE [1871]

"THE CASTLE," WALSALL STREET, WEDNESBURY.
TO be DISPOSED OF by PRIVATE TREATY,
the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above-
named and well-known PUBLIC HOUSE, situate in a populous and
thriving part of Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mrs. Hampson, who
is leaving in consequence of the death of her husband. The House is
roomy and well arranged, and is now doing a very good Business. Rent
and coming in low.
For further particulars, apply to Mrs. Hampson, on the Premises;
or to Joseph Dawes, Auctioneer and Appraiser, Wednesbury.

1852

William Hampson, beer retailer, Walsall Street. [1841]

1841 Census

New Street

- [1] William Hampson (45), coach smith, born Staffordshire;
- [2] William Hampson (11), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Thomas Hampson (20), coach smith, born Staffordshire;
- [4] David Hampson (8), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Samuel Hampson (6), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Ellen Hampson (45), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Ellen Hampson (4), born Staffordshire;
- [8] Ellen Hampson (5 months), born Staffordshire;
- [9] Elizabeth Hampson (15), born Staffordshire;
- [10] Ann Day (22), born Staffordshire;
- [11] Aaron Evans (21), coach smith, born Staffordshire;

William Hampson, retailer of beer, Walsall Street. [1842]

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/9/1850

“Sarah Skeldon, a girl about 17 years of age, who had been servant at the CASTLE INN, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a necklace, a quantity of ribbon, and about 9s 6d in cash, from the house of her master, *William Hampson*. It appears that they had suspected her, and charged her with the offence, which she denied, but almost immediately after left the house and went home to her aunt’s, at Westbromwich. Information was given to the police, and she was apprehended. A quantity of ribbon was found in her possession, and she stated to police-constable Boughey, who arrested her, that she had bought a pair of shoes with the money; and a waistcoat, which was among the articles stolen, she had burnt. She was committed for trial at the sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/9/1850

“Committed to the County Prison, at Stafford, for Trial.....

Sarah Sheldon, charged with stealing a quantity of ribbon and beads at Wednesbury.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1850

Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions To be Imprisoned Three Calendar Months.....

Sarah Sheldon (pleaded guilty), for stealing several articles or wearing apparel from her mistress, Mrs. *Hampson*, of Wednesbury.”

1851 Census

Walsall Street

- [1] William Hampson (54), coach smith and victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Ellen Hampson (54), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] William Hampson (21), son, coach smith journeyman, born Wednesbury;
- [4] David Hampson (18), son, gunlock forger journeyman, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Samuel Hampson (16), son, gunlock forger journeyman, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Ellen Hampson (13), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [7] John Disturnal (32), son-in-law, gunlock forger journeyman, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Jane Disturnal (27), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] William Disturnal (9), nephew, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [10] John Disturnal (7), nephew, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [11] Samuel Disturnal (4), nephew, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [12] Jane Disturnal (2), niece, born Wednesbury;
- [13] Thomas Fisher (24), lodger, cattle dealer, born Wednesbury;
- [14] Mary Wright (21), visitor, general servant, born Wednesbury;

William Hampson died on 2nd April 1852.

Birmingham Journal 21/8/1852 - Advert

“The CASTLE, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above-named and well-known Public House, situate in a populous and thriving part of Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mrs. *Hampson*, who is leaving in consequence of the death of her husband. The House is roomy and well arranged, and is now doing a very good Business. Rent and coming in low.

For further particulars, apply to Mrs. *Hampson*, on the Premises; or to Joseph Dawes, Auctioneer and Appraiser, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/10/1852 - Advert

“Genteel Family Residence at Wednesbury.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately.....

For further particulars, and to view the same, apply to Mr. *William Tolley*, CASTLE INN, Walsall Road; or to Mr. William Fairburn, News Agent, both of Wednesbury.”

James Proffitt = James Proffit

Birmingham Journal 5/9/1857 - Advert

“The CASTLE INN, Wednesbury.

To be Disposed Of, the Licenses and Possession of the above-named Old-licensed Public House, situated in an improving part of Wednesbury. Coming-in about £120.

The Premises are compact, with good Stabling, Yard, Piggeries, and other Conveniences.

For particulars and to treat, apply to Joseph Dawes, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 26/9/1857 - Advert

“To Publicans, Spirit Merchants, Brokers, and Others.

Sale at the CASTLE INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, on Monday Next, September 28th, on the Premises above-named.

Part of the clean and useful Household Furniture, the whole of the Brewing Utensils, Ale Casks, two Iron Boilers, Gas Fittings, and Six Store Pigs, together with a quantity of fine old French Brandy, London Gin, Peppermint, Malt Vinegar, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *James Proffitt*, who is changing his Residence.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, with the usual conditions.”

James Proffitt – see also SCOTT ARMS.

1861 Census

Walsall Street

[1] *Ellen Hampson* (65), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] William Disturnal (19), grand-son, coach smith, born Wednesbury;

[3] Sarah Wheeler (29), niece, milliner, born Wednesbury;

[4] Thomas Hughes (27), boarder, coach smith, born Birmingham;

[5] Catherine Brinnen (19), servant:

Birmingham Journal 12/10/1861

“At the Public Office, West Bromwich, on Saturday, the following transfers of victuallers licenses were made.....

CASTLE, Wednesbury, from *Ellen Hampson*, deceased, to *John Burrows Powell*.”

John Burroughs Powell = John Burrows Powell

London Evening Standard 17/12/1862

“Bankrupts.....

John Burroughs Powell, Wednesbury, licensed victualler.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/1/1863

“Bankrupts.....

John Burrows Powell, licensed victualler, Wednesbury, final examination, supported by Mr. Brevitt, of Darlaston. The meeting was adjourned to allow the bankrupt time to file his accounts.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1863

“At Walsall County Court, on Wednesday, the following bankrupts came up for examination.....

John Burroughs Powell, licensed victualler, Wednesbury, applied for his order of discharge, supported by Mr. Brevitt; Mr. Slater attending for the assignees. No opposition was offered, and the order was granted.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/3/1863 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of *John Burroughs Powell*, now of the Walsall Road, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Dealer in Tobacco, and Manager of a Brickyard at Hady Moor, Wednesbury aforesaid, previously of the same place, Licensed Victualler, Dealer in Tobacco, Cowkeeper, Selling Milk, Carter, and Manager of the Brickyard aforesaid, 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.”

Walsall Free Press 25/4/1863 - Notice

“Notice is Hereby Given that a Meeting of the Creditors of *John Burroughs Powell*, now of the Walsall Road, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Dealer in Tobacco, and Manager of a Brickyard at Hady Moor, Wednesbury, aforesaid, previously of the same place, Licensed Victualler, Dealer in Tobacco, Cowkeeper selling milk, Carter, and Manager of the Brickyard aforesaid, who was adjudicated bankrupt on the 12th day of December, 1862, will be held before Frederic F. Clarke, Esquire, Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 8th day of May next, at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the County Court Office, Walsall, when the Creditors Assignee will submit a statement of the whole estate of the bankrupt as then ascertained, of the property received and of the property outstanding, specifying the cause of its being so outstanding, and of all the receipts and all the payments thereout made; and any creditor who has proved may attend and examine such statement and compare the receipts with the payments, and the meeting will declare by resolution whether any and what part of the said produce of the estate (after making a reasonable deduction for future contingencies) shall be divided amongst the creditors, and at the same time the majority in value of the creditors will determine whether any and what allowance shall be made to the bankrupt out of the estate; and 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.”

John Burroughs Powell – see also ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, and OLD BRITANNIA, Moxley, Darlaston.

1871 Census

31, Oakeswell End – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

[1] *Samuel Poulton* (38), timekeeper at colliery, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Elizabeth Poulton* (38), wife, born Ribbesford, Worcestershire;

[3] *Frances Harriet Poulton* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *William H. Poulton* (2), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Lucy Augusta Poulton* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Anney Bricknell* (18), general servant, born Abberley, Worcestershire;

[7] *Ellen Davis* (15), general servant, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Joseph Brotherton* (52), boarder, widower, file cutter, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 11/1/1879

“On Saturday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the CASTLE INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, on view of the body of Thomas Micklewright, 84 years of age, who, since the death of his wife some months ago, resided with himself at the house number 36, Walsall Road.

Margaret Cresswell, deceased's daughter-in-law, was the first witness called, and she stated that when she last saw the deceased alive, about a month ago, he did not complain of illness. In answer to the coroner, witness stated that she had often seen the deceased the worst for drink.

One of the jurymen called attention to the fact, that on passing through the house he noticed an empty bottle marked ‘poison,’ and he wished to know if witness knew what the contents had been used for. Witness said she did not know. Elizabeth Johnson, a neighbour, stated that on Wednesday morning between twelve and one o'clock, she and another woman saw the deceased in his house, afterwards they went upstairs and found him lying on a bed. They asked him if he was ill, then he said he had pains in his abdomen. They inquired if they might send for a doctor, and asked him other questions, but the only answer they could obtain was ‘Not tonight.’ Witness thinking the case an urgent one went to summon the relieving officer. She told this individual the circumstances of the case but he refused to leave his home, assigning as a reason that he was suffering from neuralgia. Answering a question from the coroner, the witness said that the embrocation in the bottle produced was used for a peculiar disease in consequence of which witness declined to attend further to the wants of the man. Before this one of the neighbours provided him with food. William Till, a labourer, said that in consequence of what was said to him by the last witness and others on Thursday morning he procured a ladder for the purpose of looking into the bedroom, the doors of the house being fast. He saw deceased laid on the bed.

Police-constable Reynolds stated that he obtained entrance to the house through the bedroom window. Deceased was in a very dirty condition.

Several of the jurymen had known the deceased personally, and they concurred that he was greatly addicted to drink. After a short conversation they returned a verdict of Found Dead in bed, death being accelerated by excessive drinking.”

Wednesbury Herald 2/8/1879

“On Monday afternoon, Edwin Hooper, Esq, district coroner, held an inquiry at the CASTLE INN, Walsall Road, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Roland Clarke, aged one year and seven months (the son of Mr. Charles Clarke, shipping clerk, Walsall Road), who had died from the effects of injuries on the 24th ultimo.

Frances Clarke, aged eight years, said that deceased was her brother. On the 24th inst, at about half past eleven o'clock she saw the deceased crossing the Walsall Road, with the intention, she supposed, of meeting her.

The Coroner: Did he run? – Witness: He could not run; he walked.

The Coroner: Was he deaf? – Witness: No sir; not in the least.

Witness, continuing, said the horse and cart was going in the direction of Wood Green. She believed it was one of Mr. Trowe's carts. When in the centre of the road she saw the deceased go round the horse's head, and saw the horse knock him down and the wheel on the left hand side go over his head. She shouted at the top of her voice and told the driver to stop, but he went on. He was sitting down, but she could not say as to whether he was asleep. Neither could she say as to whether he had any reins. Witness picked the deceased up, and carried him into the house. She afterwards went for a doctor. The driver of the horse went past her house before he stopped.

Mary Ann Clarke, the mother of the deceased, said that on the day in question the deceased ran out of the house, and within a minute the last witness carried him into the house. Both sides of his head were seriously injured, and Dr. Blackwood was sent for, and on his arrival he said the boy could not live. She did not see the boy go out, neither did she miss him until she heard her eldest child scream out. A few minutes after the driver of the cart came into the house and said, ‘I have done it; but I did not see the child. I am sure I did not.’

The Coroner: Have you any reason to blame any person? – Witness: Well the driver did not stop when he was shouted at.

William Lind, said he was a carter in the employment of Mr. Trow, builder, and he held the position for about 26 years, during which period he had not run over anyone until the present time. On the day in question he had a light spring trap, and started from the Talbot with 150 bricks to Wood Green. When on the Walsall Road his horse was travelling at the rate of two miles an hour, and when at the works belonging to Mr. Knowles he saw some boys damaging the crops in the field, and he supposed whilst shouting to them the deceased got under the wheels, he did not hear any one shout, neither did he see the deceased.

The Coroner: Now is it true that you were asleep? – Witness: I never sleep in my business. I am very sorry the accident has happened.

The Coroner said if the statement of the last witness was to be relied upon, the occurrence was a pure accident. If further evidence could, however, be obtained he should be most happy to adjourn the meeting. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1881 Census

31, Walsall Road – CASTLE INN

[1] *John Baddley Jones* (46), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Elizabeth Jones (42), wife, born Byfleet, Surrey;

[3] John Jones (21), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] William Henry Jones (17), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] Alfred Jones (8), son, born Wednesbury;

[6] Martha Barns (18), servant, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 16/4/1881

“On Saturday, Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the CASTLE INN, Walsall Road, as to the death of Joseph Herbert Wright, aged nine months, the son of Henry and Nancy Wright, of Foley Street, who died suddenly on the 6th inst.

The evidence showed that the deceased was suddenly seized with a fit and died before medical aid could be procured. The Coroner remarked that the parents had evidently taken great care of the child, but he was compelled to hold an inquest owing to no surgeon seeing the deceased previous to death.

A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

Wednesbury Herald 15/10/1881

“James Harvey and his wife Mary, residing in the Darlaston Road, were charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the CASTLE INN, Walsall Road, on the 1st inst, when required to do so.

The landlord, *John Knowles*, stated that upon returning from the funeral of Sergeant Bates, on the day in question, he found the defendants creating a disturbance and upon requesting them to leave the house, they refused to do so. The defendants were desirous of fighting with a man in the tap room, and he was compelled to remove them. After a lapse of some time the defendants re-entered the house.

Mr. Stokes: Were they drunk? – Witness: No.

The male defendant: You trusted my wife and another woman with ale amounting to 8s 4d.

Witness: Nothing of the kind. My wife was not likely to trust strangers with ale.

In answer to the Magistrates Clerk witness stated that on the 4th inst, Mrs. Harvey came to the house and charged him with breaking her arm and he informed her that when she left his house there was nothing the matter with her arm.

Other witnesses proved to seeing the defendants create a great disturbance.

The Bench fined the woman 10s and costs, and the man 5s and costs. The woman had been previously convicted.”

Wednesbury Herald 12/1/1884

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the CASTLE INN, Walsall Road, respecting the death of Eliza Wood (69), who was found dead in bed at her son’s residence in Hide’s Lane, Oakeswell End. On Sunday night deceased went to bed in apparently good health, and on the following morning she was found dead. It was stated that the deceased had been subject to heart disease, and the jury being of opinion that death was due to the weak action of the heart, they returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Wednesbury Herald 9/2/1884

“The Ancient Order of Foresters. The 23rd annual report of Court Parkville, No.3424, held at the CASTLE INN, Walsall Road, Wednesbury, has just been issued, from which we gather that during the past year the finances have realised a net profit of £52 15s 1d, and the amount paid to sick members £67 3s 0d against £95 3s 0d in 1883.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/11/1885

“A petition was filed in the Walsall County Court today (Wednesday), on behalf of *John Jones*, of the CASTLE INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, licensed victualler. Messrs. Warmington and Thompson, of Dudley, are the solicitors acting in the case. The 23rd of November is the day fixed for the public examination.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1885

"Yesterday, at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. Registrar Clarke, *John Jones*, licensed victualler, the CASTLE INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, came up for his public examination.

Mr. W. M. Evans, deputy receiver, conducted the examination on behalf of the official receiver, Mr. Pritchard, and elicited that the debtor, until October, 1880, was a carpenter and joiner at Wednesbury. He then took to the CASTLE INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, paying £180 for goodwill, stock, and fixtures, which money, he said, his father gave him. His father had also guaranteed £50 12s 6d, part of the debt of one of the creditors, and was included in the debtor's statement as a creditor for £185. The debtor, at a meeting of his creditors in October last, offered a composition of 5s in the pound, but the largest creditor would not accept it.

The statement of affairs showed liabilities to the amount of £413 1s 8d, and a deficiency of £320 16s 8d.

The examination was adjourned to December 9."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1885 - Correspondence

"Re *John Jones*, Wednesbury.

To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, In your report in today's *Post* of the examination of the above debtor, you state that the examination was adjourned until December 9. This is incorrect, as the debtor was allowed to pass, and the examination closed.

We shall feel obliged by your correcting same.

Warmington and Thompson, Debtors Solicitors. Dudley, November 24."

1891 Census

31, Walsall Road – CASTLE INN

[1] *James Archer* (42), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Annie Archer* (37), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Thomas Archer* (15), son, tool maker, born Ladywood, Staffordshire;

[4] *Alfred Archer* (13), son, scholar, born Handsworth;

[5] *Charles Archer* (11), son, scholar, born Handsworth;

[6] *William Archer* (9), son, scholar, born Handsworth;

[7] *Joseph Archer* (7), son, scholar, born Staffordshire;

[8] *Richard Archer* (5), son, born Wednesbury;

[9] *James Archer* (13 weeks), son, born Wednesbury:

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.....

Richard Sillitoe, CASTLE, Walsall Road, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/11/1894 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Properties, Wednesbury.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold by Auction (by direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. Henry Wood), at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday, November 27, 1894.....

Lot 3. A Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Public House, known as the CASTLE INN, in Walsall Street, at its junction with Windmill Street, Wednesbury, with spacious Cellars, Brewhouse, Stable, and large Yard, now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Henry Neale*, and let at £50 a year on a tenancy which will expire at Christmas next.

This Public-house occupies a very prominent corner position on a main thoroughfare, and it is in close proximity to important works. It is free from any tie, and well deserves the attention of brewers, more particularly as possession can be had at Christmas next."

Henry Deighton Millner was also of the DARTMOUTH and GEORGE. [1896], [1900], [1904], [1908]

1911 Census

37, Walsall Street – CASTLE HOTEL

[1] Albert Jeffs (38), publican, manager, born Kidderminster;

[2] Harriet Jeffs (45), wife, married 19 years, assisting in business, born Pattingham, Shropshire;

[3] Edith Jeffs (18), daughter, milliner's assistant, born Birmingham;

[4] Kate Jordan (21), domestic servant, born Wellington, Shropshire:

Wednesbury Herald 22/7/1911

"On Thursday, Mr. W. L. Lewis (Deputy Coroner) held an inquest at the CASTLE INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, on the body of William Victor Griffiths (14), son of Mr. W. Griffiths, florist, Hydes Road, who was drowned under tragic circumstances in the Wednesbury Corporation Baths on Tuesday evening. The Town Clerk (Mr. T. Jones) and Councillor Sheldon (Chairman of the Baths Committee) were present at the enquiry.

Evidence of identification having been given by the father, William Thomas Griffiths, Dr. Crew said he received a message to go to the Corporation Baths at 6.25 on Tuesday evening. He was there in two minutes, and the deceased was then out of the water, and the Baths Superintendent and Mr. Vasey were using artificial means of respiration. This was continued by witness for half an hour, without success. Witness had no doubt but that drowning was the cause of the lad's death, and he did not think a post mortem was necessary. There would have been a better chance of recovery if something else had been the cause of the accident, and if the lad had fainted, and had gone into the water insensible. Witness believed deceased had a very hearty meal before entering the bath, and that all made against the efforts to resuscitate him. His opinion was that probably deceased was sitting on the side of the bath, paddling his feet in the water, when his hand slipped and he went in, otherwise he could not understand why the deceased should get into the deep water when he could not swim. Deceased's heart had ceased beating when witness arrived, and it was very rarely people came round under such circumstances.

Harold Bayliss, son of the Baths Superintendent, spoke to hearing the danger bell ring, and to fetching the body up from the bottom, after he had taken his clothes and boots off, which only occupied a few seconds. He assisted his father to use artificial means of respiration.

The Baths Superintendent, William Bayliss, said he was talking to a gentleman near the baths at the time of the accident. He was fetched, and upon rushing into the first-class swimming bath he found that his son had lifted deceased on to the side. Witness had been superintendent at the baths for over twenty years, and this was the first case of drowning there had been there in thirty-three years. There was always someone in attendance on the premises, and when there was a non-swimmer in the baths someone was constantly looking in. If a small boy came into the bath they would not leave him alone, but they considered a lad of fourteen was capable of recognising the danger.

Enoch Reid, attendant at the baths, said he saw the deceased about six o'clock, and he was then all right, in the shallow end. Witness said to him, 'My lad, if you can't swim, stop in the same place and you will be all right,' and deceased made no answer. He again looked into the bath about five minutes later, and deceased was all right; but subsequently, whilst in the second-class swimming bath, he heard the alarm bell ring.

Replying to the deputy coroner, witness said the lad was in the bath about fifteen minutes, and during that time he visited him twice.

James Alfred Seedhouse, of the SEVEN STARS INN, Tipton, deposed to discovering the body and to raising an alarm. It was wonderful how quickly the boy was got out, and scarcely a minute elapsed from the time he gave the alarm before the youth Bayliss had the lad.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and they expressed the opinion that there was no blame attached to anyone. The Deputy Coroner concurred, and the Town Clerk and Councillor Sheldon expressed regret at the accident, and their sympathy with the parents in their trouble."

1921 Census

37, Walsall Street – CASTLE

[1] Joseph Burrows (52), fitting maker, born Wednesbury;

[2] Annie Burrows (47), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] William Burrows (23), son, improver, tube bender, born Wednesbury;

[4] E. Lester (22), servant, born Bilston:

Alfred James Merrick – see also LEABROOK TAVERN.

1939 Register

37, Walsall Street – CASTLE INN

[1] Ellen Merrick, date of birth 25/2/1884, manageress, licensed house, widowed;

[2] Nellie Merrick, dob 21/10/1910, bar general, single;

[3] Alice (Merrick) Pennings, dob 16/1/1915, wages clerk, ammunition works, single:

Alfred James and Ellen Merrick – see also CROWN AND CUSHION.

Ellen Merrick was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Gorton.

Thomas Gorton – see PARK and MARKET HOUSE.

Mary Gorton – see CROSS KEYS.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1963]

Birmingham Mail 11/5/1978 - Notice

“The Licensing Act, 1964. West Midlands Metropolitan County.

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 Council Chambers, Council House, Smethwick, Warley, on the 7th day of July, 1978, at 3pm.

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 Act, 1964, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

CASTLE INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury. Intoxicating liquor of all descriptions. Licensee, *William Johnson*.”

Closed

It was demolished c.1978.

“THE CASTLE INN,” WEDNESBURY.
TO be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES and
POSSESSION of the above-named Old-licensed PUBLIC
HOUSE, situated in an improving part of Wednesbury. Coming-in
about £120.
The Premises are compact, with good Stabling, Yard, Piggeries, and
other Conveniences.
For particulars and to treat, apply to Joseph Dawes, Auctioneer,
Wednesbury.

TO PUBLICANS, SPIRIT MERCHANTS, BROKERS, AND
OTHERS.
SALE AT THE CASTLE INN,
WALSALL STREET, WEDNESBURY.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY JOSEPH DAWES, on MONDAY NEXT,
September 28th, on the Premises above-named—part of the
clean and useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, the whole of the
BREWING UTENSILS, Ale Casks, two Iron Boilers, Gas Fittings,
and Six Store PIGS, together with a quantity of fine old French
Brandy, London Gin, Peppermint, Malt Vinegar, and other Effects,
belonging to Mr. James Proffit, who is changing his Residence.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, with the usual
conditions.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WALSALL.

IN the Matter of JOHN BURROUGHS POWELL, now of the Walsall Road, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Dealer in Tobacco, and Manager of a Brickyard at Hady Moor, Wednesbury aforesaid, previously of the same place, Licensed Victualler, Dealer in Tobacco, Cowkeeper, Selling Milk, Carter, and Manager of the Brickyard aforesaid, 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. MEDEVAN, High Bailiff.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the Creditors of JOHN BURROUGHS POWELL, now of the Walsall-road, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Dealer in Tobacco, and Manager of a Brickyard at Hady Moor, Wednesbury, aforesaid, previously of the same place, Licensed Victualler, Dealer in Tobacco, Cowkeeper selling milk, Carter, and Manager of the Brickyard aforesaid, who was adjudicated bankrupt on the 12th day of December, 1862, will be held before Frederic F. Clarke, Esquire, Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall, on the 8th day of May next, at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the County Court Office, Walsall, when the Creditors' Assignee will submit a statement of the whole estate of the bankrupt as then ascertained, of the property received and of the property outstanding, specifying the cause of its being so outstanding, and of all the receipts and all the payments thereout made; and any creditor who has proved may attend and examine such statement and compare the receipts with the payments, and the meeting will declare by resolution whether any and what part of the said produce of the estate (after making a reasonable deduction for future contingencies) shall be divided amongst the creditors, and at the same time the majority in value of the creditors will determine whether any and what allowance shall be made to the bankrupt out of the estate; and 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.

1863

Lot 5.—A Valuable FREEHOLD FULL-LICENSED CORNER PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as

"THE CASTLE INN,"

in Walsall Street, at its junction with Windmill Street, Wednesbury, with spacious Cellars, Brewhouse, Stable, and large Yard, now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Henry Neale, and let at £50 a year on a tenancy which will expire at Christmas next.

This Public-house occupies a very prominent corner position on a main thoroughfare, and it is in close proximity to important works. It is free from any tie, and well deserves the attention of brewers—more particularly as possession can be had at Christmas next.

1894

CHESHIRE CHEESE

Russell Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thompson [1850]

NOTES

**TO LET, the CHESHIRE CHEESE RETAIL
BEER-HOUSE, situate in Russell Street, WEDNESBURY,
occupied by Mr. Thompson. Rent, £25. per annum ; Goodwill,
License, Coming-in, &c., about £45.
Apply on the Premises.**

Birmingham Journal 7/9/1850 - Advert

“To Let, the CHESHIRE CHEESE Retail Beerhouse, situate in Russell Street, Wednesbury, occupied by Mr. *Thompson*. Rent, £25 per annum; Goodwill, License, Coming-in, &c, about £45.
Apply on the Premises.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/5/1854

“An Irishman, named Patrick M‘Farlane, who, when out of prison, is a terror to the town of Wednesbury, was charged at the last Petty Sessions with a series of assaults committed on Saturday night last. Mr. Blaney, the superintendent of the Wednesbury police force, stated that he never either knew or read of a man of a more ferocious disposition than the prisoner; since September last M‘Farlane had absented himself from the town to evade apprehension under a warrant; on Saturday night, however, he re-appeared, and entering the CHESHIRE CHEESE public house, commenced, without the slightest provocation, an indiscriminate and fierce assault upon the customers. When policeman Clarke arrived, he clutched the constable up in his arms and then dashed him to the ground. Four charges were preferred against him, and he was fined altogether £10 12s; and, in default, was ordered to be imprisoned for four months, two with hard labour.

At the same time, another Irishman, of the same name, was ordered to be imprisoned for 21 days, in default of payment of a fine, for attempting to rescue M‘Farlane from the custody of the police.”

CHESTNUT TREE

Axeltree Way, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Marstons plc

LICENSEES

Mark and Jodie Hickman **(2012 – []** managers

NOTES

It was built on the site of J. H. Lloyd

It opened in 2012.

[2025]



2013



2025

CHURCH HILL TAVERN

27, Church Street, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Duce [1834] – [1835]
William Barratt [1841] – [1851]
Mrs. Ann (Lingard) Knight [] – **1859**);
William Henry Knight (**1859 – 1870**);
Thomas Lingard (**1870 – 1871**);
John Taylor Duce (**1871 – [1873]**)
John Marsh [1874] – [1876]
William Bird [1879] – [1881]
Charles Jackson [1890] – **1891**)
Richard Crimes (**1891 – []**)
Thomas Vincent [1896]
Henry Ellis [1898]



Token

NOTES

Church Hill [1861]

CHURCH [1834]
CHURCH HILL TAVERN [1841], [1842], [1849], [1850], [1882], [1896]
CHURCH TAVERN [1851], [1861]
CHURCH HILL INN [1860], [1881]

It had a beerhouse license.

John Duce, beer retailer, Church Street. [1835]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/1/1840 - Advert

“The Licenses and Possession of that old established House, CHURCH HILL TAVERN, pleasantly situated in Church Street, Wednesbury.

To be Disposed of, the early Possession and Licenses of the above respectable Tavern, in one of the greatest thoroughfares in Wednesbury, deriving an excellent retail business from the surrounding collieries and manufactories. The only reason the present occupier is leaving, is on account of his embarking on a larger scale of business. Rent and payments moderate.

The usual effects to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply to Taylor and Bill, Auctioneers. Offices, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

1841 Census

Church Street

- [1] *William Barratt* (40), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Rebecca Barratt* (30), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Charles Emberton* (2);
- [4] *Joseph Atkins* (45), hatter;

1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] William Barratt (50), victualler, born Forton, Staffordshire;
- [2] Rebecca Barratt (45), wife, born Forton, Staffordshire;
- [3] Charles E. Brooks (12), nephew, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] John Sillitoe (60), brother-in-law, retired blacksmith, born Forton, Staffordshire:

William Barratt – see also WHITE HORSE HOTEL.

Ann Lingard married William Henry Knight in the 1st quarter of 1859.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/4/1859

“At the Public Office, on Saturday last, the Sessions were special for the following transfers of licenses.....
CHURCH HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, to Mr. W. H. Wright [sic] from his present wife, Mrs. Ann Wright [sic], recently a widow.”

1861 Census

Church Street

- [1] William H. Knight (31), commercial clerk and publican, born London;
- [2] Ann Knight (36), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Thomas Lingard (14), son-in-law, gun lock filer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Sarah A. Lingard (11), step-daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] Arthur J. Lingard (6), step-son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] William H. Knight (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Sarah Mason (26), visitor, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Katherine Garraty (24), servant, born Galway, Ireland:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1862

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, by Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner, at the CHURCH HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, on the body of a woman named Elizabeth James, aged 35, the wife of a miner. On Tuesday last the deceased went to Mr. Germain’s surgery for a certificate of death for a neighbour, and on her return home, as soon as she reached the house, she suddenly fell down dead, although she had hitherto enjoyed good health. A post mortem examination having been made by Mr. Proctor, surgeon, at the Coroner’s request, his evidence showed that death was caused by a fatty degeneration of the heart. The Jury returned a verdict to that effect.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1864

“On Friday (yesterday), an inquest was held before Mr. E. Hooper, Esq, coroner, at Mr. *Knight’s*, CHURCH HILL TAVERN, on the body of Sarah Thursfield, aged 52 years, who was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning last. The deceased, with her husband, Joseph Thursfield, who is a sergeant armourer of the 45th Regiment, now at Curragh Camp, Ireland, but ordered for India, came to pay a visit to their friends in Wednesbury before their departure. After the engagement of the evening, she retired to rest with her husband in her usual health, but early in the morning she was found dead by his side. The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

London Gazette 18/1/1867

“*William Henry Knight* (sued and detained as *W. H. Knight*), late of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Merchant’s Clerk, a Prisoner for Debt in the Gaol at Stafford, in the county of Stafford, having been adjudged bankrupt by a Registrar of the County Court of Stafford, attending at the Gaol at Stafford, on the 10th day of December, 1866, and the adjudication being directed to be prosecuted in Her Majesty’s Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, a public sitting, for the said bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make application for his Discharge, will be held before George Williams Saunders, Esq, a Commissioner of the said last-mentioned Court, on the 18th day of February next, at the said Court, at Birmingham, at eleven of the clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender. Mr. George Kinnear, 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 19/1/1867

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *W. H. Knight*, Wednesbury, licensed victualler.

First Meeting. This matter was left to the official assignee.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/2/1867

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *William Henry Knight*, Wednesbury, licensed victualler.

Meeting for last examination and discharge, attended by Mr. Griffin on behalf of the official assignee. It appeared that the bankrupt had been in gaol five weeks, and there being no opposition, an order of discharge was granted.”

1871 Census

27, Church Street

[1] *Thomas Lingard* (24), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Martha Lingard* (20), wife, born Windsor, Lancashire;

[3] *Thomas H. Lingard* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Polly E. Lingard* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *William H. Knight* (41), step-father, clerk, born London;

[6] *Ann Knight* (46), wife, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Sarah Ann Lingard* (21), sister, born Darlaston;

[8] *Arthur J. Lingard* (16), brother, boiler tube finisher, born Wednesbury;

[9] *William H. Knight* (12), step-brother, scholar, born Wednesbury;

John Taylor Duce was also a wine and spirit merchant of 23, Bridge Street and Market Place, and a gun lock, sight and pistol manufacturer. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1873 - Advert

“Wine and Spirit Trade.

Wanted, a Porter, to Deliver Goods. Must understand the management of horses. Good character indispensable. Apply, personally, to *John T. Duce*, Wednesbury.”

WINE and Spirit Trade.—Wanted, a Porter, to Deliver Goods. Must understand the management of horses. Good character indispensable.—Apply, personally, to *John T. Duce*, Wednesbury.

Midland Examiner 28/11/1874 - Advert

“CHURCH HILL INN, Church Street, Wednesbury. *John Marsh*, Proprietor.

J. M. respectfully announces that he has recently entered upon the above old-established Inn and premises, which are situated only a few yards distant from the Theatre Royal, Wednesbury, where may be had Bass and Co.’s Noted Old, East India Pale, and other Burton Ales, and Porter in splendid condition. Genuine Wines and Spirits, Prime Cider, Havannah Cigars.”

[This advert continues into 1876.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/4/1879

“To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield on Tuesday, the 8th day of April.....

Lot 6. A very valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, known by the sign of the CHURCH HILL INN, situate in Church Street, Wednesbury, comprising Liquor Vault, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Malt Room, good Cellar, Club Room, Spirit Room, three Bed Rooms, and Outbuildings, now in the occupation of Mr. *William Bird* at the low annual rent of £40.”

William Bird issued tokens from here.

Lot 6 —A very valuable FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED INN, known by the sign of the “CHURCH HILL INN,” situate in Church Street, Wednesbury, comprising Liquor Vault, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Malt Room, good Cellar, Club Room, Spirit Room, three Bed Rooms, and Outbuildings, now in the occupation of Mr. *William Bird* at the low annual rent of £40.

1881 Census

27, Church Street – CHURCH HILL INN

[1] *William Bird* (25), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Hannah M. Bird* (27), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Sarah A. Gibbs* (20), domestic servant, born Oxford:

Walsall Observer 23/4/1881 - Advert

“To be Let, at Church Hill, Wednesbury, good 7-roomed House, with excellent Cellaring and well-lighted Shopping, suitable for any light trade; accommodation for 50 men. Rent £25.

William Bird, CHURCH HILL INN, Wednesbury.”

Wednesbury Herald 28/1/1882

“On Tuesday Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the CHURCH HILL TAVERN INN, Wednesbury, touching the death of Harriet Austin, aged five years, and whose parents reside at Church Hill, Wednesbury. It appears from the evidence that the deceased, with two other children, who had the measles were left alone in the house by their mother on Saturday, during which time she got to the fire and her clothes became ignited, the result being death.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The Coroner ordered the mother to provide a fire preventative in a fortnight, otherwise she would be summonsed.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/1/1885 - Advert

“Plate-Glass Bar Fittings for Sale, cheap.

CHURCH HILL INN, Wednesbury.”

PLATE-GLASS Bar Fittings for Sale, cheap.—Church Hill Inn, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/8/1885

“On Friday afternoon Mr. F. W. Topham, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the CHURCH HILL TAVERN, Church Street, Wednesbury, touching the death of Thomas Crump Highway (49), of independent means, Church Street, Wednesbury. Deceased was unmarried and of no occupation. He went to bed on Wednesday evening apparently in good health and was found dead the following morning, a fit being the apparent cause of death. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1890 - Advert

“Sale of Properties at Aston and Wednesbury, by Roderick & Son.

To be Sold by Auction (by order of the Mortgagees), at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday, August 12, 1890, at Six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 2. A Freehold Full-Licensed Public House, known as the CHURCH HILL TAVERN, in Church Hill, Wednesbury, with handsome modern Bar, good domestic Accommodation, Cellars, Yard, and Outbuildings, in occupation of Mr. *Charles Jackson*, and let to Messrs. Needham and Crick on annual tenancy at a rent of £38.

This Lot is worth the attention of Brewers, as it is the only licensed victualler's house in the street, and commands the trade of a populous neighbourhood.”

1891 Census

27, Church Street – CHURCH HILL INN

[1] *Charles Jackson* (39), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Julia Jackson* (32), wife, born Worcester;

[3] *Martha Jackson* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1891

“At the Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Neville (stipendiary), *Richard Crimes*, CHURCH HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours on the 28th ult. Mr. Clulow, Birmingham, defended.

Police-sergeant Leadbetter deposed to seeing a little girl fetch a bottle of beer from the house at ten minutes past eleven, and said the landlord, when spoken to, said he thought it was not closing time. The time by his clock was twenty-two minutes past eleven, but he thought his clock was more than those minutes fast.

Mr. Clulow submitted that there had been a bona fide mistake on the part of his client.

The Stipendiary dismissed the case on payment of costs, advising the defendant to look a little better after his clock in future.”

Wednesbury Herald 21/9/1895

"Benjamin Knowles, of Earps Lane, was summoned for assaulting David McGill (62), of Church Street, but did not appear.

Complainant stated that he went to the CHURCH HILL TAVERN on Saturday evening for a glass of beer. Knowles was there, and he sang a song. When he had finished singing he came up to witness and, without any provocation, struck him in the mouth, knocking out three teeth. Defendant said it was for mocking him, but he denied that he had done so. Next day defendant wanted to make it up, but he said he should make an example of him. He was a terror to the neighbourhood. A warrant was issued."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/8/1898

"The annual licensing meeting for the borough of Wednesbury took place this morning at the Police Court.... Superintendent Salt, in his report, stated....

He had received a notice from Mr. *Henry Ellis*, CHURCH HILL TAVERN, of his intention to apply for the removal of the license he now held in respect of these premises to a house now in the course of erection at the corner of Earps Lane and Church Hill, proposed to be known by the sign of the WODEN INN."

The Licenses and Possession of that old established House, "Church Hill Tavern," pleasantly situated in Church-street, Wednesbury.

TO be Disposed of, the early Possession and Licenses of the above respectable TAVERN, in one of the greatest thoroughfares in Wednesbury, deriving an excellent retail business from the surrounding collieries and manufactories.

The only reason the present occupier is leaving, is on account of his embarking on a larger scale of business. Rent and payments moderate.

The usual effects to be taken to at a fair valuation. For particulars apply to

TAYLOR and BILL,
Auctioneers.

Offices, Market-place, Wednesbury.

1840

TO be Let, at Church Hill, Wednesbury, good 7-roomed House, with excellent Cellaring and well-lighted Shopping, suitable for any light trade; accommodation for 50 men. Rent £25.—Wm. Bird, Church Hill Inn, Wednesbury.

1881

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

Lot 2.—A FREEHOLD FULL-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as

"THE CHURCH HILL TAVERN," in Church Hill, Wednesbury, with handsome modern Bar, good domestic Accommodation, Cellars, Yard, and Outbuildings, in occupation of Mr. Charles Jackson, and let to Messrs. Needham and Crick on annual tenancy at a rent of £33.

This Lot is worth the attention of Brewers, as it is the only licensed victualler's house in the street, and commands the trade of a populous neighbourhood.

1890

**CHURCH HILL INN, CHURCH STREET,
WEDNESBURY.**

JOHN MARSH PROPRIETOR.

J. M. respectfully announces that he has recently entered upon the above old-established Inn and premises, which are situated only a few yards distant from the Theatre Royal, Wednesbury, where may be had

**BASS AND CO.' NOTED OLD,
EAST INDIA PALE, and other BURTON ALES,
and PORTER in splendid condition.**

**Geraine Wines and Spirits, Prime Cider, Havannah
Cigars.**

1876

COACH AND HORSES

60, (Lower) High Street, (Bridge Street), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Wheeler [1834] – [1843]
Joseph Wheeler [1851]
John Woodward [1851] – [1865]
Jemima Woodward [] – **1871**;
William Hopwood **(1871 – []**
George Hopwood [1872]
Samuel Bennett [1881] – [1883]
Samuel Dicken [1891]
Walter Russell [1896]
Mrs. Louisa Millsum [1901]
James Bailey [1904]
Leonard Watkins [1911] – [1921]

WANTED, a middle-aged FEMALE, to take charge of a Beer House, and to superintend the domestic affairs of the same.—Also is WANTED, a stout SERVANT GIRL, about eighteen years of age.—Apply to Mr. J. Woodward, Coach and Horses, Wednesbury.

1851

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Joseph Wheeler, beer retailer, Bridge Street. [1835]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/12/1837 - Deaths

“On the 22nd ult aged 58 years, after a long and painful affliction, Sarah, wife of Mr. *Joseph Wheeler*, coach smith, of Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 29/6/1839 - Deaths

“On the 19th inst, Hannah, youngest daughter of Mr. *Joseph Wheeler*, coach smith, of Wednesbury, aged 24 years.”

1841 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] Joseph Wheeler (65), coach smith, born Staffordshire;
- [2] James Wheeler (24), butcher, born Staffordshire;
- [3] Henry Wheeler (19), coach smith, born Staffordshire;
- [4] Mary Wheeler (9), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Harriet Lees (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/8/1841 - Died

“On the 15th instant, of consumption, aged 23, James Wheeler, butcher, fifth son of Mr. *Joseph Wheeler*, coach smith, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 3/6/1843 - Deaths

“On Tuesday, Mr. *Joseph Wheeler*, coach ironmonger, of Wednesbury, aged 67 years. A man universally respected.”

1851 Census

High Street

- [1] John Woodward (33), widower, coal dealer and beerhouse keeper, born Walsall;
- [2] Pheobe Davis (25), sister, widow, housekeeper, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Benjamin Davis (1), nephew, born Stourbridge;
- [4] William Barnes (17), general servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Willam Stocks Booth (54), commercial traveller, born Sheffield:

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1851 – Advert

“Wanted, a middle-aged Female, to take charge of a Beer House, and to superintend the domestic affairs of the same. Also is Wanted, a stout Servant Girl, about eighteen years of age. Apply to Mr. *J. Woodward*, COACH AND HORSES, Wednesbury

John Woodward (33), widower, marine store dealer, Wednesbury, married *Jemima Parkes* (21), spinster, Walsall, father *Joseph Parkes*, victualler, on 31 st August 1852.

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *J. Woodward*, COACH AND HORSES, Bridge Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1859

“Stafford Winter Assizes.....

Joseph Hill, 28 was charged with throwing boiling water over John Malone, on the 24th of October, at Wednesbury. Mr. Motteram appeared for the prosecution, the prisoner was undefended.

The prosecutor stated that on going to his home on the day in question he found the prisoner, his (prosecutor’s) wife, and another female there. A quarrel took place about some family matters, and the prisoner struck him (prosecutor). Following up the attack the prisoner drove him up to the fire place, and then, pressing his head into the fender, tried to rake fire on him. Not succeeding in this, the prisoner took a kettle-full of water which was boiling on the fire, and poured it over his (prosecutor’s) head. Elizabeth Lloyd corroborated.

Mr. Proctor, surgeon, described the nature of the injuries received by the prosecutor, and said they were of a dangerous character. He had attended the prosecutor up to within a fortnight.

The prisoner stated that the prosecutor and he had been drinking together at the COACH AND HORSES, Wednesbury, during the whole of the day in question, and that they were very drunk. With respect to the offence itself, he asserted that the turning over of the kettle of water was purely an accident, and also that Malone attacked him first.

His Lordship, in summing up, said the indictment was laid under the statute against maliciously throwing corrosive and noxious substances. In his opinion boiling water was a destructive fluid within the meaning of the statute, and therefore, if the Jury deemed the evidence strong enough, they would find the prisoner guilty. After a short deliberation the Jury found the prisoner guilty, and as he had been previously transported for fifteen years for violence, the learned Judge sentenced him to ten years’ penal servitude.”

1861 Census

High Street

- [1] *John Woodward* (48), beerhouse keeper and carter, born Walsall;
- [2] *Jemima Woodward* (29), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Caroline Woodward* (14), niece, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Withers* (17), house servant, born Penkridge;
- [5] *Benjamin Randell* (44), lodger, carter, drawing coals etc, born Shropshire;
- [6] *John Symonds* (40), lodger, carter, drawing coals etc, born Oxfordshire;
- [7] *Thomas Smith* (40), lodger, carter, drawing coals etc, born Staffordshire;
- [8] *John Sharp* (35), lodger, carter, drawing coals etc, born Knowle, Warwickshire;
- [9] *William Hill* (21), lodger, carter, drawing coals etc, born Staffordshire;
- [10] *Richard Morton* (30), lodger, carter, drawing coals etc, born Kings Bromley, Staffordshire;
- [11] *John Young* (40), lodger, carter, drawing coals etc, born Cheshire;
- [12] *William Ward* (35), lodger, carter, drawing coals etc, born Warwickshire;

John Woodward, retailer of beer, High Street. [1862]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/3/1863

“Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

John Smith, a labourer, was charged with setting fire to two stacks of corn, the property of *John Woodward*, a publican, of Wednesbury, on the 27th of December last. Mr. Mathews appeared for the prosecution. It appeared that the prisoner had been a servant in the employ of Mr. *Woodward*; and the latter having discharged him, he maliciously set fire to the corn. The jury having found a verdict of guilty, the prisoner was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.”

1871 Census

Lower High Street

- [1] *Jemima Woodward* (39), widow, beerhouse keeper and carter, born Walsall;
- [2] *Thomas Smith* (50), boarder, labourer, carter, born Newtown, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Thomas Mellor* (24), boarder, labourer, carter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *George Philips* (32), boarder, labourer, carter, born Yardley, Worcestershire;
- [5] *John Brockley* (23), boarder, labourer, carter, born Dadington, Cheshire;
- [6] *Sarah Brockley* (21), boarder, born Aston, Staffordshire;
- [7] *Fanny Oldacre* (25), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

George Hopwood, beer retailer, 60, Lower High Street. [1872]

1881 Census

60, Lower High Street – COACH AND HORSES Beershop

- [1] *Samuel Bennett* (49), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Emma Bennett* (43), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Annie Bennett* (19), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Frederick Bennett* (18), son, carpenter and joiner, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Charles Bennett* (14), son, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Emma Bennett* (12), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;

Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1882

“*Smith v Bennett*.

This case came before Vice-Chancellor Hall, on Thursday, in the Chancery Court, Lincolns Inn, by way of a motion on behalf of the plaintiffs for an interim injunction to restrain the defendant, Mr. John [sic] *Bennett*, from working any coals or other minerals under the COACH AND HORSES INN, situated at Wednesbury.

Mr. W. Pearson, QC, said the plaintiff, *Maria Smith*, was the tenant for life, under the will of her late husband, *Richard Bradley Smith*, of one undivided moiety of the property in question, and the other plaintiffs were Mrs. *Smith's* children, who were entitled in remainder to the other moiety, with the exception of one share, to which the wife of the defendant was entitled. The defendant, Mr. *Bennett*, was entitled to the other undivided moiety. *Richard*

Bradley Smith, the testator, shortly before his death, sank a pit on the property, and after his death the defendant sank another pit, and was now working the coal and committing waste. He submitted that the defendant was not entitled to work the coal, upon the ground that he was a tenant in common in occupation; and he further contended that plaintiffs had a right to restrain the defendant from working the minerals, upon the ground that the defendant was committing destructive waste – that was to say, that the working of the mines would let down the buildings, which would be destructive waste. The learned counsel read the affidavits in support of the motion, which set out that the defendant had commenced working the mines, and had refused to cease working, or to render any account of the profits of the coal raised by him; that the working of the mines would seriously decrease the value of the moiety of the property in which the plaintiffs were interested, and would also seriously imperil the safety of the COACH AND HORSES INN and the adjoining house, and also the buildings belonging to adjoining owners. The defendant did not contradict the evidence of the two mining engineers, who had sworn most positively that if the ribs and pillars of coal left in the mine were taken the buildings on the surface would be endangered.

Mr. Mulligan, on behalf of the defendant, submitted that no case had been made out for the interference of the Court by interlocutory injunction. The defendant and his wife also swore most positively that Mrs. Smith, the tenant for life, had agreed to allow the defendant to work the mines. It was also uncontradicted by the plaintiffs' evidence that the defendant had been working the coal for the last eighteen months. There was not a particle of evidence to show that the defendant was working negligently or improperly, and he therefore asked the Court to refuse the motion. The Vice-Chancellor, in giving judgement, said he considered the case made on the affidavits was that if the defendant was allowed to go on working the coal under the house property there would be great danger of the house tumbling down. Under those circumstances he felt bound to grant an injunction restraining the defendant from working the coal under the houses until the trial of the action."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/6/1882

"*Smith v Bennett*."

This case came before Mr. Justice Kay, in the Chancery Division, on Thursday, and was a motion made by Mr. Pearson, QC, for an injunction to restrain the defendant from working a coal-pit sunk in the yard of the COACH AND HORSES INN, Wednesbury, to the danger of the premises, in contravention of an order made upon him by Vice-Chancellor Hall.

Mr. Pearson read various affidavits to show that the pit had been worked on a considerable number of days since the injunction had been granted. These affidavits included one by Wells, a man in the service of the defendant. On the other side a second affidavit by Wells was read, in which he stated that he was unable to read or write, and that there were many things put down in his first affidavit which he was not aware of, and which he had no intention of swearing; that he did not tell the solicitor a great many things which were in that affidavit; and that though the affidavit was read over to him before he swore it, he did not understand what he was swearing.

The learned Judge thereupon stopped the case, saying that the evidence was very unsatisfactory, and that he must see the plaintiff and this witness that they might be cross-examined, and he therefore ordered the defendant *Bennett* and the witness Wells to attend on next motion day. That was to be understood to be an order of the Court, and that their absence would be at the peril of the defendant."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/6/1882

"*Smith v Bennett*."

In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, before Mr. Justice Kay, this was a motion on behalf of the plaintiff to commit the defendant, Mr. *Bennett*, landlord of the COACH AND HORSES public house, at Wednesbury, to prison for a breach of an injunction granted on the 4th May last by Vice Chancellor Sir C. Hall restraining him, his servants, workmen, or agents from working a small coal pit under the COACH AND HORSES public house at Wednesbury.....

[*Bennett* agreed that there had been work at the pit since the injunction, but that no fresh coal had been mined. They only brought up what coal they could find. Wells mentioned that the pit had been shut up.]

.....Mr. Justice Kay said when the case was before him on a former occasion the evidence was in a very unsatisfactory condition, and therefore he ordered it to stand over, in order that the witnesses might attend and be cross-examined. Those witnesses had now been examined, and he could not say that any case of breach of the injunction had been established. The plaintiff, no doubt, seeing winding going on, and the same number of men employed, had a very strong case of suspicion that the injunction was being infringed, but before a man could be sent to prison it must be shown to the satisfaction of the Court that the terms of the injunction had been violated. That had not been done in this case, and therefore he must refuse the motion with costs."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/7/1882

“Thomas Welch, Addison Street, Wednesbury, was fined 1s and costs and 2d damages for trespassing on land belonging to *Samuel Bennett*, landlord of the COACH AND HORSES, High Street, Wednesbury. The prosecutor stated that hundreds of people trespassed on the land, and when he requested them not to do so they used obscene and abusive language towards him.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1887

“Birmingham County Court.....

An interpleader action, sent down from the High Court, was tried in order to decide who had the right to certain goods seized by the sheriff of Staffordshire under an execution issued from the High Court, in an action in which the Lichfield City Brewery Company were the plaintiffs, and *Samuel Bennett*, late of the COACH AND HORSES INN, High Street, Wednesbury, was the defendant. The claimant, Frederick Bennett, is the son of the defendant. Mr. Vachell (instructed by Slater and Marshall, Darlington) was for the claimant, and Mr. Hugo Young (instructed by Lane and Clutterbuck, Birmingham) represented the execution creditor.

The elder *Bennett* for the nine years preceding June 1883, carried on the COACH AND HORSES in his own name. In that month he found himself in difficulties in connection with a bill of sale, and his son, the present claimant, purchased the whole of the stock-in-trade for the sum of £164 7s 9d, thus enabling him to pay off the bill of sale, which was for £120. On November 27, 1885, the business was sold to *Walter Russell*, of West Bromwich, and the claimant, who had been living with his father, went to reside at 61, Lower High Street, and the defendant lodged with him. In taking to these premises the claimant purchased the whole of the previous tenant's furniture, stock of sweetmeats, joiners' tools, and other things that were in the place. These goods were afterwards seized under the execution in question, the judgement being against the defendant, and they were the goods claimed by the younger Bennett in the present action.

The claimant, who is still a very young man, stated that he had been at work since he was nine years of age, and the money with which he paid the bill of sale off he had been saving ever since that age. He put his sister to manage the sweetmeat business. She was then seventeen years old.

The elder *Bennett* gave evidence. In cross-examination he asserted he had told the traveller the business had been transferred to his son. The traveller, however, replied that he knew nothing of the son, and should have nothing to do with him. Witness did not say that he had put the business in his son's name to suit his own purposes.

Without calling on Mr. Young for his defence, his Honour said he did not believe a word of the evidence that had been given in support of the claimant's case. Judgement was given for the execution creditor for £30, and for the claimant for £3, the value of the tools seized.”

1891 Census

60, Lower High Street – COACH AND HORSES

[1] *Samuel Dicken* (29), widower, beer retailer, born Tipton;

[2] *Eliza Edwards* (23), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Samuel Dicken was the son of Francis Dicken of the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Wednesbury.

Walter Russell, beer retailer, 60, Lower High Street. [1896]

1901 Census

60, Lower High Street – COACH AND HORSES INN

[1] *Samuel T. Millsum* (34), gas socket maker, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Louisa Millsum* (30), wife, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Doris Mabel Millsum* (9), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Grace Millsum* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Carlyon Howard Millsum* (7), son, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Harry Percival Millsum* (4), son, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Gwendoline Louise Millsum* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Samuel Douglas Millsum* (1), son, born Wednesbury;

[9] *Arthur Leslie Millsum* (3 months), son, born Wednesbury;

[10] *Ellen Mitchell* (14), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

James Bailey, beer retailer, 60, Lower High Street. [1904]

1911 Census

60, Lower High Street – COACH AND HORSES

- [1] *Leonard Watkins* (46), baker, born Walsall;
- [2] *Harriett Watkins* (47), wife, married 26 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Leonard Watkins* (24), son, baker, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *W. H. Watkins* (23), son, fitter, born Heath Town;
- [5] *Clara Watkins* (19), daughter, shop assistant, born Heath Town;
- [6] *Polly Shilton* (16), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Leonard Watkins, baker, 7, High Street and 36, Trowse Lane, and beer retailer, 60, Lower High Street. [1912]

1921 Census

60, Lower High Street

- [1] *Leonard Watkins* (56), beerhouse keeper, born Walsall;
- [2] *Harriett Watkins* (57), wife, assistant in house, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *William Henry Watkins* (33), son, tool maker, born Heath Town;
- [4] *Pheboe Watkins* (27), daughter-in-law, house duties, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Dorothy Annie Barnett* (23), confectioner's assistant, born Leicester;
- [6] *Edward Albany Seed* (18), bake house assistant, born Liverpool:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/2/1921

“Wednesbury annual Licensing Sessions.....

The justices intimated that opposition would be offered to the renewal of the licenses of the MARKET HOUSE TAVERN, Church Street; BRUNSWICK INN, Great Western Street; and the COACH AND HORSES, Lower High Street, on the grounds of redundancy.”

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions.....

COACH AND HORSES, Lower High Street. Mr. Sharpe represented the owners, and this house was opposed on the grounds of redundancy.

Superintendent Salt explained that the house was a beerhouse on the main street. The licensee was *Leonard Watkins*. There had been no convictions. Particulars were given on accommodation, which was, in his opinion, satisfactory, but there were no bedrooms for visitors. There were several licensed houses nearby.

Mr. Sharpe: The tenant had been there 13 years and no complaints.

It was stated that the takings were about £25 per week.

Mr. Sharpe said it was an old fashioned country kind of house, and a class of respectable men assembled there. They were prepared to do anything necessary, and the owners desired to retain the house and license.

Mr. *Watkins* (tenant) said he did not want to be disturbed, and he was satisfied with the business done. The business of the bakery did not interfere with his attention to the licensing business.

The owners were Woodhall's, West Bromwich.

The chairman said the COACH AND HORSES would be referred for compensation.”

Leonard Watkins – see also COACHMAKERS ARMS.

South Staffordshire Times 23/7/1921

“At a meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority at Stafford, on Thursday, there was no opposition to the closing of the MARKET HOUSE, Wednesbury, the COACH AND HORSES, Wednesbury, and the WOODMAN INN, Tipton, and the licenses were refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1922

“The Principal Meeting of the Compensation Authority was held on July 21, when the committee, after careful consideration of each case referred, refused to renew seven licences.....

The Supplemental Meeting was held on November 12 and by adjournment on December 10. 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 five cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

COACH AND HORSES, Wednesbury, beerhouse on (ante 1869). £775.

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and was paid on the 24th ult.”

COACHMAKERS ARMS

56, (55), Bridge Street / Mounts Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Woodhall Ltd. [1921]
Julia Hanson and Son Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.
Refresh

LICENSEES

John Jinks [1867] – [1896]
Mrs. Mary Jinks [1901]
Samuel 'Sam' Stevenson [1911] – [1921]
Leonard Watkins [1925]
Albert 'Bert' E Ross **(1935 – [1946]**
Gertrude Lavender Ross* [1961] – [1969]
Fergie Ross* [pre 1960s] – [1968]
Mollie Dickens [1971] – [1975]
Robert and Lynn [1976]
George Carpenter [1993]
Surjit Kumar Jhim [2008]

NOTES

55, Bridge Street [1871]
56, Bridge Street [1878], [1879], [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911], [1921], [1939], [1925], [1940], [1946]

It had a beerhouse license.

It was known locally as "The Pretty Bricks".

John Jinks = John Jenks

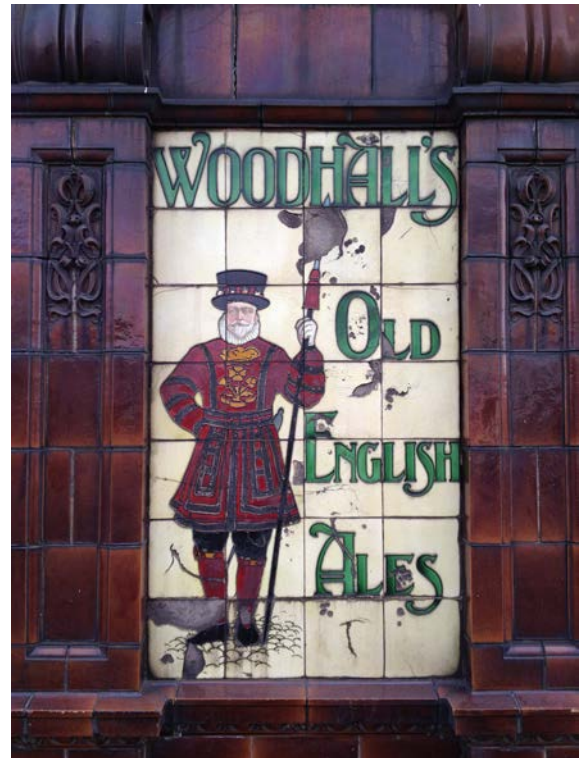
Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/11/1867

"J. Collins of Wednesbury will fly his pigeon Dally from the Nelson Monument, Birmingham, to Wednesbury against any of the following. He will give J. Dudley's silver hen or E. Coley's pigeon half a minute start, or F. Adams's pigeon. Either match to be for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *J. Jinks's*, COACH MAKERS ARMS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/12/1867

"N. Knowles of Wednesbury will run S. Swinbourne of Walsall 120 yards if he will give two yards start, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *J. Jinks's*, COACH MAKERS ARMS, Wednesbury."

John Jinks, beer retailer, Bridge Street. [1868], [1870]



1871 Census

55, Bridge Street

- [1] *John Jinks* (29), turner, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Jinks* (28), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Sarah J. Jinks* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William Jinks* (6), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *George Powell* (24), cowman, born Hereford:

John Jenks, beer retailer, 56, Bridge Street. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1878

"From last night's *London Gazette* Liquidations by Arrangement.....
J. Jinks, Wednesbury, beerhouse keeper and gas fittings manufacturer."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/2/1878 - Advert

"In Liquidation. Re *John Jinks*, COACHMAKERS ARMS INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

By E. B. Scholefield, Tomorrow (Tuesday), at 11 o'clock.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above-named Inn; Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, Gasfittings-maker's Tools, Steam Engine, Boiler, Lathes, Anvils, Swages, Oliver Hammers, Tools, &c, &c."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1878 - Advert

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

In the Matter of a Special Resolution for Liquidation by Arrangement of the affairs of *John Jinks*, of 56, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper and Gasfitting Manufacturer. Edward Broadhouse Scholefield, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Auctioneer, has been appointed Trustee of the Property of the Debtor. All Persons having in their possession any of the Effects of the Debtor must deliver them to the Trustee, and all Debts due to the Debtor must be paid to the Trustee. Creditors who have not yet Proved their Debts must forward their Proofs of Debts to the Trustee.

Dated this 28th day of February, 1878. Frederick Bill, Walsall, Solicitor to the Trustee."

Wednesbury Herald 20/12/1879

"To be Sold by Auction by Mr. E. B. Scholefield early in the month of January 1880.....

Lot 2. A freehold Public House numbered 56 in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, with the Cottage in the rear thereof, known as the COACH MAKERS ARMS, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Jinks*, or of his sub-tenant Mr. Henry Partridge.

This Property is held for the residue of the term of a lease which expires on the 11th day of January 1880. The present rental amounts to £36 10s per annum."

1881 Census

56, Bridge Street – COACH MAKERS ARMS Beershop

- [1] *John Jinks* (39), gas fitting maker, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Jinks* (37), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Sarah Jane Jinks* (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William Jinks* (16), son, cripple, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William Wood* (4), nephew, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Henry Partridge* (30), boarder, ironworker, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Joseph Taylor* (38), boarder, labourer, born Atherstone, Staffordshire:

Birmingham Mail 27/8/1890

"At Wednesbury yesterday, Henry Smith, of Glover Street, Birmingham, was charged with stealing a silver watch, the property of *John Jinks*, Bridge Street Wednesbury. On Monday evening the prosecutor went to Darlaston Wake, and on attempting to get into a steam tram-car about ten o'clock for Wednesbury he missed his watch, and saw the prisoner attempting to get away. He raised an alarm, and prisoner was arrested by Police-constables Davidson and Parsons, and on being taken to the police station the watch was found under his collar. Superintendent Holland said he had reason to believe that the prisoner had given a false name, and the man was remanded."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1890

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Pled Guilty.....

Frederick Bassett, stealing at Darlaston, on August 25, a silver watch belonging to *John Jinks*, five years’ penal servitude.”

1891 Census

56, Bridge Street – COACH MAKERS ARMS

[1] *John Jinks* (49), publican and gas fitting maker, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Jinks* (47), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *William Jinks* (26), son, gas fitting screwer, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Jane Dean* (25), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

John Jinks, manufacturer of gas fittings and beer retailer, 56, Bridge Street. [1896]

John Jinks died on 3rd April 1899.

1901 Census

56, Bridge Street

[1] *Mary Jinks* (58), fittings maker and landlady of tavern, born Wednesbury;

[2] *William Jinks* (36), son, fittings maker, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Jane Jinks* (35), daughter-in-law, barmaid, born Walsall;

[4] *Mary Jane Wilson* (9), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury:

Mary Jinks died on 30th March 1902.

1911 Census

56, Bridge Street – COACH MAKERS ARMS

[1] *Samuel Stevenson* (52), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Alice Stevenson* (52), wife, married 27 years, born Walsall;

[3] *Norman Stevenson* (21), son, coach smith, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Harry Stevenson* (19), son, blacksmith’s striker, born Wincobank, Yorkshire;

[5] *Lily Stevenson* (15), daughter, born Warrington, Lancashire;

[6] *May Stevenson* (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Leslie Stevenson* (10), son, born Wincobank, Yorkshire:

Samuel Stevenson, beer retailer, 56, Bridge Street. [1912]

1921 Census

56, Bridge Street – COACHMAKERS ARMS

[1] *Samuel Stevenson* (63), public house manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Alice Stevenson* (63), wife, home duties, born Walsall;

[3] *Alice May Stevenson* (23), daughter, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Leslie Stuart Stevenson* (20), son, tube turner and fitter, born Sheffield:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 24/10/1925

“Deed of Arrangement. *Leonard Watkins*, COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridge Street, and 7 and 26, High Street, Wednesbury, baker and confectioner and beerhouse keeper. Trustee, *J. Gough*, Castle Street, Dudley. Dated October 13th, filed October 19th. Unsecured liabilities, £1,046; estimated net assets, £46.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 14/11/1925

“The following appeared in the *London Gazette* this week, under the notices of Deeds Void.....

Leonard Watkins, COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridge Street, and 7 and 26, High Street, Wednesbury, baker, confectioner and beerhouse keeper. Notice filed by the trustee November 3rd, the deed of arrangement filed October 19th 1925, is void.”

London Gazette 18/12/1925

“*Leonard Watkins*, now residing and carrying on business as a Beerhouse Keeper, at the COACHMAKERS ARMS, 56, Bridge Street and lately carrying on business at High Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, as a Baker and Confectioner bankrupt.”

Leonard Watkins – see also COACH AND HORSES.

Lichfield Mercury 16/7/1937

“Brownhills Petty Sessions.....

For failing to conform to traffic signs the following penalties were inflicted.....

Albert V. G. Ross, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, 10s.”

1939 Register

56, Bridge Street

[1] *Albert E. Ross*, date of birth 3/11/1885, wood pattern maker, married;

[2] *Gertrude Lavender Ross*, dob 16/5/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Frederick J. Ross*, dob 9/4/1915, butcher's assistant, single;

[4] *Albert V. G. Ross*, dob 27/9/1918, grocery assistant, single;

[5] *Christine Joyce (Ross)*, Southall, dob 4/10/1924, shop assistant, single;

[6] *Mollie/Molly (Ross) Dickens*, dob 20/4/1928, school, single:

Bilston and Willenhall Times 16/3/1946

“The wedding took place at St. John's Church, Wednesbury, last week of Mr. Albert Victor Gordon Ross, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. *A. Ross*, of the COACHMAKERS ARMS, 56, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and Miss Pauline Evans, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *A. Evans*, of 9, Margaret Street, West Bromwich.....”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

* possibly the same person

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1962]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1963], [1965]
[COACHMAKERS won the league in 1962.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/9/1962

“The COACHMAKERS team last night won the Presidents Cup in the final of the competition organised by the Wednesbury Central Darts League. They beat MIDLAND VAULTS 8-1 and received the cup from the league president, Councillor Tom Berry.”

Gertrude Lavender Ross died in the 2nd quarter of 1969.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/5/1969 - Deaths

“*Gertrude Ross* of COACHMAKERS ARMS. Our dear mom.

What she suffered, she told few,

She never deserved what she went through,

She left us suddenly, her thoughts unknown,

But she left us with memories we are proud to own.

From loving family and grand-children.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/4/1970 - Advert

“Carpet Sale of misfit and reject Carpets, at the COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, Thursday, April 30, from 5.30pm-7.30pm. This is a private sale, not by auction, these carpets are in beautiful colours and designs, not in correct pattern, but the quality is there; such as 3 x 2½, 3 x 3, 3½ x 3, 4 x 4, 5 x 4 and 6 x 4; we are making a special offer of 20 of these carpets having been made in wrong sizes in rich designs; they are suitable for dining rooms, sitting rooms, bedrooms, kitchens, etc, 6 x4 yards and 5 x 4 yards, carpets, 4 x 3 yards, £9 10/-; 3 yards x 2½ yards, £6 10/-; a free hearth rug with every large carpet.

B. Finney, 43, Samson Road, Birmingham 11.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/10/1971 - Deaths

“Bert Middlebrook. Deepest sympathy from *Molly* of the COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1975 - Advert

“*Mollie*, of COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, wishes all her customers and friends a Very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1976 - Advert

“Robert and Lynn of COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, wish all their customers and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/2/1986

“Another 50 Sandwell publicans are campaigning for rate cuts after complaining that beer sales are sinking. The latest applications come after 300 Sandwell pubs last year applied for rate cuts because of dwindling trade. The BARREL in Pound Road, Oldbury, is objecting against a rateable value of £2,284 and the ROWLEY RAG at Throne Road, Rowley Regis, is contesting a rateable value of £3,513 in the latest applications.

The COACH AND HORSES at High Street, Princes End, Tipton, the PARK TAVERN at Dudley Road, Smethwick, the COACH MAKERS ARMS at Bridge Street, Wednesbury and the FLOWER POT at Spon Lane, West Bromwich, are also seeking rate cuts.

The applications are due to be heard in March at the West Midlands Valuation Panel offices at Dudley. A Panel spokesman said, ‘Rates on pubs are based on sales.’

Some Sandwell publicans have already warned that they will not be able to carry on if rents and rates are increased.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/7/1993

“Landlord *George Carpenter* has built a marvellous mini-garden on the only space he has available for flowers – the roof of his pub’s toilet block. Enterprising *George* got fed up with life without flowers at his pub in Wednesbury and set about bringing a bit of colour into his yard. He built a little flower border around the side of the toilet roof and put in lots of bedding plants, hanging baskets and plant-packed containers. Now passers-by stop and admire the floral displays at the COACHMAKERS ARMS in Bridge Street – known as the ‘Pretty Bricks’ and perhaps from now on as the ‘Pretty Flowers.’ And his wife Joyce finds the flower displays a much better view from the kitchen sink.....”

It was renamed COACHMAKERS. [2005]

[2014]

Closed [2016]

It was converted into housing and the exterior was rendered.



In Liquidation.—*Re John Jinks, Coachmakers' Arms Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.*

BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, TO-MORROW (Tuesday), at 11 o'clock—the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above-named Inn; HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Brewing Vessels, Gasfitter-maker's Tools, Steam Engine, Boiler, Lathes, Anvils, Swages, Oliver Hammers, Tools, &c., &c.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1869.—In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.—In the Matter of a Special Resolution for Liquidation by Arrangement of the affairs of JOHN JINKS, of 56, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper and Gasfitter Manufacturer. EDWARD BROADHOUSE SCHOLEFIELD, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Auctioneer, has been appointed TRUSTEE of the Property of the Debtor. All Persons having in their possession any of the Effects of the Debtor must deliver them to the Trustee, and all Debts due to the Debtor must be paid to the Trustee. Creditors who have not yet Proved their Debts must forward their Proofs of Debts to the Trustee.—Dated this 23rd day of February, 1878.

FREDRIC BILL, Walsall. Solicitor to the Trustee.

1878

**MOLLIE,
of
COACHMAKERS ARMS,**

**Bridge Street,
Wednesbury.**

Wishes all her customers and friends a Very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

1975

**ROBERT AND LYNN
of
COACHMAKERS ARMS,
Bridge Street,
Wednesbury,**

wish all their customers and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

1976



1996



2008



COMMERCIAL

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Simeon Constable [1841] – [1842]

NOTES

1841 Census

High Street and Market Place

[1] *Simeon Constable* (45), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] S. C. Constable (29), wife;

[3] Martha Constable (16), born Staffordshire;

[4] Elizabeth Constable (3), born Staffordshire;

[5] Philip Constable (20), born Staffordshire;

[6] Mary Nickolds (20) f.s., born Staffordshire;

[7] Betsey Nickolds (25), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[8] Eliza Wilcox (22), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[9] Emma Wilcox (14), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Simeon Constable – see also GEORGE.

CORONATION

2, Friar Park Road / Crankhall Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1972], [1977]

Ansells Ltd.

Pubmaster Breweries [1995]

LICENSEES

Ralph David Johnson [1939]

Ron Ward []

Cyril Ernest Hughes [1961] – [1966]

Eric Chapman **(1976 – [1977])**

Alec Strange [1979]

Stephen Smith [] – **1982)**

Kenneth 'Ken' Horobin **(1982 – [1984])**

Angela Jayne Everitt []

Brian Beebee [] – **1994)**



c1986

NOTES

It opened in 1937.

1939 Register

2, Friar Park Road – CORONATION INN

[1] *Ralph D. Johnson*, date of birth 12/5/1881, public house manager, married;

[2] *Ethel L. Johnson*, dob 6/8/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Arthur E. Johnson*, dob 2/5/1879, barman, single;

[4] *William Henry Johnson*, dob 13/11/1916, fitter's mate, single;

[5] *Arthur E. Johnson*, dob 7/3/1920, electricity test room assistant, single;

[6] *Peggy L. Johnson*, dob 22/10/1922, barmaid, single:

Ralph David Johnson – see also WOODMAN, Dale Street, and OLD PARK.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/2/1940

“Comforts Fund for men at the front.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £297 11s 4½d.

Proceeds of boxes.....

CORONATION INN, £1 3s 7d.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/2/1940

“Latest donations to the West Midlands and *Express and Star* Comforts Fund.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £344 1s 3½d.

Proceeds of Boxes.....

CORONATION HOTEL, £1 1s 7d.”

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

"The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485. Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were..... CORONATION INN, Wednesbury, £1 6s."

A team from here took part in the Stone Cross and District Dominoes League. [1951]

Sports Argus 14/3/1959

"Next Friday the *Sports Argus* darts team renew rivalry with Wednesbury Victory League. Proceeds of the match, which will be played at CORONATION INN, Friar Park, will go to aid the Park Corner Children's Home."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/4/1962

"Wednesbury magistrates court today.....

The court granted an application made by Mr. W. G. Thornton, on behalf of Jim Partridge (Wednesbury) Ltd., who applied for a betting office license on a site at the CORONATION INN, Friar Park."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1962]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/4/1965 - Advert

"Pianist. Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings.
CORONATION INN, Friar Park, Wednesbury."

**PIANIST. Thursday, Friday, Saturday
evenings.—Coronation Inn, Friar Park,
Wednesbury.**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/11/1968 - Advert

"Pianist or Accordionist to play with drummer.
CORONATION INN, Friar Park, Wednesbury."

**PIANIST or Accordionist to play with
drummer. — Coronation Inn, Friar
Park, Wednesbury.**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/12/1972

"Grorty pudding, gray paise and other Black Country gourmet delicacies will be a speciality of the new Black Country theatre, launched by Mitchells and Butlers, the brewery firm, at Wednesbury, last night. The theatre, named 'Whackett' in honour of Black Country poet and wit, the late Mr. Walter Hackett, president of Accles and Pollock, Oldbury, who wrote under the name 'Khanyer Whackett.' It is planned to give the theatre, which is part of the CORONATION public house at Friar Park, an old time Black Country entertainment and Black Country dishes. Brewery district supervisor, Mr. Malcolm Powell, said, 'We hope the new venture will become a centre for local arts. To start with, a lot of the entertainment will be provided by professionals, but we hope that amateur talent will come along and provide real Black Country entertainment. Anything from playing spoons to telling Enoch and Eli stories would be acceptable.' The first pint was pulled by Mr. George Hackett, a son of the late Mr. Hackett."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/12/1972 - Advert

"CORONATION INN, Friar Park Road ('Whacketts') Wednesbury.

Friday, Dec. 29th: Catweazle. Saturday, Dec. 30th: Sweet Sounds. Sunday, Dec 31st: Lunchtime, Lee Wilson; Evening, Touch."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/1/1973 - Advert

"CORONATION INN, Friar Park Road (Whacketts) Wednesbury.

Saturday, Jan. 20th; Sunday, Jan. 21st: Ted McDermott, Our Resident Entertainer.

Also Monday, Jan. 22nd: Free and Easy Concert. Wednesday 24th: Amateur Talent Competition."

Lichfield Mercury 9/11/1973

"Industry and the arts are getting together. Mitchells and Butlers, the brewers, and the West Midlands Arts Association are planning to organise celebrity music and poetry events throughout the region's five counties. The first of a series of monthly concerts at the CORONATION INN, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury, is to be held on Monday next week, November 12, and the W.M.A.A. hopes it will attract people from well outside the Black Country. The concert starts at 8.30 and food is included in the admission charge of 35p."

Birmingham Mail 28/3/1974

“The CORONATION INN at Friar Park, Wednesbury, is to receive the K. Russell Cup for winning the annual charity open knock-out dominoes competition organised by the Wednesbury St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Wednesbury Fellowship of the Disabled. The team and runners-up, the QUEENS HEAD at Wood Green, Wednesbury, who have won the Wednesbury Shield, will receive the prizes from the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Stan Harris, on May 9.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/9/1974 - Advert

“CORONATION INN, Friar Park, Wednesbury.

Tonight and every Friday: New Disco Scene with the Midlands Top DJs.

This Week: Raymond John.

8.00 till late.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/2/1975 - Advert

“Urgently required, Club Secretary for Friar Park Central Flying Club. Approximate members 40 to 45. £2 per head. Replies to The Chairman, Mr. A. Sayce, the CORONATION INN, Friar Park, West Bromwich.”

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 Ansells.....

CORONATION, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/9/1977

“A Wednesbury M&B licensee involved in the big brewery swap-a-pub plan says he would move out rather than sell Ansells beer. And other licensees also gave the idea a cold reception. Regulars at eight Sandwell pubs owned by Bass Charrington, the Mitchells & Butlers Group, have been told their locals will serve Courage beers instead of Brew XI from next January. Two more Sandwell M&B pubs will go over to Ansells at the same time. The scheme aims to boost competition and give drinkers more choice, but landlords fear the sudden change might drive customers away.....

Mr. *Eric Chapman*, of the CORONATION, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, an M&B pub going to Ansells, said, ‘I’ll move to another place rather than go over to Ansells. People around here have been drinking M&B for 20 years and they could leave the pub rather than change their drink. I think some of them won’t be pleased about this at all. M&B have always been fair and I’d rather have the devil I know, so I’ve asked them to move me to another of their pubs.’ Mr. *Chapman* took over the CORONATION, his first house, 18 months ago.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/9/1979

“A West Bromwich licensee has hit out at claims that his two Alsatian guard dogs are ‘vicious’ after they attacked three children in the street. The children, who were with a group going to school when the dogs escaped from the public house, needed hospital treatment after the attack. But Mr. *Alec Strange*, licensee of the CORONATION INN, Friar Park, said, ‘They are just playful pets who got over excited. I will not have them put to sleep just because of this.’ The dogs, 19 months’ old Nickie and Goldie, dashed out when cleaners left a door open and ran towards a crowd of youngsters. As other children scattered, the dogs bit Samantha Cockbill, aged nine, and Mark Dams on the leg and scratched 11-year-old Sharon Welings. The children went back to school the same day after hospital treatment.

Mr. *Strange* runs the pub with his wife Linda and his parents, Mr. Sid Strange and his wife Beatrice.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/12/1979

“Once again a darts player has come to the aid of charity. The player in question is Tommy Weigh, who staged an exhibition match to raise funds for Wednesbury widow Josie Price, whose eight-year-old son died recently of a brain tumour. The match took place at the CORONATION, Friar Park, and throughout the evening Tommy played 36 games of 701, and won them all. The effort raised £118, so thanks, Tommy, for a fine gesture.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/6/1981

“A 22-year-old West Bromwich man, suspected of burgling a Wednesbury public house, ‘rashly’ invited police to search his home, Mr. David Seconde, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday. For the officers found a breakfast cereal box full of gaming tokens and small change taken from machines at the CORONATION public house. Alan Bowen broke into the public house with a number of other men, the court heard. He lived in fear of his safety if he mentioned their names to the police.

Detective Constable Leslie Farmer agreed others were involved in the burglary.

Bowen, unemployed, of Marshall House, Charlemont Farm, admitted entering the CORONATION pub and stealing bottles of spirits and £50 in cash.

Mr. Seconde said that Bowen told police he hid in the pub’s poolroom after the relief manager had locked up and then stole the money and spirits. It was a substantial burglary, added Mr. Seconde, and a large number of cigarettes were also taken but Bowen said he was not involved with their theft. In a statement to police Bowen said, ‘I did not break in. I hid in the poolroom until the management left. I had nothing to do with the fags.’

Judge Chetwynd-Talbot told Bowen that his real problem was drink and it was obvious that when he was drinking he got into trouble. He ordered Bowen to do 200 hours community service.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/3/1982

“Four middle-aged Wednesbury pub regulars staged a sit-in at their local last night in a bid to keep their landlord in his job. Police were called to move the men on from the CORONATION pub in Coronation Road at quarter to midnight. They had refused to leave because Mr. *Stephen Smith*, who had hoped to become tenant had his application to take over the CORONATION turned down by licensing justices. Police objected to him taking over at West Bromwich magistrates court. Ansells Brewery had hoped to put him in to run the pub. Ansells had moved in a relief tenant for the night, Mr. John Austin, of the ROYAL OAK pub in Pleck, and that sparked the sit-in. The men moved on peacefully after police arrived and Mr. *Smith* asked them to leave.

Today, Mr. *Smith*, for whom Ansells are seeking a replacement to meet with police approval, said, ‘I am grateful for the regulars’ support. I don’t even know them well.’ Ansells tied-trade director Mr. John Renshaw, said, ‘Police have decided they do not think Mr. *Smith* is appropriate to be tenant, and we are not going to argue it in court. We are seeking another tenant.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/12/1982 - Advert

“The CORONATION, Friar Park, Wednesbury.

December 24th (Christmas Eve), Carols with Dave Williams at the Organ.

December 27th (Boxing Night), Party Time.

New Year’s Eve, Top Comedian Brian Day. Tickets £1.50 each.

Monday Nights Video Show. Friday Nights Free & Easy.

Bookings now being taken for special functions in 1983, buffet or sit down menu.

Video film of occasion available.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/12/1982

“Black Country newly-weds can have their reception immortalised on film – thanks to a Wednesbury landlord who has latched on to the video craze in a big way. For the price of a video tape, landlord of the CORONATION pub in Friar Park Road, Mr. *Ken Horobin*, will capture the wedding breakfast on film of all couples who have receptions at his pub. And the boon of video does not stop there. Pigeon club members based there will see their birds being judged – usually the judging sessions are held in private, away from the eyes of prospective prize winners. Darts and football teams can have an ‘Action replay.’ The gimmick is all part of the new image for the CORONATION. *Ken* and his wife, Val, leased the pub from Ansells in August.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/1/1983

“A Wednesbury licensee is to revive the swinging sixties, with shows featuring pop stars like Marty Wilde and Helen Shapiro. The Marty Wilde concert on February 19 had only just been advertised and already the tickets are selling well, said Mrs. Valerie Horobin, wife of the licensee of the CORONATION, Mr. *Kenneth Horobin*. ‘A lot of people are still keen to see the top artists of the sixties and if the first two shows go well we shall make it a regular feature,’ she said. ‘We’re thinking about people like Helen Shapiros and the Searchers for future bookings.’

The couple only took over the Friar Park pub in August and hope the live show will help boost business. Before taking over the CORONATION the couple ran a transport cafe. Now they are hoping the sixties music will mean their first venture into the licensing trade starts on a high note.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/9/1983

“Wednesbury’s CORONATION pub lived up to its name when it crowned its very own beauty queen. Tracey-Ann Smith, aged 21, of Bentley, Walsall, received £100, a free holiday and free health and hair care after winning the final of the competition on Tuesday night. ‘I was very surprised and pleased to have won,’ said Tracey. The competition at the Friar Park Road pub is believed to be the first time such a contest has been held by a pub. Ten girls took part in the final after six weeks of heats.

‘Tracey will represent the pub at our cabaret shows and other functions,’ said Mrs. Val Horobin, wife of CORONATION licensee Mr. *Ken Horobin*. ‘She has a super personality and we’re thrilled that she won.’

Second place was taken by 18-year-old Shani Stanton, of Tipton, while third place went to Diana Lowe, also 18, of Wednesfield.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/9/1983 - Advert

“The CORONATION, Friar Park, Wednesbury.

Calling All Junior Talent, ages 9-18 years, for our Junior Talent Contest.

£300 Prize Money. Also a Prize for Every Act.”

Birmingham Mail 11/8/1984 - Advert

“Jesters, the CORONATION, Friar Park, Wednesbury.

Grand Talent Contest 1984. £500 Prize Money.

There are still a few places left for entrants. Running every Tuesday night. Free Admission.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/11/1984 - Advert

“Jesters at the CORONATION, Friar Park, Wednesbury.

Don’t forget tonight Monday 26 November ‘Flashback’ Heavy Rock Disco.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/12/1984 - Advert

“*Ken* and *Val* would like to wish all their Customers old and new a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jesters, Coronation Road, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/1/1985

“A 29-year-old Black Country man has been jailed for two months and banned from a pub for two years after breaking the landlord’s jaw. Stephen Harrison returned to the CORONATION INN in Friar Park, Wednesbury, and attacked *Kenneth Horobin* after he had been thrown out of a private party, West Bromwich magistrates were told. Harrison, of Willenhall Street, Darlaston, was jailed and banned from the pub after pleading guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm on Mr. *Horobin*. The magistrates also ordered him to pay £50 compensation to the landlord. Mr. Timothy Palmer, prosecuting, said Harrison had gone without an invitation to a ticket-only party on Christmas Eve. Mr. *Horobin* asked him to leave and an argument developed between the two men.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/12/1986 - Advert

“Auction, every Tuesday, 7.30pm CORONATION Pub, Coronation Road, Wednesbury. Viewing 6-7pm. Vendors required.”

AUCTION, every Tuesday, 7.30 pm.
Coronation Pub, Coronation Road,
Wednesbury. Viewing 6 - 7 pm.
Vendors required. — 021 556 5189.

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/4/1987

“Terrified customers tried to barricade themselves in a pub as six young people, including two girls, bombarded it with scrap metal, it was alleged in court. Mr. Gerald Challinor, prosecuting, at West Bromwich Magistrates Court, said that as the metal was handed from a lorry the youths and girls threw it at the CORONATION pub in Friar Park Road in revenge for not being admitted to a disco.

Craig Nicholls (18), of Chiltern House, Lion Farm Estate, Tracey Denise Burrows (19), of Meadow Avenue, Ronald Stephen Wise (27), of Hinckley Court, Kingsway, all of Oldbury; Marie Joanne Arnold (26), of Walton Road, Friar Park Estate, Wednesbury; Anthony Mark Janes (21), of St. Marks Road, Tipton, and a 15-year-old youth were all charged with using threatening, abusive words or behaviour with intent to provoke a breach of the peace. Nicholls and Wise were further charged with having an offensive weapon, a wooden post; and the 15-year-old was further charged with assaulting PC Stephen Wall with intent to prevent the lawful apprehension of Craig Nicholls. All six pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Challinor said a disco was taking place at the CORONATION pub, Friar Park Road, and when two doormen opened the doors late at night to let people out, the six young people in court wanted to get in. They were told they could not enter the premises and in revenge they carried out a violent physical attack on the pub and its customers. ‘Scrap metal was handed down from a nearby parked lorry and the defendants began smashing windows in the pub and carried out such a violent attack that reinforced wire to protect windows was smashed’ he alleged.

(Proceeding)”

[All were found guilty and sentenced: Joanne Marie Arnold, six weeks in jail; Tracey Denise Burrows, six weeks youth custody; Stephen Ronald Wise, six weeks in jail; Mark Anthony Janes, six weeks in jail; Craig Ian Nicholls, one month at a detention centre.]

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/8/1988

“A Wednesbury amateur boxer beat up a man whose family had waged a vendetta against his, a court heard. Steven Cowley finally snapped and lashed out with a pool cue and punched and kicked his victim, magistrates at West Bromwich heard. The attack left Darren Lake with cuts, swelling and bruising to the head, left eye and cheek, nose, forehead and lips and sore ribs, said Mr. David Griffith, prosecuting. Cowley (18), a trainee plumber, of Sandy Lane, Friar Park, pleaded guilty to unlawfully and maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm on Mr. Lake. He was fined £200, with £20 costs, and bound over in the sum of £200 to be of good behaviour for two years.

Mr. Griffith said the attack occurred in the pool room of the CORONATION public house in Friar Park. Cowley was a keen boxer, and, in normal circumstances, kept his temper under control.

Mr. Malcolm Turner, defending, said Cowley and his family had been the victims of a five or six-year vendetta by Mr. Lake and his family. Cowley was enjoying a game of pool at the pub with friends when Mr. Lake, also with friends, began staring, pointing and sniggering at him. Eventually Cowley snapped and hit him on the chin. He fell to the floor where Cowley followed up the attack but was pulled off by others in the pub.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 25/5/1993

“Black Country friends celebrated with a well-earned pint after putting their best feet forward to raise cash for local charities. The five set off from the CORONATION pub in Friar Park, Wednesbury, for a 348-mile relay walk to Lands End in Cornwall. With the help of back-up driver, Grant Hill, the team made the journey in double-quick time, covering the distance in just 13 days. Walker Gary Wilks, of Dorset Road, Friar Park, who thought up the idea of the walk, said they hoped to have raised around £3,000 in sponsorship. The money would be split between the Rainbow House Hospice in Walsall and the Seventh Wednesbury Cub Scouts minibus appeal. Mr. Wilkes, a leader with the scout group, said, ‘Initially just me and Benny Dangerfield were going to do it. But when the others heard about it, they volunteered to come along as well.’ Les Roper, Brian Harford, and Phil Ward joined Mr. Wilks and Mr. Dangerfield for the walk.”

London Gazette 26/4/1993

“*Angela Jayne Everitt*, unemployed, the CORONATION Public House, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, and lately carrying on business as a Publican, at the CORONATION Public House, Friar Park Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, and the ROYAL TIGER, High Street, Wednesfield.

Court - West Bromwich.

Date of Filing Petition - 24th March 1993.

Date of Bankruptcy Order - 24th March 1993.

Whether Debtor’s or Creditor’s Petition or Petition after Criminal Bankruptcy Order – Debtor’s.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/2/1994

“A pub manager driven out by teenage thugs spoke today of the nightmare he and his family endured at the hands of the mob. Mr. *Brian Beebee*, from Wolverhampton, said that the youngsters, many high on drink and drugs, had waged a vendetta against him at the CORONATION in Friar Park Road, Wednesbury. He said that over a seven-week period the thugs beat him up, stole his car and burned it out and terrorised him and his wife Doreen. He finally threw in the towel last weekend and said that shortly after he left the pub was broken into and wrecked. He said the trouble really began when he tried to stop under-age drinkers sneaking into the CORONATION and gathering in a pool room at the back of the pub. He said that after he was beaten up by three teenagers outside the pub five minutes into New Year’s Day he closed the pool room down. The 58-year-old said, ‘I think everything since then has been a vendetta against me because I closed down their meeting place.’

Mr. *Beebee*, who lives in Wolverhampton but refused to have his address disclosed for fear of further reprisals, branded the teenagers ‘hardened criminals.’ He said, ‘I have been in the pub business for 15 years and run quite a few pubs but have never come across anything like this. I’m 6ft tall, 13 stone and don’t scare easily but it was scary going to bed at night there.’”

It closed in 1994.

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/4/1995

“Children breaking into a disused Wednesbury pub are thought to be responsible for the third fire at the premises in a week. Firefighters were called to the former CORONATION pub, in Friar Park, at about 1.30pm yesterday after residents spotted smoke pouring from the building. Station officer Paul Dixon, of Wednesbury fire station, said that in the last seven days most of the fixed seating left in the bar area had been destroyed. He said the fire service was trying to contact the pub’s owners to improve safety. Mr. Dixon added, ‘The windows were boarded up, but most of them have been ripped off and burned by kids.’”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/6/1995

“Around 20 firefighters tackled a blaze at a derelict Wednesbury pub. The fire at the CORONATION pub, Coronation Road, Friars Park, took hold just after 6pm on Saturday. It is believed the fire was started deliberately. Crews from Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Bilston and Walsall attended. Wednesbury station officer Bob George said, ‘It was quite a major fire. There have been a series of them at the pub since it was closed a few months ago.’ The blaze destroyed about half of the ground and first floors and burnt away part of the roof.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/10/1995

“Controversial plans to build a new supermarket on the site of a former Black Country pub look set to be approved, despite fierce opposition from more than 100 residents. Netto Foodstores wants to build the store on the plot of the CORONATION pub, in Friar Park Road, Wednesbury. The disused pub was recently demolished after more than a year of vandal and arson attacks.....”

Birmingham Mail 24/1/1996

“Notice of Application for Planning Permission.

The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.

Proposed development at former CORONATION Public House, Friar Park, Wednesbury.

I give notice that Netto Foodstores Limited is applying to the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for planning permission for Retail supermarket with associated car park. Amended application to that previously approved to include land of former shops at 4 and 6 Friar Park Road for extra parking, access alteration and increase to floorspace of supermarket.....”

A supermarket was built on the site.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/10/2002

“Publication in the *Express & Star* of a picture of the old Friar Park garage, in Wednesbury, prompted a nostalgic trip down memory lane for nearby resident William Baker.....

‘*Ron Ward* lived opposite me for a good few years. *Ron* later moved to the CORONATION Public House, which has since been destroyed and is now the site of a supermarket.’”

Coronation Inn

FRIAR PARK ROAD (1 WHACKETTS) WEDNESBURY.

Friday, Dec. 29th : CATWEAZLE. Saturday, Dec. 30th : SWEET SOUNDS. Sunday, Dec. 31st : Lunch-time, LEE WILSON; Evening, TOUCH.

1972

Coronation Inn

FRIAR PARK ROAD (WHACKETTS) WEDNESBURY

Saturday, Jan. 20th; Sunday, Jan. 21st :

TED McDERMOTT Our Resident Entertainer.

Also Monday, Jan. 22nd: Free and Easy Concert
Wednesday 24th: Amateur Talent Competition

1973

Coronation Inn

FRIAR PARK, WEDNESBURY

Tonight and every Friday :

NEW DISCO SCENE

with the Midlands Top DJ's

THIS WEEK :

RAYMOND JOHN

8.00 till late

1974

URGENTLY required, Club Secretary for Friar Park Central Flying Club. Approximate members 40 to 45. £2 per head

Replies to The Chairman, Mr A Sayce, The Coronation Inn, Friar Park, West Bromwich

1975

THE CORONATION FRIAR PARK, WEDNESBURY



DECEMBER 24th (Christmas Eve)
CAROLS WITH DAVE WILLIAMS AT THE ORGAN

DECEMBER 27th (Boxing Night)
PARTY TIME

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
TOP COMEDIAN BRIAN DAY**

Tickets \$1.50 each

**MONDAY NIGHTS VIDEO SHOW — FRIDAY NIGHTS
FREE & EASY**

Bookings now being taken for special functions in 1983, buffet or sit down menu.

VIDEO FILM OF OCCASION AVAILABLE

Tel: 021-556 6819

1982



THE CORONATION FRIAR PARK, WEDNESBURY CALLING ALL JUNIOR TALENT Ages 9-18 Years for our **JUNIOR TALENT CONTEST**

£300 PRIZE MONEY

Also a Prize for Every Act
Telephone 021 556 6819

1983

JESTERS

**THE CORONATION
FRIAR PARK, WEDNESBURY**

**Grand Talent Contest 1984.
£500 Prize Money**

There are still a few places left for entrants. Running every Tuesday night. Free Admission.

RING 021-556 6819

JESTERS AT THE CORONATION

Friar Park,
Wednesbury

Don't forget tonight Monday
26 November

"FLASHBACK"

Heavy rock disco

1984

COTTAGE

32, (33), Wood Green Road, (91, Woodgreen), (91, Walsall Road) / Hobs Road, Wood Green, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Punch Taverns

LICENSEES

James Turner [1834] – [1851]
Mrs. Margaret Turner [1860] – [1862]
Leonard Dursley [1865] – [1866]
John Willis [1871]
Charles Priddin [1880] – [1881]
Mrs. Nancy Priddin [1891]
William King Townend [1900] – [1901]
David Townend [1903] – [1904]
William King Townend [1908] – [1916]
James Bagby [1921]
Mrs. Beatrice Aston [1920s] – [1934]
Ronald James Harper Aston [1939] – [1940]
Mary Ellen Murray [1961] – **1964**;
Edith Maud Ellen Millington (**1964** – [1966]
Albert Ray [1969]
John Holden (**1974** – **1996**)
Gordon Richard Higgs and Georgina Karen 'Gina' Roberts (**1998** – [1999]
Wayne Wilkinson []



1986

NOTES

91, Walsall Road [1871]
91, Woodgreen [1881]
33, Wood Green Road [1911], [1921]
32, Woodgreen Road [1940], [1999]

It was originally Wood Green Farm.

WOOD GREEN COTTAGE. [1834], [1900], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921]

It had a beerhouse license.

1841 Census

Wood Green

- [1] James Turner (50), gun barrel welder, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Margaret Turner (50), born Staffordshire;
- [3] George Dodds (25), gardener;
- [4] William Gateley (30), sawyer, born Staffordshire:

James Turner, beer retailer and gun barrel forger, Wood Green. [1849]



Birmingham Journal 23/3/1850 - Advert

"To be Shot For, at Mr. *Turner*'s, WOOD GREEN COTTAGE, Wednesbury, on Easter Tuesday, April the 2nd, 1850, a Fat Pig; Twenty Subscribers, £1 each. Conditions, Three Pigeons each; Shot limited to 2oz; Guns not to exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ inch bore, and to be below the elbow till the bird is on the wing. Putter up to spend £3, and the Winner £2. First Bird to be trapped at Twelve o'clock. Dinner at Six o'clock."

1851 Census

Wood Green

- [1] *James Turner* (62), gun barrel welder, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Margaret Turner* (62), wife, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Leonard Dursley* (12), visitor, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Billingsley* (27), house servant, born Wednesbury;

1861 Census

Wood Green

- [1] *Margaret Turner* (72), widow, innkeeper, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Leonard Dursley* (22), boarder, unmarried, edge tool maker, born Woodgreen;
- [3] *Elizabeth Dursley* (20), unmarried, house servant, born Woodgreen;
- [4] *David Richards* (36), boarder, gas tube welder, born Woodgreen;
- [5] *Emma Richards* (36), boarder, born Birmingham;

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1866

"Licensing Day applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

Mr. Hooper applied on behalf of *Leonard Dursley*, WOOD GREEN COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury. House situated 104 yards from the nearest licensed house. No opposition Refused."

Leonard Dursley – see also BULLS HEAD, Tame Bridge.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/11/1869 - Advert

"Wood Green, Wednesbury.

WOOD GREEN COTTAGE INN (Half-mile from the above Town).

By E. B. Scholefield.

To be Sold, the Licenses and Possession of the above well-frequented Beerhouse, now doing a lucrative and regular trade, with large Gardens, Stabling, Cow-house, Workshop, and most convenient Premises. Satisfactory reasons given for leaving. Coming-in low.

Apply to the Auctioneer. Offices, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury."

1871 Census

91, Walsall Road

- [1] *John Willis* (28), publican and waggoner, born Dodford, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Sarah A. Willis* (25), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *James A. Willis* (3), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Harvey* (18), general servant, born Wednesbury;

Bromsgrove & Droitwich Messenger 22/3/1879

"William Sharman applied for the transfer of the license of the Horn and Trumpet Inn, on the Kidderminster Road, to *John Willis*, Wood Green, Wednesbury. The Bench granted the application."

Wednesbury Herald 18/10/1879

"Two young men, named John Farrell and Joseph Jewkes, were charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the COTTAGE INN, Wood Green, when requested to do so.

On the 4th inst the defendants went into the house when in a drunken state and commenced to fight, and on being requested to leave the house they refused to do so.

The Bench fined each of the defendants 10s and costs, or in default 21 days' imprisonment."

1881 Census

91, Woodgreen – WOODGREEN COTTAGE

- [1] *Charles Priddin* (27), beerhouse keeper and baker, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Nancy Priddin* (24), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Florence Priddin* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Maria Yardley* (55), mother-in-law, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Bartley Yardley* (16), brother-in-law, coach axle maker, born Wednesbury:

1891 Census

Wood Green – COTTAGE INN

- [1] *Nancy Priddin* (33), married, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Florance Priddin* (11), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Archibald Priddin* (9), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Bertie Priddin* (7), son, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/10/1898

“On Saturday evening, the second annual supper in connection with Wednesbury Wood Green Cycling Club was held at the Headquarters, WOOD GREEN COTTAGE. Nearly fifty members and friends sat down.....

The Secretary read the report, which showed that the club is in a prosperous state, considering that it had only been in existence two years, and that there was a balance to go to next year’s account.”

William K. Townsend, beerhouse keeper, WOOD GREEN COTTAGE. [1900]

1901 Census

Wood Green Road – COTTAGE INN

- [1] *William K. Townend* (34), blacksmith, tubes, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Louisa Townend* (31), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Louie Townend* (7), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Florence S. Townend* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Sebia L. Townend* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *William K. Townend* (9 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Lois Townend* (22), sister, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *David Townend* (20), brother, carpenter, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Advertiser 5/12/1903

“Walsall County Court. Wednesday.

Joseph George Proffitt, saddle-tree maker, Queen Street, sued *David Townsend*, innkeeper, Wood Green, for £2 10s, value of work done. For the plaintiff Mr. J. Armstrong appeared, and for the defence Mr. J. Wylie.

The plaintiff’s case was that it was defendant who gave the order for the repair of the bureau, which defendant also stated was his.

For the defence, it was urged that the bureau belonged to *William Townsend*, defendant’s brother, that *William Townsend* died without leaving any estate, and it was only when plaintiff found himself unable to recover the money that he brought the present proceedings.

In cross-examination it was stated by defendant that the bureau belonged to his brother’s widow.

His Honour, in giving judgement, after commenting upon the conflicting nature of the evidence, held that the bureau at the time plaintiff was asked to do the repairs, was the property of *William Townsend*, and His Honour further remarked that the probabilities were that the instructions were given by the deceased man. It was to be regretted that it had been stated in a letter that the deceased had no asset, inasmuch as there were assets. He gave a verdict for the defendant with costs.”

It was the headquarters of Wednesbury Wood Green Cycling Club (f.1897). [1904], [1905]

1911 Census

33, Wood Green Road – COTTAGE

[1] William King Townend (66), widower, publican, born Newsam Green, Yorkshire;

[2] Keziah Townend (34), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[3] Lois Townend (32), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Edith Townend (25), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] Sebra Townend (13), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury:

William King Townend – see also QUEENS HEAD, Queen Street.

Evening Despatch 29/9/1934

“Search for bodies was still going on today underneath the torn and twisted coaches of a Blackpool-London express which was telescoped on the rear of a local train at Winwick Junction, near Warrington last night. Four bodies out of ten remained to be identified today, and the first of these proved to be that of Mrs. *Beatrice Aston*, aged 62, of COTTAGE INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury.....

Mrs. *Aston* was a widow with one son and had been licensee of the COTTAGE INN for about 12 years.”

AND

Evening Despatch 2/10/1934

“The only evidence called at the Warrington inquest today on the ten victims of the Winwick Junction train crash was that of a signalman named *Bluer*.

Bluer, signalman at Winwick junction-box, admitted in evidence that he omitted to signal the 8.55 Warrington train forward and take off the signal. *Bluer* said he had been most anxious to get a cattle train on to the side lines. ‘But somehow,’ he continued, ‘I seemed glued on the Wigan side. Then the signal bell rang and I knew the train from Euston was coming. I went to the instrument board and gave the ‘all clear’’. Passing his hand across his forehead *Bluer* said, ‘I completely forgot about the 8.55pm Warrington.’

The Coroner remarked that 160,000,000 people had passed through the junction in *Bluer*’s 21½ years in the box. He had never had an accident.

The jury, in reply to the Coroner, said they wished to say nothing about the conduct of signalman *Bluer*.

A verdict of Death by Misadventure was recorded.”

Evening Despatch 28/5/1935

“For the first time for some years a profit was reported on the year’s working at the 13th annual meeting of Wednesbury Rugby FC at the COTTAGE INN Wood Green, when Mr. D. C. Jackson presided. The treasurer (Mr. H. M. Armstrong) said that although they commenced the year with a deficit, this had been changed into a credit balance of £43 3s 9d. This was chiefly due to a profit of £81 8s 2d on social events. With the taking over of the new ground at Bescot the club would save about £40 each year.”

1939 Register

Wood Green Road – COTTAGE INN

[1] Ronald J. H. Aston, date of birth 30/3/1905, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Doris Aston, dob 28/8/1894, domestic duties, married:

Walsall Observer 2/11/1940 - Advert

“By Order of the Inland Revenue.

The COTTAGE INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Messrs. Joseph Potts & Sons will Sell by Auction, on the above premises, on Tuesday Next, the 5th November, 1940, Ford 10-HP Saloon Car (1939), excellent Pianoforte (by Rodgers, London), Sideboard, Oak Cabinet, Extending Table, Fireside Chair, etc.

Bar Fittings, Tables Stools, Garden Furniture, etc, unless previously redeemed, in Lots without reserve.

Sale to Commence at 11-30am.

Auctioneer’s Office: 29a, Queen Street Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 18/11/1956

“The ‘Dull Midlands Blues’ is not a jazz tune. But the young people of Birmingham and the Black Country know it as a feeling. Now eight of them, all jazz music enthusiasts, are doing something about it. They wanted somewhere to play, sing and laugh. So they rented a cottage in the grounds of the COTTAGE INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury. And every Friday night they travel from homes in Birmingham, West Bromwich, Oldbury and Wednesbury to paint and polish, scrub and clean – and play. In six weeks’ time, at a cost of about £50, they will have their own club.....”

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

Highgate Mild is now available in the following Butlers and Atkinsons houses.....
COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury.”

Permission for a small alteration to the off license was granted on 5th February 1965.

Edith Maud Ellen Millington – see also STAR MUSIC HALL, Darlaston.

Birmingham Mail 29/1/1969

“Two Dudley men who enacted a charade to rob an 84 year-old woman – the aunt of one of them – were a pair of worthless scoundrels, said Mr. Justice Ashworth at Staffordshire Assizes. He sent them to prison for three years, with a further year for two offences of shop and office breaking involving the theft of £14 10s and 4,000 cigarettes. They are Frederick Jones (26), a barman, of Malvern Crescent, Holly Hall, Dudley, and James Baggott (29), lorry driver, of Kinver Terrace, Holly Hall. They pleaded guilty to the robbery with aggravation of Jones’s aunt, Mrs. Edith Jones, and admitted the two breaking and entering offences. *Albert Ray* (54), licensee of the COTTAGE INN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, admitted receiving 1,200 cigarettes from them, knowing they were stolen. He was fined £25.....”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/10/1974 - Advert

“Part-Time Bar Staff required, mornings and evenings, also cleaner, Friday, Saturday, Sunday mornings.
COTTAGE INN, Wood Green.”

PART-TIME BAR STAFF required,
mornings and evenings, also
cleaner. Friday, Saturday, Sunday
mornings – Cottage Inn, Wood
Green. Telephone 556 2253.

A team from here took part in the Wolverhampton Air Rifle League. [1977]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/4/1980 - Advert

“Part-Time Bar Staff required, mornings and evenings.
COTTAGE INN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.”

PART-TIME BAR STAFF required
mornings and evenings
Cottage Inn, Wood Green Road
Wednesbury. 021 556 2253

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/7/1980

“A tug-of-war contest at a Wednesbury fete was abandoned after it developed into a war of words. Arguments arose during a quarter-final tug between the ROBIN HOOD, Collis Street, Amblecote, and the WINDMILL, Coronation Road, Wednesbury. And after a conference between the two referees and captains from all eight teams competing it was decided to abandon the rest of the contest. ‘There were a few pointed fingers and some hard words, but no actual violence,’ said Mr. Martin Law of Wednesbury Round Table, the organisers of Saturday’s Brunswick Park fete. ‘To prevent an explosive situation developing it was felt best to abandon the lot.’

Trouble started when the ROBIN HOOD lads were accused of putting two fresh men in their team. But licensee Mr. George Wright said, ‘We could not believe our ears. We could not possibly have changed two men because it was our first pull, nor would we have. We were there for the sport. There was no bad conduct on our team’s part.’

But the man who admits to being ‘the main one’ in the argument – Mr. Keith Hemming, of 68 Barlow Road, Wednesbury, who captained a team from the COTTAGE INN, Wood Green Road – maintains there was a swop. He said the Amblecote men were too professional for the contest – a claim dismissed by Mr. Wright – and should not have been allowed to compete when other Wednesbury teams were unable to. Fete organiser Mr. Law said two teams from the Stourbridge area were accepted three weeks ago when it looked as if the contest would not have enough entrants.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/10/1980 - Advert

"Sea Angling Club. Members wanted.
The COTTAGE INN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury."

SEA ANGLING CLUB. Members
wanted. — The Cottage Inn, Wood
Green Road, Wednesbury. 021 556
2253.

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1982

"Fourteen Wednesbury pubs have failed in a bid to cash in on the Bank Holiday beer trade by applying for license extensions. West Bromwich magistrates refused to allow an extra hour's drinking time on August Bank Holiday
The 14 pubs which have been denied the extra hour's drinking are.....
COTTAGE INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/7/1982 - Advert

"Part Time Bar Staff required.
Apply, the COTTAGE INN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury."

PART TIME BAR STAFF required.
Apply — The Cottage Inn, Wood
Green Road, Wednesbury.
Telephone 021 556 2253.

Black Country Bugle 19/11/1998 - Advert

"A Warm Welcome awaits you at the COTTAGE INN, 32 Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury.
Now under the new management of *Gina* and *Gordon*.
Relax in a friendly atmosphere and sit back in front of a real open fire and enjoy a pint from our wide selection of draught beers. Also bottled beers available.
Lunchtime Bar Snacks Available. Try our Steak Sandwiches or Pork and Stuffing.
Darts. Crib. Dominoes."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/11/1998 - Advert

"Application for Entertainments License to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.
The COTTAGE INN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury WS10 9QL.
Notice is hereby given that I *Gina Roberts* intend to apply for an Public Entertainments License for the premises known as the COTTAGE INN for the following hours, Mon-Sat 8pm-11pm.
If anyone objects, they must contact Sandwell MBC Licensing Office within 28 days.
Licensing Office Consumer Services Section, Coneygre Road, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 8XR."

Black Country Bugle 29/7/1999 - Advert

"*Gina* and *Gordon* welcome you to the COTTAGE INN, 32 Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury.
Relax in a friendly atmosphere and sit back and enjoy a pint from our wide selection of draught beers. Also bottled beers available.
Regular Beer Promotions. Beer Garden. BBQ every Saturday night weather permitting.
Large Function Room available for Weddings, Birthdays, Parties, etc."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/8/2000

"Insolvency Act 1986. In Bankruptcy Walsall County Court.....
Re *Gordon Richard Higgs*, 166 Coronation Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, Publican, lately residing at the COTTAGE, 32 Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury, and carrying on business as the COTTAGE (with another) at 32 Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 9QL."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/10/2000

"Insolvency Act 1986. In Bankruptcy Walsall County Court.....
Re *Georgina Karen Roberts*, 166 Coronation Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, Publican, lately residing at the COTTAGE, 32 Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury, and carrying on business as the COTTAGE (with another) at 32 Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 9QL."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/6/2002 - Advert

"The COTTAGE, Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury.
Car Boot sale, Monday June 3, 10am. £5 per car."

THE COTTAGE. Woodgreen
Road, Wednesbury, Car Boot
sale, Monday June 3, 10am. £5
per car. 07796 110291

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/8/2003

“Walsall County Court proceedings.....

Wayne Wilkinson of and trading with another at the ROSEHILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, as publicans, latterly of 14 John Fletch Close, Wednesbury, and formerly of and trading at the COTTAGE INN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, as a publican.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/8/2003 - Advert

“Jack Russell puppies for sale. Telephone 0121 556 0850. The COTTAGE INN, Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury.”

JACK RUSSELL puppies for sale.
Telephone 0121 556 0850 The
Cottage Inn, Woodgreen Road,
Wednesbury.

[2008]

Closed [2009], [2017]

Express & Star 12/7/2017

“The former COTTAGE INN located in Hobs Road, Wednesbury, was once considered a ‘garden pub’ but fell into disrepair and has stood empty for 10 years. But now new owners have taken over the property and there are plans to turn the site into apartments. The move has been welcomed by ward councillors, who led a campaign calling for the site to be cleared up.

Wednesbury North councillor Peter Hughes, said, ‘I think the sooner they put the spade in the ground and get it off the ground, the better. It has been such a detriment to the local community.’

A planning application has been submitted to Sandwell Council to demolish the current property and build apartments in its place, said Councillor Hughes. A Sandwell Council report said ownership of the property has ‘very recently changed hands.’

The new owners will carry out work to tidy up the premises while they await the outcome of their application, the report said. ‘The new owners have given an undertaking to carry out some remedial works while they await approval of their planning application. The proposed works include securing both the site boundary and the former pub itself at ground floor level.’

The former pub currently lies in a state of disrepair. Its windows and doors are missing and rubbish has been left lying strewn across the premises. Residents living nearby complained that youths regularly break onto the site and start fires, prompting fears for their safety and the need for firefighters to be called out to the scene. As part of the campaign launched by councillors, a petition was launched calling on action to be taken which saw more than 80 people give their signature. The plans will be a welcome development for the community living nearby, said fellow Wednesbury North councillor Tony Meehan. ‘It needs something desperate,’ he said. ‘It will be welcome development for the community.’”

Demolished

Housing was built on the site. [2020]



Beermat

TO be SHOT FOR, at Mr. TURNER'S, Wood Green Cottage, Wednesbury, on EASTER TUESDAY, April the 2nd, 1850, a FAT PIG; Twenty Subscribers, £1. each. Conditions, Three Pigeons each; Shot limited to 2 oz.; Guns not to exceed 3-inch bore, and to be below the elbow till the bird is on the wing. Putter up to spend £3., and the Winner £2. First Bird to be trapped at Twelve o'clock. Dinner at Six o'clock.

1850

WOOD GREEN, WEDNESBURY.

WOOD GREEN COTTAGE INN
(Half-mile from the above Town).

BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD.—To be SOLD, the BEERHOUSE, now doing a lucrative and regular trade, with large Gardens, Stabling, Cow-house, Workshop, and most convenient Premises. Satisfactory reasons given for leaving. Coming-in low. —Apply to the Auctioneer. Offices, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.

1869

By Order of the Inland Revenue.

**THE COTTAGE INN,
WOOD GREEN, WEDNESBURY.**

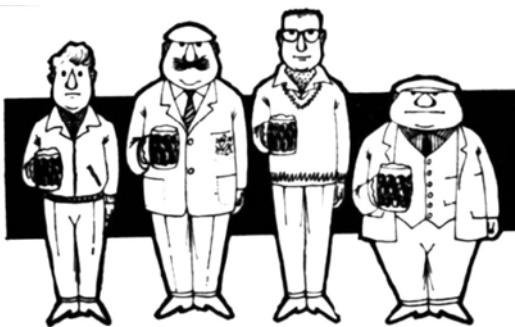
MESSRS. JOSEPH POTTS & SONS will
SELL by AUCTION, on the above
premises, on TUESDAY NEXT, the 5th
NOVEMBER, 1940, FORD 10-H.P. SALOON
CAR (1939), excellent PIANOFORTE (by
Rodgers, London), Sideboard, Oak Cabinet,
Extending Table, Fireside Chair, etc.

Bar Fittings, Tables, Stools, Garden Furni-
ture, etc., unless previously redeemed, in Lots
without reserve.

Sale to Commence at 11.30 a.m.

Auctioneer's Office: 29a, QUEEN STREET,
WOLVERHAMPTON.

1940



ATTENTION! all MILD drinkers

HIGHGATE MILD is now available in the
following BUTLERS and ATKINSONS houses:—

BRIDGE HOUSE, Bloxwich Road, Walsall.	RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge,
NEW NAVIGATION, Birchills, Walsall.	Darlaston.
WALSALL ARMS, Bank Street, Walsall.	RISING SUN, Piercy Street, Newtown,
FALCON, Lichfield Street, Walsall.	Wednesbury.
FITTERS ARMS, Hatherton St., Walsall.	FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street,
FORGE HAMMER, Rolling Mill Street,	Wednesbury.
Ploek, Walsall.	OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.
FOUNTAIN, Lower Forster Street, Walsall.	PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street,
NEW INN, Green Lane, Walsall.	Wednesbury.
PRINCE OF WALES, Queen St., Walsall.	COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury.
BEAR & RAGGED STAFF, High Street,	SPRING COTTAGE, The Paddock,
Walsall.	Walsall.
COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridgeman St.,	HARDEN, Coalpool Lane, Walsall.
Walsall.	NEWPORT ARMS, Ploek Road, Walsall.
TANNERS ARMS, Day Street, Walsall.	VINE, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall.
DUKE OF YORK, Moxley Rd., Darlaston.	KINGS ARMS, High Street, Bloxwich.
BLACK HORSE, Pinfold St., Darlaston.	FOUNTAIN, Portland Street, Walsall.
NELSON, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.	STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherine's
WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.	Cross, Darlaston.
KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road,	BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.
Wednesbury.	HORSE & JOCKEY, High Bullen,
DARTMOUTH INN, High St., Darlaston.	Wednesbury.
HASS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.	GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wed-
OLD BUSH, The Green, Darlaston.	nesbury.
STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge,	
Darlaston.	



Pride of the Midlands

1962

A Warm Welcome Awaits You At



**THE
COTTAGE
INN**

32 WOODGREEN ROAD,
WEDNESBURY

TEL: 0121 556 2253

NOW UNDER THE NEW MANAGEMENT
OF GINA AND GORDON

*Relax in a friendly atmosphere and sit back in
front of a real open fire and enjoy a pint from our
wide selection of draught beers. Also bottled
beers available*

**Lunchtime Bar Snacks Available
Try our Steak Sandwiches or Pork & Stuffing**

DARTS • CRIB • DOMINOES

1998

Gina & Gordon welcome you to

THE COTTAGE INN
32 WOODGREEN ROAD, WEDNESBURY
TEL: 0121 556 2253

*Relax in a friendly atmosphere and
sit back and enjoy a pint from our
wide selection of draught beers.
Also bottled beers available.*

**REGULAR BEER PROMOTIONS
BEER GARDEN**

BBO EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT
WEATHER PERMITTING

**Large Function Room
available for Weddings,
Birthdays, Parties, etc.**

1999



2008

COTTAGE OF CONTENT

New Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Wilson [1834]

COTTAGE SPRING

27, (Old) Bilston Road / Darlaston Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Oliver Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1961]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Owen [1859]
John Lucas [1861]
William Cox [1864] – [1867]
John Evans [1871]
William Jackson [1881] – [1893]
Henry Beesley [1900] – [1901]
Thomas Fowell [1903]
William Beddow [1911] – [1921]
William Handley [1926]
James Henry Smith [1960] – **1961**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1859

“*Benjamin Owen*, beerhouse keeper, Wednesbury, was charged by the police with having allowed cock-fighting in his house. The case was remanded from last week. The evidence of Police-constable 171 (Thorley) was to the effect that on Monday fortnight he went to defendant’s house, and saw a room with a carpet down, on which was some blood, and a dead cock. There were a number of persons in the house. Mr. Inspector Blaney deposed that he went to the house on the day in question, when he found two live cocks in boxes, trimmed ready for fighting, and a cloth with marks of blood upon it. There were also about 150 persons in the house and yard. The case was dismissed by the Bench, as there was no proof of an actual cock-fight on defendant’s premises, nor was there any proof of disorderly conduct being allowed.”

Chester Chronicle 22/10/1859

“A shocking tragedy occurred at Wednesbury, South Staffordshire, on Tuesday evening. On the night in question a beerhouse keeper, named *Benjamin Owen*, aged about 40, residing in Bilston Road, Wednesbury, reached home, when he found his wife, with several other females, including her sister, drinking in the bar. It seems that he had an objection to his wife keeping company with some of the women assembled, and seeing that she was a little the worse for liquor, he immediately ordered her to bed. She refused to go, and he then struck her and knocked her down, and attempted to kick her whilst down, but was prevented by the persons in the bar. Mrs. *Owen* then ran out of the house, and secreted herself in the pantry of a house tenanted by a man named Cresswell. She entreated Cresswell’s wife to hide her and to keep the door locked. Her husband, however, followed her, and upon the door being opened he looked up stairs and all around until he found her. He then pulled her out, struck her, and knocked her down. She cried, ‘Oh, Ben, don’t,’ but he kicked her under the ear. She at once fell upon the floor of Cresswell’s house and expired. *Owen* then said, ‘I have done it, and shan’t run away.’ Upon being told that she was dead, he returned and kissed her, but made no remark. The deceased had a dreadful contused wound under the left ear, and blood had oozed from the ear, showing the violence of the blow which caused death. *Owen*, when arrested, showed not the slightest concern.”

Chester Chronicle 10/12/1859

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

Benjamin Owen, gasfitter, was arraigned for the wilful murder of his wife, on the 18th of October last, at Wednesbury. The counsel for the prosecution stated that in this case the prisoner had been committed by the coroner on the charge of manslaughter, but by the magistrates on the charge of murder; and the grand jury having returned a bill for the major offence, the prisoner now stood before them on that charge.

The prisoner was the keeper of the COTTAGE SPRING beerhouse, at Wednesbury, and his wife having lately become addicted to intemperate habits, had occasioned a very ill feeling against her by her husband. In addition, she had some relatives whose company he prohibited her from keeping. Returning home on the day of the offence, he found the deceased intoxicated, and learned that the prohibited relatives had been at his house. He then commenced an attack upon her. He drove her to take refuge in a neighbour's house, wither he followed her, and either by a blow or a kick inflicted injuries of which she died. A number of witnesses were called to prove the facts of the case.

For the defence, it was contended that the prisoner was not even guilty of manslaughter, and that death was occasioned by apoplexy.

His Lordship summed up the case as one of manslaughter, and the jury, after a very brief consultation, found the prisoner guilty of that offence; and he was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.”

1861 Census

Bilston Road – COTTAGE SPRING

- [1] *John Lucas* (47), publican, birthplace not known;
- [2] *Hannah Lucas* (45), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Benjamin Lucas* (19), son, puddler, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Eliza Lucas* (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Emily Ford* (3), visitor, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/2/1862

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions yesterday, *John Lucas*, beerhouse keeper, Bilston Road, was summoned on a charge of having on the afternoon of Sunday, the 8th inst, kept his house open for the sale of beer during hours prohibited by the statute. Police-sergeant Gasson deposed that on the afternoon in question he visited defendant's house, and there found a number of men in an upstairs room with a quantity of liquor before them. Defendant's wife admitted the offence. Defendant had been fined £3 and costs twelve months ago, for refusing to admit the police. Fined 40s and costs.”

John Lucas – see also LAMP.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/8/1864

“E. Humpage of Wednesbury will fight Sulphur of Dudley at catch weight, for £20 or £25 a side. An answer through *Bells Life* will be immediately attended to, or a letter to Humpage, at Mr. *W. Cox's*, COTTAGE SPRING, Wednesbury, will ensure a match.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/10/1864

“J. Watkiss of Wednesbury will run any lad of his weight (60lb) five score yards, for £5 a side, at Aston Cross Grounds. Money ready at *Cox's*, COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston Road, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/11/1865

“*William Cox*, beerhouse keeper, yesterday appeared at Wednesbury Petty Sessions in answer to a summons charging him with assaulting Mrs. Mary Bettaney. On Saturday night the complainant was in the market, when she met the defendant and his wife. On her asking the defendant to pay her some money which he owed her for articles he had had from her shop, the defendant used very abusive language towards the complainant, and said he would not pay. He then gave her a severe kick on the thigh. He afterwards attempted to strike her, but was prevented by a man who interfered on behalf of the complainant. The complainant had given him no provocation. The defendant was fined 20s and costs for the assault, and also 5s and costs for creating a breach of the peace on the same night.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/11/1865

“*William Cox*, of the COTTAGE SPRING, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, was charged with having assaulted Maria Bettaney, of Ladburys Lane.

The prosecutrix is a married woman, and sells earthenware in the market. Last Saturday night, between eleven and twelve o'clock, Mrs. Bettaney was returning from market, with some groceries, when she saw *Cox* and his wife in High Bullen, near Ladburys Lane. She thought it an opportunity to speak to him about a little debt, and accordingly ventured to stop him. Defendant said, ‘What is it you want, to meet me in the street and ask me for what I owe you,’ and then kicked her in a way which excited the greatest indignation amongst the bystanders, and which to the woman herself, who was pregnant, was highly dangerous. A puddler, named Swift, coming up at the time, prevented defendant from repeating his kick by bestowing a good full blow upon him. Defendant then turned round, and a fight between the two men ensued. Mrs. Bettaney deposed to these facts, and Swift corroborated her evidence.

Upon an examination by Mr. Ebsworth, Swift admitted that he was on unfriendly terms with the defendant, and that he struck him behind and then ran away. Mr. Ebsworth commented upon the conduct of Swift, who was put forward as the ‘hero’ of the case; the protector of female helplessness. His version of the affair was that Mrs. Bettaney most improperly stopped defendant in the street at nearly midnight, and troubled him for an account which he had always disputed; that she used disgraceful language both to him and his wife, and at length positively struck him in the face, but that he never kicked her.

Two witnesses were then called for the defence. The first acknowledged that he saw defendant lift his foot to the woman; but the second, named Cooley, denied that defendant either kicked or attempted to kick her.

Police-constable Evans arrived at the spot when the defendant was fighting with Swift. At that time all the bystanders were crying out against *Cox* for his brutal conduct to the woman.

The Bench imposed a fine of 20s and costs upon *Cox* for his assault upon the woman; and 5s and costs for a breach of the peace, proved by the police.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/12/1865

“T. Booth of Wednesbury will run Kendrick or Bayliss of the same place 100 yards, for £5 or £10 a side; or will take three yards in 100, for the like amount, of Waring of Wednesbury. Either match can be made any night next week at *W. Cox's*, COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston Road, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/7/1866

“E. Dudley of Stourbridge and Young Willcox of Hill Top are matched to run 100 yards, for £10 a side, Dudley giving Willcox two yards start, at Aston Cross Grounds, on Monday, August 13. Mr. B. Hawkins of Wednesbury final stakeholder and referee, and a further deposit has to be made this evening at *Cox's*, COTTAGE SPRING TAVERN, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/3/1867

“T. Booth of London (late of Wednesbury) will run Fletcher of Wednesbury 100 yards, for £5 up to £20 a side, on Easter Monday, at Mr. Harding's Grounds, Lea Brook, Wednesbury; or Vernon of Wednesbury can be on at the same terms. If either will send articles to *W. Cox*, the COTTAGE SPRING, they will be signed, and a match made.”

1871 Census

Bilston Road – COTTAGE SPRING

[1] *John Evans* (43), publican, beer shop, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Prudence Evans* (40), wife, born Wednesbury:

1881 Census

27, Old Bilston Road – COTTAGE SPRING

[1] *William Jackson* (48), furnace man, born Burton, Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Anne Jackson* (45), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Charlotte Dunkoffe* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Joseph Taylor* (70), grand-father, miner, unemployed, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Harry Reynolds* (12), nephew, born Wednesbury:

1891 Census

27, Bilston Road – COTTAGE SPRING INN

[1] William Jackson (57), widower, publican, born Branston, Staffordshire;

[2] Hannah Wright (18), niece, barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[3] Sarah J. Wright (16), niece, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[4] William Wright (14), nephew, errand boy, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

The Superintendent withdrew the objection to the renewal of the license to Mr. *William Jackson*, the COTTAGE SPRING beerhouse, Bilston Road, certain desired structural alterations having been made Renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

“The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday..... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of William Bird, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.

The renewals to be opposed were....

William Jackson, the COTTAGE SPRING, Old Bilston Road.

The Mayor commented with regret upon the increase in the numbers of offences and convictions shown by the returns; and the contentious business was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day, the 29th inst.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday.....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions.”

Henry Beesley = Henry Beasley

Birmingham Daily Post 5/7/1900

“At Walsall County Court, yesterday, an interpleader case was heard in which Samuel Hughes, furniture dealer, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, claimed certain furniture which had been seized by *Henry Beesley*, beerhouse keeper, SPRING COTTAGE INN, Wednesbury, on the premises of Dr. Farquhar Matherson, of Hall End, Wednesbury. Mr. J. H. Stockdale (Wednesbury) was for the claimant, and Mr. S. E. Loxton (Walsall) for the execution creditor.

Claimant’s case was that he supplied the goods to Dr. Matherson under a hiring agreement. The Deputy Judge (Mr. S. Dorsett) gave a verdict in his favour, but declined to allow costs, on the ground that the claimant would not furnish a list of the goods which belonged to him when asked to do so, and that in consequence *Beesley* was justified in seizing them to make Hughes prove his title.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/1/1901

“On Friday afternoon the Wednesbury magistrates were occupied for a considerable time in the investigation of a rather bad case of assault brought by a grocer’s manager, named Herbert Collins Moore, of Dale Street, Wednesbury, against *Henry Beasley*, landlord of the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Bilston Road, and his wife Elizabeth Beasley, the offence having been committed on the 29th ult.

It transpired that for some time the prosecutor had managed a business for the defendant, *Beasley*. He alleged that on the date in question *Beasley* came into the shop, and after questioning him upon financial matters accused him of being a thief. This the prosecutor strongly repudiated, whereupon defendant rushed at him and struck him a violent blow in the left ribs. The prosecutor then picked up a weight off the counter which he threatened to throw at defendant if he repeated the assault. Defendant, without a moment’s hesitation, however, rushed at the complainant and again beat him in a savage manner, and he was very badly knocked about. The complainant admitted throwing the weight at the prosecutor when he rushed at him the second time, but said it went over his head and dropped on the floor.

The defence was that Moore assaulted *Henry Beasley*, who took out a cross-summons.

The Bench regarded the case as a serious one, and fined *Henry Beasley* £2 and costs, in all £3 19s, and his wife 5s and costs. The summons against Moore was dismissed.”

AND

Walsall Advertiser 19/1/1901

“*Henry Beasley*, licensed victualler and grocer, at Wednesbury, has been fined £3 or a month for assaulting an assistant in his employ.”

1901 Census

27, Bilston Road

- [1] *Henry Beesley* (36), licensed victualler, born Bearley, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Beesley* (32), wife, born Wilmcote, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Thomas Beesley* (7), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Reginald Beesley* (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Fenara Beesley* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Harriet Tranter* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *John Kendrick* (23), groom, born Brierley Hill;
- [8] *Ethel Beesley* (10), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Walsall Observer 17/1/1903

“At West Bromwich County Court, on Tuesday, before Judge Howland Roberts and a jury, *Eliza Harvey*, tailoress, of Oak Road, West Bromwich, brought an action to recover £100 from *Thomas Fowell*, of the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, damages alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiff by reason of the defendant’s breach of promise to marry her in October last. Mr. C. H. Darby appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. Clark defended. The case for the plaintiff was that she became acquainted with the defendant whilst he was employed as a brewer for his aunt. They had been acquainted for about two years, but this was broken off towards the latter end of last year. Defendant, it was alleged, met the plaintiff as she was leaving her employment at Oldbury, and walked with her to West Bromwich, and in the course of the journey he made a promise of marriage to her, and told her he wanted a short courtship, as he was anxious to go into a public house. Plaintiff, as usual, asked for time to consider the offer, but ultimately accepted it, and they were regarded by their friends as an engaged couple. Defendant, it was stated, took the plaintiff to look at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Great Bridge, with the view of making it their home, and then he introduced the plaintiff as his intended wife. Miss Harvey purchased articles in view of the marriage, and the sisters of the parties were asked to act as bridesmaids, and she gave up her situation. Suddenly the defendant ceased his visits to plaintiff, and took to the COTTAGE SPRING INN, at Wednesbury. Plaintiff said that when she asked for an explanation defendant admitted the promise to marry, but said she had nothing in black and white. Plaintiff, a good-looking young woman, admitted that defendant did not purchase her an engagement ring, neither had any presents been given on either side.

For the defence the promise was denied, and Mr. Clark said the plaintiff had not lost anything except the chance of marrying an impecunious publican. The acquaintance, he said, was only a casual one, and the courtship only lasted one month.

A verdict was given for the plaintiff for £10 damages.”

1911 Census

Bilston Road – COTTAGE SPRING

- [1] *William Beddow* (28), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Bertha Beddow* (28), wife, married 6 years, assisting in business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Bertha Beddow* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William Beddow* (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Elsie May Beddow* (10 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Louie Chillington* (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Evening Despatch 11/8/1911

“At Wednesbury today *John Gordon* of Hydes Road, Wednesbury, was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, on August 2, Alderman Handley remarking that the offence was regarded as somewhat serious because the defendant had used threats towards *William Beddow*, the landlord of the house.”

Birmingham Mail 5/9/1913

“Thomas Connell (30), and his wife, Ellen Connell (28), of Holyhead Road, were summoned at Wednesbury today for being disorderly at and refusing to quit the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Darlaston Road, on the 23rd ult. Mrs. Connell was also charged with doing wilful damage at the public house.

Mr. A. J. Glover, who prosecuted, stated that defendants went to the public house under the influence of drink, and were very troublesome when asked to leave. Mrs. Connell smashed several glasses and jugs, and the licensee, *William Beddow*, eventually had to extinguish the lights and send for the police.

Defendants, who pleaded guilty, were fined 5s and costs each.”

1921 Census

Bilston Road – COTTAGE SPRING INN

[1] *William Beddow* (38), beerhouse keeper, born Aldridge, Staffordshire;

[2] *Bertha Beddow* (38), wife, home duties, born Bromley, Staffordshire;

[3] *Bertha Beddow* (14), daughter, school, born Walsall;

[4] *William Willis Beddow* (12), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Elsie May Beddow* (11), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Phyllis Maud Beddow* (8), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Gladys Lilian Beddow* (6), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

William Beddow – see also KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Midland Advertiser 8/3/1930

“The Street Improvement and Building Committee stated in its report that the owners of the COTTAGE SPRING INN were prepared to dedicate an area of 30¼ square yards for highway purposes, free of charge, in connection with their alterations to the inn.”

Walsall Observer 14/2/1931

“Wednesbury Brewster Sessions yesterday.....

Plans had been approved and alterations carried out at the.....

COTTAGE SPRING, Old Bilston Road.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/4/1938

“Charged at Wednesbury yesterday with stealing a billiards table and accessories, value £12 10s belonging to George Hill and Sons, of 102, Oak Road, West Bromwich, from the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, Frederick Lloyd, of 231, Carisbrooke Road, Friar Park, West Bromwich was bound over for six months in £5 and ordered to pay £1 12s 6d costs.”

Tipton Herald 16/1/1960

“Learner driver Thomas James William Smith (20), of COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, said, ‘Oh blimey, I didn’t know!’ when told he would be reported for driving a motor car while not accompanied by a competent driver. This was stated at West Bromwich Magistrates Court on Monday, when Smith was fined £5 for the offence which he committed in Dudley Street, West Bromwich, on November 7th. He told the officer who stopped him, ‘I didn’t know I had to have a competent driver.’ His car was displaying ‘L’ plates.”

The license was referred to the Compensation Authority on 10th 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.....

COTTAGE SPRING INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse (Ante 1869). Licensee, *James Henry Smith*."

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.....

COTTAGE SPRING INN, 2, Bilston Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse (ante 1869). Licensee, *James Henry Smith*. Registered Owners, W. Butler & Co. Ltd."

It closed on 31st December 1961.

Demolished



COTTAGE SPRING

106, (142), (50), Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Henry Beesley, brewer (acquired on 15th November 1902)

Mrs. Ada Blakemore, widow (she was later Ada Challinor) (acquired on 29th January 1903 for £500)

Marston, Thompson and Evershed (acquired in 1905 for £1200)

J. & J. Yardley (acquired in 1909 for £950)

Highgate Brewery Ltd. (acquired in 1919 for £1025)

Atkinsons Ltd. (acquired in 1940)

Robert and Leslie Howard Whitehall (exors. of William Whitehall) [1961]

Robert and Leslie Howard Whitehall

Holdens Brewery (leased 1964 to 1966) (acquired on 24th March 1966) [2022]

LICENSEES

Thomas Smith [1877] – [1891]

Job Smith [1896] – [1904]

Adah Blackmore [1904]

Charles Henry Lansdale [1906] – [1907]

William Whitehouse [1907]

William Whitehall [1909] – [1921]

Robert Whitehall [1939]

William Whitehall [1940]

Harry Turner [1961] – **1965**;

James Kempson (**1965** – [1968])

Mrs. Fran Banks [1982]

John Banks [1983]

Leslie 'Les' Barrows (**1986** – **1988**)

John Myatt [1991] – [1992]

Archie Woodcock [1995]

Raymond Edward 'Ray' Johnson (**1997** – [2007])

Mrs. Baker [2012] – [2017]



1999



2011

NOTES

50, Franchise Street [1881], [1896], [1904]

49+50 Franchise Street [1891], [1901]

142, Franchise Street [1911], [1921]

106, Franchise Street [1939], [1940], [1986], [2002]

It was a home brew house.

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/1/1877

“At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), *Thomas Smith*, landlord of the COTTAGE SPRING beerhouse, was summoned for having kept his house open during prohibited hours on the night of Sunday, the 7th inst. Mr. Ebsworth defended.

Police-constable Worsley stated that he visited the house at 11.30 in the morning named, and found two men in the back brewhouse, one of whom was drinking out of a pint jug. The landlord was standing in the doorway.

Corroborative evidence was given, and in defence it was contended that one of the men was a friend of the defendant, and that the beer was given to them.

A fine of 10s and the costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1877

“West Bromwich Annual Licensing Sessions.....

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

Thomas Smith, COTTAGE SPRING, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, keeping open, 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 the 26th September.”

1881 Census

50, Franchise Street – COTTAGE SPRING

[1] *Thomas Smith* (58), publican, born Tipton;

[2] *Catharine Smith* (55), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Job Smith* (20), son, iron moulder, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/9/1885

“*Thomas Smith*, landlord of the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, was fined 20s and costs for keeping his house open and selling ale during prohibited hours.

Police-constables Noble and Dixon visited defendant’s premises about eleven o’clock on Sunday morning, the 13th instant, found the back door open, and the defendant’s wife by the beer machine taking a bottle containing ale out of the tundish. There was also sixpence near by. A man named William Asberry said a man had asked him to get a quart of ale and he told him he would try and do so.

Mr. Topham, who defended, admitted the offence, and said the landlord was away at the time, and it occurred more by accident than anything else.

The man Asberry was fined 5s and costs for being unlawfully on the premises.”

1891 Census

49+50, Franchise Street

[1] *Thomas Smith* (68), widower, lock filer and publican, born Tipton;

[2] *Job Smith* (29), moulder, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Emma Smith* (28), wife, born Darlaston;

[4] *Mary A. Smith* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Thomas Smith* (6 months), son, born Wednesbury:

Job Smith, beer retailer, 50, Franchise Street, Kings Hill. [1896]

1901 Census

49+50, Franchise Street – COTTAGE SPRING

[1] *Job Smith* (39), iron moulder and publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Agnes Smith* (31), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Thomas Smith* (10), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Eva Smith* (6 months), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/11/1902

“The quarterly licensing sessions for the borough of Wednesbury were held yesterday.....

Mr. Stockdale applied for the transfer of the license of the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Franchise Street, Kings Hill, to a married woman named Elizabeth Beasley. He explained that the applicant had been granted a temporary transfer, and was now the owner of the freehold.

Superintendent Salt pointed out to the magistrates that the applicant's husband, who was residing on the licensed premises, had been convicted of several offences, and the applicant had also been fined 2s 6d and costs for assault. The magistrates decided not to grant the transfer.”

Job Smith, beer retailer, 50, Franchise Street, Kings Hill. [1904]

Adah Blackmore, beer retailer, 50, Franchise Street. [1904]

[Both appear in the same directory.]

Birmingham Mail 28/6/1906

“At Walsall County Court, today, before Judge Smith and a jury, Samuel Ernest Collett, coach axle smith, Cobden Street, Wednesbury, sued Charles Moses, ironworker, Fallings Heath, for £26 13s 4d damages for assault. Mr. A. Sergent was for the plaintiff, and Mr. C. H. Darby for the defence.

Plaintiff's case was that on February 10th last he was at the COTTAGE SPRING INN, where there had been a pigeon-flying match, with the result that the house was full of people. Defendant, who was amongst them, followed him from the house down the street, and without the least provocation kicked him and knocked him down. His leg was broken by the kick, and he was away from work in consequence for fourteen weeks.

In cross-examination plaintiff denied that he was quarrelsome in the public house and threatened to ‘pull defendant's heart out.’

Judge Smith: How do you do that; does it mean a threat to murder?

Mr. Darby: It is only a figurative expression. It has never actually been done. I have no doubt the jury have often heard the expression used. It's the same as threatening to wipe the floor with a man. (Laughter.)

Judge Smith: It struck me it must be a most difficult operation. (Laughter.)

Judgement was given for defendant.”

Birmingham Mail 10/1/1907

“At Walsall County Court today Richard Samuel Grange, machinist, Wolverhampton Road, Darlaston, was plaintiff in an action heard by Judge Smith and a jury, the claim being for £30 damages against *Charles Henry Lansdale*, of the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Franchise Street, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, in respect of alleged trespass by defendant and his pigs and poultry. Mr. R. J. Lawrence (instructed by Messrs. Slater and Co., Darlaston) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. A. Tench (Wednesbury) was for the defence.

Plaintiff's case was that he became tenant under defendant of a cottage and garden adjoining the public house. In due course plaintiff and his sons cultivated the garden and planted it with, amongst other things, currant trees. Defendant subsequently removed the fence, and allowed his livestock, which comprised a pony, pigs, fowl, and geese, to run at random over the place, the result being that the garden and fruit trees were ruined. The actual loss sustained was £3 4s 6d, but Mr. Lawrence urged that plaintiff had been put to so much inconvenience and annoyance that he was entitled to very substantial general damages.

Plaintiff, in his evidence, said he went on comfortably from February to July, when he missed some currants from the trees in the garden.

The Judge: Were there any birds about? – Plaintiff: Two-legged ones. (Laughter.)

The Judge: Do you know any birds which have more than two legs? (Laughter.) – Plaintiff: No.

The Judge: I only wanted to know. (Laughter.)

Plaintiff described the depredations committed, and mentioned that defendant's pony ate his chrysanthemums. He had a wire fence erected, but defendant pulled it down, and things became so intolerable that he could not sleep at night.

In cross-examination, plaintiff denied that he was told defendant reserved the garden to himself and let him the house only.

After a prolonged hearing, a verdict was given for plaintiff for £3, with costs.”

Birmingham Mail 12/1/1909

“At Walsall County Court today, Ernest Charles Paskell, Stafford Street, Walsall, sued *William Whitehall*, of the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, for £5 7s balance of the price of a zonophone purchased by him. Mr. F. Cooper appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. A. Tench defended.

Plaintiff's case was that the instrument was supplied twelve months ago, and was in perfect order, being tested for about an hour in a public house. Defendant then signed an order for it, and also attached his signature to a promissory note for the amount due. Some weeks later he returned it in a damaged condition. Mr. Cooper said plaintiff contended the damage was due to carelessness, and the machine having been repaired, they had brought it into court so that his Honour could test it for himself if necessary.

Judge Smith enquired what airs the instrument would play, and if there were any songs by artistes like Madame Melba, Signor Caruso, or Madame Tetrazzini. Mr. Cooper replied that he thought they could give him some selections by Signor Caruso. His Honour expressed the desire to hear the instrument, but added, ‘Don't have a common song; play something nice.’ The machine was accordingly set to work, and played the ‘Queen of the Earth,’ His Honour listening attentively to the music.

For the defence it was contended that the instrument was supplied on approval, and that defendant signed the promissory note under the impression that it was a receipt for the delivery of the instrument.

Judgement was given for the plaintiff with costs.”

Walsall Observer 10/9/1910

“Bowling Wednesbury St. Paul's Institute v COTTAGE SPRING, Fallings Heath.

This return fixture was decided at Wood Green, on Saturday, before a large attendance of spectators. The green was in splendid condition and bowled fast. The game was very interesting throughout, and at the close the home club gained the verdict by 27 points.....”

[St. Paul's Institute 155, COTTAGE SPRING 128.]

1911 Census

Franchise Street – COTTAGE SPRING

- [1] *William Whitehall* (53), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Jane Whitehall* (56), wife, married 33 years, business assistant, born Liverpool;
- [3] *Thomas Brooks* (26), son-in-law, gas fitting maker, tube works, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Sarah Martha Brooks* (25), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Leopold Whitehall* (22), son, brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Robert Whitehall* (20), son, engineer's fitter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Sidney Whitehall* (17), son, engineer's fitter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Kenneth R. Whitehall* (14), son, driller, nut and bolt works, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Susannah Whitehall* (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Gladys Brooks* (2), grand-child, born Wednesbury;

Walsall Observer 23/9/1911

“Wednesbury Revision Court.....

An important discussion took place relative to the lodger vote of Leopold Whitehall and Richard John Whitehall, of 142, Franchise Street, Wednesbury. These two brothers lodged at a public house rated at £21 per annum, and the question was whether, after deducting the value of the license, which would be at least £10, the house would be of sufficient value to stand two lodgers votes The Revising Barrister said he was now of opinion that the value of the license should come off, and he should only allow one of the lodger votes. The vote of Leopold Whitehall was allowed and the other vote was struck off.”

1921 Census

142, Franchise Street

- [1] *William Whitehall* (62), widower, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Robert Whitehall* (30), son, fitter, tube works, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Susannah Whitehall* (21) daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Lenard Whitehall* (7), son, school part time, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Leslie Howard Whitehall* (6), son, school part time, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Olive Irene Whitehall* (4) daughter, born Wednesbury;

Bilston & Willenhall Times 25/10/1924

“The annual gathering of the members of the Franchise Street Wednesbury Allotment Association was held at the COTTAGE SPRING on Saturday. The proceedings opened with a dinner provided by Host *Whitehall*, at which there were about forty members present.....”

Walsall Observer 6/3/1926

“A new bowling league, the Darlaston Central, has been formed in the Darlaston and Wednesbury district, and the following ten clubs have affiliated COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street.”

Rugeley Times 22/7/1927

“Bowling Darlaston Central v COTTAGE SPRING, Wednesbury.

On Monday night, on the WHITE LION bowling green, Darlaston, an interesting match was played between Darlaston Central and the COTTAGE SPRING Club, of Franchise Street, Wednesbury. The home side won by 93 points.....”

[Darlaston Central 213, COTTAGE SPRING 120.]

1939 Register

106, Franchise Street

[1] *Robert Whitehall*, date of birth 21/3/1891, fitter and machinist, single;

[2] *Leslie H. Whitehall*, dob 2/3/1915, general fitter, single;

[3] *Susan Whitehall*, dob 8/1/1900, domestic duties, single;

[4] *Olive I. (Whitehall) Parton*, dob 13/7/1916, domestic duties, single:

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Cribbage League. [1967]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/10/1968

“Licensee of the COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, *James Kempson*, and his wife, gave a supper to the pub’s darts team, who play in the Fallings Heath League.

There was a presentation by captain, Barry Masters, of a pair of cut diamond cuff links, given by Mrs. *Kempson*, to Les Ward, who had the most wins. Mrs. *Kempson* also received a gift from the team.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1968 - Advert

“Mr. and Mrs. *Kempson* of the COTTAGE SPRING, 106, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, wish all their customers, especially the old-age pensioners, warmest greetings for Christmas and the New Year.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 10/6/1979 - Advert

“Holden’s ‘The Black Country Brewery’

Black Country Bitter, Special Bitter and Mild Traditional Draught Ales available at these houses.....

COTTAGE SPRING INN, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/1/1982

“Guard dog Nellie has one big problem – she keeps falling asleep. And if she managed to stay awake long enough to catch raiders she’d probably lick them to death! Nellie must be the friendliest guard dog in Wednesbury as owner Mrs. *Fran Banks*, licensee of the COTTAGE SPRING in Franchise Street, found out. She bought the great dane puppy 15 weeks ago to guard the pub. ‘We are trying to train her to be a bit more lively, but it does not seem to be having much effect,’ said Mrs. *Banks*.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/12/1986 - Advert

“Our very best wishes to all our customers, old and new, for Christmas and the New Year from *Les*, Sylvia and Family, COTTAGE SPRINGS, 106 Franchise Street, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 1/4/1988

“The COTTAGE SPRING pub in Franchise Street, Wednesbury, has applied to provide a beer garden at the rear of its premises.”

License renewal to *Leslie Barrows* was refused in 1988, after police found him serving after hours, three times. There was an appeal in June 1988.

Sandwell Evening Mail 25/1/1989 - Notice

"The Insolvency Act, 1986. In Bankruptcy in the Walsall County Court.

Re *Leslie Barrows* of 1 Bell Close, The Green, Darlaston, West Midlands, lately residing at the COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, and lately carrying on business as Publican of the COTTAGE SPRING Public House, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.

On 11 January 1989 the above named Court made a Bankruptcy Order against the above named debtor.

Note: All debts due to the estate should be paid to me.

Date 19 January, 1989.

A. T. R. Stretton, Official Receiver, Commercial Union House, 22 Martineau Square, Birmingham."

Birmingham Mail 30/12/1991 - Advert

"*John* and *Chris Myatt* warmly welcome all customers to the COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, Wednesbury. Food Tues-Sat Evening 7-9, Mon-Sat lunch 12-2.30.

Thursday Quiz Night. Open Fires."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/7/1992 - Advert

"For a Lovely Atmosphere visit the COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.

A warm welcome from *John* and *Chris Myatt* awaits you.

Hot and cold food served lunchtimes and evenings Tuesday to Saturday. Monday night special dishes.

Darts, Dominoes, Crib, Fishing, Quiz Nights."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/5/1993

"Pub Grub COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.

Basic but good value meals are the mainstay of this small but friendly hostelry. Most customers go for pie and chips (£1.50) with a choice of steak and kidney, beef and onion, and chicken and mushroom. Home-made food includes curry (£2.95) and chilli (£2.95) with rice and chips or jacket potatoes. Alternatively, choose a chip butty (65p) or steak sandwich (£1.50)."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/2/1995 - Advert

"Wining and Dining.....

The COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, evening meals now available, orders taken from 7pm till 9pm, Tuesday to Saturday."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/6/1995

"People from across the Black Country are pulling out all the stops to help the *Express & Star* Macmillan appeal. Generous readers have organised everything from raffles to pub crawls in a bid to boost funds.....

Regulars at the COTTAGE SPRING in Franchise Street, Wednesbury, donned fancy dress and visited ten pubs to collect cash. Landlord *Archie Woodcock* said, 'Thirty five of us went on the pub crawl and raised £550 between us. We were very surprised at the response. Everyone joined in the spirit of things and thoroughly enjoyed it. I went as a court jester.'"

Raymond Edward Johnson was married to Janet Rose.

Walsall Observer 28/8/1998 - Advert

"The COTTAGE SPRING Lorry Pulling Challenge. Bank Holiday Monday 31st August.

Ray and *Jan* have 10 teams of 6 people taking part in this Big Charity Event and family day out.

All proceeds and donations from this challenge will be going to the Air Ambulance Appeal.

Starts 11am, First Pull 12 Noon. Come and see the teams pulling an 8 ton lorry up Franchise Street.

Barbeque. Bouncy Castle. Face Painting. DJ with Music All Day. A Great Family Day Out.

The COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.

St. John's Ambulance Present on the Day."

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/10/1998

"I *Raymond Edward Johnson* do hereby announce that I have applied to Sandwell M.B.C. for the grant of an entertainments license to be used at the premises known as the COTTAGE SPRING."

Black Country Bugle 3/6/1999 - Advert

"The COTTAGE SPRING.

The Cottage Kitchen offers a varied menu from good old English food. Top oriental cuisine.

Happy Hour 1-7pm Mon-Fri. Entertainment 6 nights a week. So come and join us!

Ray and Jan, the COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/8/2000

"A 38-year-old man, affectionately known as the Wednesbury Viking, will attempt to eat his way into the record books when he tucks into 200 ounces of steak. John Osborne, a car seat maker, who lives in Elm Avenue, Wednesbury, will attempt to get into the *Guinness Book of Records* on Tuesday lunchtime at the COTTAGE SPRING pub, Franchise Street....."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/12/2003

"Millions of people across Britain saw the strength of Black County support for Pop Idol Mark Rhodes when GMTV broadcast live from a local pub. The COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, on the Darlaston-Wednesbury border was the venue for GMTV's Pop Idol special. The boozer, which was the first place Mark Rhodes performed, was packed with people by 7am. GMTV cut live to the pub three times during the show, and viewers saw screaming fans showing how much 22-year-old Mark means to the region Pub landlord *Ray Johnson* said in his seven years in the pub trade he never thought national TV would broadcast from his bar. 'The support has been massive; it's overwhelming. I'll be in London tomorrow watching him win, and he will win.'"

[Mark Rhodes was runner-up.]

Express & Star 13/2/2017

"A busy Wednesbury road has been closed for almost two weeks after a four-metre deep sinkhole appeared. Half of Franchise Street has been closed since the sinkhole appeared, with buses diverted and footpath closures outside houses.

Pub owners *Jed* and *Richard Baker*, from the COTTAGE SPRING, in Franchise Street, say the hole has led to fewer customers coming through the door. They believe the hole is the result of a collapsed storm drain and plunges to around four metres in depth. They say the wait to get it sorted has been 'ridiculous' as confusion has surrounded who is responsible for it. The hole appeared the end of January just outside the pub car park.

Mrs. *Baker*, aged 63, who has been landlady for just over five years, said, 'We didn't have a clue how it got there. The day it happened the council came out and thought it was a pit so they sent the coal board out. But then they discovered it was nothing to do with them but it was the drains instead. There's been so much confusion about what service deals with it.' Mrs. *Baker* added, 'It has affected us badly. It killed trade the first week because we had to close the car park completely. Even our deliveries are having to be rolled from the other side of the road. It is just ridiculous.'

A spokesperson from Walsall Council said, 'Further camera surveys are being undertaken. We will continue to work with Severn Trent Water to identify the cause.'"

Express & Star 28/10/2022

"A Wednesbury pub is closing while its owners try to find suitable new management to take it on. The COTTAGE SPRING in Franchise Street, Falling Heath, is part of the Woodsetton-based Holden's Brewery's chain. Managing director Jonothan Holden said the pub, which dates back to the 18th Century, would be shutting next week. He put it partly down to rising energy costs and reduced sales. 'It is not making any money for us currently. With the right tenants it could do something,' he explained. Mr. Holden said it was the only one of Holden's pubs that was shutting, but warned that the rising costs of energy were starting to bite hard. 'We are considering options for the COTTAGE SPRING. If anyone is interested in becoming the tenant they should contact us,' he added.

Holden's, which has a tied estate of 19 pubs, has owned the two-bar pub – one of its smaller pubs – since the 1950s."

[2022]

Express & Star 4/5/2024

"A disused Black Country pub is up for sale. The COTTAGE SPRING on Franchise Street, Wednesbury, is on the market for a minimum of £265,000 with Matthew Phillips Surveyors Ltd. Located in a residential area, the two-storey pub features a pair of trading rooms and former kitchen, as well as a two-bedroom living area upstairs. The agents say, 'The public house comprises a two storey brick building with pitched pan tiled roof with single storey flat roof extensions to the rear. The property also benefits from a surfaced and white lined car park providing 15 spaces together with a substantial smoking shelter adjoining the entrance to the trading area from the car park. The beer garden is located to the rear of the site with a timber pergola....."

Express & Star 4/2/2025

"The COTTAGE SPRINGS in Franchise Street, Wednesbury, closed in 2022 and a plan to convert the empty building into offices has been put forward by Phillip Boden. The former Holden's pub, which dates back to the 18th century, was put on the market for £265,000 last year after rising costs and falling trade forced the Black Country brewery to close its doors. A new side and rear extension would also be built to make way for the new office space according to the application....."


MR. AND MRS. KEMPSON
of
THE COTTAGE SPRING,
106, FRANCHISE-STREET,
WEDNESBURY,
wish all their customers, especially the old-age pensioners, warmest greetings for Christmas and The New Year

1968



1986

Holden's
"The Black Country Brewery"



BLACK COUNTRY BITTER
SPECIAL BITTER & MILD
Traditional Draught Ales
available at these houses:

Rose & Crown	Royal Exchange
Bank Street	High Street
Brierley Hill	Bilston
Old Mill	New Inn
Windmill Street	Ward Street
Upper Gornal	Coseley
Wheatshaf Inn	Park Inn
High Street	George Street
West Bromwich	Woodsetton
Old Bush Inn	Miners Arms
Daisy Bank	Ruiton Street
Coseley	Lower Gornal
Painters Arms	Cottage Spring Inn
Avenue Road	Franchise Street
Coseley	Wednesbury

The Royal
Bloomfield Road
Tipton

1979

**THE INSOLVENCY ACT.
1986**

**IN BANKRUPTCY IN THE
WALSALL COUNTY COURT
NO 5 OF 1989**

**RE: LESLIE BARROWS of 1
Bell Close, The Green, Darlaston,
West Midlands, lately residing
at The Cottage Spring,
Franchise Street, Wednesbury
and lately carrying on business
as PUBLICAN of The Cottage
Spring Public House, Franchise
Street, Wednesbury on 11 Jan-
uary 1989 the above named
Court made a Bankruptcy Or-
der against the above named
debtor**

**Note: All debts due to the estate
should be paid to me.**

Date 19 January 1989

**A T R STRETTON
OFFICIAL RECEIVER
Commercial Union House,
22 Martineau Square,
Birmingham B2 4UP**

1989

Why bother with guests?
We already sell the best.

Cottage Spring

Franchise Street, Wednesbury



**Holden's Black Country
Mild - Bitter - Special Bitter
XB Bitter - Stout**

Hot and cold food
Monday - Saturday lunchtimes
Tuesday - Saturday evenings

JOHN AND CHRIS MYATT

Warmly welcome all
customers to the

**COTTAGE SPRING
FRANCHISE STREET
WEDNESBURY**

Food Tues - Sat Evening 7-9
Mon - Sat lunch 12-2.30
Thurs Quiz Night
Open Fires.

1991

FOR A LOVELY ATMOSPHERE VISIT THE COTTAGE SPRING

Franchise Street, Wednesbury

Tel: 021-526 6354

A warm welcome from John and
Chris Myatt awaits you

Hot and cold food served lunchtimes
and evenings Tuesday to Saturday.
Monday night special dishes. Darts,
Dominocs, Crib, Fishing, Quiz Nights

1992

Cottage Spring

Franchise Street, Wednesbury

Take a ride out of Walsall and come to see us - we're only 300 yards from Ikea.

The furniture is not so flash but the Holden's is better!



Holden's at its best

Meals Tuesday to Saturday evenings,
Monday to Saturday lunchtime.

Discount for card-carrying CAMRA members

1994

THE COTTAGE SPRING, Franchise Street, Wednesbury,
evening meals now available,
orders taken from 7 pm till 9
pm, Tuesday to Saturday. -
Details 021 526 6354.

1995

The Cottage Spring LORRY PULLING CHALLENGE

Bank Holiday Monday 31st August

Ray and Jan have 10 teams of 6 people taking part in this big Charity Event and family day out. All proceeds and donations from this challenge will be going to the Air Ambulance Appeal.

Starts 11am First Pull 12 Noon Come and see the teams pulling an 8 ton lorry up Franchise Street.

BOUNCY FACE DJ with MUSIC & GREAT PRIZES ALL DAY LONG

The Cottage Spring, Franchise St, Wednesbury WS10 9RG • Tel: 0121 526 6354

1998

The Cottage Spring

The Cottage Kitchen offers a varied menu from good old English food. Top oriental cuisine.

Happy Hour 1 - 7pm Mon - Fri

Entertainment

6 nights a week

So come & join us!

Ray & Jan

*The Cottage Spring
Franchise Street*

Wednesbury WS10 9RG

0121 526 6354

1999

COTTAGE SPRING

Trouse Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Elizabeth Hyde [1834] – [1835]

NOTES

Elizabeth Hyde, beer retailer, Trowse Lane. [1835]

CRICKETERS ARMS

Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Griffiths [1864]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/8/1864 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

Valuable Freehold Properties, on the Holyhead Road and Albert Street, Wednesbury.

J. Whitehouse has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Public Auction, at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday Next, August 31, at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. All that substantial and well-built Beerhouse, with the Outbuildings and Yard attached thereto, situate in the Holyhead Road, and known by the sign of the CRICKETERS ARMS, in the occupation of *Samuel Griffiths*, at the low annual rental of £30.

Lot 2. All those four Messuages or Tenements, at the back of Lot 1, situate in Albert Street.....

The above Properties are recently built, and are replete with every convenience.

For further particulars, and to view the premises, apply to Messrs. Woodward and Son, Solicitors; or to Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, all of Wednesbury.”

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.
VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTIES,
ON THE
HOLYHEAD ROAD AND ALBERT STREET,
Wednesbury.

J. WHITEHOUSE has been favoured with instructions to **SELL** by **PUBLIC AUCTION**, at the Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury, on **WEDNESDAY NEXT**, August 31, at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced (by order of the Mortgagee under a power of sale)—

LOT 1.—All that substantial and well-built **BEER-HOUSE**, with the Outbuildings and Yard attached thereto, situate in the Holyhead road, and known by the sign of the “Cricketers' Arms,” in the occupation of Samuel Griffiths, at the low annual rental of £30.

LOT 2.—All those four **MESSUAGES** or **TENEMENTS**, at the back of Lot 1, situate in Albert Street, in the respective occupations of Joseph Chamberlain, Norton, Ellis, and Skelton, producing a rental of £48. 2s. per annum.

The above Properties are recently built, and are replete with every convenience.

For further particulars, and to view the premises, apply to Messrs. Woodward and Son, Solicitors; or to Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, all of Wednesbury.

CROFT

Hydes Road / Chestnut Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Everards Brewery Ltd. (acquired in 2003) [2012]

LICENSEES

Alice Dolman [1961] – **1962**);

John Moseley (**1962** – [1968]

Tom Forrester [1971] – [1972]

Christopher 'Chris' Clift [1981] – [1982]

Keith and Ann [1984]



2014

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1940

“An application at Wednesbury adjourned Licensing Sessions yesterday by Atkinson’s Brewery Company Limited, for the removal of the full license, FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane, to new premises proposed to be built on the golf course estate in Hydes Road, was refused.”

Evening Despatch 11/3/1955

“Because they had found that the smaller type of public house was more popular today than the pre-war trend to build ‘gin palaces,’ Mr. A. W. D. Stackhouse, for Atkinsons Brewery Co. Ltd., applied to Wednesbury magistrates today for a provisional order to remove the license of the FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane, to premise proposed to be built on the Golf Course estate, at the junction of Hydes Road and Chestnut Road. The application was granted.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/5/1962

“A party of Aston Villa footballers left it till dusk last night before entering the heart of the ‘enemy’ camp – Wednesbury. Unknown to the many Wolves, Albion, and Walsall supporters who reside in the town, they came to say ‘thank you’ to the 200-strong band of people in Wednesbury who are members of the Aston Villa Supporters Club. It was the local branch’s second annual dinner, held at the CROFT HOTEL.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/5/1962 - Advert

“Smart Young Barmaid required, full time, good class trade, recent references required. Learner to trade welcome; also Barman, evenings.

Apply, the CROFT HOTEL, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/3/1965

“Mr. William Hood, of the BIRD IN HAND, Darlaston, was elected chairman of the managers section of Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association at their annual meeting, held yesterday at the CROFT INN, Wednesbury.....”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1965]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/4/1970 - Advert

“Barman and Barmaid required, evenings and weekends. Learners considered.

Apply, the CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/12/1971

"A meeting of Wednesbury and District Motor Cycle and Car Club will be held at the CROFT HOTEL, Hydes Road, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, December 7, 8.30 pm. Will all old members please attend."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1971 - Advert

"*Tom* and Viv, of the CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury, Would like to wish all their Customers and Friends a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/10/1972 - Advert

"The CROFT HOTEL, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.
Viv and *Tom Forrester* welcome Old and New Customers to the opening of their new Cottage Lounge.
Friday, November 20th."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/6/1973 - Advert

"Cleaner required, mornings 8.30 to 11.30 approximately. Good pay and conditions.
Apply, Manager, the CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/10/1974 - Advert

"The CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury, requires the following staff.
Full-Time Bar Cellarman. Learners considered. Anyone with keen interest in the licensed trade will be fully trained in all aspects of bar and cellar work.
Attractive Girls to work evenings in busy lounge bar (only reliable girls required).
Apply, the Manager."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/5/1975 - Advert

"Cook required, 11am to 3pm Monday to Friday. Some experience necessary.
Apply, the CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/1/1979 - Advert

"More Bar Staff required at the CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury, mornings and evenings.
He/she telephone the Manager, 021 556 1674."

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/3/1979

"The Pubs Good for Grub.
Fourteen pubs in Sandwell and Bilston have won a place in a brewery's good grub guide published this month. The guide lists more than 400 pubs in England, Scotland, and Wales chosen by Bass Ltd., for high standards of food preparation, service and hygiene, good quality, and value for money. The pubs won their entries through the group's 'Welcome Food Award' scheme. Local pubs include.....
CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury."

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/4/1981

"A motley band of gangsters and their molls burst into a Wednesbury pub to demand money from the customers – for charity. The Robin Hood-style raid was carried out by five students from the West Bromwich College of Commerce and Technology as part of their Rag Week activities The five 'gangsters' staged their stunt at the CROFT in Hydes Road with the approval of the landlord, Mr. *Chris Clift*."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/1/1982 - Advert

"The CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.
Live entertainment starts this Tuesday with Sassy and introducing Miss Lindsey Carroll."

THE CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury. Live Entertainment starts this Tuesday with Sassy and introducing Miss Lindsey Carroll

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/8/1982 - Advert

"The West Midlands County Council Act 1980.

To the Chief Officer of Police of the area in which the Licensed Premises hereinafter mentioned are situated, to the Chief Fire Officer, West Midlands Fire Service, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Christopher Clift*, of the CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury, in the Metropolitan County of the West Midlands, Hereby Give Notice that I have made application to the Town Clerk, Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell, for a Public Entertainment License to enable me to provide Public Entertainment by way of Music and Singing at the said Licensed Premises known as the CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.

Dated this 29th day of July, 1982. *Christopher Clift*."

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/5/1983

"A Wednesbury landlord has imposed a 'total exclusion zone' at the rear of his pub, all because of a blackbird. Mother-to-be Beatrice has built a nest on top of 10 dozen empty pop bottles outside the CROFT pub in Hydes Road. Relief manager Bob Simmons says the bottles are staying put until Beatrice's eggs are hatched. Already Bob has turned away one drinks lorry which called to collect some of the empty bottles and pub staff have been told to find a new corner to stock the other empties.

Bob spotted Beatrice and her mate hovering around the loading deck last Thursday and has been keeping a fatherly eye on his new lodgers ever since. He said, 'She really worked hard all over the weekend filling the crates with bedding material and on Tuesday she started sitting and is obviously going to lay her eggs very soon. I don't know how long Beatrice is going to be here, but as long as I am here, I am going to make sure nobody disturbs her.' Bob keeps an eye on the makeshift maternity wing from his kitchen window."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/10/1983 - Advert

"Smart reliable bar staff required.

The CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury."

**SMART RELIABLE bar staff
required.
The Croft, Hydes Road,
Wednesbury. 021 556 1674.**

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/12/1984 - Advert

"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Customers, Family and Friends from Keith and Ann of the CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury."

Sandwell Chronicle 23/1/1987

"A Wednesbury angling club raised £200 for the children's ward at Sandwell District General Hospital by organising a beer and skittles evening. Members of the Croft Angling Club, based at the CROFT pub in Hydes Road, presented a cheque to consultant paediatrician Dr. Rosemary Shepherd."

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/4/1991

"Wildlife has returned to Wednesbury's threatened Hydes Road pool, and local people are determined to keep it that way. Dozens of geese and swans deserted the pool after it dried up during last summer's hot spell, some people blaming nearby open-cast mining operations for the drop in the water level. But Coun. Roy Handley said the water had since returned, and so too had the wildlife.

Coun. Handley's comments followed a clean-up of the pool led by members of the angling club at the CROFT public house in Hydes Road. About 30 volunteers worked to remove piles of rubbish dumped in the water and Coun. Handley said he was delighted with their efforts. He said, 'They got sticks, bits of plastic and paper and all sorts of other rubbish out of the water which could be dangerous to the wildlife and took it away. The water has come back now and seems to be staying at a reasonable level and there are now geese and swans back there too. I hope it stays that way.'"

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.....

CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/11/1999 - Advert

"Bass serves up food for thought with a new Top Choice menu.

Top beer, top food, top choice – isn't that what everyone wants from their local?

Precisely why Bass Leisure Retail now offer a wide ranging and quality 'Top Choice' menu in over 300 community pubs nationwide, with all main courses, including steaks, fish and chips, and chilli for just £2.99.....

Top Choice participating outlets.....

CROFT, Hydes Road, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/3/2003

"Bob Taylor's testimonial tour of the Black Country continues on Saturday when the Albion legend visits the CROFT pub, Hydes Road, Wednesbury. 'Super Bob' will be there from 8pm to sign autographs and chat with supporters, with the landlord of the CROFT allowing children to pop along for the evening. The event has been organised by Albion steward Keith Simcox, who hopes to swell the benefit fund by raffling off a testimonial shirt and ball signed by the striker."

Express & Star 4/9/2009

"Managers at the CROFT in Wednesbury are looking for a new landlord after the last boss left six months ago. On Tuesday they held an open day to look for potential new managers so they could learn about what is involved in running a pub and are continuing to ask for interested people to come forward. The pub in Hydes Road is currently being run by a holding company while owners Everards try to find a permanent new boss."

[2025]

SMART YOUNG Barmaid required, full time, good class trade, recent references required, Learner to trade welcome; also Barman, evenings; apply--The Croft Hotel, Hydes-road, Wednesbury, Telephone WED 1674.

1962

BARMAN and Barmaid required, evenings and weekends. Learners considered. Apply — The Croft, Hydes - road, Wednesbury.

1970

TOM AND VIV,
of
THE CROFT,
Hydes-road,
Wednesbury.

**Would like to wish all their
Customers and Friends a Merry
Christmas and Happy New
Year.**

1971

THE CROFT HOTEL
Hydes Road, WEDNESBURY
Viv and Tom Forrester
Welcome OLD & NEW Customers
to the **OPENING OF THEIR NEW**
COTTAGE LOUNGE
Friday, November 20th

1972

CLEANER required, mornings **8.30**
to **11.30** approximately. Good pay
and conditions. Apply — Manager,
The Croft, Hydes Road, Wed-
nesbury. 021 556 1674.

1973

THE CROFT

Hydes Road,

Wednesbury,

requires the following staff:

FULL-TIME

BAR CELLARMAN

Learners considered. Anyone with keen interest in the licensed trade will be fully trained in all aspects of bar and cellar work.

ATTRACTIVE GIRLS

To work evenings in busy lounge bar (only reliable girls required).

Apply —

The Manager,

021 556 1674.

1974

COOK

required, 11 am to 3 pm
Monday to Friday.

Some experience necessary.

Apply —

The Croft,

Hydes Road,

Wednesbury.

Telephone 021 556 1674.

1975

MORE BAR STAFF required at The Croft, Hydes Road, Wednesbury, mornings and evenings.
He / she telephone the Manager,
021 556 1674

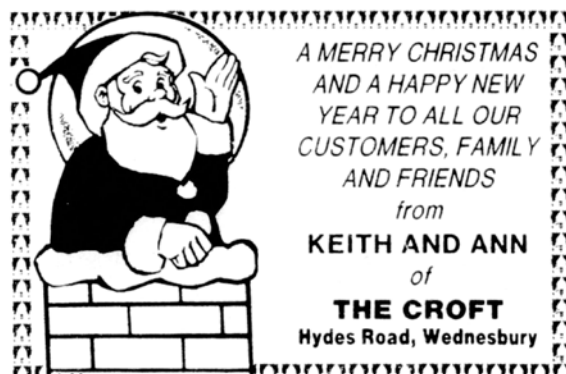
1979

THE WEST MIDLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL ACT — 1980

TO THE CHIEF OFFICER OF POLICE OF THE AREA IN WHICH THE LICENSED PREMISES HEREINAFTER MENTIONED ARE SITUATED, TO THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE, AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.
I, Christopher Clift, of the Croft, Hydes Road, Wednesbury, in the Metropolitan County of the West Midlands, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I have made application to the Town Clerk, Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell, for a Public Entertainment Licence to enable me to provide Public Entertainment by way of Music and Singing at the said Licensed Premises known as the Croft, Hydes Road, Wednesbury.
Dated this 29th day of July, 1982.

CHRISTOPHER CLIFT

1982



1984

CROSS GUNS

34, (11), Bilston Road, (Old Bilston Road), (Old Road), Wednesbury Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1961], [1966]
Enterprise Inns [1990s]
Brennan Inns [2008]

LICENSEES

Richard Ashmore [1834] – [1845]
John Ashmore [1848] – [1851]
Thomas Brittain [1855] – **1874**;
Henry Brittain (**1874** – [])
George Peace [] – **1881**;
Mrs. Phoebe Peace (**1881** – [1900])
Thomas J. Richardson [1901]
John Lacey [1904] – [1921]
Thomas Price [1921]
William Henry Brookes [1927] – **1928**;
Mrs. Elizabeth Pittaway (**1928** – [1932])
Harold Till [1930s]
Charles Henry Macefield [1940]
Mrs. Alice (Dolan) Flaherty [1941] – **1966**)
R W Harris [1983]
Bill Hill [1991]
Sue Tolley (**2002** – [])
Dwayne Gordon (**2014** – [])



Token



1997

NOTES

Old Road [1841], [1842], [1850]
Bilston Road [1868]
11, Bilston Road [1871], [1872], [1873], [1881], [1891], [1901], [1996]
34, Bilston Road [1939], [1990], [2002]

Richard Ashmore, retailer of beer, Wednesbury Field. [1835]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/11/1838 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Property, Wednesbury Field.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. S. Walker, on Tuesday, the 27th day of November, 1838, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Richard Ashmore*, known by the sign of the CROSS GUNS, Wednesbury Field, near Wednesbury, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

1841 Census

Bilston Road
[1] *Richard Ashmore* (55), victualler, born Staffordshire;
[2] *Ann Ashmore* (55), born Staffordshire;
[3] *Ann Chaleman* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/12/1842

“Inquisitions before T. M. Phillips, Esq.

On Saturday, at the CROSS GUNS, Wednesbury, on the body of Mary Ann Harris, an infant who was scalded by the falling of a tea kettle filled with boiling water. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Richard Ashmore was also a gunlock maker. [1845]

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/4/1847

“On Wednesday last, an inquest was held at the CROSS GUNS INN, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of William Dutton, aged 35 years. It appeared that the deceased had lodged with a person of the name of Cartwright for the last six weeks; on Monday, the 19th inst, he went to his work in the morning as usual, but returned about noon, saying he was very ill. He then went to bed, and Mrs. Cartwright went down to Mr. Ladbury’s, a druggist, for him to come and see the deceased, but he said he could not come; and he gave her two pills to give the deceased, as he said ‘he knew what was the matter with him – that he had got a cold settled upon his chest.’ The deceased still continued to get worse, and Mrs. Cartwright went again to Mr. Ladbury, who said he could not go to deceased. Mr. Morgan, a surgeon, was then requested to go, which he did, and rendered every assistance; finding the deceased in a very dangerous state, he bled him, and again visited him in a few hours after, but he was then dead.

Mr. Stokes, a surgeon, stated the he had examined the body of the deceased, and there were no external marks of violence; but, upon making a post mortem examination, he found that one of the lungs was decayed, and he was of opinion that the deceased was labouring under an acute inflammation of the lungs, which was the cause of death. The bleeding by Mr. Morgan was a very proper treatment.

The jury returned a verdict according to the medical evidence, and requested the coroner to caution Mrs. Cartwright not to go for druggist’s again, for they were not bound to attend in such cases.”

Birmingham Journal 30/10/1847

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the CROSS GUNS, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Eliza Mason, nine years of age, daughter of Thomas Mason, engineer, who died on the morning of Monday, in consequence of injuries received by her clothes taking fire on Friday last. The accident is supposed to have been occasioned by a cinder falling on the deceased from the kitchen fire. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

John Ashmore was the son of *Richard* and *Ann Ashmore*.

Birmingham Journal 15/1/1848

“On the morning of Friday last, it was discovered that no fewer than three different robberies had been perpetrated in Wednesbury, evidently by one party. From a brewhouse belonging to Mr. Richard Ashmore, junior, maltster, they stole a flitch of bacon, a ham, and a new kettle; from the premises of Mr. *John Ashmore*, the CROSS GUNS INN, there were stolen three couples of fowls and two couples of ducks; and from the brewhouse of Mr. Griffiths, not far from the above, they carried away a quantity of wearing apparel and some linen. A handsome reward has been offered for the apprehension of the thieves, and the police have been actively engaged in trying to apprehend them, but as yet their efforts have been unsuccessful.”

Richard Ashmore died on 5th February 1848.

1851 Census

Bilston Road

[1] *John Ashmore* (35), victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Elizabeth Ashmore* (35), wife, born Darlaston:

John Ashmore died on 30th April 1851.

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/5/1851

“An inquest was held on the 17th instant on the body of Sarah Humphries, aged five months, at the CROSS GUNS INN, Wednesbury. The deceased was put into a small hand waggon by her elder sister, and taken out a short ride, after which she returned home, and upon taking out the child it was found to be dead.”

Birmingham Journal 3/11/1855 - Advert

“Malt Crushers.

Parties requiring Malt Crushers would do well before purchasing to inspect those made by Richard Thompson, Pot House Bridge Foundry, Bilston, Staffordshire.

They can be seen at work at the following places.....

Mr. *Brittain's*, CROSS GUNS, Wednesbury.”

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.....

Thomas Brittain, CROSS GUNS, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, open on a Sunday, after hours, fined 10s and costs.....

These parties were generally admonished or cautioned by the Magistrates.”

Birmingham Journal 15/10/1859

“On Friday evening last an inquest was held at Mr. *Thomas Brittain's*, the CROSS GUNS INN, Wednesbury, on the body of a fine young man named Thomas Hawthorn, twenty-four years of age, and who was employed by Messrs. Lloyd and Foster, proprietors of the Old Park Ironworks.

The enquiry lasted for some time, and involved the examination of several witnesses. The facts, however, may be thus stated. On the preceding day, Thursday, several men were engaged in preparing to weigh a large cast-iron girder, intended for a railway bridge. The weighing crane was 40 feet in height, and had the usual cross beam and chains. The persons engaged had succeeded in making fast one end of the girder, which weighed 9 tons 10cwt, and did the same to the other end. The next operation was to raise the ponderous mass a short space from the ground; but this had scarcely been done when the crane broke, and the 40-foot poles or supports, falling in the direction where the deceased was at work, 20 yards off, struck him and killed him on the spot.

Mr. Connell, the manager at the works, and Mr. Jones, the shipper, were examined, and stated that the crane was made at the works, of new timber and materials, about two years and a half ago. Last summer it was repainted and examined, and believed to be in an efficient state. It was made to weigh as high as thirteen tons, and three witnesses said that ten and twelve tons had repeatedly been weighed by the crane. It was considered perfectly safe with weights of that amount. Mr. Connell added that he had since the accident made a particular examination of the machine, and found that the breakage had taken place at the top of one of the supporting poles, at its junction with the cross beams. There was here at the breakage a flaw in the timber, but it was such that it could not be seen externally. The other timbers were sound.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

Bilston Road – CROSS GUNS

[1] *Thomas Brittain* (53), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Mary Ann Brittain (57), wife, born Walsall;

[3] Hannah Huskinson (12), visitor, born Walsall;

[4] Mary Ann Foster (30), general servant, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/12/1868

“On Monday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, at the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, on the body of Harriet Williams, aged 39 years, of Lloyd Street. Patrick Roach, Mary Eagles, Ann Williams, and Ann Cook were examined. From their evidence it appeared deceased was taken ill on the 3rd inst, and died suddenly on the 17th inst. Roach left the woman about a quarter to six on Thursday morning last, and a woman named Mary Eagles found her dead in bed. The jury found an open verdict of Found Dead.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/11/1869

“The fortnightly meeting of Wednesbury Local Board was held last night.....

There was a nuisance on the premises belonging to Mr. *Thomas Brittain*, of the Bilston Road, situate in Darlaston Road.”

1871 Census

11, Bilston Road – CROSS GUNS INN

[1] *Thomas Brittain* (63), widower, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Foster* (39), general servant, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Ann Huskinson* (22), general servant, born Walsall:

Thomas Brittain died in the 4th quarter of 1874.

Walsall Observer 31/10/1874 - Advert

“To Publicans, Brewers, & Others.

Joseph Whitehouse has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Public Auction (unless previously disposed of by private treaty), on Friday, November 6th, 1874, at Six o'clock pm, on the Premises, the Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of that important and well-established House of Business, the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, and disposed of in consequence of the death of the Proprietor, the late Mr. *Brittain*, who most successfully carried it on for more than 20 years.

The House is in thorough repair, and contains Entrance Hall, Parlour, Bar, Kitchen, Taproom, Bed Chambers, large Clubroom, three Cellars, Brewhouse, Maltroom, Stabling, Coachhouse, and other Outbuildings, with enclosed Yard. The above Property is near the Patent Shaft and other large Works, which renders it a most valuable investment. For particulars, and to treat, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Spring Vale House, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/11/1874 - Advert

“Unreserved and Clearing-out Sale.

Mr. Joseph Whitehouse will Sell by Public Auction, at the CROSS GUNS INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, on Wednesday Next, November 25.

All the neat and clean Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Stock of Hops, Malt, Ale, Wines, and Spirits.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, and Right of Lease will be offered as the first Lot, punctually at 10.30am. Stock, &c, comprising 400 gallons of Ale, 140 gallons of Wine and Spirits, 4 pockets of Hops, 25 bushels of Malt, 25 Ale Casks, Mashtub, and Coolers, 4-pull Ale Machine and Piping, Chairs, Tables, Clocks, 24 Watches, capital 7-octave Pianoforte, and other Effects belonging to the late Mr. *Thomas Brittain*.

Catalogues can be had at the place of Sale, or from the Auctioneer's Office, Spring Vale House, Wednesbury.”

Midland Examiner 19/12/1874

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, the license of the CROSS GUNS INN, Bilston Road, was temporarily transferred from the executors of *Thomas Brittain* to *Henry Brittain*, brother of the late occupier of the house.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1875

“*Thomas Brittain*, Deceased. Pursuant to the Statute 22nd and 23rd Victoria, chapter 35.

Notice is hereby given, that all Persons having any Claims against the Estate of *Thomas Brittain*, late of the CROSS GUNS INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, deceased (who died on the 13th day of October, 1874, and whose Will was proved in the Lichfield District Registry of her Majesty's Court of Probate on the 1st day of March, 1875), are hereby required to Send the Particulars of their Claims to the undersigned, on or before the 19th day of April, 1875, after which day the Executors will proceed to distribute the Assets of the Deceased, having regard only to the Claims of which they shall then have had notice.

Dated the 17th day of March, 1875. W. Marshall, Darlaston, near Wednesbury, Solicitor to the Executors.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1880 - Advert

“CROSS GUNS, Wednesbury.

To Let, with immediate possession, the above capital Old-licensed Free House, with excellent in and out door trade. Only changed hands twice in fifty years. Proprietor leaving in consequence of ill-health. The lease, licenses, goodwill, stock, and fixtures about £300.

Apply to Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Spring Vale House, Wednesbury.”

Dudley and District News 28/8/1880

“George and Martha Allen, man and wife, were charged with assaulting Enoch Underwood, a greengrocer, and stealing from his person the sum of 5s, on the 21st instant. It appeared that a dispute arose between the parties at the CROSS GUNS INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, complainant acknowledging to have used offensive language with regard to the female prisoner, and the assault was a consequence. There being no evidence to support the charge of theft, and the Bench considering the evidence conflicting, the parties were ordered to pay their own costs.”

1881 Census

11, Bilston Road – CROSS GUNS

[1] *Phoebe Peace* (37), widow, publican, born Tipton;

[2] *Ann Shenston* (65), mother, widow, born Tipton;

[3] *James Richardson* (15), nephew, axle turner, born West Bromwich:

Northwich Guardian 22/6/1881 - Advert

“Old-Licensed House.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the Old-Licensed House, known as the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, doing a good trade. Excellent premises. Satisfactory reasons for leaving.

Apply on the premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1887

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, resumed an enquiry, at the CROSS GUNS INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, into the circumstances attending the death of Sarah Ann Painter (19), who had been employed as a domestic servant at the same house.

The evidence showed that about seven o’clock on the morning of the 7th inst Mrs. Shenton, the mother of the landlady, heard the deceased moving about, and enquired what she was doing, the deceased replying that she had been to get some water. She then went back to bed, and as she did not come down at the usual time Mrs. Shenton went to her room, and found her lying dead on the bed outside the clothes. On the chair was a cup containing a small quantity of a dark liquid, and this, on being subsequently analysed by Dr. Dingley, proved to be cyanide of potassium. A post mortem examination, made by the same gentleman, showed that death had been caused by that poison, and that had deceased lived a few hours longer, at the most, she would have become a mother. No one seemed to have had a suspicion that she was pregnant, and endeavours to ascertain where she obtained the poison had been fruitless. The Coroner, in summing up, regretted that no more satisfactory evidence could be got.

The jury found that the deceased committed Suicide whilst in an Unsound State of Mind, and Superintendent Holland, who was present on behalf of the police authorities, said enquiries should be continued with regard to the poison.”

1891 Census

11, Bilston Road – CROSS GUNS INN

[1] *Phoebe Peace* (40), widow, publican, born Great Bridge;

[2] *James Richardson* (25), nephew, married, iron turner, born Great Bridge;

[3] *Elizabeth Richardson* (20), niece, married, born West Bromwich;

[4] *George Richardson* (1), grand-son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Ann Shenston* (71), mother, living on her own means, born Great Bridge:

1901 Census

11, Bilston Road

[1] *Thomas J. Richardson* (35), brewer, born Great Bridge;

[2] *Elizabeth Richardson* (29), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *George Richardson* (11), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Phoebe Richardson* (9), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Gertrude Richardson* (6), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *James Richardson* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Daniel Richardson* (7 months), son, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Phoebe Peace* (55), aunt, widow, living on own means, born Great Bridge:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun League. [1909]

Walsall Observer 3/9/1910

“On Tuesday Mr. G. C. Lewis, coroner, held an inquest at the CROSS GUNS INN, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, on the body of Ephriam Lawton (56), labourer, in the employ of Messrs. J. McDougall, tube manufacturers, Newtown, and residing at the back of No.17, Old Bilston Road, Wednesbury, who died suddenly on Monday. Deceased returned from his work about seven o’clock on Monday morning, and went to bed. He asked his wife to call him at 1.30, but when she went into the bedroom about this time she found he was dead.

Dr. Crew said he had attended deceased for chronic bronchitis, but he attributed death to heart failure.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1911 Census

Old Bilston Road

[1] John Lacey (56), brewer and retailer of beer, born County Wexford, Ireland;

[2] Margret Lacey (45), wife, married 12 years, assisting in business, born County Carlow, Ireland;

[3] Margaret Lacey (9), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Agnes Mary Lacey (8), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

[5] Kathleen W. Lacey (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] James Lacey (25), son, assisting in business, born Bilston;

[7] Frank J. Lacey (18), son, assisting in business, born Wednesbury:

John Lacey was vice-president of the West Midland District of the Licensed Victuallers National Defence League. [1912].

John Lacey was president of the West Midland District of the Licensed Victuallers National Defence League. [1913], [1914], [1916], [1917]

John Lacey was a Wednesbury Councillor. [1913], [1914], [1916], [1917]

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1914

“The annual meeting of the West Midland District of the Licensed Victuallers National Defence League was held at Bewdley, Councillor *John Lacey*, of Wednesbury, presiding.....

Councillor *Lacey* (Wednesbury) was re-elected president.....”

John Lacey was a committee member of Wednesbury and District Friendly and Protection Society.

John Lacey – see also ROBIN HOOD, Portway Road, and GRAPES, High Street..

1921 Census

Bilston Road – CROSS GUNS

[1] Thomas Price (35), cylinder welder, born Kidderminster;

[2] Minnie Price (35), wife, home duties, born Darlaston;

[3] Leslie Price (1), son, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 7/5/1927

“*William Henry Brookes*, of the CROSS GUNS, Old Bilston Road, Wednesbury, appeared on a summons for failing to notify the police of the sale of a firearm. The case had been adjourned for a month, it having been stated by defendant at the previous hearing that he sold the revolver in ignorance of the regulations. The Stipendiary observed that the case might have been one of a very serious nature. The regulations relating to firearms had been made for the protection of the public. However, defendant was a person of excellent character and the prosecution had not made out a serious case against him. He would be fined 20s with £3 3s special costs.”

William Henry Brookes – see also SAMSON AND LION.

Walsall Observer 14/2/1931

“Two licenses, those of the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, and the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Dudley Street, were objected to on the grounds of redundancy at the Wednesbury Brewster Sessions yesterday, and consideration was deferred to the adjourned sessions on March 13.”

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, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, 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.....

CROSS GUNS INN, Wednesbury. Alehouse. Licensee, *Elizabeth Pittaway*.”

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 Licensing Justices below, and in three of these applications were successfully made for the renewal of the licenses.....

Mr. H. A. Tucker applied for the renewal of the license of the CROSS GUNS INN, Wednesbury.

PS Gilman stated that there were 27 licensed houses within a radius of 500 yards, and Mr. Gilbert Griffiths, who appeared for the Justices, informed the Court that the average trade of the Inn for the past three years worked out at 2.1 barrels per week.

Mr. Tucker informed the Justices that 100 new houses were being erected on a site in the vicinity of the CROSS GUNS, and Mr. John Foster, a representative of the brewery company, expressed the opinion that if the license were taken away the houses that remained would not be able to cope with the increased trade.

The license was renewed.”

Walsall Observer 11/6/1982

“The quest for a refreshing pint led thirsty *Harold Till* not only through the doors of a Walsall pub but also to the woman who was to share his life for the next 50 years. Mr. *Till*, then 22, lived in Checketts Street, Walsall, and was a regular visitor to the ENGINE in nearby Wolverhampton Street for an evening pint. It was there he met the landlord's daughter, 18-year-old Nellie Roden. Their bar-room chat blossomed into romance and two years later they were married at St. John's Church in the Pleck. The ENGINE is long since demolished and gone, but the marriage thrived and this week the *Tills* of Haskell Street, Palfrey, look back on 50 happy years as they celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Mr. *Till* started his working life with Shaw's the wallpaper and glass merchants at the corner of Wolverhampton Street and Marsh Street, while his future wife helped out behind the bar of the ENGINE. Soon after their marriage they took over the CROSS GUNS in Bilston Road, Wednesbury, but that came to an end when the war broke out.....”

Walsall Observer 26/6/1937

“At Wednesbury special licensing sessions, yesterday week, approval was given to plans for alterations to..... CROSS GUNS, Old Bilston Road.”

1939 Register

34, Bilston Road

[1] *Harold Till*, date of birth 19/11/1906, electric welder, heavy work, married;

[2] *Nelly Till*, dob 14/9/1910, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Walsall Observer 9/8/1941 - Personal

“Boyd-Langley. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, of 99, Croft Street, Walsall, on Anniversary of their Wedding, August 11th, 1940.

From sister *Alice* and Hugh *Dolan*, CROSS GUNS, Wednesbury; and from Mother and Father, Ivy, Frank, and baby Edith.”

Walsall Observer 4/10/1941 - Silver Weddings

“*Dolan-Boyd*. On October 8, 1916, at St. John’s Church, Pleck, Walsall, by the Rev. J. E. Gordon Cartlidge, Hugh to *Alice*. Present address CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1948]

Walsall Observer 9/10/1959

“Hugh *Dolan*. Treasured memories of my dear husband Hugh, passed away October 9, 1958. God let you be with me for our 42nd wedding anniversary, October 8, 1958, and we were so happy. But next day, October 9, 1958, God came and took your hand, we had to part. He eased your pain, but broke my heart. I miss you so, no words can tell, your voice, your smile, your love as well. Loving you always, forgetting you never. Reunited with your sister Cis, passed away October 26, 1957. And I know you both are waiting in God’s beautiful garden of memory to welcome your brother Bill, passed away October 15.

All are sadly missed by *Alice*.”

Alice Dolan married Joseph L. *Flaherty* in the 3rd quarter of 1961.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/10/1962 - Advert

“Carpet Sale. Damaged and Perfect Sale held at CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, Friday, October 12, 11am to 4pm; 300 Carpets, including well known Axminster, all sizes only slightly damaged by water, dealers not supplied. These carpets must be sold, no reasonable offer refused. The entire stock to be sold regardless of cost. Samples: Twenty 4 x 3 Carpets to be sold as low as £12 10/- each, and 20 3 x 2½ Carpets at £7 10/- each. Carpets from £4 10/- each, special line of handmade embossed Indian Carpets in all colours, 12 x 9 and 15 x 12, 12 x 9 £14; Indian Carpets 12 x 9; 25 large Carpets 6 x 4 and 5 x 4 yards, must be sold cheaply; 20 Carpets 12 x 9, £7 10/-, 2 Carpets only each person; come early for best selection; no connection with any other firm.

Mr. L. Smith, 5, Corporation Street, Birmingham. License No.369 (Derbyshire).”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/7/1966 - Personal

“Mr. and Mrs. L. *Flaherty* would like to thank all customers and friends of the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, for lovely gifts and flowers given to Mrs. *Flaherty* on her retirement of the above address, and gives special thanks to Mrs. Margaret Archer, Mrs. Moor, Mrs. Clee, also all staff connected with Group 7 of Bass and Mitchells and Butlers.”

A team from here took part in the Tipton charity domino knockout. [1967]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/5/1968 - Advert

“Piano Player required. Saturday and Sunday.
Apply, CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury.”

PIANO PLAYER required Saturday
and Sunday Apply—Cross Guns

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/11/1969 - Advert

“Barmaid required, evenings.
CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury.”

BARMAID required evenings —Cross
Guns. Bilston-road Wednesbury

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Cribbage League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the *Express and Star*-sponsored Midland darts championship. [1973]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1975 - Advert

“Con and Jim of the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, send Christmas Greetings to all their customers and friends.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/3/1980 - Advert

“Con and Jim of the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, would like to wish the Wolves Team Good Luck at Wembley.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/1/1981 - Advert

“Dot and Bill of the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, would like to wish all their customers, old and new, A Very Prosperous New Year and Best Wishes for 1981.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/12/1983 - Advert

“Dot and Bill of the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, would like to wish all their customers and friends (old and new) a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/3/1991 - Charity Events

“Tonight!!!!!! 24 Hour Pool Marathon.

All proceeds to Mary Stevens Hospice Wheels Appeal.

Support Glyn and Dave at the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, Wednesbury.

Tonight 9pm to Tomorrow 9pm.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/4/1991

“Regulars at a Wednesbury pub were right on cue when it came to raising money for charity. Landlord’s son Glyn Hill and Dave Rogers kept the CROSS GUNS pub in Bilston Road open all hours for their pool marathon. The 24-hour event raised £400 for the £25,000 Wheels Appeal in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge. Enterprising landlord Mr. *Bill Hill* managed to double that total by selling raffle tickets to regulars watching the players. The money will help pay for a new bus for the hospice.”

It closed in 2001.

It was refurbished and reopened in 2002 as THE ROOST.

Sue Tolley was married to Aub.

It closed in February 2014.

It reopened after renovation in August 2014.

[2025]



2011



2014

TO PUBLICANS, BREWERS, & OTHERS.

JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE has been favoured with instructions to **SELL** by **PUBLIC AUCTION** (unless previously disposed of by private treaty), on **FRIDAY, November 6th, 1874**, at Six o'clock p.m., on the Premises, the **LICENSES, GOODWILL, and immediate POSSESSION** of that important and well-established House of Business, "**THE CROSS GUNS,**" **BILSTON ROAD, WEDNESBURY**, and disposed of in consequence of the death of the Proprietor, the late Mr. Brittain, who most successfully carried it on for more than 20 years.

The House is in thorough repair, and contains Entrance Hall, Parlour, Bar, Kitchen, Taproom, Bed Chambers, large Clubroom, three Cellars, Brew-house, Maltroom, Stabling, Coachhouse, and other Outbuildings, with enclosed Yard. The above Property is near to the Patent Shaft and other large Works, which renders it a most valuable investment.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Spring Vale House, Wednesbury.

Unreserved and Clearing-out Sale.

MR. JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE will Sell by Public Auction, at the Cross Guns Inn, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, on **WEDNESDAY NEXT, November 25—**

All the neat and clean **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING PLANT, Stock of HOPS, MALT, ALE, WINES, and SPIRITS.**

The **LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION, and Right of Lease** will be offered as the first Lot, punctually at 10.30 a.m.

STOCK, &c., comprising 400 gallons of Ale, 140 gallons of Wine and spirits, 4 pockets of Hops, 25 bushels of Malt, 25 Ale Casks, Mashful, and Coolers, 4-pail Ale Machine and Piping, Chairs, Tables, Clocks, 24 Watches, capital 7-octave Pianoforte, and other Effects, belonging to the late Mr. Thomas Brittain.

Catalogues can be had at the place of sale, or from the Auctioneer's Office, Spring Vale House, Wednesbury.

1874

THOMAS BRITTAIN, Deceased.—Pursuant to the Statute 22nd and 23rd Victoria chapter 35. Notice is hereby given, that all Persons having any Claims against the Estate of **THOMAS BRITTAI**N, late of the Cross Guns Inn, Bilston Road, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, deceased (who died on the 13th day of October, 1874, and whose Will was proved in the Lichfield District Registry of her Majesty's Court of Probate on the 1st day of March, 1875), are hereby required to **SEND** the **PARTICULARS** of their Claims to the undersigned, on or before the 19th day of April, 1875, after which day the Executors will proceed to distribute the Assets of the Deceased, having regard only to the Claims of which they shall then have had notice.—Dated the 17th day of March, 1875.

W. MARSHALL, Darlington, near Wednesbury,
Solicitor to the Executors.

1875

CROSS Guns, Wednesbury.—To Let, with immediate possession, the above capital Old-licensed Free House, with excellent in and out door trade. Only changed hands twice in fifty years. Proprietor leaving in consequence of ill-health. The lease, licenses, goodwill, stock, and fixtures about £350—Apply to Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Spring Vale House, Wednesbury.

1880

OLD-LICENSED HOUSE.—To be Let, with Immediate possession, the Old-Licensed House, known as the Cross Guns, Bilston-road, Wednesbury, doing a good trade. Excellent premises. Satisfactory reasons for leaving.—Apply on the premises.

1881

CON AND JIM

of

THE CROSS GUNS,
Bilston Road,
Wednesbury

send Christmas Greetings to all
their customers and friends.

1975

CON AND JIM

of the

CROSS GUNS

Bilston Road, Wednesbury

would like to wish the
Wolves Team Good Luck
at Wembley

1980

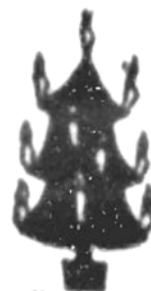
DOT AND BILL

of

THE CROSS GUNS

Bilston Road

Wednesbury



would like to wish all their
customers and friends (old and
new) a **Happy Christmas and**
Prosperous New Year

1983

TONIGHT !!!!! TONIGHT

24 HOUR POOL MARATHON

all proceeds to:
Mary Stevens Hospice Wheels Appeal

SUPPORT GLYN AND DAVE

at the
CROSS GUNS
Bilston Road
Wednesbury

TONIGHT 9 PM
TO TOMMOROW 9 PM

TONIGHT TONIGHT

1991

CROSS GUNS

High Bullen, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joyce Burkitt [1766]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/6/1766 - Advert

“To be Sold to the best Bidder, at the House of Martha Hawe, Widow, known by the Sign of the BLUE BALL in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, upon Wednesday the 25th Day of June instant.....

Lot 1. A Freehold Messuage or Tenement, with a Stable, Brewhouse, and intire Yard, situate in the High Bullen, in Wednesbury aforesaid, known by the Sign of the CROSS GUNS, and in the Holding of *Joyce Burkitt*.”

To be Sold to the best Bidder,
At the House of Martha Hawe, Widow, known by the Sign of the Blue Ball
in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, upon Wednesday the 25th Day
of June Instant; the Sale to begin at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, and
to be subject to the Conditions which will be then produced,
Lot 1. **A** Freehold Messuage or Tenement, with a Stable,
Brewhouse, and intire Yard, situate in the High Bullen, in
Wednesbury aforesaid, known by the Sign of the Cross-Guns, and in the
Holding of Joyce Burkitt; and one Piece of Freehold Land, with a good Barn
erected thereupon, near the aforesaid Messuage or Tenement, which Land and
Barn are now in the several Occupations of George Sparrow and Daniel Smith.
—The Mines of Coal and Iron-Stone under the Land are excepted.

CROSS KEYS

5, Earps Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Messrs. Johnson and Phipps Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Ray [] – 1870);
John Clark (1870 – 1871);
William Edwards (1871 – 1872);
Isaac Causer (1872 – []
George Garmston [1875] – [1896]
Thomas E Stanton [1901]
William Edward Smith [1904] – [1904]
Mrs. Mary Gorton [1911] – [1912]

NOTES

It was next door to the Public Hall.

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

5, Earps Lane
[1] John Clark (50), labourer, born Wednesbury;
[2] Frances M. Clark (48), wife, born Whitechurch, Staffordshire;
[3] Hannah Clark (18), daughter, born Hightfield, Staffordshire;
[4] Thomas Smith (35), lodger, puddler, born Cambridge;
[5] Matilda Smith (39), wife, born Lincoln;
[6] John Clark (40), lodger, striker, born Conton, Nottinghamshire;
[7] Mercy Clark (36), wife, born Frome, Somerset;
[8] Rose Clark (7 months), lodger, born Birmingham;
[9] Ann Thursfield (73), lodger, born Wednesbury;
[10] Job Painter (15), lodger, turner, born Wednesbury;
[11] Thomas Davis (8), lodger, born Birmingham;
[12] Mari Davis (11), lodger, born Birmingham;

Isaac Causer, beer retailer, Earps Lane. [1872]

George Garmston = George Garmstone

Midland Examiner 30/1/1875

“George Garmston, landlord of the CROSS KEYS beerhouse, Erps Lane, was summoned for allowing boys to gamble upon his premises. Mr. Williams defended.

PC John Hobbs proved the charge, and defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

To Masters, Brewers, Speculators, and Others.—Important Sale of highly-valuable FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE PROPERTY, situate at Earp's Lane, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

W HICKMAN will SELL by AUCTION, at Mr. D. Lawrence's, George Hotel, Market Place, Wednesbury, on MONDAY NEXT, October 8, at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society—all that valuable FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE, with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, and the Mines and Minerals thereunder, and known by the sign of the "Cross Keys Inn," together with the MESSUAGE, TENEMENT, or DWELLING-HOUSE adjoining, situate in and having a frontage of 11 yards to Earp's Lane aforesaid, and containing an area of 190 square yards or thereabouts, in the respective occupations of George Garmston and another, estimated to produce £40 14s per annum.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs Duignan, Lewis, Williams and Elliott, Solicitors, Walsall; or the Auctioneer, West Bromwich.

1877

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/10/1877 - Advert

“To Maltsters, Brewers, Speculator, and Others.

Important Sale of highly-valuable Freehold Public House, Property, situate at Earps Lane, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

W. Hickman will Sell by Auction, at Mr. D. Lawrence’s, GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, October 8, at Six for Seven o’clock in the evening.....

All that valuable Freehold Public House, with Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, and the Mines and Minerals thereunder, and known by the sign of the CROSS KEYS INN, together with the Messuage, Tenement, or Dwelling House adjoining, situate in and having a frontage of 11 yards to Earps Lane aforesaid, and containing an area of 190 square yards or thereabouts, in the respective occupations of *George Garmston* and another, estimated to produce £40 14s per annum.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, Williams and Elliott, Solicitors, Walsall; or the Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

1881 Census

5, Earps Lane – CROSS KEYS

[1] *George Garmston* (36), unmarried, retail brewer, born Brewood, Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Garmston* (63), mother, married, housekeeper, born Brewood, Staffordshire:

George Garmstone, beerhouse keeper, 5, Earps Lane. [1888]

1891 Census

5, Earps Lane – CROSS KEYS

[1] *George Garmston* (46), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Brewood, Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Garmston* (73), mother, widow, born Brewood, Staffordshire:

George Garmston, beer retailer, 5, Earps Lane. [1896]

Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1898 - Advert

“To Brewers, Publicans, and Others.

Three Freehold Licensed Houses, Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, and Bilston, for Sale, with Possession.

Thomas J. Barnett & Son, are instructed to offer for Sale by Auction, on Wednesday Evening, April 27, 1898, at half-past Six o’clock prompt time, at the Auction Mart, 25, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton, subject to conditions of sale, the following Licensed Houses and Properties adjoining.....

Lot 2. The Old-established Three-storey Licensed Beerhouse, known as the CROSS KEYS INN, situated amongst a dense population in Earps Lane, off High Street, in the town of Wednesbury, with the Two-storey Dwelling House adjoining, and the Yard and Out-offices belonging to both houses at the rear. The small House is occupied by a weekly tenant at a gross rental of £11 14s per annum, and possession of the Beerhouse will be given on completion of the purchase.....

NB. Purchasers of the above Houses will be required to take to, at valuation in the usual way, the Public House Fixtures, Fittings, Licenses, and Effects, as per Schedules, which may be seen on application to the Auctioneers.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

1901 Census

5, Earps Lane

[1] *Thomas E. Stanton* (32), tube finisher and public house keeper, born Leominster, Herefordshire;

[2] *Maud M. Stanton* (29), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *James W. Stanton* (2), son, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Charles Stanton* (1), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Sarah James* (14), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

William E. Smith, beer retailer, 5, Earps Lane. [1904]

Walsall Observer 26/3/1904

"At the Birmingham Assizes, on Monday, an action was brought in which Sarah Webster, residing with her married sister at Wednesbury, claimed damages from *William Edward Smith*, of the CROSS KEYS, Wednesbury, for slander, which imputed to the plaintiff that she had robbed him of £1 13s.

The defendant alleged that the accusation was true in substance and in fact, and further declared that the occasion was privileged. Mr. Vachell (instructed by Messrs. Sharpe and Darby) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Disturnal (instructed by Messrs. Willcock and Taylor, Wolverhampton) appeared for defendant.

The plaintiff is a first cousin of defendant, and was engaged by him as a barmaid at the TALBOT INN, Bilston, of which he was the manager. She remained there until the date of the slander, on Christman Day. On that occasion he accused her of having robbed the till of £1 13s on the previous night, and notwithstanding that charge, said Mr. Vachell, she was left in charge of the place all day. The defendant repeated the accusation in the presence of plaintiff's sister, 'She is a thief; she has robbed me of £1 13s.' Several other people was also present.

For the defence, Mr. Disturnal contended that there could not possibly be any malice on the part of the defendant, considering that the parties were relatives. The money was counted by both the previous night, and on the following morning the amount was missing. Defendant honestly believed that the plaintiff took the money.

The jury found for the plaintiff, damages £25."

1911 Census

5, Earps Lane – CROSS KEYS

[1] Thomas Gorton (53), coal miner, stall man, born Hill Top;

[2] Mary Gorton (54), wife, married 32 years, manageress public house, born Bilston:

Miss Mary Gorton, beer retailer, 5, Earps Lane. [1912]

Thomas Gorton – see PARK and MARKET HOUSE.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1919

"Wednesbury Borough Licensing Justices, yesterday.....

The following licenses were to be served with opposition notices on the ground of redundancy.....

CROSS KEYS beerhouse, Earps Lane."

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/7/1919

"The Principal Meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Thursday.....

In the Wednesbury division The Committee referred two ante-'69 beerhouses on in Wednesbury borough, the CROSS KEYS, Earps Lane, and the BELL AND CASTLE, Union Street."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/11/1919

"The following amounts have been settled by the Licensing Compensation Authority for Staffordshire to be paid in respect of licenses the renewal of which was refused by them at the principal meeting on July 24 last.....

The following cases have been referred to the Inland Revenue Commissioners to decide the amount of compensation payable....

CROSS KEYS, Earps Lane, Wednesbury, an ante 1869 beerhouse 'on,' owned by Messrs. Johnson and Phipp Ltd."

Dudley Chronicle 10/1/1920

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions on Tuesday approved the following sums as compensation for the extinction of licenses.....

The cases of CROSS KEYS, Wednesbury were referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, the Licensing Committee being unable to approve the amounts submitted."

South Staffordshire Times 7/2/1920

"The CROSS KEYS beerhouse which was also referred for compensation at the Adjourned Licensing Sessions last year has yet to be finally dealt with, and is still open for business."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/1/1921

“County Licensing Committee Annual Report.....

The committee have received the awards of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in the following 1919 cases submitted to them.....

CROSS KEYS, Wednesbury (beerhouse ‘on’ ante-1869), £1,040.

The amounts awarded have been apportioned amongst the interested parties and will be paid on December 24 instant.”

It closed in 1920.

CROWN

90, Albert Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921], [1935]

LICENSEES

George Sillitoe [1866] – **1867**);
Mrs. Louisa Sillitoe [1867]
Henry Welch [1870] – **1871**);
Frances Long (**1871** – []
William Lester [1871]
George Lester [1872]
Louisa Lester [1881]
Thomas Haycock [1888] – [1891]
Charles Bassett [1896] – [1904]
David Tart [1911]
Samuel Jones [1912]
William Stafford Shorthouse [1921] – [1934]



Token

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

OLD CROWN [1871]

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1866

“Licensing Day applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

George Sillitoe, Albert Street, Wednesbury, applied personally. House was situated 282 yards from the nearest licensed house Refused.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/1/1867 - Deaths

“On the 5th inst, aged 44, after a long and painful illness, borne with Christian fortitude, Mr. *George Sillitoe*, of the CROWN INN, Wednesbury; deeply lamented.”

Louisa Sillitoe = Louisa Silitoe

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1867

“West Bromwich special Session for hearing new applications for victuallers licenses.....

Mr. W. Shakespeare applied, on behalf of Mrs. *Louisa Silitoe*, for a license to a beerhouse in Albert Street, Wednesbury. The proprietress had now kept the house for four years, during which time there had not been a single complaint against her, and if the license were granted she would pledge herself to close on Sundays. Mrs. *Silitoe* had recently been left a widow with four children, and the reason for applying for a license was that she might be enabled to support her family. The Bench refused to grant the application.”

AND

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].....

Louisa Sillitoe, of Albert Street, Wednesbury, applied for a license, and was supported by Mr. Shakespeare, who stated that she had kept a beerhouse for four years, during which no complaint had been made. She closed on Sundays, and if the license was granted she would pledge herself to continue to close on Sundays. Her case, he continued, was one that called for the sympathy of the Bench, as she had been left a widow with six children, and her object in making this application was to afford her additional means to support herself and her children in a creditable manner. This application was unopposed.”

Louisa Sillitoe married *William Lester* in the 4th quarter of 1868.

Henry Welch, beer retailer, Albert Street. [1870]

1871 Census

90, Albert Street – CROWN

- [1] *William Lester* (39), engineer, born Rowley;
- [2] *Louisa Lester* (39), wife, born South Wales;
- [3] *William Lester* (11), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Lester* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Isaiah Lester* (5), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Enoch Sillitoe* (19), step-son, engine driver, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Thomas Sillitoe* (17), step-son, engine driver, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Rosanna Sillitoe* (16), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Mary Sillitoe* (14), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Joshua Sillitoe* (10), step-son, born Wednesbury;
- [11] *Phoebe Sillitoe* (7), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;

George Lester, beer retailer, 90, Albert Street. [1872]

William Lester died in the 2nd quarter of 1876.

Evening Express 12/1/1881

“An inquest was held at the CROWN INN, Wednesbury, 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 them that if another child of theirs met with a similar accident he would commit them on a charge of manslaughter.”

1881 Census

90, Albert Street

- [1] *Louisa Lester* (49), widow, publican, born Llanelli, Breconshire;
- [2] *Joshua Sillitoe* (20), son, engine tender, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Phebe J. Sillitoe* (17), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Enoch Sillitoe* (29), step-son, widower, hammer driver in iron works, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Mary Sillitoe* (24), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *George Sillitoe* (8), grand-son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *John Thomas Sillitoe* (6), grand-son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *William Lester* (21), step-son, engine tender, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Isaiah Lester* (16), step-son, engine cleaner, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Emma Cleaver* (16), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Louisa Lester died in the 1st quarter of 1882.

Wednesbury Herald 29/4/1882

“All Persons having any Claims or Demands against the Estate of *George Sillitoe*, late of the CROWN INN, Albert Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Publican, Deceased (who died on the 5th January 1867) are requested, on or before, the 27th May next, to send particulars of their Claims and Demands to Mr. Thomas Sillitoe, of the STAR INN, Woodgreen, Wednesbury, aforesaid, Beerhouse Keeper, the surviving Executor of the Will of the said *George Sillitoe*.....”

Thomas Haycock, beer retailer, 90, Albert Street. [1888]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/1/1889

“On Saturday evening the members of the money club held at the CROWN INN, Albert Street, Wednesbury, had their periodical supper. There was a large attendance, and a capital repast was served by Host *Haycock*. After supper Mr. F. Lester presided, with Mr. J. Wilkinson vice-chairman. The secretary’s statement showed the club to be in a flourishing and improving condition. The evening was then given up to harmony, songs being contributed by Messrs. J. Roden, R. Price, *Haycock*, Holyhead, Hayward, Powis, and others. A very enjoyable evening terminated with the usual votes of thanks.”

1891 Census

90, Albert Street – CROWN INN

- [1] *Thomas Haycock* (59), publican, born Rugeley;
- [2] *Hannah Haycock* (23), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Hannah Haycock* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Amy Eagles* (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Thomas Haycock died on 8th August 1894.

Charles Bassett, beer retailer, 90, Albert Street. [1896], [1904]

1901 Census

90, Albert Street

- [1] *Charles Bassett* (35), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Ida Bassett* (33), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Ada Bassett* (8), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Eva Bassett* (9), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Connie Bassett* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *J. Barnard Bassett* (6 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Kate Bond* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Miriam Bassett* (72), visitor, widow, born Darlaston;

Walsall Observer 17/10/1903

“The half-yearly meeting of the Greets Green and Wednesbury Forestry district took place at the CROWN INN, Albert Street, Wednesbury, on Monday. Bro. J. Onions, District Chief Ranger, presided.

The minutes of the last meeting having been confirmed, the District Auditor gave his report for the half-year ending June 30th, 1903. The funeral fund had a present capital of £2,026 19s 10d, a gain of £61 4s 9d. This after paying £245 on funeral claims for members and members’ wives. The other funds also showed a balance on the right side. The report was adopted.

The examiner of the district court book, Bro. Wyatt, gave his report, showing that the district consisted of twenty-eight courts, with 2,803 members, and had a capital of £27,000.....

Bro. J. Raybould then presented Bro. Onions, the retiring DCR, with a neck ribbon and certificate, and spoke of the good work done by him while going through the various offices. Bro. Onions having returned thanks, the meeting then came to a close.”

1911 Census

Albert Street – CROWN INN

- [1] *David Tart* (36), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Elizabeth Tart* (36), wife, married 13 years, assisting in business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Elizabeth May Tart* (10), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Percy Tart* (4), son, born Wednesbury;

Samuel Jones, beer retailer, 90, Albert Street. [1912]

1921 Census

90, Albert Street – CROWN

- [1] *William Stafford Shorthouse* (34), license holder, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Lily Shorthouse* (29), wife, license holder's assistant, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *William Stafford Shorthouse* (4), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Marjorie Shorthouse* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;

W. Shorthouse issued tokens from here.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/2/1925

"In the first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiard Handicap this week.....

Mr. W. Shorthouse, of the CROWN INN, Wednesbury (rec.120), was beaten by *Mr. Reeves* of Birmingham, by 440-259."

Birmingham Daily Post 31/1/1928

"The first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiard Handicap was continued yesterday.....

J. W. Windridge, Hall Green (scratch) beat *W. S. Shorthouse*, Wednesbury (rec.170) by 400 to 377."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/12/1929

"*Mr. Bertram Grimley*, the South Staffordshire Stipendiary, gave his decision at Bilston yesterday in a case heard at Wednesbury in which *William S. Shorthouse*, licensee of the GRAND HOTEL, Albert Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for supplying intoxicating drink after hours, and six persons were summoned for consuming it.

The case for the prosecution was that towards midnight on 27 October the police gained entrance to the hotel and saw the landlord carrying two glasses of beer from the bar into the kitchen, and also saw the other defendants with glasses of beer and stout in front of them.

The defence was that all the persons were friends of the licensee, and were being entertained by him in a bona-fide manner.

The Stipendiary said there had not been sufficient evidence for him to say that the defendants had failed to justify their position, and he had no option but to dismiss the summonses."

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."

Closed

LOT 4.—The de-licensed property, the late "Crown" Inn, No. 90, Albert Street.

Dudley Chronicle 21/2/1935 - Advert

"Wednesbury. Belcher and Son will offer for Sale by Public Auction at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, February 25th, at 7 o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions, the following Freehold Investment Properties.....

By order of Messrs. W. Butler and Co. Ltd.....

Lot 4. The de-licensed property, the late CROWN INN, No.90, Albert Street."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/11/1966

“Mr. John Stonehouse, MP (Lab. Wednesbury), has taken up the case of a family living in an old public house, part of which was condemned as unfit more than ten years ago. Mr. James Moore, his wife and two children moved into part of the CROWN INN, Albert Street, Wednesbury, as a ‘temporary measure’ nearly 20 years ago. The Moores have been on the housing waiting list for 21 years, but until the premises are made the subject of a clearance order and this is confirmed West Bromwich Council cannot rehouse the family.

Mr. Stonehouse said he would ask the West Bromwich Borough Engineer and Surveyor for an explanation. He would also get in touch with the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

A spokesman for West Bromwich Housing Department said that the property was formerly the responsibility of the old Wednesbury Council. Moves were being made to make the area the subject of a clearance order.”

GEORGE SILLITOE, DECEASED.

ALL PERSONS having any Claims or Demands against the Estate of George Sillitoe, late of The Crown Inn, Albert Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Publican, Deceased, (who died on the 5th January, 1867) are requested, on or before the 27th of May next, to send particulars of their Claims and Demands to Mr. Thomas Sillitoe, of the Star Inn, Woodgreen, Wednesbury, aforesaid, Beer House Keeper, the surviving Executor of the Will of the said George Sillitoe.

Dated this 17th day of April, 1882,

THURSFIELD & MESSITER,

Solicitors for the said Thomas Sillitoe.

CROWN AND CUSHION

36, (35+36), High Bullen, (Dudley Street), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Russell [1891], [1921]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1934], [1935]

LICENSEES

Matthew Hawkins [1851] – **1865**;
Mrs. Sarah Hawkins (**1865 – 1866**);
Benjamin Hawkins (**1866 – [1873]**)
Joseph Fairbank [1881]
Samuel Tait [1883]
Henry Harrison [1884]
Joseph Wallett [1891];
Thomas Russell [1892]
G H Beardsmore [1892]
Thomas Griffiths (**1894 – 1899**)
Mrs. Sarah Ann Beardmore [1896]
Thomas Noon [1900]
Herbert Edward Kent [1901] – [1904]
Mrs. Emma Kent [1908]
Joseph Onions [1911]
Harry Ford [1912]
Alfred James Merrick [1916]
Mrs. Ellen Merrick [1921] – **1925**;
Mary Elizabeth Ayre (**1925 – []**)
Edward Challinor [1932]

NOTES

35+36, High Bullen [1881]
36, High Bullen [1871], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1932], [1935]

Sun 1/10/1845 - Advert

“An Extraordinary Return of Health in a Few Days by the Use of Holloway’s Pills.

The patient having previously been in an ill state for six years, Mr. Benjamin Hawkins, employed in the ironworks, and well known at the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, had, to use his own phrase, been a sad afflicted creature, and that no one but God and himself knew what he suffered from aches and pains in all his joints and shins, likewise from a disordered liver and stomach, with scarcely strength sufficient to keep about! Here again have Holloway’s Pills restored to health an individual labouring under the most complicated diseases.

Sold by all Druggists, and at Professor Holloway’s Establishment, 244, Strand.”

Sale at the Crown and Cushion, High Bullen, Wednesbury.
MESSRS. HAWKINS & SON have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. Benjamin Hawkins to Sell by Auction, TO-MORROW (Friday), February 15--the celebrated brown MARE (driven by the late Mr. B. Hawkins), two Sets of HARNESS, Saddle and Bridle, superior Whitechapel Dogcart, Spring Trap, &c.
Sale to commence at 3 o'clock.
Auctioneers' Offices, 26, Temple Street, Birmingham.

Wednesbury, Staffordshire.—Valuable Freehold Old-licensed INN and DWELLING HOUSES.—To Brewers, Spirit Merchants, and Others.—To be Sold by Auction,

By Messrs. HAWKINS & SON, at the Great Western Hotel, Wednesbury, on TUESDAY, July 2, 1878, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, to be then produced—the following FREEHOLD PROPERTIES, namely:—
Lot 1.—The established Old-licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE (with the Goodwill and Possession), fronting the High Bullen, in Wednesbury, and known as “THE CROWN AND CUSHION,” comprising Bar, Tap Room, Parlour, Smoke Room, Lodge Room, three Bed Rooms, three Cellars, Kitchen, Scullery, modern Brewery, Malt Room, large four-stalled Stable and Loft over, Saddle Room, Piggeries, and Garden Land. Also, the Private DWELLING HOUSE adjoining the said Public-house, and fronting the High Bullen; together with the Coachsmith’s Forging Shop, Fitting Shop over Smith’s Shop, Warehouse and Office, Turning Shop, Engine-house and Stack, Cartshed, Coach-house, Store Room, and other Out-buildings, lying at the back of the said Inn and private Dwelling-house.

The above Inn is well known to be one of the best business houses in the town, is situated in a busy and populous locality, and has been carried on for upwards of sixty years by the family of the late Mr. Benjamin Hawkins. The Property comprised in this lot is highly desirable either as an investment or for occupation. The Purchaser will be required to take to the fixtures, stock, and effects at a valuation, a schedule of which will be produced at the Sale, and the amount thereof then declared.

The Mines under this Lot will be sold with the surface.

Lot 2.—The FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE and PREMISES, situate and numbered 53 in Union Street, in Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mr. Hancox, with the Yard, Garden, and Out-buildings lying at the back thereof, and belonging thereto, and the right jointly with the other parties entitled thereto to use the entry lying between the Dwelling House comprised in this lot and the adjoining Property.

The Mines under this lot will be sold with the surface.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Thursfield and Messiter, Solicitors, Wednesbury; or the Auctioneers, 26, Temple Street, Birmingham.

By HAWKINS & SON.—To be Let, with immediate possession, THE CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on account of the death of the proprietor. It is situated in the centre of the town, and is well known to be one of the best business houses in the district.

Valuers, 26, Temple Street, Birmingham.

1878

1851 Census

High Bullen

- [1] *Matthew Hawkins* (55), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Sarah Hawkins* (53), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Benjamin Hawkins* (33), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Catherine Hawkins* (36), daughter-in-law, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Eliza Parsons* (18), house servant, born Wednesbury;

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/4/1855

“Thomas Peers of Bloxwich informs Basset of London that he cannot give him any start, but will walk him seven miles level, for £25 a side; or Peers will accept Thomas (the Salopian’s) challenge to receive one minute start in seven miles; or he will walk Diamond of London or White of Birmingham seven miles, for £25 a side. A match can be made by sending a deposit to *Bells Life* and articles to Peers, at Mr. *Hawkins*’s, the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury. To walk half-way between home and home.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/7/1857

“Daniel Lynch of Wednesbury will run Joseph Hardman of Bolton from 100 to 130 yards, or will take 30 yards start in 440, for £25 a side. A match can be made by sending articles to Mr. *Hawkins*, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, and a deposit to *Bells Life*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/7/1859

“On Monday last, the Friendly Brothers Lodge, No.11 of the Wolverhampton Reformed Order of Odd Fellows, held their anniversary at the house of Mr. *Matthew Hawkins*, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, when fifty of the members sat down to an excellent dinner. GM John Simmons was called to the chair, and NG Samuel Billingsley to the vice chair. The secretary read the report of the society for the past year, and it was found to be in flourishing condition, there being now £114 in the bank.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/7/1859

“On Monday last, the Loyal St. George Lodge, No.1980, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, held their anniversary at the house of Mr. *M. Hawkins*, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, when upwards of forty members sat down to an excellent dinner. Dr. Lynes was called to the chair, and PGM Shillatoo officiated as vice. The report stated that the lodge had paid during the year £58 to sick members, and the balance in hand is now £400, which is invested in the Building Society.”

1861 Census

High Bullen

- [1] *Mathew Hawkins* (65), publican, beerhouse, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Sarah Hawkins* (62), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ellen Foden* (19), niece, house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Sarah Ann Griffiths* (15), niece, house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Benjamin Hawkins* (42), coach smith employing 12 men 5 boys 3 girls, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Catherine Hawkins* (42), wife, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/10/1861

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held on Thursday last.....
The following is a list of applicants for wine and spirit licenses.....
M. Hawkins, High Bullen, Wednesbury, opposed Refused.”

Birmingham Journal 10/5/1862

“The Wednesbury District of the Wolverhampton Loyal Reformed Order of Odd Fellows have determined this year not to have their usual demonstration at Whitsuntide, and have instead handed to the Mayor of Wolverhampton, per their Treasurer, Mr. *Matthew Hawkins*, High Bullen, Wednesbury, the liberal sum of ten guineas towards the fund for the relief of the sufferers by the Millfields boiler explosion.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/10/1862

“On Monday night, at a meeting of No.11 Friendly Brothers Lodge of the Wolverhampton Loyal Reformed Order of Odd Fellows, held at the house of Mr. *Matthew Hawkins*, the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, it was unanimously resolved to grant £2 2s from the funds in aid of the distressed Lancashire operatives.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/8/1863

“Yesterday a united demonstration of the four Wednesbury lodges comprised in the Bescot Bridge District Branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, M.U., took place. The members of the several lodges having first mustered at their respective lodge houses, the Good Samaritan Lodge, No.2888, proceeded from the BLUE BALL, Church Hill, to the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, and there joined the St. George’s Lodge, No.1980. From thence the two lodges moved on to the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, and took up the Widows Relief Lodge, No.1181, and the Tradesmens Refuge Lodge, No.3035. At this point the lodges, headed by the Rifle Corps Band, were arranged according to numerical order, and the members being decked out with gay-coloured scarfs, and carrying flags, banners, and the regalia of the order (the latter kindly lent by the Birmingham district), a procession of imposing length and attractive appearance was formed.....”

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 on behalf of *Mathew Hawkins*, of High Bullen, Wednesbury, and the license was granted.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/3/1864

“Pedestrianism. Aston Cross Grounds.....

On Monday, should the weather prove at all propitious, there will no doubt be a large gathering to witness the undermentioned matches.....

C. Milnes and T. Tonks (both of Wednesbury) are to run six score yards, for £5 a side, at three o’clock. Mr. *B. Hawkins*, of the CROWN AND CUSHION, final stakeholder and referee.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/3/1864

“West Bromwich Hall End Boiler Explosion Relief Fund.

By this Catastrophe Six Widows and Eleven Orphans have been left totally destitute, and upwards of 20 Persons have been seriously injured. Subscriptions are earnestly solicited.

Amount previously Advertised, £385 8s 1d.....

A few Friends at CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury, £2 4s 7d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/6/1864

“On Monday the members of the Wolverhampton Loyal Reformed Order of Odd Fellows held their annual dinner at the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury, when about sixty-five members sat down to an excellent dinner. After dinner the usual loyal toasts having been drunk, ‘The Town and Trade of Wednesbury,’ and ‘The 34th Staffordshire Volunteers,’ were duly honoured. The Secretary then read the balance sheet, which showed that the society’s funds in hand amounted to £298 10s 8½d. The proceedings were of a most agreeable character.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/6/1864

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, opened an enquiry at the house of Mr. *Hawkins*, the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on the body of James M’Foy, a man about forty years of age, who lived in Oatmeal Square. The evidence went to show that the deceased had been in an unsound state of mind for several years, and that at one time he was an inmate of Stafford Lunatic Asylum. On Saturday afternoon he went up stairs to lie down, and soon afterwards his lifeless body was found on the bed. There was no suspicion that the deceased had destroyed himself, but in the absence of direct testimony as to the cause of death the Jury returned an open verdict.”

Matthew Hawkins died in the 1st quarter of 1865.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1865

“On Saturday, the following licenses were temporarily transferred by the West Bromwich Magistrates.....
CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, from *Matthew Hawkins* to *Sarah Hawkins*, his widow.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/5/1865

“On Tuesday evening a complimentary dinner was given at the CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury, to Police-inspector Walter Gasson. Mr. Blakemore occupied the chair, and Mr. Park the vice-chair. Major M'Knight and Superintendent Holland were also present.

After the withdrawal of the cloth, and the usual toasts having been given, the Chairman, in the name of the ratepayers and inhabitants of Wednesbury, presented to Inspector Gasson a silver lever stop watch (made by Mr. Perks, of Wednesbury), with gold guard, and a purse containing twenty guineas. The watch bore the following inscription, ‘Presented to Inspector W. Gasson, with a purse containing twenty guineas, by a number of friends in Wednesbury, as an acknowledgement of his valuable services during his stay in the above town. May 10, 1865.’ Mr. Perks also presented him with an electro-plated sugar basin.

Inspector Gasson thanked the donors for the handsome gift, and the proceedings were afterwards kept up until an advanced hour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/12/1865

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. North, Deputy Coroner, held an enquiry at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, touching the death of William Parker, a labourer, aged twenty-one, recently living in the same locality. The deceased had for some time been in a bad state of health. On Wednesday week, while alone in the house, he was seized with a fit, and fell upon the fire, and, although he was promptly rescued from his painful position, and placed under the care of Dr. Blackwood, he had sustained such serious injuries as aggravated his previous illness, and led to his death on Wednesday last. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/1/1866

“Little Mills of Wednesbury and C. Hope of Darlaston (alias Deerfoot) are matched to run six score yards, Hope receiving four yards start, for £5; to come off at Aston Cross Grounds on Monday, January 22. £1 a side is down in the hands of Mr. *B. Hawkins* of the CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury, who is final stakeholder, to whom a weekly deposit must be made. Mr. Coates of Birmingham is chosen referee.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/9/1866

“The inquest on the body of John Hammond, aged 37, who, with another man, was killed on the 20th ult, by an explosion of sulphur in a pit shaft at the Old Hall Colliery, the property of Messrs. Groucutt, was resumed on Wednesday, at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner. Mr. Baker, the inspector of mines for this district, and Mr. D. Groucutt, one of the proprietors of the colliery, were present.

The explosion took place as the skip, which contained a number of men, was descending the shaft on the morning in question. Two of the men were carrying lighted candles, and all occupants of the skip were precipitated to the bottom of the shaft. The shaft and workings had not been previously examined with a safety lamp, and, therefore, the 28th rule of the colliery had been infringed. Mr. Baker, who had examined the pit, gave evidence, and said that about 26 yards down the shaft he found a thin coal of seam unbricked, and he was of opinion that the gas which exploded had escaped from this seam. The 28th rule had evidently been infringed, and if that had not been the case the accident would not have happened.

The Coroner then summed up, and the Jury, after about twenty minutes' consideration, returned a verdict of Manslaughter, against Charles Kitson, the doggy, who was committed for trial at the Assizes, but afterwards admitted to bail.

The inquest on the body of J. Davies, the other man killed in the same accident, was resumed at the GOUGH ARMS, Hateley Heath, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, on Thursday. The several witnesses were called before the Jury, and confirmed the evidence they had previously given. After about half an hour's deliberation, the Jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Kitson, who was committed for trial at the March Assizes, but released on bail.

A good deal of sympathy has been expressed for the prisoner, who has himself been considerably injured by a subsequent explosion.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/3/1867

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Charles Kitson, on bail, was charged under the Coroner’s inquisition with manslaughter at the parish of West Bromwich, on the 20th of August. The Grand Jury had ignored the bill, and now the jury, by direction of the Court, acquitted the prisoner.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1866 - Deaths

“On the 19th ultimo, at Wednesbury, aged 68 years, *Sarah*, widow of *Matthew Hawkins*, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen; deeply regretted.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/10/1866

“At the West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, the following licenses were transferred.....

CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury, from the executors of the late *Sarah Hawkins* to *Benjamin Hawkins*.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/12/1866

“On Monday, Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquiry at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, touching the death of Elizabeth Taylor, aged two years and ten months, the daughter of a widow living in the same neighbourhood. On the 19th instant the child was playing with other children with lighted pieces of paper, when she set her clothes on fire, and before the flames could be extinguished, sustained such severe injuries that she died on the following day. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/2/1868

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, near Dudley.

Sim Webb of Kates Hill and Tom Wareing of Wednesbury have signed articles to run 140 yards on March 30, for £15 a side (open for £25). Mr. *Hawkins* of the CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury, who is final stakeholder and referee, has £2 a side in hand, and a further deposit is to be made to him weekly.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/10/1868

“Wednesbury Elections.....

On Saturday evening an enthusiastic and crowded meeting of Mr. Walker’s supporters was held at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen. Mr. Edward Lee was voted to the chair....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/12/1868

“Two young Irishmen, named John Rice and Dennis Carney, were yesterday brought up in custody at Wednesbury Police Court, charged with violently assaulting a forgerman, named George Farley. Mr. L. W. Lewis, of Walsall, appeared on behalf of the prisoners.

It appeared that on the night of the 8th of December, the prisoners came out of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, shouting ‘Brogden forever,’ to a number of other men, and in a row that ensued, Farley received dangerous wounds on his head, and is at present in a critical condition, implements of various kinds having been used in the affray. The case was remanded until Monday, at West Bromwich.”

[At the next hearing Rice and Carney were found guilty of assaulting Farley. Rice was sentenced to seven weeks, and Carney to two months, both to hard labour.]

1871 Census

36, High Bullen

[1] *Benjamin Hawkins* (53), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Catherine Hawkins* (55), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Ellen Marriot* (22), general servant, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Mary Hill* (19), general servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1872

“Black Lake Colliery Accident.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. Smith) acknowledges the receipt of the following additional sums to the above fund.....
CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury (per Mr. *B. Hawkins*), £1 16s.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/11/1872

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.....

S. Hollihead of Princes End and S. Roberts of Wednesbury ran 120 yards, for £10 a side, on the late handicap terms, Hollihead having 5½ yards start. Hollihead was attended by J. Dudley of Wednesbury, Roberts by J. Lee of Great Bridge, both men showing in good trim. Betting opened at 5 to 4, and went to 2 to 1 on Hollihead. Just as the allotted 15 minutes had expired they got away together from their marks; Hollihead retained the lead throughout, and won by three-quarters of a yard. Mr. *B. Hawkins* of the CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury, stakeholder and referee.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/1/1878 - Deaths

“On the 10th instant, aged 60 years, *Benjamin Hawkins*, of the CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1878 - Advert

“Sale at the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Messrs. Hawkins & Son have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. *Benjamin Hawkins*, to Sell by Auction Tomorrow (Friday), February 15.

The celebrated brown Mare (driven by the late Mr. *B. Hawkins*), two Sets of Harness, Saddle and Bridle, superior Whitechapel Dogcart, Spring Trap, &c.

Sale to commence at 3 o’clock.

Auctioneer’s Offices, 26, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1878 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire. Valuable Freehold Old-licensed Inn and Dwelling Houses.

To Brewers, Spirit Merchants, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hawkins & Son, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, July 9, 1878, at 6 o’clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. The established Old-licensed Public House (with the Goodwill and Possession), fronting the High Bullen, in Wednesbury, and known as the CROWN AND CUSHION, comprising Bar, Tap Room, Parlour, Smoke Room, Lodge Room, three Bed Rooms, three Cellars, Kitchen, Scullery, modern Brewery, Malt Room, large four-stalled Stable and Loft over, Saddle Room, Piggeries, and Garden Land.

Also, the Private Dwelling House adjoining the said Public House, and fronting the High Bullen; together with Coachsmith’s Forging Shop, Fitting Shop over Smith’s Shop, Warehouse and Office, Turning Shop, Engine House and Stack, Cart-shed, Coach-house, Store Room, and other Out-buildings, lying at the back of the said Inn and private Dwelling House.

The above Inn is well known to be one of the best business houses in the town, is situated in a busy and populous locality, and has been carried on for upwards of sixty years by the family of the late Mr. *Benjamin Hawkins*. The Property comprised in this lot is highly desirable either as an investment or for occupation. The Purchaser will be required to take to the fixtures, stock, and effects at a valuation, a schedule of which will be produced at the Sale, and the amount thereof then declared.

The Mines under this Lot will be sold with the surface.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1878 - Advert

“By Hawkins & Son. To be Let, with immediate possession, the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on account of the death of the proprietor. It is situated in the centre of the town, and is well known to be one of the best business houses in the district.

Valuers, 26, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1878 - Advert

“*Benjamin Hawkins*, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given, that all Creditors and other Persons having any Claims or Demands upon or against the Estate of *Benjamin Hawkins*, late of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Deceased (who died on the 10th day of January, 1878, and whose Will was proved in the District Registry, at Lichfield, of the Probate Division of her Majesty’s High Court of Justice, on the 1st day of February, 1878, by Alfred Thomas Onions Hawkins and William Bailey Wiggin, the Executors therein named), are hereby required to Send the Particulars of their respective Claims or Demands to us, the undersigned, the Solicitors to the said

Executors, on or before the 8th day of March, 1879, after which date the said Executors will proceed to Distribute the Assets of the said Deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims and Demands of which they shall then have had notice, and the said Executors will not be liable for the Assets, or any part thereof, so distributed to any Person of whose Claim or Demand they shall not then have had notice.

Dated this Seventh day of December, 1878.

Thursfield and Messiter, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Solicitors for the said Executors.”

1881 Census

35+36, High Bullen – CROWN AND CUSHION Public House

[1] Joseph Fairbank (49), innkeeper, born Derby;

[2] E. Fairbank (40), wife, born Oswestry, Shropshire;

[3] Arthur Fairbank (22), son, innkeeper’s assistant, born Ironbridge;

[4] Joseph Fairbank (12), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[5] Samuel Fairbank (1), son, born Wolverhampton;

[6] Venus Fairbank (16), daughter, innkeeper’s assistant, born Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire;

[7] Catherine Pool (19), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 26/5/1883

“*Samuel Tait*, landlord of the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, was charged with keeping open his house during prohibited hours. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the defendant.

On Sunday morning, the 13th inst, about eleven o’clock, Police-sergeant Upton and Police-constable Nolan watched the defendant’s house, and saw several people enter the house by the back door in Union Street. Among those who entered and came out of the house was a lodging house keeper, named Morley, who lived near, and under whose coat Upton found a tin bottle full of fresh drawn ale.

The defence was that the ale was purchased from a neighbouring public house on the previous (Saturday) evening. Defendant, his wife, and another witness, each swore that no ale was supplied to anyone on defendant’s premises that (Sunday) morning.

The Bench said they could not give credence to the statement for the defence, and fined defendant 10s and costs, but the license would not be endorsed.”

Magnet 8/9/1883 - Advert

“Wanted! Talent! Talent! Talent!

CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury.

Proprietor, Mr. *Samuel Tate*. Manager, Harry Rowland. Pianist, Herr Rowlande.

Serio-Comics and Dancers please write in. Irish Comedians, Comic Vocalists and Single-handed Niggers, for Present and Future Dates.

All Communications to Manager, as above.”

The Era 15/12/1883 - Advert

“Wanted, Immediately, a First-class Lady Pianist and Vocalist. To live in preferred. A comfortable and long Engagement to a suitable person.

S. Tate, CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury. Enclose photo if possible.”

Cheshire Observer 23/2/1884

“An application was made by Mr. Brassey, solicitor, in a case involving a misunderstanding about names. The plaintiff, J. Pointon, sued *Henry Harrison* for the recovery of a sum of money for goods supplied. He found that the debtor was at Wednesbury, and sued him for the money. It appeared, however, that the summons was served upon Henry Harrison, at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury, but it seemed that he was not the *Henry Harrison* referred to, but his father. The son, however, lived next door to his father, in another public house, the CROWN AND CUSHION. Mr. Brassey stated on behalf of plaintiff that a notice of the application had been sent, by registered letter, to the younger *Harrison*, and no heed being paid to that notice he now applied for judgement against *Henry Harrison*, jun. His Honour ordered that a summons, returnable for next court, should be served by registered letter.”

1891 Census

High Bullen – CROWN AND CUSHION INN

- [1] Joseph Wallett (38), widower, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Samuel Wallett (17), son, barman, born Bolsover, Derbyshire;
- [3] Mary Wallett (15), daughter, barmaid, born Walsall;
- [4] Charles L. Wallett (13), son, factory labourer, born Clowne, Derbyshire;
- [5] Jane M. Wallett (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Sarah A. Parker (23), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] William Cheadle (38), boarder, tube inspector, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Hannah Cheadle (41), boarder, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Elizabeth Cheadle (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Mail 8/9/1891

“At Wednesbury today, *Joseph Wallett*, CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, was fined 40s and costs under one summons, and ordered to pay the costs in three other cases, for having allowed his licensed premises to be used for betting.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

Joseph Wallett, the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Wednesbury, applied for the renewal of his license, which had been opposed on the ground that he had allowed his house to be used in contravention of ‘The Suppression of Betting Houses Act.’ Mr. W. S. Smith supported the application, and Mr. Page (Wolverhampton) appeared for the owner, Mr. *T. Russell* Granted, subject to transfer to Mr. *Russell*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/11/1891 - Advert

“CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury, to Let.

One of the best and oldest full-licensed houses in town. In-going £200.

For particulars, apply on the premises.”

CROWN and Cushion, Wednesbury, to Let. One of the best and oldest full-licensed houses in town. In-going £200. — For particulars, apply on the premises.

Wednesbury Herald 23/1/1892

“The annual dinner of the employees of the Great Western Railway was held on Monday evening at the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen. A capital spread was provided by the host (Mr. *G. H. Beardmore*). After dinner a smoking concert was held, presided over by Mr. Herring (Station Master), Mr. Yoxall being in the vice chair.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/3/1894

“A petition has been filed in the Bankruptcy Court on behalf of *Sarah Ann Beardmore*, late of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury; solicitor, Mr. T. Jones, Wednesbury.”

London Gazette 29/3/1894

“*Sarah Ann Beardmore*, Hyde’s-lane, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, lately residing and trading at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, Widow.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/4/1894

“The undermentioned bankrupts appeared at the Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday, before Mr. Registrar Clarke, for their public examinations.....

Sarah Ann Beardmore, late of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, with liabilities £278 15s 1d and a deficiency of £210 12s 7d, solicitor Mr. T. Jones.”

The Stage 24/1/1895 - Advert

“Will Mr. Carew, late of Mr. C. E. Dering’s Co., Communicate with Mr. *T. Griffiths*, CROWN AND CUSHION HOTEL, Wednesbury, at once.”

WILL MR. CAREW, late of Mr. C. E. Dering’s Co., COMMUNICATE with Mr. T. GRIFFITHS, Crown and Cushion Hotel, Wednesbury, at once.

Wednesbury Herald 28/9/1895

“On Wednesday evening a meeting was held at the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, for the purpose of presenting medals to the players of the Wednesbury Excelsior Football Club. Mr. E. Martin Scott occupied the chair. The Chairman expressed a wish that the club would work together and that they would get on as successfully in the future as they had in the past, and as he understood that the team would enter into some league in connection with the association next year, he hoped they would make the most of the present season, and trusted that next year he should see them connected with the Wednesbury Charity Football Association.....”

Dudley Herald 13/1/1900

“A receiving order has been granted in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court against the estate of *Thomas Griffiths*, lately of Wednesbury, but now living in Dudley Street, Brierley Hill. The liabilities are £315 18s 5d, the whole of which are expected to rank. His assets are estimated to produce £14 5s, thus leaving a deficiency of £301 13s 5d. The Official Receiver (Mr. Sam Wells Page) says the bankrupt commenced business as a butcher in Wednesbury in 1862, but finding it did not pay he worked as a labourer and stock-taker at various works in Wednesbury from 1864 to 1894. In 1894 he became licensee of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, Wednesbury, taking the stock, license, and effects in satisfaction of a debt. He continued until November last when he sold the lease, license, &c, and went to live at his present address. The bankrupt states that he has paid away the whole of the money received from the purchaser of the business. He states the causes of his insolvency to be bad trade and bad debts.”

Dudley Herald 19/5/1900

“Yesterday afternoon, at Wednesbury, Samuel Robinson, Charles Patrick Maloy, and George Barnes, of no fixed abode, were charged with being on the premises of *Thomas Noon*, the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, for an unlawful purpose.

Police-constable Draper deposed that about 12.20am yesterday morning he, in company with Police-constable O’Hara and Sergeant O’Leary, found the three prisoners in a loft in Mr. *Noon*’s closed yard. There were a lot of things stored there.

Police-constable O’Hara gave corroborative testimony.

The prisoner Robinson, on behalf of his companions, stated that last night they went to three lodging-houses in Wednesbury, but owing to the places being full they were unable to find the necessary accommodation. They were still searching for a place to sleep in the High Bullen when they came across a police officer. Having acquainted the officer of law with their desires, he went to the door of one of the lodging houses and knocked, but the proprietor would not open it. He then suggested that they might pass the night in a cab, but this they declined to do, and then the prisoners alleged that the officer took them to the loft and left them there. They remained there until the other policeman arrived. They did not know of the loft, but they thought as a policeman had guided them there could be no harm. A number of officers were in Court, but prisoners failed to identify amongst them the individual who so kindly assisted them.

The Bench declined to accept the prisoner Robinson’s statement, and sent him and Barnes to gaol for seven days each. Maloy, who had a bad record, was sentenced to fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Quoits League. [1900]

1901 Census

High Bullen – CROWN AND CUSHION

[1] *Herbert E. Kent* (35), licensed victualler, born Wilmslow, Cheshire;

[2] *Emma Kent* (38), wife, born Shebdon, Shropshire;

[3] *Kate Yarnall* (21), barmaid, born Chasetown, Staffordshire;

[4] *Clara Warwick* (20), domestic servant, born West Bromwich;

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, before Aldermen R. Williams, I. Oldbury, and Mr. F. W. Hackwood, a man named Edwin Hudson (50), of no fixed abode, but who has been living in apartments at Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, and with intent to defraud, between the 17th September and 3rd October.

The evidence showed that prisoner represented himself to be in the employ of the Midland Advertising Company, Wolverhampton, and canvassed for advertisements for the Wolverhampton Wanderers Fixture Card. He secured 2s 6d from Frank Turbot, manager of the South Staffordshire Coffee House, Market Place; 4s 6d from Benjamin E. Pewtriss, tobacconist, Market Place; 5s from *Herbert E. Kent*, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN; 5s from William H. Hadley, GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place; 2s 6d from James Faulkner, BULLS HEAD INN; 2s from William Macdonald, THREE SWANS INN; 5s from Frank Bateman, licensed victualler, High Street; 2s 6d from Edward Phillips, BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane; 2s 6d from John Jones, FORRESTERS ARMS, Portway Road; and 2s 6d from Albert Newbould, OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street.

Frederick L. Hodgetts, of the Penn Road, Wolverhampton, said he was a partner in the Midland Advertising Company. Prisoner had been in their employ, but left on the 27th April. He had not been connected with the company since, and was not authorised to canvass for advertisements.

Detective Truswell deposed to effecting the arrest of prisoner.

Alderman Oldbury (to prisoner): Didn't you consider you had a lot of 'flats' to deal with in Wednesbury? I am surprised that tradesmen should give their money away without even asking for a receipt. They must be very confiding.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Sessions, which commence on Tuesday next.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1901

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Edwin Hudson, 50, traveller, pleaded guilty to having obtained various sums of money by false pretences at Wednesbury, on September 17. There were previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sentenced to three years' penal servitude.”

Walsall Observer 3/1/1903

“On Wednesday afternoon a meeting of the workmen, numbering about 400, who have come out on strike in consequence of a reduction in wages of 5 per cent having been enforced in the wheel department at the Brunswick Works belonging to the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, was held at the CROWN AND CUSHION HOTEL, High Bullen, Wednesbury. The speakers contended that the head managers at the works had in six months called upon the workmen to submit to two reductions, amounting altogether to 12½ per cent, which they contended was very unreasonable. They also considered that those responsible had dealt harshly in dispensing with the services of the manager and the foreman of the department, one having been employed at the works for 46 years and the other 36 years. After a protracted discussion it was resolved, in order to avoid the upsetting of trade in the town, to resume work on Monday next at the reduction of 5 per cent. It was also resolved to respectfully urge the directors to reinstate the manager and the foreman.”

Walsall Observer 12/8/1905

“Mr. J. Lacey presided on Wednesday night at the annual meeting of the Wednesbury Old Athletic Football Club, held at the CROWN AND CUSHION HOTEL. There was a large attendance.

The Chairman said he was pleased to see the Old Athletic had acquitted themselves during the last season in a manner that had brought distinction to the players, and credit to Wednesbury. They had won the highest honours in the Walsall League, the championship, also the Staffordshire Cup, which he considered, in Staffordshire, was equivalent to winning the national trophy. The team, too, had secured the Bilston Cup, and the Wolverhampton Cup. This was a very fine record He regretted the club did not win the Wednesbury Charity Cup, and concluded his remarks by heartily thanking the officers of the club for their services.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/10/1905

“Councillor *Herbert Kent*, vice-president of Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association, and an officer of Wednesbury Old Athletic Football Club, died somewhat suddenly on Saturday.”

Walsall Observer 14/10/1905

“The funeral of Mr. Herbert Edward Kent, licensee of the CROWN AND CUSHION, Wednesbury, and who a representative of the Market Ward on the borough Council, whose death occurred last week, at the early age of 39, took place on Tuesday, when deceased was interred in the Wednesbury Cemetery. Attending the funeral were a number of friends and neighbours, together with representatives from the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association, Wednesbury Old Athletic Football Club, and other bodies with which deceased was associated. Floral tributes were sent by the members of the Wednesbury Council, the Corporation officials, Wednesbury Conservative and Unionist Club, Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association, Wednesbury and District Hearts of Oak Medical Society, members of the Crown Tube Works, players and committee of the Wednesbury Old Athletic FC, Wednesbury Early Closers FC, committee and players of the Bilston United FC, together with many others from relatives, neighbours, and friends.”

A team from here took part in the West Bromwich and Tipton Quoits League. [1909]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun League. [1909]

A team from here took part in the Walsall and District Air Rifle League. [1909], [1910]

Walsall Advertiser 26/6/1909

“Under the auspices of the Sheffield Equalised Independent Druids Friendly Society, a free social evening was held in connection with the Crown and Cushion Lodge, No.234, last night, at the CROWN AND CUSHION HOTEL, Wednesbury, when the general officers were present for the purpose of presenting £100 cash grant to Bro. J. Plant, who is incapacitated from following his employment through an accident.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/9/1909 - Advert

“Lost, September 9th, Lady's Tweed Check Tailor-made Coat, in parcel, between Wednesbury and Stone Cross. Finder rewarded on returning same to CROWN AND CUSHION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

LOST, September 9th, Lady's Tweed Check Tailor-made Coat, in parcel, between Wednesbury and Stone Cross.—Finder rewarded on returning same to Crown and Cushion Inn, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

1911 Census

High Bullen – CROWN AND CUSHION

- [1] Joseph Onions (39), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Mary Onions (36), wife, married 16 years, assisting in business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Nellie Evans (24), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/9/1912 - Advert

“Horses. Two Half-legged, 16 hands, six years and seven; quiet, good workers, double and single; trot with 30cwt; suitable haulier, builder, bag waggon, scrap, breeze, or brake work; warranted sound; reasonable trial. £16, £18. CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

1921 Census

36, High Bullen

- [1] Alfred J. Merrick (40), out of work, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Ellen Merrick (37), wife, licensed house manageress, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Alfred Merrick (13), son, errand boy, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Annie Merrick (12), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Nellie Merrick (10), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Alice Merrick (6), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Mary Gorton (64), mother-in-law, retired, born Bilston:

Ellen Merrick was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Gorton.

Thomas Gorton – see PARK and MARKET HOUSE.

Mary Gorton – see CROSS KEYS.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 8/11/1924

“Wednesbury Police Court.....

Before Messrs. C. W. D. Joynson (presiding) and A. Tonks. When Mrs. Phoebe Thomas Evans applied for the transfer of the license of the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, from Mrs. *Ellen Merrick*, Inspector Adams, on behalf of Superintendent Sault, opposed the application. He said Mrs. Evans was a married woman, and it was in consequence of certain domestic matters that the objection was offered.

Mr. Joynson said in the face of the objection raised by the police the magistrates did not see how they could consent to the transfer.

Inspector Adams further stated that there were plenty of unemployed men about who would give the Brewery Company faithful service. The husband of the applicant was in business.

The application was refused.”

Alfred James Merrick – see also LEABROOK TAVERN.

Alfred James and Ellen Merrick – see also CASTLE.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1925

“The first prosecution that has taken place in Wednesbury under the Public Health Act of 1893 in respect of public singing and dancing was heard at the local Police Court, yesterday, when *Mary Elizabeth Ayre*, licensee of the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, was summoned for allowing singing and music on her premises on Good Friday.

A policeman stated that he heard the singing of what he described as a jumble of ‘Yes, we have no bananas’ and ‘It aint gonno rain no more,’ and in answer to Mr. E. E. Brown, who defended, denied that the songs were sacred songs and included ‘Lead, kindly light’ and ‘The Star of Bethlehem.’

The Bench said it was an offence to sing at all, whether sacred songs or otherwise, on a Sunday or Good Friday in a public house in Wednesbury, but as this was the first case it would be met by the payment of costs.

Mrs. *Ayre* was subsequently summoned for supplying drink during non-permitted hours for consumption off the premises, on April 18, and a fine of £2 was imposed.

Moses Butler (60), 63, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, was fined 10s for taking the beer from the premises.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/3/1934

“Wednesbury Licensing Committee yesterday, after nearly four hours’ consideration, adjourned for a fortnight an application made by H. A. Tucker (barrister) on behalf of W. Butler and Co., Springfield Brewery, Wolverhampton, for a provisional order sanctioning removal of the (full) license of the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of Park Lane and Myvood Road.

Three minsters objected to the proposal.”

Evening Despatch 23/3/1934

“Wednesbury Licensing Magistrates today heard the adjourned application of Butlers Brewery, Wolverhampton, for the removal of the license of the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, to premises to be built at the corner of Park Lane and Myvood Road. The company gave an undertaking to surrender three licenses, but objection was made by the Rev. A. S. Langley (Baptist), who said that the surrender of six would be a fairer proposition.

The magistrates provisionally approved the removal, which will be submitted to a meeting of the confirming authority in a month’s time.”

Walsall Observer 21/4/1934

“An interesting position arose at Wednesbury Licensing Justices sitting as a Confirming Authority, yesterday, when W. Butler and Co. Ltd., of Springfield Brewery, Wolverhampton, applied for a provisional order sanctioning removal of the license from the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury, to a house and premises to be erected at the corner of Park Lane and Myvood Road, Wednesbury.

The Clerk (Mr. E. E. Brown) asked the Rev. W. Christie, who, along with the Revs. A. S. Langley and E. Holt, objected to the removal of the license at the previous hearing and who were now present, if he still objected to the removal, and Mr. Christie said he did.

The Clerk: Are you prepared to pay the costs?

Mr. Christie: I had no idea this would arise.

The Clerk: You have not studied the provisions of the Act. Are you still prepared to persist in your objection knowing that you may be asked to pay the costs?

Mr. Christie: I must leave myself if the hands of the magistrates.

The Clerk: You must answer my question, 'yes' or 'no.'

Mr. Christie: I am not prepared to pay the costs. If they were a reasonable amount I would pay them, even if they fell on me personally. I will leave it to the magistrates, and you can rule me out if I can't give you an affirmative or negative answer. I have not had the opportunity of consulting with the other objectors, and I am acting on my own responsibility.

The Clerk: Their Worships hold that you must decide if you are prepared to stand the responsibility of paying the costs if they require it, or you must withdraw your objection.

Mr. Christie: The position has changed. There are no other objectors to stand beside me. If my colleagues had been here we might have shared the responsibility. I am not prepared to take the responsibility of being the only objector.

Mr. Christie accordingly withdrew his objection.

The Bench confirmed the granting of the application."

The license of the CROWN AND CUSHION was transferred to the MYVOD.

Dudley Chronicle 21/2/1935 - Advert

"Wednesbury. Belcher and Son will offer for Sale by Public Auction at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, February 25th, at 7 o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions, the following Freehold Investment Properties.....

By order of Messrs. W. Butler and Co. Ltd.....

Lot 3. The de-licensed premises formerly the CROWN AND CUSHION INN, No.36, High Bullen and Cottage No.35, High Bullen adjoining."

BENJAMIN HAWKINS, Deceased.—Pursuant to the Statute 22nd and 23rd Victoria, chapter 35, intituled "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 upon or against the Estate of BENJAMIN HAWKINS, late of the Crown and Cushion Inn, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Deceased (who died on the 10th day of January, 1878, and whose Will was proved in the District Registry, at Lichfield, of the Probate Division of her Majesty's High Court of Justice, on the 1st day of February, 1878, by ALFRED THOMAS ONIONS, Hawkins and WILLIAM BAILEY WOOD, the Executors therein named), are hereby required to SEND the PARTICULARS of their respective Claims or Demands to us, the undersigned, the Solicitors to the said Executors, on or before the 8th day of March, 1879, after which date the said Executors will proceed to Distribute the Assets of the said Deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims and Demands of which they shall then have had notice, and the said Executors will not be liable for the Assets, or any part thereof, so distributed to any Person of whose Claim or Demand they shall not then have had notice.—Dated this Seventh day of December, 1878.
THURSFIELD & MESSITER, Wednesbury, Staffordshire,
Solicitors for the said Executors.

1878

HORSES.—Two Half-legged, 16 hands, six years and seven; quiet, good workers, double and single; trot with 30cwt.; suitable haulier, builder, bag waggon, scrap, brass, or brake work; warranted sound; reasonable trial. £16, £18.—Crown and Cushion, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

1912

By order of Messrs. W. Butler and Co. Ltd.

LOT 3.—The de-licensed premises formerly the "Crown and Cushion" Inn, No. 36, High Bullen and Cottage No. 35, High Bullen adjoining

1935

WANTED!
TALENT! TALENT!! TALENT!!!
CROWN AND CUSHION,
WEDNESBURY.

Proprietor, Mr SAMUEL TATE.

Manager, HARRY ROWLAND.

Pianist, HERR ROWLAND.

Serio-Comics and Dancers please write in. Irish Comedians, Comic Vocalists and Single-handed Niggers, for Present and Future Dates.

All Communications to Manager, as above.

WANTED. Immediately, a First-class Lady **PIANIST** and **VOCALIST** To live in preferred. A comfortable and long Engagement to a suitable person. S. TATE, Crown and Cushion, Wednesbury. Enclose photo if possible.

1883

CROWN TUBE WORKS

57, Dudley Street, High Bullen, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Dudley [1858] – [1861]
Mrs. Elizabeth Dudley [1866] – [1876]
George Dudley [1877] – [1891]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

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. Conlett, 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.

1875

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 31/1/1858

"Pigeon Flying.....

Joseph Dudley of Wednesbury will fly his dun cock against Geo. Cobb, for £5 a side, from the Nelson Monument at Birmingham to Wednesbury, if he will allow a minute start, or will fly him from Kidderminster and Birmingham, in one day, level, for the like amount, or any fancier in Wednesbury, on the same terms. Money ready at *Dudley's*, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/7/1859

"R. Manks not being able to get on a match with Bishop, will run W. Jackson (the American Deer) 10 miles, for £25 a side, and give him £5 expenses to run at Birmingham; or will run or walk any man of his age (41 years) five miles or upwards, for the like sum. A match can be made any time at Mr. *Dudley's*, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1860

"To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Wednesbury 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.....

Joseph Dudley, of the CROWN TOMB [sic] WORKS INN, High Bullen, was charged with allowing the game of draughts, on the 10th ult, for ale. Mr. Sheldon defended in this case. Police-constable Hollis swore that on the night in question he saw nine men and boys in the place, that one game was played, and that the defeated player paid for the ale. Police-constable Beard confirmed this testimony, and said he had been since to *Dudley's* house, and saw the same game being played. Mr. Sheldon, for the defence, said that the game played was merely between two private friends of defendant, and that there was not any ale or value played for. The persons playing were the nephews of defendant and the game was played in the bar, and not in the usual public room. He then called Daniel Penrice, who swore that he and one Humpage were playing draughts on the night in question, and that they did not play for anything more than the mere sport. He denied that there were nine men and boys in the room he was playing in. Richard Humpage stated that he was a nephew of the defendant, and that on the night named by the police he and last witness played a game at draughts in the bar. Fined 40s and costs, the Bench not believing the witnesses for the defence.

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 21/10/1860

“G. Bayliss of Wednesbury will run Ben Davis or Patsey Rice of Wednesbury 100 yards level; or will give R. Fenton of Wolverhampton 15 yards start in 300, or Breese of Wolverhampton 10 yards in 300. Either of the matches can be made at *Joseph Dudley’s* CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, for £10 or £15 a side.”

1861 Census

Dudley Street

- [1] *Joseph Dudley* (62), retail brewer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Dudley* (62), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *John Dudley* (18), son, gunlock smith, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *George Dudley* (15), son, labourer at gas tubes, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *George Dudley* (16), grand-son, labourer at gas tubes, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *John Dudley* (14), grand-son, gunlock smith, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Harriett Wilkes* (19), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/11/1865

“Westley’s, HALL GREEN TAVERN, Westbromwich Hall, near Wednesbury, New Pedestrian Grounds. Wilcox of Hill Top and Dudley of Wednesbury are matched to run 100 yards, for £10 a side, Dudley receiving two yards start, to come off at the above grounds, on Tuesday, December 26. £2 10s a side is down in the hands of Mr. Shorthouse, of the BELL INN, Wednesbury, who is final stakeholder, to be made into £4 a side, this (Saturday) evening at *Dudley’s*, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/3/1866

“John Dudley of Wednesbury will run George Brueton of Shropshire Row 100 yards level, for £10 a side, or take two yards in the same distance of A. Wood of Daisy Bank, for the like amount. Money ready any night next week at Mrs. *Dudley’s*, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury. The match to come off at the Britannia Grounds, Tipton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/1/1868

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, a man named Thomas Beards was brought up in custody charged with passing counterfeit coin. The prosecutrix, *Elizabeth Dudley*, stated that she was a beerhouse keeper, and lived in Dudley Street, Wednesbury. On the 29th December the prisoner came to her house, and having called for a pint of ale he gave her a shilling, which she afterwards found to be a bad one. On the following Saturday night he again visited her house, and in payment for another pint he tendered a second bad shilling. She recognised the prisoner immediately she saw him and after taking the money she went into the kitchen and asked her son whether it was good or not. On examining it he found the shilling was a similar one to that taken before, and charged the prisoner with passing bad money. An offer was made to the prisoner, however, that if he gave good money in return for the counterfeit coins no further notice should be taken of the matter, and he then threw the bad shillings into the fire, and gave the prosecutrix two good ones; but was afterwards taken into custody.

The prisoner was remanded for a week, in order that inquiries might be made about him.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/2/1868

“Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Beard, 54, butcher, was indicted for uttering two counterfeit shillings at Wednesbury. On the 29th of December, the prisoner went to a beershop kept by a widow named *Dudley*, and tendered in payment for some ale a counterfeit shilling. Mrs. *Dudley* suspected its genuineness, as it was rather black, but, as she thought that might have arisen from its having been in the prisoner's pocket, she made no remark, but kept it. On the 4th of January, the prisoner again called at the house, and in payment for ale tendered another counterfeit shilling. Mrs. *Dudley* then sent for the other base shilling, and told the prisoner about them. He snatched them up and threw them on the fire, and only a piece of the metal was saved. The prisoner was convicted, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.”

1871 Census

57, Dudley Street

- [1] *Elizabeth Dudley* (69), widow, publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] John Dudley (26), son, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *George Dudley* (23), son, iron moulder, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *George Dudley* (26), grand-son, iron moulder, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Jane Griffiths (18) domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] William Kendrick (21), boarder, labourer, ironworks, born
- [7] Thomas Jones (22), boarder, labourer, ironworks, born Netherton:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/6/1871

“G. Kendrick of Darlaston is still open to run Gauntlett of Wednesbury 100 yards, or Young Wedge of Willenhall the like distance, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *Dudley's*, the CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury.”

Midland Examiner 19/8/1876 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

Sale of Valuable Properties consisting of an Old-licensed Inn, a Beerhouse, and several other desirable Properties. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the KINGS ARMS INN, in Dudley Street, Wednesbury, on Friday, the 25th day of August, 1876, at six for seven o'clock precisely.....

Lot 4. All that Messuage or Dwelling House, used as a Beerhouse, called the CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, situate in Dudley Street, in the occupation of Mrs. *Elizabeth Dudley*. And also the Five Cottages situate in a Court at the back thereof, with the brewhouse, yard and outbuildings belonging thereto, producing together £62 10s a year.”

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.”

1881 Census

57, Dudley Street

- [1] *George Dudley* (33), unmarried, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Jane Dudley (12), niece, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Elizabeth Beddall (15), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Sporting Life 21/5/1881

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury....

Mr. James Harding will give £6 10s to be run for in a 130 yards foot handicap, on Monday, May 30, and Monday, June 6. Entrance, 6d each (no acceptance). Entrances close on Thursday, May 26 (Friday morning's post in time). First prize, £5; second, £1; third, 10s. Entries at the grounds; or to Mr. *Dudley*, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury; or Mr. J. Dudley, TRAVELLERS REST, Pinfold Alley, Darlaston; and at Mr. Davis's, BLACK HORSE INN, Great Bridge.”

Sporting Life 24/11/1883

“Dog Racing. Slip and Tippo for £20.

A match has been made between Phipp’s Tippo, of London, and Brindley’s Slip, of Willenhall, to run 200 yards; both dogs catch weight, at Rood End Grounds, on December 26, for £20. £10 a side is now in the hands of Mr. *George Dudley*, CROWN TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury, who is stakeholder and referee.”

Sporting Life 4/8/1885

“Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills.

Jones v. Evans, for £20. This match, which has been a storm in a tea cup affair, was brought to a satisfactory termination at this splendidly constructed arena on Saturday afternoon last, the peds engaged being Thomas Jones and John Evans, both hailing from the famous wheeling town of Wolverhampton, who met to run 120 yards, for £10 a side, for which sum was placed with the Editor of the *Sporting Life*. Both men are what may be termed novices at the business, though Evans came with an unbeaten certificate, having won several matches for small sums. Both men, however, were placed in clever hands, Jones being trained by Tom Cartwright, at the latter’s own hostelry, the CROWN INN, Sedgley, whilst Evans was prepared by *George Dudley*, of Wednesbury, at the latter’s own pub, the CROWN AND TUBE WORKS INN, Wednesbury, and both men were in fine condition and confident. The track, a splendid one for pedestrianism, was in first-rate fettle. Betting, after opening at evens, closed at 30 to 20 on Jones. All being in readiness the starter called ‘Get set,’ when Evans, to the chagrin of his backers, overbalanced himself, and got over, and was, according to the articles, put back one yard, which there is not the least doubt lost him the race. At the second attempt the starter, an old bird at the game, despatched them to a good start, and a brilliant and exciting struggle ensued, and, despite Evans game efforts to get up, Jones won by half a yard. The weather, though cloudy in the morning and threatened rain, turned out beautifully fine, and a fair company assembled to witness the race, including some loud-mouthed ‘uns. The *Sporting Life* was stakeholder, and Mr. R. Bates (appointed by the *Sporting Life*) was referee, and Mr. James Harding, of the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, was starter. We shall forward a cheque to Jones to the address given to our representative less expenses.”

1891 Census

57, Dudley Street – CROWN TUBE WORKS INN

[1] *George Dudley* (44), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] Sarah A. Rees (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[3] Arthur Eckleston (21), boarder, iron worker, born Wednesbury;

[4] Jane Eckleston (22), niece, born Wednesbury;

[5] Arthur E. Eckleston (9 months), son of niece, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1894

“The annual licensing session for the borough of Wednesbury took place at the Police Court yesterday.....

Since the last annual licensing session the CROWN TUBE WORKS beerhouse, Dudley Street, had been taken down, and the premises were no longer used as a beerhouse.”

Lot 4.—All that Messuage or DWELLING-HOUSE, used as a Beerhouse, called “The Crown Tube Works Inn,” situate in Dudley-street aforesaid, in the occupation of Mrs. Elizabeth Dudley. And also the Five Cottages situate in a Court at the back thereof, with the brewhouse, yard and outbuildings belonging thereto, producing together £62 10s. a year.

DARTMOUTH ARMS

172, Holyhead Road, (New Road) / Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Peter Walker and Company [1914]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1961]

LICENSEES

John Parton [1834] – [1848]
Charles Clarkson [1847] – **1851**;
Charles Bill (**1851 – 1867**);
George Street (**1867 – 1870**);
James Birch (**1870 –** [1876]
Henry Deighton Millner [1876] – [1908]
Mrs. Mary Millner [1901]
Henry 'Harry' Millner [1911] – [1921]
John Littler 'Jack' Millner [1921]
Walter Edward Cholmondely [1932]
Thomas Croft [1939] – **1961**)

NOTES

New Road [1835], [1841], [1842]
Dudley Street [1881]
172, Holyhead Road [1871], [1901], [1921]

DARTMOUTH COMMERCIAL HOTEL [1864], [1865]
DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL [1868], [1870]
DARTMOUTH HOTEL [1872]

'Wednesbury Revisited' by Ian M. Bott, published in 1998

"The GEORGE INN was removed from its corner position between Union Street and Upper High Street for a road widening scheme. Older residents still refer to the GEORGE as Top Wrexham, the name of a former brewery perhaps.

The DARTMOUTH ARMS INN stood at the busy Holyhead Road and Dudley Street crossroads, a notorious accident blackspot. It was demolished in March 1963 for the construction of the aptly named Dartmouth Arms traffic island. The DARTMOUTH ARMS was also known as Bottom Wrexham, being in almost exact alignment with the GEORGE INN."

Posting house [1851], [1868], [1870]

Inland Revenue Office [1860], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1873]

Auctions were frequently held here.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/7/1834 - Advert

"Valuable Mines of Coal, Clay, and Ironstone, at Ocker Hill, Tipton.

To be Sold by Auction, by Puckle and Johnson, on Monday, the 21st of July, 1834, at the DARTMOUTH INN, Wednesbury, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be stated...."



c1960

WANTED for the principal Steam Engine Manufacturers in London, a considerable number of steady good Workmen, accustomed to Steam Engine work, who may have constant employ at the following rates of wages:—

Experienced Smiths	40s. to 42s. per week.
Ditto Vicemen and Turners	34s. to 36s.
Ditto Turners and Borers	34s. to 38s.
Ditto Sand Moulders	34s. to 36s.

Younger or less experienced hands will be engaged at proportionate rates of wages. Reasonable expenses for coming to London will be allowed. Apply immediately after Thursday next, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury, between the hours of one and six o'clock in the afternoon.

N.B.—The day's work is ten hours.

1836

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/7/1836 - Advert

"Wanted for the principal Steam Engine Manufacturers in London, a considerable number of steady good Workmen, accustomed to Steam Engine work, who may have constant employment at the following rates of wages:

Experienced Smiths, 40s to 42s per week.

Ditto Vicemen and Turners, 34s to 36s per week.

Ditto Turners and Borers, 34s to 38s per week.

Ditto Sand Moulders, 34s to 36s per week.

Younger or less experienced hands will be engaged at proportionate rates of wages. Reasonable expenses for coming to London will be allowed.

Apply immediately after Thursday next, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury, between the hours of one and six o'clock in the afternoon.

NB. The day's work is ten hours."

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/5/1838

"An inquisition was held on Friday, the 11th, and by adjournment on Tuesday, the 15th instant, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury, before Henry Smith, Esq, coroner, on the body of Benjamin Butler, aged 29 years.

Sarah Butler deposed that she was sister to the deceased, who was a married man, with a wife and four children; his wife is now pregnant. Deponent knew William Hampton, of Darlaston, then in custody on a charge of causing her brother's death. On the 7th instant she was standing at her father's door, which fronts the turnpike road leading from Wednesbury to Darlaston, and the deceased was sitting on a wall adjoining the footpath. The height of the wall next the footpath was about two feet, but the other side of the wall was deeper, being about five feet. Whilst her brother was sitting on the wall, deponent saw three men coming along the footpath, on the opposite side of the road; they were going towards Wednesbury; the prisoners, William Hampton and William Payne were two of them. Saw William Hampton go across to her brother, and without speaking a word, push or strike him violently, so that deceased fell backwards over the wall. Hampton immediately afterwards ran away towards Wednesbury, his two companions accompanying him. The deceased had given no provocation, nor said a word to the prisoners. After the deceased had fallen over the wall she screamed out, which alarmed the family, and her father, with others, immediately went to his assistance. Her brother lay upon the ground, unable to stir or speak. He was shortly afterwards carried into the house, and Mr. Dickenson, a surgeon from Darlaston, was sent for, who bled him. Deceased said he was dying. He remained in a state of insensibility until the next morning when he revived a little, but expired about two o'clock the same day.

John Stackhouse, gunlock forger, of Darlaston, corroborated the evidence of the last witness.

Frederick Butler deposed that he knew the prisoners, Hampton and Payne; also the deceased. On the day after the accident as he was accidentally walking behind Hampton and a companion (named Wilkes) he heard Hampton say to Wilkes that he (Hampton) had knocked a man off a wall on the over night, and that he did not know whether he was dead or not, and he would be d—d if he cared. Witness shortly after saw Hampton in custody of Palmer the constable.

Mr. William Dickenson, surgeon, of Darlaston, deposed that he was called to attend the deceased, and found that the pulsation had nearly abated. After bleeding him, and putting his feet into a warm bath, he made a pressure with his hands on deceased's legs and arms, but deceased said he could not feel it. Witness concluded, from deceased having lost the sense of feeling, that there was an injury upon the spine. Witness had examined the wall, and was of opinion that a fall backwards from thence would be sufficient to cause the death of any one. Deceased died the subsequent day. Witness attended (by direction of the coroner and jury), with Mr. Reynolds, surgeon, of Wednesbury, to make a post mortem examination of the body; but from the heat of the weather deceased was in such a state of decomposition, that this was impossible. The body was as black as coal, and not a feature discernible. Witness was of opinion that deceased's death was occasioned by an injury to the spine, occasioned by a violent fall.

Mr. Charles Reynolds, surgeon, of Wednesbury, corroborated the evidence of Mr. Dickenson.

The jury acquitted the prisoner Payne, and returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Hampton, who was committed to take his trial at the next assizes."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1838

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

William Hampton was charged with the manslaughter of Benjamin Butler, on the 8th of May, at Wednesbury.....

Several witnesses gave the prisoner a good character, as a kind and well conducted man.

The case was laid before the jury with great clearness by the learned Judge, and they, after a few moments consideration, returned a verdict of guilty, but recommended the prisoner to mercy.

The learned Judge sentenced the prisoner, saying that this was a case in which there had been some difficulty, but the jury had come to a conclusion which must be satisfactory to every one who had heard the evidence. It was quite clear that he had intentionally pushed the deceased off the wall, and though he did not suppose that he had the slightest intention of either killing him or doing him any serious bodily harm, it was a wanton and wicked act; and he was sorry to say that this county, and the neighbourhood of Wednesbury and Darlaston in particular, were notorious for acts of a like wanton and barbarous nature. His lordship said it ought to be generally known, and he wished it to be deeply impressed upon the prisoner's mind, that if a man's death was caused by the wantonness of another, the offender was liable to be transported for life. He did not consider the prisoner's case to be one that called for so severe a punishment; but the lesser punishment he was about to inflict he hoped would have a salutary effect on him as long as he lived, and deter others from such degrading conduct. He then sentenced the prisoner to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for one year.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/6/1838 - Advert

“An Excellent Freehold Investment, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

Two Freehold Dwelling Houses, situated near the Church Hill, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Taylor and Bills, at the house of Mr. *John Partons*, DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Friday next, the 22nd day of June, at five o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/9/1840 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Buildings and about Thirty-Two Lots of Land, at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Taylor and Bills, on Friday next, the 25th day of September, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, at the hour of five in the afternoon.....”

1841 Census

Holyhead Road – DARTMOUTH ARMS INN

[1] *John Parton* (70), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Parton* (50), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Emma Parton* (15), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Thomas Woodcock* (15), m.s.;

[5] *Elizabeth Brewer* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/8/1842

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

William Dickenson was indicted for stealing, on the 2nd of May, at Chesterfield, in the county of Derby, one mare and gig, the property of John Scott and another. Mr. Ryder appeared for the prosecution; and Mr. Price for the prisoner.

On the 2nd of May prisoner, who had lived as servant with a Mr. Bellfield, went to the prosecutors, who were coachmen, and who let out horses and gigs to hire, and said Mr. Bellfield wanted a horse and gig to fetch a young lady from Dronfield. The horse and gig were accordingly delivered to the prisoner, who left the neighbourhood, and on the 7th of May was traced to the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, where he had put up the horse and gig, and had offered the gig to a confectioner of that town for £10. The prosecutors, having got information of the route the prisoner had taken, pursued him to Wednesbury, where they found the horse and gig, but the prisoner had left the place and gone to Walsall, where he was apprehended, having entered into the 9th Foot with a recruiting party there. Mr. Price addressed the jury at great length, and cited a great number of cases to show that the charge against the prisoner did not amount to a felony, unless it satisfactorily appeared at the time he obtained the horse and gig he intended feloniously to dispose of them, and convert the money to his own use.

The Court pointed out in what respects the present case was distinguishable from those cited, and told the jury that if they believed the evidence they must find the prisoner guilty.

On the jury returning a verdict of guilty, the Court sentenced the prisoner to be transported for ten years.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/9/1842 - Advert

“Southern Division of the County of Stafford.

We, Charles Shapland Whitmore, of the Inner Temple, and Thomas Bros, of Lincolns Inn, Esquires, Barristers at Law, having been duly nominated and appointed to Revise the Lists of Voters in the Election of Knights of the Shire for the Southern Division of the County of Stafford, hereby give notice, that we shall make a Circuit of the said Division and hold Courts for that purpose, at the several times and places underwritten.....

At Wednesbury, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, on Tuesday, the 11th day of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the parishes of Wednesbury and Darlaston.....

London, September 12, 1842.

Memorandum. The overseers of the said several parishes, townships, and places, are desired to bring with them the several notices of claims of voters, and all notices of objections to voters transmitted or delivered to the said overseers.

And the voters who have sent in their claims, whether objected to or not, are desired to see that they have been duly registered, as regards the description of themselves and their qualification; and if there be any defect therein, to attend before the Revising Barristers at the proper court, to offer such evidence as may enable them to correct the said lists.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/4/1844

“On Wednesday last, and by adjournment on Friday, an inquest was held before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of a newborn female child, which had been found in a branch of the Birmingham canal, when the following evidence was adduced.

Samuel Walters, of Lea Brook, Wednesbury, said: On Wednesday morning last, the 17th instant, about half-past six o'clock, I was coming from work by the canal side, and at Lea Brook I saw something floating in the water of an arm of the canal called the Monway arm. I went round, and told a woman who was in a boat that I thought there was a child or a doll in the canal, but she said it was a lump of wood. Some one went and told Mr. Horton, who came and took the child out of the canal.

Walter Horton, of Lea Brook, Wednesbury, stated: On Wednesday morning last I received information that something was in the canal, and I went down and saw a child floating in the water; I got it out. It had got a piece of cord round its neck, and a piece of cotton print round its body. I had it carried into my stable; it was the body of a newborn female child. I then went and fetch Mr. Tibbitts, the constable, who took the child away. The cord was slack round the neck of the child, and did not appear to have been tied for the purpose of strangling it, but for the purpose of sinking it. There was a noose at the other end of the cord, apparently to hold some weight to sink the child.

Thomas Tebbitts, constable, deposed: From the information I received from Mr. Walter Horton, on Wednesday morning last, I went to his stable at Lea Brook, and there saw the body of a newborn female child. It had a piece of cord tied loosely round its neck, and a piece of cotton print round its body; the tongue of the child was protruding out of its mouth. I had the child conveyed in the same state to the DARTMOUTH ARMS, at Wednesbury. Mr. Lees, the surgeon, saw the child in the stable at Lea Brook, and afterwards made a post mortem examination of the body at his surgery, in my presence. The child is the same which the jury had a view of on Wednesday. The spot where the child was found was pointed out to me; it is in the parish of Wednesbury, and is a branch of the Birmingham canal.

Mr. Frederick Lees, surgeon, of Wednesbury, said: On the 17th instant I was called in to examine the body of a newborn female child. It was very much decomposed I am of opinion that the child had been in the water a fortnight or three weeks. I am of opinion that the child was a day or two old when it was drowned; and I am also of opinion that the death of the child was occasioned by drowning. The cord round the neck of the child was put there for the purpose of sinking the body, as there was a noose in the other end of the cord, as if for the purpose of inserting a weight to prevent the body floating; when such weight became detached from the cord, and the body putrid, it would float.

The jury, after having heard the observations of the coroner, and having had a brief consultation, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder, against some person or persons unknown.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 10/8/1844

“Warwick Summer Assizes.....

Jane Giles, on her own confession, was found guilty of concealing the birth of her child. Our readers will recollect that the prisoner in this case was committed a few days ago, for the wilful murder of her infant child; and that John Clarke, of Wednesbury, was committed as an accessory after the fact. The prisoner Clarke was admitted before the grand jury as evidence against the girl. The capital charge was abandoned, and she pleaded guilty to the minor, and was sentenced to twelve months’ imprisonment.”

John Parton was also a maltster. [1845]

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1845

“Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway.

We, the Undersigned, Landowners, Merchants, Coal and Ironmasters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other Inhabitants residing in the boroughs of Birmingham and Walsall, and the towns of Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Handsworth, and other places in those Districts, do hereby express our opinion that the projected Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway is calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the places and districts above mentioned, and we promise it our strenuous support.....

John Parton, Innkeeper, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 6/12/1845

“Another of the many accidents which are of such frequent occurrence in South Staffordshire took place on Saturday last, in a pit worked by Joseph Bird. It appears that the brother of Bird, a man about forty-four years of age, was engaged as usual in one of the workings getting coal, when a portion of the mine gave way, burying the unfortunate man underneath. The poor fellow, when extricated, was found to be dreadfully injured, and died, after much suffering, in about an hour afterwards. An inquest was held on Monday, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/4/1846 - Died

“On the 30th ult, in the 55th year of her age, Mary, wife of *John Parton*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury. The deceased was much and deservedly respected by her family and friends.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/7/1846

“Odd Fellowship. On Monday last, the members of St. George’s Lodge, Wolverhampton District, Manchester Unity, met together to celebrate their seventh anniversary, at Host *Parton*’s, DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury, when a most excellent dinner was provided by the worthy host.....”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 20/7/1846 - Married

“On Thursday last, at the Parish Church, Wednesbury, by the Rev. Isaac Clarkson, Vicar, Mr. Charles Clarkson, of Great Barr, to Miss Sarah Parton, youngest daughter of Mr. *John Parton*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, in that town.”

Birmingham Journal 12/9/1846

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Sarah Roach was brought before the sitting Magistrates, charged with stealing a veil, the property of Bridget Stillard, of Wolverhampton. It appeared that on Sunday last the prosecutrix went into the DARTMOUTH ARMS, at Wednesbury, in company with her husband. She had a basket with her, and in it was a veil, which was valued at 5s. Being wet, she put her basket down in one of the front rooms, and went into the kitchen to dry herself by the fire. During her absence, the prisoner came in, and took the veil from her basket. On discovering her loss, she was informed that the prisoner only had been in the room, and suspecting she had stolen it, the prosecutrix followed her, and found her in a house near the BULLS HEAD. She charged her with the robbery, when she denied it, but on her rising to leave the house, the stolen property was discovered in her bundle. Information was then given to the police, and the woman was taken into custody. She was committed for trial at the sessions.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 31/10/1846

“Staffordshire Sessions To be imprisoned for twelve months, with hard labour.....
Sarah Roach, for stealing a lace veil, at Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/1/1847

“Elizabeth Manion was charged by Mr. *Charles Clarkson*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury, with being disorderly and breaking his windows, to the value of 2s. On Tuesday night last, defendant, with two children, went into the DARTMOUTH ARMS and had some rum, and while there she became very disorderly, and when the complainant had her put out of the house she broke the windows and conducted herself in a most violent manner. The complainant added that when he said he would send for the police, she said, ‘They could only give her seven days.’

The defendant, addressing the complainant, said, ‘Where’s the use of saying so much about me; you only want to get me seven days;’ and, turning to Mr. Leigh, she said, ‘Your honour, I had met with a woman whom I had known in Liverpool, and we had three or four noggins of rum together; you may as well let me go, for it is not worth your while to send me and the children to Stafford gaol, and if you will let me go I will go out of town immediately.’ Mr. Leigh ordered her to pay 2s for the damage, and the costs, or one month’s hard labour. She was committed.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/3/1847 - Advert

“Freehold Land and Mines, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Corbett, on Friday, the 19th day of March, 1847, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, at five o’clock in the afternoon.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/5/1847

“New Church of St. James, Wednesbury. The Ceremony of Laying the Foundation Stone.

The day selected for the performance of this interesting ceremony was Wednesday last, which happily was most propitious for such an occasion, the weather being most favourable, and the sun shining forth with all the warmth and splendour of a summer’s day.....

Entertainment of the Clergy, Committee, &c, by Thomas Bagnall, Esq.

Immediately after the termination of the above-mentioned interesting ceremony, the several ladies and gentlemen who were present, amounting to about two hundred, proceeded, according to previous invitation, to St. James’s school room, to partake of what was termed a cold collation, but which might with more propriety have been termed ‘a sumptuous banquet,’ provided at Mr. Bagnall’s expense by Mr. *C. Clarkson*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, who did ample justice to the trust reposed in him by providing everything required in abundance and to spare; and, what is of still greater moment, of a superior quality. The room was tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/5/1847

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

On Monday last, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, on the body of Samuel Westwood, aged 19 years. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Russell, surgeon, that the deceased died in a fit of an apoplectic nature, having fallen down on a cinder heap at Messrs. Davis’ iron works, West Bromwich, on Friday evening, shortly after he had left his work, where he was discovered early on the following morning; and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

Birmingham Journal 2/12/1848 - Died

“On the 30th ult, in the 78th year of his age, Mr. *John Parton*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury, deservedly esteemed by all who knew him.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 4/12/1848 - Died

“On Thursday last, deeply lamented by his family and a large circle of friends, in his 80th year, Mr. *John Pardon* [sic], for more than eighteen years landlord of the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/12/1849

"John Pettifer, Hannah, his wife, and Betsey, their daughter, lost their lives at Wednesbury on Tuesday night last under the following circumstances. The family were living in a small house on the side of the Portway Road, and situated at the top of a large mound of earth, the refuse from a pit close by, but not now being worked. The daughter was sent out about seven o'clock, and having to pass over the mound by a footway, and not coming back, the father went to look for her. About half an hour after she left, and as neither of them returned, the mother went also, leaving a boy, ten years old, and three other children, one of whom is only five months old, in the house. Soon after the mother left the house the eldest boy fell asleep, and did not wake until two o'clock next morning; but on doing so, finding that neither his father, mother, nor sister had returned, he went to the house of a neighbour, and having on his way seen a large hole in the centre of the pathway, he passed by on one side, and alarmed the neighbours, who, on going to the house, found the ground had given way immediately in the pathway, forming what is generally termed a crowning-in, and into which there was no doubt they had fallen. Assistance was procured, but the damp was so great that no one could go down. Several men were immediately set to work to dig at the loose sides, and so get down to the bottom, it being about eleven yards deep; and after working from that time till eleven o'clock on Thursday morning, they inserted pipes to draw out the foul air. A man was then let down, who found the three persons all dead, having been killed, no doubt, by the damp, if not by the fall."

AND

Birmingham Journal 15/12/1849

"In last week's *Journal* we detailed the melancholy circumstance under which a screw forger named John Pettifer, his wife, and daughter, came to an untimely end, by falling into a hole which had been made by a 'crowning's in,' not far from the house in which they lived, on the bank of a colliery belonging to Messrs. Adams and Richards. The inquest on their bodies was held on Friday week, at the house of Mr. *Clarkson*, the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, when the witnesses examined were William Pettifer (the eldest of the four orphans), Mr. James Richards, Mr. M'Crea, inspector of police, Police-constable Yerl, and David Knowles, a miner. As the evidence confirmed in every respect the account we have already published, there is no necessity for giving any further details. The Jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased were found dead in the hole, but by what means they came there they considered there was no evidence to show."

Birmingham Journal 9/11/1850 - Advert

"DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL INN, and Inland Revenue Office, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Charles Bill, in returning thanks for the very liberal encouragement he has received during the last six years at the TURKS HEAD INN, begs respectfully to inform his numerous Friends, and Commercial Gentlemen in particular, that for their greater convenience and comfort he has taken and newly furnished the above Inn, where he trusts the great improvements he has made in its internal arrangements, combined with his usual moderate charges, will ensure for him their future patronage and support.

The above Inn is situated on the main road from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, is within three minutes' walk of the Station of the South Staffordshire Railway, and the Market Place, or business part of the town.

Trains to and from Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, &c, twenty-four times a day, and Omnibuses to and from Wolverhampton, Bilston, &c, every hour.

Cars, &c, on reasonable terms, and at the shortest notice."

Birmingham Journal 23/11/1850 - Advert

"Wednesbury, Staffordshire. Valuable and Extensive Freehold Building Properties, in and near the Town.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Solomon Powell, on Friday, the 6th of December next, at the house of Mr. *Charles Bill*, the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, subject to the conditions then read....."

Birmingham Journal 14/12/1850 - Advert

"A Card and Dancing Assembly (to be continued annually) will be held at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, on Thursday, the 9th of January, 1851. Particulars will appear in future advertisements."

A CARD and DANCING ASSEMBLY (to be continued annually,) will be held at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, WEDNESBURY, on THURSDAY, the 9th of January, 1851. Particulars will appear in future advertisements.

Birmingham Journal 21/12/1850 - Advert

“DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Charles Bill begs to inform his Patrons and Friends that a Card and Dancing Assembly will be held at the above Inn, on Thursday Evening, January 9th, 1851

Stewards. Mr. J. D. Payne, Mr. J. A. Palin, Mr. J. Wood, Mr. J. Dawes, Jun., Mr. J. P. Morgan, Mr. H. Minors.

Tickets, including Refreshments. Ladies, 5s; Gentlemen, 7s 6d; may be had of the Stewards, and at the Bar of the Inn.

A First-rate Quadrille Band is engaged. Dancing to commence at Eight o'clock.

Cars will be provided free of expense for parties residing within one mile of the Inn.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/2/1851 - Advert

“Staffordshire. To Capitalists, Ironmasters, Engineers, Smiths, and Others.

Sale of Moxley Iron-Foundry and Patent Rivet Works, at Moxley, near Wednesbury.

Joseph Dawes respectfully announces his instructions (by order of the Mortgagees) to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, this present Monday, February the 17th, at the DARTMOUTH INN, Wednesbury, at six o'clock in the evening.....”

1851 Census

Holyhead Road

[1] *Charles Bill* (40), victualler, pawnbroker employing 1 woman, born Coseley;

[2] Mary Bill (34), wife, born Southam, Warwickshire;

[3] Mary Bill (12), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;

[4] Elizabeth Bill (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] Frederic Bill (5), son, scholar at home, born Wednesbury;

[6] Charles H. Bill (3), son, scholar at home, born Wednesbury;

[7] Thomas Bill (1), son, born Wednesbury;

[8] Mary Massey (38), pawnbroker's assistant, born Chilmarsh, Shropshire;

[9] Harriet Bond (21), nurse, born Southam, Warwickshire;

[10] Elizabeth Edge (16), housemaid, born Wednesbury;

[11] Henry Minors (21), visitor, draper's assistant, born Nantyglo, Monmouthshire;

[12] James Young (39), visitor, provision merchant, born Abergavenny, Monmouthshire;

[13] Thomas Parker (27), visitor, provision merchant, born Abergavenny, Monmouthshire;

[14] William Bessant (32), visitor, tailor's foreman, born Bath;

[15] Eliza Bessant (26), visitor, born Albrighton, Shropshire;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/3/1852

“Tuesday, at Wednesbury Public Office, Henry Hodgkinson, the driver of Mr. William Doughty's omnibus, was charged by Inspector Blayney with furious driving, on the 13th instant, at Wednesbury. Mr. Holland appeared for the defendant.

The complainant had summoned the ostler at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN to prove the case, but on being put into the witness box he denied having seen furious driving at all.

The complainant then sent for Mr. *Charles Bill*, the landlord of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, who stated that defendant did gallop upon the day in question, to enable him to pass the Bridgnorth coach, which was before him. In answer to a question put by Mr. Holland, Mr. *Bill* at once admitted that he had been the means of causing the information to be laid against the defendant. It also appeared that there had been a misunderstanding for some time past between Mr. *Bill* and the defendant. After this explanation by Mr. Holland, the Bench suggested that the defendant should pay part of the expenses, and thus the matter ended.”

Birmingham Journal 4/12/1852 - Advert

“DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL INN, and Inland Revenue Office, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Old-Established Inn, doing the best Commercial Trade in the Town. The other Business includes the Excise and Beer-bond Meetings, Court Leet and Rent Audits, Turnpike Road Meetings, and Friendly and other Societies, numbering nearly 500 Members.

The present Proprietor is leaving solely in consequence of having taken the Lion Hotel. Kidderminster.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. *Charles Bill*, on the Premises.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/12/1852

“On Saturday last G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, held two inquests, one at the WHITE SWAN INN, Hill Top, and the other at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury, on the bodies respectively of Samuel Walker and William Pitt, miners, who at the time of their death, on the Thursday previous, were employed in Mr. Tildesley’s pit, Golds Green, Westbromwich. The deceased Walker was the ‘doggy,’ and went under that part of the pit whence workmen were ‘cutting’ coal, a quantity of which fell upon and crushed him to death. Pitt, the other deceased, and a third person, named Green, attempted to get the coal off Walker. Whilst so engaged a second fall occurred; Pitt was killed, and Green much injured. During the process of ‘cutting’ the coal was considered to be safely propped by two ‘spurns;’ these, however, gave way before the operation was completed, and hence the catastrophe.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 10/1/1853 - Advert

“Building Materials, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, on Monday the 24th day of January inst, at the house of Mr. *Charles Bill*, the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, at five o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced (by order of the Directors of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Railway Company).

Several lots of valuable Building Materials, consisting of Houses, Workshops, and other Outbuildings, together with some useful Machinery, situated at Lea Brook, Wednesbury, on both sides of the Turnpike Road to Tipton and Dudley, required to be taken down and immediately removed for the Line and Works of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Railway.....”

Birmingham Journal 26/2/1853 - Died

“On the 18th inst, Frank, youngest son of Mr. *Charles Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 12/3/1853

“Worcester Assizes Nisi Prius Court *Bill v Manley*.

An action to recover £200 deposit money. The plea for the defendant was that he was not indebted. Mr. *Bill* was an innkeeper at Wednesbury. Mr. Manley was only the nominal defendant, the real one being Mr. Brooks, of the Lion Hotel, Kidderminster.

Mr. Manley is the manager of the Stourbridge and Kidderminster Banking Company, with whom the sum in question was deposited in October last, under the following circumstances. Mr. Brooks being anxious to leave the Lion, a communication took place between him and Mr. *Bill*, and ultimately an agreement was entered into between them, by which Mr. *Bill* agreed to purchase all the household furniture, stock-in-trade, horses, carriages, brewing utensils, &c, at a valuation, each party to have a valuer; and if they should not agree, then an umpire would be chosen. Mr. *Bill* was to give £100 for the goodwill of the house. The valuation was not to exceed £1,500, including the £100; or if it exceeded £1,500, the stock was to be reduced to that amount by the withdrawal of some articles. The valuation was to be made by the first week of January, 1853, up to which time Mr. Brooks was to pay all rents and taxes. Both parties deposited £100 each as an earnest of the agreement, and whichever party should refuse to complete the agreement was to forfeit his £100 deposit. Lastly, the arrangement was to be null and void if Mr. Chadwick (steward of Lord Ward, the owner of the Lion) should refuse to accept Mr. *Bill* as tenant. After the execution of this agreement Mr. Brooks prevailed upon Mr. *Bill* to permit him to remove a part of the furniture, which had belonged to Mr. Brooks’s family, and was prized by him. When the time arrived for the valuation to be made, Mr. *Bill* and his valuer, Mr. Farrington, went to the Lion, to meet Mr. Brooks and his valuer, Mr. Saunders, and on their going over the Lion, they found to their surprise that not only the furniture above-mentioned, but about ten waggon loads of other furniture, had been removed contrary to the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Whateley (who was with Mr. Gray, for the plaintiff) contended that, after such an agreement made, the out-going proprietor had no right to select the best of the furniture, and whatever he chose, without the consent of the in-coming tenant, who might therefore be greatly damaged and impeded in his business; but that the valuation ought first to have been made, and if it exceeded £1,500, then the surplus goods might be removed by mutual consent of the contracting parties. Mr. *Bill* had given notice of his claim upon the £200 deposited in consequence of the agreement being broken by Mr. Brooks, but Mr. Manley declined to give up the money, and hence the present action.

A great number of witnesses were examined and cross-examined, as to the circumstances attending the valuation and the removal of goods.

Mr. Keating (with whom was Mr. Phipson) then addressed the Jury for the defence, and said that the real value of the stock, furniture, &c, at the Lion, was about £3,000; and that as the agreement was that the valuation was not to exceed £1,500, the withdrawal of the surplus was decidedly in accordance with the letter and spirit of the agreement;

moreover, that everything had been withdrawn with Mr. *Bill*'s consent. The plaintiff, however, had made a convenience of this transaction to suit his own affairs at Wednesbury; for not being able to dispose of his own business and stock, he wished to be off the agreement with Mr. Brooks; and his allegation that Mr. Brooks had broken the agreement, was merely a pretext for himself to do the same thing. A proof of this existed in the fact that when *Bill* complained of some of the things having been removed, Brooks offered to return whatever parts of the removed articles *Bill* might require, but the latter did not accept the offer, but immediately sent him a notice. The learned counsel called no witnesses.

His Lordship having summed up the evidence strongly in favour of the defendant, the jury returned a verdict for Mr. Manley."

Birmingham Journal 16/4/1853 - Advert

"To be Sold, cheap, an excellent Winding Engine, on the condensing principle, 21-inch Cylinder, 5-feet stroke, with a 12-feet round Boiler.

Apply to Mr. *Charles Bill*, DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury."

TO be SOLD, cheap, an excellent WINDING ENGINE, on the condensing principle, 21-inch Cylinder, 5-feet stroke, with a 12-feet round Boiler. — Apply to Mr. Charles Bill, Dartmouth Arms, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/1/1854

"On Monday evening last a numerously attended meeting of the supporters of Lord Paget was held at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury....."

[Lord Paget, Liberal, became MP for South Staffordshire in 1854, for three years.]

Birmingham Journal 2/6/1855

"On Tuesday last, Thomas Rowland, a man aged 35 years, employed on the Great Western Railway, as an excavator, met with his death under the following circumstances. Some waggons were being taken along a siding to the Willington Furnaces, for the purpose of being loaded with cinders, and the deceased was assisting in loading them. Having occasion to place a large cinder in one, he went between two of the waggons, and one of them moving deceased was crushed between the buffers. He was removed as soon as possible, but died shortly afterwards. The siding is upon an incline, and the waggons had been scotched. The one which moved had a cinder placed under the wheel, and no reason could be given for its starting; the loading of it had been completed, and the men had gone away from it.

The above facts were detailed in evidence, at an inquest held on Thursday last, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, and the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but they and the Coroner pointed out to the ganger or overlooker that he ought to take some effectual means of scotching the wheels of the waggon whilst they were being loaded, and they also considered that the practice of going between the buffers to load was a highly dangerous one."

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

"Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *C. Bill*, DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Holyhead Road."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/9/1855 - Advert

"Staffordshire. Southern Division.

Notice is hereby given, that Henry Selfe Selfe, of Lincolns Inn, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, having been duly nominated and appointed to Revise the Lists of Voters in the Election of Knights of the Shire for the Southern Division of the County of Stafford, will make a Circuit of the said Division and hold Courts for that purpose, at the several times and places underwritten.....

At Wednesbury, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, on Tuesday, the 9th day of October, 1855, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, for the parish of Wednesbury....."

Staffordshire Sentinel 1/11/1856

“The bi-monthly meeting of Wednesbury Local Board of Health was held on Monday evening.....

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. *Charles Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH INN, offering to supply offices to the board at a rent of £20 per annum, rates and taxes free. The Clerk said that Mr. Whitehouse of the TURKS HEAD, had requested his premises adjoining the Town Hall to be inspected for the purpose. Mr. Whitehouse would find a person to keep the rooms clean, and a store-room, &c, for £25 a year; or, if the board considered the rent too high, for a less sum. Some discussion ensued respecting land that had been purchased by the board at Church Hill, with the intention of building offices, washhouses, &c; but it was eventually arranged that a committee of the whole board should meet Messrs. *Bill* and Whitehouse on Friday next.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/11/1856

“Wednesbury Local Board of Health.....

Applications from Mr. *Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, and Mr. Whitehouse, of the TURKS HEAD, were made to let the Board offices on the termination of their present tenancy, and a committee of the whole Board was appointed to examine the rooms offered.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/2/1857

“Wednesbury Board of Health. The fortnightly meeting of this body was held on Monday evening.....

Mr. *Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, attended to complain that Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co. had placed a chain across Crankhall Lane for the purpose of connecting an engine-house with a pit. Horses passing under the chain were frightened, and he himself felt afraid to drive underneath it. It had been up a fortnight, and appeared to intended to be permanent. The Clerk, in reply to the chairman, stated that no application had been made to the Board for permission to put up this chain. The clerk was instructed to write to Messrs. Lloyds, Foster, and Co. directing them to remove the chain forthwith.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1857 - Advert

“Valuable Building Sites, fronting to the Holyhead Turnpike Road, and near to the South Staffordshire & Great Western Railway Stations, in the town of Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph Dawes, at the DARTMOUTH INN, in Wednesbury, on Wednesday, the twenty-seventh day of May, 1857, at five o'clock in the evening.....

Lots 1 to 15. Building Land.....

Lot 16. All that building, formerly occupied by Mr. William Horton, Architect, as Offices.....

Lot 17. All that Dwelling House, Outbuildings, Yard, and Shedding, lately occupied by Mr. Walter Horton, Timber Merchant.....

The last-mentioned lots are nearly opposite the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, and near to the corner of Dudley Street and the Holyhead Road.

The attention of small capitalists and others is called to the above sale, as the Land is situated in a very fast improving neighbourhood, in the best part of Wednesbury, near to numerous Iron and other Works, and on the great thoroughfare from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, Bilston, &c.”

Walsall Free Press 12/6/1858

“Peter Sullivan, an adroit and notorious Birmingham thief, who was arrested near to the pawnbroker's premises belonging to the landlord of the DARTMOUTH ARMS Public House, at about the time they were broken into, was summarily convicted for a month.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1858

“The professional gentlemen and others whose business avocations in Wednesbury and neighbourhood do not allow them to command their own time for pastime, formed themselves, in May last, into a Quoit Club. Having procured the necessary plant, they made an agreement for a piece of ground at Crankhall Farm, occupied by Mr. *Charles Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Holyhead Road; and during the evenings of the summer months the members of the club enjoyed themselves at the manly and classic game. Thursday afternoon last was selected as the wind-up of the season; there was a more than usually strong muster of the club. At the conclusion of the day's sport, the members, with their friends, returned to town and partook of a sumptuous repast, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL.....

After the cloth was drawn, the Chairman, in proposing 'Prosperity to the Wednesbury Quoit Club,' congratulated his fellow members on the very pleasant and happy evenings spent at the quoit ground. For himself, he had enjoyed the fresh breeze and the open landscape scenery as highly as any man. With their quoit ground, distant from the town scarcely two miles, they were clear of the smoke of public works, and bordered upon a purely agricultural district..... Mr. John Wood, in a neat speech, gave 'The Host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Bill*,' whose catering on the present occasion, and attention to the 'creature comforts' of the members at Crankhall Farm on all occasions, were worthy of every praise. Mr. *Bill* suitably replied. A number of other toasts were drunk; and altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/12/1858

"At the fortnightly meeting of Wednesbury Board of Health, held on Monday evening last.....

Mr. *Charles Bill* waited on the Board, and again complained of the state of Crankhall Lane, and claimed £2 5s, the damage sustained by his car being broken through the badness of the road. A sharp personal encounter took place between him and the Chairman, and the matter was referred to the Highway Committee."

Birmingham Journal 18/12/1858 - Married

"On the 13th inst, at the District Church of St James, Wednesbury (by the Rev. R. Twigg, assisted by the Rev. W. H. Hyde), Mr. Fleetwood James Cannell, to Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. *Charles Bill*, DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/12/1858

"County Court.....

Late on Wednesday evening the running down case, Tipper Brothers against *Bill*, partly heard last Court, was gone into at length. The case had been adjourned from the previous Court because of an informality in one of the summonses. Mr. Claydon, barrister, instructed by Mr. Harding, of Birmingham, was for the plaintiffs; and Mr. Ebsworth, of the firm of Duignan and Ebsworth, of Walsall, was for the defendant.

The plaintiffs, William and James Tipper, reside at West Bromwich; and the defendant, Mr. Joseph [sic] *Bill*, is the landlord of the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury. The collision took place last Wednesbury wake Sunday, at half-past ten at night, at Holloway Bottom, near Wednesbury. Plaintiffs' vehicle was driven by themselves; defendant's trap by Richard Green, defendant's servant. There were riding in the former the two Mrs. Tipper, and two children, in addition to the plaintiffs, and in the latter there accompanied Green, James Wealdon, the beadle of Walsall, and his son. The action was brought to recover £8 14s, being £6 6s for the destruction of plaintiffs' conveyance, 15s for damage to the harness, and £1 10s for the damage which the ladies' attire sustained. The collision was very violent, the plaintiffs' vehicle being, it was alleged, 'smashed to atoms,' only the wheels and axletrees remaining serviceable. Of course the pleasure takers, who had previously ridden in this wreck, were thrown out, and also were 'the Beadle of Walsall,' his son, and Richard Green, who were travelling in the other. Defendant's trap was coming from Birmingham, while that of the plaintiffs was returning from Wednesbury. The plaintiffs' case was that Green was drunk, and driving on his wrong side; whilst for the defence the contrary in both respects was maintained. The pleadings on each side were supported by a long array of witnesses, the plaintiffs having no fewer than fourteen present. On the defendant's behalf four were examined. The opposing testimonies were of the most conflicting nature, and the hearing of the case occupied the attention of the Court a long while. His Honour having heard the evidence and the arguments on both sides, reserved judgement until the next sitting of the Court."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/1/1859

"The following judgement has been given by Serjeant Clarke in the case of Tipper v *Bill*, heard at the last Court. 'The parties (as is usual in such cases), flatly contradicted each other, especially upon what appears to me to be in the present case the fact upon which the verdict must depend, that is to say, as to which of them was on his wrong side. There is, however, a fact given in evidence, and not contradicted, which, unless there is gross perjury, appears to decide the question, and that is the fact spoken to by the two Wheldons, father and son, that the father on the collision was thrown against the rails on the defendant's right side, and the son was thrown over them into a hollow on the same side. It appears to me that this could not have happened if the defendant's trap, upon which the Wheldons were riding, had been overturned on the opposite (its wrong) side, considering especially that the road was 30 feet wide at that place. I think, however, that both parties were somewhat in the wrong. I conclude from the

evidence that both were driving faster than was prudent at that time of the night, and that neither had lamps. Taking all these matters into consideration, I give judgement for the defendant, without costs.' Mr. Claydon appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Ebsworth for defendant."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1859 - Advert

"Wanted, a sober Man, of good character, as Ostler and Carman, and to go out with Funeral Carriages. Apply at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a sober Man, of good character, as OSTLER and CARMAN, and to go out with Funeral Carriages.—Apply at the Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/4/1859 - Advert

"Sale of the Vicarage House, Garden, and Outbuildings, at Wednesbury.

Joseph Dawes and Son will Sell by Auction (by the direction of the Vicar of Wednesbury, and with the consent of the Patron and Ordinary of the Benefice, and of the Archbishop of the Province), on Thursday, the 19th of May, 1859, at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, at six o'clock in the evening....."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/7/1859 - Advert

"Notice is Hereby Given, that the Next Meeting of the Trustees for Repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to Wednesbury and to Great Bridge, and from thence to the Portway adjoining the Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Road, and to Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the counties of Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford, will be held at the house of *Charles Bill*, situate at Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, known by the name of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, on Wednesday, the 20th day of July next, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of appointing new Trustees and transacting other business. Clemt. Ingleby, Clerk to the said Trustees. Birmingham, June 30th, 1859."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/9/1859 - Advert

"Wanted, a respectable Person as Barmaid and to attend in a Liquor Shop.

Personal application to be made at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a respectable Person as BAR-MAID and to attend in a Liquor Shop—Personal application to be made at the Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/9/1859

"Robert Smith, an agricultural servant, in the employment of Mr. *Charles Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, was charged with leaving his master's service without having given the usual notice, 14 days, and in default of not having done so was sent to Stafford for 14 days."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/11/1859 - Advert

"Railway Surplus Lands, Third Sale. Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, Tomorrow (Tuesday), November 15, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then produced.

Various lots of Freehold Building Land and other Property, lying between the lines of the Great Western and South Staffordshire Railways, and the Darlaston Branch of the South Staffordshire Railway at Wednesbury, close to the Stations of each, and having frontages to Dudley Street, Portway Road, the approaches to the Great Western Station, and the new laid-out street therefrom to the town."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/2/1860 - Advert

"Important Sale of Live and Dead Farming Stock, at Marsh Lane Farm, West Bromwich, adjoining the New Cemetery.

To be Sold by Auction, by Fallows and Smith (by order of Mr. *Charles Bill*, who is giving up the Farm), on Monday the 5th day of March next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

The whole of the Live and Dead Farming Stock; comprising six powerful waggon Horses and their tackle, very fast young Pony, Alderney and other Cows, Sow and Pigs, five store Pigs, two 6-inch Waggons and gearing, liquid manure and other Carts (nearly new), light Spring Trap, quantity of gig and other Harness and Tackle, rick-sheet, poles, wood and iron Ploughs, land roll, winnowing machine, patent Chaff Engine, quantity of wood hurdles and fencing, about 200 tons of excellent manure, large quantity of Tools of all descriptions, and numerous other effects; particulars of which may be had in catalogues, to be obtained at the Auctioneers' office, 14, Temple Row, Birmingham; the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury; and at the place of sale."

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/6/1860

“At the weekly meeting of Wednesbury Local Board of Heath, held on Monday evening last.....

Mr. *Charles Bill*, waited upon the Board to ask then to re-consider their refusal to allow him to bring out his building opposite the DARTMOUTH ARMS 4ft. The proposal was decidedly objected to, as by granting Mr. *Bill*'s request his building would be in advance of the general line of building.”

Charles Bill was also licensed to let horses. [1861]

1861 Census

Holyhead Road – DARTMOUTH ARMS

- [1] *Charles Bill* (50), innkeeper and pawnbroker, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Bill* (44), wife, born Southam, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Elizabeth Bill* (16), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Frederic Bill* (15), son, solicitor's articled clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Kate Bill* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Ann Bill* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Frank Bill* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Alfred E. Bill* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Mary Massey* (47), pawnbroker's assistant, born Chelmarsh, Shropshire;
- [10] *Caroline Griffiths* (22), nurse, born Lewis, Shropshire;
- [11] *Mary Ann Bray* (19), waitress, born Birmingham;
- [12] *Sophia Lowe* (20), chambermaid, born Wednesbury;
- [13] *Diana Fellowes* (26), cook, born Wednesbury;
- [14] *Henry Moulson* (35), lodger, commercial traveller, edge tools, born Sheffield:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/12/1861 - Deaths

“On the 23rd inst, Ada, youngest daughter of Mr. *Charles Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/4/1862

“The annual vestry meeting for the election of churchwardens for Wednesbury parish was held on Monday evening, the Rev. J. Lyons, vicar, in the chair. Mr. *Charles Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, was appointed vicar's warden, and Mr. Samuel Perry was elected people's warden. There was not any opposition.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/5/1862 - Advert

“Phaeton, suitable for a Pony about 13 hands. To be Sold for £15. Has a turn-over seat, moveable child's seat in front, back-rest, lamps, rugs, and cover complete, and in excellent condition.

Apply to the Ostler at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

PHAETON, suitable for a Pony about 13 hands. To be SOLD for £15. Has a turn-over seat, moveable child's seat in front, back-rest, lamps, rugs, and cover complete, and in excellent condition.—Apply to the Ostler at the Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1862

“Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

James Palmer, on bail, was charged with stealing a coat and rug, the property of Thomas Jones, of Wednesbury. Mr. Vaughan conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Staveley Hill defended the prisoner.

The prosecutor is a cattle dealer at Shrewsbury. On the 8th of April he sent word that his horse and trap were to meet him at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury. The trap was accordingly sent, and was left at the door of the hotel, in charge of a lad named Richard Taylor, the coat and the rug being thrown over the horse. While Taylor was standing on one side of the horse he saw the prisoner come to the other side, draw the coat and rug off the horse's back, and run away with them down the street.

The defence set up by Mr. Hill was that the prisoner found the articles in question, and called witnesses to prove that he told several persons next morning that if they heard any enquiries they must say where the articles were.

The prisoner was found not guilty.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/8/1862 - Advert

“Old Police Station, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

Messrs. C. and H. Gillard will Sell by Auction, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Thursday, the fourth day of September, 1862, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/11/1862 - Advert

"Wanted a steady industrious Man as Ostler and Carman, who can undertake Blackwork. Also, a Youth, about sixteen, as Boots. Good character indispensable. Apply at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED a steady industrious Man as OSTLER and CARMAN, who can undertake Blackwork. Also, a Youth, about sixteen, as BOOTS. Good character indispensable. Apply at the Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/12/1862

"On Monday last, the Royal Insurance Company's Fire Brigade and engine visited Darlaston, Moxley, Gospel Oak, Toll End, Great Bridge, Dudley Port, and West Bromwich, for practice. The brigade afterwards dined together at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, and made a subscription of 1s each in aid of the Lancashire Relief Fund."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/3/1863

"Warwickshire Lent Assizes Nisi Prius Court *Jervoise v Bill*."

The plaintiff was Sir Jervoise Clark Jervoise, Bart; and the defendant, Mr. *Charles Bill*, publican, Wednesbury, was formerly one of his tenants. The plaintiff in the declaration claimed £57 2s 9d, money payable on an account stated; and in answer the defendant pleaded that a certain agreement set aside the claim, and as well pleaded the general issue. Mr. Field and the Hon. E. C. Leigh were retained for the plaintiff, Mr. Stephens appeared for the defendant. The sum sought to be recovered was for half a year's rent of two farms, known as the March Lane and Whittington Meadows, in Staffordshire, which were occupied by the defendant. The agreement which the defendant pleaded was the decision of three arbitrators who were appointed to settle disputes between the parties. The farms in question were a portion of extensive property belonging to the family of the plaintiff, and had been for many years under the management of Mr. William Oliver, a solicitor, of London, who visited them and all the property about once in every six months. The term for which the defendant occupied the farms expired on the 25th of March, 1860, at which time he had not paid his rent for the last half year. Disputes arose between Mr. Oliver and the defendant, the latter claiming deductions for a large quantity of manure, and the former denying the justice of this claim, and also alleging that the defendant had over-cropped the farms and had been guilty of a series of dilapidations thereon. Consequently Mr. Oliver submitted that the defendant was not entitled to any deductions; but as the matter could not be settled, three arbitrators, Mr. Fallows, of Birmingham (now deceased), Mr. Fowler, junior, of Birmingham, and Mr. Margetts, of Warwick, were appointed. That reference was made on the 23rd of March, which was two days before the half year's rent was due. The arbitrators met in August of the same year, and then and afterwards went into the matter, and they eventually made an award that there was a sum of £6 7s 10d due to Mr. *Bill*. Afterwards the plaintiff, through Mr. Oliver, applied for the half year's rent. Mr. *Bill*, however, asserted that the claim was included in the decision of the arbitrators, but as the plaintiff was confident that such was not the case, this action was commenced. During the examination of the plaintiff's witnesses, a number of legal objections were taken as to the action having been brought without first having the award of the arbitrators set aside, and as to the admissibility of the greater part of the evidence. Ultimately, his Lordship directed the jury to find a verdict for the defendant, and gave the plaintiff leave to move the Court above."

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/7/1863

"Edwin Smith, the lessee of the tolls on the Walsall and Wednesbury turnpike road, living at the tollgate at Woodgreen, was charged with illegally taking toll from a waggoner of Mr. *Charles Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, on a load of gas-lime. This case, it will be remembered, was partially heard before Mr. Spooner a fortnight ago, but was adjourned for production of scientific evidence, as a dispute arose whether the compound 'gas-lime' was bona fide lime or not. If it came under the head of lime, it was liable to be charged half toll; but if it was manure, no toll could be exacted.

Mr. Bayley appeared for the complainant, and called Mr. Alfred Bird, pharmaceutical chemist, Worcester Street, Birmingham, who explained the process which this lime underwent at the gas works to purify the gas. He stated that it then lost all the properties of quick-lime, and became sulphate of lime, a different substance altogether. Lime in its original state would destroy grass, but this compound, gas-lime, acted as a fertiliser on grass land. Gas-lime could not be used for any of the purposes of quick-lime; nor could it be burnt again into lime.

Mr. *Bill*, the complainant, proved that he used this load of gas-lime as manure. He never used it as lime; nor could it answer any of the purposes of lime. He had it from Messrs. Lloyd and Foster's gas works, and it was charged 1s per ton. Quick-lime cost 10s 6d per ton.

The learned Stipendiary ordered defendant to restore the amount of toll he had taken to Mr. *Bill*."

In February 1864 *Charles Bill* catered for the coming of age celebration of John Thomas Eades Walker, eldest son of Mr. Thomas Walker, founder of the Brunswick Works, which became the Patent Shaft and Axletree Works. 1,200 workers attended, housed in a temporary structure erected in the yard at the works, 160ft by 60ft. 2,000lbs of roast beef and 160 plum puddings, 7lbs each, were cooked.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1864

“Mr. E. Hooper, the district Coroner, yesterday held an inquest at the house of Mr. *Bill*, the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, on the body of Edith Kesiah Abbott, aged fifteen months, who had died in a very sudden manner on the morning of the 17th instant.

Mary Ann Bissell stated that she had lived as servant with the mother of the deceased. Her master was Mr. William Abbott, a carpenter, whose wife was in ill-health. Witness had known the deceased child from her birth; she was ill a month or five weeks since, and she took her to Mr. John Garman, who gave her a bottle of medicine and a powder. The child became better, and went on improving until Wednesday morning, when, about nine o'clock, after she had been brought down stairs, and placed on a sofa, the deceased began to hold her breath. Witness ran for Mrs. Sillitoe, a neighbour, on whose lap the child died in about twenty minutes. Mr. Garman was sent for, and immediately attended. The deceased had had a teaspoonful of castor oil at eight o'clock the night before her death. The child's mother was ill in bed on Wednesday morning.

Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon, said that the deceased had been taken to his surgery five weeks before, suffering from an ordinary cold on the chest. He prescribed for it, but there was no danger to be then apprehended. On the morning of its death witness was sent for, and when he arrived the child had been dead for a few minutes. The body presented the appearance of a well-nourished and healthy child. There was nothing to indicate that death had resulted from other than natural causes. The disease called croup had been very prevalent in the town, and in the present cold weather might have proved suddenly fatal.

The Coroner said that if it were desired by the Jury he would adjourn the enquiry to afford time for a post mortem examination to be made. The Jury said that they were thoroughly satisfied, and found a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1864

“Yesterday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, opened an enquiry at the house of Mr. *Charles Bill*, the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, touching the death of a child about one year and eight months old, named Dora Colley, the daughter of Mr. W. Colley, wheelwright, Holyhead Road. It seemed from the evidence that on Friday afternoon last, about half past four o'clock, a man named James Hill was engaged in laying down some drain pipes upon Mr. Colley's premises, and had occasion to take one of the yard gates from its hinge. The unhinged gate he placed against the opposite gate, and was standing talking to Mr. Colley when suddenly the loose gate fell upon the deceased, who had been playing about the yard, and crushed the child against a bucket over which she had been leaning. Her stomach and face were seriously injured. Mr. Garman, surgeon, was sent for, and his assistant promptly attended, but the little sufferer expired about ten o'clock on the same night. It did not appear that there was a high wind at the time of the lamentable occurrence, or that the gate was shaken by a passing vehicle. The father of the deceased, however, did not attribute blame to any person. The Jury leant to the same opinion, and at once returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1864

“An inquest was held at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, on Saturday, before Mr. E. Hooper, the District Coroner, on the body of Margaret Roach (44). Deceased was the wife of a tinsmith, residing in Dudley Street. She has been very intemperate for months, drinking spirits to a frightful excess. On Thursday night she retired to bed the worse for drink. On the next morning her step-son, a lad of 12, who lived in the house, called the neighbours in, as deceased would not get up. She had been dead some time. The husband had been away for more than a week. The Coroner said that if the Jury were not satisfied he would adjourn the inquest to have the benefit of medical evidence. If they thought the deceased died from drinking they must return a verdict to that effect, as the Government were very particular as to the verdicts in these cases. The Jury expressed themselves perfectly satisfied, and returned a verdict of Died from Excessive Drinking.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady, sober, active Man, as Ostler and Carman, not under 30, who can be well recommended, and has been accustomed to black work. Also, a Youth, about 17, as Boots. Apply, personally, DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a steady, sober, active MAN, as Ostler and Carman, not under 30, who can be well recommended, and has been accustomed to black work. Also, a YOUTH, about 17, as Boots.-- Apply, personally, Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury.

Elizabeth Bill (20), spinster, Wednesbury, father *Charles Bill*, hotel keeper, married John Webster Williams (27), bachelor, vocalist, Bloomsbury, London, on 6th February 1865.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/2/1865 - Marriages

“On the 6th instant, at the Parish Church, Wednesbury, by the Rev. John Lyons, vicar, John Webster Williams, of London, to Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr. *Charles Bill*, of Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/4/1865

“Yesterday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, on the body of Joseph Birch, sixty-six years old, a gardener, living in the Holyhead Road.

About eleven weeks ago the deceased was struck on the head with a poker by his son-in-law, John Stokes, and for about a week he was under the care of Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon. He then went to work, and continued to discharge his duties until Saturday week, when he complained of being unwell. On the following Monday, Mr. Wilson Moore, surgeon, was called in, and that gentleman continued in attendance on the deceased until Friday last, when death took place, the surgeon certifying bronchitis as the cause. A rumour got abroad, however, that the old man's death was due to the son-in-law's violence, and accordingly an enquiry was ordered. It was shown to the satisfaction of the Coroner and Jury that the rumour was without foundation, and a verdict was therefore returned to the effect that the deceased died from Natural Causes. By request of the Jury, Stokes was called in, and censured by the Coroner for his treatment of the deceased.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/5/1865

“At the Walsall County Court, on Wednesday, Mr. *Charles Bill*, of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, sued Messrs. Woodward and Sons, solicitors, for the sum of £9 5s 9d, being the value of wines and liquors supplied to persons who attended a sale by auction at the plaintiff's house. Mr. Bayley appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Ebsworth for the defendant.

The plaintiff's case was that early in August last Mr. Woodward, senior, engaged a large room at his house for the purpose of a sale by auction on the 31st of the same month. On the night of the sale about eighty persons assembled, and by the instructions of the auctioneer, Mr. Whitehouse, they were supplied with wines and liquors, amounting in value to the sum claimed. At the close of the sale Mr. Woodward requested the plaintiff to send the bill to his office, but on receiving it he at first objected to pay it on the ground that the charges were exorbitant, and afterwards denied the liability of his firm altogether.

The defendant's case was that they neither engaged the room, nor requested the bill for refreshments to be sent to their office; and that they merely defended the action for the purpose of protecting their client from exorbitant charges.

His Honour gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £9, taking off the residue, 5s 6d, on account of it being irrecoverable under the Tippling Act.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/6/1865 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Contract, owing to the present Proprietor retiring from business, the Lease, Goodwill, and Possession of that well-known Commercial Hotel and Inland Revenue Office, the DARTMOUTH ARMS, centrally situated, and in close proximity to the two railway stations, and all the extensive gas tube, railway, and other manufactories, in the very improving town of Wednesbury, to which is attached an excellent Funeral Carriage and Cab Department. In-coming from £1,000 to £1,200.

Apply, Roderick and Son, 35, Cherry Street; or to Mr. *Charles Bill*, on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1865 - Advert

“By Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson, at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, This Day, at Six o'clock. Freehold Mining or Building Estate, called Mesty Croft, near Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1865 - Advert

“Ostler and Carman. Wanted, a sober and industrious Man, with character.

Apply personally, at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

OSTLER and CARMAN.—WANTED, a sober and industrious MAN, with character.—Apply personally, at the Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/11/1865 - Advert

“Birmingham and Wednesbury Turnpike Roads. Tolls to be Let.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads leading from Birmingham to Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and from thence to the Portway, adjoining the Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Road, and to Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the counties of Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford, will be Let by Auction, to the best bidder, at the house of *Charles Bill*, situated at Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and known by the name of the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, on Friday, the 1st day of December next, between the hours of Twelve at noon and two in the afternoon, in the manner directed by the Acts passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, ‘For regulating Turnpike Roads;’ which Tolls produced the last year, at the Gates hereafter mentioned – namely, Soho Hill, Threemile Oak, Great Bridge, Gospel Oak and Fire Holes, Holloway Bank and Kings Hill Field, and Burnt Tree, the sum of £5,753 above the expense of collecting, and will be put up at such sum as the Trustees shall think fit.

Whoever happens to be the best bidder must at the same time pay one month’s rent in advance, and give security, with two sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for payment of the rent agreed for, and at such times as they shall direct.

G. P. Wragge, Wm. Evans, Clerks to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads.

Birmingham, 31st October, 1865.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/6/1866

“The Rev. Chancellor Law has issued a prohibition of the making of graves or vaults within twelve feet of the wall of the parish church of Wednesbury. This action has been taken on the complaint of Mr. Edward Blakemore, one of the churchwardens, that in June last year a grave or vault was made within three feet and three inches of the north-west corner of the north aisle of the church, in such a position as to endanger the fabric. The prohibition has been served on the vicar (the Rev. John Lyons), Mr. *Charles Bill* (churchwarden), Mr. Thomas Parkes (parish clerk), and Mr. Abel Malborn (sexton).”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1866

“On Friday, Mr. Granville Somerset, revising barrister for the southern division of the county of Stafford, held his court at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, for the revision of the lists of voters in that parish.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/7/1867 - Advert

“DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury.

Wanted, immediately, a good Plain Cook.”

DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, WEDNESBURY.—WANTED, immediately, a good Plain COOK.

George Street was also a car proprietor. [1868], [1870]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/7/1868

“The first anniversary of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Friendly and Protection Society took place on Thursday evening, at the house of Mr. *George Street*, the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, when about seventy gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner, under the presidency of Mr. Councillor Wadhams.....”

Dublin Medical Press 15/7/1868

“At a meeting of the medical profession of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, held at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, July 2nd, 1868, it was resolved, ‘That taking into consideration the introduction of medical men into portions of these districts, who are acting contrary to the unanimous resolution of the profession, we pledge ourselves neither to meet them professionally nor socially; and we further pledge ourselves not to consent to meet in consultation any physician or surgeon who recognises them. That a copy of the foregoing resolution be forwarded to the consulting physicians and surgeons of Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and to the *Medical Press and Circular*, *Lancet* and *Medical Times*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1868

"Yesterday, Mr. J. Kynnersley Smythies, Revising Barrister, held a court at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Mr. Ferne, of Stafford, Mr. Seaman, and Mr. W. A. Green, of Wolverhampton, represented the Conservatives, and Mr. L. W. Lewis, of Walsall, the Liberals. There were no party objections, and nothing transpired of any interest to the public."

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/10/1868 - Advert

"County of Stafford. Weights and Measures. District C, or South Staffordshire.....

I hereby give notice that I shall attend at the under-mentioned 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.....

DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, at Wednesbury, on Tuesdays, Nov 3rd, Dec 1st and 22nd, 1868, at ten o'clock am."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/10/1868 - Advert

"To Butchers, Dealers, and Others.

Peremptory Sale (Under an Execution), at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury (Removed for convenience of sale), on Monday Next, October 26th, at Two o'clock in the afternoon, by R. L. Courtney, comprising five Barren Cows, handsome Gray Cob, an excellent worker, good hack, and warranted sound; one Stirk, Cob and Pony Harness, Hackney Saddles, Bridles, capital Irish Jaunting Car, &c; all of which will positively be sold without reserve."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/6/1869

"The second anniversary of Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Friendly and Protection Society was held yesterday evening, at Mr. *George Street*'s DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury....."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/6/1869 - Advert

"The DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold (by direction of Mr. *George Street*, who has taken a Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Business in Birmingham), the Lease, Goodwill, and Possession of the above compact, excellent, and well-known Hotel, now doing a profitable business.

Coming-in about £800.

Anyone in search of a compact, paying, easily-managed Hotel, will find this a good opportunity.

Apply to the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/7/1869 - Advert

"The DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold by Auction (by direction of Mr. *George Street*, who has taken a Wine and Spirit Business in Birmingham), on the Premises, on Tuesday, August 10th, 1869, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions, and unless an acceptable offer be previously made by Private Contract.

The Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the important Old-established Family and Commercial Hotel known as the DARTMOUTH ARMS, for many years carried on with unvaried success, and now doing an extensive, respectable, and highly remunerative trade.

The Offices of the Commissioners of Taxes, of the Inland Revenue, and of the Inspector of Weights and Measures, are upon the premises, and an important Masonic Lodge is attached. The valuation will be about £700, and the concern is one in which any attentive man of business will rapidly realise a fortune.

For further particulars, apply on the Premises, or to the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/9/1869

"Freemasonry. The annual festival of the Lodge of St. Bartholomew (No.696), was held at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, on the 21st inst, at three o'clock, when Brother Benjamin Bayliss was installed as WM for the ensuing year, and the following brethren were appointed officers of the lodge.....

The ceremony of installation was performed in a most able and efficient manner by Past Master Bro. Captain Stubbs, and after the other business of the lodge was gone through, the very interesting ceremony took place of presenting Bro. Stubbs with a testimonial, consisting of two very elegant and valuable gold jewels, as Past Master of the lodge, and Past Provincial Grand Junior Deacon of Staffordshire, accompanied with an address, beautifully engrossed upon

vellum, lined with white silk, and bound as a roll in violet morocco and gold. The gift was the spontaneous offering of the WM and officers of the lodge for the past year, who have felt themselves deeply indebted to Bro. Stubbs for his valuable assistance and instruction in the conduct of the business of the lodge.....

After the ceremony was concluded, and the Lodge closed, the brethren sat down to a most elegant and sumptuous banquet, provided by Brother *Street*, which was of a most recherche character, and called forth the marked approval and commendation of all present. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the brethren separated at an early hour."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/12/1869 - Advert

"Notice. The Sale of Plough, Carts, Furniture, &c, Advertised to be Sold at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, This Day (Tuesday), is Postponed.

Edward B. Scholefield, Auctioneer."

NOTICE.
THE SALE of PLOUGH, CARTS, FURNITURE,
&c., &c., to be Sold at the Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury,
This Day (Tuesday), is POSTPONED.
EDWARD B. SCHOLEFIELD, Auctioneer.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/12/1869 - Advert

"Wanted, a good Plain Cook.

Apply, DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a good Plain COOK.—Apply, Dartmouth Arms
Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1870 - Advert

"The DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Wednesbury.

An Ordinary Every Day at One o'clock.

James Birch, Proprietor."

THE DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL
HOTEL,
WEDNESBURY.
AN ORDINARY EVERY DAY AT ONE O'CLOCK.
JAMES BIRCH, Proprietor.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/3/1870 - Advert

"Wednesbury. The Eagle Works, Steam Engine, Machinery and Two Dwelling Houses.

Messrs. Aston, Sollom, and Barnett will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 5th day of April, 1870, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the evening....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/7/1870

"The third anniversary of Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Society was celebrated yesterday by a dinner at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, kept by Mr. *James Birch*....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/7/1870 - Advert

"Wanted, a steady young Man, as Boots.

Apply, DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a steady young Man as BOOTS.—Apply, Dartmouth
Arms Hotel, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

172, Holyhead Road – DARTMOUTH HOTEL

[1] *James Birch* (33), licensed victualler, born Sutton Coldfield;

[2] *Mary Ann Birch* (32), wife, born Sutton Coldfield;

[3] *Henry James Birch* (2), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Emma Birch* (11 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Emma Birch* (25), sister, barmaid, born Sutton Coldfield;

[6] *Elizabeth Eliza Tandy* (24), waitress, born Walsall;

[7] *Sarah Ann Lloyd* (30), cook, born Wolverhampton;

[8] *Mary Ann Grove* (24), chambermaid, born Oldbury;

[9] *Sarah Bailey* (16), general servant, born Darlaston;

[10] *Mary Church* (15), nursemaid, born Sedgley;

[11] *Francis Wiltshire* (20), boarder, attorney's general clerk, born Abingdon:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/4/1871 - Advert

"Sale of Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, Holyhead Road, and Queen Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Samuel Baker, on Tuesday, the 9th of May next, at the house of Mr. *Birch*, DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the Evening....."

Morning Advertiser 6/7/1871

"The fourth anniversary dinner in connection with the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Protection Society was held on Tuesday afternoon, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/7/1871 - Advert

"Royal Agricultural Society of England.

Wolverhampton Show, 1871.

The DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Wednesbury.

Only Ten Minutes from Wolverhampton by Rail.

An Ordinary Every Day at One o'clock.

A Large Stock Room.

James Birch, Proprietor."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/8/1871 - Advert

"Wanted, a respectable Young Person as Barmaid.

Apply at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a respectable Young Person, as BARMAID.—
Apply at the Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/8/1871 - Advert

"Wanted, a Waitress.

Apply at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a WAITRESS.—Apply at the Dartmouth Arms
Hotel, Wednesbury.

James Birch, DARTMOUTH ARMS commercial hotel and posting house, wine and spirit merchant, car and coach proprietor, inland revenue office (2 minutes' walk from the Railway Stations), Holyhead Road. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1872 - Advert

"Wanted, respectable Young Person, as Nurse.

Apply at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, respectable Young PERSON, as Nurse.—Apply at
the Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1872

"A large meeting of colliery engineers was held on Saturday night at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury. A long discussion took place with reference to the question of selecting Wednesbury as the head-quarters of the agitation, but eventually it was agreed to leave it for decision at a delegate meeting to be held at Great Bridge this day. At the same meeting a memorial will be adopted for presentation to the employers at Birmingham on Thursday."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/3/1872 - Advert

"Wanted, an experienced Cook.

Apply, DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, an experienced COOK.—Apply, Dartmouth Arms
Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/3/1872 - Advert

"Wanted, a thoroughly-experienced Waitress, not under 25 years of age.

Apply, personally, DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury

WANTED, a thoroughly-experienced WAITRESS, not under
25 years of age.—Apply, personally, Dartmouth Arms Hotel,
Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1872 - Advert

"Wanted, an Under Housemaid, to Assist in Laundry.

Apply, personally, DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury

WANTED, an UNDER HOUSEMAID, to Assist in Laundry.
—Apply, personally, Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednes-
bury.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1872

"Yesterday an important point touching the right of a landlord to entertain his relatives after the hours of closing was submitted for decision at the Wednesbury Police Court, the Magistrates present being Messrs. T. Jesson and S. Lloyd. The defendant was Mr. *James Birch*, of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, who was charged with having unlawfully allowed intoxicating liquors to be consumed on his premises, at half-past ten o'clock on Sunday night.

Police-constable Johnson deposed that at half-past ten o'clock on Sunday night he saw four persons leave the defendant's house. In company with Police-constable Sanders he then visited the premises, and found two ladies standing at the bar, and in the parlour two gentlemen and one lady sitting down, with two glasses about half-full of spirits and a decanter containing wine on the table. He spoke to the landlord, who said they were all his brothers-

in-law and sisters-in-law, and gave their names and addresses. Witness said he thought the landlord had done wrong in supplying anything to drink after hours, and Mr. *Birch* replied that after carefully reading the new Act he believed he was justified in so doing. He also said it would be the constable's duty to report the matter.

Mr. Ebsworth, who appeared for the defence, said the facts were not disputed, but it was maintained that the defendant had not violated the Act. He cited sections of the Act in support of his view, relying particularly upon the words setting forth that unless a person found in a licensed house after the hours of closing shall satisfy the Court that he was an inmate, servant, or lodger in such premises, or a bona fide traveller, or 'that otherwise his presence on such premises was not in contravention of the provisions of this act with respect to the closing of premises,' he shall be liable to a penalty.

He further cited the case of *Overton v Horton*, reported in the *Law Journal* as bearing out his contention, and said it would be monstrous to hold that the private guests of a landlord were not to be allowed to have refreshments after the hour of closing simply because he happened to be a seller of drink. If that were so, a landlord who had friends to dinner with him, say at two o'clock on a Sunday, would not by the time dinner was over be able to place wine before his visitors. In this case it was a family reunion, held in accordance with annual practice on the wake Sunday; and the defendant had committed no offence, for although the Act said a publican must close his house at ten o'clock on a Sunday (which is done in this case), there was no law which laid down such a startling proposition as that he should turn his relatives into the street at that hour, or lock-up his decanters.

Mr. *Birch* was then called, and he named the persons in the house, and described their relationship to him or his wife, and the circumstances under which they had met.

The Clerk, in the course of a brief conversation which took place, said that, supposing the strict and literal interpretation of the Act was to be adopted, he agreed with Mr. Ebsworth's remarks as to the hardship of the case. He and the magistrates then retired for a time, and on their return into Court the Clerk said, 'I have referred to the case *Overton v Horton*, quoted by Mr. Ebsworth, and, as I expected, find it was a case under which a publican was charged with actually selling spirits after the prohibited hours, there not being in the Act under which the case was framed any words corresponding with the words in this Act, 'allowing intoxicating liquors to be consumed.' However, the Magistrates are of opinion that to hold that a publican is prohibited from supplying refreshments to his own personal friends after the prohibited hours would be a matter of great hardship to him. They do not think that could have been the intention of the Legislature, and until they are corrected by authority they cannot enforce that construction of the Act against the publican. At the same time, they think the police have done quite right in bringing the case before them, and that it will be their duty to examine closely all such cases, in order that they may not be made the medium of abuses.'

The summons was then dismissed, and a large number of persons who had assembled to hear the decision dispersed."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/3/1873 - Advert

"Wanted, a good strong Girl, as Housemaid.

Apply, *James Birch*, DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a good strong Girl, as Housemaid. --Apply, *James Birch*, Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Mail 23/7/1873

"On Monday evening private meetings were held at the GEORGE HOTEL, Walsall, and the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, for the purpose of forming committees to secure the return of Mr. Allsop; and yesterday Mr. Allsop was prosecuting his canvas in Walsall – where he went among the farmers and others in the Corn Market – and in Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/8/1873

"Henry Wardle, a vendor of medicine, who described himself as a 'doctor of medicine,' was summoned at the instance of Mr. *James Birch*, landlord of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Holyhead Road, for refusing to quit his house on the night of the 21st inst.

Evidence was given that on the night in question, and in the absence of Mr. *Birch*, the defendant was driven to the DARTMOUTH HOTEL in his usual travelling equipage, namely, a vehicle drawn by two horses, and accompanied by his footman and a man in Highland costume, who is no doubt found very useful in attracting a crowd by his performances on the bagpipes. The defendant asked for accommodation, but was told that the house was full, and that he could not be taken in. The defendant, however, expostulated, and asserted his right to be accommodated notwithstanding. During the time he was endeavouring to make the persons in the house understand who he was, his attendant with the pipes was amusing a crowd of about 200 persons in front of the hotel with a selection of Gaelic

music. The defendant persisted in staying, and it was not till a policeman was sent for that he left the house. The Bench dismissed a cross-summons which had been taken out by Wardle, charging the landlord with permitting quarrelsome conduct in his house, and Wardle was fined £5 and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/8/1873 - Advert

“Chambermaid. Wanted, a clean, steady, young Woman, willing to make herself generally useful. Apply, DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

CHAMBERMAID.—Wanted, a clean, steady, young Woman, willing to make herself generally useful.—Apply, Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1873

“The sixth anniversary dinner of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Friendly and Protection Society was held last evening, at Mr. *James Birch*’s, the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury. About 120 sat down.....”

Forest of Dean Examiner 28/11/1873

“A special meeting of the South Stafford and East Worcestershire district of the National Association of Engineers was held at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Tuesday evening, to hear the report from the delegate who attended the Leeds conference, held November 3rd.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/2/1874 - Advert

“Sale of Windmill and Building Land, Church Hill, Wednesbury, by Public Auction, by James Taylor, on Wednesday, the 25th inst, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Seven o’clock in the evening.....”

South Staffordshire Examiner 7/11/1874

“The annual Court Leet dinner took place at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday evening. An excellent dinner was provided by Host *Birch*. Mr. John Knowles occupied the chair, and Mr. G. Whitelaw the vice-chair. Messrs. T. Cartwright and H. Spittle were appointed beer tasters. Messrs. W. Hackwood and T. Parkes were sworn in overlookers of hedges and ditches. Mr. E. Morris was appointed constable. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts followed the usual formal business. ‘The health of Lady Emily Foley,’ who holds the lordship of the manor, was drunk with enthusiasm. A number of other complimentary toasts followed, and the usual ‘colting’ added to the attractions of the gathering.”

Midland Examiner 22/5/1875

“The first anniversary dinner in connection with the Wednesbury Conservative Association was held on Wednesday night, at the Town Hall, Wednesbury The banquet was served by Mr. *Birch* of the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/5/1875 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Man, as Driver; also one as Boots; of good character. Apply, DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a steady Man, as Driver; and one as Boots; of good character.—Apply, Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury.

Midland Examiner 7/8/1875 - Advert

“*James Birch*, DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Proprietor of Hearses, Mourning Coaches, Funeral Equipages, Carriages, Cabs, Cars, &c, For Hire. A large and commodious Room (55ft by 21ft) is now at the disposal of Visitors, with Two Billiard Tables, handsomely fitted.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/12/1875

“Michael Welsh was brought up in custody charged with stealing a bottle and a quantity of brandy, the property of *James Birch*, on Saturday last.

The prosecutor, who is landlord of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Holyhead Road, said that while in the vault attached to that house on Saturday night last, about 9.30, he saw the prisoner, who was on the other side of the counter, reach over the counter and take a bottle, about three parts full of brandy, with which he ran away.

Police-constable Wilding said that on being informed of the theft he apprehended the prisoner on Sunday morning, at his mother’s residence, in Dudley Street. When charged with the offence, he said the brandy was given to him. Prisoner committed to gaol for one month.”

Midland Examiner 18/12/1875

“On Thursday night the members of the Staffordshire (Wednesbury) Rifle Corps, who were successful at the recent competition, were presented, at the Town Hall, Wednesbury, with the prizes they had won, by Mrs. Harrison, wife of Colonel Harrison, of Norton Hall.....

After the presentation, Lieutenant Edward Naylor made an interesting presentation to Captain Stubbs, consisting of a silver centre-piece (manufactured by Messrs. Elkington and Co, Birmingham) and a purse of 50 guineas, to testify the respect and esteem in which the Captain is held, and also in recognition of the valuable services he has rendered to the corps during a period of fifteen years. Captain Stubbs acknowledged the presentation in appropriate and feeling terms; at the same time mentioning the difficulties which the Volunteer movement in the town of Wednesbury had surmounted.....

Afterwards a dinner, of which the officers and men partook, and which was provided by Mr. *James Birch*, of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, took place in the hall.”

Midland Examiner 22/1/1876

“On Tuesday evening, the members of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Friendly and Protection Society held their eighth anniversary in the Town Hall, Wednesbury. More than two hundred persons sat down to the dinner, which was well served up by Mr. *James Birch*, of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/4/1876 - Advert

“Clear-Out Sale of Modern Liquor Shop Fittings, Furniture, Steam Engine, Bottled Wines, and Effects at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold by Auction (by direction of Mr. *Millner*, who is refitting the premises), on Tuesday, May 2, 1876, commencing at Eleven.

The costly modern Bar Fittings of Corner Liquor Shop, including Metal-top Counter, 27 feet long; Two Seven-tap Liquor Frames and Piping, Seven large Store Casks, Two Five-pull Beer Machines by ‘Mason,’ handsome Barrel Frame with marble top shelf and Plate-glass at back, Brass window Gas Rails, Three Gas Pendants, painted Window Boards, costly stained and embossed Glass Doors, Brass Muller, Glassware and Trade Utensils, modern Street Lamp, three large Panel Signs, Front and Passage Doors, 13 spring Bells; capital modern mahogany Dining Table, 18ft 6in long; sets of Trafalgar mahogany Chairs, Smoking Room Chairs, Crystal and Bronze Gaseliers, Cutlery, Table Prongs, Washing and Wringing Machines, Cooking Utensils; 100 Dozen of Fine Brown Pale Sherry and Port Wines; 25 one-dozen Bottle Baskets, empty wine Pipes and Hogsheads; three Modern Cooking Ranges; Iron Boiler; Five-horse power Vertical Steam Engine Boiler, Steam Reservoirs, Steam Piping; Five ‘Shakleton Brown and Co.’ Double-heating Coils, Shafting, Chaff-Engine, and other Effects.

Catalogues may be had on Monday next, of the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Weekly Post 3/5/1879 - Died

“On the 30th ult, aged 68 years, *Charles Bill*, late of the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/5/1880

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday afternoon, as to the death of Ann Maria Shinton (24), a married woman, residing in Chapel Street, who had committed suicide.

Thomas Shinton, the husband of the deceased, said that on Tuesday morning last deceased left home without stating where she was going. In the evening he found his wife in a house in Queen Street, on a bed, screaming. He asked her what she had been doing, and she replied, ‘I have taken poison.’ She asked him to kiss her, and, having complied with her request, she immediately afterwards became convulsed and expired.

In answer to the Coroner, he said there had been some unpleasantness between them about money matters.

Police-constable Lytle said that Dr, McKenna had informed him that he found in the deceased's dress pocket a packet of vermin killer and a box containing a compound of rhubarb. Some of the poison was mixed with the compound, and it was evident deceased had made pills of the mixture, and afterwards swallowed them. The compound of rhubarb was purchased at a chemist's shop in Snow Hill, Birmingham, but he had been unable to ascertain where the poison was purchased.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide while in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

Wednesbury Herald 22/5/1880

“On Saturday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Holyhead Road, relative to the death of a married woman named Ann Bird (45), residing in Albert Street.

Phillip Bird, the husband of the deceased, said that during the past six or seven years the deceased had frequently been unwell, and on Sunday morning she was suddenly worse, but was able to attend to her household duties. On Tuesday morning she became unconscious, and he sent for Dr. Blackwood, who attended her. He was quite sure that she had not taken laudanum, neither had he ever seen any laudanum in the house.

Dr. Blackwood said he had known the deceased for several years in consequence of having to attend her at times for chronic bronchitis. She also had at times nervous fits. On Tuesday morning he attended the deceased, and she being insensible he asked the husband if she had been taking laudanum, and he said no. He endeavoured to restore consciousness by various means, but was unable to do so, and deceased expired on the following morning. He examined the eyes, and there appeared to be severe pressure on the brain, which had been caused by apoplexy. Under the whole of the circumstances he considered it his duty to refuse giving a certificate so that an inquiry might be held.

The Coroner said that Dr. Blackwood had acted quite right in the case.

The jury did not think it desirable for a post mortem examination to be made, and returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

1881 Census

Dudley Street – DARTMOUTH ARMS

[1] *Henry D. Millner* (29), licensed victualler, born Parish Kellet, Lancashire;

[2] *Mary Millner* (28), wife, born St. Helens;

[3] *Ellen Millner* (5), daughter, born St. Helens;

[4] *William Millner* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Mary Millner* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *John L. Millner* (3 months), son, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Richard Farnell* (24), barman, born Birmingham;

[8] *Samuel Goodman* (20), billiard marker, born Welton, Northamptonshire;

[9] *Matilda Croton* (17), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/10/1885

“Shortly after ten o’clock on Sunday night a cab from the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, ran into the engine attached to a tramcar in Bromford Lane, West Bromwich, not far from the Oldbury Station, with the result that the cab was completely smashed. Both the horse and the man escaped uninjured. The police took the name and address of the driver of the cab.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 12/10/1885

“Last (Sunday) night about ten o’clock a serious accident occurred in Bromford Lane, West Bromwich. A cab belonging to Mr. Riley, of DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, Wednesbury, was being driven by a man named William Watson (25), of Foster Street, Wednesbury, in the direction of West Bromwich when it came into collision with a tramcar travelling towards Oldbury. The cab was completely smashed to pieces, the fragments being strewn about the road in all directions. The driver and horse had an almost miraculous escape, but fortunately both escaped unhurt.”

1891 Census

Holyhead Road – DARTMOUTH HOTEL

- [1] *Henry D. Millner* (39), licensed victualler, born Nether Kellet, Lancashire;
- [2] *Mary Millner* (38), wife, born St. Helens;
- [3] *Ellen Millner* (16), daughter, born St. Helens;
- [4] *William Millner* (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Mary Millner* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *John Millner* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Henry Millner* (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Jane Millner* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Margaret Millner* (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Elizabeth Littler* (23), sister-in-law, born St. Helens;
- [11] *Alfred Purcell* (21), boarder, barman, born Bushbury;
- [12] *Walter Jasper* (15), boarder, barman, born Walsall;

Wednesbury Herald 8/6/1895

“On Thursday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper, district coroner, held an enquiry at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL into the circumstances attending the death of Gertrude, the three year old daughter of Thomas Teague, of 32, Dudley Street, who succumbed on Tuesday morning to the effects of partial suffocation which took place on Sunday night. Thomas Teague was the first witness, and having given the necessary evidence of identification, he said that he went on Whit Sunday evening at about half past seven o’clock to spend a few hours at the house of his mother-in-law at Oxford Street, New Town. His wife followed him an hour later, bringing the baby with her. She had put two children, Thomas (6), and Gertrude (3), to bed, and had left an elder daughter, Dora (9), in charge of the house. Some time afterwards Dora put in an appearance at her grandma’s, having locked the door and followed her mother. She said she had left the children all right. They had never been left by themselves in the house before, and he believed Dora was instructed by her mother not to leave the house on this occasion. At about ten o’clock someone called and told him that his house was on fire. He hurried home and found that the door had been burst open and the children taken into a neighbour’s house. There was a fire on the stairs. The little girl seemed very poorly, not being able to get her breath. She had previously suffered from bronchitis. Thomas also had difficulty in breathing. He sent for Dr. Garman, who was in attendance by half past ten o’clock. He gave them brandy. He came again on Monday. Gertrude died the following morning, and when he informed the doctor he advised him to take Thomas to the hospital. This he had done, however, on the previous night. He was now getting better. He had had six children, of whom three were now alive.

Elizabeth Teague, mother of the deceased child, said that when she had put the children to bed and was ready to follow her husband she put two matches by the side of the lamp on the table and told Dora to light the lamp when it grew dark. She had previously lit the lamp on many occasions. She told Dora she could come down to her grandma’s later in the evening if she liked, and she asked her sister-in-law, Mrs. Goode, who lives next door, to listen and see that all was right with the children. The fire on the stairs partially consumed a pair of stockings and some underclothing belonging to her husband. She asked Dora how she lit the lamp and she replied that one match went out and she threw it away. She lit the lamp with the second one. She told the doctor on Sunday night about the fire, and he said the smoke had got down the children’s throats. She was a member of a death club.

Elizabeth Goode, the neighbour referred to, said Mrs. Teague asked her to keep an eye on Dora, but said nothing about the children in bed. Just after ten o’clock she smelled smoke in Teague’s house, and, having called her husband, she burst open the door. They rushed in. She picked up the lamp, which was alight on the table, and made for the stairs, but the smoke was so thick that she could not pass through it. Her husband then went upstairs and brought the children down. Some clothes on the stairs were smouldering, but the fire was soon put out. She had never known the Teagues leave the children unattended before.

Thomas Goode, husband of the last witness, said that when he got into the bedroom Gertrude was lying on her back and Thomas had turned over on to his face, and was groaning. He at once conveyed them into the house of a neighbour named Burcott.

Dora Teague, who was not sworn, said her mamma told her to follow her to New Town. She lit the lamp at 9.30, and threw the matches into the empty grate. She did not go near the stairs and had no idea how the fire originated. Her mamma told her aunt to look after the children while she was away.

Police constable Maddock said he had not been able to ascertain the cause of the fire, and he did not think an adjournment for the purpose would have any satisfactory result. The police had no suspicion of foul play.

The Coroner said he did not see how the origin of the fire could be discovered, neither did he suspect foul play. It was wrong, however, of the parents to leave the children in charge of a girl nine years of age, with permission to go out if she liked. The only wonder was that both the children were not suffocated. He was sorry to say he could not place much reliance on that portion of the mother's evidence relating to her alleged request to Mrs. Goode. Mr. E. Grainger, Mr. A. S. Hollingsworth, and other jurymen said they knew the Teagues for a very respectable couple, and they did not think for a moment that the woman had intentionally misled them. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Henry Deighton Millner was also of the CASTLE and GEORGE. [1896], [1900], [1904], [1908]

1901 Probate

"Henry Deighton Millner of the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, died 24 January 1901. Probate Lichfield 1 April to Mary Millner, widow, and William Millner, architect and surveyor. Effects £11,619 0s 8d."

1901 Census

172, Holyhead Road – DARTMOUTH TAVERN

- [1] Mary Milner (48), widow, licensed victualler, born St. Helens;
- [2] Ellen Milner (25), daughter, born St. Helens;
- [3] William Milner (23), son, architect and surveyor, born Wednesbury;
- [4] John L. Milner (20), son, butcher, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Henry Milner (18), son, pupil architect and surveyor, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Jane Milner (16), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Dorothy Milner (22), niece, born Halton, Lancashire;
- [8] Henry Armstrong (10), nephew, born St. Helens;
- [9] Alfred Purcell (31), public house manager, born Bushbury;
- [10] Arthur Purcell (23), barman, born Bushbury;

Alfred Purcell – see QUEENS ARMS.

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."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/4/1904

"The Wednesbury magistrates yesterday committed Richard Adams, of Perry Street, for trial at Stafford Quarter Sessions on a charge of committing a burglary at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury. Adams was caught in the bar after closing hours. It was supposed that he gained admission by means of the rolling-in way, the doors of which were found to be open. Adams fainted in the dock."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions on June 28th, Richard Adams pleaded guilty of stealing 5s 11d, the moneys of Mary Millner and another, and was sentenced to one month's hard labour.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/3/1906

"The third round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiards Tournament was concluded at the Stork Hotel, Birmingham, yesterday.....

At night, W. Millner (DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, rec.70) met H. F. Machin (Mermaid Hotel, Sparkhill, rec.220). Millner won easily by 87 points. His chief breaks were 22 and 18 (twice), while the loser did not make a break of note. Scores, Millner 400; Machin 313."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/2/1908

"Play continued yesterday in the first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victualler Billiards Handicap.....

In the afternoon H. Millner (DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, rec.65) beat J. W. Jones (Marquis of Lorne, Small Heath, rec.285) by 9 points. It was rather a tedious game. Scores, Millner 400; Jones 391."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/9/1909

"Today (Friday) at the Wednesbury Police Court, Mary Small, of George Street, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a pair of trousers and a vest, the property of Florence Jackson, second-hand clothes dealer, of Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, on the 23rd ult.

The goods were missed from out of the window of complainant's shop, and, it was stated, it was subsequently ascertained that the prisoner had pledged them at Messrs. Samuel's shop for 4s 6d, stating that they belonged to her son. When arrested by Police-constable Rixon, prisoner said, 'I did not steal them; I had them given to me to pledge. A woman met me in the street and asked me to pledge them, and said she would give me 3d. I don't know the woman.'

Prisoner was further charged with stealing a pint cup, the property of *Henry Millner*, licensee of the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, on the same date. Mr. *Millner* said he had cautioned the prisoner about eight times for stealing goods from his house. Police-constable Rixon said he found the cup at the prisoner's house when he was searching it. Prisoner said she had taken the cup from the DARTMOUTH ARMS, but she intended to take it back.

Prisoner was remanded to the workhouse for a week for the state of mind to be inquired into."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/11/1910 - Advert

"This Day (Thursday). Wednesbury.

Important Central Freehold Property, comprising the Old-Established, Fully-Licensed Public House, known as the DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, occupying a corner position at the junction of Holyhead Road and Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

By Messrs. Grimley and Son, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, at Seven o'clock to the minute.

A purchaser will be entitled to the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession on March 25, 1913.

Particulars and plan may be obtained from Messrs. Caddick and Yates, Solicitors, West Bromwich, or of Messrs. Grimley and Son, 39 and 40, Temple Street, Birmingham."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/11/1910

"Messrs. Grimley and Son sold four properties last evening. The DARTMOUTH ARMS INN, at Wednesbury, a freehold fully-licensed property, let on lease at £150 per annum, realised £5,050."

1911 Census

Holyhead Road – DARTMOUTH ARMS

- [1] *Mary Millner* (58), widow, born St. Helens;
- [2] *Mary Millner* (31), daughter, head teacher, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Henry Millner* (28), son, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Jane Millner* (26), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Margaret Millner* (24), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Lilian Armstrong* (24), niece, sick nurse, Board of Guardians, born St. Helens:

Newry Reporter 12/11/1912 - Marriages

"On the 5th November, at Codsall Parish Church, Staffordshire, by the Rev. Charles G. Barr, James, youngest son of Dr. Carlisle, of Cargah, Crossgar, to Jane, third surviving daughter of the late *H. D. Millner*, and Mrs. *Millner*, of DARTMOUTH HOUSE, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/2/1913

"The first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiards Handicap was resumed yesterday..... In the afternoon *H. Millner*, DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury (rec.145) beat Frank Stokes, Villa Tavern, Villa Street, Lozells (rec.175), by 104 points. Stokes will be better known as the ex-Birmingham back, who is now in the licensed trade. It was his initial appearance in the tourney, therefore his mark could not be quite a favourable one. *Millner* has been in many previous handicaps and he played well. He made several breaks of just under 20 in addition to 34 and 20. Stokes showed he can play the game, for he contributed a neat 30 break, but the handicap was too much. Scores, *Millner* 400; Stokes 296."

[*Henry Millner* was beaten in the third round.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/10/1915

"Deep regret has been caused in the Wednesbury district by the death in action of Captain Will Millner, of Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, and eldest son of Mrs. *H. D. Millner*, of Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. He was attached to the Walsall Territorials (1/5th South Staffs), and it is stated that he was killed whilst leading his men in a bayonet charge last Wednesday.

Captain Millner was one of the finest rifle shots in the country, and was a regular competitor at Bisley, where his prowess won him a position in the English twenty. He represented England in several international matches, and was one of the twenty English shots selected to go to Australia on the trip which had to be abandoned when war broke out. He won the Barlow Cup the first year he went to Bisley, and had also been in the last hundred for the King's Prize. He was a member of the Wednesbury Company of the Volunteers, and had been connected with the Territorial movement since its inception. He leaves a widow and five children."



CAPTAIN W. MILLNER.

Walsall Observer 26/2/1916

"The marriage took place at Wednesbury on Wednesday of Second-Lieutenant Thomas Guy Percy Darby, of the 6th South Staffordshire Regiment, and Miss Margaret Millner, of DARTMOUTH HOUSE, Wednesbury. Second-Lieutenant Darby, who is the son of Mr. John Darby, solicitor, and a brother of Dr. Ernest Darby, of Wolverhampton, was formerly in the Town Clerk's Office, Wolverhampton, while Miss Millner is a daughter of Mrs. *H. D. Millner*, Wednesbury, and sister of the late Captain Will Millner, of the 5th South Staffordshire Regiment, who was killed in action on October 13, 1915. The wedding was solemnised at St. James's Church, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. R. T. Hall. Miss Millner was attended by Miss Madge Morris as bridesmaid, and was given away by her brother Mr. *Harry Millner*. Mr. Jack Millner, of Wolverhampton, brother of the bride, acted as best man. The wedding was of a quiet description. The honeymoon is being spent at Torquay."

1921 Census

172, Holyhead Road

- [1] *John Millner* (40), cattle dealer's assistant, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Millner* (68), mother, widow, home duties, born St. Helens;
- [3] *Mary Millner* (42), sister, head teacher, elementary school, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Lily Armstrong* (40), visitor, widow, home duties, born Leeds:

South Staffordshire Times 19/4/1924

"On Tuesday evening a very pleasant function took place at the registered office of the Mutual Loan Society, the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Holyhead Road, when Mr. John Huband, who has held the position of member of the committee and trustee for twenty years, was made a presentation by the members as a mark of appreciation of his services. He was the recipient of a handsome spirit and games cabinet of clever design and workmanship. The chairman, Mr. D. Bowdler, made the presentation in felicitous terms, and his remarks were supported by several members present. Mr. Huband feelingly replied, and reviewed the history of the society, while he held office. Established in 1841, it is easily the oldest of its kind in England, and Mr. Huband wished it continued prosperity."

London Gazette 1/6/1926

"Friendly Societies Act, 1896. Advertisement of Dissolution by Instrument.

Notice is hereby given, that the Wednesbury Mutual Loan Society, Register No.2273 Staffs. S.A.L., held at DARTMOUTH ARMS, Holyhead-road, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, is dissolved by Instrument, registered at this Office, the 28th day of May 1926, unless within three months from the date of the *Gazette* in which this advertisement appears, proceedings be commenced by a member or other person interested in, or having any claim on, the funds of the Society, to set aside such dissolution, and the same be set aside accordingly.

G. Stuart Robertson, Chief Registrar. 17, North Audley-street, W1, (131) the 28th day of May, 1926."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1928

"Wednesbury Harriers meet today for a road handicap race from the SWAN INN, High Street, Bilston. Members are requested to meet at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, at 2.30pm."

Walsall Observer 1/6/1929

“The death occurred on Wednesday morning, at her home, ‘Deighton,’ Corporation Street, Wednesbury, of Mrs. *Mary Millner*. In her 77th year, she was the widow of Mr. *H. D. Millner*, at one time of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, the license of which had been held by a member of the same family for over 50 years, and she was the mother of Miss. M. Millner, headmistress of Dorsett Road Girls School, Darlaston. She also leaves two sons and three daughters. Mrs. *Millner* was a prominent worshipper at St. James’s Church, Wednesbury.”

Dudley Chronicle 24/9/1931

“A meeting of the Wednesbury Football Charity Association was held at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Tuesday of last week, when the following clubs were elected members for the ensuing year.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/9/1932 - Advert

“Midland Red. Eight Hours in Blackpool!

Cheap Long Day Excursions! Daily from September 24th to October 24th.....

Wednesbury (DARTMOUTH ARMS) approx. dep. 8.30am.

Return Fare 12/6. Period Return Fare 20/- (Available to return within one week. Saturdays exempted.)

Also on Special Days from Other Districts. See Separate Bills.

Coaches Return at 10.0pm Each Night from Talbot Road Bus Station, Blackpool....”

[These excursions ran for several years.]

Rugeley Times 9/9/1933

“A road race, in connection with the Wednesbury Clarion Cyclist Club, was held on Sunday, the course being from Wednesbury (DARTMOUTH ARMS) to Wolverhampton and back, a distance of approximately ten miles. After a keen race, W. Colishaw won by two seconds.....”

Walsall Observer 9/9/1939

“Wednesbury’s Raid Shelters.

Following is list of the air raid shelters which are now ready or will be available shortly, with the accommodation provided.....

DARTMOUTH ARMS, Holyhead Road (90).”

1939 Register

Holyhead Road

[1] *Thomas Croft*, date of birth 28/4/1893, public house manager, married;

[2] *Eliza M. Croft*, dob 20/11/1890, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Granville Raymond T. Croft*, dob 7/3/1920, wood pattern maker, single:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

Tipton Herald 15/5/1948

“At a meeting held at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, it was decided to form a Wednesbury and District Football League.

Mr. H. J. Hawkes was appointed chairman, pro tem, and said that a wish had been expressed that such a league should be formed subject to sanction being received from Birmingham County FA. Mr. Hingley, who was acting as hon. secretary, had been in touch with Mr. E. A. Eden, of the County FA, and he had given the proposal his blessing. The next thing to be done was to submit the names of clubs who were willing to join the league, and these would be considered by the county committee.....”

Tipton Herald 29/5/1948

“At an adjourned meeting held at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, it was decided to form a Wednesbury and District Football League.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/1/1950

“Members of Wednesbury and Oldbury referees associations will take part in a quiz at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, on Friday. The Wednesbury chairman, Mr. G. Blackhall, is home from hospital following an operation.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/6/1950

“Wednesbury and District Referees Association’s annual meeting will be held at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, on Friday evening.”

Sports Argus 18/8/1951

“The general meeting of the Wednesbury Football league will be held at headquarters, DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, at 7.45pm. The League will again comprise two divisions, fixtures commencing on Saturday September 1, and as there are vacancies in each of the divisions, intending secretaries or representatives will be welcomed.”

Thomas Croft was married to Eliza.

They retired in 1961.

Closed

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/7/1962 - Notice

“Notice is Hereby Given that the Minister of Housing and Local Government, in pursuance of the powers vested in him by the Housing Act, 1957, on the 18th day of July, 1962, confirmed with modifications the ‘Borough of Wednesbury (Russell Street Clearance Areas Nos.1-4) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1961,’ submitted to him by the Wednesbury Borough Council authorising them to purchase compulsorily under Section 43 of the said Act the lands described in the Schedule to this notice, which lands are lands in areas declared to be Clearance Areas by a resolution of the Council, dated the 25th day of July, 1960, and also lands surrounded by or lands adjoining the said clearance areas.....

Lands outside the clearance areas.....

Delicensed premises formerly DARTMOUTH ARMS, Holyhead Road.”

It was demolished in March/April 1963.

DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL INN, AND INLAND REVENUE OFFICE, HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

CHARLES BILL, in returning thanks for the very liberal encouragement he has received during the last six years at the Turk's Head Inn, begs respectfully to inform his numerous Friends, and Commercial Gentlemen in particular, that for their greater convenience and comfort he has taken and newly furnished the above Inn, where he trusts the great improvements he has made in its internal arrangements, combined with his usual moderate charges, will ensure for him their future patronage and support.

The above Inn is situated on the main road from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, is within three minutes' walk of the Station of the South Staffordshire Railway, and the Market Place, or business part of the town.

Trains to and from Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, &c., twenty-four times a day, and Omnibuses to and from Wolverhampton, Bilston, &c., every hour.

CARS, &c., on reasonable terms, and at the shortest notice.

DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL INN, HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

CHARLES BILL begs to inform his Patrons and Friends that a CARD and DANCING ASSEMBLY will be held at the above Inn, on THURSDAY EVENING, January 9th, 1851.

STEWARDS.

Mr. J. D. PAYNE.

Mr. J. A. PALIN.

Mr. J. WOOD.

Mr. J. DAWES, Jun.

Mr. J. P. MORGAN.

Mr. H. MINORS.

Tickets, (including Refreshments,) Ladies, 5s.; Gentlemen, 7s. 6d.; may be had of the Stewards, and at the Bar of the Inn.

A First-rate Quadrille Band is engaged.

Dancing to commence at Eight o'clock.

Cars will be provided free of expense for parties residing within one mile of the Inn.

DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL INN, AND INLAND REVENUE OFFICE, HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, with immediate possession, the above OLD-ESTABLISHED INN, doing the best Commercial Trade in the Town.

The other Business includes the Excise and Beer-bond Meetings, Court Leet and Rent Audits, Turnpike Road Meetings, and Friendly and other Societies, numbering nearly 500 Members.

The present Proprietor is leaving solely in consequence of having taken the "Lion Hotel," Kidderminster.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. Charles Bill, on the Premises.

1852

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Next MEETING of the TRUSTEES for Repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to Wednesbury and to Great Bridge, and from thence to the Portway adjoining the Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Road, and to Nether Trundle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the counties of Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford, will be held at the house of Charles Bill, situate at Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, known by the name of the Dartmouth Hotel, on WEDNESDAY, the 20th day of July next, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of appointing new Trustees, and transacting other business.

CLEMT. INGLEBY, Clerk to the said Trustees.

Birmingham, June 30th, 1859.

1859

**IMPORTANT SALE OF LIVE AND DEAD
FARMING STOCK,
At MARSH-LANE FARM, WEST BROMWICH,
adjoining the New Cemetery.**

**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY FALLOWS and SMITH** (by order of Mr. Charles Bill, who is giving up the Farm), on Monday the 5th day of March next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon—the whole of the **LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK**; comprising six powerful waggon **HORSES** and their tackle, very fast young **PONY**, Alderney and other **COWS**, **SOW** and **PIGS**, five store **PIGS**, two 6-inch **WAGGONS** and gearing, liquid manure and other **CARTS** (nearly new), light **SPRING TRAP**, quantity of gig and other **HARNESS** and **TACKLE**, rick-sheet, poles, wood and iron **PLOUGHS**, land roll, winnowing machine, patent **CHAFF ENGINE**, quantity of wood hurdles and fencing, about 200 tons of excellent manure, large quantity of **TOOLS** of all descriptions, and numerous other effects; particulars of which may be had in catalogues, to be obtained at the Auctioneers' office, 14, Temple-row, Birmingham; the Dartmouth Hotel, Wednesbury; and at the place of sale.

1860

TO be SOLD by **PRIVATE CONTRACT**, owing to the present Proprietor retiring from business, the **LEASE, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION** of that well-known **COMMERCIAL HOTEL and INLAND REVENUE OFFICE, "THE DARTMOUTH ARMS,"** centrally situated, and in close proximity to the two railway stations, and all the extensive gas tube, railway, and other manufactories, in the very improving town of Wednesbury, to which is attached an excellent Funeral Carriage and Cab Department. In-come from £1,000 to £1,200.

Apply, Roderick and Son, 35, Cherry Street; or to Mr. Charles Bill, on the Premises.

1865

THE DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, At WEDNESBURY.

BY RODERICK and SON.—To be SOLD (by direction of Mr. George Street, who has taken a Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Business in Birmingham)—the **LEASE, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION** of the above compact, excellent, and well-known **HOTEL**, now doing a profitable business.

Coming-in about £800.

Anyone in search of a compact, paying, easily-managed Hotel, will find this a good opportunity.

Apply to the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham.

THE DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, WEDNESBURY.

BY RODERICK and SON.—To be SOLD by **AUCTION** (by direction of Mr. George Street, who has taken a Wine and Spirit Business in Birmingham), on the Premises, on **TUESDAY, August 10th, 1869**, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions, and unless an acceptable offer be previously made by Private Contract—the **LEASE, LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION** of the important Old-established Family and Commercial Hotel known as "**THE DARTMOUTH ARMS**," for many years carried on with unvaried success, and now doing an extensive, respectable, and highly remunerative trade. The Offices of the Commissioners of Taxes, of the Inland Revenue, and of the Inspector of Weights and Measures, are upon the premises, and an important Masonic Lodge is attached. The valuation will be about £700., and the concern is one in which any attentive man of business will rapidly realise a fortune.

For further particulars, apply on the Premises, or to the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham.

1869

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

WOLVERHAMPTON SHOW, 1871.

**THE DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL HOTEL,
WEDNESBURY,**

Only Ten Minutes from Wolverhampton by Rail.

**AN ORDINARY EVERY DAY AT ONE O'CLOCK.
A LARGE STOCK ROOM.**

JAMES BIRCH, Proprietor.

1871

JAMES BIRCH,

**DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL HOTEL,
HOLYHEAD-ROAD, WEDNESBURY.**

**PROPRIETOR OF HEARSES, MOURNING COACHES, FUNERAL EQUIPAGES, CARRIAGES,
CABS, CARS, &c., FOR HIRE.**

A large and commodious Room (50ft. by 21ft.) is now at the disposal of Visitors, with
**TWO BILLIARD TABLES,
HANDSOMELY FITTED.**

1875

CLEAR-OUT SALE OF MODERN LIQUOR SHOP FITTINGS, FURNITURE,

**STEAM ENGINE, BOTTLED WINES, AND EFFECTS,
At the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, HOLYHEAD ROAD,
Wednesbury.**

BY RODERICK and SON.—To be SOLD by **AUCTION** (by direction of Mr. Millner, who is re-fitting the premises), on **TUESDAY, May 2, 1876**, commencing at Eleven—the costly modern **BAR FITTINGS** of Corner Liquor Shop, including Metal-top Modern Counter, 27 feet long; Two Seven-tap Liquor Frames and Piping, Seven large Store Casks, Two Five-pull Beer Machines by "Mason," handsome Barrel Frame with marble top shelf and Plate-glass at back, Brass window Gas Rails, Three Gas Pendants, painted Window Boards, costly stained and embossed Glass Doors, Brass Muller, Glassware and Trade Utensils, modern Street Lamp, three large Panel Signs, Front and Passage Doors, 13 spring Bells; capital modern mahogany Dining Table, 18ft. 6in. long; sets of Traifalgar mahogany Chairs, Smoking Room Chairs, Crystal and Bronze Gasoliers, Cutlery, Table Prongs, Washing and Wringing Machines, Cooking Utensils; 100 Dozen of Fine Brown Pale **SHERRY** and **PORT WINES**; 25 one-dozen Bottle Baskets, empty wine Pipes and Hogsheds; three Modern **COOKING RANGES**; Iron Boiler; Five-horse power Vertical Steam Engine **BOILER**, Steam Reservoirs, Steam Piping; Five "Shakleton Brown and Co." Double-heating Coils, Shuffling, Chaff-Engine, and other Effects.

Catalogues may be had on Monday next, of the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham.

1876

THIS DAY (THURSDAY).

WEDNESBURY.

IMPORTANT CENTRAL FREEHOLD PROPERTY.

Comprising the
OLD-ESTABLISHED FULLY LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE

known as

"THE DARTMOUTH ARMS" INN.

Occupying a corner position at the junction of Holyhead-road and Dudley-street, Wednesbury.

BY Messrs. GRIMLEY and SON, at the Grand Hotel, Oakmore-row, Birmingham, at seven o'clock to the minute:—

A PURCHASER WILL BE ENTITLED TO THE LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION ON MARCH 25, 1915.

Particulars and plan may be obtained of Messrs. Coddick and Yates, Auctioneers, West Bromwich, or of Messrs. Grimley and son, 39 and 40, Temple-street, Birmingham.

1910

DOG AND DUCK

Dudley Road, (Dudley Street), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Henry Pitt [1818]

Henry Pitt Jnr. [1828] – [1830]

NOTES

Dudley Road [1828], [1830]

DOG AND DUCK

New Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Hackwood [1834] – [1842]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Benjamin Hackwood, beer retailer, New Street. [1835], [1841]

Benjamin Hackwood, retailer of beer, New Street. [1842]

DOG AND PARTRIDGE

16, (15+16), (24), Ridding Lane / Addison Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Watson
Atkinsons Ltd. [1921], [1967]

LICENSEES

George Hackett [1868] – [1872]
Mrs. Sarah Knowles [1881] – [1892]
Alfred Barnsley/Bradley [1894]
William Blakemore [] – **1899**;
Ada Blakemore (**1899** – [];
Alfred Blakemore [1901] – **1912**)
William Blakemore [1904]
William Harry Bailey [1911] (**1912** – []
Edward Thomas Newbold [1921]
William Alfred Burrows [1939] – [1940]
Clifford Howard Horton [] – **1948**;
Mrs. Lizzie Horton (**1948** – [1951]
Frederick George Mitchell [1961] – [1968]



1967

NOTES

24, Ridding Lane [1871], [1881], [1884], [1891]
16, Ridding Lane [1901], [1911], [1921], [1940]
15+16 Ridding Lane [1939]

It had a beerhouse license.

George Hackett, beer retailer, Ridding Lane. [1868], [1870]
George Hackett, beer retailer, 24, Ridding Lane. [1872]

1871 Census

24, Ridding Lane – DOG AND PARTRIDGE

- [1] *George Hackett* (32), publican, born Kings Bromley, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ann Hackett* (29), wife, born Yoxall, Staffordshire;
- [3] *George Hackett* (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Henry Hackett* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William James Hackett* (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Matilda Hackett* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Sarah Hill* (15), general servant, born West Bromwich;
- [8] *William Hutchison* (19), boarder, striker, born Yoxall, Staffordshire;
- [9] *Richard Morton* (40), boarder, labourer, born Pipe Ridware, Staffordshire;

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1871

“At Wednesbury Police Court, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), *George Hackett*, of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Ridding Lane, was charged with having had his house open at a quarter past eleven o’clock, on the morning of Sunday, the 3rd of July. Police-constable Hill stated that at the time named, on looking through the front window of the defendant’s house, he saw the defendant drawing beer at the machine, and on going to the back he saw the door open, and a man leaving the premises. The defence was that the man was a neighbour, who had not been supplied with anything, and that the landlord was merely trying a barrel of beer which he had been attaching to the machine. The Stipendiary said the case was not free from suspicion, but the evidence would not justify a conviction. Accordingly the summons was dismissed. Mr. Bayley appeared for the defendant.”

1881 Census

24, Ridding Lane – DOG AND PARTRIDGE

[1] *Sarah Knowles* (43), married, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Kate Roome* (19), domestic servant, born Derby:

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1881 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire. Valuable Freehold Property, Old-Licensed Houses, Beerhouse, Posting and Livery Stables, Ale Stores, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Leedam & Harrison, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Thursday, the 22nd day of December, 1881, at 6 for 7 o’clock in the evening precisely (by order of the Trustee of the Estate of William Watson, Bankrupt), the following very eligible Freehold Properties.....

Lot 3. All that eligible Beerhouse, known as the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, situate at the corner of Ridding Lane and Addison Street, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mrs. *Knowles*; together with the Three Messuages or Dwelling Houses adjoining, and being Nos. 21, 22, and 23, Ridding Lane, occupied by Mr. John Weston, Mrs. Wright, and Mr. Michael Earp.”

LOT 3.—All that eligible BEERHOUSE, known as “THE DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN,” situate at the corner of Ridding Lane and Addison Street, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mrs. Knowles; together with the Three MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES adjoining, and being Nos. 21, 22, and 23, Ridding Lane, occupied by Mr. John Weston, Mrs. Wright, and Mr. Michael Earp.

Mrs. *Sarah Knowles*, beer retailer, 24 Riddings Lane. [1884]

1891 Census

24, Ridding Lane

[1] *Sarah Knowles* (53), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Elizabeth Peters* (72), sister, widow, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Sarah Wright* (14), niece, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[4] *John Binns* (28), boarder, tailor’s manager, born Leeds;

[5] *William Wootton* (23), visitor, wood turner, born Wednesbury:

Sarah Knowles was the sister of *Eliza Danks* of the GOLDEN CROSS.

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1892

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Neville (stipendiary), *Sarah Knowles*, of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Ridding Lane, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the defence.

The evidence of Detective Platt and Police-constable Barrow was to the effect that at half-past ten on the night of the 15th ult they saw a woman named Potter enter the house and hand a bottle to the landlady, who almost immediately returned it. They found that it contained ale.

The defence was that the woman, who was a regular customer, left the bottle with the landlady, with the money for beer, before ten o’clock.

The Stipendiary said it would be absolutely impossible to administer the licensing law properly if persons were allowed to pay for beer and fetch it when they chose. It seemed this was a general custom, but it would have to be put an end to. As the defendant had kept houses previously without any complaint, she would on this occasion be fined 40s only and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Mr. W. S. Smith applied on behalf of *Sarah Knowles*, the DOG AND PARTRIDGE beerhouse, Ridding Lane, who had been objected to because of a conviction for selling during prohibited hours. Granted.”

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.....

Alfred Barnsley, the DOG AND PARTRIDGE beerhouse, Ridding Lane.....

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 Gazette 29/9/1894

“Wednesbury adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Mr. T. Jones applied for the renewal of the license of the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Riddings Lane, to *Alfred Bradley*. The applicant had been fined 5s and costs for permitting drunkenness, but he submitted it was only a technical offence and not sufficient to justify the magistrates in refusing the license.”

[The application was granted.]

William Blakemore died in 1899.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/9/1899

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the borough of Wednesbury were held today.....

The following transfers were granted.....

DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, from the executors of *William Blakemore* to *Ada Blakemore*.”

1901 Census

16, Ridding Lane

[1] *Alfred Blakemore* (23), iron turner and beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Selina Blakemore* (20), wife, born Wednesbury:

A .*Blakemore* issued tokens from here.

William Blakemore, beer retailer, 16, Ridding Lane. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1905

‘Rod and Line..... A new club is to be formed at Wednesbury. Particulars can be obtained at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE.’

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/6/1905

“Mr. T. Coles, by the desire of the members of the Wednesbury Angling Association, delivered a lecture on Saturday last at the club house, the DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Ridding Lane. The subject chosen was ‘The delights of angling with reference to fish life, their haunts, habits and tastes.’ The lecture lasted one hour and five minutes, and was warmly received.”

Walsall Advertiser 30/1/1909

“A smoking concert in connection with the Wednesbury Angling Society was held at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE on Saturday. Mr. W. J. Bostock presided.

The fourth annual report and balance sheet showed the club to be in a prosperous condition. Several new members were made during the evening, and a silver medal was presented to Mr. W. Bennett for the heaviest roach caught last year. Songs were rendered by Messrs. T. Parker, A. Henderson, J. Ratcliffe, J. Matthews (humorist), and others. Mr. J. Matthews gave a selection on the zonophone. Mr. H. Robinson accompanied.”

Walsall Advertiser 26/6/1909

"The members of the Wednesbury Angling Society fished their first bye-contest of the season in the Birmingham Canal on Saturday last The annual contest will be fished on August 2nd, at Pershore, when, in addition to the challenge cup, a silver cup, presented by Mr. *Alfred Blakemore*, will be competed for."

Alfred Blakemore – see also OLD BARREL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, SWAN, Victoria Road, Darlaston, and WOODMAN, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

1911 Census

16, Ridding Lane – DOG AND PARTRIDGE

[1] *William Harry Bailey* (52), manager of beerhouse, born Cannock;

[2] *Elizabeth Bailey* (52), wife, married 5 years, born Oldbury;

[3] *William Solomon Smith* (27), step-son, blacksmith's striker, born Pleck, near Walsall:

Harry Bailey, beer retailer, 16, Ridding Lane. [1912]

1921 Census

16, Ridding Lane

[1] *Edward Thomas Newbold* (42) public house manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Kate Newbold* (30), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Edward Thomas Newbold* (6), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Austin William Newbold* (4), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Edward Newbold* (66), boarder, father, widower, labourer in tube works, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Austin William Newbold* (34), boarder, brother, tool forger, power hammer, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Eliza Newbold* boarder, (18), boarder, sister, typist in tube works, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/11/1930

"Pit Disaster Fund. More Contributions.

The following contributions were received yesterday for the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* fund for the relief of the dependants of the victims of the Grove Pit disaster.

Previously acknowledged, £2,459 11s 11d.....

Customers, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Wednesbury, 5s 0d."

1939 Register

15+16 Ridding Lane (3 of 4)

[1] *William A. Burrows*, date of birth 18/12/1899, slater and tiler, publican, married;

[2] *Gladys M. Burrows*, dob 19/2/1908, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] *Mary Martin*, dob 23/3/1874, national clothing club agent, single:

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

"The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Wednesbury, £1."

Walsall Observer 28/2/1948 - Deaths

"Treasured memories of my dear husband, *Clifford Howard Horton*, who passed peacefully away at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Ridding Lane, Wednesbury, on February 20, 1948. Worthy of everlasting remembrance. Sadly missed. *Lizzie*."

AND

"Fond memories of our dear father, *Clifford H. Horton*, who died on February 20, 1948. Lovingly remembered. Stanley, Kathleen and Rene."

Walsall Observer 28/2/1948 - Acknowledgements

“The Wife and Family of the late Mr. *Clifford Horton*, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Wednesbury (formerly Lime Street), thank all Relatives and Friends for flowers and sympathy in their sad loss; also Rev. Kathleen Whitfield, for officiating at the Church service and Crematorium.”

Walsall Observer 5/5/1951 - Roll of Honour

“Memories of Stan Ludlow, killed in Korea, April 13.

Always remembered by Mrs. *Horton* and Family, DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Wednesbury.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1963], [1965]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Cribbage League. [1970]

[1983]

It was demolished in the late 1980s.

Housing was built on the site.



Frederick Mitchell 1962

DOLPHIN

Darlaston Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Frederick Spittle [1851] – [1861]

NOTES

1851 Census

Darlaston Road

[1] *Frederick Spittle* (36), unmarried, gun lock manufacturer and brewer, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Charlotte Spittle* (25), sister, housekeeper, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/8/1851

“*Frederick Spittle*, beershop keeper of Wednesbury, was fined £1 and costs, for having his house open after lawful time on Saturday night last.”

1861 Census

Darlaston Road – DAULPHIN

[1] *Frederick Spittle* (46), publican and provision dealer, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Elizabeth Spittle* (30), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] *Jabez Spittle* (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Frederick Spittle* (3), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Ann Clark* (17), general servant, born Ireland:

DRUM AND MONKEY

Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Baker [1899]

DUKE OF WELLINGTON

Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Simkin [1861]

DUKE OF WELLINGTON

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Rock [1822]
Rebecca Rocke [1828] – [1830]

DUKE OF YORK

69, (Lower) High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Peter Spittle [1801]

LICENSEES

Peter Spittle [1801]

George Collier [1804]

Ann Collier [1818]

William Collier [1822] – [1835]

Joseph Dickens [1841] – **1846**;

Daniel Smith **(1846 – [1850])**

Joseph Simpkin [1851] – [1868]

Thomas Nichols [1868] – **1871**;

James George **(1871 – [1880])**

Amos French [1880] – [1881]

NOTES

High Street [1822], [1828], [1830]

It had a beerhouse license.

London Gazette 16/6/1801

“Whereas a Commission of Bankrupt is awarded and issued forth against Peter Spittle, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Gun-Lock-Maker, Dealer and Chapman, and he being declared a Bankrupt is hereby required to surrender himself to the Commissioners in the said Commission named, or the major Part of them, on the 4th of July next, at Four o’Clock in the Afternoon, on the 7th of the same Month, and on the 1st of August following, at Eleven o’Clock in the Forenoon, at the Dwelling-House of William Rock, the GEORGE INN, in Wednesbury, in the said County, 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, and at the Second Sitting to choose Assignees, and at the Last Sitting the said Bankrupt is required to finish his Examination, and the Creditors are to assent to or dissent from the Allowance of his Certificate. 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 give Notice to Mr. Hunt, Attorney, No.34, Castle Street, Holborn, London, or to Messrs. Crother, Attornies, in Wednesbury aforesaid.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 27/7/1801 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Charles Greatrex, on Thursday the 30th of July instant, and following Day (by Order of the Assignees) all the neat Household Furniture, Shop Fixtures, Brewing Utensils, and valuable Shop Tools belonging to Mr. *Peter Spittle*, Gun Lock Maker, at the Sign of the DUKE OF YORK in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, a Bankrupt; the Household Furniture consists of a general Assortment of useful Articles, among which are Four-post and other Bedsteads, with different Furnitures; Blankets, Quilts, Sheets, and Table Linen; fine Feather Beds; Mahogany and Oak Cabinet Furniture; two capital Eight Day Clocks, in Mahogany and Oak Cases; a 200 Gallon Copper Furnace, a small ditto, 30 Strike Mash Tub, and other Brewing Utensils; four Iron-bound Hogsheads, and other Barrels; about 26 Hundred of Scrap Iron and Steel, 16 Bench Vices, 4 Pair of Shop Bellows, Anvils, Hammers, and other Tools.

Particulars will appear in Catalogues, which may be had Tomorrow at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury; GEORGE INN, Walsall; and at the Place of Sale.”

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by CHARLES GREATREX, on Thursday the 30th of July instant, and following Day (by Order of the Assignees) all the neat HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, SHOP FIXTURES, BREWING UTENSILS, and valuable SHOP TOOLS belonging to Mr. Peter Spittle, Gun Lock Maker, at the Sign of the Duke of York in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, a Bankrupt; the Household Furniture consists of a general Assortment of useful Articles, among which are Four-post and other Bedsteads, with different Furnitures; Blankets, Quilts, Sheets, and Table Linen; fine Feather Beds; Mahogany and Oak Cabinet Furniture; two capital Eight Day Clocks, in Mahogany and Oak Cases; a 200 Gallon Copper Furnace, a small ditto, 30 Strike Mash Tub, and other Brewing Utensils; four Iron-bound Hogsheads, and other Barrels; about 26 Hundred of Scrap Iron and Steel, 16 Bench Vices, 4 Pair of Shop Bellows, Anvils, Hammers, and other Tools.

Particulars will appear in Catalogues, which may be had To-morrow, at the George Inn, Wednesbury; George Inn, Walsall; and at the Place of Sale.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by CHARLES GREATREX (by Order of the Assignees of Peter Spittle, a Bankrupt) at the George Inn, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Friday the 28th of August, 1801, between the Hours of Three and Five o’Clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions then and there to be produced.

LOT 1. A Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House (formerly two Dwelling Houses) in the Possession of the said Bankrupt, situated in Wednesbury aforesaid, fronting the principal Street leading through the Town of Wednesbury, for many Years used as a Public House, and known by the Sign of the Duke of York; together with extensive and convenient Shopping, and a good Garden at the Back of the House.

These Premises are substantially built, and in Point of Situation, are well adapted for the Public Business, for a Retail Trade, or for a Manufactory.—The Purchaser may have immediate Possession.

1801

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/8/1801 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Charles Greatrex (by Order of the Assignees of *Peter Spittle*, a Bankrupt) at the GEORGE INN, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Friday the 28th of August, 1801, between the Hours of Three and Five o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions then and there to be produced.

Lot I. A Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House (formerly two Dwelling Houses) in the Possession of the said Bankrupt, situated in Wednesbury aforesaid, fronting the principal Street leading through the Town of Wednesbury, for many Years used as a Public House, and known by the Sign of the DUKE OF YORK; together with extensive and convenient Shopping, and a good Garden at the Back of the House.

These Premises are substantially built, and in Point of Situation, are well adapted for the Public Business, for a Retail Trade, or for a Manufactory.

The Purchaser may have immediate Possession.

Lot II. Three substantial and convenient Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, situated in Wednesbury....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/5/1803 - Advert

"*Peter Spittle's* Dividend.

The Creditors who proved their Debts under a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued against *Peter Spittle*, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Gunlock-maker, Dealer and Chapman, and received the former Dividend of Eight Shillings in the Pound, may receive a final Dividend of One Shilling and Eight-pence in the Pound; and such of the Creditors as proved their Debts at the last Meeting of the Commissioners, may receive Nine Shillings and Eight-pence in the Pound on their respective Debts, by applying to Mr. Silvanus Earp, Baker, Wednesbury, one of the Assignees of the said Bankrupt's Estate.

E. and A. Crowther, Solicitors."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/3/1804 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, at the House of Mr. Abel Round, known by the Sign of the HARE AND HOUNDS, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Friday the 16th Day of March, 1804.....

Lot I. Two Freehold Houses, substantially built and in good Repair, situated in Wednesbury aforesaid, fronting the Street leading through the Town, together with extensive and convenient Shopping, a good Garden, and other Appurtenances at the Back of the Houses; the Whole now in the Occupation of *George Collier* and his Undertenant. The House occupied by the said *George Collier* is used as a Public House, and known by the Sign of the DUKE OF YORK. The Situation of these Premises is an eligible one for the Public Business, a Retail Trade, or a Manufactory. The Purchaser of this Lot may be accommodated with Part of the Purchase Money on Mortgage."

William Collier, retailer of beer, High Street. [1835]

Joseph Dickens = Joseph Dicken = Joseph Dickins

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/6/1846

"John Taylor of Westbromwich will run John Thomas (the Welsh Collier), or John Rhodes (both of Wolverhampton), from three to six miles, for from £10 to £50 a side; or Enoch Lowe of Birmingham one mile for the like sum. The money will be ready at Mr. *Dicken's*, DUKE OF YORK, Wednesbury, tomorrow (Monday night), from seven till eight o'clock."

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/10/1846

"*Joseph Dicken* was charged by Major McKnight with allowing card-playing in his house, at Wednesbury, on the 17th of September last. The Bench fined the defendant 10s and expenses."

Birmingham Journal 14/11/1846

"On Tuesday, the DUKE OF YORK public house, Wednesbury, was transferred from Mr. *Joseph Dickins* to Mr. *Daniel Smith*, of West Bromwich."

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/2/1848

"*Daniel Smith*, of the DUKE OF YORK, Wednesbury, was fined 5s and costs, for allowing drinking in his house during service time on Sunday, the 6th inst."

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.....

Daniel Smith, DUKE OF YORK INN, Wednesbury.”

Joseph Simpkin = Joseph Simkin

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/1/1851

“*Joseph Simkin* was charged by police-constable Whittaker with allowing dominoes to be played in the house, and afterwards attempting to bribe him, by putting half-a-crown in his hand, not to report him. The Magistrates fined *Simkin* in the sum of £2 and costs, considering it an aggravated case, and allowed police-constable Whittaker 5s for his honorable conduct in the affair, and at the same time recommended him to the notice of his superior officers.”

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.....

Joseph Simpkin, Wednesbury, 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.”

AND

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.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“Licensing Day for Offlow South.....

Inspector Blaney addressed a notice to the chief superintendent complaining of the conduct of the following licensed victuallers, who, having music and allowing dancing in their respective inns, were accused of letting out the company at a late hour. Some of these persons, elevated with liquor, made noises and created disturbances in the street, much to the annoyance of the peaceable and well disposed. Major M’Knight laid the paper before the Court, and the delinquents, who did not deny the music and dancing, merely said they discharged their company at the proper hour; they did not suffer drunkenness on their premises. The Bench, through the Rev. I. Clarkson, said the evil appeared especially to prevail on Monday and Saturday nights, and the defendants must be seriously admonished as to their future conduct. This referred to.....

Joseph Simpkin, DUKE OF YORK, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/12/1867

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner for South Staffordshire, held an inquest at the DUKE OF YORK INN, Wednesbury, concerning the death of Isaac Wilkinson, aged 66, who had lived at Wednesbury, and who met with his death under the following distressing circumstances.

On Thursday last the deceased was sinking a shaft at the colliery of Mr. David Rose, and when about to get into the ‘bowk’ to descend the pit, the ‘bowk’ slipped off the chain, and fell with the deceased to the bottom, a distance of twenty-one yards. The accident was discovered by some men at the top of the pit, and the deceased was soon brought to the surface, where he was found to be badly injured. He was taken home, and received prompt medical treatment, notwithstanding which he never rallied, but died about seven o’clock the same evening. How the ‘bowk’ came to slip could not be ascertained, but it is supposed that the deceased, in getting into it, stepped on one side of it, and thereby caused it to slip off the hook attached to the chain. No blame was attached to anybody, and the jury returned an open verdict.”

Thomas Nichols = Thomas Nicholls

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.

Thomas Nichols, landlord of the DUKE OF YORK INN, was next charged with allowing gambling in his house on the 25th ult, and was fined £2 and costs. In this case ten or twelve youths all about seventeen or eighteen years of age were playing at bagatelle and betting with checks."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/5/1870

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Benjamin Round and Rebecca Cowlshaw were brought up in custody, charged with having, on the 15th October last, stolen from the DUKE OF YORK INN, High Street, a bottle of brandy, value 8s, and a box of cigars, value 7s 6d, the property of the landlord, *Thomas Nicholls*. The prisoners entered the prosecutor's shop on the night of the day in question, and soon after they had left the brandy was missed. The next morning the box of cigars was missed. The prisoners kept out of the way until Thursday last, when Sergeant Steele found them in a lodging house at West Bromwich. Both prisoners were committed for trial."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 29/6/1870

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.

Benjamin Round (37), puddler, and Rebecca Cowlshaw (39), no occupation, were indicted for stealing, on the 15th October, 1869, one bottle of brandy and a quantity of cigars, the property of *Thomas Nicholls*. This was a plain case of stealing, and being convicted, Round was sentenced to two months' and Cowlshaw (previously convicted) to three months' imprisonment."

1871 Census

69, Lower High Street

- [1] *Thomas Nichols* (50), coal miner, born Great Bridge;
- [2] Martha Nichols (47), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sarah Nichols (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Rose Annie Dainty (33), general servant, born Meham Green, Worcestershire;
- [5] William Cook (24), boarder, labourer, born Lincoln;
- [6] Jesse Day (20), boarder, labourer, born London;
- [7] George Scrivens (40), boarder, bricklayer, born Berkshire;
- [8] John Harding (45), boarder, tailor, born Bilston;

Magnet 28/8/1875 - Advert

"Wanted, a Lady Pianist, immediately, to live in the House. Must Read at Sight. Good Terms. Apply, *James George*, DUKE OF YORK INN, Wednesbury."

WANTED,--A LADY PIANIST, immediately, to live in the House. Must Read at Sight. Good Terms.
Apply,--JAMES GEORGE,
Duke of York Inn, Wednesbury.

Magnet 11/9/1875 - Advert

“DUKE OF YORK Music Hall! Wednesbury, Near Birmingham.

Proprietor, *James George*. Pianist, Miss Mason.

Miss Rose Depello, Serio-Comic and Characteristic Vocalist.

Serio-Comic and Characteristic Vocalists please write in for future dates.

All Artistes must communicate eight days prior to commencing.”

Dudley Herald 2/9/1876

“On Wednesday the Annual Licensing Sessions for the parishes of West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton, &c, was held at the Public Office, West Bromwich.....

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston called the attention of the magistrates to the DUKE OF YORK public house, High Street, Wednesbury, kept by *James George*, which was used as a concert hall, with professional musicians and singers, and a charge made for entrance. The owner of the house had also erected a temporary building on the premises, which he used as a theatre. This alteration had been made without the sanction of the justices; and he asked the magistrates to withhold his license until the adjourned licensing day, to give an opportunity of the justices visiting the place, and ascertain if a license ought to be granted to all. He (Mr. Holland) was sure that the place would become a public nuisance if the alterations were carried out without any restriction.”

Magnet 22/5/1880 - Music Hall Directory and Register of Professional Apartments

“Wednesbury. DUKE OF YORK. *J. George*. Pianist Miss Lena Marshall.”

Wednesbury Herald 21/8/1880

“Ambrose Fellows, iron worker, was charged with being drunk, and also with refusing to quit the DUKE OF YORK INN, Lower High Street, when requested to do so. The landlord (Mr. *French*) said the defendant came to his house drunk, and created a disturbance, and upon being requested to leave he refused to do so.

Police-constable Steele proved to finding the defendant drunk in the street.

The Bench fined defendant 2s 6d and costs for refusing to quit, and 5s including costs for being drunk.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/12/1880 - Advert

“Sales by Private Contract. Public Houses.....

Eight Miles from Birmingham. Free Old-licensed House, DUKE OF YORK Music Hall, Wednesbury, with Vaults, large Music Hall, to seat 600 persons. Professionals engaged. The only Music Hall in the town. Good Stabling, Pigstyes, &c. Lease 14 years; 12 to run. Rent £40. Dwelling House and Land adjoining lets off at £15. Last tenant in 11 years. Lease, Goodwill, Stock, Furniture, &c, £500. Going abroad.”

1881 Census

69, Lower High Street – DUKE OF YORK INN

[1] Amos *French* (29), licensed victualler, born Lincolnshire;

[2] Eliza *French* (28), wife, born Nottingham;

[3] Florence *French* (6), daughter, scholar, born Nottingham;

[4] Gertrude *French* (5), daughter, scholar, born Nottingham;

[5] Mary Ann Palmer (18), general servant, born Nottingham:

The Era 28/5/1881 - Advert

“Wanted, Female Pianiste. Vocalist preferred. Must Read at Sight. To live in comfortable home.

Address, *A. French*, DUKE OF YORK Music Hall, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, Female PIANISTE. Vocalist preferred.
Must Read at Sight. To live in comfortable home. Address,
A. French, Duke of York Music Hall, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 2/7/1881 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the Property Mart, Church Street, Wednesbury, on Tuesday the 12th Day of July, 1881.....

Lot 2. A valuable well-known Freehold Old-Licensed House, known by the sign of the DUKE OF YORK INN, situate in High Street, Wednesbury, comprising Four Bed Rooms, Club Room, Liquor Vault, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Brewhouse, two good Cellars, Stable and Loft, Yard, with drawn gate Road, and Outbuildings.”

Closed

PETER SPITTLE's DIVIDEND.

THE Creditors who proved their Debts under a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued against PETER SPITTLE, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Gunlock-maker, Dealer and Chapman, and received the former Dividend of Eight Shillings in the Pound, may receive a final Dividend of One Shilling and Eight-pence in the Pound; and such of the Creditors as proved their Debts at the last Meeting of the Commissioners, may receive Nine Shillings and Eight-pence in the Pound on their respective Debts, by applying to Mr. Silvanus Earp, Baker, Wednesbury, one of the Assignees of the said Bankrupt's Estate.

E. and S. CROWTHER, Solicitors.

1803

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, at the House of Mr. Abel Round, known by the Sign of the Hare and Hounds, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Friday the 16th Day of March, 1804, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions;—

LOT I. Two Freehold Houses, substantially built and in good Repair, situated in Wednesbury aforesaid, fronting the Street leading through the Town, together with extensive and convenient Shopping, a good Garden, and other Appurtenances at the Back of the Houses; the Whole now in the Occupation of George Collier and his Undertenant. The House occupied by the said George Collier is used as a Public House, and known by the Sign of the Duke of York. The Situation of these Premises is an eligible one for the Public Business, a Retail Trade, or a Manufactory.

The Purchaser of this Lot may be accommodated with Part of the Purchase Money on Mortgage.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, at the House of Mr. Abel Round, known by the Sign of the Hare and Hounds, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Friday the 16th Day of March, 1804, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions;—

LOT I. Two Freehold Houses, substantially built and in good Repair, situated in Wednesbury aforesaid, fronting the Street leading through the Town, together with extensive and convenient Shopping, a good Garden, and other Appurtenances at the Back of the Houses; the Whole now in the Occupation of George Collier and his Undertenant. The House occupied by the said George Collier is used as a Public House, and known by the Sign of the Duke of York. The Situation of these Premises is an eligible one for the Public Business, a Retail Trade, or a Manufactory.

The Purchaser of this Lot may be accommodated with Part of the Purchase Money on Mortgage.

LOT II. Three substantial and convenient Freehold Houses, situated in Wednesbury aforesaid, near to the said Street, with the Shops, Outbuildings, Gardens, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, and now occupied by William Whitehouse, James Baker, and the Widow Danks.

Further Particulars may be known by applying to Messrs. Crowther, Attorneys, in Wednesbury.

1804

DUKE OF YORK MUSIC HALL !

WEDNESBURY, Near BIRMINGHAM.

Proprietor,.....JAMES GEORGE.

Pianist,.....Miss MASON.

Miss Rose Depello, Serio-Comic and Characteristic Vocalist.

Serio-Comic and Characteristic Vocalists please write in for future dates.

All Artists must communicate eight days prior to commencing.

1875

EIGHT Miles from Birmingham.—Free Old-licensed HOUSE, Duke of York Music Hall, Wednesbury, with Vaults, large Music Hall, to seat 600 persons. Professionals engaged. The only Music Hall in the town. Good Stabling, Pigstyes, &c. Lease 14 years; 12 to run. Rent £40. Dwelling House and Land adjoining lets off at £15. Last tenant in 11 years. Lease, Goodwill, Stock, Furniture, &c., £500. Going abroad.

1880

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

(41), 42, High Bullen / Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Fountain Brewery Co. Ltd., Wolverhampton [1894]
Atkinsons Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

Samuel Marsh [1818]
John Holland [1822]
Richard Lloyd [1828] – [1834]
James McGill [1841] – **1852**;
Mrs. Elizabeth McGill (**1852 – 1865**);
David Arthur McGill (**1865 – 1873**)
Edward Beesley [] – **1878**)
Mary Ann Beesley [1881]
Henry Harrison, junior [1883]
Henry Harrison, senior [1884]
Austin William Winter (**1886 – 1887**)
Joseph Baker (**1889 – 1896**)
Thomas German [1900] – [1904]
Charles Meakin [1908]
Samuel James Staves [1911] – [1912]
Frank George Cox [1916]
Edward Steatham [1921] – [1921]
Arthur John Gardner [1932]
Leslie Norman Westley [1939] – [1940]
Kendrick [1941] – [1942]



Token

NOTES

Dudley Street [1822], [1828], [1830], [1849]
42, High Bullen [1871], [1881]
High Bullen [1891], [1896], [1904], [1940]
41, High Bullen [1921], [1939]

‘The Folklore of the Black Country’ by Roy Palmer (2007)

“On the morning of Wednesbury’s fairs the beadle appeared in the market place, carrying a bell and a pike. He then led a procession of worthies, with a band, through the town to the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE in High Bullen, where they all drank two tankards of ale. They then marched back to the market place for more ale, then lunch in one of the public houses. The costs were borne by parish funds.”

Samuel Marsh was also a maltster. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/1/1818 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by R. Walker, at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Monday the 2nd Day of February, 1818, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon.....

Lot I. All that old established Public House, with the Brewhouse, Garden, Pigsty, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate and being in Wednesbury aforesaid, and now in the Occupation of *Samuel Marsh*.

Lot II. All that commodious Malthouse and Maltkiln adjoining Lot I, with a Right of Road at the Back thereof."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/3/1823 - Advert

"Excellent Opportunity to embark in the Public Line, at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by H. Gimblett, on Friday the 14th of March inst at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury, at three o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All the Licenses, Good-will, and immediate Possession of that old and well accustomed Public House, known by the name or sign of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, belonging to Mr. *John Holland*.

The purchaser to take to the stock, fixtures, brewing utensils, and household furniture, at a fair valuation."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/3/1823 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, without reserve, on Wednesday the 18th day of March inst at the house of Mr. *John Holland*, the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury, at ten o'clock in the morning.

All the neat Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, capital Barrels, in excellent condition, brewing Utensils, a very large strong Copper Furnace, nearly new, 18-bushel Mash Tub, ditto, and other Effects, all in excellent order, and a great part nearly new."

1841 Census

High Bullen

[1] *James McGill* (35), blacksmith, born Scotland;

[2] *Elizabeth McGill* (30), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Ann Woodings* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[4] *William Kelso* (20), labourer, born Scotland:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/10/1843

"David Richards, of Wednesbury, will run Hayward, of Bilston, 140 yards, for £5 or £10 a side. If this does not suit, he will run any one within four miles of Wednesbury for the same sum. His money is ready at *James McGill's*, or at Joseph Danks's, GOLDEN CROSS, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1845

"Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway.

We, the Undersigned, Landowners, Merchants, Coal and Ironmasters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other Inhabitants residing in the boroughs of Birmingham and Walsall, and the towns of Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Handsworth, and other places in those Districts, do hereby express our opinion that the projected Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway is calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the places and districts above mentioned, and we promise it our strenuous support.....

James M'Gill, Blacksmith and Victualler, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 4/4/1846

"On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a fine child named Martha Ford, about nine years of age, whose death was occasioned under very singular and melancholy circumstances. From the evidence given during the inquiry, we have gathered the following particulars.

On Saturday night, about nine o'clock, the parents of the child were sitting in the front kitchen; and requiring a can from the back kitchen, in which there was no light, they desired the little girl to go and fetch it. The rooms above communicated with this part of the house by a flight of stairs; and as the child was looking for the can, she heard something coming down the steps with a heavy tread, and knowing that none of her family were in the upper

apartments, she became dreadfully alarmed, and her fears amounted to uncontrollable terror, when she observed a strange animal, which the darkness prevented her from distinctly recognising, present its face close besides her. The poor little creature gave a loud and piercing scream, which was heard by the neighbours around, and rushed towards the room in which her parents were sitting, in whose arms she fell down senseless. On recovering a little she told them what she had seen, and it was then discovered that a large dog had found its way up stairs, and in endeavouring to get out of the house had frightened the poor girl in the manner described. The father and mother exerted themselves to the utmost to quiet the fears of their child, by explaining the groundless cause of her alarm; but her whole system had received so violent a shock, that she was taken dangerously ill during the night, and never again rallied, having died in the course of the following evening. The medical gentleman who was called in attributed her death to the shock which the nervous system had received; and a verdict to this effect was returned.”

1851 Census

High Bullen

- [1] *James McGill* (48), victualler, born Scotland;
- [2] *Elizabeth McGill* (40), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Catharine McGill* (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *David McGill* (17), son, blacksmith, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Ann Cherrington* (14), house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Betsey Green* (13), house servant, born Wednesbury:

James McGill died in the 4th quarter of 1851.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/1/1852

“The following licenses were transferred.....

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury, to *Elizabeth M. Gill*, widow of the late landlord, *James M. Gill*.”

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.....

Elizabeth M’Gill, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury, cautioned.”

1861 Census

High Bullen

- [1] *Elizabeth McGill* (53), widow, victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Catherine McGill* (30), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *David McGill* (27), son, engine smith, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Sarah Ainsworth* (20), house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Hannah Bissell* (13), house servant, born Halesowen:

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/3/1864 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, High Bullen, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Whitehouse, at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, March 23rd, 1864, at six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale to be then produced.

Lot 1. All that excellent old-licensed House, known by the sign of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, in the occupation of Mrs. *M’Gill*, and containing by admeasurement 813 square yards, or thereabouts. The house and premises consist of bar, bar-parlour, taproom, kitchen, two cellars, large clubroom, three chambers, brewhouse, and all necessary outbuildings, with large garden thereto belonging.

Lot 2. Also, all that piece of Land adjoining lot 1, with the malthouse standing thereon, and containing 395 square yards, or thereabouts, with a frontage to the High Bullen of 51ft 3in.

The Auctioneer begs to call the attention of the public to the above truly valuable properties, being the best business situation in the town, and close to the Crown Tube Works, ensuring a first-rate trade, and within five minutes’ walk of both railway stations.

For particulars, apply to Mr. J. E. Sheldon, Solicitor; or the Auctioneer, both of Wednesbury, where plans of the same may be seen.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1865

“On Saturday, the following licenses were temporarily transferred by the West Bromwich Magistrates.....
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, from *Elizabeth M’Gill* to *David M’Gill*.”

1871 Census

42, High Bullen

[1] *David McGill* (38), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Harriet McGill* (30), wife, born Handsworth;

[3] *Carrie E. McGill* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Hannah Griffiths* (17), general servant, born Wednesbury:

David McGill issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/9/1871

“At the Police Court, yesterday, the following cases against Wednesbury publicans were brought before the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner) and adjudicated upon.....

David McGill, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, for refusing to admit the police.

Police-sergeant Steele said that on the morning of last Thursday, on going near the defendant’s house, he heard some people inside singing, but he was refused admittance.

The defendant said he had been in the house 34 years, and never had any complaint against it. On the night in question he had a little private party of his own, with a few respectable townspeople.

The Stipendiary remarked that there was not objection to that, but the party could not have been a very quiet one at three o’clock in the morning.

A witness having been called, who deposed that he never heard the policeman, a fine of £1 and the costs was inflicted, the license to be endorsed, the Stipendiary remarking that he only fined the defendant so low because he had received a fair character from the police. It was a very serious offence to prevent the police from entering his house.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/6/1874 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale by Auction, at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, This Day (Thursday), June 18, at half-past 10 o’clock.

The Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, Public House Fixtures and Fittings, Stock-in-Trade, &c, comprising mahogany and iron Bedsteads, Feather Beds, mahogany Chest of Drawers, painted ditto, Washstands, Dressing Tables, Toilet Glass, rich-toned Cottage Pianoforte, in rosewood case; Tables, Chairs, Glasses, Jugs, Counters, Gas Fittings, Water Fittings, Ale Casks, 18-bushel Mash Tub, 160-gallon copper Boiler, iron Boilers, Coolers, lead Piping, patent Malt Crusher, prime Hops, Cigars, stock of Liquors, Wines and numerous other Effects.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1878 - Died

“On the 11th inst, at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, Wednesbury, in the 50th year of his age, *Edward Beesley*, late of Wood Green; deeply regretted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/9/1878 - Advert

“The ELEPHANT AND CASTLE Spirit Vaults, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, opposite the Crown Tube Works, and in the midst of a large manufacturing district. Long lease. In-coming £800.

Apply, Roderick and Son.”

THE Elephant and Castle Spirit Vaults, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, opposite the Crown Tube Works, and in the midst of a large manufacturing district. Long lease. In-coming £800.—Apply, Roderick and Son.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/3/1880 - Advert

“ELEPHANT AND CASTLE Spirit Vaults, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

To be Disposed of by private treaty (by order of the representatives of the late Mr. *Beesley*, deceased), the valuable Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above excellent House. The premises are most complete, with spacious yard and out-buildings, small brewery, &c; capable of great extension. The trade effects to be taken at valuation.

Full particulars on application to Ashcroft and Son, Auctioneers and Valuers, 54, Ann Street, Birmingham.”

1881 Census

42, High Bullen – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

- [1] Mary Ann Beesley (48), widow, publican, born Pelsall;
- [2] Samuel Beesley (21), son, railway clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [3] William Beesley (19), son, forgerman, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary Beesley (17), daughter, domestic, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Hannah Beesley (15), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Alfred Beesley (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Alice Beesley (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Emily Beesley (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] William Beesley (48), brother-in-law, plater, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Mary Wood (65), sister-in-law, former publican, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 15/12/1881 - Advert

“Clog Dancer Wanted, who can sing comic songs too.
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury.”

CLOG-DANCER Wanted, who can sing comic songs too.—Elephant and Castle, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 9/12/1882

“James Cliff, a member of the Wednesbury Old Athletic Football Club, was summoned for being on the licensed premises of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, during prohibited hours, on the 26th ult.

PC Laytte stated that about twelve o’clock on the night in question he found the defendant and a young man named Grice secreted in a portion of the house. Mr. Superintendent Holland informed the Bench that Grice was not present in consequence of suffering from small pox.

Defendant denied that he had any way hid himself, and contended that he had a right to be upon the premises, he having received an invitation from the landlord to stay and have supper.

In reply to the magistrates the officer stated that he did not see either of the men have any thing to drink.

The Magistrates Clerk said the question for the magistrates to decide was as to whether it was right for a landlord to ask a customer to have supper?

Mr. Superintendent Holland said if it was laid down that publicans had a right to invite customers to stay and have supper all kinds of irregularities would take place. On several occasions he had received complaints of football players being on the licensed premises during prohibited hours, and he had consequently sent several officers to watch the house. On the night in question a young man named Moon was found in the house but he was not summoned as it was alleged that he assisted in the house and also courted the landlord’s daughter.

Defendant said he should not have been on the premises so late as he was had he not waited for Moon.

The magistrates decided that an offence had been committed and fined defendant 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1884

“Shropshire Sessions were continued yesterday at Shrewsbury.....

The Chairman was occupied nearly the whole of the day in hearing an appeal by Mr. *Henry Harrison*, jun, against the decision of two of the justices of the Shiffnal Petty Sessional Division, who had declined to renew the license of the Fighting Cocks Inn, Oakengates, for which he applied at the last annual licensing meeting.....

The house in question was destroyed by fire in November last, and up to that time it was occupied by the appellant and his wife. Subsequently the defendant went to reside at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury, the license of which he also held at the time, but it has since been transferred to his father.....”

Cheshire Observer 23/2/1884

“An application was made by Mr. Brassey, solicitor, in a case involving a misunderstanding about names. The plaintiff, J. Pointon, sued *Henry Harrison* for the recovery of a sum of money for goods supplied. He found that the debtor was at Wednesbury, and sued him for the money. It appeared, however, that the summons was served upon *Henry Harrison*, at the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury, but it seemed that he was not the *Henry Harrison* referred to, but his father. The son, however, lived next door to his father, in another public house, the CROWN AND CUSHION. Mr. Brassey stated on behalf of plaintiff that a notice of the application had been sent, by registered letter, to the younger *Harrison*, and no heed being paid to that notice he now applied for judgement against *Henry Harrison*, jun. His Honour ordered that a summons, returnable for next court, should be served by registered letter.”

Magnet 3/5/1884 - Musical-hall Directory and Register of Apartments

“Wednesbury. ELEPHANT AND CASTLE. *H. Harrison.*”

The Commercial Gazette 18/12/1884

“Extracts from the Register of County Courts Judgements.....

Defendant, *Henry Harrison*, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE HOTEL, Wednesbury, November 6, £20 16s 6d.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/4/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.

Apply, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a good General Servant.--Apply, Elephant and Castle, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/10/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, a Cottage, with garden, near Wednesbury or Wolverhampton.

Address, E. L. T., ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a Cottage, with garden, near Wednesbury or Wolverhampton.—Address, E. L. T., Elephant and Castle, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1887

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Austin William Winter*, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

A petition on behalf of the debtor was yesterday filed, in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court, by Messrs. Thursfield and Messiter, solicitors, Wednesbury, and the 2nd February was fixed for the public examination.”

Walsall Observer 29/1/1887 - Advert

“In Bankruptcy. Re *A. W. Winter.*

Important Unreserved Sale of Public House Fittings and Household Furniture.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Messrs. Watkins and Powell are instructed by E. Pritchard, Esq. (Official Receiver), to Sell by Auction, at the above address, on Thursday next, February 3rd, 1887, entirely without reserve.

The whole of the Unfixed Public House Fittings and Stock, including Mahogany Drinking Tables, Benches, Mirror, Brass Hot Water Muller, Sets of Ale and Spirit Measures, Jugs, Glasses, Spirit Bottles, 18 Gallons Scotch Whiskey, 5 Gallons Irish Whiskey, 20 Gallons Rum, Gin, St. Julien Claret, and about 130 Gallons Ale; also the useful Household Furniture, comprising Mahogany Dining-room Suite, upholstered in leather; Crown-back and other Chairs, Mahogany Telescopic Dining Table, Walnut Music Canterbury, Sets of Brass and Iron Bedsteads, Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Toilet Tables, Swing Glasses, Children's Cots, and numerous other Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock precisely.

Catalogues may be had from the Auctioneers Offices, Bridge Street, Walsall; and Market Street, Lichfield.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/2/1887

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Austin William Winter*, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, Wednesbury, licensed victualler.

The public examination of this debtor took place at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. Registrar Clarke; Mr. J. G. Thursfield appearing for the debtor.

The statement of affairs showed liabilities to the amount of £473 0s 2d, £443 19s 6d of which was estimated to rank for dividend, and a deficiency of £222 0s 2d, after payment of preferential creditors to the amount of £29 0s 8d. The debtor attributed his failure to bad trade and want of capital.

His examination showed that he was employed at different times as a brewer's clerk, commercial traveller, manager for licensed victuallers, and advertisement canvasser, until August, 1886, when he took to the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN from Messrs. Downing, maltsters, agreeing to pay £280 for the possession, stock, fixtures, and license. He paid £150 on account of the purchase money, and secured the balance of £130, and all sums due to Messrs. Downing for goods supplied by them, by a charge to Messrs. Downing on the lease of the premises and the trade fixture therein, and the licenses thereof. The sum of £160 was owing to Messrs. Downing, who claimed to be entitled under the charge to the whole of the trade fixtures, which the bankrupt in his statement estimated at £200. He had no capital when he went to the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, but borrowed £160 from a friend, which was still owing. His wife was in receipt of a private income of £60 a year, and out of that she had bought all the furniture in the house, but she and he were quite willing to give it up for the benefit of his creditors.

The examination was adjourned till the 15th February, to close.”

1891 Census

High Bullen – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

- [1] *Joseph Baker* (25), unmarried, licensed victualler manager, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Marie Baker* (21), sister, housekeeper, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Albert Baker* (18), brother, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Fred Baker* (16), brother, tube department, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *John Baker* (54), father, born Philadelphia, United States:

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.....

Joseph Baker, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, High Bullen.....

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 Gazette 29/9/1894

“Wednesbury adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Mr. R. A. Willcock, of Wolverhampton, applied for the renewal of the license of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, High Bullen, to *Joseph Baker*. He stated that the Fountains Brewery Company were the owners of the house. The company was in liquidation, and in the event of the license being renewed he should apply for it to be transferred to the Official Receiver.

Superintendent Salt questioned the applicant with respect to the requirements of the neighbourhood. Mr. Willcock said the only objection against the license was one of permitting drunkenness, and urged that Mr. Salt should confine himself to that objection. The Mayor said the magistrates did not think it was necessary for Mr. Salt to raise other objections.”

[The application was granted.]

Wednesbury Herald 5/1/1895

“Licensing Sessions.....

The license of the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, held by the Fountain Brewery Co., Wolverhampton, in liquidation, had to be transferred to the Receiver in Bankruptcy.”

A team from took part in the Wednesbury and District Quoits League. [1899]

Thomas German was a bandmaster, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE. [1900]

He was a professional musician. He was bandmaster to the Crown Tube Works Brass Band.

See also RED LION, Bridge Street.

Sports Argus 8/9/1900

“The matches of Saturday concluded the Wednesbury and District Quoit League for the season. The ELEPHANT AND CASTLE established a record, being undefeated throughout the tournament.”

1901 Census

High Bullen – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

- [1] *Thomas German* (56), licensed victualler, born Scotland;
- [2] *Priscilla German* (40), wife, born Liverpool;
- [3] *Thomas German* (24), son, railway porter, born Salford;
- [4] *Priscilla German* (14), daughter, dressmaker, born Manchester;
- [5] *Ada German* (8), daughter, born Manchester;
- [6] *Maud German* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Mary Smith* (22), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Elizabeth Wordle* (23), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

A team from here were champions in the Wednesbury and District Quoits League in 1900.

Wednesbury Leader 8/6/1901

“Wednesbury and District Quoits League.....

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE v OLD BARREL, Kings Hill.

The present champions of the League paid a visit to the Kings Hill Grounds to play off their fixture with the Barrelites. A good number of spectators were present, who witnessed a very pleasant game The Castleites won by 34. The homesters took their defeat in true sportsmanlike manner, and had a pleasant hour together with their victors at the conclusion of the game.”

[ELEPHANT AND CASTLE won by 77-43.]

A team from here were runners-up in the Wednesbury and District Quoits League in 1901.

[Coseley Coppice Star were champions.]

Sports Argus 13/9/1902

“Never before in the history of quoiting has there been such a finish to a competition as that by which the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE Club, Wednesbury, gained the championship of the Wednesbury and District League on Saturday. The Coseley Coppice Star and the Wednesbury Club being equal on points in the League tourney, scoring eighteen points on ten completed games, a deciding game was played for the championship cup and medals. The first heat went greatly in the Wednesbury pair’s favour, by 21-11. The second heat was also for them, 21-19. The Coseley team won the third heat, by 21-18, and the Wednesbury club had only to make 13 in the last heat to win the game. The task was a big one, the pitching being very accurate. Coseley drew away, making 20 to their opponents 12, but the last point was gained by the ELEPHANT AND CASTLE player, and the championship was won by a unit, 73-72.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Birmingham Mail 25/11/1910

“*Samuel James Staves*, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE INN, High Bullen, was summoned at Wednesbury today for permitting drunkenness on the 11th inst. Evidence was given that Police-sergeant Harris and Police-constable Ansell, on visiting the public house, found a man named Lines there drunk. For the defence it was contended that he had been refused drink and had been told to leave. The Bench expressed the opinion that there was a doubt in the case and dismissed it.”

1911 Census

High Bullen – ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

[1] *Samuel J. Staves* (44), hotel keeper, born Ashby cum Fenby, Lincolnshire;

[2] *Nellie Staves* (32), wife, married 1 year, born Hindlip, Worcestershire;

[3] *Walter Staves* (17), son, barman, born Peterborough:

Walsall Observer 25/1/1913 - Advert

“Cart Horses, choice of three, 6 to 8 years, 16 hands; warranted quiet, good workers shafts, chains; suitable for haulier, builder, or furniture van, warranted sound, £15 to £25.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

CART Horses, choice of three, 6 to 8 years, 16 hands; warranted quiet, good workers shafts, chains; suitable for haulier, builder, or furniture van, warranted sound, £15 to £25. —Elephant and Castle, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

1921 Census

41, High Bullen

[1] *Edward Steatham* (36), manager of beerhouse, born Darlaston;

[2] *Edith Steatham* (30), wife, manageress, born Darlaston:

1939 Register

41, High Bullen

[1] *Leslie N. Westley*, date of birth 14/3/1894, commercial manager, sheet metal work, married;

[2] *Alice Westley*, dob 13/8/1891, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Walsall Observer 27/12/1941

“Our Christmas Card Contest Highly Commended.....

Betty Kendrick (13), ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 28/2/1942

“The contest in which Brigade members were asked to form a sentence of eleven words severally commencing in order with the letters of Warship Week, was not an easy one and entries were not so numerous as usual.....

One 2s 6d stamp is awarded to each of the following six members.....

Betty Kendrick (13), ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 6/6/1942

“The Madagascar map competition bought in some excellent entries. Seven of these stood out from the rest and it was a matter of some difficulty to decide which established the strongest claim for first prize.....

The other six, to each of whom a prize of two-and-sixpence is awarded are.....

Betty Kendrick (14), ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 7/11/1942

“Regimental badge drawing contest Highly Commended.....

Betty Kendrick (14), ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 12/12/1942

“Our Eastern Mediterranean map drawing contest Commended.....

Betty Kendrick (14), ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

It was delicensed in 1960.

It became G. E. Fynn’s motor showroom. [1962]

It was relicensed as Rafael’s restaurant.

Bannons restaurant. [1985], [1986]

It was renamed Tats.

Patricks nightclub. [1992], [1999]

Closed [2006]

It was renamed J9.

It was renamed Holbys.

Closed

Demolished [2010]



1999

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. WALKER, at the Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Monday the 2d Day of February, 1818, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will be then produced:—

LOT I. All that old established Public House, with the Brewhouse, Garden, Pigsty, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate and being in Wednesbury aforesaid, and now in the Occupation of Samuel Marsh.

LOT II. All that commodious Malthouse and Maltkiln adjoining Lot 1, with a Right of Road at the Back thereof.

1818

Excellent Opportunity to embark in the Public Line, at Wednesbury.

TO be SOLD by Auction, by H. GIMBLETT, on Friday the 14th of March inst. at the Elephant and Castle, Wednesbury, at three o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced:—all the Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of that old and well accustomed Public House, known by the name or sign of the ELEPHANT & CASTLE, belonging to Mr. John Holland.

The purchaser to take to the stock, fixtures, brewing utensils, and household furniture, at a fair valuation.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, without reserve, by W. UNDERHILL, on Wednesday the 18th day of March inst. at the house of Mr. John Holland, the Elephant and Castle, Wednesbury, at ten o'clock in the morning, all the neat Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, capital Barrels, in excellent condition, brewing Utensils, a very large strong Copper Furnace, nearly new, 18-bushel Mash Tub, ditto, and other Effects, all in excellent order, and a great part nearly new.

1823

Valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY, HIGH BULLEN, WEDNESBURY, Staffordshire.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, at the TURK'S HEAD HOTEL, WEDNESBURY, on Wednesday, March 23rd, 1864, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale to be then produced—

Lot 1.

All that excellent old licensed HOUSE, known by the sign of the Elephant and Castle, High Bullen, in the occupation of Mrs. McGill, and containing by admeasurement 813 square yards, or thereabouts. The house and premises consist of bar, bar-parlour, taproom, kitchen, two cellars, large clubroom, three chambers, brewhouse, and all necessary outbuildings, with large garden thereto belonging.

Lot 2.

Also, all that piece of LAND adjoining lot 1, with the malt-house standing thereon, and containing 395 square yards, or thereabouts, with a frontage to the High Bullen of 51 ft. 3 in.

The Auctioneer begs to call the attention of the public to the above truly valuable properties, being the best business situation in the town, and close to the Crown Tube Works, ensuring a first-rate trade, and within five minutes' walk of both railway stations.

For particulars, apply to Mr. J. E. SHELDON, Solicitor; or the AUCTIONEER, both of Wednesbury, where plans of the same may be seen.

1864

Unreserved Sale by Auction, at the Elephant and Castle Inn, High Bullen, Wednesbury.—To be Sold by Auction,

BY Mr. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, THIS DAY (Thursday), June 18, at half past 10 o'clock—the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING VESSELS, Public-house FIXTURES and FITTINGS, STOCK-IN-TRADE, &c., comprising mahogany and iron Bedsteads, Feather Beds, mahogany Chest of Drawers, painted ditto, Washstands, Dressing Tables, Toilet Glass, rich-toned Cottage Pianoforte, in rosewood case; Tables, Chairs, Glasses, Jugs, Counters, Gasfittings, Water Fittings, Ale Casks, 18-bushel Mash Tub, 10-gallon copper Boiler, iron Boilers, Coolers, Lead Piping, patent Malt Crusher, prime Hops, Cigars, stock of Liquors, Wines, and numerous other Effects.

1874

ELEPHANT and Castle Spirit Vaults, High Bullen, Wednesbury.—To be Disposed of by private treaty (by order of the representatives of the late Mr. Beesley, deceased), the valuable Lease, Licences, Goodwill, and Possession of the above excellent House. The premises are most complete, with spacious yard and out-buildings, small brewery, &c.; capable of great extension. The trade effects to be taken at valuation.—Full particulars on application to Ashcroft and Son, Auctioneers and Valuers, 54, Ann Street, Birmingham.

1880

IN BANKRUPTCY. RE A. W. WINTER

Important Unreserved Sale of Public House Fittings and Household Furniture.

ELEPHANT & CASTLE INN, HIGH BULLEN, WEDNESBURY.

MESSRS. WATKINS AND POWELL are instructed by E. Pritchard, Esq. (Official Receiver), to SELL by AUCTION, at the above address, on THURSDAY NEXT, February 3rd, 1887, entirely without reserve, the whole of the Unfixed

PUBLIC-HOUSE FITTINGS AND STOCK, Including Mahogany Drinking Tables, Benches, Mirror, Brass Hot Water Muller, Sets of Ale and Spirit Measures, Jugs, Glasses, Spirit Bottles, 18 Gallons Scotch Whiskey, 5 Gallons Irish Whiskey, 20 Gallons Rum, Gin, St. Julien Claret, and about 130 Gallons Ale; also the useful

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

Comprising Mahogany Dining-room Suite, upholstered in leather; Crown-back and other Chairs, Mahogany Telescopic Dining Table, Walnut Music Canterbury, Sets of Brass and Iron French Bedsteads, Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Toilet Tables, Swing Glasses, Children's Cots, and numerous other Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock precisely.

Catalogues may be had from the Auctioneers' Offices—Bridge Street, Walsall; and Market Street, Lichfield.

1887

ERIN GO BRAGH

132, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Bloxwich Brewery Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Luke Joyce [1871]
James Hanlon [1881]
Thomas Bowdler [1888]
Martin Dyer [1889] – [1896]
William Woodhall [1900] – [1904]
James Patrick Cunningham [1910]
Arthur Hawkins [1911] – [1912]
Joseph Bradbury [] – 1912):

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

132, Holyhead Road
[1] Luke Joyce (48), publican, born Ireland;
[2] Mary Joyce (48), wife, born Ireland;
[3] Annie Joyce (15), daughter, born Bilston;
[4] Ellen Kenny (20), visitor, born Bilston;
[5] Mary Kenny (17), visitor, born Wednesbury;
[6] Thomas Welch (30), boarder, forge labourer, born Ireland;
[7] Bridget Welch (30), boarder, born Ireland;
[8] son Welch (8 days), boarder, born Wednesbury;
[9] John Murphy (35), boarder, forge labourer, born Ireland;
[10] Bartley Burk (40), boarder, forge labourer, born Ireland;

1881 Census

132, Holyhead Road – ERIN GO BRAUGH
[1] James Hanlon (46), roller and beerhouse keeper, born Ireland;
[2] Maria Hanlon (43), wife, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
[3] Sarah Hanlon (22), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
[4] Edward Hanlon (17), son, labourer in iron works, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 7/4/1883

“Mary Powell, a married woman, was summoned for refusing to quit the ERIN GO BRAGH INN, Holyhead Road, and also with breaking a window.

Mr. Topham appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Sheldon for the defendant.

The offence having been proved Mr. Sheldon stated that the defendant had paid for the damage she had done, and he hoped the Stipendiary would deal leniently with her for the other offence.

The Stipendiary directed the defendant to pay the costs.”

WEDNESBURY.

SALE OF FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE & DWELLING-HOUSES SITUATE IN HOLYHEAD ROAD.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4th, 1889.

MESSRS. BELCHER & SON are favoured with instructions to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, WEDNESBURY, on the above date, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, the following Property, in one or two lots, as may be determined at the time of sale:—

All that old-established FREEHOLD BEER-HOUSE, known by the name “Erin go-Bragh,” comprising Tap-room, Smoke-room, Club-room, two Bedrooms, Kitchens, Cellar, Brewhouse, Malt-room, and Outbuildings, in the occupation of Mr. M. Dyer; together with SEVEN MESSUAGES or DWELLING-HOUSES adjoining, and being Nos. 129, 130, 131, and Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, in Court 1, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury aforesaid.

The Property is fully occupied, and produces gross, £64 3s. 0d. per annum.

The whole of the houses have recently undergone painting and repair.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, Walsall, and Darlaston; or to

MESSRS. L. W. LEWIS & SON,
Solicitors, Walsall.

1889

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/4/1889

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, this (Tuesday) morning, *Martin Dyer*, landlord of the ERIN GO BRAGH, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged on three summonses with selling during prohibited hours on Sunday, March 24. Mr. S. M. Slater defended.

Police-constable Jackson said he and Police-constable Owen watched the house from five o'clock in the morning till 3.40 in the afternoon. About half-past ten o'clock a woman came up the yard, knocked at the back door, and was admitted by the servant. After remaining on the premises about five minutes she left. At 11.30 another woman walked straight into the house, and stayed two or three minutes. At 12 o'clock a man knocked at the back door and was admitted by the landlord, and he did not leave the premises before 12.30. At ten minutes to three a woman named Collins came from her own house with a glass bottle partially concealed under her apron. She was admitted into the ERIN GO BRAGH by the servant, who went down the entry to watch while Collins was in. The mistress came to the door to see that the coast was clear before beckoning Collins to come out, which she did, carrying a glass bottle containing ale. At 3.40 John Collins went to the back door, knocked, and shouted, 'Polly.' When the servant came he said, 'Fill me a pint, Polly,' but she replied in an under-tone. He then went back to his house, fetched a quart bottle, and gave it to the servant, who went into the house and filled it while he went to the bottom of the entry to watch. Shortly after, the girl came out and handed the bottle to Collins. Witness went up and seized the bottle, and Collins then said, 'All right, I have not had it from here; my brother-in-law gave it me at the front.' In reply to witness the servant said, 'Please don't say anything about it; the missus told me not to fill any more.' Collins repeated the request.

By Mr. Slater: With regard to the first three visitors he saw no liquor brought away or consumed. Mr. and Mrs. *Dyer* left the house just before three, leaving the girl in charge. He thought he heard them tell the girl not to serve while they were away. He saw no money pass, nor did he hear the servant say there was some beer left from dinner which he could have.

The defence was that no liquor was paid for, but that all the persons who went to the house in the morning were relations and friends, and merely visited as such. The case of Mrs. Collins was admitted, and with regard to that of John Collins it was urged that the servant gave him the beer left from the dinner.

Eventually a plea of guilty was made in the case of Mrs. Collins. Defendant was fined 20s and costs in this case, and ordered to pay the costs in the other two cases.”

Walsall Observer 2/11/1889 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Sale of Freehold Beerhouse and Dwelling Houses, situate in Holyhead Road.

Monday, November 4th, 1889.

Messrs. Belcher & Son are favoured with instructions to Sell by Public Auction, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on the above date, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, the following Property, in one or two lots, as may be determined at the time of sale.

All that old-established Freehold Beerhouse, known by the name ERIN GO BRAGH, comprising Tap-room, Smoke-room, Club-room, two Bedrooms, Kitchens, Cellar, Brewhouse, Malt-room, and Outbuildings, in the occupation of Mr. *M. Dyer*; together with Seven Messuages of Dwelling Houses adjoining and being Nos.129, 130, 131, and Nos.1, 2, 3, and 4, in Court 1, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury aforesaid.

The Property is fully occupied, and produces gross, £64 3s 0d per annum.

The whole of the houses have recently undergone painting and repair.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, Walsall, and Darlaston; or to Messrs. L. W. Lewis & Son, Solicitors, Walsall.”

1891 Census

132, Holyhead Road – ERIN GO BRAUGH

[1] *Martin Dyer* (40), general labourer and publican, born Ireland;

[2] *Mary Dyer* (39), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *James Noon* (32), boarder, gardener, born Ireland:

Martin Dyer, beer retailer, 132, Holyhead Road. [1896]

William Woodhall = William Woodall

William Woodhall, beerhouse keeper, 132, Holyhead Road. [1900], [1904]

1901 Census

132, Holyhead Road

- [1] William Woodall (41), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Alice Woodall (41), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Lilian Frances Woodall (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary Pauline Woodall (16), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Edward John Woodall (14), son, born Wednesbury;

Walsall Observer 9/7/1910

“John Baugh, of no fixed abode, was charged with stealing a silver chain and two medals, value 27s, the property of William Perry, striker, of Crankhill Lane, Wednesbury.

Prosecutor stated that prisoner went to his house and pushed open the door. Witness went outside to see who it was, and noticed the prisoner, who shouted, ‘Come on!’ He closed with the prisoner, and his wife pulled him away. He then missed his watch, chain, and the medals which were attached to it. Witness searched the ground, but could not find the chain.

James Patrick Cunningham, licensee of the ERIN GO BRAGH INN, Holyhead Road, said prisoner entered his house, and said, ‘Do you want to buy something worth the money?’ Witness said it depended upon what he offered. Prisoner then produced the chain and two medals. Witness took them off prisoner and examined them, and he asked him where he got them from. Prisoner said he found them by the Monway Bridge. Witness gave prisoner 1s, and told him he knew whom the chain belonged to, and that if he got more for it he would give it to him. The Bench remanded prisoner for a week in custody.”

1911 Census

132, Holyhead Road – ERIN GO BRAGH

- [1] *Arthur Hawkins* (26), married, publican, born Brownhills, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Florence Mary Jones* (16), domestic servant, born Brownhills, Staffordshire:

Arthur Hawkins, beer retailer, 132, Holyhead Road. [1912]

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.....

ERIN GO BRAGH INN, Holyhead Road. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Joseph Bradbury*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/7/1912

“Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority.....

ERIN GO BRAGH INN, Holyhead Road, had been referred from Wednesbury borough. Mr. Slater made formal application for renewal on behalf of the owner and licensee. The license was referred for compensation.”

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.....

ERIN GO BRAGH INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Joseph Bradbury*. Registered Owner, Bloxwich Brewery Co. 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.....

ERIN GO BRAGH INN, Holyhead Road, beerhouse ante 1869, £650.....

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties and will be paid out on the 21st of December.”

It closed in 1912.

FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN

248, (132), Walsall Road / Cook Street, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

John Lord

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939)

Les and Wendy Williams (acquired in 1990)

LICENSEES

William Lote [1865] – [1866]

Mrs. Maria Lote [1867] – [1872]

Thomas Guy [1880] – [1881]

Henry 'Harry' Wallbank [1889] – [1896]

Sarah Wallbank [] – **1899**);

George Edward Betteridge (**1899** – []

Aaron Bytheway [1900] – [1901]

George Jackson [1909]

Samuel Robinson [1911]

Charles Fisher [1921]

Arthur Moseley []

Bernard Higginson [1934] – **1958**)

Stanley Ernest Lunn [1961] – **1963**);

William Leslie Holmes (**1963** – [1966]

Les Williams (**1980** – **2005**)



NOTES

132, Walsall Road [1871], [1881], [1891]

248, Walsall Road [1901], [1940]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/4/1860

“An adjourned inquest upon the body of Jane Bottomer was held on Tuesday, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN. Mr. Partridge, surgeon, stated that he had attended deceased upon occasions when her labours were very difficult. On the last occasion he was not called to see her till after her death. He made a post mortem examination of the body, and found the various organs perfectly healthy. There was a rupture of the uterus, which had caused death; but he thought it had arisen from natural causes. He did not find that she had suffered any injury from the woman who attended her. The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1865 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Freehold Property, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, on Friday, June 23, 1865, at the CASTLE INN, in Darlaston, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced, in the following or such lots as shall be decided at the Sale.

Lot 1. That well-accustomed Retail Tavern, known by the sign of the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, situate on the high road leading from Darlaston to Walsall, and containing large Tap Room, Parlour, Bar, large Club Room, three Bed Rooms, three Attics, three good Cellars, Cooking Kitchen, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, Pigstys, Yard, and Out-buildings belonging thereto, now in the occupation of Mr. *Wm. Lote*.

Lot 2. Freehold Dwelling House, containing Sitting Room, Kitchen, two Bed Rooms, Brewhouse, and Land, fronting to the road leading from Darlaston to Walsall.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Robert Lucy, Market Place, Wednesbury; or the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury.

NB. The Vendors will give every assistance to the Purchaser to procure a Victuallers License to lot 1.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/7/1865 - Advert

“Found on Sunday last, 25th instant, between Delves Green and Walsall, a Black and Tan Terrier Dog, about 12lbs weight. If not owned in three days, will be Sold to pay expenses.

Apply to *William Lote*, FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1866

“Licensing Day applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

Mr. Duignan applied on behalf of *William Lote*, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, whose house was situated 210 yards from the nearest licensed house. Mr. Bayley opposed for the owner of FALLINGS HEATH Refused.”

1867 Probate

“The Will of *William Lote*, late of Fallings Heath, in the Parish of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Retail Brewer, deceased, who died 1 April 1867 at Fallings Heath aforesaid, was proved at Lichfield on 9 September by the oath of *Maria Lote*, of Fallings Heath aforesaid, Widow, the Relict, the sole Executrix. Effects under £100.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1867

“West Bromwich special Session for hearing new applications for victuallers licenses.....

Mr. Dale applied for a license for the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Fallings Heath, kept by Mrs. *Maria Lote*. The neighbourhood, he said, was a largely increasing one, and within the last six years upwards of 600 houses had been built; but no license had been granted during that period, and the nearest licensed house at present was the FOUNTAIN, 210 yards distant. This was the fourth application. Mr. Slater opposed, on the ground that another licensed house was not required in the neighbourhood. The Bench refused the application.”

1871 Census

132, Walsall Road

[1] *Maria Lote* (60), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] John Lote (24), son, sheet iron warehouseman, born Wednesbury;

[3] Sarah Thompson (17), grand-daughter, general servant, born Wednesbury;

[4] Martha Maria Thompson (9), grand-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] Charles Roberts (46), visitor, labourer, born Warwick;

[6] John Unitt (26), lodger, sheet iron shearer, born Dudley:

Maria Lote died in the 4th quarter of 1874.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/1/1881

“Local Liquidations. Petitions were yesterday filed in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court on behalf of.....

Thomas Guy, FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Walsall Road, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, beerhouse keeper and fitter, liabilities £265, solicitor Mr. J. Corbett, Darlaston.”

London Gazette 25/1/1881

"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 Creditors, instituted by *Thomas Guy*, of FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Walsall-road, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper and Fitter.

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 office of Mr. Joseph Corbett, 79, Pinfold-street, Darlaston, in the said county of Stafford, Solicitor, on the 5th day of February, 1881, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 13th day of January, 1881.

Joseph Corbett, Solicitor for the said Debtor."

1881 Census

132, Walsall Road

[1] *Thomas Guy* (33), publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Elizabeth Guy* (31), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Lizzie Guy* (7), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;

[4] *Maria Guy* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Mary Ann Cooper* (20), boarder, general servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/3/1885 - Advert

"To Butchers, &c. Good strong Trap for Sale, large, in good condition. Also, Wanted, good Horse, 15 or 16 hands, about 6 years; moderate price.

Apply, *H. Wallbank*, Walsall Road, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury."

TO Butchers, &c.—Good strong Trap for Sale, large, in good condition. Also, Wanted, good Horse, 15 or 16 hands, about 6 years: moderate price.—Apply, H. Wallbank, Walsall-rd., Fallings Heath, Wednesbury.

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/1/1886

"Early on Wednesday morning a terrific gale of wind passed over Darlaston, accompanied by rain. It was of short duration, but was attended with disastrous consequences.....

The tiles and crests of the roofs of houses in different parts of the town, were also blown off, among them the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, the roof of which was almost completely blown off."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/1/1889 - Advert

"Strong Youth Wanted, used to horses, with good character.

Apply, *H. Wallbank*, FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Wednesbury."

STRONG Youth Wanted, used to horses, with good character.—Apply, H. Wallbank, Fallings Heath Tavern, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/5/1889 - Advert

"Stationary and Tobacco (old-established) for Sale. Rent free till Midsummer.

Phono., FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Wednesbury."

STATIONERY and Tobacco (old-established) for Sale. Rent free till Midsummer.—Phono., Fallings Heath Tavern, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/10/1889

"This (Tuesday) morning, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Walsall Road, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, on the body of *James Bray* (54), miner, of 19, Cook Street, Fallings Heath, who died suddenly at his home on Saturday morning. Evidence went to show that deceased died from natural causes, and a verdict in accordance was returned."

1891 Census

132, Walsall Road

[1] *Henry Wallbank* (56), carter, born Badgley, Warwickshire;

[2] *Sarah Wallbank* (52), wife, born Coalpit Bank, Shropshire;

[3] *Sarah Jane Wallbank* (23), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Elijah Cleverly* (16), domestic servant, born Bilston;

[5] *Lizzie Blower* (28), daughter, married, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 5/1/1895

"The annual supper in connection with the weekly club held at the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN took place on New Year's Eve, at the same place, when upwards of thirty members sat down. The host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Wallbank*) had provided an excellent bill of fare....."

The People 25/10/1896

"*Harry Wallbank*, landlord of the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Wednesbury, was on a visit to his sister at Great Heath, near Coventry. He had been in a depressed condition of mind, and on Friday visited the grave of his mother. Yesterday morning his sister, hearing some one fall heavily upon the floor, rushed into the room and saw her brother with his throat terribly cut."

AND

Coventry Evening Telegraph 26/10/1896

"An inquest was held at the Angel Inn, Foleshill, today, by the Coroner, (Dr. C. W. Iliffe) concerning the death of *Henry Wallbank*, of Wednesbury, who was found with his throat cut in the house of his sister at Foleshill on Saturday. Sarah Wallbank, wife of the deceased, said her husband was 62 years of age, and lived at the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Wednesbury. He had resided at the public house for 16 years. He had a severe sickness. Only in a moderate way had he been addicted to drinking. He left his home at 1.20 on Thursday, and he did not return. A letter was sent to his sister, who lives at Foleshill, and she replied that he was not there. A few minutes afterwards, however, a telegram came stating that he was found in the chair at the sister's house, and appeared in his usual health. Subsequently another telegram was received stating that he had cut his throat and was dead.

Daniel Blower, machinist, living at Great Heath, Foleshill, said he and the deceased slept together on Friday night, and the man then appeared all right. Witness heard no more until his mother called him. When witness got out of bed he found the deceased on the floor. There was blood on the floor, and witness thought deceased had broken a blood vessel. Subsequently, however, witness found a knife in the room stained with blood.

Answering the Coroner, witness said deceased went to bed sober, but appeared very strange in his manner during the night.

Replying to the Coroner, deceased's wife said her husband appeared very strange after his illness, but never before had he been away from home. Sometimes he had threatened to do her bodily harm, and once the carving knife was taken from him.

Dr. Orton, junior, was sent for early on Saturday morning. He found the deceased lying on the floor on his right side. He was undressed, and witness noticed that his throat was cut to the spinal column. There was a clot of blood on the floor, and witness also noticed an ordinary pocket knife close by. The knife was stained with blood, and had evidently just previously been sharpened. The knife was identified as belonging to the witness Blower, and was very blunt on the previous evening. Death was due to loss of blood as the result of injury.

A juryman asked how deceased came into possession of the knife, and Police-constable Cook stated that the witness Blower left it on the table about half-past five, when he came from work, and it was most likely that the deceased took it to cut some bread and cheese which he had.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased died from syncope, due to hemorrhage, caused by the wound, he being at the time Temporarily Insane."

Walsall Observer 22/1/1898

"A case of considerable interest was heard at Darlaston Police Court on Monday, in which Mary Jane Marlow (22), a married woman, of 29, Bath Street, Walsall, was charged with (1) obtaining two pairs of boots by false pretences from Mary Chapman, 12, Whitton Street, Darlaston; (2) obtaining a gold wedding ring belonging to Samuel Edwards, jeweller, King Street, Darlaston, by false pretences; and (3) obtaining two dress pieces, the property of Edward Firman, of Walsall Road, Darlaston, by false pretences.

Prisoner appeared in the dock attired in a stylish slate-coloured dress, a neat-fitting black hat, and a fur boa. There was a large crowd of people assembled outside the Court, and the Court Room was crowded. Mr. A. J. Glover defended.

On November 29th last, prisoner visited the shop of Mr. Chapman, and informed him and his wife that she was the sister to Mrs. Lester, of the ANCHOR INN, Station Street, and had come over for the purpose of staying with her sister for a short period. She chose two pairs of boots, requested to be permitted to take them, and she would select and retain possession of the pair she wanted, and send back the other. Prisoner failed to return to the shop, and pawned the boots in Darlaston.

Mrs. Lester stated the prisoner was not her sister, neither had the prisoner ever stayed at her house. She never gave prisoner any authority to purchase boots.

Police-sergeant Williams, stationed at Darlaston, said that when he arrested prisoner at her home she stated that she did not know where Chapman's was, and knew nothing about it.

This was the charge of obtaining the boots, and prisoner was committed for trial to the next Quarter Sessions.

Prisoner was then charged with obtaining, by false pretences, a wedding ring, the property of Alfred Edwards, of King Street, Darlaston, on the 8th of January last.

Mary Edwards stated that prisoner entered her husband's shop and asked to see some wedding rings.

Mr. J. J. Thursfield (magistrates' clerk): I think it is usual for the ladies to buy the wedding ring in this district, is it not? (Laughter.)

She (prisoner) said the ring was for Miss Holt, in Cock Street. Prisoner stated that she should not be many minutes away, but she did not return.

Cross-examined by Mr. Glover: She identified the ring (produced) by its weight, the scratches on the outside, and the words 'H.A.' inside.

Harriet Holt, a single woman, Walsall Road, Darlaston, said she never instructed prisoner to obtain for her a ring from the shop of Alfred Edwards.

Other evidence having been given, the magistrates committed prisoner to the Quarter Session on this charge also.

The third case was then taken, in which prisoner was charged with obtaining, by false pretences, from Edward Firman, of Walsall Road, Darlaston, on the 8th of January, two dress pieces.

Prosecutor stated that on Saturday the 8th inst, about 8.30pm, prisoner went to his shop and said she wanted a piece of black satin for Mrs. *Wallbank*, of FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN. Witness showed her some other material, and she took a piece of black material, and also a piece of pea-green, saying she would be back in a quarter of an hour with the money or the material if Mrs. *Wallbank* approved of them. Prisoner did not return. He had known her three or four years, and had up to the present believed her to be an honest woman. Whether she had mentioned Mrs. *Wallbank*'s name or not, he should have given her the goods.

The case was dismissed, and Mr. Glover applied for bail in the two former cases.

Sergeant Williams opposed bail being allowed, as there were other charges against prisoner at Walsall.

The magistrates ultimately allowed bail in a surety of prisoner herself £50 and two sureties of £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."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/9/1899

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the borough of Wednesbury were held today....

Mr. Slater applied for permission to make certain alterations at the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Walsall Road. He pointed out that this was a beerhouse, and the proposed alterations were necessary in order to improve the domestic facilities of the tenant.

The application was granted."

1901 Census

248, Walsall Road

[1] Aaron Bytheway (26), machine nut maker, born Darlaston;

[2] Nancy Bytheway (26), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Harry Bytheway (4), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] Minnie Bytheway (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] Bert Belcher (15), brother-in-law, born Wednesbury;

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.....

George Jackson, FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Walsall Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury."

1911 Census

Walsall Road – FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN

- [1] *Samuel Robinson* (51), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Robinson* (49), wife, married 30 years, assisting in business, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Samuel Robinson* (26), son, fitter, steel works, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Ada Robinson* (20), daughter, assisting in business, born Darlaston:

Samuel Robinson – see also ROYAL GEORGE, Station Street, Darlaston, and KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 30/5/1914

"Walsall Police Court.....

George Wyld (21), labourer, Round Oak, Brierley Hill, was charged on a warrant with stealing a hand-cart and four gallons of ice-cream, of the total value of £5, the property of *Antonio Nardone*, 6, Chapel Street, on the 16th inst.

A son of the prosecutor stated that he assisted his father in his ice-cream business. Up to Saturday, May 16th the defendant had been in his father's employ, and on that day he was sent out to sell ice-cream in the streets. He did not return, and the matter was reported to the police. The ice-cream, if sold, would have realised about £1. On May 22nd witness was taken to the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Darlaston, where he saw the missing ice-cream cart. Detective-sergeant *Burrell* gave evidence that he ascertained that prisoner had left the town. His description was circulated, and on Monday he was arrested at Brierley Hill. In answer to the charge, he said, 'That's right; I abandoned the ice-cream cart at a public house at Darlaston. I only made 5s 6d out of the ice-cream, which I sold in big cups to get rid of it. I don't know what made me do it; something came over me.'

The prisoner now pleaded guilty, and said he had nothing to say. He admitted a conviction at Hanley two months ago.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed, with the alternative of one month's hard labour."

1921 Census

248, Walsall Road

- [1] *Charles Fisher* (45), engine driver, born Willenhall;
- [2] *Florence Fisher* (42), wife, home duties, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Fisher* (21), son, general turner, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Annie Fisher* (19), daughter, home duties, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Wilfred Fisher* (16), son, apprentice toolmaker, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Alfred Fisher* (14), son, apprentice machinist, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Harold Fisher* (9), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Gladys Fisher* (4), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Frederick Fisher* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Alfred Fisher* (48), boarder, engine driver, crane, born Willenhall:

Evening Despatch 7/11/1934

"The seriousness of being without an insurance policy was stressed today by the Darlaston Bench in a case in which *Bernard Higginson*, of 248, Walsall Road, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, was fined £5 and disqualified from driving for 12 months for using his motor-cycle which was not insured on 27 September. *Higginson* was involved in an accident at Darlaston."

It was rebuilt in 1937.

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.....

FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Kings Hill.”

1939 Register

Walsall Road – FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN

[1] *Bernard Higginson*, date of birth 21/3/1888, manager of public house and nut and bolt trade, married;

[2] *Sarah J. E. Higginson*, dob 15/6/1885, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Leonard Higginson*, dob 11/1/1921, making parts for aeroplanes, single:

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1946], [1958]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/9/1962 - Advert

“Barmaid required, full or part-time, experienced.

Apply, Manger, FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Walsall Road, Wednesbury.”

BARMAID required, full or part-time, experienced. Apply — Manager, Fallings Heath Tavern, Walsall-road, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/11/1962 - Advert

“Barmaid, experienced, full or part-time.

FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Walsall Road, Wednesbury. References.”

BARMAID. experienced, full or part-time. —Fallings Heath Tavern, Walsall-road, Wednesbury. References.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/8/1965 - Advert

“Wanted, Full-time Barmaid.

Apply, Manager, FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Walsall Road, Wednesbury.”

WANTED. Full-time Barmaid; apply — Manager, Fallings Heath Tavern, Walsall-road, Wednesbury.

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1965], [1966], [1967], [1968]

[They were runners-up in 1965 and 1966.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/4/1966 - Advert

“A.E.U.

Future Meetings of the James Bridge 4.J.E. Branch will be held at the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Walsall Road, Darlaston.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/12/1972 - Letters to the Editor

“May I through your column convey my appreciation to the licensee of FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Wednesbury, and his wife? I would thank the voluntary workers who had little difficulty in coaxing customers to buy the necessary raffle tickets resulting in a gratifying hand-out of £5 to us senior citizens. Everyone was plied with refreshments making it a memorable evening.

Mr. C. Perry, Flat 14, Great Croft House, Darlaston.”

Walsall Observer 31/5/1974

“Trophies and prize money totalling £175 were presented to successful teams in the Darlaston Dominoes League for the Blind by the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Arthur Toon. A cheque for £353.55 was also presented to the Midland Societies for the Blind.....

The annual awards went to Ted Hyde Cup runners-up FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN A.”

Walsall Observer 28/4/1978

"The last surviving soldier from the Boer War has died. Mr. *Arthur Moseley*, who was 94, lived in Kent Close, Leamore. He joined up when he was 17 to fight the Boers in South Africa. Twelve years later, he was fighting the Germans in Flanders.

In his later life, *Arthur* ran the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN in Darlaston and the SPREAD EAGLE in Green Lane, Leamore.

Five years ago *Arthur* travelled down to London with the other surviving members of the Birmingham and District South African War Veterans Association to meet the Queen Mother at a garden party."

Walsall Observer 16/7/1982

"The following planning applications have been received by the Council for determination and may be inspected at the offices of the Director of Engineering and Town Planning....."

Bass Mitchells & Butlers Ltd. Construction of car park with access from Walsall Road on land adjoining FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, at corner of Walsall Road/Cook Street, Darlaston."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/12/1982

"A road junction in Darlaston is to be sealed off to allow a car park to be built at a nearby pub. Highway chiefs have agreed to close Cook Street at its junction with Walsall Road to stop traffic problems from the car park at the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/5/1983

"Regulars at a Walsall pub have raised £120 for cancer research. The cash was collected in a bottle on the bar of the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Darlaston Road. 'We think this is the first time that the pub had gone in for raising money for charity, and we are very pleased with the result,' licensee Mrs. Wendy Williams said. The cash has been presented to Walsall Heath Authority to help finance work at the town's Manor Hospital."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/10/1993

"Fourteen-stone publican *Les Williams* has 200 ornamental pigs hanging in the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN in Walsall road, Darlaston, all donated by customers after they heard his wife Wendy call him Porky."

It closed for refurbishment in 2006.

It reopened as SUKI'S Bar and Indian Restaurant. [2007]

[2015]

It was converted into housing. [2017]



Ex-pub 2007

SALE OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY, FALLING'S HEATH, WEDNESBURY. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY Mr. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, on FRIDAY, June 23, 1865, at the Castle Inn, in Darlaston, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced, in the following or such other lots as shall be decided at the Sale:—

Lot 1.—That well-accustomed RETAIL TAVERN, known by the sign of the "FALLING'S HEATH TAVERN," situate on the high road leading from Darlaston to Walsall, and containing large Tap Room, Parlour, Bar, large Club Room, three Bed Rooms, three Attics, three good Cellars, Cooking Kitchen, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, Pigstys, Yard, and Out-buildings belonging thereto, now in the occupation of Mr. Wm. Lote.

Lot 2.—FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE, containing Sitting Room, Kitchen, two Bed Rooms, Brewhouse, and Land, fronting to the road leading from Darlaston to Walsall.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Robert Lacy, Market Place, Wednesbury; or the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury.

N.B.—The Vendors will give every assistance to the Purchaser to procure a Victualler's License to lot 1.

1865

A.E.U.

FUTURE MEETINGS of the JAMES BRIDGE A.J.E. BRANCH will be held at the FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, WALSALL ROAD DARLASTON.

1966

FITTERS ARMS

(Lower) High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Robinson [1864]
George Challinor [1868] – **1870**;
James George (**1870** – []

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 20/12/1856 - Advert

“To be Sold, a First-rate Bright Engine, One-horse power.
Apply at the FITTERS ARMS, High Street, Wednesbury.”

TO be SOLD, a First-rate BRIGHT ENGINE,
One-horse power.—Apply at the Fitters' Arms, High Street,
Wednesbury.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/3/1864

“Pedestrianism. Aston Cross Grounds.....

On Monday, should the weather prove at all propitious, there will no doubt be a large gathering to witness the undermentioned matches.....

J. Jinks and J. Douglas (both of Wednesbury) at two o'clock toe the mark to run six score yards, for £5 a side, the final deposit for which must be made this evening at Mr. *Robinson's*, FITTERS ARMS, Wednesbury, who is final stakeholder and referee.”

George Challinor, beer retailer, High Street. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1868 - Advert

“To be Let, the FITTERS ARMS INN, High Street, Wednesbury. Proprietor about to retire. Coming-in low.
Apply on the Premises.”

TO be LET, THE FITTERS' ARMS INN, High Street, Wednesbury. Proprietor about to retire. Coming-in low.—Apply on the Premises.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/5/1869 - Advert

“To be Let, FITTERS ARMS INN, High Street, Wednesbury.
Apply on the premises.”

TO be LET, FITTERS' ARMS INN, High Street, Wednesbury.
Apply on the premises.

FORESTERS ARMS

50, Oxford Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

James Scott
William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Scott [] – **1870)**
Mrs. Pamela (Scott) Read [1871] – [1872]
David Read [1881]
John Charles Blower [1888]
John Powell [1891]
Edwin F Latham [1901]
William James Fryer [1911] – [1914]
Alfred Rowley [1919] – [1921]
John Southan [1930]
Benjamin Pugh [1939] – [1940]
Mrs. Emma Jane Pugh [1959] – [1974]



1965

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/11/1868

“Wednesbury Election.

On Friday last Mr. Walker attended meetings in Wednesbury at the ROYAL OAK, King Street, at half-past one; at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Kings Hill, at seven; at the FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, at eight; and at the MUSEUM TAVERN, Elwell Street, at nine. At each he was most enthusiastically received, and his addresses and replies to questions gave the greatest satisfaction. At the FORESTERS ARMS the harmony of the proceedings were somewhat interrupted by an attack by Mr. Benjamin Danks and a few other Brogdenites on the chairman, Mr. Cullis, an ex-member of the late Liberal Committee, who now supports Mr. Walker, and by an attempt afterwards by the same party to pass a vote in favour of Mr. Brogden, but which was most vociferously negatived, Mr. Walker securing the support of his audience at each meeting.”

[Alexander Brogden was Liberal MP for Wednesbury from 1868 to 1885.]

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1869

“The annual Sessions for the hearing of applications for new licenses to sell spirits, was held at 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.....

James Scott, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury, applied through Mr. Travis. House own property, rated at £23; 270 yards from nearest licensed house. No opposition. Application refused.”

James Scott was from Walsall.

He was a plate layer.

He married *Pamela* Stiles (nee Rogers)

He died in 1870.

Pamela Scott = Pamila Scott

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions at West Bromwich....

Applications for new spirit licenses.....

Mr. Travis applied on behalf of *Pamela Scott*, FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Wednesbury, distance from nearest licensed house 200 yards. It appeared that the applicant’s husband had recently died. The magistrates refused to grant her a license on the ground that she could not apply in her husband’s name. She was told that she must have the license transferred.”

Pamila Scott, beer retailer, Oxford Street, Mesty Croft. [1872]

Pamela Scott was born in Dixons Green, Dudley on 14th November 1830, and was christened *Pamela Rogers*.

She worked as a servant until 24th January 1855.

She married, firstly, Moses Stiles at St. Thomas’ Church, Dudley, on 24th January 1855.

Moses Stiles was a platelayer on the railway until he died c.1863.

They lived at Palfrey, Walsall.

She married, secondly, *James Scott*, originally from Walsall, on 16th October 1866.

She married, thirdly, *David Read*, a widowed miner, on 5th May 1873.

He died in 1887.

She died on 4th January 1914.

1871 Census

Oxford Street

- [1] *Pamela Scott* (41), widow, publican, born Dudley;
- [2] John Scott (15), son, pupil teacher, born Dudley;
- [3] Richard Scott (12), son, coach spring maker, born Walsall;
- [4] Ann Rebecca Scott (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Jane E. Brown (12), boarder, domestic servant, born Birmingham;

Birmingham Daily Post 15/3/1877 - Advert

“Lost, a dark-brown Pony, about 13 hands 2 inches high.

Anyone returning it to the FORESTERS ARMS, New Town, Wednesbury, will be rewarded.”

LOST, a dark-brown Pony, about 13 hands 2 inches high.—Anyone returning it to the Forester’s Arms, New Town, Wednesbury, will be rewarded.

1881 Census

50, Oxford Street – FORRESTERS ARMS

- [1] *David Read* (62), miner and publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Pamela Read* (50), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Richard Styles (23), son, brewer, born Walsall;
- [4] Pamela Styles (20), daughter, born Dudley;
- [5] Ann Rebecca Scott (11), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Maria Cross (17), general servant, born Dudley;

Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1884 - Advert

“FORESTERS ARMS INN, Oxford Street, Wednesbury.

This large convenient Inn to Let, on lease. In-coming at valuation. Adjoining large works. Modern brewing plant. Rent about £35. Satisfactory reasons for leaving.”

FORESTERS’ Arms Inn, Oxford Street, Wednesbury. — This large convenient Inn to Let, on lease. In-coming at valuation. Adjoining large works. Modern brewing plant. Rent about £35. Satisfactory reasons for leaving.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1888

“*John Charles Blower*, landlord of the FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, New Town, Wednesbury, was summoned for permitting gaming on his premises on the 23rd and 24th November. Mr. W. S. Smith defended.

The evidence of Police-constables Heapy and Hadland was to the effect that they went to defendant’s house in plain clothes on the night of the 23rd, and heard defendant invite the company to make up a sweep for the Manchester Cup Handicap. Some tickets were produced bearing the words ‘Trip to Manchester,’ and these were disposed of at 1s each, each purchaser receiving three-penny worth of refreshments. Books of tickets were handed to the men

present to sell, and the next day there was a meeting for the draw, the defendant superintending. Some of the unsold tickets were raffled at 1d or 2d per number, Haldane winning one of these, and the prizes were £1 10s, £1 10s, and 17s to be divided amongst those members drawing starters; and £2 9s went to the landlord, 10s being for the printing of the tickets, and £1 19s for refreshments.

The defence was that the house was not the habitual resort of betting men, and that what took place was simply the drawing of an ordinary lottery such as took place without hindrance at many places.

The Stipendiary said he regarded it as a very bad case, and if the summons had been taken out under the Betting Act instead of under the Licensing Act the penalty might have been £100. He imposed a fine of £10 and costs in the one case, and ordered the costs to be paid in the other, making a total of £10 16s.”

1891 Census

50, Oxford Street

- [1] John Powell (35), beer retailer, born Tipton;
- [2] Sarah A. Powell (50), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] James E. Wicks (14), step-son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Ethel M. Wicks (8), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;

Walsall Observer 28/11/1891

“John Powell, FORESTERS ARMS, New Town, Wednesbury, was summoned for riding on his cart without having proper control of his horse, and also for causing an obstruction in Goodall Street.

Police-constable Smith, No.38, deposed that defendant was riding on the shaft of his cart with the reins tied onto the hame. Witness took defendant to the station to get his name and address, and after that defendant would not take his horse and cart away from the station.

Defendant said that he had control over his horse, and that as to the obstruction, the policeman put the horse and cart where it stood, and he left it.

Fined 20s and costs for the first offence.”

1901 Census

50, Oxford Street

- [1] Edwin F. Latham (37), publican, beerhouse, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Mary Latham (36), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Edwin Latham (14), son, tube fitting maker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Herbert Latham (13), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Beatrice L. Latham (10), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Harry Latham (7), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Leonard Latham (6), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] James Latham (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Henry Cartwright (25), brother-in-law, tube fitting maker, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Martha Cherrington (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

1911 Census

Oxford Street – FORESTERS ARMS

- [1] William Fryer (42), publican, born Bloxwich;
- [2] Emmie Fryer (35), wife, married 10 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Lillie Heywood (25), sister-in-law, single, assists in bar, born Wednesbury;

Walsall Observer 26/12/1914 - Deaths

“Mrs. *W. J. Fryer*, of the FORRESTERS ARMS, Wednesbury (late of Bloxwich), wishes to thank all friends for kind inquiries and sympathy in her sad bereavement; also for flowers.”

William James Fryer – see also WHEATSHEAF, Pinfold, Bloxwich, Walsall, and BULLS HEAD, Park Road, Bloxwich, Walsall.

Walsall Observer 24/5/1919 - Advert

"For Sale, Brake, with lamps; carry 16; or Exchange Good Cob.
Rowley, FORESTERS ARMS, New Town, Wednesbury."

FOR Sale, Brake, with lamps; carry 16; or
Exchange Good Cob.—Rowley, Foresters Arms,
New Town, Wednesbury.

1921 Census

50, Oxford Street

[1] Alfred Rowley (40), carpenter, out of work, born Walsall;

[2] Emma Rowley (44), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] Albert Edward Rowley (44), boarder, carpenter for builder, born Walsall:

Dudley Chronicle 6/3/1930 - Thanks

"Mr. *John Southan* (grand-father of the late Dorothy Cheadle), FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Wednesbury, wishes to thank customers and friends for sympathy shown and floral tributes generously bestowed."

Walsall Observer 14/2/1931

"Wednesbury Brewster Sessions yesterday.....

Plans had been approved and alterations carried out at the.....

FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street."

1939 Register

50, Oxford Street – Public House

[1] *Benjamin Pugh*, date of birth 23/3/1889, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Emma Jane Pugh*, dob 10/9/1890, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] John Samuel Pugh, dob 9/12/1914, toolroom worker, shell factory, single;

[4] Dennis B. Pugh, dob 28/10/1926, school, single:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/2/1940

"Latest donations to the West Midlands and *Express and Star* Comforts Fund.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £344 1s 3½d.

Proceeds of Boxes.....

FORRESTERS ARMS, New Town, 7s 1d."

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

"The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

FORESTERS ARMS, Wednesbury, £5 0s 9d."

Benjamin Pugh died in the 3rd quarter of 1945.

Walsall Observer 7/8/1959

"The night a Wednesbury darts team won an away match proved an expensive one, for when police burst into the FORRESTERS ARMS, in Oxford Street, three quarters of an hour after closing time, the celebrations were still going on. Wednesbury magistrates imposed fines totalling £20 on some of the revellers on Friday.

Neville Charles Garner (25), of 26, Kilvert Road; James Tonks (51), of 54, Warner Road; and Albert John Monk (22), of 51, Friar Park Road, all of Wednesbury, pleaded guilty to charges of drinking intoxicating liquor after licensing hours and were each fined £2. Donald Smith (28), of 39, Moor Street, Wednesbury, who pleaded not guilty, was also fined £2. On a charge of aiding and abetting the four, Dennis Benjamin Pugh (32), the landlady's son, was fined £12 and ordered to pay £10 10s special costs. The magistrates dismissed charges of selling intoxicating liquor after hours against both Pugh and his mother, Mrs. *Emma Jane Pugh*.

Prosecuting, Mr. F. Cooper said that when the police entered the bar of the FORRESTERS ARMS, about 16 people were there. Most of them were sitting down at tables on which were glasses containing beer. 'All were seen actually to consume beer,' he said.

Police-constable N. Walton told the court that Smith was seen by him to drink from a half-pint glass containing beer, but, in evidence, Smith denied the allegation. 'My regular drink is a pint,' he said.

Defending, Mr. P. Woolley said that it was a popular misconception that if a drink was bought before closing time a customer had all night to drink it in, and, although the three men admitted that they had drunk intoxicating liquor after 10pm, there was no direct evidence to prove that they had been sold any beer after licensing hours."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1963]

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

"Attention! all Mild drinkers.

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

FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/3/1974 - Deaths

"Emma Jane Pugh, FORRESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Wednesbury, passed peacefully away March 13, in her 84th year. The beloved mother of Jack, Dennis and Doris. Dear gran of Jackie and Norman. Funeral on Thursday, March 21. Service at St. Bartholomew's Church, Wednesbury, at 2pm."

1974 Probate

"Emma Jane Pugh of the FORESTERS ARMS, 50 Oxford Street, Wednesbury, West Midlands, died 13 March 1974. Probate Birmingham 17 May. Effects £7,317."

Closed

Demolished



ATTENTION! all MILD drinkers

HIGHGATE MILD is now available in the following BUTLERS and ATKINSONS houses:—

BRIDGE HOUSE, Sixwold Road, Walsall.	RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge,
NEW NAVIGATION, Sirohills, Walsall.	Darlaston.
WALSALL ARMS, Bank Street, Walsall.	RISING SUN, Piercy Street, Newtown,
FALCON, Lichfield Street, Walsall.	Wednesbury.
FITTERS ARMS, Heatherly St., Walsall.	FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street,
FORGE HAMMER, Rolling Mill Street,	Wednesbury.
Pleck, Walsall.	OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.
FOUNTAIN, Lower Forster Street, Walsall.	PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street,
NEW INN, Green Lane, Walsall.	Wednesbury.
PRINCE OF WALES, Queen St., Walsall.	COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury.
BEAR & RAGGED STAFF, High Street,	SPRING COTTAGE, The Paddock,
Walsall.	Walsall.
COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridgeman St.,	HARDEN, Coalpool Lane, Walsall.
Walsall.	NEWPORT ARMS, Pleck Road, Walsall.
TANNERS ARMS, Day Street, Walsall.	VINE, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall.
DUKE OF YORK, Moxley Rd., Darlaston.	KINGS ARMS, High Street, Bloxwich.
BLACK HORSE, Pinfold St., Darlaston.	FOUNTAIN, Portland Street, Walsall.
NELSON, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.	STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherine's
WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.	Cross, Darlaston.
KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road,	BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.
Wednesbury.	HORSE & JOCKEY, High Bullen,
DARTMOUTH INN, High St., Darlaston.	Wednesbury.
HASS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.	GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wed-
OLD BUSH, The Green, Darlaston.	nesbury.
STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge,	
Darlaston.	



Pride of the Midlands

1962

FORESTERS ARMS

4, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mr. Shannon, Walsall (acquired in 1875 for £630)
Millward Bros. [1913]

LICENSEES

Mary Yates [] - **1870**);
Mrs. Elizabeth Guest (**1870 - 1872**);
Emma Brown (**1872**)
Elizabeth Brown (**1872**);
Edward Brown (**1872 - [1891]**)
Mrs. Mary Ferrer [1896]
John Jones [1901] - [1904]
Edward Willetts [1911] - [1912]
Joseph William Slater [] - **1913**);

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

4, Portway Road

- [1] Elizabeth Guest (56), widow, publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Albert Aspin (33), boarder, engine smith, born Chelsea;
- [3] Sarah Tomlinson (20), general servant, born Wednesbury;

Mrs. Elizabeth Guest, beer retailer, Portway Road. [1872]

Midland Examiner 27/2/1875 - Advert

"Important Sale of a Freehold Public House and Dwelling Houses, in Wednesbury.

Mr. Edward Ellis will Sell by Auction at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, the 17th day of March, 1875, at Six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot. 1. A Freehold Public House, known as the FORESTERS ARMS, situate in the Portway Road, Wednesbury, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Edward Brown*, comprising 4 rooms and a passage on the ground floor; large club room, and 2 bed rooms on the second floor; and 2 attics with a large brewhouse, and malt room over the same; piggery and other necessary outbuildings; 2 cellars, and a private and separate entrance to the yard.

The Property comprised in this Lot has a frontage of 10 yards 1 foot 6 inches to the Portway Road, and contains a superficial area of 341 square yards, or thereabouts; and from its proximity to the principal Ironworks in Wednesbury, it affords a valuable and desirable investment. It is let to the present occupier at the low annual rental of £25."

AND

Midland Examiner 20/3/1875

"On Wednesday, Mr. Edward Ellis submitted a quantity of freehold property for public competition, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury. There was a large company present, and the competition was spirited. Lot 1, being the FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road, was purchased by Mr. Shannon, of Walsall, for £630....."

Important Sale of a Freehold PUBLIC-HOUSE and DWELLING-HOUSES, in Wednesbury.

MR. EDWARD ELLIS, will SELL BY AUCTION, at the Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, the 17th day of March, 1875, at Six o'clock in the evening (subject to Conditions then to be produced and read), the undermentioned Properties, in the following or such other Lots as may be declared at the time of Sale :—

Lot 1.—A FREEHOLD PUBLIC - HOUSE, known as the "Forester's Arms," situate in the Portway Road, Wednesbury, and now in the occupation of Mr. Edward Brown, comprising 4 rooms and a passage on the ground floor; large club room, and 2 bed rooms, on the second floor; and 2 attics with a large brewhouse, and malt room over the same; piggery and other necessary outbuildings; 2 cellars, and a private and separate entrance to the yard.

The Property comprised in this Lot has a frontage of 10 yards, 1 foot 6 inches to the Portway Road, and contains a superficial area of 341 square yards, or thereabouts; and from its proximity to the principal Ironworks in Wednesbury, it affords a valuable and desirable investment. It is let to the present occupier at the low annual rental of £25.

1881 Census

4, Portway Road – FORESTERS ARMS

- [1] Edward Brown (55), publican, born Walsall;
- [2] Elizabeth Brown (67), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] Arthur Brown (17), son, forgerman, born Wednesbury;
- [4] John Latham (20), grand-son, forgerman, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Margrette Hounson (19), general servant, born Shropshire:

It was void in August 1887.

Edward Brown, FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road, 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.]

Shepton Mallet Journal 15/6/1888 - Advert

“(From the *Wednesbury Herald*.) We have recently noticed in the columns of our exchanges an article from a well-known citizen of this place which was so unusual in its nature, and so remarkable withal, that a reporter of this paper was commissioned to investigate its details and verify its facts. The article referred to was a statement made by Mr. Isaac Whick, of the BOROUGH ARMS, secretary of the Retail Brewers Protection Association I consider that I owe my life to Warner's Safe Cure.....

Mr. *Edward Brown*, of the FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road, is an old citizen, whose reputation for veracity has never been questioned. In answer to our inquiry about Mr. Whick's case, he said, ‘It is simply wonderful, sir. Not one of his friends expected him to recover, and even the doctors whom he consulted not only gave him no hopes, but prophesied his speedy demise.’”

1891 Census

4, Portway Road – FORESTERS ARMS

- [1] Edward Brown (66), publican, born Walsall;
- [2] Elizabeth Brown (77), wife, born Ocker Hill;
- [3] Emma Jones (18), grand-daughter, domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Edward Brown died on 1st June 1892.

Elizabeth Brown died on 4th October 1893.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1893 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Important Sale of Freehold Old-Established Beerhouse. Tuesday Next, October 3.

Belcher & Som have received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, upon the above date, at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Half-past Seven o'clock precisely.

The Old-established Licensed Beerhouse, known as the FORESTERS ARMS INN, situate in Portway Road, Wednesbury aforesaid, and let to Messrs. Millward Brothers at an annual rental of £28.

The Property is situate in close proximity to several large and important Works, in a thickly-populated district, and is in fair condition of repair.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury and Darlaston; or to George Rose, Esq, Solicitor, Wednesbury.”

Mrs. Mary Ferrer, beer retailer, 4, Portway Road. [1896]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/2/1901

“At the Wednesbury Police Court this afternoon Patrick Murphy, of no fixed abode, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday night. Defendant was found by Police-constable O'Hara and Sergeant O'Leary in a helpless state of intoxication in the taproom of the FORESTERS ARMS. The landlord's attention was drawn to the man's condition, and he ordered him out. He was fined 5s and costs.”

AND

Wednesbury Leader 16/2/1901

"*John Jones*, licensee of the FORESTERS ARMS beerhouse, Portway Road, Wednesbury, was charged with allowing drunkenness on his premises on the 26th January. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

Mr. Sharpe, in his opening statement, said the evidence would go to show that on the 26th January at 10-25pm PS O'Leary visited the tap-room of the FORESTERS ARMS and saw there a man named Patrick Murphy, apparently very drunk. He was sitting at a table, leaning over it as if asleep. In front of him he had a jug with beer in it. The landlord and five or six men were present. The sergeant waited a little time to see if anything was said, and then spoke to the man, who was very incoherent in his answers. Sergeant O'Leary then asked the landlord how he accounted for having the man in that condition in the house. The landlord said, 'Yes, I know he has had too much, but he has had nothing to drink here.' When asked why he allowed him to remain, he said, 'He has not been here above 10 or 15 minutes.' The sergeant asked the landlord if he (Murphy) had been out of the house from the first time he came in, till then. In answer, *Jones* said, 'No; when he came in he sat down on that bench, and has been sitting there since.' Before the man Murphy went out he said, 'Let me drink my beer first.' The sergeant said, 'Is that your beer?' and he replied in the affirmative, and said, 'I will drink it before I go.' The landlord said, 'You won't.' Murphy had been fined for his drunkenness on this occasion.

Sergeant O'Leary gave evidence supporting these statements and supplemented them by telling the Court that a man in the house claimed Murphy's ale to be his. This man, however, had a cup of ale in front of him, and Murphy was at a table by himself. Cross examined by Mr. Willcock, the landlord did not tell him he had been trying to get the man out of the house. PC O'Hara said on oath that he visited the house at 9-40 (three quarters of an hour before the sergeant's visit), and noticed Murphy was drunk. He visited the house afterwards with the sergeant.

Mr. Willcock urged for the defence that the man Murphy came into the house at about 9-15 in an intoxicated condition, and refused to leave. He was at last coaxed out, but returned again. The landlord's attention was called to the matter, but before he came into the room the officers arrived. He had not adopted the tactics of some barmen, and pitched the man out neck and crop, and thus the man was on the premises when the police came.

Thomas Costello, a striker, of Portway Road, stated that the ale mentioned by the police, which Murphy claimed, was his (witness), and that Murphy did go out for half an hour and return.

Numerous other witnesses were called for the defence, and after a lengthy hearing a fine of £1 and costs, amounting to £3 15s 6d, was inflicted."

1901 Census

4, Portway Road

- [1] *John Jones* (53), blacksmith, born Tipton;
- [2] *Betsey Jones* (47), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Florence Jones* (23), daughter, dressmaker, born Tipton;
- [4] *Annie Jones* (22), daughter, shop assistant, born Tipton;
- [5] *John Jones* (20), son, bricklayer's apprentice, born Tipton;
- [6] *Mary Jones* (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Sydney Jones* (10), son, born Tipton;
- [8] *Beatrice Jones* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Dorothy Jones* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Leader 21/9/1901

"Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. J. Glover applied for the renewal of the license of the FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road. *John Jones* is the present holder of the license.

The police objections to the license were a conviction for drunkenness, and that the landlord did not produce satisfactory evidence of good character License renewed."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1901

"Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt objected to the renewal of the licenses, in consequence of convictions, of the following houses..... FORESTERS ARMS INN, Portway Road.....

The magistrates renewed all the licenses but Mr. Joynson pointed out that if any of the applicants were again convicted they would in all probability lose the licenses."

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, before Aldermen R. Williams, I. Oldbury, and Mr. F. W. Hackwood, a man named Edwin Hudson (50), of no fixed abode, but who has been living in apartments at Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, and with intent to defraud, between the 17th September and 3rd October.

The evidence showed that prisoner represented himself to be in the employ of the Midland Advertising Company, Wolverhampton, and canvassed for advertisements for the Wolverhampton Wanderers Fixture Card. He secured 2s 6d from Frank Turbot, manager of the South Staffordshire Coffee House, Market Place; 4s 6d from Benjamin E. Pewtriss, tobacconist, Market Place; 5s from Herbert E. Kent, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN; 5s from William H. Hadley, GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place; 2s 6d from James Faulkner, BULLS HEAD INN; 2s from William Macdonald, THREE SWANS INN; 5s from Frank Bateman, licensed victualler, High Street; 2s 6d from Edward Phillips, BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane; 2s 6d from *John Jones*, FORRESTERS ARMS, Portway Road; and 2s 6d from Albert Newbould, OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street.

Frederick L. Hodgetts, of the Penn Road, Wolverhampton, said he was a partner in the Midland Advertising Company. Prisoner had been in their employ, but left on the 27th April. He had not been connected with the company since, and was not authorised to canvass for advertisements.

Detective Truswell deposed to effecting the arrest of prisoner.

Alderman Oldbury (to prisoner): Didn't you consider you had a lot of 'flats' to deal with in Wednesbury? I am surprised that tradesmen should give their money away without even asking for a receipt. They must be very confiding.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Sessions, which commence on Tuesday next.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1901

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Edwin Hudson, 50, traveller, pleaded guilty to having obtained various sums of money by false pretences at Wednesbury, on September 17. There were previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sentenced to three years' penal servitude.”

John Jones, beer retailer, 4, Portway Road. [1904]

1911 Census

4, Portway Road – FORRESTERS ARMS

[1] *Edward Willetts* (23), tube patcher, acetylene gas, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Clara Jane Willetts* (23), wife, married 1 year, born Wednesbury:

Edward Willetts, beer retailer, 4, Portway Road. [1912]

Walsall Observer 15/2/1913

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions.....

The whole of the licenses would be renewed except the FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road, and the PRINCE OF WALES, King Street, and notice had given to the superintendent to oppose them on the ground of redundancy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/3/1913

“Wednesbury. Thursday.....

Mr. A. J. Glover applied for the renewal of the license of the FORESTERS ARMS beerhouse, Portway Road, which was opposed on the ground of redundancy, as representing the tenant and the owners, Millward Brothers, of Wednesbury. The license was referred to the Compensation Authority.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/6/1913 - 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 10.45 o'clock am, on Thursday, the 24th day of July, 1913.

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.....

FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee *Joseph William Slater*."

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.....

FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licensee, *Joseph William Slater*. Registered Owner, Millward Brothers."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1914

"The annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

At the principal meeting of the compensation authority the committee refused to renew 31 licenses. At the supplemental meeting 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 were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. In the following 27 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road, Wednesbury, £500."

It closed in 1913.

Wednesbury.—Important Sale of FREEHOLD OLD-ESTABLISHED BEERHOUSE.—TUESDAY NEXT, October 5.
BELCHER & SON have received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, upon the above date, at the White Horse Hotel, Wednesbury, at Half-past Seven o'clock precisely—the Old-established LICENSED BEERHOUSE, known as the "FORESTER'S ARMS INN," situate in Portway Road, Wednesbury aforesaid, and let to Messrs. Millward Brothers at an annual rental of £28.
The Property is situate in close proximity to several large and important Works, in a thickly-populated district, and is in fair condition of repair.
For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury and Darlaston; or to George Rose, Esq., Solicitor, Wednesbury.

FORGE

Franchise Street / 47, Beebee Road, (58+59, Cobden Street), Fallings Heath, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Highgate (Walsall) Brewery Co. Ltd. [1934]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939) [1984]
Highgate and Walsall Brewery Ltd. [1997]

LICENSEES

William Moreton [1881]
Robert Hodson [1883] manager
James Cox Hodson [1891] – [1893]
Ellen Greenhouse [1895] – [1901]
Ellen Cope [1911]
Charles Hotchkiss [1926] – [1929]
Ernest Turley **(1935 – 1960)**
Clarence P Thomas [1939] – [1942]
Arthur George Roberts []
Norman Alfred Sydney King [1961] – **1963**;
James William Yeomans **(1963 – [1966]**
Geoff Gaulton **(1972 – [1983]**
Noel Sadlier [1993]
Paul Pugh **(1996 – [1997]**
Anthony Edward Mellia [2007]



c1920s

NOTES

47, Beebee Road [1940]

It was a home brew house.

1881 Census

58+59, Cobden Street – FORGE TAVERN

- [1] William Moreton (49), publican and grocer, born Darlaston;
- [2] Mary Moreton (52), wife, born Snedshill, Shropshire;
- [3] Martha Moreton (21), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/5/1883

“George Greenhouse and Joseph Lunn, ironworkers, Wood Green, were charged with refusing to quit the FORGE TAVERN, Fallings Heath, and also with assaulting the manager, *Robert Hodson*. On the 16th inst the defendants went to the public house when in a drunken state, and upon the manager refusing to supply them with ale they assaulted him in a most brutal manner. The magistrates fined each of the defendants 30s, or in default a month’s imprisonment with hard labour.”

1891 Census

58+59 Cobden Street

- [1] James C. Hodson (40), grocer, born Bilston;
- [2] Ellen Hodson (36), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Martha Hodson (12), niece, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Charles Hodgkiss (6), nephew, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elizabeth Peters (19), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday.....

There were seventeen transfers applied for, and all were allowed except one, an application for a transfer of the FORGE TAVERN beerhouse, Kings Hill, from *James Cox Hodson* to Ellen Hotchkiss. Mr. Willcock opposed on behalf of relatives of the former on the ground that the man and woman were living together as man and wife, *Hodson* having been living apart from his lawful wife for seventeen years. Hotchkiss did not appear, and Mr. Foster (Wolverhampton) applied for the license to be re-transferred to *Hodson*. On the suggestion of Mr. Willcock, *Hodson* was put in the box, and he admitted the allegation with regard to himself and Hotchkiss. He consented to turn the woman out and take back his wife if the license were renewed, and on those conditions the license was renewed to him.”

Worcester Journal 31/8/1895

“On Friday last Mrs. *Greenhouse*, a widow, of the FORGE TAVERN, Wednesbury, who had been visiting at Rock, was driving into Bewdley with another lady, when in Welshgate the horse was frightened by two dogs which were fighting. The animal was a little restive, and Mrs. *Greenhouse* jumped out of the trap. Her feet caught in the reins, and she was thrown with great force against some stone steps, sustaining serious injuries to her head. The other lady retained her seat, and the horse went through the town safely and not very rapidly, being stopped upon the bridge. Drs. T. and G. Webster and Pennington attended to Mrs. *Greenhouse*, who was afterwards removed to the Kidderminster Infirmary, where she was detained.”

1901 Census

Cobden Street – FORGE TAVERN

- [1] Ellen Greenhouse (45), unmarried, publican, born Bilston;
- [2] Charles Hotchkiss (16), nephew, helper in public house, born Darlaston;
- [3] Alice Hotchkiss (13), niece, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Harry Cope (39), unmarried, brewer, born Bilston:

1911 Census

Cobden Street – FORGE TAVERN

- [1] Ellen Cope (54), innkeeper, married 8 years, born Bilston;
- [2] Harry Cope (43), husband, born Bilston:

Charles Hotchkiss = Charles Hodgkiss

Black Country Bugle 22/1/2004

‘Pulling Pints with the Tavern Keeping Phippses of Darlaston Green’

“.....Charles and Mary Hotchkiss moved to the OLD FORGE TAVERN. The pub belonged to Joe Phipps’ Aunt Nell and she sold it to the Highgate Brewery. The brewery demolished the old inn and built a new pub on the same site, which immediately earned the soubriquet the NEW FORGE TAVERN and they asked Charlie and Mary to run the place. The official opening of the new pub was a real affair, with the Mayor and local councillors in attendance.”

[Mary and her previous husband, Joseph Phipps, ran the FREEMASONS ARMS, Darlaston.]

Dudley Chronicle 16/9/1926

"A case was heard at Wednesbury Police Court on September 7, before the Deputy Stipendiary (Mr. J. E. Mitchell) in which three persons were involved. Frederick James Richardson, 130, Holloway Bank, Hill Top, was summoned for selling a motor car to *Charles Hotchkiss*, FORGE TAVERN, Cobden Street, Wednesbury, and failing to hand him the registration book; while *Hotchkiss*, who sold the car to George Perkins, 68, Cook Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for a similar offence. Perkins then sold it to Linneaus Cutler, and failed to hand over the registration, and he was further summoned for failing to deliver it to the local taxation authority after inserting his name and address in it. Mr. E. E. Brown prosecuted and Mr. G. W. Smith defended *Hotchkiss* and Perkins.

Mr. Brown, in outlining the case, said that Richardson was the original owner of the car, and on August 29th, 1925, sold it to *Hotchkiss*. The latter had the car until July 24th of this year, when he sold it to Perkins, and the latter only had it two days, for he sold it to Cutler for £4 on July 25th. Richardson failed to hand over the registration book to *Hotchkiss*, and failed to notify the transfer to the authority. Richardson, said, however, that the book was handed over, and that *Hotchkiss* must have lost it. *Hotchkiss* said that was all bluff, however, as he never had it, but it should have been his duty to seek it out, added Mr. Brown, when he sold it to Perkins. There had been wholesale violation of the regulations, which was discovered as the result of an accident occurring.

PC House said that at 4pm on July 25th he was called to the scene of an accident in Hardwicke Road, Streetly. He noticed there was no excise license for the car, and in response to an enquiry Perkins stated that he was the owner of it. He subsequently sold it to Mr. Cutler, of the Hardwicke Garage, Streetly, and promised to send him the registration book but failed to do so, and Cutler notified the authority that the car was now out of use.

PC Wedge stated that he saw *Hotchkiss* on August 20th and told him he had come about the change of ownership of the car he had bought from Richardson and sold to Perkins. *Hotchkiss* said he had never had the registration book, and did not know such a thing existed until the man who bought the car from Perkins asked for it. The next day witness saw Richardson, who said his brother sold the car for him, and handed the book to *Hotchkiss*. Richardson gave evidence of seeing his brother hand the book to *Hotchkiss*.

At this point Mr. Mitchell said the case against Richardson would have to be dismissed, as the proceedings were taken after the time allowed.

The Stipendiary considered there had been neglect on the part of the other two defendants, and they were each fined £5 and £2 0s 6d special costs, while Perkins was also fined 20s on the second summons."

Walsall Observer 25/5/1929

"Members of the FORGE TAVERN Social Club, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, had their annual outing on Monday, when they left the din and bustle of the factory and workshop for the brighter scenes of Blackpool. The party of about sixty members started in the early hours of the morning, and Blackpool being reached, some thirteen hours were at disposal to visit the various attractions that abound at the popular pleasure resort. The arrangements were ably carried out by Mr. C. *Hodgkiss*. Home was reached early on Tuesday."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/3/1934

"Wednesbury Licensing Committee yesterday.....

An application was made by Mr. A. J. Long (barrister) on behalf of the Highgate Walsall Brewery Co., for removal of the license from FORGE INN, Cobden Street, Wednesbury, to a house and premises to be erected about 50 yards away, at the corner of Franchise Street and Beebee Road.

Objecting, the Rev. W. Christie said that Franchise Street was adequately provided for. He was afraid that women would be attracted from their homes to a 'modern gin palace.'

The Mayor (Councillor P. Griffiths) announced that the Bench had no objection to the removal, but they would be prepared to consider something in keeping with the present house so far as the drinking area was concerned. This was adjourned for 14 days."

Evening Despatch 23/3/1934

"Wednesbury Licensing Magistrates today heard the adjourned application of Highgate Brewery Co., of Walsall, for the removal of the license of the FORGE TAVERN, Cobden Street, to premises to be built at the corner of Franchise Street and Beebee Road.

The magistrates provisionally approved the removal, which will be submitted to a meeting of the confirming authority in a month's time."

Walsall Observer 21/4/1934

“Wednesbury Licensing Justices sitting as a Confirming Authority, yesterday.....

The Bench confirmed the granting of the application of Highgate (Walsall) Brewery Co. Ltd, for the removal of the license of the FORGE TAVERN (beerhouse ‘on’) Cobden Street, Wednesbury, to a house and premises to be erected at the corner of Franchise Street and Beebee Road, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 24/4/1937

“Wednesbury Licensing Justices yesterday confirmed the granting of wine licenses to.....

FORGE TAVERN, corner of Franchise Street and Beebee Road, Wednesbury.”

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.....

FORGE TAVERN, Wednesbury.”

1939 Register

Beebee Road – FORGE TAVERN

[1] Clarence Thomas, date of birth 5/12/1897, publican, ARP warden, married;

[2] Beatrice Thomas, dob 1/4/1902, domestic duties, married;

[3] Constance (Thomas) Wistance, dob 5/6/1921, fancy leather worker, single;

[4] Eric Thomas, dob 1/11/1926, school, single:

Walsall Observer 6/6/1942 - Advert

“Heartiest Congratulations to Constance Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Thomas, FORGE TAVERN, Wednesbury, on attaining her Majority, June 5th. Love and best wishes. From Mom, Dad, and Eric.”

Ernest Turley was president of Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association 1955-1968.

Ernest Turley – see also WODEN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury, BUSH, Leabrook Road, Tipton, and WHEATSHEAF, Wordsley, Stourbridge.

Tipton Herald 7/7/1956

“A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was recorded at the inquest at Wednesbury on Wednesday on *Arthur George Roberts* (63), of 58, Alexandra Road, Kings Hill, who was formerly engaged in the licensing trade at the STAR, Wood Green, and later at the FORGE TAVERN, Franchise Street.

Mrs. Frances Ellen Roberts, widow, said her husband had once been a steel presser but had retired because of ill health.

Mr. Frank Cooper, Coroner, said he would return a formal verdict in accordance with the evidence that death was from niyocordia degeneration due to chronic bronchitis, materially accelerated by pneumoconiosis.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/5/1967 - Advert

“Barmaid required, part-time, evenings and weekends, learners considered.

Apply, FORGE TAVERN, FRANCHISE Street, Wednesbury. James Bridge 2777.”

A team from here took part in the Bloxwich Combination Football League. [1971/72]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/9/1975 - Advert

“Bar Staff required, evenings and weekends.

Apply, The Manager, The FORGE, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/8/1983

“Black Country landlord *Geoff Gaulton* is forging a new link in Wednesbury’s chain of pubs with a £85,000 facelift for one of the town’s most popular public house. The FORGE in Franchise Street re-opened fully this week after six months of work designed to give the pub a new lease of life. Landlord *Geoff*, who with his wife Millicent, has run the pub for 11 years said, ‘It’s like starting over again, it is very exciting. The pub has retained many of its old characteristics, but at the same time it has a new look about it. We are delighted with the result.’ The lounge and bar at the FORGE have been renovated and redecorated with the lounge boasting a modern long bar and discreet disco lighting. Mr. *Gaulton* said, ‘We never completely closed the pub, and the regulars have been very patient, drinking while work has gone on around them. I am sure they will be happy with the final outcome.’”

Birmingham Mail 13/2/1984 - Advert

“Look What’s on at Your Local.

St. Valentine’s Night Party. Tuesday February 14th.

There’s fun and games at your M&B local tomorrow night.

Super St. Valentine’s Night Prizes to be won. A great atmosphere. Surprises galore.

Don’t miss out on a great St. Valentine’s Night out at the your M&B local. See you tomorrow.....

FORGE TAVERN, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.”

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.”

Birmingham Mail 28/6/1995 - Advert

“FORGE TAVERN, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, WS10.

T-Bone Steaks, £4.95. 8oz Rump Steaks, £2.99. Childrens meals, 75p. Sunday Lunches.

Beer garden with childrens play area.

Homecooked food available Mon-Sat 12noon-2pm, 6pm-8pm.

Ring for details of evening entertainment. 0121 526 2777.”

Walsall Observer 24/1/1997

“Highgate Brewery will be bringing a taste of Burns Night to Walsall this weekend. The local brewery plans to pipe in its very own brand of haggis to four of their pubs. They intend to marinade the haggis in their own whisky beer which is brewed at their Walsall headquarters in Sandymount Road. Similar activities will be taking place at other Highgate hostelrys including.....

FORGE, Franchise Street, in Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/9/1997

“A Black Country pub is drumming up support after bursting back on to the live music scene. *Paul Pugh*, licensee at the FORGE TAVERN, in Franchise Street, Wednesbury, took over a year ago and one of his first aims was to restore regular entertainment. Live acts are now being featured at the pub every Friday and this week Stars in Your Eyes entrant Peter Elliot will be doing his impression of singing super-star Stevie Wonder. *Paul* said, ‘The FORGE has always been a well-known and popular venue for live music and it was a shame that it stopped in 1995. I believe good music is part of a Friday night out, so when we refurbished the pub we built a stage area.’

The pub is owned by Walsall-based brewers Highgate and Walsall Brewing Company who went independent two years ago after many years as part of the Bass empire.”

[2015]

Closed [2018]

Express & Star 23/11/2023

“An attempt to convert the former FORGE TAVERN pub in Wednesbury into a community centre was turned down by Sandwell Council earlier this year over concerns about the lack of car parking provided. But now the charity behind the plan, New Hope Global, has turned to the government’s planning inspectors, who have the power to overrule the council, in a bid to get the decision overturned.....

The efforts to breathe new life into the boarded-up pub, which closed in 2016, have included two separate applications to convert the building into an Islamic tuition centre. Sandwell Council rejected those plans in 2018 and again in 2021 over concerns that poor public transport links and its out-of-town-centre location could cause severe parking problems in the surrounding residential streets. More plans to convert the pub into a community centre then came forward but were rejected in 2022 and in May this year. An earlier plan to convert the former watering hole into a house of multiple occupation was approved by the council in 2017, but the work was never carried out.”

Express & Star 23/2/2024

“An attempt to convert the former FORGE TAVERN pub in Franchise Street, Wednesbury, into a community centre was turned down by Sandwell Council last year over concerns about the lack of car parking spaces. An appeal was then launched in a bid to get the decision overturned, but the government’s planning inspectors sided with the council.....”

Express & Star 8/4/2025

“A plan to convert an empty pub into an HMO has been given the green light by councillors. Nearly decade-old plans to turn the former FORGE TAVERN in Wednesbury into an eight-bed house of multiple occupation (HMO) were revived at the start of the year after moves to turn the old watering hole into an Islamic tuition centre were rejected by Sandwell Council. The local authority’s planners have turned down several moves to bring the old pub back to life in the last eight years including two moves to open the tuition centre and two separate bids for a new community centre. Sandwell Council’s planning committee approved the conversion for a second time in eight years at a meeting in Oldbury on April 2.”



2007



2014

HEARTIEST Congratulations to Constance Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Thomas, "Forge Tavern," Wednesbury, on attaining her Majority, June 5th. Love and best wishes.—From Mom, Dad and Eric.

1942

BARMAID required, part-time, evenings and weekends, learners considered.
Apply **Forge Tavern, Franchise-**
street, Wednesbury. James Bridge 2777.

1967

BAR STAFF
required, evenings and week-
ends.
Apply:
The Manager,
THE FORGE,
Franchise Street,
Wednesbury.

1975

LOOK WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL'S

St. Valentine's Night Party

Tuesday February 14th



There's fun and games at your M&B local tomorrow night.
★ Super St. Valentine's Night Prizes to be won.
★ A great atmosphere.
★ Surprises galore.
Don't miss out on a great St. Valentine's Night out at your M&B local.
See you tomorrow

Toby Jug, Chester Road, Castle Bromwich.	Gaiety, Crocketts Lane, Smethwick.
Engins, High Street, Hampton in Arden.	Swan, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.
Happy Trooper, Greenlands Road, Chesham Wood.	Sacks of Potatoes, 10 Gosta Green, Birmingham 4.
Capers Wine Bar, High Street, West Bromwich.	Royal George, 350 Summer Lane, Hockley.
Forge Tavern, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.	Pig & Whistle, Bissell Street, Birmingham B12.
Mitfielda, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury.	Castle & Falcon, Moseley Road, Birmingham B12.
Four In Hand, Tenscore Street, West Bromwich.	Crown, Henley Road, Claverdon.
Fourways, 2 Portway Hill, Rowley Regis, Warley.	Hardwicke Arms, Chester Road, Streeley.
The Monica, Somerville Road, Small Heath.	Robin Hood, Stratford Road, Hall Green.
Village Arms, Yardley.	Pickwick, Tanworth Lane, Shirley.
Brookhill, Alum Rock Road, Alum Rock.	Ben Johnson, Corporation Street, Birmingham.
Crown, Monkspath, Shirley.	Queens Head, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.
Stirrup Cup, 208 Hornell Road, Sheldon.	Woodpecker, Turves Green, Northfield.
Dolphin, Warwick Road, Acoccs Green.	Cock, Rubery.
Buccaneer, Chester Road, Streetly.	Covered Waggon, Yardley Wood Road, Moseley.
Yards Court, Walsall Road, Perry Barr.	Brighton Hotel, Sparkhill.
Shades, Sainsbury Centre, Sutton Coldfield.	Court Oak, Court Oak Road, Harborne.
Hunters Moon, Coleshill Road, Castle Bromwich.	Full Moon, Hurst Green Road, Halesowen.
Bagot, Eachelhurst Road, Pye Hayes.	New Talbot, Hagley Road.
Red Lion, Station Road, Erdington.	George, George Road, Warley.
	King Edward VII, Lichfield Road, Aston.
	St. Vincent, St. Vincent Street, Ladywood.



1984

FORGE TAVERN

**Franchise Street,
Wednesbury, WS10**

T-Bone Steaks . . . £4.95
8oz Rump Steaks . £2.99
Childrens meals 75p

SUNDAY LUNCHES
Beer garden with childrens play area
Homecooked food available
Mon-Sat 12noon-2pm, 6pm-8pm
Ring for details of evening entertainment
0121 526 2777

1995

FORTUNE OF WAR

36, (35), (32), Trowse Lane / Wellcroft Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Sansom

Edgar Evans, Wellhead Brewery, Perry Barr [1892]

Mrs. S. E. Williamson [1921]

Atkinsons Ltd. [1940], [1955]

LICENSEES

Samuel Sansom [1834] – **1870**);

Mrs. Elizabeth Sansom (**1870** – []

Miss Rhoda Sansom [1871]

Miss Elizabeth Sansom [1881]

Moses Perry [1891] – [1892]

Charles William Horton [] – **1892**);

Edgar Evans (**1892** – [1904]

Thomas Partridge [1892] manager

Mrs. Elizabeth Amos [1901]

William Richards [1908]

Thomas William Nicholls [1911] – [1915]

James Lines [1916] – [1921]

Harry Day (**1924** – **1925**);

Albert Follows (**1925** – []

Harry Pitcock (**1929** – [1946]



NOTES

32, Trowse Lane [1872]

35, Trowse Lane [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921]

36, Trowse Lane [1881], [1892], [1899], [1901], [1911], [1932], [1938], [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Tokens were issued from here.

Samuel Sansom, beer retailer, Trowse Lane. [1835], [1841]

1841 Census

Trowse Lane

[1] Samuel Sansom (30), gun lock maker, born Staffordshire;

[2] Elizabeth Sansom (30), born Staffordshire;

[3] Dinah Sansom (5), born Staffordshire;

[4] Elizabeth Sansom (3), born Staffordshire;

[5] Rohda Sansom (2), born Staffordshire;

[6] Caroline Hartill (25), f.s. born Staffordshire:

Samuel Sansom, retailer of beer, Trowse Lane. [1842]

Samuel Sansom, beer retailer and gun lock maker, Trowse Lane. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

Trouse Lane

- [1] *Samuel Sansom* (41), proprietor of houses, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Sansom* (41), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Dinah Sansom* (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Sansom* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Rhoda Sansom* (12), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/4/1855

“The election of Guardians for the different parishes comprised in the West Bromwich Union have just taken place, with the following results.....

Wednesbury, successful candidates *Samuel Sansom*.”

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 Sansom, Trouse Lane, Wednesbury, supported by Mr. Bailey (Wednesbury), not opposed Granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1859

“Election of Guardians and Local Board of Health.

On Wednesday evening a public meeting, called by the Wednesbury Ratepayers Protection Association, was held at Mr. *Sansom*'s, FORTUNE OF WAR, Trouse Lane. Mr. John Danks was called to the chair, and Mr. William Perry, the active secretary to the association, read the report of the committee for the past year, and from the balance sheet appended thereto it appeared that there was, after paying the expenses up to the present time, a balance left in the treasurer's hands.....”

[*Samuel Sansom* was the treasurer of the association.]

1861 Census

Trouse Lane

- [1] *Samuel Sansom* (51), innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
 - [2] *Elizabeth Sansom* (51), wife, born Wednesbury;
- AND (5 entries further on)

Trouse Lane

- [1] *Elizabeth Sansom* (23), barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Rhoda Sansom* (22), barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ann Hales* (26), domestic servant, born Leamington;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/1/1864

“Yesterday an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Sansom*, the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, on the body of John Ryan, a labourer who died from injuries received at the Willingsworth Furnaces, Tipton, on the 30th ult.

The combined evidence of Edward Trow, a furnace keeper, and John Lloyd, the furnace manager, went to show that on the day named, after the iron had been drawn from the furnace and the blast put, on an explosion took place, and the deceased, who was working about thirty feet away, was very severely injured. Five other persons were also hurt, and the injuries of one of these was expected to terminate fatally. Most of the workmen near the furnace at the time jumped into the canal and dragged the deceased and the others, whose clothes were on fire, after them. Subsequently, the deceased was conveyed home, where he received every needful attention at the cost of Messrs. Haines, the proprietors of the works, but death terminated his sufferings on Sunday.

The explosion was ascribed to a leakage in one of the tuyeres, which was proved to have been in good condition, both when put into the furnace on the preceding Sunday and also shortly before the accident.

Mary Reading spoke to the death of the deceased, and also to the regular visits of Mr. Male, surgeon. She added, also, that the deceased never complained, that the occurrence was not due to the negligence of any person.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/5/1864

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held and inquest at the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Samuel Henley, eleven months old, who had died on Sunday last.

It appeared that the infant had been ailing more or less during the last eight months, and on Saturday night last he became seriously indisposed. At six o'clock on the ensuing morning the mother was awoken by the crying of her child. The father, Henry Henley, a labourer, was from home on night work, and his wife called in Mrs. Parkes, a neighbour, to her assistance, but the child expired in a few minutes. Mr. Howett, surgeon, was sent for, and instantly attended. He said the child had died of convulsions, and a similar opinion as to the previous ailments of the child was pronounced by Mr. Duce, the medical gentleman who had attended on the former occasions. The parents were in sick societies, from which they would receive the sum of £3 10s. There were no less than five of their children who had died of apoplexy and convulsions. The Coroner said the reason he had held the inquiry was in consequence of Police-Superintendent Holland having received a note from Mr. Howett which did not assign any cause of death. The jury thought that medical evidence was unnecessary, and returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/1/1865

“A few evenings ago, a numerously-attended meeting of operative carpenters and joiners of Wednesbury and district, took place at the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, when it was unanimously resolved not to accept the discharge note on any consideration. It was further resolved to form a society at once in connection with the general union, the men being desirous, as they themselves phrase it, of being ‘in a position to protect themselves on any future occasion against the inroads of unprincipled employers.’”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/9/1866

“A meeting to inaugurate the Wednesbury Reform Association was held in the Public Hall, Earps Lane, on Thursday evening. Mr. W. Perry presided, and about 400 persons were present. Mr. Perry, the chairman, was appointed president of the association for the year, Mr. *Samuel Sansom* treasurer, and the Rev. J. Turner secretary. A committee was also appointed. The Rev. Mr. Turner said the association was not pledged to any specific measure of reform, but they would support none that did not receive the approval of the Liberal party, and any future bill must be more comprehensive than the last, and must give direct representation to Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/10/1868

“The Contest for the Borough of Wednesbury.....

On Wednesday evening Mr. Brogden delivered an address at the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Wednesbury. Mr. J. Danks presided. A vote of confidence in Mr. Brogden was heartily carried.”

[Alexander Brogden was Liberal MP for Wednesbury from 1868 to 1885.]

Samuel Sansom died in the 4th quarter of 1869.

Mrs. *Elizabeth Sansom* = Mrs. Elizabeth Sansome

Rhoda Sansom – Rhoda Sansome

1871 Census

Trouse Lane – FORTUNE OF WAR INN

[1] *Rhoda Sansome* (31), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Ann Hales (40), general servant, born Leamington:

AND (next entry)

1, Hall End

[1] *Elizabeth Sansome* (62), retired farmer's widow, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Elizabeth Sansome* (32), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1871

"*Elizabeth Sansome*, of the FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, was charged in the Police Court, yesterday, with permitting drunkenness in her house. The offence was committed during the recent wake. Mr. Bailey, solicitor, appeared for the defence, and called upon the police, who testified to the usually excellent manner in which his client conducted a house that had been equally well kept by her husband between thirty and forty years. The Stipendiary ordered a fine of £1 and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1871

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions....."

Ann Hewitt (30), Phoebe Cotterill (24), and Job Cotterill (24), were charged with stealing from the person of Job Haynes, on the 12th September, 1871, at Wednesbury, the sum of £96 10s, and three five pound notes. Mr. Young was for the prosecution. On the day named, the prosecutor having been to a fair, went into a public house at Wednesbury, called the FORTUNE OF WAR, and there he saw the prisoner Hewitt, and he treated her with some sherry, and afterwards 'took her a walk' down the road. The other prisoners then came up, and ultimately he was knocked down, and Hewitt took the money from his breast pocket, and it was afterwards found at her home. The prisoners were found guilty, and sentenced, Phoebe Cotterill to seven years' penal servitude (previous conviction), Job Cotterill to one year's imprisonment, and Hewitt to three months' imprisonment."

Mrs. *Elizabeth Sansom* died in the 3rd quarter of 1876.

Midland Examiner 24/1/1877

"Wednesbury Liberal Association. On Tuesday evening, a further meeting was held at the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, for the purpose of electing representatives for the Church Hill district....."

Rhoda Sansom married Austin Clews in the 1st quarter of 1880.

Miss *Elizabeth Sansom* = Miss *Elizabeth Sansome*

1881 Census

36, Trowse Lane – FORTUNE OF WAR INN

[1] *Elizabeth Sansom* (43), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Anne Hales* (45), domestic servant, born Leamington:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/12/1885

"On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, touching the death of *Elizabeth Lloyd* (69), wife of the late *John Lloyd*, furnace manager, Bilston Road, Wednesbury. The evidence showed that deceased had been in ill-health for some years, and was subject to fits. On Sunday, the 8th ultimo, she fell downstairs, and died on Sunday last from the injuries sustained. Medical aid had been rendered. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/1/1886

"Yesterday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, on the body of *Emma Lydia Newland* (17), a domestic servant in the employ of Mr. T. H. Gorle, The Beeches, who lost her life on Saturday night owing to a part of an old and disused chapel in Dudley Street being blown down upon her. Mr. J. Slater, appeared on behalf of Messrs. James Russell and Sons, and Mr. Johnson, company's manager, was also present; as was Mr. Gorle, the deceased's employer

It seemed that at about eight o'clock she was walking along the footpath with *Thomas William Newland*, a cousin. He left her just opposite the building to cross the road, and had not reached the other side when he heard a crash and a cry, and on going to ascertain the cause found that she had been injured. He assisted to carry her to an adjoining public house, and a scar being seen on her head, and a bruise on her hand, Dr. McKenna was fetched. He expressed an opinion that she was not seriously hurt, and she was removed to her uncle's house in Hall Lane, where she died at about a quarter past eleven o'clock from the effect of the injuries she had received, being again seen by Dr. McKenna before she died.

The part of the building which had fallen upon her was the parapet, which had been blown down by the gale. The deceased's cousin said he had often remarked that the building was dangerous, and ought to come down. The building stood a few feet back from the road, but he could not say whether the materials— but for the wind — would have fallen within the boundary of the property.

A juror also said he had remarked the dangerous condition of the property, and the Coroner said that in that case he ought to have reported the matter to the Local Board.

Mr. Johnson said he saw the property daily, and had no reason to suppose it was unsafe, but since Saturday he had had a strong fence of boards put up.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, coupled with a request to the company to have this particular property inspected immediately, and in the event of its being found unsafe to have it taken down. The Coroner added that information had reached him that other properties belonging to the company were old and possibly unsafe, and he should be glad if the company would have them inspected also. Mr. Slater said the company had already decided upon the course recommended by the jury, and the Coroner's wishes would also be complied with."

1891 Census

Trouse Lane – FORTUNE OF WAR

[1] Moses Perry (51), widower, licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Emily Perry (25), daughter, barmaid, born Birmingham;

[3] Mary Bolland (67), aunt, widow, blind, born Tarporley, Cheshire;

[4] Emma Jane Hill (25), general servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1891

"On Saturday, Dr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, on the body of Margaret Hobson, aged four years, an illegitimate child, whose mother died seven weeks ago, and who had since been living with her father, John McGuire. She had been unwell since her mother's death, but became worse at the beginning of last week, and died on Thursday. Her father said he did not send for a doctor, because he had no money to pay the fees, and he did not go to the relieving-officer for a medical note when he found how ill the child was, because he thought the parish surgeon would not have attend till the next day, which would have been too late. Verdict, Death from Natural Causes."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1892

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Charles William Horton*, of the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Trowse Croft, was, on the evidence of Police-constables Parton and Platt and Police-sergeant Rowbottom, fined 20s and costs for permitting drunkenness on his premises, on the 18th ult."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

"The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Mr. W. S. Smith applied for the renewal of the license of the FORTUNE OF WAR beerhouse, Trowse Lane, from a former tenant, who had been convicted for permitting drunkenness, to *Edgar Evans*. Granted."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/11/1892

"Yesterday, at the Police Court, *Edgar Evans*, of the Wellhead Brewery, Perry Barr, owner of the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Trowse Lane, was summoned for selling during prohibited hours. Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

Police-sergeant Maguire stated that at half-past eleven on the 26th of September he saw four men enter the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, which is managed for the defendant by a man named *Thomas Partridge*. He knocked at the door, and he heard a noise like the rattling of jugs and glasses inside the house. When he was admitted he saw four men with jugs and glasses before them, and the manager said he was celebrating his birthday with his friends, who had been customers in the early part of the evening.

The Stipendiary imposed a fine of 10s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

“The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday.... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of William Bird, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.

The renewals to be opposed were....

Edgar Evans, the FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane.

The Mayor commented with regret upon the increase in the numbers of offences and convictions shown by the returns; and the contentious business was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day, the 29th inst.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions.”

Edgar Evans was also a maltster. [1893]

Edgar Evans was also licensee of SHIP. [1896], [1904]

Edgar Evans was listed at 36, Trowse Lane on a polling list of 1899.

Edgar Evans served as a Councillor for Birchfield Ward of Handsworth District Council from 1900 for several years.

1901 Census

36, Trowse Lane

- [1] *Elizabeth Amos* (48), widow, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *W. Amos* (23), son, barman, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Lizzie Amos* (23), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ada Amos* (18), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Florrie Amos* (9), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *A. Grove* (32), son-in-law, axle turner, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Emma Grove* (27), daughter, married, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Patty Grove* (4), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;

Tipton Herald 17/4/1909

“Mr. G. C. Lewis held an inquest on Tuesday at the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, on the body of *Lizzie Archer*, aged three weeks, whose parents reside in Wellcroft Street, Wednesbury, and who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning. It was supposed that the child, which slept with its parents, was thus suffocated. The Coroner alluded to the new Children’s Act, and called attention to the responsibilities of parents under the Act. He hoped the greatest care would be exercised by those who had charge of infants. However, in the present case he felt the parents were exonerated from any blame.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated, agreeing with the view of the Coroner in regard to the parents.”

1911 Census

Trowse Lane – FORTUNE OF WAR

- [1] *Thomas W. Nicholls* (50), licensed victualler, born Walsall;
- [2] *Mrs. Nicholls* (48), wife, married 8 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Lilly Nicholls* (16), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Thomas W. Nicholls* (6), son, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 2/9/1915 - Advert

“The Estate of *Samuel Sansom*, Deceased.

Important to Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Investors.

Sale of Old-Established Free Freehold Fully-Licensed Home-Brewing Inn and Dwelling Houses, situate at Wednesbury. Monday, September 27, 1915.

Belcher and Son, FAI, have received instructions from the Trustees under a Settlement, re *Samuel Sansom*, deceased, to submit for Sale by Public Auction, at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, upon the above date, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions to be then produced, the following Valuable Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. Two Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, situate and being Nos.34 and 35, in Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, producing gross £31 17s per annum.

Lot 2. The Very Valuable Old-Established Free Freehold Fully-Licensed Home-Brewing Public House and Premises, known as the FORTUNE OF WAR INN, situate at the junction of Trowse Lane and Wellcroft Street, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas William Nicholls*, upon an annual tenancy determinable on the 24th day of June in any year.

The purchaser may take to at a valuation in the usual way the whole of the Fixtures, Fittings, Brewing Plant, and Effects, together with the consumable Stock-in-Trade, apportionments of current Licenses, Rates, Taxes, and other usual Outgoings on the date fixed for completion.

Further particulars as to accommodation, &c, may be obtained from the Offices of the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston, or from Jno. H. Stockdale, Esq, Solicitor, Wednesbury and Tipton.”

[In 1922 the Trustees of *Samuel Sansom*, deceased, put up for auction a further nine dwelling houses.]

[In 1926 the Trustees of *Rhoda Clews*, deceased, and *Samuel Sansom*, deceased, put up for auction 16 lots of properties and building land.]

1921 Census

Trowse Lane – FORTUNE OF WAR INN

[1] *James Lines* (58), manager, born Oldbury;

[2] *Annie Lines* (47), wife, home duties, born Oldbury;

[3] *Marjorie Lines* (16), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/11/1921

“At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, *Arthur Handley*, aged 29, an ex-soldier, of Old Union Street, Wednesbury, was sentenced to imprisonment for one month for stealing a gent's watch, value £4, and a lady's sports coat, value £3, the property of *James Lines*, FORTUNE OF WAR INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and asked for leniency, stating that he was suffering from shell shock.”

James Lines – see also NAGS HEAD, Oldbury.

South Staffordshire Times 16/8/1924

“Wednesbury Police Court.....

When ex-PC *Harry Day*, of Wednesbury, applied for a temporary transfer of the FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane, the chairman jocularly asked the Police Supt., ‘Have you any evidence of character?’

Supt. Salt: I think so, considering he has had 26 years in the police force.

The application was granted.”

Walsall Observer 19/2/1938

“For riding a cycle on the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on February 2 without a front light, or red rear light or reflector, *Frank William Pitcock*, 36, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, was fined 10s.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/2/1939

“The traditional Shrove Tuesday custom of tossing the pancake was observed at Wednesbury yesterday afternoon, when a crowd of more than 500 local schoolchildren scrambled in the Market Place for the largest portion of each of four pink-coloured pancakes, tossed by the Mayor (Councillor G. W. Price), Councillor F. A. Wadsworth, Mr. Charles Hollingsworth, and Mr. Harry Hollingsworth.

Prizes worth 10s each were presented to *Ronald Pitcock* (13), FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane.”

1939 Register

36, Trowse Lane – FORTUNE OF WAR (4 of 6)

[1] *Harry Pitcock*, date of birth 11/7/1896, public house keeper, moulder, iron and steel, ARP first aider, married;

[2] *Annie M. Pitcock*, dob 5/12/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Frank W. Pitcock*, dob 13/7/1920, fitter and toolroom improver, single;

[4] *Joyce M. M. (Pitcock) Smith*, dob 8/1/1923, electrical press assembler, single;

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1940

“An application at Wednesbury adjourned Licensing Sessions yesterday by Atkinson’s Brewery Company Limited, for the removal of the full license, FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane, to new premises proposed to be built on the golf course estate in Hydes Road, was refused.”

Walsall Observer 22/3/1947 - Wedding Anniversaries

“Pitcock-Morgan. On March 23, 1946, at Bloxwich Wesleyan Chapel, by the Rev. R. E. Brown, Frank, FORTUNES OF WAR, Wednesbury, to Joan, 144, Field Road, Bloxwich.”

Evening Despatch 11/3/1955

“Because they had found that the smaller type of public house was more popular today than the pre-war trend to build ‘gin palaces,’ Mr. A. W. D. Stackhouse, for Atkinsons Brewery Co. Ltd., applied to Wednesbury magistrates today for a provisional order to remove the license of the FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane, to premise proposed to be built on the Golf Course estate, at the junction of Hydes Road and Chestnut Road. The application was granted.”

[The new premises were built and the pub was named CROFT.]

Closed

Birmingham Daily Post 13/4/1957 - Advert

“Important Sale by Auction of Freehold Retail Shop Property.

Nos.18, 20 and 22, St. Michael Street, West Bromwich (With Vacant Possession of No.20).

Free Freehold Beer Off License. No.71, Bromford Road, Oldbury (With Vacant Possession).

Freehold De-Licensed Premises, FORTUNE OF WAR, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury (With Vacant Possession).

Together with the Adjoining Property in Wellcroft Street, forming a most Valuable Freehold Site for future Re-development.

Harford, Kingham & Co., FAI, have received instructions to offer the above for Sale by Auction at the SANDWELL HOTEL, West Bromwich, on Tuesday, April 30th (subject to prior Sale and Conditions).”

THE ESTATE OF SAMUEL SANSON, DECEASED.
—
IMPORTANT TO BREWERS, LICENSED VICTUALLERS,
AND INVESTORS.

—
SALE OF OLD-ESTABLISHED
FREE FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED HOME-
BREWING INN & DWELLING HOUSES,
SITUATE AT WEDNESBURY.

—
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1915.

—
BELCHER & SON, F.A.I., have received instructions from the Trustees under a Settlement, re Samuel Sanson, deceased, to submit for Sale by Public Auction, at the

WHITE HORSE HOTEL, WEDNESBURY.

upon the above date, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions to be then produced—the following Valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTIES:—

Lot 1.

TWO FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES AND PREMISES, situate and being Nos. 34 and 35, in TROUSE LANE, WEDNESBURY, producing gross £31 17s. per annum.

Lot 2.

THE VERY VALUABLE OLD-ESTABLISHED FREE FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED

HOME-BREWING PUBLIC-HOUSE

AND PREMISES, known as the

"FORTUNE OF WAR INN,"

situate at the junction of TROUSE LANE and WELLCROFT STREET, WEDNESBURY, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas William Nicholls, upon an annual tenancy determinable on the 24th day of June in any year.

The purchaser may take to at a valuation in the usual way the whole of the FIXTURES, FITTINGS, BREWING PLANT, and Effects, together with the consumable STOCK-IN-TRADE, apportionments of current Licences, Rates, Taxes, and other usual Outgoings on the date fixed for completion.

Further particulars as to accommodation, &c., may be obtained from the Offices of the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston, or from JNO. H. STOCKDALE, Esq., Solicitor, Wednesbury and Tipton.

1915

Important Sale by Auction of
FREEHOLD RETAIL SHOP PROPERTY.
Nos. 18, 20 & 22, ST. MICHAEL
STREET, WEST BROMWICH
(With Vacant Possession of No. 20).

FREE FREEHOLD BEER OFF LICENCE,
No. 71, BROMFORD ROAD,
OLDBURY

(With Vacant Possession).

FREEHOLD DE-LICENSED PREMISES.

"FORTUNE OF WAR."

TROUSE LANE, WEDNESBURY

(With Vacant Possession).

Together with the ADJOINING PROPERTY
in Welcroft Street, forming a most
Valuable Freehold Site for future Re-
development.

HARFORD, KINGHAM & Co.,

F.A.I., have received instructions to offer the above for Sale by Auction at the "SANDWELL HOTEL," WEST BROMWICH, on TUESDAY, April 30th (subject to prior Sale and Conditions).

Auctioneers' Offices, 319, High Street,
West Bromwich (Tel. Wes. 0417-8 and 0140,
three lines), and 104 106, Colmore Row,
Birmingham (Tel. Central 1631).

1957

FOUR HOPES

38, (Sparrows) Forge Lane, Fallings Heath, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Horton [1871] – **1872)**

Enoch Horton (**1872);**

Edward Horton (**1872 – []**

Mrs. Edna Horton [1881]

NOTES

1871 Census

38, Forge Lane

[1] *William Horton* (66), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Edna Horton* (49), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Reuben Horton* (22), son, mechanic, born Darlaston;

[4] *Emma Horton* (19), daughter, born Darlaston;

[5] *Edna Horton* (17), daughter, born Darlaston;

[6] *Nathan Horton* (13), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[7] *David Horton* (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[8] *Lydia Foreman* (11), visitor, scholar, born Darlaston;

[9] *Jane Lloyd* (18), visitor, housekeeper, born Darlaston:

1872 Probate

“Administration of the effects of *William Horton*, late of Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper, who died 2 January 1872 at Fallings Heath, was granted 27 March at Lichfield to *Enoch Horton* of Darlaston, in the said County, Screw Manufacturer, the Son and one of the Next of Kin. Effects under £800.”

1881 Census

38, Sparrows Forge Lane – FOUR HOPES INN

[1] *Edna Horton* (58), widow, publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Nathan Horton* (23), son, clerk, works, born Darlaston;

[3] *David Horton* (21), son, clerk, warehouse, born Darlaston;

[4] *Mary Lunn* (84), mother, widow, annuitant, born Walsall;

[5] *Lydia Foreman* (21), niece, born Darlaston;

[6] *Emma Horton* (9), grand-daughter, born Darlaston:

FOX

Vicarage, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Josiah Foster [1834] – [1835]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Isaiah Foster, beer retailer, Vicarage. [1835]

FOX AND DOGS

111, (110+111), Albert Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

J. Rolinson Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1921], [1929]

LICENSEES

William Leek [] - 1870);

John Smith (1870 - 1871);

Sarah Bamford (1871 - []

Mrs. Ann Bamford [1872] - [1875]

John Hill [1881] - [1882]

Edward Phillips [1891] - [1896]

Stephen J Walton [1901]

Nicholas Edmund Lacey [1904]

Susan May Millard [1911]

Edward Timmins [1912]

Thomas Arthur Hill [1921] - [1921]

John Thomas Rowe [] - 1926);

William Randall (1926 - []

Albert Astbury [] - 1929):

NOTES

110+111, Albert Street [1871], [1901], [1921]

111, Albert Street [1872], [1881], [1891], [1896], [1904], [1911], [1912]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

110+111, Albert Street - FOX AND DOGS

[1] John Smith (28), beerhouse keeper, born Tong, Shropshire;

[2] Agnes Smith (29), sister, born Tong, Shropshire:

Mrs. Ann Bamford, beer retailer, 111, Albert Street. [1872]

Midland Examiner 27/3/1875

"Ann Bamford, landlady of the FOX AND DOG, Albert Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for having her house open during illegal hours. Mr. Sheldon defended.

Police-constable William Bakewell deposed to visiting the defendant's premises on the night of the 13th inst, at 11.25. He found two men, and the defendant's son and daughter together in one room. Some beer was upon the table. Defendant's son pointed out that he had some water in a jug, and said the ale was for supper. He did not say it was for his wife's supper. One of the men's name was Evans, a lodger, the other was Waring.

Mr. Sheldon said that the witness had proved the case for the defence. The beer was on the table, drawn for defendant's daughter's use. Waring was a brother-in-law, and had called for his top coat. They were expecting the arrival of another brother and sister from America the next day, and Waring stayed a minute to read a telegram that announced their arrival at Queenstown, and to inquire where they were going to live when they arrived.

Summons dismissed."

In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, Mr. Justice Parker.

RE IND COOPE & CO LTD.,

FISHER }
KNOX } v. THE COMPANY { 1908 I 2267
ARNOLD } 1909 I 9
1909 I 5

NOTICE OF SALE BY AUCTION OF VALUABLE
FREEHOLD LICENSED PROPERTY,
AT WEDNESBURY, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD,

Comprising a
SEVEN DAYS' ON-LICENSED BEERHOUSE,
Known as

"THE FOX AND DOGS," ALBERT STREET,
WEDNESBURY.

Close to Station and Electric Trams, together with FOUR
DWELLING HOUSES adjoining, Nos. 106, 107, 108, and 109,
Albert Street.

The Beerhouse is let on a monthly tenancy at a rental of
£20 per annum, and the Dwelling Houses produce £52 per
annum gross, the property containing an area of about
618 square yards, which will be Sold by Auction.

BY Mr. ARTHUR DAVID BELCHER, of the
Firm of BELCHER & SON, F.A.I. with the
approbation of Mr. Justice Parker, at the Anchor Hotel,
Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on MONDAY NEXT,
the 14th day of October, at Seven o'clock in the Evening
precisely.

MAY BE VIEWED BY APPOINTMENT.

Particulars, plan and order to view may be obtained
from Messrs. Belcher and Son, F.A.I. Auctioneers and
Surreyors, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, or the
following Solicitors: Messrs. Nash Field and Co., 12, Queen
Street, London, E.C.; Messrs. Davidson and Morris, 40-42,
Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.; Messrs. Burn and
Bertridge, 11, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.; Messrs. Bircham
and Co., 50, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.; Messrs.
Batchelor and Cousins, 3, Patern Lane, London, E.C.; Messrs.
Dawe and Sons, 2, Birchin Lane, London, E.C.; Messrs.
Birbeck, Moreton, Thompson, and Co., 20, Copthall Avenue,
London, E.C.; and Messrs. Skewes-Cox and Co., 8, Lancaster
Place, Strand, London W.C., 61, and 63, George Street,
Richmond, Surrey, and the Council Offices, Weybridge, Surrey
Solicitors for the Vendors.

1912

1881 Census

111, Albert Street

- [1] *John Hill* (56), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ann Hill* (52), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Richard Hill* (26), son smith's striker, born Hill Top;
- [4] *Sarah Hill* (32), daughter, born Hill Top;
- [5] *Eliza A. Hill* (18), daughter, assistant schoolmistress, born Hill Top:

Darlaston Weekly Times 1/4/1882

"*John Hill*, landlord of the FOX AND DOG INN, Albert Street, Wednesbury, was charged with a breach of the Licensing Act by keeping open and selling ale during prohibited hours.

PS Curtis stated that on Sunday morning, the 19th inst, at 8-45, he visited the defendant's house, found the back door open, and upon walking in found four persons with a pint jug with some ale in, and two quart bottles full of ale freshly drawn. Fined 10s and costs in each case.

Ann Crutchley, *Ann Poston*, *Henry Bayliss*, and *Patrick Gulley*, for being on the premises were each fined 1s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/10/1890 - Advert

"Wheelwright-Smith (good) Wanted; must be a good shoer; constant employment to a steady and suitable man.

Edward Phillips, Albert Street, Wednesbury."

WHEELWRIGHT-SMITH (good) Wanted; must be a good shoer; constant employment to a steady and suitable man.—
Edward Phillips, Albert Street, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

111, Albert Street – FOX AND DOGS INN

- [1] *Edward Phillips* (35), coach builder, born Builth, Breconshire;
- [2] *Annie Phillips* (31), wife, dressmaker, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *William Phillips* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ernest Phillips* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Frederick Phillips* (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Bertie Phillips* (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Sybil Phillips* (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Bernard Phillips* (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Edith Phillips* (9 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *John Hill* (68), boarder, widower, blind, born Wednesbury:

Edward Phillips, beer retailer and wheelwright, 111, Albert Street. [1896]

1901 Census

110+111 Albert Street

- [1] *Stephen J. Walton* (43), publican, born Perry Barr
- [2] *Annie Walton* (39), wife, born Codnor Cave, Derbyshire;
- [3] *Albert J. Walton* (16), son, engine cleaner, born Sutton Coldfield;
- [4] *Thomas Bute* (63), boarder, widower, engine smith, born Bristol:

Nicholas E. Lacey, beer retailer, 111, Albert Street. [1904]

Nicholas Edmund Lacey – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street.

1911 Census

111, Albert Street – FOX AND DOGS

- [1] *Susan May Millard* (31), married, manageress licensed house, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Aubrey John Millard* (10), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Edith May Millard* (9), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Raymond George Millard* (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Albert William Millard* (3), son, born Wednesbury:

Edward Timmins, beer retailer, 111, Albert Street. [1912]

Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1912 - Advert

"In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division.....

Sale by Auction of Valuable Freehold Licensed Property, at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

A seven days on-licensed Beerhouse, known as the FOX AND DOGS, Albert Street, Wednesbury, close to Station and Electric Trams, together with four Dwelling Houses adjoining, Nos.106, 107, 108, and 109, Albert Street.

The Beerhouse is let on a monthly tenancy at a rental of £20 per annum, and the Dwelling Houses produce £52 per annum gross, the property containing an area of about 618 square yards."

1921 Census

110+111 Albert Street – FOX AND DOGS

[1] Thomas Arthur Hill (29), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] Dorothy May Hill (23), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Marjorie Eileen Hill (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Joseph Hill (56), father, widower, gas worker, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 2/3/1929

"Two licensed houses, the FOX AND DOGS, Albert Street, and the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill, objected to on the ground of redundancy were referred for compensation at the adjourned Brewster Sessions at Wednesbury yesterday.....

Regarding the FOX AND DOGS, Police-sergeant Gillman said the structure was fairly good and the place clean and tidy. The premises would be suitable for a dwelling house and shops. There were 53 licensed premises within 500 yards.

Mr. P. J. Slater, representing the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, the owners, formally applied for renewal."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/6/1929

"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 Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, the 30th day of July, 1929, 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.....

FOX AND DOGS INN, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Albert Astbury*."

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/8/1929

"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 30th day of July, 1929, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

FOX AND DOGS INN, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Albert Astbury*. Owners, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd."

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/1/1930

"The Epiphany Quarter Sessions for the county began at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Tuesday.....

Report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1929.....

Compensation was awarded as follows.....

FOX AND DOGS, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,500.

The money had been apportioned amongst the interested parties and paid."

It closed in 1929.

FOX AND DOGS

Wellcroft Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

S Brown [1866] – [1867]
Mrs. Lowe [1868]

NOTES

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 31/12/1848

“Enoch Aston (alias Motto) of Wednesbury is prepared to make a match to fight Noah Butler of Darlaston for £10 or £20 a side. The money is ready at the FOX AND DOGS, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/5/1866

“Ben Spooner and Shingler (both of Wednesbury) have staked £1 a side to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, at Mr. Westley’s, Hall Green, Wednesbury, on Monday, May 21. To start by mutual consent. *S. Brown*, HARE AND DOGS, Welcroft Street, Wednesbury, is appointed stakeholder and referee.”

Illustrated Sporting News and Theatrical and Musical Review 26/5/1866

“Hall Green Running Grounds, Wednesbury.....

Wm. Kelly and Benjamin Spooner, both of Wednesbury, were matched to run 120 yards for £5 a side. Kelly had the advantage of the start, but was caught at half distance by Spooner, who won by a yard and a half. Betting, 5 to 4 on Spooner. *Mr. Brown*, FOX AND DOGS, Wednesbury, stakeholder and referee.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/2/1867

S. Horton of Pelsall and W. Howels of Oldbury run 100 yards, for £5 a side, at the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, on Saturday, March 2; they are to be on the mark at four o’clock. £1 each is now down in the hands of *Mr. Brown*, FOX INN, Wednesbury; to be made into £3 a side on Saturday next, the remainder to be made up on the day of running by twelve o’clock. *Mr. J. Harding* to be referee.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1868 - Advert

“Wellcroft Street, Wednesbury.

The FOX AND DOGS INN to be Let.

Apply on the Premises; or to R. L. Courtney, High Street, West Bromwich.”

WELLCROFT Street, Wednesbury.—“THE FOX and DOGS
INN” to be LET.—Apply on the Premises, or to R. L.
Courtney High Street, West Bromwich.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1868 - Advert

“By R. L. Courtney, on Monday Next, at the FOX AND DOGS INN, Wellcroft Street, Wednesbury.

All the Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, portion of the Household Furniture, belonging to Mrs. Richard Lowe, who is declining the Public business to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

BY R. L. COURTNEY, on MONDAY NEXT, at the
Fox and Dogs Inn, Wellcroft Street, Wednesbury—all the
BREWING PLANT, Public house Fixtures, portion of the
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects, belonging to Mrs.
Richard Lowe, who is declining the Public business. To commence
at Eleven o’clock.

FREEMASONS ARMS

Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Frederick Rowlinson [1834] – [1840]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Frederick Rowlinson, beer retailer, Dudley Street. [1835]

LOT II.—Also all that Messuage or Dwelling House, now used as a Retail Public House, with the Brewhouse, Pump of water, and necessary Erections and Buildings for carrying on the public business, adjoining the last premises, and in the occupation of Frederick Rowlinson, at the low rental of 17*l.* per annum.

Also five other adjoining Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the necessary Outbuildings and Appurtenances to the same belonging, and now in the respective occupations of Edward Haddock, — Partridge, Peter McCormick, John Jones, and Samuel Spittle. The premises produce at low rents the sum of 24*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* per annum.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/10/1840 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Messuages, Land and Premises, situate at Wednesbury, Tipton, and West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Richard Adams, at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, on Monday the 23rd day of November next, at four o'clock in the afternoon (by order of the first Mortgagee of Thomas Taylor, a bankrupt), under a power of sale, and also with the consent and approbation of his Assignees, subject to such conditions as shall be then and there produced, and in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.

Lot I. All that newly erected Messuage or Dwelling House with an extensive frontage to Dudley Street.....

Lot II. Also all that Messuage or Dwelling House, now used as a Retail Public House, with the Brewhouse, Pump of water, and necessary Erections and Buildings for carrying on the public business, adjoining the last premises, and now in the occupation of *Frederick Rowlinson*, at the low rental of £17 per annum.

Also five other adjoining Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the necessary Outbuildings and Appurtenances to the same belonging.....”

Wednesbury Herald 12/7/1879

“Joseph Dangerfield, labourer, was charged with being drunk on the premises of the FREE MASONS ARMS INN. Police-constable Clark proved to finding the defendant drunk in the tap room.

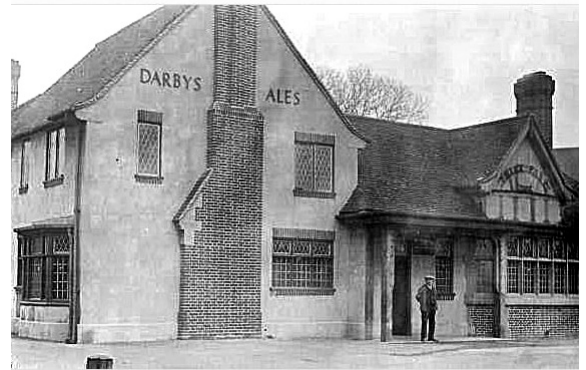
The Bench fined defendant 5*s.* and costs, or in default 7 days imprisonment.”

FRIAR PARK

103, (1), Crankhall Lane, (Crank Lane), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Joseph Spittle, Kings Hill
Thomas Bruerton, Darlaston
William Bruerton, Darlaston
Edwin Bruerton, Darlaston
Elihu Butler
Mary Ann Butler
Frank Archer
Darby's Brewery Ltd. [1919], [1931]
Enterprise Inns [1990s]
Admiral Taverns (acquired in 2010)



LICENSEES

Thomas Poulton [] - **1876**);
Samuel Poulton (**1876 - 1879**);
David Davis (**1879 - 1881**);
Jacob Chilton (**1881 - 1882**);
Charles Rolfe (**1882 - 1885**);
Elihu Butler (**1885 - 1911**);
Mary Ann Butler (**1911 - 1912**);
Frank Archer (**1912 - 1919**);
Richard Joseph Thursfield (**1919 - 1933**);
Thomas 'Tommy' Hodgkiss (**1933 - 1947**);
Samuel Hadley (**1947 - 1952**);
Charles Howard Blizzard (**1952 - 1955**);
Joseph Henry 'Joe' Bailey (**1955 - 1961**)
Samuel Gaynham [1964]
Mrs. Susan Hewitt [2008]



1961

NOTES

[This pub was listed in the West Bromwich licensing register, but is included here because it is generally referred to as being in Wednesbury.]

The building was originally Crank Hall.

It had a beerhouse license.

It was originally an unnamed beerhouse.
It was later called the CANAL TAVERN.

It was known locally as "The Cabin."

1851 Census

Crankhall Lane – Public House and Farm

- [1] *Thomas Poulton* (46), farmer of 13 acres and victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Sophia Poulton* (48), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Sophia Rogers* (74), mother-in-law, widow, born Walsall;
- [4] *Louisa Watson* (29), servant, born Walsall;
- [5] *Benjamin Breakworth* (32), farm servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *George Rogers* (17), farm servant, born Walsall;
- [7] *William Hancox* (28), lodger, miller, born Hanbury, Worcestershire:

1861 Census

Crankhall Lane – Public House and Farm

- [1] *Thomas Poulton* (56), farmer of 11 acres employing 1 man, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Sophia Poulton* (58), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Sophia Rodgers* (83), mother-in-law, widow, formerly laundress, blind, born Walsall;
- [4] *Henry Pepeh* (40), carter, born Buckinghamshire;
- [5] *Eliza Hancox* (13), house servant, born Stoke on Trent:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/2/1864

“On Saturday Mr. E. Hooper, district Coroner, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *Thomas Poulton*, the CANAL TAVERN, Crankhall Lane, West Bromwich, on the body of John Kent, aged 55 years, who met his death on Tuesday last, while at work in an ironstone pit, belonging to Messrs. W. H. Dawes and Son, at Frear Park.

Thomas Evens said he was foreman for Mr. Williams, a contractor for Messrs. Dawes and Son, at the Frear Park Ironstone Pit. Deceased was in the same employment, and about five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon he and witness were in the open work at the bottom. Deceased was using a shovel, and witness putting in a road, and was about seven yards off him when he heard some stuff fall, and turning round saw deceased on his knees, and some of the stuff on his head. About seven cwt of earth and clay had fallen. Witness picked up deceased, but he never spoke, and died in a few minutes. Mr. Proctor, the field surgeon, was in immediate attendance. The back of deceased's head was badly injured, and his left thigh was fractured. The work at which he was engaged was thirteen or fourteen feet in height, and twenty yards in width. The work had not been timbered, and it was not usual to do so. Witness discovered that the fall of earth was occasioned by a vein in the face of the work.

Mr. Job said he was a contractor in the employment of Messrs. Dawes and Son. Witness had examined the face of the work a short time previous to the accident, and it appeared to be perfectly secure. He was of opinion that the accident might be attributed to some water having got into the work.

Deceased had left a widow and five children.

The Coroner having summed up, left it to the jury whether they would have the inquest adjourned for further evidence; but they expressed themselves perfectly satisfied, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

A juror named Joseph Smith, farmer, was fined 20s by the Coroner for not having attended the inquest at the hour appointed.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/10/1864

“At the CANAL TAVERN Crank Lane, Wednesbury, the match between Messrs. J. Dickens of Hill Top, Westbromwich, and J. Haddock of Wednesbury to shoot at 11 pigeons each, Dickens staking £10 to £8, came off on Monday, October 17, in the presence of a large assembly of the sporting fraternity of the district. The conditions were 11 birds each, 1½oz of shot, 21 yards rise, the field the boundary, Mr. Evans of Wednesbury referee. At two o'clock Mr. Haddock led off, killing his first eight birds, and ultimately winning by killing 10 to Mr. Dickens's 8.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/12/1864

“The match between Messrs. T. Green and J. Elden (both of Bilston) came off on Monday, December 5, for £10 a side, at Mr. *T. Poulton's*, Crankhall Lane, near Wednesbury, at 11 pigeons each, on the usual conditions, which ended in Mr. Green winning by one bird. Score, Green 8, Elden 7.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/6/1869

“On Friday, four men called at the CANAL TAVERN, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, kept by Mr. *Poulton*, and had some refreshment, and one of them managed to get upstairs. He was met coming down by Mrs. *Poulton*, but he and the others succeeded in making their escape with the cash-box, which contained about £10, and two silver watches which were in the bed room.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 14/6/1869

“At West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, Henry Lowe, alias Henry Jackson, alias Henry Critchlow, alias Henry Chidlow, was charged with stealing £11 and two silver watches, the property of *Thomas Poulton*.

The wife of the prosecutor stated that her husband kept the CANAL TAVERN, Crank Hall Lane. About half-past eleven o'clock, on the morning of the 4th of June, prisoner and two other men came into the house and called for some bread and cheese. This was supplied to them in the kitchen. About an hour afterwards she missed prisoner from the room, and went to see where he was. She found the door leading up-stairs opened, and on ascending she met prisoner coming down the stairs. She asked him what brought him there, when he pushed her down the stairs and ran out of the house. She went into the yard for assistance, and on hearing her call, the two other men ran past her into the street. On going into her bed room, she missed £11 and a silver watch from a drawer, the lock of which had been picked. A silver watch had also been taken from the dressing table.

A man who saw prisoner in the house was taken to Birmingham by Police-sergeant Hackney, and he recognised the prisoner in a public house. Afterwards prosecutor's wife picked him out of a number of men at the police station. Mr. Travis appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Francis (Birmingham) for the prisoner, on whose behalf an alibi was attempted to be proved.

The prisoner was committed for trial at the Sessions.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1869

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Henry Lowe (41), bedstead maker, was indicted for stealing on the 4th of June, at West Bromwich, £11 and two silver watches, the property of *Thomas Poulton*. The Hon. E. Ashley prosecuted, and Mr. Young defended.

The prosecutor is the landlord of the CANAL TAVERN, West Bromwich. On the 4th of June three men came into the house and had some refreshment. They were left by prosecutor's wife for some time in a room by themselves. On her return one of the men had gone, but she shortly afterwards saw the prisoner, whom she recognised as the third man, coming downstairs. £11 and two watches were afterwards missed from a room upstairs.

For the defence a witness was called to prove an alibi, but the Jury, after retiring, gave a verdict of guilty. The prisoner, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/10/1870

“On Saturday morning, the body of a boy was found in the Tame Valley Canal, Crankhall, near West Bromwich, by some boatmen. The body was removed to the CANAL TAVERN, Crankhall Lane, and up to last night it had not been identified. Deceased is about nine years of age, has on a dark pair of trousers, a dark jacket, cloth cap, and red worsted stockings. An inquest will be held in due course.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/10/1870

“An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the CANAL TAVERN, Crank Hall Lane, West Bromwich, by Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, touching the death of James Ward (9), who lived with his parents at Trowse Lane, Wednesbury. Deceased was found by some boatmen in the canal, near Crank Hall Lane, on Saturday morning, as sated in Monday's *Gazette*. He had been out for a walk with three other boys, but was left by them, as he refused to go home. Verdict, Found Drowned.”

1871 Census

Crankhall Lane

[1] *Thomas Poulton* (66), farmer of 16 acres employing 2 men, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Sophia Poulton* (68), wife, born Walsall;

[3] *Maria Carter* (17) general servant, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Edward Rogers* (64) employed on farm, born Aldridge;

[5] *Joseph Griffiths* (50), employed on farm, born Shatterford, Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/11/1873

"*Thomas Poulton*, landlord of the CANAL TAVERN, Crank Hill Lane, West Bromwich, was summoned for keeping open during prohibited hours. A policeman had found 15 men drinking ale in the defendant's brewhouse on the previous Sunday morning, when the landlord said the men came from Darlaston. Evidence was given for the defence which induced the belief that the defendant had been deceived by the men, and the case was dismissed."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1875 - Advert

"Pigeon Shooting.

To be Shot For, on Monday, March 22, at Mr. *Thomas Poulton's*, the CANAL TAVERN, near Wednesbury, the largest Pig in the world. Forty tickets at £1 each. The Pig to be seen at Mr. C. Stamp's, Sheepwash Lane, Great Bridge. Tickets to be had at Mr. W. T. Siddons, BRITISH OAK INN, Hill Top; and Mr. J. Dickens, Witton Lane, Hill Top."

Thomas Poulton died in the 2nd quarter of 1876.

PIGEON SHOOTING.—To be SHOT FOR, on MONDAY, March 22, at Mr. *Thos. Poulton's*, the Canal Tavern, near Wednesbury, the largest PIG in the world. Forty tickets at £1. each. The Pig to be seen at Mr. C. Stamp's, Sheepwash Lane, Great Bridge. Tickets to be had at Mr. W. T. Siddons, British Oak Inn, Hill Top; and Mr. J. Dickens, Witton Lane, Hill Top.

Dudley Herald 2/9/1876

"On Wednesday the Annual Licensing Sessions for the parishes of West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton, &c, was held at the Public Office, West Bromwich.....

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston presented the following 'black' list of offences against publicans and beersellers which had been committed during the year ending 30th August last.....

Samuel Poulton, beerseller, CANAL TAVERN, prohibited hours, 20s and costs The offending publicans were ordered to appear at the adjourned licensing meeting before their licenses could be renewed."

AND

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

"West Bromwich Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The magistrates granted the renewal of the licenses of ten public houses and twenty beerhouses that had been adjourned from the general licensing day in consequence of the non-appearance of the applicants, or from convictions."

1881 Census

Crankhall Lane

[1] *Jacob Chilton* (43), colliery proprietor, born Madeley, Shropshire;

[2] *Harriot Chilton* (42), wife, born Nuneaton;

[3] *William Chilton* (21), son, engine tender, born Walsall;

[4] *Mary Ann Chilton* (17), daughter, born Walsall;

[5] *John Chilton* (15), son, tube welder, iron, born Walsall;

[6] *Elizabeth Chilton* (13), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;

[7] *Jacob Chilton* (10), son, scholar, born Walsall:

Smethwick Telephone 3/1/1885

"West Bromwich Police Court.....

Charles Rolfe, landlord of the CANAL TAVERN, Crankhall Lane, was charged with having his house open during prohibited hours on the night of the 30th ult, and also with refusing to admit Police-constable Durrie on the same night.

On the night named the officer, whilst on duty near the defendant's house, heard the landlord say, 'The bobby, you —; clear out.' Hearing this, the officer hastened to the house, but the defendant met him at the door, and took hold of him by the shoulders and refused to allow him admittance. Seeing some men mounting the wall, he left the defendant and ran and caught the last man, who was under the influence of drink.

Mr. Jackson, who was for the defendant, urged that there was only one man in the house after eleven o'clock, and he had been admitted upon a false representation that he had come from Tipton. Defendant and his wife were called, and gave evidence in support of this statement.

Defendant was fined £2 and costs for keeping his house open during prohibited hours, the other charge being dismissed."

Walsall Observer 14/12/1889 - Advert

“Freehold House and Land for Sale, situated in Bescot Lane, near Steam Laundry.
Apply, *E. Butler*, CANAL TAVERN, Crank Hall Lane, near Wednesbury.”

FREEHOLD House and Land for Sale, situated in Bescot Lane, near Steam Laundry.—Apply, *E. Butler*, Canal Tavern, Crank Hall Lane, near Wednesbury.

1891 Census

Crankhall Lane – CANAL TAVERN

- [1] *Elihu Butler* (44), moulder, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary A. Butler* (44), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Elihu S. Butler* (18), son, moulder, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Beatrice Butler* (15), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Albert Butler* (8), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [6] *Gertrude F. Butler* (6), daughter, scholar, born Tipton:

Wednesbury Herald 9/3/1895

“Licensed Victuallers Meeting. At a meeting held on Tuesday night at the CANAL TAVERN, Crankhall Lane, Mr. E. Birch presiding, it was decided to support a bill which had been introduced in the House of Lords, in favour of securing uniformity in the granting, by way of removal or transfer, of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors. It was contended that in accordance with a recent decision licensed victuallers only held their licenses from year to year, whereas beerhouse keepers who held licenses prior to 1869 were exempt from magisterial interference, excepting under special circumstances, and it was very important that the bill should be passed. Mr. Sheldon said he considered the bill was one of the best yet introduced to do justice to those engaged in the trade.”

Wednesbury Herald 3/8/1895 - Advert

“West Bromwich and Wednesbury.

Valuable Freehold Properties with the Mines and Minerals, situate in Crankhall Lane, near to the towns of Wednesbury and West Bromwich, comprising Meadow and Pasture Land, of a total area of 23a 1r 38½p.

Farm House, Labourers Cottage, Excellent Farm Buildings, and Old-established Beerhouse known as the CANAL TAVERN.

To be Sold by Auction, by Belcher and Son (by direction of the Trustees of the late Edwin Bruerton, Esq), at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday, 12th August 1895.....

Lot 1. The Freehold well-established Beerhouse, called the CANAL TAVERN, situate in Crankhall Lane, about one mile from the town of Wednesbury, but in the Parish of West Bromwich, with capital Barn, Stable, Cow Sheds, Piggeries, and the usual Outbuildings, and having an extensive Garden.

This Lot contains a total area of 2 roods 9 perches, and is let to *Elihu Butler*, on an annual tenancy, at a rent of £31 per annum.”

1901 Census

Crankhall Lane – Tavern

- [1] *Elihu Butler* (54), beerhouse keeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Ann Butler* (54), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Albert Edward Butler* (18), son, butcher, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Florence Gertrude Butler* (16), daughter, draper's assistant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 13/4/1901

“The members of the Kings Hill Unity Cycling Club opened their fixture list on Saturday with a circular run. The wretched state of the roads rendered cycling a matter of difficulty, and with ‘mud plugging’ and side slips, several members came to grief. Through this cause the run was curtailed. On arriving at vice-president *E. Butler*'s, CRANKHALL TAVERN, a game of football was played, the sides being married v single. The journey was resumed through Wood Green, Pleck, and James Bridge. Returning to headquarters, tea was taken, and the remainder of the evening given up to the charms of music. Glees and songs were given by the Unity Glee Party, under the leadership of Mr. J. Jacobs.”

Elihu Butler died in the 4th quarter of 1910.

Wednesbury Herald 21/1/1911

“*Elihu Butler*, Deceased.

All persons having Claims or Demands against the estate of *Elihu Butler*, late of the CANAL TAVERN, Crankhall Lane, West Bromwich, Beerhouse keeper, deceased, who have not already done so, are required to Send Particulars of such Claims or Demands forthwith to the undersigned.

Thomas Jones, Solicitor to the Executrix, 7, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.”

1911 Census

Crankhall Lane – CANAL TAVERN

- [1] *Mary Ann Butler* (64), widow, beer seller, born | Wednesbury;
- [2] *Gertrude Florence Butler* (26), daughter, assisting in the business, born Dudley Port;
- [3] *Mary Ann Hughes* (40), daughter, married, housekeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Alice Hughes* (19), grand-daughter, electrical fitting worker, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 12/7/1919 - Deaths

“In loving memory of *Frank Archer*, the beloved husband of *Ada*, late of the CANAL TAVERN, Wednesbury, who passed away on July 9, 1919; aged 55 years. Ever remembered by his Wife and Children.”

1921 Census

1, Crankhall Lane

- [1] *Richard J. Thursfield* (42), fitter and turner, cast iron holloware, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Harriet Thursfield* (45), wife, home duties, licensed premises, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Richard J. Thursfield* (13), son, school, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Norman Thursfield* (9), son, school, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *May Thursfield* (6), daughter, school, born West Bromwich:

It was renamed FRIAR PARK INN on 13th February 1930.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/3/1932

““It is invariably found when tenants get into arears with their rent and neglect their homes that it is because their money is being spent in the public house,’ said the Rev. J. W. G. Dew, who, on behalf of the British Women’s Total Abstinence Union, at West Bromwich Licensing Sessions, yesterday, opposed an application for the removal of the full license of the BLACK BOY INN, Lyndon, to the FRIAR PARK INN, Crankhall Lane. Mr. Dew also contended that surrounding property tended to depreciate in value when a public house was opened.

The application was granted after an undertaking had been given that the premises of the BLACK BOY INN would not be used as a club within a period of five years.

It was explained that the FRIAR PARK INN was at present licensed only for the sale of beer, and since the development of the Corporation housing estate at Friar Park there had been an increasing demand for the supply of wines and spirits.”

An Ordinary Removal of the Publican’s license from the BLACK BOY, Lyndon Street, West Bromwich, was granted to here on 10th March 1932, and confirmed on 21st April 1932.

It commenced business with a full license on 2nd May 1932.

Black Country Bugle (September 1998)

‘Pawn Shop Days on Friar’s Park’ - letter from Bill Melia

“.....Every Monday morning some of the ladies, when they had their few shillings, would go over to my gran’s shop to purchase whatever vegetables and other items they required for the meals they would be preparing for their husbands and families. Then some of them would then go over the road to the local pub, the FRIAR PARK INN, but more commonly known as the Cabin. They would go into a little snug on the right hand side of the bar and buy a half pint and peel their potatoes and shell the peas etc, whilst they drank their beer; it was a good place to listen to all the local gossip The room was called the Pawnshop Room and it still goes under that name today.....”

Black Country Bugle 8/10/1998

'When the Pawnshop Ladies received free beer rations at the Cabin' - letter from Mrs. Connie Riley

".....My mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. *Hodgkiss*, kept the FRIAR PARK INN (Cabin). The women came right out of the pawn shop into the Cabin for their little get together and also for the arrival of Mr. Charles Darby of Darby's Brewery, who would call round to collect the previous week's takings. The pawn shop ladies would be waiting for him because he walked round the pub wishing everyone 'Good morning' and treat them all to a free drink. My mother would sit and talk with these pawn shop ladies, offering help to the ladies who had nothing to pawn. She would lend them money they needed, they would pay back Friday nights then borrow again on Monday morning. She used to do this unknown to my father, she was a golden friend to them all.

My mother, myself and two sisters ran the pub. My father used to look after the cellar and the beer. Before we opened on a Monday morning I always made a roaring fire in the pawnshop room and would always leave two piled up buckets of coal by the fireplace, which always finished up in the ladies' bags. I did not mind or say anything to my father, after all the brewery paid for it....."

Black Country Bugle 29/10/1998

'Friar Park Memories' - letter from Mr. C. T. Richards

".....I also remember Mr. *Hodgkiss*, who kept the 'Cabin' pub. Mr. *Hodgkiss* was always smartly dressed, with collar and tie and waistcoat whenever he came into Morgan's pawn shop....."

'Friar Park Memories' - letter from Mr. Les Gallimore

".....I remember when Mr. and Mrs. *Tommy Hodgkiss* and their three lovely daughters kept the FRIAR PARK INN, more commonly known as the Cabin. When the war was on they let people go down the cellar to shelter when the sirens went....."

1939 Register

103, Crankhall Lane (7 of 8)

[1] *Thomas Hodgkiss*, date of birth 12/10/1890, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Elsie M. Hodgkiss*, dob 5/1/1893, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Iris A. Allen*, dob 29/6/1914, bar general, married;

[4] *Kenneth H. Allen*, dob 13/1/1914, brewer's labourer, married;

[5] *Sarah J. (Nock) Nelson*, dob 18/10/1922, paid domestic, single;

[6] *Constance M. (Hodgkiss) Riley*, dob 10/2/1923, paid domestic, single;

[7] *Joan (Hodgkiss) Garner*, dob 14/2/1926, school, single;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/2/1940

"Comforts Fund for men at the front.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £297 11s 4½d.

Proceeds of boxes.....

Mr. *Hodgkiss*, The Cabin, 15s 1d."

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

"The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

FRIAR PARK INN, Friar Park, £1 13s 6d."

Evening Despatch 15/10/1946

"Mr. *Thomas Hodgkiss*, licensee of the FRIAR PARK INN, West Bromwich, collapsed and died at his home last night."

Friar Park Rangers FC were based here. [1948]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962]

Birmingham Mail 26/6/1963 - Advert

"Full Time Barmaid Wanted, also Barmen, nights and weekends.
Apply, Manager, FRIAR PARK INN, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury."

FULL TIME BARMAID Wanted, also
Barmen, nights and weekends.—Apply The
Manager, Friar Park Inn, Crankhall
Lane, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Mail 8/6/1964 - Advert

"Bar Staff Wanted, nights and weekends, experience essential.
Apply, Manager, FRIAR PARK INN, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury."

BAR STAFF Wanted, nights and week-
ends, experience essential. — Apply
Manager, Friar Park Inn, Crankhall Lane,
Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/11/1964

"The night after being refused drinks because it was past closing time two customers returned to a West Bromwich public house and intimidated the licensee and his wife on their private premises, Mr. Challinor, prosecuting, said yesterday. William Lawley (34) a moulder, of Johnson Road, Friar Park, Wednesbury, was fined £10, with £6 6s costs, for an assault causing actual bodily harm to Mrs. Mabel Gaynham, wife of the licensee of the FRIAR PARK INN, Crankhall Lane, West Bromwich, on the night of August 31. He pleaded guilty. David A. Littleton (26), a crane driver, of Warner Road, Wednesbury, who admitted a common assault on Mr. *Samuel Gaynham*, the licensee, on the night of Sunday, August 30, and was fined £5, with £2 2s costs.

Mr. Challinor said that when the licensee refused to sell more drinks at 10.50 on the Sunday night Littleton slammed his beer glass down on the counter, caught hold of the licensee by his tie, threatened him and struck his nose. The next day Mr. *Gaynham* refused to serve some customers because of their behaviour the previous night. Lawley and Littleton, who were in the public house again that evening, forced their way into the licensee's living quarters where Lawley twisted Mrs. Gaynham's arm. Lawley was said to have previous convictions for disorderly behaviour on a bus and for common assault."

A football team from here took part in the Black Country Alliance League. [1996]

Birmingham Mail 30/10/1996

"Black Country Alliance.....

In the Premier Division, FRIAR PARK INN moved to top spot after their visit to PARK INN, Wednesbury."

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/11/1996

"Junior Soccer Spotlight.....

Alliance Premier League leaders FRIAR PARK INN lost their unbeaten record at West Bromwich Anchor."

FRIAR PARK TAVERN [1996]

[2021]

Closed [2022]

In 2022 it was bought for £495,600 by SEP Properties Limited.

An application by SEP Properties Limited to demolish the building was granted in December 2022.

Express & Star 21/2/2025

"A plan to demolish a pub for new flats and a shop has been approved. Under plans by developer SEP Properties, the former FRIAR PARK INN in Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, would be demolished and replaced with 14 new flats and a shop. Neighbours objected, saying the work would lead to a loss of privacy and affect the price of their properties. The application was backed unanimously by Sandwell Council's planning committee at a meeting on Wednesday (February 19). Sandwell Council approved plans to demolish the former FRIAR PARK INN in Wednesbury more than two years ago, and after several complaints over the site's state, a planning application was put forward last summer."

WEST BROMWICH AND WEDNESBURY.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTIES

WITH THE

MINES AND MINERALS,

Situate in Crankhall Lane, near to the towns of
Wednesbury and West Bromwich, comprising

MEADOW AND PASTURE LAND

of a total area of 23a. 1r. 38½p.,

Farm House, Labourer's Cottage, Excellent Farm
Buildings, and Old established Beerhouse known as
"THE CANAL TAVERN."

To be Sold by Auction, by

BELCHER AND SON (by direction of the
Trustees of the late Edwin Bruerton, Esq.), at
the "ANCHOR HOTEL," WEDNESBURY, on MONDAY,
12th AUGUST, 1895, at 4.30 for 5 o'clock in the
evening, subject to Conditions incorporating the
Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law
Society.

LOT 1.

The FREEHOLD well-established BEERHOUSE,
called "The Canal Tavern," situate in Crankhall
Lane, about one mile from the town of Wednesbury,
but in the Parish of West Bromwich, with capital
Barn, Stable, Cow Sheds, Piggeries, and the usual
Outbuildings, and having an extensive Garden.

This Lot contains a total area of 2 roods 9 perches,
and is let to Elihu Butler, on an annual tenancy, at
a rent of £31 per annum.

1895

Public Notices.

ELIHU BUTLER, DECEASED.

ALL PERSONS having **CLAIMS** or
DEMANDS against the Estate of **ELIHU**
BUTLER, late of the Canal Tavern, Crankhall
Lane, West Bromwich, Beerhouse-keeper,
deceased, who have not already done so, are
required to **SEND PARTICULARS** of such
Claims or Demands forthwith to the undersigned.

THOMAS JONES,

Solicitor to the Executrix,

7, Walsall Street,

Wednesbury.

1911



c1986



2008



2013

GAS FITTERS ARMS

Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 1/7/1863

“At Wednesbury Police Court, two labouring men, named Francis Brown and James Brannon, were charged with stealing a pocket book containing property to the value of £1, belonging to James Fearney, and also with assaulting him. From the prosecutor’s statement it seemed that on Saturday night he was at the GAS FITTERS ARMS, Holyhead Road, and while there he placed a coat upon a bench in the room, and upon going away he found that the pocket book referred to had been abstracted from one of the pockets. One of the defendants afterwards admitted that he had got the book. The prosecutor had no witnesses present, and the case was, therefore, adjourned for a week.”

GATE

Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

T Cox [1822]

GEORGE

1, (Upper) High Street, (1, Market Place) / Union Street, Five Ways, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Daniel Lawrence
Ansells Ltd. [1921], [1966]
Sycamore Taverns (acquired in 1992)
Punch Taverns [2008], [2009]
Amber Taverns (acquired in 2018) [2022]

LICENSEES

James Silvester [1779] – [1783]
Thomas Russell [1790]
Thomas Parkes [1791] – [1798]
Thomas Dean [1799] – [1800]
William Rock [1801] – [1805]
John Wilkes [1807]
John Rock **(1810 – [1813]**
Thomas Stone [1817] – [1822]
Joseph Taylor [1828] – [1830]
John Jevon [1833] – [1835]
Simeon Constable [1845] – [1851]
B D Wood [1853]
George Allin and Sarah Marshall [1855] – **1857**);
John Marshall **(1857 – 1859)**;
Mrs. Amelia Marshall **(1859 – [1861]**
Thomas Stringer [1861] – **1864**);
John Leonard Weston **(1864 – [1870]**
Elizabeth Weston [] – **1870**);
Charles Cotterill **(1870 – [1871]**
Daniel Lawrence [1872] – [1886]
Michael J Higo [1891]
Henry Deighton Millner [1891] – [1908]
Thomas Hanks [1901] manager
Robert Perry [1906] – **1909**
Charles Meakin [1911] – [1916] manager
Charles R Holyhead [1921] – [1932]
Thomas Henry Benton [1939] – [1951] manager
Thomas Baxter [] – **1961**);
Frank Dominic McDonnell **(1961 – 1964)**;
Lawson Trevor Jones **(1964)**;
Cyril Bernard Jones **(1964 – 1965)**;
John Vincent Hawker **(1965 – 1966)**;
Alan Croxton Markham **(1966 – []**
Ken and Maureen Grew **(1978 – 1980)**;
Keith Thomas **(1980 – []**
P B Cunnington [1983] – [1990]
Mrs. Carol Field [1996] – [1997]
Joel Wilson [2008] – [2009]
Claire Livesey **(2018 – []**



1959



1996



2014

NOTES

Market Place [1849], [1850], [1865], [1879], [1891]

High Street [1822], [1828], [1830], [1850]

Five Ways [1860], [1861]

1, Upper High Street [1871], [1901], [1911], [1921]

1, High Street [1872], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1932]

1, Market Place [1881]

KINGS HEAD. [1818], [1822], [1828], [1830], [1834], [1835]

‘Wednesbury Revisited’ by Ian M. Bott, published in 1998

“The GEORGE INN was removed from its corner position between Union Street and Upper High Street for a road widening scheme. Older residents still refer to the GEORGE as Top Wrexham, the name of a former brewery perhaps.

The DARTMOUTH ARMS INN stood at the busy Holyhead Road and Dudley Street crossroads, a notorious accident blackspot. It was demolished in March 1963 for the construction of the aptly named Dartmouth Arms traffic island. The DARTMOUTH ARMS was also known as Bottom Wrexham, being in almost exact alignment with the GEORGE INN.”

Auctions were frequently held here.

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 14/12/1767 - Advert

“To be Sold to the best Bidder, at the WHITE LION in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Saturday the 26th day of December Inst at Two of the Clock in the Afternoon.....

Lot 10. One Copyhold House, Shop, and Garden, adjoining the GEORGE INN, in Wednesbury aforesaid, in the Tenure of Thomas Bartram.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 11/10/1779 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, at the House of Mr. *James Silvester*, known by the Sign of the GEORGE in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Monday the 25th Day of October, Instant, between the Hours of Three and Six o’Clock in the Afternoon of the same Day, All those Three Freehold Dwelling Houses or Tenements, with Three Gardens thereto adjoining and belonging, situate and being at the Vicarage, near Wednesbury aforesaid.....”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 3/2/1783 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Contract, on Friday next, the 7th Day of February, 1783, between the Hours of Two and Four o’Clock in the Afternoon, at the Dwelling House of Mr. *James Silvester*, known by the Name of the GEORGE INN, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, All those Two Copyhold Messuages, Dwelling Houses, or Tenements, with the Gardens and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in Wednesbury aforesaid, in a certain Street or Place there, called High Bullen.....”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 14/6/1790 - Advert

“GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.

To be Let, that well accustomed House, Stable, Granary, Out-Houses, Garden, &c, now in the Holding of Mr. *Thomas Russell*, who will shew the Premises, and further Particulars. The Stock, Fixtures, &c (at a fair Valuation) may be taken or rejected. The Premises may be entered upon immediately, or at a short distant Period, and may be made agreeable to the present and future Tenant.”

Thomas Parkes, GEORGE INN, and carrier, Wednesbury. [1791]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 25/7/1796 - Advert

“Whereas Marshal Webster left at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, in April last, one great Coat, one Waistcoat, one Shirt, one black Stock, and one Pocket Handkerchief. This is to require Marshal Webster to redeem the same within seven Days from the Date hereof, or otherwise the above Articles shall be sold to defray the Expenses.

Thomas Parkes, Wednesbury, July 23, 1796.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/8/1798 - Died

"On Wednesday, in her fifty-fourth year, Mrs. Ann Parkes, the wife of Mr. *Thomas Parkes*, of the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, after a severe illness of six months, which she supported with the greatest fortitude and resignation; she was universally esteemed by all to whom she was known."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/10/1798 - Died

"Tuesday, after a short illness, Mr. *Parkes*, master of the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/10/1798 - Advert

"*Thomas Parkes's* Creditors.

All Persons who have any Claim or Demand upon the Estate and Effects of the late Mr. *Thomas Parkes*, of the GEORGE INN, at Wednesbury, deceased, are desired to send in an Account of their Claims in twenty Days from the Date hereof, unto Mr. William Rock, at the Sign of the GREEN DRAGON, in Wednesbury aforesaid (one of the Executors named in the last Will of the said Mr. *Parkes*) in order that the same may be settled; and all Persons who are any Ways indebted to the said Mr. *Parkes*, are desired to pay the same immediately into the Hands of the said Mr. Rock.

Wednesbury, October 29, 1798."

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/12/1798 - Advert

"*Thomas Parkes's* Creditors.

All Persons who have any Claim or Demand upon the Estate and Effects of the late deceased Mr. *Thomas Parkes*, of the GEORGE INN, in Wednesbury, are desired to send the Particulars thereof in fourteen Days from the Date hereof to Mr. William Rock, at the Sign of the GREEN DRAGON, in Wednesbury aforesaid, one of the Executors named in the Will of the said Mr. *Parkes*, in Order that the same may be immediately settled; and all Persons who are any Ways indebted to the Estate of the said Mr. *Parkes*, are desired to pay the same into the Hands of the said Mr. Rock, in Twenty Days from the Date hereof, otherwise they will be sued for the same without further Notice.

NB. All those who do not deliver the Particulars of their Demands by the Time above-mentioned, will be too late to have the same discharged, as the whole of the Property of the said Mr. *Parkes* will be disposed of immediately after that Time according to the Directions in his Will.

Wednesbury, December 17, 1798."

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/7/1799 - Advert

"*Thomas Parkes's* Creditors.

The Executors of the late deceased Mr. *Thomas Parkes*, of the GEORGE INN, in Wednesbury, hereby inform his Creditors, that on Thursday the first Day of August next they intend to make a final Dividend of all his Effects, at the Sign of the GREEN DRAGON, in Wednesbury aforesaid, equally amongst all his Creditors who have delivered in a just Account of their Demands.

Wednesbury, July 18, 1799."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/3/1799 - Advert

"GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.

Thomas Dean, late of the Castle and Falcon, Snow Hill, Birmingham, respectfully informs his Friends and the Public, that he has taken and entered upon the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, a well know spacious and commodious Inn, which he had fitted up in a genteel and comfortable stile, and has laid in a very choice Stock of genuine old Wines and Foreign Spirits.

He flatters himself that the Accommodation will meet the Approbation of Gentlemen Travellers, and others, who may please to honour him with their Patronage and Support, which will be his constant Study to merit, by the most assiduous Attention. There is excellent Stabling for upwards of twenty Horses.

The Situation of the House is central, and particularly well adapted for the Convenience of Gentlemen Travellers.

NB. Neat Gigs and Post Horses, at the shortest Notice."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/4/1799 - Notice

"Hair Powder Certificates. Stamp Office, Lichfield. April 1, 1799.

Hair Powder Certificates for the Year commencing the 6th of April, 1799, and ending the 5th Day of April, 1800, are now ready for Delivery at this Office, and the respective Offices of the following Persons, who are duly authorised to issue the same....

Mr. William Mitton will attend at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, on Thursday the 18th and Thursday the 25th of April inst, at which respective Times, Persons resident at those Places, intending to take out Certificates, are to apply."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/10/1800 - Advert

"GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.

To be Let, and entered upon immediately, the aforesaid old and well-established Inn, now in the Occupation of Mr. *Thomas Dean*, who is declining the Public Business on Account of other Engagements.

The Premises are convenient and well adapted for the Entertainment of Travellers, and consist of twelve Lodging Rooms, a large Dining Room, Parlour, Bar, good Kitchen, excellent Cellars, Brewhouse, Workshop, Stabling for about twenty Horses, and a large entire Yard; the whole held at a very moderate Rent.

The Brewing Vessels, Fixtures, Stock of Ale, Wines, Liquors, &c (with or without the Household Furniture) to be taken by Valuation.

For other Particulars apply to the said Mr. *Dean*, or to T. Warren, Auctioneer, in Dale End, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/10/1800 - Advert

"GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.

To be Let, and entered upon immediately, the aforesaid Inn, being the principal one of that Place, and for many Years well established in reputable Line of Business, at present in the Occupation of Mr. *Thomas Dean*, who wishes to quit it on Account of his Engagements in another Branch of Trade, and for no other Reason.

The Premises consist of 12 Lodging Rooms, a Dining Room, and front Parlour, fitted up in a comfortable and genteel Stile, for the Entertainment of Travellers; also a good front Kitchen, Bar, excellent Cellars, Brewhouse, Stabling for about 20 Horses, a Workshop and a large back Yard, all entire, and held at a very moderate Rent.

The Brewing Vessels, Fixtures, Stock of Ale, Wines, and Liquors (with or without the Household Furniture) to be taken at a fair Appraisalment, and a Part of the Purchase Money may remain on Security, if required.

For other Particulars apply to the said Mr. *Dean*, or to T. Warren, Auctioneer, in Dale End, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/12/1800 - Advert

"GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Thomas Warren, on Monday next, the 22nd Instant, and the following Day, all the neat Household Furniture and Effects belonging to the aforesaid Inn; consisting of several very handsome Four-post Bedsteads, with various Kinds of printed Cotton Hangings, nearly as good as new; superfine Goose and other Feather Beds, Mattresses, and Counterpanes; Bedside and Floor Carpets; Pier and Dressing Glasses; good Mahogany and Oak Cabinet Furniture; sundry Plate, China, and Glass Ware; a complete Assortment of useful Kitchen Requisites and Utensils for the Business; a capital Collection of Brewing Vessels of all Sizes, and various other Articles.

Catalogues may be had on Thursday next, and the Premises, or of the Auctioneer, in Dale End, Birmingham.

The Sale to begin each Day at Ten o'Clock."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/12/1800 - Advert

"GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Thomas Warren, this present Monday, the 22nd of December instant, a considerable Part of the neat Household Furniture and Effects at the GEORGE INN aforesaid; comprizing Four-post and Tent Bedsteads, with printed Cotton, Dimothy, and other Hangings; fine seasoned Feather Beds and Bedding; Variety of good Mahogany and Oak Cabinet Furniture; sundry Kitchen Requisites; a capital Iron-bound 200 Gallon Ale Cask; some Hogsheads and Half Hogsheads; a strong useful Hackney Mare, six Years old; a light tilted Cart, a Quantity of Manure, &c.

Catalogues may be had on the Premises.

The Sale will begin precisely at Half-past Ten o'Clock."

Kentish Weekly Post 23/6/1801

“From the *London Gazette*, June 20. Bankrupts.....

Peter Spittle, of Wednesbury, Stafford, gun-lock-maker. To appear July 4, 7, August 1, at the dwelling house of *William Rock*, the GEORGE, in Wednesbury. Attornies, Messrs. Crother, in Wednesbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/1/1803 - Advert

“GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, situated on the great Post Road leading from Wolverhampton to Birmingham.

To be Let, and entered upon immediately, the above long and well established Inn, with every suitable Convenience of Brewhouse, Stables, &c, &c, now in the Occupation of Mr. *William Rock*, who will shew the Premises; and for further Particulars apply to Mr. Joseph Adams, Draper, Wednesbury.

The Tenant may be accommodated with any Quantity of good and well inclosed Land, not exceeding 37 Acres, nearly adjoining the House, and may have a Term in the Inn for 7 or 14 Years.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/11/1803 - Advert

“GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, situated on the great Post Road leading from Wolverhampton to Birmingham.

To be Let, and entered on immediately, the above long and well established Inn, with every suitable Convenience of Brewhouse, Stables, &c.

The Tenant may be accommodated, at Christmas next, with any Quantity of good and well inclosed Land, not exceeding 37 Acres, nearly adjoining the House, together with Barn, Stables &c and may have a Term of the Inn for 7 or 14 Years.

For further Particulars apply to Mr. Joseph Adams, Mercer, of the said Place.”

[This advert appeared for several months.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/5/1805 - Married

“Tuesday, Mr. Isaiah Horton, boiler manufacturer, of West Bromwich, and Member of the Loyal Dudley Light Horse Volunteers, to Miss Mary Rock, daughter of Mr. *William Rock*, of the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/12/1805 - Married

“At Sedgley, Mr. John Bradbury, to Miss Rock, eldest daughter of Mr. *William Rock*, both of Wednesbury.”

William Rock – see also GREEN DRAGON.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/4/1807 - Advert

“Timber. To be Sold by Auction, by Josiah Robins, at the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, this Day (Monday) the 27th of April, at Half-past Three in the Afternoon, on Lands occupied by Mr. *John Wilkes*, of the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury aforesaid.

Lot 1. 237 fine Larch Firs and other Trees.

Lot 2. 161 fine Larch Firs and other Trees.

Lot 3. 54 fine Larch Firs and other Trees.

Lot 4. 155 fine Larch Firs and other Trees.

Lot 5. 101 fine Larch Firs and other Trees.

Lot 6. 65 fine Elms, of large Dimensions.

Mr. Hateley, at the TALBOT, will shew the Lots, which are all marked and numbered.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/5/1810 - Advert

“Convenient House and Premises, Church Hill, Wednesbury.

To be Let and may be entered upon immediately after Midsummer next, the above eligible Premises, known by the Name of the KINGS HEAD, situate on the Church Hill, Wednesbury as aforesaid, and now in the Occupation of Mr. *John Rock*, who is removing to his new House on the great Road from Birmingham to Shrewsbury.

The Premises consist of four Sleeping Rooms, two Parlours, Sitting Room, Kitchen, China Pantry, spacious Hall, and three roomy Cellars, with the particular Advantage of excellent Water. The Tenant may be accommodated with a capital Garden, opposite the House, and a Lease if required.

For Treaty apply on the Premises, or of W. Chapman, Appraiser and Auctioneer, 105, Snow Hill, Birmingham.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/6/1810 - Advert

"A Lodge of Respectability of the ancient and venerable Order of Druids will be opened at Mr. *John Rock*'s new House, KINGS HEAD INN, High Street, Wednesbury, of which timely Notice will be given in a future Paper."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/9/1810 - Advert

"Druids.

The Brothers of the Order are respectfully informed, that Lodge 52 will be opened in due Form at Brother *John Rock*'s, KINGS HEAD INN, High Street, Wednesbury, this present Monday the 24th Inst by Lodge 17, respectfully supported by Lodges 22, 31, 32, and 46, &c, in the Insignia of the Order.

NB. An Ordinary will be provided. Dinner on the Table at Two o'Clock.

The Visit of any Brother will be deemed an Addition to the Festival."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/10/1810 - Advert

"Jubilee. A Dinner will be provided at *John Rock*'s, KINGS HEAD INN AND TAVERN, Wednesbury, on Thursday the 25th of October inst, being the Anniversary of his Majesty's Accession to the Throne and the Completion of the fiftieth Year of his Reign.

NB. Tickets to be had at the Bar.

Dinner precisely at Two o'Clock."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/6/1812 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the Counties of Warwick and Stafford, will be Let by Auction, to the best Bidder, at the House of *John Rock*, situate at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, and known by the Sign of the KINGS HEAD, on the 3rd Day of July next....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/8/1813 - Advert

"Valuable Buildings and Building Land, at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Isaac Farror, at the KINGS HEAD INN, High Street, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Monday the 30th Day of August inst, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, by Direction of the Assignees of Mr. *John Rock*, Bayonet-maker and Innkeeper, a Bankrupt.....

Lot I. All those capital Premises, called the KINGS HEAD INN, most desirably situated at the Junction of three Turnpike Roads, in the Centre and principal Part of the Town of Wednesbury aforesaid, fronting twenty-four Yards to the High Street, and seventeen Yards, or thereabouts, to the Market Place therein, comprising eight good sized Sleeping Rooms, a Club Room, fifty-two Feet long, three Parlours, a Bar, two large Kitchens, with convenient Pantries, very extensive Cellaring and Vaults, a capital Brewhouse, Stabling, and Out-buildings, a Range of Shopping and large Yard.

NB. A numerous and respectable Society of Druids have a Lodge at the House.

The above Premises are recently built in the most substantial Manner, purposely for an Inn, for which, from Situation and Convenience for conducting the Business, they are very desirable, but are so arranged that at a moderate Expense they may be converted into private Dwellings, suitable for retail Shopkeepers and others."

[There were fourteen lots in the sale.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/8/1813 - Advert

"Shop Tools, Household Furniture, Beer Machine, Brewing Vessels, large Casks, Furnaces, &, &c, at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Isaac Farror, on Tuesday the 31st of August, and following Day (by Order of the Assignees of Mr. *John Rock*, Bayonet-maker and Innkeeper, High Street, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford) all the valuable Shop Tools, together with the genteel and useful Household Furniture, Stock of Spirits and Ale, Beer Machine, large capital store Casks, containing from 400 to 700 Gallons each, excellent Hogshead and Half-hogshead Barrels, stout Mashing Tubs and Coolers, Copper and Iron Furnaces and Effects belonging to the KINGS HEAD INN, at Wednesbury aforesaid; Particulars of which will be ready in Catalogues, to be had one Week previous to the Sale, at the Premises, and of Isaac Farror, 28, New Street, Birmingham."

John Rock – see also KINGS HEAD, Church Hill.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/2/1816 - Advert,

“Superior Travelling between Wolverhampton and Birmingham, by a new Coach, carrying four Insides only, called The Waterloo, will commence running on Thursday next, and will continue to go every Morning, at Eight o’Clock, from the LION INN, Wolverhampton, to the Castle Inn, Birmingham; calls at the NEW BULLS HEAD, Bilston, and the KINGS HEAD, Wednesbury; returns every Evening from the Castle Inn, Birmingham, at Six o’Clock, and will arrive at Wolverhampton by Eight o’Clock.

This will be found a preferable Conveyance to any of the Day Coaches now on that Road.

Performed by Wm. Lamb and Co. Birmingham, February 19, 1816.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/4/1817 - Advert

“Lost from Wednesbury, about three Weeks ago, a young Greyhound Dog, black and white, with small Tick Marks. Any Person who has found him, and will bring him to Mr. *Thomas Stone*, KINGS HEAD INN, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble; if stolen, any Person detaining him after this Notice will be prosecuted according to Law. Wednesbury, April 4, 1817.”

Thomas Stone was also a manufacturer of guns of all kinds. [1818]

Parson and Bradshaw General & Commercial Directory 1818

“Coaches from the KINGS HEAD, Wednesbury.

The Waterloo (day coach) to Birmingham every morning at half-past eight, returns at half-past six in the evening.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/5/1818 - Advert

“Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the Counties of Warwick and Stafford, will be Let by Auction to the best Bidder, at the House of *Thomas Stone*, situate at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, and known by the Sign of the KINGS HEAD, on the 19th Day of June next, between the Hours of Two and Five, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Third, ‘for regulating the Turnpike Roads;’ which Tolls produced the last Year, at the respective Gates hereafter mentioned, the following Sums above the Expenses of collecting them.

Soho Hill, £541 0s 0d

Great Bridge and Hill Top, £347 3s 7½d

Gospel Oak and Fire Holes, £157 18s 0d

Three Mile and Weighing Machine, £364 11s 2d

Holloway Bank and Kings Hill Field, £384 0s 0d

Burnt Tree, £235 0s 0d

and will be put up at those respective Sums. Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must at the same Time give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

E. and S. Crowther, Clerk to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads.

Wednesbury, May 14, 1818.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/4/1821 - Advert

“Two Excellent Steam Engines, near Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett, at the House of Mr. *Thomas Stone*, the KINGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury aforesaid, Tomorrow, April 10, at Three o’Clock in the Afternoon....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/1/1824 - Advert

“Notice is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the end of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the KINGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Monday the second day of February next, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon.

S. F. Crowther, Clerk to the Trustees. Wednesday, January 23, 1824.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/12/1825 - Advert

"KINGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury.

To be Let, the above Inn, in the month of February next, situate in the centre of the town; it is a house of very great business, both of in and out-door custom, and has a very good parlour company; with an entire yard, good stabling, &c, &c.

Apply to S. Constable, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/1/1826 - Advert

"KINGS HEAD, Wednesbury.

To be Let, the above Inn, situate in the best part of the town for public business. There is a good draught of ale both in-door and out, a good parlour company, and a great market-house, with an entire yard and good stabling.

The coming-in will be low.

Enquire of S. Constable."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/12/1830 - Advert

"Freeholds At Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Henry Jacob, at the house of Mr. *Taylor*, the KINGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Friday the 7th of January, 1831, at four o'clock in the afternoon....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/5/1833 - Advert

"To Innkeepers, &c.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, all those capital and extensive Premises situate in the High Street, Wednesbury, in the centre of the Market Place, known by the sign of the KINGS HEAD, and comprising, in addition to a most excellent house, good brewhouse and cellaring, a large yard, a five-stall stable, and roomy coach houses. The above premises may be had with or without a large malthouse situated in the High Bullen.

The rent and further particulars may be known by application to Mr. Hunt, Solicitor, Wednesbury."

John Jevon = John Jevons

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/10/1833 - Advert

"To Maltsters.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, a large and commodious Malthouse, situate in the town of Wednesbury.

The above has an excellent supply of water, with every other requisite convenience, and is in all respects suitable for the purpose of carrying on an extensive business.

Particulars may be obtained by application to Mr. *Jevons*, KINGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/2/1838 - Advert

"KINGS HEAD INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.

To be disposed of by private Treaty, the Good-will, Licenses, &c, with immediate possession of the above desirable and well-accustomed Inn, with Spirit Shop in front, extensive Stabling, Gig-house, Piggeries, and other conveniences thereunto attached.

The above is a good market house, in full business, with rent and payments moderate.

The Stock, Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, Casks, &c, with part of the Furniture, to be taken at a fair valuation.

Satisfactory reasons can be given for disposing of the above if required, and for further particulars apply on the premises, or to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury (if by letter, post paid)."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/3/1844

"About ten o'clock on Saturday morning last, a most barbarous murder was committed at the residence of Mr. John Crowther, in Wednesbury, on the person of his female servant, Ann Griffiths.

It appears that the servant-man left home about nine o'clock in the morning, with the horse and cart; Mr. Crowther also left in about half an hour afterwards, as is customary with both of them on the Saturday morning. The female servant was then alone in the house. In about three-quarters of an hour afterwards the butcher called and rang the bell, but was not answered; he called again in about two hours, but with no better result. About two o'clock Mr.

Crowther returned home, and discovered the unfortunate woman lying on the floor in the washhouse, covered in blood, and quite dead, her throat having been cut in the most frightful manner, and on her head there were several distinct wounds, which alone were sufficient to cause death.

The most unremitting exertions have since been made by the police, under the direction of the Chief Constable, Mr. Hatton, and the Deputy Chief Constable, Colonel Hogg, who yesterday morning caused a man to be apprehended who was formerly a servant in Mr. Crowther's employment, and against whom there are very strong grounds of suspicion.

A few articles were stolen from the premises, and there is no doubt that plunder was the object of the murderer or murderers."

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/3/1844

"A Coroner's inquest was commenced before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, on Tuesday last, on the body of Ann Griffiths, housekeeper to Mr. Crowther, of Wednesbury, whose murder we announced in our last publication. A man named William Beard, who was formerly in Mr. Crowther's employ, was present in custody, on suspicion of having committed the murder.

The first witness called was Thomas Witton, servant to Mr. Crowther, who proved that he left the house on the Saturday previous, about half past nine o'clock, to go to his master's stone pits. He had seen on the Friday a purse containing silver in the possession of the deceased.

Mr. Crowther stated that he left his house soon after Witton on the Saturday morning; and on his return at two o'clock, he found Ann Griffiths dead in the brewhouse, and immediately went to fetch the police. The deceased's purse was missing, and some wearing apparel.

The inquest was adjourned until Wednesday evening, when evidence was brough forward for the purpose of tracing the prisoner to the neighbourhood of Mr. Crowther's house immediately previous to the time at which the murder is supposed to have been perpetrated, and again from the scene of the crime to Wednesbury, where he was seen shortly after the murder had been discovered. The principal witness against the prisoner was Mr. J. H. Hatton, chief constable of the Staffordshire police, who deposed that he apprehended the prisoner, and caused his clothes and boots to be taken from him. There were marks of blood upon the shirt, and upon the breast and skirts of the coat. Witness examined the boots and found marks of blood upon them; he then went to the lawn at the back of Mr. Crowther's house, where he saw some footmarks; he compared the boots with the impressions, and found they corresponded exactly; the left boot was peculiarly marked, having a piece of leather nailed at the bottom after it was made, and with a different sort of nails to those on the right boot. The footmarks were traced from the lawn, across several grass and ploughed fields, and finally to the aqueduct over the canal leading from Wednesbury Bridge to Barr. When the prisoner was brought to the station his hands were examined, and on the back of the left hand there were marks as of finger nails made in a struggle. The prisoner accounted for the blood by saying that his nose had bled freely. The inquest was again adjourned, and resumed on Saturday, when the clothes stolen from Mr. Crowther's premises were produced and identified, and were so connected with the prisoner as to the place where they were found, that there appeared no doubt but that they were placed there by him.

The prisoner showed great ingenuity in attempting to evade the charge, and to establish an alibi, but the jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder, and he was immediately committed on the Coroner's warrant to take his trial at the ensuing Stafford Assizes."

AND

Liverpool Mail 10/8/1844

"At the Staffordshire assizes, William Beards, 35 years of age, was indicted for the wilful murder of Ann Griffiths, at the parish of Wednesbury on the 16th of March, 1844. The trial lasted two days, and the jury, after several hours' deliberation on the evidence, which was purely circumstantial, found him guilty. He protested his innocence, but on Monday his brother, accompanied by the chaplain and the governor of the gaol, visited the criminal, and in the course of the conversation Beards confessed that he was the murderer. The execution will take place on Saturday, the 17th inst."

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/8/1844

"The execution of William Beards, for the murder of Anne Griffiths, at Wednesbury, took place at Stafford gaol, on Saturday morning last. During Friday night bodies of men began to arrive in the town, and long before the hour appointed for the execution, large numbers of the mining population, including a considerable proportion of females, had posted themselves in what they considered the best situations for obtaining a full view of the melancholy spectacle.

Beards slept soundly through the night, and at six o'clock in the morning entered into devotional exercises with the Rev. Chaplain, and maintained his usual composure. Shortly before eight o'clock the executioner entered the condemned cell, and pinioned the arms of the miserable culprit, the mournful procession was formed, and slowly moved towards the fatal spot; the prison bell tolling, and the Chaplain impressively reading the burial service. The culprit walked steadily, and appeared to be earnestly engaged in prayer. On arriving at the foot of the drop, Beards looked upwards, and ascended with a firm and unfaltering step; the rope having been adjusted, the drop fell and the unfortunate malefactor ceased to live.

In the early part of the week Beards confessed to having committed the murder. He stated that he went to Mr. Crowther's house with the sole intention of seeking work; that Anne Griffiths told him that Mr. Crowther was not at home, and that if he did not leave, she would throw a saucepan of boiling water (which she took from the kitchen fire) over him; that he then flew into a passion, and whilst Griffiths was stooping to put down the saucepan, he struck her on the head with a coal-hammer, and the blow rendered her insensible. He then locked the door of the yard and went up stairs to Mr. Crowther's bed-room, and took some wearing apparel from the drawers, and a handkerchief from Griffiths's room. On coming down he took up a small black-handled knife, with which he cut her throat, and emptied her pockets, in which he found a purse containing two crown pieces. He then ate some fruit pie that was in the pantry, and was proceeding to ransack the house, when he was disturbed by the butcher ringing at the hall-door, and he immediately afterwards made his escape. The remainder of the confession corresponded with the evidence produced on the trial as to the proceedings of the murderer up to the period of his apprehension."

[It was estimated that 5,000 people attended the execution.]

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1845

"Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway.

We, the Undersigned, Landowners, Merchants, Coal and Ironmasters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other Inhabitants residing in the boroughs of Birmingham and Walsall, and the towns of Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Handsworth, and other places in those Districts, do hereby express our opinion that the projected Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway is calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the places and districts above mentioned, and we promise it our strenuous support.....

Simeon Constable, Innkeeper, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 24/1/1846

"On Tuesday week a fatal accident occurred to a man named John Hackwood, who lost his life by falling from his cart, the wheels of which passed over his body.

It appeared that about two o'clock on the afternoon of the above day, as Hackwood, who was fifty-four years of age, was driving a cart laden with timber along the High Street, he found some of the load giving way behind him, and in his effort to keep it up, the horse going fast at the time, his foot slipped off the footboard, and he fell under the vehicle, the wheels of which passed over him, breaking several of his ribs. Several persons who witnessed the unfortunate occurrence immediately came to his assistance, and the poor fellow was removed to his house the same evening, where he died from the injuries he had received.

An inquest was held at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/11/1846 - Advert

"To Grocers.

Wanted immediately, an experienced Assistant; also a Junior one of good character.

Apply personally at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury."

TO GROCERS.
WANTED immediately, an experienced Assistant; also
a Junior one of good character.—Apply personally
at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/2/1847

"On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Joseph Jones, a bricklayer, who met with his death under the following circumstances. On Saturday last, about ten o'clock, the deceased and Edward Roberts, his employer, went down the shaft of Mr. Davis's pit, at West Bromwich, to do some repairs. Between four and five o'clock they ascended the shaft, having finished their work. When they got to the top, John Harris, the engineer, reversed the engine before the banksman had time to run the waggon over the mouth of the pit. Edward Roberts, who was in the skip with the deceased, seeing the danger, immediately jumped out, and was saved; but the skip coming in contact with the edge of the waggon, it turned over,

and the deceased was precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, a depth of eighty yards, and was killed on the spot. Both his arms were broken, his head and side were dreadfully fractured, and he was bruised all over the body. The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Harris, the engineer, who was consequently committed for trial.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/3/1847

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

John Harris was indicted for the manslaughter of Joseph Jones, at West Bromwich, on the 6th of February last.....

It was urged on behalf of the accused, that the accident was partially occasioned by the deceased having neglected to give the proper signal when entering the skip, as he was almost at the top of the shaft before the prisoner was aware that there was any one in the skip; and the ‘whimsey’ being somewhat out of order, he had not sufficient power to control it at the time when the accident occurred.

Not Guilty.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1847

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

On Monday, at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Ralph Longmore, aged 44, who was killed by a fall of coal. Verdict, Accidental Death. He has left a wife and seven children.”

Birmingham Journal 22/5/1847 - Advert

“Land and Mines. Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. Dawes, on Friday Next, the 28th day of May, 1847, at Six o’clock in the Evening, at the house of Mr. *Simeon Constable*, known by the sign of the GEORGE INN, at Wednesbury.....”

Birmingham Journal 1/1/1848

“On Tuesday evening an inquest was held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Joseph Peters, aged three years. It appeared that on Monday afternoon the mother and father of the deceased were both out of the house, and had left deceased and the other children in the charge of an elder sister; while she was engaged with the others, the deceased was playing with the fire, and his clothes got ignited. Before the flames could be extinguished he was so dreadfully burned that he died in a few hours. The usual verdict in such cases was returned.”

[Accidental Death.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/2/1849

“Representation of South Staffordshire.

On Wednesday evening last, the 7th instant, a numerous and highly respectable meeting was held at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, to receive Lord Lewisham, who had kindly consented to pay a visit to the electors of the town. His Lordship was introduced to the assembly by the Rev. Isaac Clarkson, who took the chair, and opened the proceedings with an able speech, in which he commended Lord Lewisham to the favour of the electors.....”

1851 Census

Market Place

- [1] *Simeon Constable* (58), victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Sydonia Constable* (38), wife, born Westborough, Wiltshire;
- [3] *Martha Constable* (27), daughter, born Westborough, Wiltshire;
- [4] *Elizabeth Constable* (12), daughter, scholar, born Westborough, Wiltshire;
- [5] *Mary Lees* (19), visitor, born Westborough, Wiltshire;
- [6] *Mary Potts* (17), barmaid, born Coseley;
- [7] *Jane Holloway* (19), house servant, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Lucy Noakes* (24), cook, born Birmingham;
- [9] *William Davis* (22), house servant, born Acton, Herefordshire:

Birmingham Journal 23/8/1851 - Advert

“To Ironmongers, Grocers and Others.

To be Let, with immediate possession, one of the best situated Shops in the Market Place of Wednesbury.....
For particulars, apply to Mr. H. Wright, Great Bridge; or to Mr. *S. Constable*, GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“On Monday last, an inquest was held at Mr. *Simeon Constable*’s, the GEORGE INN, on the body of Ann Foley, a young woman who had been for about three months servant at the house of Mr. Wrenford, bookseller and printer, Market Place. The Jury having viewed the body, Mr. Hinchliffe adjourned the inquiry until Monday next, without taking any evidence, for the purpose of enabling Mr. Hobbins, surgeon, to make a post mortem examination. We learn, however, that on Sunday evening the deceased retired to rest, apparently in her usual state of health, which was generally pretty good, as far as her master and mistress were aware. A younger fellow-servant, and one of the children, slept in the same bed; and betwixt two and three o’clock on Monday morning the former was awakened by a peculiar noise, proceeding from the deceased, but on attempting to rouse her she found she was unable to do so. Fancying it was a nightmare, or something of that nature, she paid no more attention to the circumstance, and soon fell asleep. On getting up in the morning, however, she found that her bedfellow ‘slept the sleep that knows no waking.’ Mr. Hobbins was immediately sent for, but only to express an opinion that he had been dead for several hours.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/9/1851

“The inquest on the body of Ann Foley was resumed on Monday last at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq. Mr. Hobbins, surgeon, having made a post mortem examination, stated that he found extensive disease of the heart, and was of opinion that that was the cause of death. Verdict accordingly.”

Simeon Constable – see also COMMERCIAL.

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/8/1853

“John and Thomas Shorthouse, carpenters, were on Monday last charged before the Wednesbury magistrates with assaulting John Stephens, at the GEORGE INN, on the previous Saturday evening; on the same occasion Thomas Shorthouse was charged with assaulting Mr. *B. D. Wood*, the landlord of the GEORGE, also on Saturday evening; and John Shorthouse charged three persons with assaulting him. The charges preferred by the Shorthouses were dismissed, and they were fined altogether about £7. Mr. *Wood* withdrew his charges upon Thomas Shorthouse agreeing to pay the expenses of the wilful damage and give 5s to the Wednesbury poor box.”

Birmingham Journal 1/7/1854 - Advert

“*George Allin*, Auctioneer, Land Agent, and Surveyor, Walsall, begs respectfully to inform his Friends and the Public generally, that having taken and Removed to the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, he has made arrangements with Mr. Flanagan, Auctioneer and Surveyor, of Walsall, whereby the Business will be carried on as usual, at the Offices in Bridge Street, Walsall, under the Style or Title of Allin and Flanagan.
Walsall, June 30th, 1854.”

County Courts Chronicle 1/1/1855

“*Smith v Griffiths*.”

This was an action brought by the plaintiff, Joseph Smith, a miner, of Wednesbury, against the defendant, Josiah Griffiths, a publican of the same place, to recover the sum of £5 for damages sustained by the plaintiff by an assault which the defendant had committed upon him, in the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, on the morning of the 2nd November.

The evidence on behalf of the plaintiff was to the effect that he was drinking in the public house aforementioned, on the evening mentioned, when the defendant, who was tipsy, after challenging him to fight, struck him several times on the side of the head. The plaintiff had been suffering from illness for some months, and the assault tended to extend the time of that illness. After evidence was adduced on the part of the defendant to show that all he did to the plaintiff was to push his hat further down upon his head.

His Honour gave judgement for the plaintiff; but, taking into consideration the fact of the defendant being drunk at the time, said he should give the plaintiff a verdict for two guineas.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/6/1855 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned, *George Allin* and William Henry Flanagan, as Auctioneers, Appraisers, and Land Surveyors, at Walsall and Wednesbury, both in the county of Staffordshire, was this day Dissolved by mutual consent; and that the business will in future be carried on by the said William Henry Flanagan alone, by whom all moneys due to or from the said Partnership will be received and paid.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 1855. *George Allin*, William Henry Flanagan.

Witness to the respective signatures, Henry Jackson, Solicitor, Westbromwich."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/9/1855

"It had been intended to celebrate the capture of Sebastopol in Wednesbury yesterday week, but the Market Place being occupied on account of the wakes, the committee appointed to get up a demonstration deemed it advisable to defer it until Monday last. On that day Wednesbury certainly made a grand show. The streets were lined with the colours of our native land and her allies, and from the railway the town assumed a most gay aspect. The sight on entering the town was most striking. At the lowest computation not less than five hundred colours were displayed, and there was scarcely an inn or a shop, however small, that did not exhibit this mark of rejoicing.....

Barrels of ale were given away by Mr. *George Allin* of the GEORGE INN."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/2/1856- Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned *George Allin* and *Sarah Marshall*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Victuallers, Wine and Spirit Dealers, trading under the style or firm of Allin and Marshall, was dissolved on the 31st day of December last, and that the said trades will in future be carried on by the said *George Allin* alone, who will receive and pay all debts owing to and from the said Copartnership.

Dated this 30th day of January, 1856.

George Allin. Sarah Marshall.

Witness, E. Marklew, Walsall, Solicitor."

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/2/1856 - Advert

"I hereby give notice, that Stephen Stokes, lately in my employ as a Traveller and Agent in the Wine and Spirit Trade, has no power or authority to Buy or Sell, or Pay or Receive Moneys on my behalf; and that any person paying money to the said Stephen Stokes as such traveller and agent, after notice hereof, will do so at his or her own risk.

George Allin, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Wednesbury. Dated 21st day of February, 1856."

Birmingham Journal 4/10/1856 - Died

"On the 1st inst, at Wednesbury, Frances Helen, the beloved wife of Mr. *George Allin*, wine and spirit merchant."

Staffordshire Sentinel 19/3/1859

"Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

George Ross, 24, wrench-maker, was indicted for feloniously assaulting Noah Timmins on the 5th of February, at Westbromwich, and stealing from his person the sum of £101 6s 6d, the moneys of William Henry Dawes. Mr. Scotland and Mr. Hill conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Cook Evans defended the prisoner.

Noah Timmins, time-keeper in the employ of the prosecutor at the Friar Park lime pits, deposed that it was a part of his duty to go from that place to Bromford Lane on the Saturday, for money to pay the workmen's wages. On Saturday, the 5th of February, he went as usual, and received £101 6s 6d, which he put into a kid bag, and put it into his left hand trowsers pocket. On his return, when he got to Crankhall Lane, he saw three men about on hundred yards distance coming towards him. It was then about twenty-five minutes past four o'clock. The men were in the middle of the road, and he took the road side. As they were passing him, the prisoner, who was nearest to him, took hold of his left arm, and the others rushed upon him and threw him down. He kept his left hand in the pocket where the money was and cried 'Murder,' when he received a blow on the left temple and two cuts on the back of the head. Two of the men knelt on him and held him down while Ross pulled his hand out of his pocket and took the bag containing the money. When Ross took the bag, he said, 'I've got it,' and then ran away, and the other two men got up and followed him. Witness then got up and followed them, and saw Ross running with the bag in his right hand. When the men got to the canal they ran along the side in the direction of Hill Top. Witness followed them for about three quarters of a mile shouting 'stop thief' all the time until he got to farmer Jones's, who was ploughing in a field,

and who he induced to lend him one of his horses, upon which he mounted and went again in pursuit of the men, and got sight of them on the other side of the wooden bridge. He followed then to the brick bridge where the men separated, two of them going towards Hill Top, and the other towards Wednesbury, when he lost sight of them. He then returned to his master's, and afterwards went to the doctor's. He had seen the prisoner Ross twice before and knew him well. On the Thursday following he went to the GEORGE INN, at Wednesbury, to look for the prisoner as he had seen him there before, and found him in the house, when he gave him into custody of a police officer, who was with him.

Thomas Perry, miner, living at Hill Top, saw three men running along the canal side on the 5th of February, and the witness Timmins running after them crying 'stop thief.' As the men passed him about thirty yards distance he recognised the prisoner Ross as one of them, and that he had in his hand something which appeared to be a dark bag. John Jones, farmer, deposed to hearing cries of 'murder' and 'stop thief' on the day named as he was ploughing in his field; to seeing three men running along the canal side, and to his lending the first witness one of his horses. Thomas Filcher, boat builder, also saw the prisoner and two other men running along the canal side, followed by Timmins.

George Wicketts, surgeon, deposed that on the evening of the day referred to, Timmins came to him and he found a contused wound on the forehead, and two lacerated wounds on the back of the head.

Police-constable Vincent stated that he took the prisoner into custody on the 10th of February, at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury. After he had taken him to the station he charged him with robbing the witness Timmins, to which he said, 'Very well.'

The learned counsel for the defence, in his address to the jury, contended that the evidence of identity was not sufficiently clear to fix the prisoner as one of the authors of the robbery, and called several witnesses to prove an alibi, who deposed to his being at the NAGS HEAD, the GEORGE INN, and the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Wednesbury, about the time of the robbery was committed, and also several witnesses who spoke to his previous good character.

Mr. Scotland then called Elizabeth Lowe, barmaid at the GEORGE INN public house, and the landlord of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, both of whom swore that the prisoner was not at those houses on the day in question at all. His Lordship having summed up at great length the jury returned a verdict of guilty. Sentence deferred."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 18/3/1859

"The West Bromwich Highway Robbery.

The prisoner George Ross, who, it will be recollected, was found guilty of this offence, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/6/1859 - Deaths

"On the 1st instant, very suddenly, Mr. *John Marshall*, of the GEORGE INN, Five Ways, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/7/1859

"At the Public Office, on Saturday last, the following licenses were transferred.....

GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, transferred to Mrs. *Amelia Marshall*, widow and executrix of the late landlord, Mr. *John Marshall*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/9/1859

"Two respectable looking men, named Samuel Collins and Thomas Evans, were brought before the Magistrates at Wolverhampton Police Court, on Wednesday last, upon four separate charges. The first two charges were for stealing wine and brandy from the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, the third was for doing wilful damage at the same hostelry, and the next for assaulting Police-sergeant Walter Gasson while in the execution of his duty.

Mrs. *Amelia Marshall*, the landlady of the GEORGE, said that on the previous evening the two defendants came into her house and called for something to drink, but seeing the state they were in she refused to supply them. They then became rather riotous, and helped themselves to half a pint of brandy, and some sherry, and broke a door, thereby doing damage to the extent of three and sixpence.

Police-sergeant Gasson, who was called in to take the defendants into custody, said that as he was removing Evans from the house he was very violent, struck him in the face, and broke a door down.

The Magistrates dismissed the first two charges of stealing the spirits, and for the damage ordered the defendants to pay 5s each, and the expenses. For the assault upon the police-officer Evans was fined 20s and costs."

1861 Census

Market Place – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Thomas Stringer* (35), innkeeper, born Lichfield;
- [2] *Amelia Stringer* (30), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Jane Rose* (16), barmaid, born Hallfields;
- [4] *Ann Davis* (20), housemaid, born Sedgley;
- [5] *William Hughes* (17), man servant, born Walsall;

Birmingham Journal 1/3/1862 - Died

“On the 17th ult, at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, aged 32 years, *Amelia*, the beloved wife of *Thomas Stringer*, of the same place.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1862 - Advert

“Wanted, a good Pianist, and a good Serio-comic Male or Female Vocalist.

Apply to Mr. *Thomas Stringer*, GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a good PIANIST, and a good Serio-comic Male or Female VOCALIST.--Apply to Mr. Thomas Stringer, George Inn, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1862

“On Tuesday evening at the GEORGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury, Mr. Hooper held an inquest on the body of *David Deeley*, aged 44, coach-smith, who had resided with his father in High Street. Deceased retired to bed about half-past nine o'clock on Saturday night, and about two hours after he was found by one of his brothers in the brewhouse, bleeding from an extensive wound he had inflicted on his throat with a razor, from the effects of which, despite the medical aid of Mr. Proctor, the unhappy man died shortly after. Deceased had suffered from delirium tremens, and there having been reason to believe he must have been of unsound mind when he thus put an end to his existence, the jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/9/1862

“A young woman, named *Mary Garratt*, a servant to Mr. *Stringer*, the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, was, on Saturday, brought before the magistrates at West Bromwich on the charge of stealing several articles of wearing apparel, the property of Miss Catherine Wright, Mr. *Stringer*'s housekeeper. The accused had been in her service for about seven weeks, and was taken without a character. Day by day the prosecutrix missed something or another, which, on making a search, she discovered in the prisoner's room. On Thursday Police-sergeant Gasson was called in, and in the box of the accused and a drawer in her room he found a number of articles of dress, &c, which Miss Wright identified as her property. The prisoner, who contended that she had not stolen the property because she had not removed it from the house, was committed for trial at the next Stafford Sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/10/1862

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Mary Garratt, 19, servant, was convicted of having, on the 11th of September, stolen three handkerchiefs, four collars, one pair of stockings, and other articles, the property of Catherine Wright, at Wednesbury, and was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/1/1863

“At the Police Court, yesterday, *Daniel Humpage* and *John Danks* were charged with having been drunk and riotous on Wednesday last, also with having refused to leave the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, when requested. A further charge was that they assaulted Parish-constable *Hackwood*. Miss Catherine Wright, housekeeper to Mr. *Stringer*, landlord of the GEORGE INN, gave evidence to the effect that on the afternoon in question the defendants came to the GEORGE INN, and after calling for drink, they used most disgusting language and refused to go when requested. *Hackwood* was then sent for, and on his remonstrating with them they committed the assault complained of. Both defendants expressed their sorrow for what they had done, but the Bench considered the offence a most serious one, and ordered them to pay £2 11s 6s each, including costs, or in default one month's imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1863

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Thursday, a lad named Samuel Bennington was charged with stealing five quarts of water, the property of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, from a brewhouse, in the possession of Mr. *Stringer*, the GEORGE INN, High Street. The offence was proved by Sergeant Gasson, and the defence set up was that the can which the defendant filled would only hold four quarts. Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/3/1863 - Advert

“Wanted, a Strong Lad, of about sixteen, to make himself generally useful.
Apply to Mr. *T. Stringer*, GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a Strong LAD, of about sixteen, to make himself generally useful.—Apply to Mr. T. Stringer, George Inn, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/4/1863 - Advert

“The GEORGE INN, and other Valuable Copyhold Premises, situate at Wednesbury in the County of Stafford. To be Sold by Private Contract, all that Messuage, or Tenement, called or known as the GEORGE INN, situate and being in the Market Place, Wednesbury aforesaid, together with the Stables, Coach-houses, Piggeries, and other Outbuildings thereto belonging; as the same are now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Stringer*. And also that Messuage, or Tenement, now used as a Draper’s Shop, adjoining the above, together with the Outbuildings thereto belonging; as the same are now in the occupation of John Borrall. The above premises are Copyhold of the Manor of Wednesbury, and each have an old-established trade attached thereto, and are supplied with every convenience for carrying on an extensive business. For further particulars, apply to Mr. S. P. Smith, Solicitor, Walsall.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/7/1863 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable young Person, as Barmaid, and to make herself generally useful. Good references required. Also, a General Servant, who understands Cooking.
Apply to Mr. *Thomas Stringer*, GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a respectable young Person, as BARMAID, and to make herself generally useful. Good references required. Also, a GENERAL SERVANT, who understands Cooking.—Apply to Mr. Thomas Stringer, George Inn, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/7/1863 - Advert

“Wanted, a General Servant, who understands Plain Cooking. Wages £8.
Apply to Mr. *Thomas Stringer*, GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a General SERVANT, who understands Plain Cooking. Wages, £8.—Apply to Mr. THOMAS STRINGER, George Inn, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant. Wages according to ability.
Apply, *Thomas Stringer*, GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a good GENERAL SERVANT. Wages according to ability.—Apply, Thomas Stringer, George Inn, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/3/1864 - Deaths

“On the 21st instant, aged 38 years, Mr. *Thomas Stringer*, of the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/6/1864 - Marriages

“On the 22nd ultimo, at St. Philips Church, Birmingham, by the Rev. J. Ray, Mr. *John Leonard Weston*, of Wednesbury, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Isaac Morley, of Church Aston, Shropshire.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/7/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, a Barmaid, accustomed to a brisk Counter Trade. First-class references required.
Apply, Mr. *Weston*, the GEORGE Wine and Spirit Vaults, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/8/1864 - Advert

“As Barmaid.
Wanted, immediately, by an experienced young person used to a brisk Counter Trade, a Situation as above. First-class references.
Address, M., GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a BARMAID, accustomed to a brisk Counter Trade. First-class references required.—Apply, Mr. Weston, the George Wine and Spirit Vaults, Market Place, Wednesbury.

AS BARMAID.—WANTED, immediately, by an experienced young person used to a brisk Counter Trade, a Situation as above. First-class references.—Address, M., George Hotel, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1865

“On Friday last, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, touching the death of Barnett Lowe, aged 50, who was found by a man named Marigold, in the cabin of a boat in a dying state on Monday last. Mr. William Lowe, a brother of the deceased, stated that the deceased was in the habit of drinking for weeks together. The Jury returned a verdict of Death from Excessive Drinking.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/5/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a Second-hand Street Gas Lamp, suitable for a Liquor Vaults.
Apply, the GEORGE, Market Place, Wednesbury, stating shape, size, price, and where to be seen.”

WANTED, a Second-hand Street Gas LAMP, suitable for a Liquor Vaults.—Apply, The George, Market Place, Wednesbury, stating shape, size, price, and where to be seen.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/6/1865 - Advert

“Billiards. Wanted, an experienced Youth, as Marker. A good character indispensable.
Apply, the GEORGE, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

BILLIARDS.—WANTED, an experienced Youth, as MARKER. A good character indispensable.—Apply, “The George,” Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/10/1865 - Advert

“Brewer, &c. Wanted, a single Man, as Brewer and Man-of-all-Work.
Apply, the GEORGE, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

BREWER, &c.—WANTED, a Single MAN, as Brewer and Man-of-all-Work.—Apply, “The George,” Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/11/1865

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions yesterday, Samuel Attwood was summoned on a charge of fraudulently removing a horse and cab from the premises of Mr. *Weston*, of the GEORGE HOTEL.
The defendant, who had hired stabling of the complainant, had notice to quit on the 14th of October, and he then removed his horse and cab. The complainant summoned him for fraudulently removing the horse and cab as he owed him (the complainant) a quarter’s rent.
The magistrates considered there was no case, and dismissed it.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/12/1865 - Advert

“Nurse. Wanted, an experienced, middle-aged Woman, to take charge of an Infant. Good character required.
Apply, Mrs. *Weston*, the GEORGE, Wednesbury.”

NURSE.—WANTED, an experienced, middle-aged Woman, to take charge of an Infant. Good character required.—Apply, Mrs. WESTON. The George, Wednesbury.

Walsall Advertiser 7/12/1867 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Valuable Hotel, and Capital Liquor Vaults, known as the GEORGE HOTEL, situated in the very best part of the Market Place, Wednesbury; also the Retail Shop, Dwelling-house and Premises adjoining.
Messrs. Farrington and Son, are instructed to Offer by Auction, at the house of Mr. Whitehouse, the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury aforesaid, on Friday, the 13th day of December, 1867, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, in one or more lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.
All that very desirable and highly important Property comprising the GEORGE HOTEL, and capital Liquor Vaults, situated in the principal thoroughfare of the Market Place, Wednesbury aforesaid, standing at the junction of the Dudley, Wolverhampton, and Walsall Turnpike Roads there, with the Stables, Coach-houses, enclosed Yard, and premises thereto belonging, now in the occupation of Mr. *J. L. Weston*.
And also all that capital Retail Shop, Dwelling-house and Premises adjoining, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Hitchen.
NB. The above Property is Copyhold of Inheritance, held of the Manor of Wednesbury aforesaid, is substantially built, and presents an opportunity for investment rarely to be met with.
For further particulars apply to Mr. S. P. Smith, Solicitor, Walsall; or the Auctioneers of the same place.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 22/8/1868 - Advert

“Billiards. For Sale, a first-class Billiard Table, almost new; also, a Chess Board and Chess Men.
To be seen at the GEORGE, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

BILLIARDS.—For Sale, a first-class BILLIARD TABLE, almost new; also, a Chess Board and Chess Men.—To be seen at the George, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1869 - Advert

“Wanted, a trustworthy Man, to make himself generally useful; also, a good General Servant.
The GEORGE, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a trustworthy MAN, to make himself generally useful; also, a good General Servant.—The George, Market Place, Wednesbury.

John Leonard Weston died in the 1st quarter of 1869.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/3/1869 - Advert

“The GEORGE INN, Market Place, High Street, Wednesbury.

By Gilbert and Son. To be Sold, the Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above well-known Corner Liquor Vaults, which has been successfully carried on for many years, and is now being disposed of in consequence of the death of the late Proprietor. This House occupies one of the principal positions in Wednesbury, and is now doing a first-class counter and out-door trade. The Premises are well fitted up, convenient, well arranged, and low rented. In-coming about £400.

Apply, Gilbert and Son, Auctioneers, 17, Colmore Row, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/12/1869 - Advert

“Sale of Household Furniture and Public House Effects, at the GEORGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.

Including Metallic and other Bedsteads, five excellent goose-feather Beds, Palliasses, Chest of Drawers, Easy Chair, large Chimney Glass, plate 50in by 40in; single-barrel Gun, Perry’s Fire-proof Safe, Drinking Tables, Beer Machine, eight-day Clock, in mahogany case; patent Corking Machine, seventy dozens of Porter and Wine Bottles, 100 large stone Spirit Jars, Bottle Baskets, capital Malt Crusher, two Fat Pigs, Pig Trough, Wort Coolers, Mash Tub, Gathering Tub, round and oval Tubs, twenty small Casks, twelve Liquor Casks, ten Hogsheads and Half-hogsheads, new 400-gallon Store Casks, together with the large Stock of Wines and Spirits, including nine dozens of British Wines, fifty dozens of Claret, eighty-five dozens of excellent Sherry, thirty-one dozens of Port, eight dozens of Port, eight dozens of Champagne, Irish and Scotch Whisky, Hennessy’s and other best French Brandy.

Which will be Sold by Auction, by Gilbert and Son, on Monday Next, December 6.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock precisely.

Catalogues may be had on the Premises; or at the Auctioneers Offices, 17, Colmore Row, Birmingham,

The Stock of Wines and Spirits will be sold at Two o’clock.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/2/1870

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Spooner, Stipendiary, John Doolan, a groom and porter, in the employ of Mr. Charles Nicholson, organ builder, Walsall, was charged with stealing a horse, a bridle, and a saddle, the property of his employers.

Arthur Thurstants, an apprentice, in the employ of the prosecutor; Owen Jennings, greengrocer, High Bullen, Wednesbury; and Sergeant Steele, were examined. The evidence showed that on the previous day the apprentice was on the premises, and saw the horse and other articles there. On returning, about an hour afterwards, he found them gone. The prisoner was met on the road, near Bescot Hall, by Jennings, who bought the horse and other things for £2 5s. The prisoner was afterwards found at the GEORGE INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, by Sergeant Steele. Prisoner was spending his money freely, and he afterwards followed him down High Street. He charged the prisoner with stealing the horse, upon which he ran away, but he succeeded in capturing him.

The prisoner was committed for trial.”

[At Stafford in March 1870, John Doolan was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/10/1870

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Baker, 26, was charged with putting off a counterfeit florin at Wednesbury.

The prosecutor, James Whitehouse, occupant of the UNION TAVERN, Wednesbury, deposed that the prisoner came to his house on the 20th of August, and called for a glass of ale, for which he paid with a bad florin. The prosecutor immediately told him that the coin was counterfeit, upon which the prisoner stated that he must have received it in wages from his master to whom he should return it. The prisoner then left, and was followed to the GEORGE INN by the prosecutor, who saw him order some refreshment there and receive some change, upon which he communicated with the police, by whom he was apprehended. Mr. Motteram, for the prosecution, called witnesses to prove that the prisoner had uttered more than one counterfeit coin.

Eliza Nicholls, occupying a public house in Victoria Road, Wednesbury, said that the prisoner came to her house a few days previous to his apprehension and demanded a glass of beer, to pay for which he offered a false florin. Witness’s husband inquired whether he was aware that the florin was a bad one, and the prisoner replied, ‘Oh, is it?’ and produced another, which was also found to be a bad one; and he then stated that he had received them from his master, at the same time paying for the beer with a good half-crown.

He was found guilty, and having been several times previously convicted, was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

1871 Census

1, Upper High Street

[1] Stewart J. Robinson (20), barman, born Tamworth;

[2] Emma Page (24), barmaid, born Worcestershire;

[3] Mary Ann Page (20), barmaid, born Worcestershire;

[4] Margaret Leveridge (21), domestic servant, born Dublin:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/9/1871 - Advert

“Clear-Out Sale, at the GEORGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Gilbert and Son, on Friday Next, September 22, by order of Messrs. Wickham and Pickmere, in consequence of the expiration of the Lease.

The Public House Effects, Fixtures, and Fittings, including two capital Ale Machines, two Liquor Fountains, Counter, 25 feet long; Gaseliers, Pendants, and Brackets, Drinking Tables, Gas Stove, Windsor and other Chairs, Liquor Bottles, various Glasses, Benches, Partitioning and half-glazed Doors, capital Pier Glass, in gilt frame, plate 50 by 40; Kitchen Boiler, two large Copper Boilers, quantity of Wine and other Bottles; together with a large Stock of Wines, including quarter-cask of Sherry, quarter-cask of Port, hogshead of Sherry, hogshead of Port, twenty-nine dozen of Claret, one dozen of Sherry, nine dozen of Champagne, &c, &c.

Sale commencing at Eleven o'clock.

Catalogues at the Auctioneers Offices, 17, Colmore Row.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/9/1871

“At the Police Court, yesterday, the following cases against Wednesbury publicans were brought before the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner) and adjudicated upon.....

Charles Cotterill, the GEORGE, Market Place, for allowing gaming.

Police-constable William Bayley stated that at about twelve o'clock on the 15th inst, he looked through the defendant's window, when he saw the manager and another person tossing penny pieces. He went in and told the manager he should report him. He asked witness to take no notice of the matter, and followed him into the street and said he would 'square' him all right if he would take no notice. He added that he considered himself a 'fly bloke,' and said he had won 6d off the man with whom he had been tossing.

Defendant pleaded his absence as a palliation of the offence.

The Stipendiary remarked that the defendant himself was answerable for what occurred in his house. It was stated that defendant had to pay costs for refusing to admit the police in December last. The Stipendiary said that the difficulty in that case was that it seemed so harmless in itself tossing for one pint of beer, and he admitted it; but it was, however, the first step toward a hundred tossings for beer. He should fine the defendant £1 and costs, and his license would be endorsed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1872

“At the Dudley County Court, yesterday, before Mr. Rupert Kettle, Judge, Henry Beesley, landlord of the GRIFFIN INN, Great Bridge, sued *Daniel Lawrence*, landlord of the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, for £50, as damages for an assault committed in the previous month. Mr. Lewis (Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, and Co.) was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Godson (instructed by Messrs. Caddick) was for the defendant.

The plaintiff's case was that he visited the Dudley Cricket Ground on the occasion of the All-England match, and there met Mr. Erwin, landlord of the LIMERICK INN, Great Bridge. After the match he called at the latter's house with the landlord, and found the defendant in the passage. Without a word of provocation, defendant struck Mr. Erwin, with whom he had been at litigation, and when the latter passed on defendant seized plaintiff round the neck, and administered several blows on his mouth, loosening two or three teeth, which ultimately came out. Plaintiff had suffered considerably by the loss of the teeth.

In cross-examination plaintiff admitted that he had been drinking during the afternoon, and that after the assault he was in a private room in the LIMERICK with the defendant, and several bottles of champagne were drunk in this room by the company generally. In that room there was a great deal of 'chaffing' going on, and in reply to a statement of *Lawrence's*, about the latter's capability to fight all the Beesleys in the family, the plaintiff said he had often given the defendant's father a basin of broth.

In defence Mr. Godson argued that Mr. Beesley was intoxicated, and that he did not remember the circumstances, and that the supply of champagne was called for in order to make the matter up. The defendant was then called, and he in his evidence bore out this theory.

After several ineffectual attempts to settle the case, his Honour said he was sorry to see three respectable men in a case like that, and called the solicitors and counsel engaged into his private room. Upon their return Mr. Godson said the parties had agreed upon the terms suggested by his Honour, and Mr. *Lawrence* was willing to apologise to Mr. Beesley for the blows, which were without ill-feeling. Mr. Lewis said his client was willing to accept the terms, and be good friends with Mr. *Lawrence*. His Honour then stated the terms, £5 5s to be paid by the defendant to the West Bromwich Hospital, and the costs as between solicitors and clients; so that Mr. Beesley should not be a shilling out of pocket. The plaintiff and defendant shook hands and left the court.”

Dudley Guardian 17/1/1874

“At the Walsall County Court, on Thursday, before Mr. A. Martineau, Judge, an action was heard which has caused no little amount of discussion in the Wednesbury betting circle within the past few months. It has been before the Court on several occasions, but had been adjourned by consent. The plaintiff was *Daniel Lawrence*, the proprietor and occupier of the GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, and the defendant, Joseph Harrison, is a barber and tobacconist, also residing in the Market Place; and the action was brought to recover the sum of £5, money had and received by the defendant, of and for the use of the plaintiff, on the 23rd April last.

Plaintiff, in his evidence, stated that on the day named he was at the STORK HOTEL, in Walsall. Mr. Batteson, a newspaper agent, of Wednesbury the defendant, and several others, were present. In a conversation which took place, Batteson said he would countermand plaintiff’s order for ‘tissues’ – referring to certain betting circulars issued every day with the results of races and the latest betting. Plaintiff replied that if Batteson was not careful he should countermand the order instead. Batteson put down £1, and bet that he could not, and afterwards increased the challenge to £5. Plaintiff accepted the last bet, and placed a £5 note on the table, which defendant picked up. Plaintiff asked him to put it down again, but he refused to do so, and went away with Batteson. Plaintiff went to defendant’s shop the same night for the money, but as he was not in, he requested the person in the shop to inform him why he had called. He went again the next morning and asked defendant to return him the money. Defendant at first denied that he had got it, but afterwards said it was a bet, and that plaintiff had given it him to hold. He refused to deliver it up.

Several witnesses were called to prove that plaintiff repudiated the bet and demanded the money back the day after it had been taken.

Mr. Dale, in defence, based his arguments upon the 8th and 9th Vic. cap.109, sec.18, which prohibits gaming, and contended that a bet was not recoverable.

His Honour, in giving judgement for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed and costs, said that, although it was a bet, the plaintiff had repudiated it before the following Saturday, and therefore he was entitled to have the money returned.”

Dudley Guardian 1/8/1874

“On Saturday last, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, into the cause of the death of George Edward Daniells, aged seven years, son of Isaac Daniells, machinist, Union Street.

The father of deceased stated that on the evening of Wednesday week he returned home from play, and complained that his head, chest, and bowels pained him. A powder was given him, and afterwards he was taken to Mr. Garman, surgeon. On the Friday night he stated that whilst playing with some boys they had knocked him down, kicked him on the chest, and caused him to spit blood. There were no marks of violence upon him, and when the mother spoke to the boys they denied having beaten him. Witness did not think they had caused his death, though he believed they had beaten him.

Mr. W. C. Garman, surgeon, deposed that deceased was suffering from extensive inflammation of the right lung and its covering, when he first examined him after he was taken ill. He attended him up to his death, and had since made a post mortem examination. There were no external marks of violence. The vessels of the brain were highly congested, and the right lung, liver, kidneys, and intestines were inflamed. He considered death to have resulted from pleurisy and inflammation of the lungs of a violent character. He could not connect the injuries he was said to have received with the conditions he had found, though, had deceased been suffering from the malady of which he died, any violence or excitement would have accelerated his death. He believed he had caught a severe cold, and it had passed unnoticed. At the request of the jury two little boys, named Walker and Wenlock, who were with deceased at the time he was playing, were called, and their evidence went to show that deceased had been struck on the back with a stone, that he had fought with one of the boys, and that another had hit him. They had not seen anyone kick or kneel on deceased.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased had died from Natural Causes.”

Midland Counties Evening Express 8/4/1875

"On Monday, Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on the body of Elizabeth Marshall, aged nearly 70, of Church Street. On Saturday afternoon, at about two o'clock, she was crossing Union Street, when she was startled by a passing vehicle, and fell down. She was raised up and taken home, where she died about half-past five o'clock. Verdict, Death from Natural Causes."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/2/1876 - Advert

"Young Man Wanted, to Attend to a Horse and Gig, and make himself generally useful.

Apply to Mr. D. Lawrence, GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury."

YOUNG Man Wanted, to Attend to a Horse and Gig, and make himself generally useful.—Apply to Mr. D. Lawrence, George Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/3/1877 - Advert

"The GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury.

Consternation. A limited number of Mares. Fee £3 3s. Groom 5s.

Apply at the above address."

[This is about horse breeding.]

THE GEORGE HOTEL, WEDNESBURY.—
CONSTERNATION. A limited number of Mares. Fee £3.
Groom 5s.—Apply at the above address.

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/1/1878

"John Page, miner, was charged with assaulting *Daniel Lawrence*, landlord of the GEORGE HOTEL, High Street, Wednesbury, on the night of the 5th inst, and with refusing to quit. The evidence of the complainant, represented by Mr. Sheldon, was to the effect that the defendant, for whom Mr. Wilcox appeared, came to his house, and after creating a disturbance assaulted him by striking him in the face. The Bench fined the defendant 40s and costs, or in default one month's imprisonment. The defendant was also fined 20s and costs for refusing to quit the house when requested to do so by the landlord."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1878 - Advert

"Youth Wanted, to Look After Horse and Trap and make himself generally useful.

Mr. Lawrence, GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury."

YOUTH Wanted, to Look After Horse and Trap and make himself generally useful.—Mr. Lawrence, George Hotel, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 18/1/1879

"Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. E. Hooper, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, on view of the body of Maria Coley, wife of Joseph Coley, 56, Church Street. Deceased, who was 70 years of age, had been ailing for two or three years, she suffering from shortness of breath, and pains in the stomach, died very suddenly on Wednesday morning. On the previous evening, her husband seeing that she was getting worse, sent for the doctor, who forwarded a bottle of medicine. He and his daughter rose early on Wednesday morning, and he procured his wife some warm tea. About seven o'clock the daughter, who had returned from her work, called his attention to the condition of his wife, and on going into the room where she was lying, he saw that she was dead.

The jury returned a verdict that death resulted from Natural Causes."

Dudley Herald 30/8/1879

"At the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, situated in the Holyhead Road, was offered for sale, but, as the highest bid only amounted to £325, the building was not sold."

Wednesbury Herald 27/9/1879

"On Thursday an inquest was held at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, before Mr. Hooper, district coroner, touching the death of John Foster, aged 64 years, carpenter, of 29, Union Street, Wednesbury, who was employed at the works of Messrs. Lloyd, Forster, and Co, Old Park Works, Darlaston Road.

The evidence showed that deceased had been in a declining state of health for some time past, and more especially during the past twelve months; that he had been attended by Dr. Garman and also by Dr. Collins. He was still, however, able to follow his employment and on the morning of Wednesday left his home in his usual state of health at about half-past five o'clock. Deborah Foster stated that she did not see her husband but heard him call her grandson up at about that time. He took his dinner with him, and at about three o'clock intelligence was brought that something had happened to her husband. At four o'clock the fact of her husband's death became known to her. She remembered nothing particularly since.

Herbert Riley, boiler maker, said on the afternoon in question he had occasion to go to the closet at the Old Park Works. He saw Foster there, and talked with him a few minutes from an adjoining closet. While witness was there he heard deceased leave the closet, and immediately afterwards he heard something come into contact with the wall. The closet was quite open at the back and the deceased had fallen in. As his own endeavours to get the deceased out were ineffectual he got assistance, and ultimately the deceased was got out and laid upon the grass. The Police and Dr. Blackwood were sent for, but the deceased was quite dead when Dr. Blackwood arrived shortly afterwards. After a brief consultation the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from Natural Causes, and added that they thought the attention of the manager of the Old Park Works should be drawn to the unsafe state of the closets upon their works. The coroner said he should certainly make it a part of his duty to point out to the manager of the works the unsatisfactory state of the closets in question, and also as he understood there were similar conveniences at the Patent Shaft works he should also draw the attention of the manager to their unsafe condition."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/2/1880 - Advert

"Wanted, a Youth, about 18 or 20, to make himself generally useful. One used to Horses preferred.

Apply, GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a YOUTH, about 18 or 20, to make himself generally useful. One used to Horses preferred.—Apply, George Hotel, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 31/7/1880

"Two respectably dressed young men named Joseph and Samuel Williams, both residing at Dudley Port, were charged with violently assaulting *Daniel Lawrence*, landlord of the GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, at Great Bridge on the 19th inst. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Sharpe, of West Bromwich, for the defendants.

Mr. Sheldon said the facts of the case were that on Monday night complainant drove over with a friend from Wednesbury to the STORK HOTEL, Great Bridge, and upon going into one of the rooms he was met by the two defendants, who without the slightest provocation struck and kicked him in a most violent manner. If he proved his case to the satisfaction of the Court, he trusted that his worship would severely punish the defendants.

The complainant said that upon going into the hotel the defendant Samuel mocked his voice and Williams afterwards struck him on the head which caused him to fall on the ground. Whilst on the ground both defendants kicked him in a most brutal manner.

A large number of witnesses having given evidence in support of the complainant, Mr. Sharpe said he was in a position to call evidence to the effect that Mr. *Lawrence* used insulting language towards the defendants, after which a free fight took place. Therefore he contended that if Mr. *Lawrence* was assaulted it was through his own seeking, inasmuch as he struck the first blow.

Witnesses having been called in support of the defence, defendants were afterwards charged with assaulting Abraham Cooper, a waiter at the STORK HOTEL. The complainant stated that whilst the defendants were assaulting *Lawrence* they kicked him, and inflicted serious injuries.

The Stipendiary said he believed the evidence given for the complainants in both cases. For the first offence defendants would each have to pay 20s and costs, and for the second 5s and costs.

The hearing of the cases created a great deal of interest."

Dudley and District News 6/11/1880

"On Tuesday evening, as Mr. Joseph Guttridge, landlord of the GOLDEN CUP, Toll End, Tipton, was driving home, and while endeavouring to get out of the way of a vehicle containing a large boiler, his trap collided with that of Mr. *Lawrence*, of the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, the shock from which precipitated him to the ground. Mr. Guttridge, when picked up, was found to be insensible, and he was at once taken to the BOAT INN, where he soon resuscitated under the care of Dr. Garmon, who was sent for after the accident occurred. Mr. Guttridge was subsequently taken home, and is progressing favourably."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/11/1880

"An inquest was held on Wednesday, at GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, by Mr. Edwin Hooper, on the body of the illegitimate child of Phoebe Hill, of 35, Churchill. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated."

1881 Census

1, Market Place – GEORGE HOTEL

[1] *Daniel Lawrence* (47), widower, licensed victualler, born Donnington Wood, Shropshire;

[2] *William Lawrence* (18), son, assistant waiter, born Great Bridge;

[3] *A. M. Lawrence* (14), daughter, assistant waiter, born Great Bridge;

[4] *Letitia Edge* (29), assistant waiter, born Great Bridge:

Wednesbury Herald 19/11/1881

“On Saturday, Mr. Edwin Hooper held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, as to the death of Thomas Wright (35), ironworker, Ridding Lane, who died suddenly on the 10th.

It was proved that deceased’s death was caused by pleurisy, and not through taking a dose of jalap, and a verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/2/1882

“William Young and Thomas Willetts, employed by the London and North-Western Railway Company at Wednesbury, were charged with stealing six bottles of champagne, the property of the company. Mr. Hilton, of London, appeared on behalf of the company to prosecute, and Mr. Williams (Duignan and Co.) appeared for Willetts, and Mr. Sheldon for Young.

The evidence showed that Willetts had been in the employ of the company for about five years and Young about three years. Both of them were engaged shunting in and out of Wednesbury Station. On the 4th inst the Trent Valley Brewery Company at Lichfield forwarded to Mr. *Daniel Lawrence*, of the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, four cases of champagne, each containing two dozen pint bottles. The cases were loaded in due course that day and sent to the consignee. Consequent upon very numerous reports of robberies taking place from the company’s waggons in this district, the waggon in which the wine was loaded was watched at the instance of the detective department. When the wine was transferred from one waggon to another on its arrival at Walsall, two detectives named George Ross and Eddolls, and a foreman checker named Fieldhouse, were placed in a box waggon next to the waggon containing the wine, and five holes having been bored at the end of the waggon for the purpose of observation, they proceeded with the train to its destination. It was late on Saturday night when the train left Walsall, and it arrived at Wednesbury about half-past one o’clock on Sunday morning, at which time the train was shunted into what was known as the ‘Tobacco Box’ siding. In a short time after the arrival of the train the prisoners came across the line to the waggon containing the wine, unfastened the sheet, and examined the contents of the waggon with their lamps. The prisoners went away, and returned again in about a quarter of an hour, and having lifted up the sheet Willetts got upon the waggon, and with some instrument was seen by the detectives to open one of the cases containing champagne and take therefrom six bottles, and they were handed to Young, who was standing by the side of the waggon. The detectives seemed to have moved in the waggon, which frightened the prisoners, who ran away. They were pursued by the detectives, and Willetts was seen to throw away one of the bottles shortly before his apprehension. At about three o’clock Young was apprehended in the shunter’s waggon, and when charged with the offence he replied, ‘It is all right.’ The detectives then went with Young to his house, and on searching it they found a quantity of articles – knives, forks, thread, and other things – and Young said, ‘I stole those at various times from the company, and they all belong to the company.’

The case was adjourned to Wednesday next. There are two other charges against Young instituted by the Midland and London and North-Western Railway Companies for stealing knives, forks, cheeses, and other goods belonging to the respective companies. The prisoners were admitted to bail, themselves in £50 and one surety in £25 each.”

[In April 1882, at the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, William Young pleaded guilty to stealing knives, forks, and a cheese, and was sentenced to four months’ imprisonment with hard labour.]

Wednesbury Herald 16/9/1882

“Edward Bishton, iron worker, was charged on a warrant with refusing to quit the licensed premises of Mr. *Daniel Lawrence*, licensed victualler, Market Place.

The complainant stated that on the 4th ult, the defendant came into his house and insulted him, and upon complainant requesting him to leave he refused to do so.

The Bench fined prisoner 15s 6d, including costs.”

Wednesbury Herald 30/12/1882

"Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, on Wednesday, respecting the death of Benjamin Smallman (20), a carter, in the employ of Mr. Edward Smith, of the Brunswick Tube Works, Wednesbury, who was found dead on Christmas Day.

The evidence showed that the deceased was seized with a fit when in a water closet, and died before medical aid could be procured.

The Coroner said there were no suspicious circumstances connected with the case and the jury would not have much difficulty in finding a verdict.

The Foreman of the jury said he was convinced that there had not been any foul play and the jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.

Yesterday afternoon the deceased was buried with military honours at Wood Green Cemetery. He was a member of the Rifle Volunteers, and over 50 of the Volunteers followed his remains to the grave, the band playing the 'Dead March In Saul.' The service was a most impressive one."

Wednesbury Herald 14/4/1883

"Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest on Wednesday, at the GEORGE HOTEL, High Street, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Elizabeth Butler (74), of 27, Union Street.

The deceased had been ill for some time, and on Saturday she was considerably worse, and died, before medical aid could be obtained.

The Coroner said that if the friends of the deceased had obtained medical aid earlier an inquest would not have been necessary.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

Daniel Lawrence, widower, of Wednesbury, married Hannah Pugh, widow, of Tipton, on 24th May, 1883.

Hannah Pugh's father's name was George Onions.

Hannah Pugh – see CROWN, Dudley Port, Tipton.

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.....

D. Lawrence, GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury."

Annie Matilda Lawrence (18) married John Partridge (22) on 2nd September 1883.

John Partridge – see ROBIN HOOD.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1883 - Advert

"Shop (first-class) to Let, Market Place, Wednesbury.

For further particulars, apply, GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury."

SHOP (first-class) to Let, Market Place, Wednesbury.—For further particulars, apply, George Hotel, Wednesbury.

Dudley and District News 30/8/1884

"Hannah Lawrence, wife of *Daniel Lawrence*, licensed victualler, Wednesbury, sued as administratrix of the estate of George Onions, late of Tipton, deceased, for the recovery of a boat, or £50, the value thereof, from Thomas Hobson, of Lower Gornal, boatowner. Mr. B. B. Hackney, barrister-at-law, Birmingham, instructed by Mr. Travis, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hooper, Dudley, for the defendant.

Plaintiff swore that she was entitled to the boat, and that the wife of the intestate had sold it without authority to the defendant.

The defence was that Mrs. Onions had paid since the death of her husband more than £30 on account of the boat, which had been obtained by her husband from the Midland Boat Company on the hiring system, and it became his property when the whole of the money was paid.

The Court held that Mrs. Onions had paid the balance due on the boat on the death of her husband out of her own monies, and was entitled to sell the boat. A verdict was accordingly given for the defendant. Notice of appeal was given."

Gloucester Citizen 13/12/1884

"On Friday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on the body of Frederick William Seaman (73), Spring Hill House, solicitor. It appeared that on the 30th ult, as the deceased was preparing for church, he slipped and fell down stairs, sustaining a fracture of the thigh and internal injuries, from the effects of which he died on Monday. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Birmingham Mail 25/2/1885

"Lawrence v *Lawrence*: Debt.

This was an action between husband and wife, and had reference to the husband's disposal of the wife's separate property. Mr. Bosanquet, QC, with whom was Mr. Lloyd (instructed by Messrs. Rowlands and Co.) appeared for the plaintiff, Mrs. Hannah Lawrence, formerly an innkeeper at Tipton; and Mr. Matthews, QC, with him Mr. Pierson (instructed by Mr. E. Caddick) was for the defendant, *Daniel Lawrence*, a publican, carrying on business at Wednesbury.

The action was brought to recover £209 15s 9d, received by the defendant for the plaintiff's use; and the defence was that, though the money had been received, it had been expended in payment of debts contracted by the plaintiff before her marriage.

The defence was that part of the amount claimed was applied to the payment of the plaintiff's debts incurred before marriage, and that the remainder by consent was put into the common fund and used for common purposes.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, and judgement was given for the amount claimed, with costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1885 - Advert

"Person (respectable) Wanted, to Attend to House and assist in Bar; age about 30.

Apply, GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury."

PERSON (respectable) Wanted, to Attend to House and assist in Bar; age about 30.—Apply, George Hotel, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/9/1885

"This (Friday) morning Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, touching the death of Arthur Ernest Bentley, aged five weeks, son of Mary Jane Bentley, a single woman, of 57, Church Street, Wednesbury.

The evidence showed that the mother of the child was keeping house for her married sister, who resides at No.5, Groves Yard, Market Place, Wednesbury, and about eleven o'clock she lay down on the sofa and put the child to her breast. About two o'clock on Tuesday morning her brother-in-law came home and awoke her, when she found the child was dead, and took it to Dr. Garman. It had suffered from convulsions since birth. In reply to the Coroner the mother said she had not been to Oldbury Wake, neither had she been in a public house or drunk.

Police-constable Parton said he had inquired into the case, as certain rumours had been circulated, but had not found anything of a suspicious character. A verdict of Found Dead was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1886

"*Daniel Lawrence*, of the GEORGE INN and Concert Hall, Market Place, Wednesbury, was summoned for having assaulted Emily Freece, a professional vocalist in his employ, and for having damaged her dress to the extent of 10s. Her statement was that on the night of the 24th April she went to the counter to be paid her wages, and whilst 'having words' with Mrs. *Lawrence* about a day engagement for which she claimed to be paid extra, the defendant took hold of her, pushed her into the street violently, and tore her dress.

James Marsden, a waiter in the defendant's employ, deposed that the complainant was not pushed or struck.

The learned Stipendiary said the cases broke down, and dismissed them."

Birmingham Daily Mail 16/9/1886

"Mr. Philip Howard Smith sat today at the Public Offices, High Street, West Bromwich, for the purpose of revising the lists of voters for the Parliamentary borough of West Bromwich, the polling districts within the Handsworth division of Staffordshire, and the lists of burgesses for the municipal borough of West Bromwich.....

Mr. Shaw applied for the name of *Daniel Lawrence*, of the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, to be struck off the Greets Green list, on the ground that he was also on the register at Wednesbury. He (Mr. Shaw) explained that *Lawrence* boasted that he voted twice at the last election and three times at the election previous. The Revising Barrister said he would bear the application in mind when he came to revise the Wednesbury lists. Mr. Shaw pointed out that it would be more convenient for *Lawrence* to remain on the Wednesbury register. Ultimately the matter was deferred until the court sits at Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/4/1887

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Daniel Lawrence*, formerly licensed victualler and colliery proprietor, Wednesbury, and now brickmaker, West Bromwich, appeared before the Stipendiary magistrate, by adjournment, charged with an aggravated assault upon his wife Hannah.

Mr. J. G. Thursfield, who appeared for the complainant, reminded his worship that when the case was last before him, he declined to allow the summons to be withdrawn until assured that divorce proceedings, which were in contemplation, had actually commenced. That assurance could now be given, and he asked his worship to consent to the withdrawal of the summons. The required permission was given.”

Daniel Lawrence – see also BEEHIVE, Brickhouse Lane, West Bromwich.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/3/1889

“At the GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, this morning, before Mr. E. Hooper, the coroner for the district, an inquest was held upon the body of a boy named Henry Wilson (11), of Union Street, Wednesbury, who was drowned on Saturday.

The evidence showed that the deceased was fishing in a brook leading from Crankhall Lane to Elwell’s pool, and was in company with three smaller boys. The evidence of the eldest of these three, a little boy named John Moseley (8), who lives in Camp Street, showed that the deceased had two cans, and was lading water out of the brook to put some fish in, when he slipped in head first, and floated down the brook. They went away for help, but on their return the boy could not be found.

Sergeant Betts, Police-constable Parton, and others, dragged the brook, but could not find the body, and on Tuesday it was recovered in the River Tame, near to Bescot Station, by a man named Kendrick. It had been washed this far by the force of the current.

A verdict of Accidental Drowning was returned, and the witness Kendrick was remunerated by a subscription from the jury on account of his services.

During the evidence of Police-constable Parton it transpired that no appliances were provided for recovering bodies, and the Coroner promised to write to the Corporation with reference to the matter. Had it not have been for some made by Mr. Elwell the searchers would have had no appliances with which to recover the body.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/2/1891 - Advert

“Youth (smart), to look after Horse, for Travelling Bazaar; must be good rider. Wages 18s.

Apply, personally or by letter, to GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

YOUTH (smart), to look after Horse, for Travelling Bazaar; must be good rider. Wages 18s.—Apply, personally or by letter, to George Hotel, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

Market Place – GEORGE HOTEL

- [1] *Michael J. Higo* (27), licensed victualler, manager, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Matilda Higo* (25), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Thomas Higo* (5), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Mary Higo* (3 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Henry Beesley* (26), boarder, barman, born Bearley, Warwickshire;
- [6] *Annie Heseltine* (13), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1891

“Yesterday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, on the body of *Annie Louise Ward*, four years and eleven months, daughter of *John Robert Ward*, baker, Union Street, and *Annie Alma Ward*, his wife.

It seemed that on Saturday, at about mid-day, the deceased and a younger child, a baby, were in a perambulator in the street in front of their parents’ house in the charge of *Fanny Whittingham*, a girl eleven years of age. The latter released her hold of the handle to reseal the baby, and almost at the same moment a third child of the family, *Bertie*, some three years of age or thereabouts, pushed the perambulator, causing it to move across the footpath and fall into the roadway between the hinder parts of a horse and cart belonging to Mr. Garratt, egg dealer, West Bromwich, which were standing in front of a neighbouring shop. The horse became restive and started off, drawing one wheel of the cart over the perambulator and apparently over the abdomen of the deceased. A woman, who was near, picked up the child and took her to her mother, who did what she could to relieve the little sufferer, and sent for Dr. W. Garman, who attended promptly, but death had taken place before his arrival. The baby was not harmed.

Henry Wilkinson, the man in charge of the horse and cart, was at the back of the cart at the moment when the perambulator fell, and he at once ran to the horse's head, but was unable to do anything to rescue the children, the wheel passing over the perambulator as he got down from the back of the cart. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

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, one of which was that of *Henry Milner*, of the GEORGE alehouse, High Street, Wednesbury, the renewal of whose license had been 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, in addition to Mr. *Milner's*....."

Midland Advertiser 29/2/1896

"On Tuesday afternoon an inquest was held at the GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, touching the death of Margaret Berry (48), the wife of William Berry, iron worker of Little Hill, who committed suicide in a most determined manner.

The husband stated that on Friday night he went to a Public House to have a pint of ale, when he was followed by a neighbour named Bennett, who told him that his wife had poisoned herself. He immediately went home and found his wife sitting on the stairs very ill. He asked her what she had taken and she made no reply. A neighbour however told him that she had taken carbolic acid. The deceased had no trouble, except that she had lost a child three years ago. He could not assign any reason for the deceased taking her life.

Sarah Ann Davies, a neighbour of the deceased, stated that on Friday night the deceased went to her house and asked if she would give her some carbolic acid to put down the sink and having found some, she told her it was poison and she was careful not to burn her fingers.

Maria Bennett stated that she had known the deceased three years. On Friday night shortly after eight o'clock deceased came to her home and said, 'Mrs. Bennett, I have done it this time,' and at the same time put a little jug on the table, which had contained carbolic acid. She afterwards said, 'Take care of my little girl and see that no one knocks her about.' Deceased said, 'It's too late, I am done.' When Dr. Garman arrived he attempted to make the deceased vomit, but failed to do so and she immediately afterwards expired.

A juryman said he thought the surgeon ought to have attended earlier. The Coroner said it must be borne in the mind that the surgeon was engaged in a Surgery with patients at the time the message was delivered.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide but there was no evidence to show the state of mind at the time."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/11/1898 - Advert

"Valuable Old-Licensed Hotel and Beerhouses, Dwelling Houses, Wharf, and Building Land.

Edward Cox will offer for Sale by Auction, on Tuesday Next, the 29th day of November, at the SANDWELL HOTEL, High Street, West Bromwich, at Seven o'clock in the evening, prompt.....

Lot 8. The Valuable and Commanding Corner Premises known as the GEORGE HOTEL, having a frontage in High Street, Union Street, and the Public Market Place, in Wednesbury, with the Spirit Vaults, having a frontage of 64 feet, and four entrances; large Smoke Room, Commercial Room, and Parlour on second floor; Kitchens, Club Room, 36 feet by 14 feet 6 inches; five large Bed Rooms.

The Premises are held by Mr. *H. D. Millner* on lease, which expires at Christmas, 1907.

Adjoining and fronting to High Street is a valuable Shop, let to Mr. Dollman, as an annual tenant, at a rental of £40, and an eligible Piece of Building Land, available for the erection of Offices."

Henry Deighton Millner was also of the CASTLE and DARTMOUTH. [1896], [1900], [1904], [1908]

1901 Census

1, Upper High Street

[1] *Thomas Hanks* (46), licensed victualler's manager, born Birmingham;

[2] *Ellen R. Hanks* (44), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Oliver T. Hanks* (19), son, printer, born Birmingham;

[4] *Nellie J. Hanks* (10), daughter, born Smethwick;

[5] *Charles H. Hanks* (8), son, born Smethwick:

Thomas Hanks – see also STAR, Smethwick.

Wednesbury Leader 13/7/1901

“At a special Court at Wednesbury on Monday, before Colonel Smith and Mr. J. Handley, James McLean (20), no fixed abode, was charged with stealing a pair of trousers, value 8s 11d, from the shop of Hiam Cohen, clothier, Market Place, on June 21st.

Evidence was given that the trousers were missed from the doorway of the shop.

On Saturday, PC Trusswell and Bowler went to the TURKS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, where prisoner had been living, and in a bedroom which prisoner was said to have occupied, they found the trousers, while in the cellar there was property relating to another charge. They met prisoner in the street a short time afterwards and arrested him. They took him into the GEORGE INN to explain matters, and when told he had to go to the station prisoner became extremely violent, knocking Trusswell's head against a partition, and whilst being handcuffed took one of Trusswell's fingers between his teeth, and the constable afterwards found it to be broken at the end. PC Bowler had to strike him on the jaw to make him loose. Prisoner continued to struggle desperately, and knocked Trusswell through a plate glass window. He was not secured for 25 minutes. On the way to the police station he kicked Bowler on the legs, Trusswell in the ribs, and also bunted PC Wallis in the mouth. Trusswell was so badly injured that he had since been under treatment by Dr. Garman.

A remand until Friday was granted, and again yesterday for a further seven days.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/4/1902

“Billiards. Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers League.

Fourth Annual Banquet.

This event took place last night in the Temple Room at the Acorn Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, when about 100 members of the League and friends sat down to an excellent repast.....

Then came the presentation of prizes by the Chairman, who handed over the 18 prizes with a suitable word to each recipient. The prize list was as follows.....

First prize, Mr. W. A. Walton, GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, silver challenge trophy (clock, medal, and pair of opera glasses for second highest break).”

Walsall Observer 3/1/1903

“On Monday Mr. H. A. Pearson, coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, respecting the death of David McGill (70), formerly residing in Hitchens Croft, Wednesbury, who died on Boxing Day.

It appeared that on November 1st the deceased was walking in the Market Place, Wednesbury, when he either slipped or was pushed down. Anyhow, he fell heavily, and sustained a fracture of the thigh. Deceased was attended from the time he met with his accident until his death by Dr. Crew. Death was due to old age and general weakness, accelerated by the accident.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Walsall Observer 19/3/1904

“A general meeting of the Wednesbury and District Canine and Fanciers Society was held at the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Thursday. There was a fairly good attendance.....”

Walsall Advertiser 12/8/1905

“On Tuesday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, before the Stipendiary (Mr. N. C. A. Neville), David Hinks, of Bank Street, Walsall, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the GEORGE INN, Five Ways, Wednesbury, on the 5th inst. Police-constable Wheatley deposed to being called to the GEORGE INN, and to finding defendant very drunk in the yard. The Stipendiary said defendant had been convicted over thirty times, and he would be fined £1 and costs, in default one month’s imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/8/1910

“The inquest on the body of Dorothy Lort, aged eighteen, of 11, Union Street, Wednesbury, who was found shot on Sunday night, with a revolver in her hand, was held by Mr. G. C. Lewis, County Coroner, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, yesterday. No evidence was given to account for the tragedy, except that the girl was given to reading ‘silly novels.’ The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.

Ada Lort, wife of Thomas Lort, steel tester, stated that the girl was her daughter, and on Sunday she noticed nothing unusual about her, although another daughter said that deceased had complained of a pain in the head. Her daughter seemed in her usual good spirits all day, and the only thing witness had to complain of was the amount of reading she did.

The Coroner: What sort of reading? – These silly novels.

In reply to a further question, Mrs. Lort said that her daughter was an assistant to Mr. Powell, of the Market Place, Wednesbury, and that she never allowed reading to interfere with her work. Her daughter went to bed between nine and ten o’clock on Sunday night. In another room was the girl’s grandmother and two little boys. Witness and her elder daughter were downstairs when they heard a noise which was like the bursting of a bottle. Witness did not think there was anything serious until her grandmother screamed ‘Murder.’ When she went upstairs she found her daughter on the bed, partly dressed, but wearing also her nightdress. The mother said she caught hold of a revolver and took it out of her daughter’s hand. She did not notice any wound.

The Coroner: Had she any troubles? – None whatever; not a possible trouble at home or at business.

Did you know she had a revolver? – I did not, sir.

Do you know whose it is? – It is kept in Mr. Hyatt’s bedroom.

Have you ever seen her playing with it or using it? – No.

Mrs. Helen Cartwright, the girl’s grandmother, said the deceased asked her for a clean nightdress when she went upstairs. Afterwards she heard a noise, and ran into the girl’s room. Dorothy was then lying on the bed with her face towards the door. One of her fingers and her nightdress appeared to be burned.

Dora Horton, of Kendrick Street, Wednesbury, said she and the deceased had been friends since they were little girls. On Saturday night witness’s mother and brothers were not at home, and Dorothy stayed with her all night. They slept together, but deceased did not sleep very well, being restless. Witness suggested she should light the gas, but Miss Lort said she would be all right without it. At breakfast time she said she did not feel very well, and witness noticed that she seemed to have a cold.

In reply to the Coroner Miss Horton said that if Miss Lort had any secrets she would have told her what they were.

The Coroner: Did you tell her your secrets? – Witness: I have no secrets to tell.

Do you know if she had ever been playing with revolvers or anything of the sort? – No.

Mr. Price (foreman of the jury): Have you ever heard her say where there was a revolver? – No, she has not said anything to me about it.

Arthur Hyatt said he lived with the Lorts. The revolver was his property, and he kept it in a drawer of the dressing-table in his bedroom. That room was not near the girl’s bedroom; it was on another landing.

The Coroner: The girl has used your revolver before?

Witness answered that that was so, because about three or four months ago he was trying it in the garden, and he allowed the girl and her sister to fire it.

Did she ever talk about it afterwards? – No, sir.

Did you know she took it out of the drawer? – No.

Did you give it her? – No.

When did you miss it?

Witness, in reply, explained that he had been on his holidays, and when he returned on Friday the girl’s sister said she had seen it in the drawer.

The Coroner: What was she doing at your drawer? – While I was away the deceased’s sister slept in my room, and I understood her to say she had seen the revolver safe in the drawer.

The Coroner: Was it a revolver which went off easily? – Witness: No. It has a hard pull, and there is a fault in one of the chambers. You have to pull the trigger up before it goes off.

Sergeant Robinson: It does not revolve properly.

Hyatt, in reply to further questions, said he knew the girl very well, and she always seemed to him to be the last person he should expect to commit suicide

The Coroner in summing up said it was plain that the wound the girl had died from was self-inflicted. It was for the jury to find if there was any motive which would bear out the theory of suicide. So far as he could see it appeared to be a case in which there was no motive. It was rather singular that the girl should just before the shooting took place ask for a clean nightdress. One could not help but regard this as somewhat significant, because they knew in cases of this sort it sometimes happened that people before their death liked to make themselves tidy. Under the circumstances he thought they could not help but find that the girl had taken her own life, because the revolver was not one which easily went off. Moreover, the fact that the wound was in the left side, and that the nightdress was scorched, showed that the revolver must have been held close to the side when discharged.”

Wednesbury Herald 11/3/1911

“The monthly show of the Wednesbury Canine Society, which was held at the GEORGE HOTEL, on Monday night, attracted a good attendance of fanciers.....”

1911 Census

1, Upper High Street

[1] *Charles Meakin* (45), married, public house manager, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Alice Meakin* (37), sister, born Wolverhampton:

Wednesbury Herald 9/9/1911

“A show under the auspices of the Wednesbury Canine Society was held on Monday night at the GEORGE HOTEL, when the non-sporting and sporting classes were very well filled. Under the directions of Mr. E. Foster (the hon. secretary) and Mr. F. H. Foster (the assistant hon. secretary) the arrangements were of the very first order.....”

Walsall Advertiser 17/2/1912

“At Cannock Petty Sessions on Monday *Robert Perry*, licensee of the Robin Hood, Church Bridge, Great Wyrley, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on January 20th, 1912 The defendant *Perry*, on oath, said he had kept the house for something like two-and-a-half to three years. Prior to that he had kept the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, for three-and-a-half years, and there had been no complaint against him.....”

[*Perry was fined £1 and costs.*]

Walsall Observer 9/11/1912

“An inquest was held at the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, by Mr. G. C. Lewis, touching the death of Florence Elizabeth Ray, two years and five months old, who died on Saturday last.

Evidence was given that on October 17th the child pulled half a cupful of boiling water from the table and scalded herself on the chest and neck.

Dr. Dingley stated that the child was taken to him on October 21st, and he saw it several times. The scalds were very deep, and death, which ensued last Saturday, was due to exhaustion.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1921 Census

1, Upper High Street – GEORGE INN

[1] *Charles R. Holyhead* (47), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah Holyhead* (47), wife, home duties, born Darlaston;

[3] *Mary Holyhead* (19), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Samuel Carter* (72), father-in-law, nut and bolt maker, out of work, born Darlaston;

[5] *Mary Carter* (72), mother-in-law, home duties, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1937

“Monthly meeting of Wednesbury Town Council yesterday.....

A recommendation that the GEORGE INN, Union Street, and other properties belonging to the brewery company should be acquired, and for the re-sale to the brewery company of a similar area of land in connection with the Central Area Improvement scheme, at a price of £3,000 plus £400 costs, was confirmed.”

Walsall Observer 24/4/1937

“Wednesbury Licensing Justices yesterday confirmed, subject to modification, a provisional order for the removal of the license the GEORGE INN, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, to premises proposed to be erected at the rear of the present house. Making the application on behalf of Ansells Brewery Ltd., Birmingham, Mr. F. Cooper, solicitor, explained that the local authority was carrying out a central area scheme at this part of town, and it was necessary that the house should be demolished. The company considered that the new building would be a credit to the centre of Wednesbury.”

Evening Despatch 28/2/1939 - Advert

“Permanent Salaried Position Open to keen, ambitious Man (25 to 50) for Sales Work in Wednesbury and Bilston area. Only men of smart appearance and good character considered for these positions. Interviews will be given at the GEORGE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, between 2.0 and 3.30pm, or the same day at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, between 4.0 and 5.30pm.”

1939 Register

High Street – GEORGE INN

[1] Thomas H. Benton, date of birth 12/5/1902, licensed victualler, manager, married;

[2] Alice Benton, dob 3/3/1909, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Ronald T. Benton, dob 11/5/1930, school, single;

[4] Dora Reardon, dob 21/4/1920, bar general, single:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/3/1940

“Penny-A-Week way to put Comforts Fund on a permanent basis.

Nearly £500 has been added to the lists of the funds in the West Midland and *Express and Star* federation since the last list, indicating the enthusiasm of people is still on the increase.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged £380 18s 9½d.

Proceeds of boxes.....

GEORGE INN, Market Place, 2s 1d.”

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, £2 9s 6d.”

Evening Despatch 22/1/1951

“Few people live in Wednesbury’s narrow, main shopping street. Therefore it is a rare occasion to see a funeral there. They are all business premises. Today, however, the police closed the street for the burial of the town’s oldest publican, 74-year-old Mr. Richard Henry Collett, who had been a resident for 38 years as tenant of the THREE TUNS INN. Traffic was diverted while the funeral passed along on its journey to the parish church. Bearers were members of the Licenced Victuallers Association, of which Mr. Dick Collett was the oldest and honorary member. When Union Street was re-opened to traffic today there was a sudden crash. More than 100 bottles of expensive liqueur spirits and wine in the window of the GEORGE INN wine and spirit stores came crashing down when the glass shelves cracked through the vibration of the heavy traffic. Crowds gathered to see the damage. The manageress, Mrs. T. H. Benton, said afterwards, ‘I heard such a crash while I was in the bar that I thought a lorry had come through the window.’ All the bottles were piled up in the window and several bottles of brandy were smashed. Mr. T. H. Benton, the licensee, rushed back from his neighbour’s funeral, at which he was a bearer, to see the damage to his stock.”

It was demolished in 1959.

The replacement pub had already been built, further back, on the corner site of Upper High Street and Union Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/1/1966

“Wednesbury and District Trades Council faces an unusual year; in May it celebrates its 50th anniversary and in December it will disband. Mr. J. F. Postins, secretary for over 25 years, said last night that members were sceptical about the merger with the West Bromwich branch, brought about by the boundary reorganisation. The council first met in the GEORGE INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, in 1916, and the financial record shows a balance of 4s. Membership has increased to 3,450.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 20/8/1978 - Advert

“GEORGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.

Hot and Cold Luncheons and Bar Snacks.

Monday-Friday Lunchtimes 12 noon-2.0pm.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/10/1978

“*Ken and Maureen Grew* travelled a long way to become licensees of their own pub. It took them several thousand miles and three years to find themselves installed in the GEORGE pub, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, but, says *Ken*, ‘It was well worth it.’ They came all the way from the island of Antigua in the sunny Caribbean, arriving in the Midlands on a cold December morning in 1975, settling in *Maureen’s* home town of Sutton Coldfield to start the hunt for a pub of their own.

Ken, who hails from Stirling in Scotland, was surprised of the length of time it takes to be accepted by a brewery, but, he says, ‘The breweries go to a great deal of trouble to make sure they’re placing the right people in the right pub. As far as we’re concerned, they couldn’t have made a better choice than giving us the GEORGE. We’ve never been happier than we are here. It’s the people in Wednesbury who make it such a pleasant place to live in. They’re so friendly and helpful. They made us feel at home as soon as we moved in. And there’s always somebody on the other side of the bar who’s ready to help us sort our problems out, whether it’s a blocked sink or engine trouble.”

The GEORGE is a modern pub, built about 15 years ago on the site of a inn of yesteryear. *Ken and Maureen* have recently introduced one of the more traditional beers in the form of Aston Ale.....

In Antigua *Ken and Maureen* ran a 40-bedroom hotel. When they moved into the GEORGE in February, they found themselves not only with a public house but a cafe as well, although the cafe wasn’t open for business at the time. ‘We used the catering equipment to provide meals for the pub,’ says *Maureen*, ‘but we’ve now re-opened the cafe as a separate business, from 9am until 5pm, and it’s doing remarkably well.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/10/1978 - Advert

“GEORGE INN – the Pub that offers so much.

Ken and Maureen, tenants at the GEORGE INN, take great pride in what the GEORGE INN has to offer. Excellent beer, notably the new Aston Ale which is brewed in Birmingham, Quick Service at all times coupled with a very helpful staff, ensures you a good atmosphere at all times. There are meals and snacks at Lunchtime which *Maureen* cooks and supervises herself. Nothing is too much trouble for *Ken and Maureen*, so why not pop in, they will only be too pleased to see you. Cheers.

Upper High Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/11/1979 - Advert

“Entertainment Guide Pubs and Wine Bars.....

GEORGE INN, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

Bar snacks, hot and cold meals.”

**THE GEORGE INN, Upper High
Street, Wednesbury. Tel. 556 0655.
bar snacks, hot and cold meals.**

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/12/1979 - Advert

“*Ken and Maureen* of the GEORGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury, would like to wish all their customers Christmas Greetings and all the best for a Happy and Prosperous 1980.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 30/3/1980

“A warm welcome awaits Willenhall dog folk at the GEORGE INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, tomorrow. It’s a 7.30 k.o. for a darts, domino and crib night arranged by Terry Price on behalf of the Retired Greyhound Trust (Midland) Fund.”

[This was in conjunction with the closure of Willenhall’s greyhound racing track.]

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/9/1980

“Two Sandwell pub landlords have called time on their regulars for the last time.....

At the GEORGE INN in Upper High Street, Wednesbury, Mrs. *Maureen Grew* has said goodbye to customers. Mrs. *Grew* has moved to the Bell Inn at Brewood, Wolverhampton. The GEORGE INN has been taken over by new landlord Mr. *Keith Thomas*.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 12/11/1995 - Advert

“The GEORGE INN. Now open Sunday evenings.

Eg 14oz T Bone steak £5. Sunday lunch available all day.

For bookings Tel. 0121 556 0655.

1 Upper High Street, Wednesbury, West Midlands.”



Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1996

“The chairman of a Birmingham Children’s Hospital charity died when his broken-down car was involved in an accident with a lorry. Keen golfer Mr. Robert Field, aged 52, from Wednesbury, chaired Radio Lollipop which provides programmes at Birmingham Children’s Hospital. He died from his injuries following a crash on the A452 Collector Road in Chelmsley Wood just before 11am on Thursday. Mr. Field lived at the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, with his wife, *Carol*, the licensee. Mr. Field had been on the way to play golf with a friend, Mr. Leslie Evans, aged 55, of Hagley Road, Halesowen, who was a passenger in the Ford Sierra and suffered severe shock. The driver of the Ford Cargo lorry, Mr. Stephen Robert Skelding, aged 31, of Ivyfield Road, Erdington, and his two passengers suffered severe shock. Police appealed for witnesses.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1997

“A Midland pub manager was killed when a lorry ploughed into him as he sat stranded in his broken-down car, an inquest heard City Coroner, Dr. Richard Whittington, yesterday recorded a verdict of Accidental Death. After the hearing, Mrs. *Carol Field*, who runs the GEORGE pub in Upper High Street, Wednesbury, where her husband also worked, said, ‘I will fight any action I can. If it means a private prosecution I will do it.’ Her solicitor, Mr. Christopher Rudd, asked Dr. Whittington to enter a verdict of unlawful killing. He claimed that Mr. Skelding had a completely clear view of Mr. Field’s Ford Sierra parked on the inside lane of the dual carriageway. Mr. Field had his warning lights flashing, said Mr. Rudd. But Dr. Whittington said there was insufficient evidence that it was a case of unlawful killing.”

Its opening hours were reduced at the Sandwell Licensing Panel meeting on 8th August 2008. The police had complained about violent behaviour in and around the pub.

Renamed WILLIAM ARCHER in 2018.

[William Archer was a Conservative councillor in Wednesbury for 36 years, retiring in 2010. He died in 2018.]

[2025]



GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, that well accustomed House, Stable, Granary, Out-Houses, Garden, &c. now in the Holding of Mr. Thomas Russell, who will shew the Premises, and further Particulars. The Stock, Fixtures, &c. (at a fair Valuation) may be taken or rejected. The Premises may be entered upon immediately, or at a short distant Period, as may be made agreeable to the present and future Tenant.

1790

WHEREAS Marshal Webster left at the George Inn, Wednesbury, in April last, one great Coat, one Waistcoat, one Shirt, one black Stock, and one Pocket Handkerchief. This is to require Marshal Webster to redeem the same within seven Days from the Date hereof, or otherwise the above Articles shall be sold to defray the Expences.

THOMAS PARKES.

Wednesbury, July 23, 1796.

1796

Thomas Parkes's Creditors.

ALL Persons who have any Claim or Demand upon the Estate and Effects of the late Mr. THOMAS PARKES, of the George Inn, at Wednesbury, deceased, are desired to send in an Account of their Claims in twenty Days from the Date hereof, unto Mr. William Rock, at the Sign of the Green Dragon, in Wednesbury aforesaid (one of the Executors named in the last Will of the said Mr. Parkes) in order that the same may be settled; and all Persons who are any Ways indebted to the said Mr. Parkes, are desired to pay the same immediately into the Hands of the said Mr. Rock.

Wednesbury, October 29, 1798.

Thomas Parkes's Creditors.

ALL Persons who have any Claim or Demand upon the Estate and Effects of the late deceased Mr. Thomas Parkes, of the George Inn, in Wednesbury, are desired to send the Particulars thereof in fourteen Days from the Date hereof to Mr. William Rock, at the Sign of the Green Dragon, in Wednesbury aforesaid, one of the Executors named in the Will of the said Mr. Parkes, in Order that the same may be immediately settled; and all Persons who are any Ways indebted to the Estate of the said Mr. Parkes, are desired to pay the same into the Hands of the said Mr. Rock, in Twenty Days from the Date hereof, otherwise they will be sued for the same without further Notice.

N. B. All those who do not deliver the Particulars of their Demands by the Time above-mentioned, will be too late to have the same discharged, as the whole of the Property of the said Mr. Parkes will be disposed of immediately after that Time according to the Directions in his Will.

Wednesbury, Dec. 17, 1798.

1798

Thomas Parkes's Creditors.

THE Executors of the late deceased Mr. Thomas Parkes, of the George Inn, in Wednesbury, hereby inform his Creditors, that on Thursday the first Day of August next they intend to make a final Dividend of all his Effects, at the Sign of the Green Dragon, in Wednesbury aforesaid, equally amongst all his Creditors who have delivered in a just Account of their Demands.

Wednesbury, July 18, 1799.

GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY.

THOMAS DEAN, late of the Castle and Falcon, Snow Hill, Birmingham, respectfully informs his Friends and the Public, that he has taken and entered upon the GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY, a well known spacious and commodious Inn, which he has fitted up in a genteel and comfortable Style, and has laid in a very choice Stock of genuine old Wines and Foreign Spirits.

He flatters himself that the Accommodations will meet the Approbation of Gentlemen Travellers, and others, who may please to honour him with their Patronage and Support, which will be his constant Study to merit, by the most assiduous Attention. There is excellent Stabling for upwards of twenty Horses.

The Situation of the House is central, and particularly well adapted for the Convenience of Gentlemen Travellers.

N. B. Neat Gigs and Post Horses, at the shortest Notice.

HAIR POWDER CERTIFICATES.

STAMP-OFFICE, LICHFIELD.

April 1, 1799.

HAIR POWDER CERTIFICATES for the Year commencing the 6th of April, 1799, and ending the 5th Day of April, 1800, are now ready for Delivery at this Office, and at the respective Offices of the following Persons, who are duly authorized to issue the same, by

FRANCIS COBB,

Head Distributor.

Mr. WILLIAM MITTON,	—	Wolverhampton
Miss BAYLIES,	—	Walsall
Mr. CHARLES DODSWORTH	—	Burton-on-Trent
Mr. JOHN MOXON,	—	Rugeley

Mr. JOHN LOWE, Stamp-Office, Birmingham, to Persons resident in Handsworth, Harborne, Smethwick, West Bromwich, and other Places in Staffordshire, near Birmingham.

And Notice is hereby given, that Mr. William Mitton will attend at the George Inn, Wednesbury, on Thursday the 18th and Thursday the 25th of April inst. and at the Green Dragon, in Kinver, on Monday the 22d and Monday the 29th inst. and Mr. John Moxon will also attend at the Littleton's Arms, in Penkridge, on Tuesday the 16th and Tuesday the 23d inst. at which respective Times, Persons resident at those Places, intending to take out Certificates, are to apply.

1799

GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately, the aforefaid old and well-eftablifhed INN, now in the Occupation of Mr. Thomas Dean, who is declining the Public Buſineſs on Account of other Engagements.—The Premifes are convenient and well adapted for the Entertainment of Travellers, and conſiſt of twelve Lodging Rooms, a large Dining Room, Parlour, Bar, good Kitchen, excellent Cellars, Brewhouſe, Workſhop, Stabling for about twenty Horſes, and a large entire Yard; the whole held at a very moderate Rent.

The Brewing Veſſels, Fixtures, Stock of Ale, Wines, Liquors &c. (with or without the Houſehold Furniture) to be taken by Valuation.

For other Particulars apply to the ſaid Mr. Dean, or to T. Warren, Auctioneer, in Dale End, Birmingham.

George Inn, Wedneſbury.

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately, the aforefaid Inn, being the principal one of that Place, and for many Years well eſtablifhed in a reputable Line of Buſineſs, at preſent in the Occupation of Mr. Thomas Dean, who wiſhes to quit it on Account of his Engagements in another Branch of Trade, and for no other Reaſon. The Premifes conſiſt of 12 Lodging Rooms, a Dining Room, and front Parlour, fitted up in a comfortable and genteel Style, for the Entertainment of Travellers; alſo a good front Kitchen, Bar, excellent Cellars, Brewhouſe, Stabling for about 20 Horſes, a Workſhop and a large back Yard, all cuture, and held at a very moderate Rent.

The Brewing Veſſels, Fixtures, Stock of Ale, Wines and Liquors (with or without the Houſehold Furniture) to be taken at a fair Appraiſement, and a Part of the Purchase Money may remain on Security, if required.

For other Particulars apply to the ſaid Mr. Dean, or to T. Warren, Auctioneer, in Dale End, Birmingham.

GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premifes, by THOMAS WARREN, on Monday next, the 22d Inſtant, and following Day, all the neat HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and EFFECTS belonging to the aforefaid Inn; conſiſting of ſeveral very handſome Four-poſt Bedſteads, with various Kinds of printed Cotton Hangings, nearly as good as new; ſuperfine Goſe and other Feather Beds, Mattraſſes, and Counterpanes; Bedſide and Floor Carpets; Pier and Dreſſing Glaſſes; good Mahogany and Oak Cabinet Furniture; ſundry Plate, China, and Glaſs Ware; a compleat Aſſortment of uſeful Kitchen Requiſites and Utenſils for the Buſineſs; a capital Collection of Brewing Veſſels of all Sizes, and various other Articles.

Catalogues may be had on Thursday next, on the Premifes, or of the Auctioneer, in Dale End, Birmingham.

The Sale to begin each Day at Ten o'Clock.

GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premifes, by THOMAS WARREN, this preſent Monday, the 22d of December inſtant, a conſiderable Part of the neat HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and EFFECTS at the George Inn aforeſaid; comprizing Four-poſt and Tent Bedſteads, with printed Cotton, Dimothey, and other Hangings; fine ſeaſoned Feather Beds and Bedding; Variety of good Mahogany and Oak Cabinet Furniture; ſundry Kitchen Requiſites; a capital Iron-bound 200 Gallon Ale Caſk; ſome Hogſheads and Half Hogſheads; a ſtrong uſeful Hackney Mare, ſix Years old; a light tilted Cart, a Quantity of Manure, &c.

Catalogues may be had on the Premifes.

The Sale will begin preciſely at Half paſt Ten o'Clock.

1800

GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE, *Situated on the great Poſt Road leading from Wolverhampton to Birmingham.*

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately, the above long and well eſtablifhed Inn, with every ſuitable Convenience of Brewhouſe, Stables, &c. &c. now in the Occupation of Mr. William Rock, who will ſhew the Premifes; and for further Particulars apply to Mr. Joſeph Adams, Draper, Wedneſbury.

The Tenant may be accommodated with any Quantity of good and well incloſed Land, not exceeding 37 Acres, nearly adjoining the Houſe, and may have a Term in the Inn for 7 or 14 Years.

GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY,

Situated on the great Poſt Road leading from Wolverhampton to Birmingham.

TO be LET, and entered on immediately, the above long and well eſtablifhed Inn, with every ſuitable Convenience of Brewhouſe, Stables, &c.

The Tenant may be accommodated, at Chriſtmas next, with any Quantity of good and well incloſed Land, not exceeding 37 Acres, nearly adjoining the Houſe, together with Barn, Stables &c. and may have a Term of the Inn for 7 or 14 Years.

For further Particulars apply to Mr. Joſeph Adams.

1803

TIMBER.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOSIAH ROBINS, at the Talbot Inn, Wedneſbury, in the County of Stafford, on Monday the 27th of April, at Half paſt Three in the Afternoon, on Lands occupied by Mr. John Wilkes, of the George Inn, Wedneſbury aforeſaid.

LOT 1.—237 fine Larch Firs and other Trees.

2.—101 ditto ditto.

3.—54 ditto ditto.

4.—155 ditto ditto.

5.—101 ditto ditto.

6.—65 fine Elms, of large Dimensions.

Mr. Hateley, at the Talbot, will ſhew the Lots, which are all marked and numbered.

1807

Convenient House and Premises, Church Hill, Wednesbury.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately after Midsummer next, the above eligible Premises, known by the Name of the KING'S HEAD, situate on the Church Hill, Wednesbury as aforesaid, and now in the Occupation of Mr. John Rock, who is removing to his new House on the great Road from Birmingham to Shrewsbury.

The Premises consist of four Sleeping Rooms, two Parlours, Sitting Room, Kitchen, China Pantry, spacious Hall, and three roomy Cellars, with the particular Advantage of excellent Water. The Tenant may be accommodated with a capital Garden, opposite the House, and a Lease if required.

For Treaty apply on the Premises, or of W. Chapman, Appraiser and Auctioneer, 105, Snow Hill, Birmingham.

DRUIDS.

A LODGE of Respectability of the ancient and venerable Order of Druids will be opened at Mr. John Rock's new House, King's Head Inn, High-street, Wednesbury, of which timely Notice will be given in a future Paper.

DRUIDS.

THE Brothers of the Order are respectfully informed, that Lodge 52 will be opened in due Form at Brother John Rock's, King's Head Inn, High-street, Wednesbury, this present Monday the 24th inst. by Lodge 17, respectfully supported by Lodges 22, 31, 32, and 46, &c. in the Insignia of the Order.

N. B. An Ordinary will be provided. Dinner on the Table at Two o'Clock.

The Visit of any Brother will be deemed an Addition to the Festival.

JUBILEE.

A DINNER will be provided at John Rock's, King's Head Inn and Tavern, Wednesbury, on Thursday the 25th of October inst. being the Anniversary of his Majesty's Accession to the Throne and the Completion of the fiftieth Year of his Reign.

N. B. Tickets to be had at the Bar.—Dinner precisely at Two o'Clock.

1810

Valuable Buildings and Building Land, at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

TO be SOLD by Auction, by ISAAC FARROR, at the King's Head Inn, High Street, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Monday the 50th Day of August inst. at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, by Direction of the Assignees of Mr. John Rock, Bayonet-maker and Inn-keeper a Bankrupt, the under-mentioned valuable Freehold, and Copyhold Buildings and Building Land, in the following Lots, subject to Conditions:—

COPYHOLD.

LOT I. All those capital Premises, called the KING'S HEAD INN, most desirably situated at the Junction of three Turnpike Roads, in the Centre and principal Part of the Town of Wednesbury aforesaid, fronting twenty-four Yards to the High Street, and seventeen Yards, or thereabouts, to the Market Place therein, comprising eight good sized Sleeping Rooms, a Club Room, fifty-two Feet long, three Parlours, a Bar, two large Kitchens, with convenient Pantries, very extensive Cellaring and Vaults, a capital Brewhouse, Stabling, and Out-buildings, a Range of Shopping and large Yard.

N. B. A numerous and respectable Society of Druids have a Lodge at the House.

The above Premises are recently built in the most substantial Manner, purposely for an Inn, for which, from Situation and Convenience for conducting the Business, they are very desirable, but are so arranged that at a moderate Expence they may be converted into private Dwellings, suitable for retail Shopkeepers and others.

Shop Tools, Household Furniture, Beer Machine, Brewing Vessels, large Casks, Furnaces, &c. &c. at Wednesbury.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premises, by ISAAC FARROR, on Tuesday the 31st of August, and following Day (by Order of the Assignees of Mr. John Rock, Bayonet-maker and Innkeeper, High Street, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford) all the valuable Shop Tools, together with the gentled and useful Household Furniture, Stock of Spirits and Ale, Beer Machine, large capital store Casks, containing from 400 to 700 Gallons each, excellent Hogshead and Half-hogshead Barrels, stout Mashing Tubs and Coolers, Copper and Iron Furnaces and Effects belonging to the King's Head Inn, at Wednesbury aforesaid; Particulars of which will be ready in Catalogues, to be had one Week previous to the Sale, at the Premises, and of Isaac Farror, 28, New Street, Birmingham.

1813

SUPERIOR TRAVELLING

Between Wolverhampton and Birmingham, by a new Coach, carrying four Insides only, called

THE WATERLOO.

WILL commence running on Thursday next, and will continue to go every Morning, at Eight o'Clock, from the Lion Inn, Wolverhampton, to the Castle Inn, Birmingham; calls at the New Bull's Head, Bilston, and the King's Head, Wednesbury; returns every Evening from the Castle Inn, Birmingham, at Six o'Clock, and will arrive at Wolverhampton by Eight o'Clock.

This will be found a preferable Conveyance to any of the Day Coaches now on that Road.—Performed by

WM. LAMB and Co.

Birmingham, Feb. 19, 1816.

1816

LOST from Wednesbury, about three Weeks ago, a young GREYHOUND DOG, black and white, with small Tick Marks. Any Person who has found him, and will bring him to Mr. Thomas Stone, King's Head Inn, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble; if stolen, any Person detaining him after this Notice will be prosecuted according to Law.

Wednesbury, April 4, 1817.

1817

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the Counties of Warwick and Stafford, will be LET by AUCTION to the best Bidder, at the House of Thomas Stone, situate at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, and known by the Sign of the King's Head, on the 19th Day of June next, between the Hours of Two and Five, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Third, "for regulating the Turnpike Roads;" which Tolls produced the last Year, at the respective Gates hereafter-mentioned, the following Sums above the Expences of collecting them, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
Soho Hill	541	0	0
Great Bridge and Hill Top	347	3	7½
Gospel Oak and Fire Holes	157	18	0
Three Mile and Weighing Machine	364	11	2
Holloway Bank and King's Hill Field	384	0	0
Burnt Tree	235	0	0

And will be put up at those respective Sums. Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must at the same Time give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

B. and S. CROWTHER,

Clerk to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads.
Wednesbury, May 14, 1818.

1818

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Road leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the end of Darlaston-lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse-lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the King's Head Inn, Wednesbury, on Monday the second day of February next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

S. F. CROWTHER,

Clerk to the Trustees.

Wednesbury, January 23, 1824.

1824

KING'S HEAD INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, the above Inn, in the month of February next, situate in the centre of the town; it is a house of very great business, both of in and out-door custom, and has a very good parlour company; with an entire yard, good stabling, &c. &c.

Apply to S. Constable, Wednesbury.

1825

KING'S HEAD, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, the above Inn, situate in the best part of the town for public business. There is a good draught of ale both in-door and out, a good parlour company, and a great market-house, with an entire yard and good stabling.—The coming-in will be low.

Enquire of S. Constable.

1826

TO INNKEEPERS, &c.

TO BE LET,

And may be entered upon immediately,

ALL those capital and extensive PREMISES situate in the High-street, WEDNESBURY, in the centre of the Market-place, known by the sign of the KING'S HEAD, and comprising, in addition to a most excellent house, good brewhouse and cellaring, a large yard, a five-stall stable, and roomy coach houses.

The above premises may be had with or without a large malthouse situated in the High Bullen.

The rent and further particulars may be known by application to Mr. HUNT, Solicitor, Wednesbury.

TO MALTSTERS.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, a large and commodious Malthouse, situate in the town of Wednesbury.

The above has an excellent supply of water, with every other requisite convenience, and is in all respects suitable for the purpose of carrying on an extensive business.

Particulars may be obtained by application to Mr. Jevons, King's Head Inn, Wednesbury.

1833

KING'S HEAD INN,

MARKET PLACE, WEDNESBURY.

TO be disposed of by private Treaty, the Good-will, Licences, &c. with immediate possession, of the above desirable and well-accustomed Inn, with Spirit Shop in front, extensive Stabling, Gig-house, Piggeries, and other conveniences thereunto attached.

The above is a good market house, in full business, with rent and payments moderate.

The Stock, Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, Casks, &c. with part of the Furniture, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

Satisfactory reasons can be given for disposing of the above if required, and for further particulars apply on the premises, or to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, Holyhead-road, Wednesbury (if by letter, post paid).

1838

GEORGE ALLIN, AUCTIONEER, LAND AGENT, and SURVEYOR, Walsall, begs respectfully to inform his Friends and the Public generally, that having taken and Removed to the George Inn, Wednesbury, he has made arrangements with Mr. FLANAGAN, AUCTIONEER and SURVEYOR, of Walsall, whereby the Business will be carried on as usual, at the Offices in Bridge Street, Walsall, under the Style or Title of "ALLIN and FLANAGAN."

Walsall, June 30th, 1854.

1854

NOTICE is hereby given, that the **PARTNERSHIP** heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned, **GEORGE ALLIN** and **WILLIAM HENRY FLANAGAN**, as Auctioneers, Appraisers, and Land Surveyors, at Walsall and Wednesbury, both in the county of Stafford, was this day **DISSOLVED** by mutual consent; and that the businesses will in future be carried on by the said **WILLIAM HENRY FLANAGAN** alone, by whom all moneys due to or from the said Partnership will be received and paid.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 1855.

GEORGE ALLIN,
WM. HY. FLANAGAN.

Witness to the respective signatures,
HENRY JACKSON, Solicitor, Westbromwich.

1855

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned **George Allin** and **Sarah Marshall**, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Victuallers, Wine and Spirit Dealers, trading under the style or firm of "Allin and Marshall," was dissolved on the 31st day of December last, and that the said trades will in future be carried on by the said **George Allin** alone, who will receive and pay all debts owing to and from the said Copartnership.—Dated this 30th day of January, 1856.

GEORGE ALLIN,
SARAH MARSHALL.

Witness—**E. MARKLEW**, Walsall, }
Solicitor.

I hereby give notice, that **STEPHEN STOKES**, lately in my employ as a Traveller and Agent in the Wine and Spirit Trade, has no power or authority to **BUY** or **SELL**, or to **PAY** or **RECEIVE** MONEYS on my behalf; and that any person paying money to the said **Stephen Stokes** as such traveller and agent, after notice hereof, will do so at his or her own risk.

GEORGE ALLIN, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Wednesbury.

Dated 21st day of February, 1856.

1856

THE GEORGE INN, AND OTHER VALUABLE COPYHOLD PREMISES, SITUATE AT WEDNESBURY, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT, all that **MESSUAGE**, or **TENEMENT**, called or known as the **GEORGE INN**, situate and being in the Market-place, **WEDNESBURY** aforesaid, together with the Stables, Coachhouses, Piggeries, and other Outbuildings thereto belonging; as the same are now in the occupation of **Mr. Thomas Stringer**.

And also all that **MESSUAGE**, or **TENEMENT**, now used as a Draper's Shop, adjoining the above, together with the Outbuildings thereto belonging; as the same are now in the occupation of **John Borral**.

The above premises are Copyhold of the Manor of **Wednesbury**, and each have an old-established trade attached thereto, and are supplied with every convenience for carrying on an extensive business.

For further particulars, apply to **Mr. S. P. SMITH**, Solicitor, Walsall.

1863

GEORGE ALLIN, AUCTIONEER, LAND AGENT, and Surveyor, Walsall, begs respectfully to inform his Friends and the Public generally, that having taken and Removed to the **George Inn**, **Wednesbury**, he has made arrangements with **Mr. FLANAGAN**, Auctioneer and Surveyor, of Walsall, whereby the Business will be carried on as usual, at the Offices in **Bridge Street, Walsall**, under the Style or Title of "**ALLIN and FLANAGAN**."

Walsall, June 30th, 1854.

1864

WEDNESBURY.

Valuable HOTEL, and Capital LIQUOR VAULTS, known as the 'George Hotel,' situated in the very best part of the Market Place Wednesbury; also the RETAIL SHOP, Dwelling-house and Premises adjoining.

MESSRS. **FARRINGTON & SON**, are instructed to Offer by Auction, at the house of **Mr. Whitehouse**, the **Turk's Head Hotel**, **Wednesbury** aforesaid, on **Friday**, the 13th day of **December**, 1867, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, in one or more lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that very desirable and highly important **PROPERTY** comprising **THE GEORGE HOTEL**, and capital **Liquor Vaults**, situated in the principal thoroughfare of the **Market Place**, **Wednesbury** aforesaid, standing at the junction of the **Dudley**, **Wolverhampton**, and **Walsall Turnpike Roads** there, with the **Stables**, **Coach-houses**, enclosed **Yard**, and premises thereto belonging, now in the occupation of **Mr. J. L. Weston**.

And also all that capital **Retail Shop**, **Dwelling-house** and **Premises** adjoining, in the occupation of **Mr. Thomas Hitchen**.

N.B.—The above **Property** is Copyhold of **Inheritance**, held of the **Manor of Wednesbury** aforesaid, is substantially built, and presents an opportunity for investment rarely to be met with.

For further particulars apply to **Mr. S. P. SMITH**, Solicitor, **Walsall**; or the Auctioneers of the same place.

1867

THE GEORGE INN.

MARKET PLACE, HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.
BY GILBERT and SON.—To be **SOLD**, the **LEASE**, **LICENSES**, **GOODWILL**, and **POSSESSION** of the above well-known **Corner LIQUOR VAULTS**, which has been successfully carried on for many years, and is now being disposed of in consequence of the death of the late Proprietor. This House occupies one of the principal positions in **Wednesbury**, and is now doing a first-class counter and out-door trade. The Premises are well fitted up, convenient, well arranged, and low rented.

In coming about £400.
Apply, **Gilbert and Son**, Auctioneers, 17, Colmore Row, Birmingham.

SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND PUBLIC-HOUSE EFFECTS,

AT THE
GEORGE INN, HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.
Including **Metallic** and other **Bedsteads**, five excellent **goose-feather Beds**, **caliasses**, **Chest of Drawers**, **Easy Chair**, large **Chimney Glass**, plate 50in. by 40in.; single-barrel **Gun**, **Perry's Fire-proof SAFE**, **Drinking Tables**, **Beer Machine**, eight-day **Clock**, in mahogany case; patent **Corking Machine**, seventy dozens of **Porter** and **Wine Bottles**, 100 large stone **Spirit Jars**, **Bottle Baskets**, capital **Malt Crusher**, two **Fat PIGS**, **Pig Trough**, **Wort Coolers**, **Mash Tub**, **Gathering Tub**, round and oval **Tubs**, twenty small **Casks**, twelve **Liquor Casks**, ten **Hogsheads** and **Half-hogsheads**, new 400-gallon **Store Casks**, together with the large

STOCK OF WINES AND SPIRITS, Including nine dozens of **British Wines**, fifty dozens of **Claret**, eighty-five dozens of excellent **Sherry**, thirty-one dozens of **Port**, eight dozens of **Port**, eight dozens of **Champagne**, **Irish** and **Scotch Whisky**, **Hennessy's** and other best **French Brandy**.

WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY GILBERT and SON, on **MONDAY NEXT**,

December 6.
Sale to commence at **Eleven o'clock** precisely.
Catalogues may be had on the Premises; or at the Auctioneers' Offices, 17, Colmore Row, Birmingham.
The **Stock of Wines and Spirits** will be sold at **Two o'clock**.

1869

**CLEAR - OUT SALE, AT THE GEORGE INN,
HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**

BY GILBERT and SON, on FRIDAY NEXT, Sept. 22,
by order of Messrs. Wickham and Pickmere, in consequence
of the expiration of the Lease—the **PUBLIC-HOUSE EFFECTS,
FIXTURES, and FITTINGS**, including two capital Ale Machines,
two Liquor Fountains, Counter, 25 feet long; Gaseliers, Pendants, and
Brackets, Drinking Tables, Gas Stove, Windsor and other Chairs,
Liquor Bottles, various Glasses, Benches, Partitioning and half-
glazed Doors, capital Pier Glass, in gilt frame, plate 50 by 40;
Kitchen Boiler, two large Copper Boilers, quantity of Wine and
other Bottles; together with a large stock of **WINEs**, including
quarter-cask of Sherry, quarter-cask of Port, hoghead of Sherry,
nine dozen of Champagne, &c., &c.

Sale commencing at Eleven o'clock
Catalogues at the Auctioneer's Offices, 17, Colmore Row.

1871

GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE,
*Situated on the great Post Road leading from Wol-
verhampton to Birmingham.*

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately,
the above long and well established Inn, with
every suitable Convenience of Brewhouse, Stables, &c.
&c. now in the Occupation of Mr. William Rock,
who will shew the Premises; and for further Particu-
lars apply to Mr. Joseph Adams, Draper, Wednesbury.

The Tenant may be accommodated with any Quan-
tity of good and well inclosed Land, not exceeding 37
Acres, nearly adjoining the House, and may have a
Term in the Inn for 7 or 14 Years.

1893

GEORGE INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately,
the aforefaid old and well-established INN, now in
the Occupation of Mr. Thomas Dean, who is declining
the Public Business on Account of other Engagements.—
The Premises are convenient and well adapted for the
Entertainment of Travellers, and consist of twelve Lodg-
ing Rooms, a large Dining Room, Parlour, Bar, good
Kitchen, excellent Cellars, Brewhouse, Workshop, Sta-
bling for about twenty Horses, and a large entire Yard;
the whole held at a very moderate Rent.

The Brewing Vessels, Fixtures, Stock of Ale, Wines,
Liquors, &c. (with or without the Household Furniture)
to be taken by Valuation.

For other Particulars apply to the said Mr. Dean, or
to T. Warren, Auctioneer, in Dale End, Birmingham.

1900

**GEORGE INN
HIGH STREET,
WEDNESBURY
HOT & COLD
LUNCHEONS
& BAR SNACKS
Monday-Friday Lunchtimes
12 noon-2.0p.m.
Tel. 021-556 0655**

**GEORGE INN
— the PUB
that offers
so much**

Ken and Maureen, tenants at the
GEORGE INN take great pride in
what the George Inn has to offer.
Excellent beer, notably the new
ASTON ALE which is brewed in
Birmingham, Quick Service at all
times coupled with a very helpful
staff, ensures you a good atmo-
sphere at all times. There are meals
and snacks at Lunchtime which
Maureen cooks and supervises
herself. Nothing is too much trouble
for Ken and Maureen, so why not
pop in, they will only be too pleased
to see you. Cheers.

**UPPER HIGH STREET,
WEDNESBURY.
Tel. 556 0655.**



1978

KEN AND MAUREEN
of the
GEORGE INN,
**HIGH STREET,
WEDNESBURY,**



would like to wish all their
customers Christmas Greetings
and all the best for a Happy
and Prosperous 1980.

1979

GEORGE AND DRAGON

40, Lower High Street, (Market Place), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mrs. Shepherd [1921]
John Davenport and Sons Brewery Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Loxton []
John Boot [] - **1870**);
John Whittington (**1870** - []
James Hatsell Walton [1871] - [1891]
William Archibald 'Archie' Walton [1900] - [1907]
Mrs. Alice Shepherd [1908]
James 'Jimmy' Mills (**1910 - 1914**)
Henry Millner [1912]
Mrs. Alice Shepherd [1915]
Edward Elcock Jones [1915] manager
Herbert M Berry [1916]
Mrs. Emily Selfe [1921] - **1922**);
Mrs. Alice Lawn Shepherd (**1922 - 1924**);
William Samuel McGill (**1924** - [1928]
William Sheldon McGill [1932]
Isaac William Sharman [1939] - [1940]
Frederick Henry Sherlock [1961] - **1963**);
Maurice Roy Lane (**1963**);
Stanley Leslie Hill (**1963 - 1964**);



Token

NOTES

Black Country Pubs in Old Photographs

“Wednesbury’s historic GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL was licensed from 1814. Apart from the handy location for market traders, many famous members of the acting profession stayed there during the days of local live theatre. The building may have been older than its license as 1777 was on a beam found during demolition. The hostelry was called ‘Loxtons’ after the first licensee. A prosecution under the then newly introduced Weights and Measures Act against *George Loxton* was dismissed. He had been accused of selling beer in too large measures. During the demolition the workers found a large round cellar which may have been used for services before greater religious tolerance allowed Methodists to build the nearby Spring Head chapel. A more sinister use of the cellar may have been for dog fights and ratting contests. As well as the cellar, a large catchpit to hold rainwater was discovered.”

Birmingham Journal 30/7/1859

“At Staffordshire Assizes Patrick Fitzpatrick, 24, was charged with feloniously cutting and wounding John Poole, at Wednesbury, on the 29th of May. It seemed that the prosecutor went into the GEORGE AND DRAGON, at Wednesbury, on the day in question, and seeing the prisoner there with a long black beard, intimated that a shave was requisite to improve his (prisoner’s) personal appearance. Prisoner, who is an Irishman, was in liquor, and took offence at the hint given him. He showed his resentment by stating that he would shave the prosecutor; and, drawing a knife from his pocket, cut him (prosecutor) across the upper lip. A struggle ensued, and in the course of it the prisoner stabbed the prosecutor in the side. The prisoner was found guilty of unlawfully wounding without any felonious intent, and was sentenced to nine months’ imprisonment.”

1871 Census

40, Lower High Street

- [1] *James Hatsell Walton* (41), manager of wine vaults, born London;
- [2] *Mary Ann Walton* (35), wife, born Leamington;
- [3] *James Edward Walton* (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William Archibald Walton* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Emily Beard* (31), barmaid, born Tipton;
- [6] *Maria Stokes* (47), nurse, born Beach Lane, Warwickshire;
- [7] *Jemima Cooper* (19), general servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 30/3/1877

“The list of nominations of Guardians for the several parishes of the union of West Bromwich for the ensuing year is as follows Wednesbury *James Hatsell Walton*, 40, Lower High Street, wine and spirit merchant.”

[He was a guardian for some years.]

Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1877 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable, strong, active Person, as Nurse. Good character indispensable. Apply, personally, to Mrs. *James H. Walton*, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

NURSE.—Wanted, a respectable, strong, active Person, as Nurse. Good character indispensable.—Apply, personally, to Mrs. *James H. Walton*, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1878 - Advert

“General Servant (respectable). Good character indispensable. Apply, Mrs. *James H. Walton*, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

GENERAL Servant (respectable). Good character indispensable.—Apply, Mrs. *James H. Walton*, Market Place, Wednesbury.

1881 Census

40, Lower High Street – GEORGE AND DRAGON

- [1] *James Walton* (51), wine and spirit merchant, born London;
- [2] *Mary A. Walton* (45), wife, born Leamington;
- [3] *William A. Walton* (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Frank M. Walton* (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Hampson* (35), barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *James Spooner* (19), general servant, born Wednesbury;

1891 Census

40, Lower High Street

- [1] *James H. Walton* (61), wine and spirit merchant, born London;
- [2] *Mary A. Walton* (55), wife, born Leamington;
- [3] *James E. Walton* (25), son, bank clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William A. Walton* (21), son, assistant to wine and spirit merchant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Frank H. Walton* (19), son, chemist's apprentice, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Frederick F. Lovegrove* (11), visitor, born Oxford;
- [7] *Alice M. Lovegrove* (9), visitor, born Oxford;
- [8] *Jane Yeoman* (23), barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Diana Knight* (24), domestic servant, born Darlaston;

Mary Ann Walton died in Leamington in 1912. In the death notice it says she was the widow of Alderman *James Hatsell Walton*, late of Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/10/1897

“Wednesbury Town Council.....

Alderman *Walton* announced that he was leaving the town to live at Oxford, and he desired to tender his thanks to his colleagues and to the officials for the uniform kindness and courtesy with which he had been treated. It was a great sorrow to him to have to say farewell. The Mayor and others gave expression to their regret at losing their colleague; their appreciation of the admirable work he had done for the town during a period of nearly twenty years, first as a member of the Local Board, and afterwards of the Town Council; and their sincere wishes for his future welfare. A resolution embodying these sentiments was ordered to be prepared and engrossed on vellum.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/8/1899

“This afternoon the remains of the late ex-Alderman *Walton*, of Wednesbury, were interred in the Borough Cemetery at Wood Green, amid every manifestation of sorrow and respect. The remains of the deceased gentleman were brought from Oxford, where he passed away, this morning, and were placed in St. John’s Church, awaiting interment. The funeral was of a very quiet nature, and was attended by representatives from the Wednesbury Town Council and West Bromwich Board of Guardians, two public bodies in which the late Alderman was, prior to his retirement, associated; whilst a number of his former colleagues in Wednesbury and the surrounding district followed. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. F. R. Harpham, rector of St. John’s, Wednesbury, and there were no flowers.”

Sporting Life 13/1/1900

“Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiard League.

The following are the entries and starts for the third billiard tournament, open to the beer and wine trade, promoted by Messrs. Burroughes and Watts.....

W. A. Walton, GEORGE AND DRAGON, Wednesbury, 40.”

1901 Census

GEORGE AND DRAGON

- [1] *William A. Walton* (31), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Bessie M. Walton* (26), wife, born Smethwick;
- [3] *Winifred A. Walton* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Thomas A. Walton* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Leslie P. Walton* (3 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Margaret A. Mason* (23), barmaid, born Bloxwich;
- [7] *Martha Laird* (56), widow, cook, born Hereford;
- [8] *Florence Gipton* (26), nurse, born Small Heath, Warwickshire;
- [9] *Emily Chaloner* (21), housemaid, born Bloxwich:

William Archibald Walton issued tokens from here.

Evening Despatch 27/3/1902

“The Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Handicap Billiards Tournament ended yesterday at Messrs. Burroughes and Watts’ Show Rooms, New Street, Birmingham.

The semi-finals were played in the afternoon. *G. Bevan*, Crown Stores, Camden Street, received 115, and beat *A. Mason*, Shakespeare Hotel, Stratford Road, received 20, by 250 to 242. The other semi-final was between *Mr. Walton*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Wednesbury, received 50, and *Mr. Sanworth*, Warwick Arms, Bradford Street, received 55. *Mr. Walton* won after an exciting game by 250 to 244.

The final took place at night, and the play was interesting from first to last. *Mr. Beavan* started at 230, and *Mr. Walton* at 100. Ultimately the latter caught his opponent up, and though stuck to well by *Mr. Beavan*, he won by 500 points to 473.”

William Archibald Walton, wine and spirit merchant and GEORGE AND DRAGON, established 1816, 40, Lower High Street. [1904]

Birmingham Mail 18/7/1905 - Advert

“Housemaid-Waitress Required, at once.

Apply, personally or by letter, to *W. A. Walton*, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

HOUSEMAID-WAITRESS Required, at once.—Apply, personally or by letter, to *W. A. Walton*, George and Dragon Hotel, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/3/1907

“The second round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Handicap Billiards Tournament was continued yesterday. In the afternoon, *R. Jones*, Black Horse, Cannock, rec.190, gained a surprisingly easy victory over *W. A. Walton*, GEORGE AND DRAGON, Wednesbury, rec.55, by 400 to 222.”

1911 Census

Lower High Street – GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL

- [1] James Mills (67), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] Annie Wright Mills (59), wife, married 36 years, born Handsworth;
- [3] Percy James Mills (32), son, barman, born Handsworth;
- [4] Alice Mabel Mills (29), daughter, barmaid, born Handsworth;
- [5] Victoria Elizabeth Mills (23), daughter, barmaid, born Birmingham;
- [6] George Lawson (29), boarder, electrical engineer, born Edinburgh;
- [7] Clara Latham (57), cook, born Sheffield;
- [8] Hannah Maria Yardley (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Lily Giles (25), table maid, born Walsall;

Walsall Observer 20/5/1911

“The formal opening of the Wednesbury Town club’s bowling green, situated at the rear of the club’s headquarters, the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, took place on Saturday, before a large attendance of members and friends. The president, Mr. T. A. Shephard, who has held this office since the club’s inception, a considerable number of years ago, performed the opening ceremony. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded the president for his presence, on the motion of Mr. J. Whistance (captain), and seconded by Mr. Holland (vice-captain). Subsequently the president participated in a friendly game.”

Evening Despatch 17/3/1914

“Much regret has been occasioned in Wednesbury by the death, which occurred on Saturday last, of Mr. *Jimmy Mills*, landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Market Place. Mr. *Mills* was a well-known and highly respected host, and previous to taking over the GEORGE four years ago he was for ten years at the WHITE HORSE. He was immensely popular among the travelling fraternity.”

James Mills – see also WHITE HORSE.

Edward Elcock Jones = Edward Alcock Jones

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/2/1915

“The sequel to a police raid on a Wednesbury public house was heard by the borough magistrates yesterday. The defendant was *Alice Shepherd*, the licensee of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Wednesbury Market Place, and she was summoned for opening licensed premises for the sale of intoxicating liquor during closing hours.

Mr. F. Cooper, who prosecuted on behalf of the police, explained that Mrs. *Shepherd* was to some extent only a nominal defendant, as full supervision and control of the house was entrusted to a manager, Mr. *Edward Elcock Jones*. The facts of the case were that on 11 January Police-sergeant Harris, when passing the house, noticed that the billiard room was lighted, and after keeping observation until one o’clock, he and three constables made a raid on the premises. They saw *Jones*, the manager, who said, ‘These are my friends.’ Proceeding to the billiard room they saw a large number of people, who had apparently been served intoxicating and other drinks. The party numbered forty-three, of whom twenty-six were females and seventeen males, and among the former were sixteen girls under the age of 19.

In the course of the evidence the police called three witnesses and the defence called thirteen.

For the defence, Mr. O. J. Glover submitted that all the party were bona fide guests of Mr. Firth, a pantomime promoter, who was staying a week in the town.

A fine of £5 and costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/2/1915

“The annual licensing sessions for the borough of Wednesbury were held yesterday, the Mayor (Mr. N. Bishop) presiding, when Superintendent Salt reported there were 135 licenses in the borough, being at the rate of one to each of 208.20 of the population. There was a reduction of two licenses compared with the previous year. Two license-holders had been proceeded against, and one convicted, and in that case – the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place – he had given notice of opposition to the renewal of the license.....

The whole of the licenses were renewed except that of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, which will be considered at the adjourned sessions.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1915

"At Dudley, yesterday, Mr. F. W. Green, in supporting, the application of *Edward Alcock Jones*, for the transfer to him of the license of the ANGEL INN, Castle Street, stated that in January last, while his client was manager of the GEORGE AND DRAGON Wednesbury, a pantomime company stayed at the hotel. A former proprietor of the company who had joined his Majesty's Forces visited Mr. Harry Firth, the then proprietor of the company. Mr. Firth invited a few friends, and the party took place without any attempt at concealment. The police visited the premises, and the licensee was convicted for opening licensed premises for sale of intoxicating liquors during closing hours. Applicant said he had held a license for twenty years.

Chief Superintendent Speke: Did the police find 43 people of the premises, 26 females and 17 males? – Witness: Yes.

Among the 26 females were there 16 under the age of 19, and among the males seven persons who resided in Birmingham and could not be termed lodgers? – Yes, sir.

There was a sort of raid made on the house by the police? – That is so.

And it was made at about one o'clock in the morning? – Yes.

And the magistrates inflicted a fine of £5? – Yes.

Applicant added that among the guests were three Excise officers, who told him he would be quite in order in allowing the party if no drink was paid for.

The Bench granted the application."

Blackcountryman (Autumn 1972)

'The Brewers Swan Sung' by G. Stevens

".....Mrs. Pardoe moved with her parents to the GEORGE AND DRAGON in the Market Place at Wednesbury. Here, fifty lunches were catered for daily; seven courses for two shillings – second helpings at no extra cost. The next move was to the ANGEL, in Dudley....."

[Mrs. Doris Clara Pardoe, nee Jones – see OLD SWAN, Netherton.]

Edward Elcock Jones was born in Penkridge.

He was married to Erena Mary.

See also BRITANNIA, Leabrook Road, Tipton, ANGEL, Castle Street, Dudley, BUSH, Buffery Road, Dudley, and STATION HOTEL, Dudley.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1915 - Advert

"Barmaid (Working) for Commercial Hotel; abstainer preferred; age 25-30; highest references; no Sunday work. GEORGE AND DRAGON, Wednesbury."

BARMAID (Working), for Commercial Hotel; abstainer preferred; age 25-30; highest references; no Sunday work.—George and Dragon, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1915 - Advert

"Housemaid Wanted; one who can wait at table preferred; good home; liberal outings.

Apply, stating wages, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury."

HOUSEMAID Wanted; one who can wait at table preferred; good home; liberal outings.—Apply, stating wages, George and Dragon Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/12/1915 - Advert

"General Wanted, two more kept; good wages; comfortable home; good outings.

GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury."

GENERAL Wanted, two more kept; good wages; comfortable home; good outings.—George and Dragon Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Gazette 8/5/1916

"The munition workers and sports lovers in the Midlands continue to do splendid work for the soldiers and sailors fund.....

Collected at flying billiard handicap, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury, per Mr. *H. M. Berry*, £1 11s."

Lichfield Mercury 12/5/1916 - Advert

"Housemaid-Waitress Wanted for Coffee Room in Hotel; experience in waiting not necessary; would teach intelligent maid; good home; liberal outings; easy situation.

Apply, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury."

HOUSEMAID-Waitress Wanted for Coffee Room in Hotel; experience in waiting not necessary; would teach intelligent maid; good home liberal outings; easy situation.—Apply, George and Dragon Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1919 - Advert

"Owing scarcity labour, fodder troubles, six useful Cart-horses and strong Half-legged, 16 hands, 5-7 years; suitable boaters, carters, contactors, farmers; can be seen at work; vet invited; £25 upwards; 60 Tip Carts, Tackle, cheap clear. Stables, GEORGE DRAGON HOTEL, Addison Terrace, Wednesbury."

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

"Wednesbury Licensing Sessions.....

GEORGE AND DRAGON, Market Place. Mr. A. J. Glover made application for approval of plans as proposed. Mrs. *Emily Selfe* was the present licensee. The plan put in would carry the desired alteration. The application was granted."

1921 Census

Market Place – GEORGE AND DRAGON

- [1] *Emily Selfe* (49), widow, hotel manageress, born Gloucester;
- [2] Thomas Shewen Selfe (22), son, mechanic, tube works, born Harborne;
- [3] Winifred Charlesworth (31), barmaid, born Hednesford, Staffordshire;
- [4] Henry Pococke (62), boarder, picture house manager, born London;
- [5] Annie Milner Blackhall (24), housemaid, born Leytonstone, Essex;
- [6] Marie Fuller (38), boarder, actress, born Widnes, Lancashire;
- [7] Thomas Fisher Moss (19), actor, born Methel, Fifehire:

Emily Selfe – see also BELLWETHER.

Trotting World and Horse Review 15/4/1922 - Advert

"At Stud. Govair, the Magnificently Bred Trotting Stallion.

Sire of Lord Harry; Fred G, and other notable winners.

His pedigree includes Barongale, Baron Wilkes, George Wilkes and Electioneer.

Stud Fee 3 Guineas. Grooms Fee 5s. Grass keep at 7s 6d per week.

For particulars and pedigree card apply J. Morgan, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury."

South Staffordshire Times 27/7/1922

"On Thursday last week, the Duke of York Lodge at the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL enrolled three new members, including the vicar of Wednesbury, the Rev. D. H. Crick, who afterwards addressed a few words to the brethren present. He assured them that after what he had learnt that evening he should make it his business to attend the lodge when opportunities arose, because he now knew that the carrying out of the principles of Buffaloism helped make men good and loyal citizens....."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1924

"Deeds of Arrangement.....

Alice Lawn Shepherd, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury, publican. Assignment upon trust, &c, except household furniture, &c. Trustee, C. E. Cowney, 55, Temple Row, Birmingham.

Dated May 24, filed May 27. Unsecured liabilities, £350; estimated net assets, £150."

Lichfield Mercury 20/3/1925 - Advert

"Wanted, Experienced Cook-General; good wages; good outings. Apply, GEORGE AND DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury."

WANTED, Experienced Cook-General; good wages; good outings.—App'y, George and Dragon, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/6/1925 - Advert

"Experienced Barmaid Wanted, at once. Good wages.

Apply, *McGill*, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury."

EXPERIENCED Barmaid Wanted, at once. Good wages.—App'y, McGill, George and Dragon Hotel, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Lichfield Mercury 23/4/1926

"Wanted, Housemaid-Waitress; also Bar-General; wages 10s; liberal outings; no family; no washing; Sunday closing.

Apply, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury."

Dudley Chronicle 14/10/1926

“A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held at Mr. *W. S. McGill*’s, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Tuesday afternoon.....”

William Samuel McGill – see also THREE FURNACES, Brierley Hill; BELL, High Street, Brierley Hill; STAR, Brierley Hill; OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Wednesbury; and BLUE BALL, Wednesbury.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 12/5/1928

“The green of the Wednesbury Town Bowling Club was formally opened on Monday evening at the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury. The club is one of the oldest in the town, and the green is now in fine condition.....”

Midland Advertiser 14/1/1933

“A representative gathering of the members of the Wednesbury Tradesmen’s Association was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL on Monday evening. Councillor F. H. Davies (chairman of the association) occupying the chair. Among the many matters discussed was one dealing with the question of outsiders coming into town with barrows on Sunday morning and Thursday afternoon, and selling goods while the trades members were closed. This practice was much deprecated and it was decided that steps should be taken to put a stop to that nuisance and also other unfair methods of trading.....”

Walsall Observer 17/8/1935

“An elderly man, William Henry Clarke (61), of 31, Church Hill, Wednesbury, who was said to have terrified the locality in which he lives, had a string of cases against him when he appeared at Wednesbury Police Court yesterday.....

The constable detailed various convictions against Clarke and said he had been to jail for assaulting the police and drunkenness, etc. Clarke admitted stealing a set of dominoes from the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury and wished that this should be taken into account.....”

[The aggregated sentences of charges that were proved resulted in imprisonment for 9 months.]

Birmingham Mail 2/3/1939 - Advert

“Owing to promotions there are Vacancies on our sales staff in the Bilston, and Wednesbury areas. Applications are invited for these positions from, smart, adaptable Men between 25 and 55 years with or without experience.

Call and see Mr. Cross at the PIPE HALL HOTEL, Bilston, on Friday, 3rd inst, between 10am and 11am, or at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Wednesbury, the same day between 11.30am and 12.30pm.”

Walsall Observer 6/5/1939

“At a meeting of the Wednesbury Trademen’s Association at the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday night, when Mr. L. S. Mincher presided, it was decided to organise an outing to Broadway on July 6. The Secretary (Mr. D. F. Starr) said he had written to the Walsall Postmaster regarding complaints of delay in the delivery of letters, and the Postmaster had promised to go into the matter.”

Walsall Observer 2/9/1939

“Scores of men were busy yesterday sand-bagging the Wednesbury Town Hall, police station, and other public buildings, and people who had not previously claimed their respirators filed into the Council House.....

Wardens posts arranged to date are as follows.....

GEORGE AND DRAGON, Market Place.”

1939 Register

40, Lower High Street

[1] *Isaac W. Sharman*, date of birth 9/2/1888, public house manager, married;

[2] *Annie B. Sharman*, dob 7/1/1890, public house manageress, married;

[3] *Maria (Baddeley) Hughes*, dob 24/1/1913, bar general, single;

[4] *Jennie (Bott) (Bartlett) Humphries*, dob 5/1/1921, bar general, single;

[5] *Cyril M. Barton*, dob 7/4/1908, draughtsman, single;

[6] *Fred George Collins*, dob 21/4/1900, travelling clerk, married:

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

"The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

GEORGE AND DRAGON, Wednesbury, 2s 6d."

Evening Despatch 1/7/1941 - Advert

"Bar-General, no Sunday trade; good home,
GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury."

BAR-GENERAL, no Sunday trade;
good home.—George and Dragon
Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1941 - Advert

"By Direction of the Trustees of Martha Powell, Deceased.

The Freehold Hippodrome with Lock-Up Shops adjoining, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

Licensed for Stage Plays and Full Variety. Seating Accommodation for 700 (upholstered tip-ups). Three fully-licensed Bars. Large Car Park at rear.

Also Freehold Properties and Freehold Building Site, area 2,661 square yards or thereabouts, adjoining Car Park.

Collins and Son will Sell by Auction at the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, October 7 at 7pm prompt, subject to Conditions of Sale."

Birmingham Mail 11/10/1941 - Advert

"Bed Rm. Suite mahogany bedstead 3-piece Suite and sundry other items for Sale viewed in Bm. no dealers.

App. Cook GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury."

BED Rm. Suite mahogany bedstead 3-piece
Suite & sundry other items for Sale viewed
in Bm. no dealers—App. Cook George &
Dragon Hotel Wednesbury

"Birmingham Daily Post 23/3/1942 - Advert

"Reliable Woman assist in bar occasionally exper. not necessary good wages child no objection.

GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962]

Birmingham Daily Post 18/2/1963

"Wednesbury licensees want local youths to carry their birth certificates to show as proof that they are old enough to drink. The tenants section of Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association is discussing the idea and it may be suggested to Wednesbury Borough Council that a by-law should be framed. Wednesbury justices have expressed concern at the increase in offences by young people of drinking under age. Last year there were five convictions; there were none the previous year. The justices have appealed to licensees for support in preventing similar offences this year.

The birth certificate suggestion has been put forward by Mr. A. A. Griffiths, licensee of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, who is chairman of the tenants section. He thinks it unfair that licensees should be penalised when they are doing their best to see that no one under age commits drinking offences in their houses. He said, 'When a licensee challenges young people he is told lies; but if a police officer walks into the house they become frightened and immediately admit their correct ages. This makes the publican out to be a liar.'

Mr. Maurice Lane, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, said, 'I think this is an excellent idea. I will support any move by local licensees to get a by-law through the council.'"

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1964

"The GEORGE AND DRAGON public house at Wednesbury is to close for good when 'time' is called tomorrow night. The premises, which are 150 years old, are to be converted for use by a dry cleaning firm."

It closed on 9th February 1964.

It was demolished in January 1965.

GEORGE AND DRAGON

9, Walsall Road, (9, Oakeswell End), (Walsall Street) / Pritchard Street, Oakeswell, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Palmer [1834]
Thomas Watson [1860] – [1868]
Joseph Whittingham [1871] – [1872]
Enoch Kendrick [1877]

NOTES

Walsall Street [1861]
9, Oakeswell End [1871]
9, Walsall Road [1872]

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Walsall Street
[1] Thomas Watson (36), retail brewer, born Stokes Mill, Derbyshire;
[2] Ruth Watson (31), wife, born Ashby de la Zouch;
[3] William Watson (12), son, born Wednesbury;
[4] Hannah Watson (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;
[5] Elizabeth Watson (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
[6] Samuel Watson (2), son, born Wednesbury;
[7] Ellen Watson (5 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
[8] Ruth Cannha (67), mother, widow, born Ashby de la Zouch;
[9] William Pugh (46), lodger, labourer, born Kates Hill;
[10] Mary Ann Tyler (16), house servant, born Radcliff, Lancashire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/5/1864

“*Thomas Watson*, the landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Oakswell End, was summoned for selling ale at quarter to twelve on Saturday night, the 7th instant. Sergeant Gasson met three women coming from the house with ale in jugs, which he tasted. The defence was that the ale was given to some poor women after they had been laying out a neighbour, as the relatives were too poor to make the usual acknowledgement of their services. The bench dismissed the case.”

Thomas Watson, beer retailer, Oakeswell. [1868]

Thomas Watson – see also OLD BLUE BALL.

1871 Census

9, Oakeswell End – GEORGE AND DRAGON

[1] Joseph Whittingham (32), publican, born Tipton;

[2] Harriet Whittingham (29), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Harriet Whittingham (7), daughter, born Hill Top;

[4] Martha Whittingham (5), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] John Whittingham (3), son, born Birmingham;

[6] Amelia Stanton (18), general servant, born Birmingham:

Joseph Whittingham, beer retailer, 9, Walsall Road. [1872]

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/6/1873

“The adjourned case of *Whittingham v Oakley* came on for hearing. The plaintiff, *Joseph Whittingham*, landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Oakeswell End, sought to recover from Thomas Oakley, roller, Hill Top, the sum of £50 as compensation for the breaking of the plaintiff’s leg. Mr. Dale (from the offices of Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, and Lewis) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Young (instructed by Mr. Ebsworth) for the defence.

The case occupied the greater part of the day, in addition to several hours on the day on which it was originally called on. The common ground was that on the 7th of October the defendant and some friends drove up to the plaintiff’s house, in a cab, and after being supplied with ale at the door, entered the house and went into the kitchen; and that while they were there the plaintiff’s leg was broken. As to the cause of the mishap the parties differed considerably, the plaintiff’s contention being that the defendant laid hold of him, twisted him round, and threw him down, breaking his leg; and the defendant’s being that he and the plaintiff shook hands, and the latter, being the worse for drink, immediately afterwards fell down and broke his leg, no one being within a yard or two of him at the time.

The plaintiff represented that as a result of the breakage, he had been laid up for 24 weeks, and he claimed the sum named as compensation for his sufferings, and to cover expenses which he had incurred in procuring surgical and other assistance. The bill of his surgeon, Mr. Garman, amounted to £3.

His Honour reserved his decision for the purpose of making a personal inspection of the premises where the occurrence took place.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1873

“*Whittingham v Oakley*.....

His Honour reserved judgement until he had seen the room in which plaintiff fell, with a view to ascertain whether a witness who was called for him could see what happened, it being alleged on behalf of the defendant that it was impossible for her to have seen it. His Honour now stated that having inspected the locus in quo, he was satisfied the witness had spoken the truth, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £30.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/8/1877 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Freehold Residential and other Properties; Eligible Building Land and Beerhouse, at Wednesbury and Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. F. B. Scholefield, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd days of August, 1877.....

Lot 5. All that desirable Freehold Beerhouse, known by the sign of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, situate at the corner of Pritchard Street and the main road leading to Walsall. The House contains three Bed Rooms, Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Brewhouse, two Cellars, Yard, and Out-buildings belonging thereto, now occupied by Mr. *Enoch Kendrick*. The area of this lot is 683 square yards.”

LOT 5.—All that desirable FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE, known by the sign of the “GEORGE AND DRAGON INN,” situate at the corner of Pritchard Street and the main road leading to Walsall. The House contains three Bed Rooms, Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Brewhouse, two Cellars, Yard, and Out-buildings belonging thereto, now occupied by Mr. Enoch Kendrick. The area of this lot is 683 square yards.

GLADSTONE

1, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1921], [1999]

LICENSEES

William Shinton [1861] – [1881]
Joseph Dicken [1886] – [1887]
Martha Harvey [1890]
Nathaniel Longmore [1891] – [1896]
Joseph Hartshorne [1901] – [1904]
Wilfred Woodhouse [1911]
Samuel Griffiths [1921]
Albert Ridgway [1931] – [1940]
Albert Emms [1939]
Joseph Wheeler [1961] – [1966]
Kate and Keith Elson [1978]
M Carter [1983]
John Henry Barlow []

NOTES

It was known locally as the “Painted Lady”.

It had a beerhouse license.

William Shinton = William Shenston

William Shinton, beer retailer, Portway Road. [1861], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]

1861 Census

Portway Road

- [1] *William Shinton* (42), publican and butcher, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Louisa Shinton* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Rebecca Shinton* (16), daughter, born Horsehay, Shropshire;
- [4] *Aaron James* (10), step-son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Thomas Shinton* (6), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *James Shinton* (2), son, born Wednesbury;

William Shinton, retailer of beer, Portway Road. [1862]

Birmingham Journal 14/11/1868

“East Staffordshire Election.....

Mr. Brogden addressed a crowded and enthusiastic meeting at the GLADSTONE ARMS INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury; Mr. T. S. Hatton presiding. The candidate spoke at some length, and his remarks were received with great heartiness. At the close a vote of confidence in him was carried with three ringing cheers, followed by a call for three groans for Mr. Walker.”

[Alexander Brogden was Liberal MP for Wednesbury from 1868 to 1885.]



2005

1871 Census

1, Portway Road

- [1] William Shinton (53), publican, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [2] Louisa Shinton (48), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Thomas Shinton (16), son, labourer, born West Bromwich;
- [4] James Shinton (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] John Shinton (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Kate Laffe (16), general servant, born Wednesbury;

William Shinton, beer retailer, 1, Portway Road. [1872]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 31/8/1872

“Poxton of Wednesbury and H. Houldsworth of Derby are matched to run one mile level at the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, for £25 a side, on Monday, September 9; £10 a side is down in the hands of Mr. *Shenston*, GLADSTONE INN, Wednesbury, the stakeholder. Mr. B. Hawkins of Wednesbury referee.”

Dudley Herald 30/10/1880

“James Lyons was charged on a warrant with being drunk on licensed premises on the 28th August last. PC Steel said on the day in question he saw the defendant turned out of the GRAPES INN, Portway Road. He went into the GLADSTONE INN. Witness went in and saw defendant there with a quart of ale before him. He was drunk. He was also charged with being drunk on Saturday night last, in Meeting Street, Wednesbury, and his wife, Mary Lyons, with obstructing the police. PC Steel said when he was about apprehending the male defendant his wife obstructed him, and would not let him take him into custody. Mary Lyons was discharged with a caution, and the male defendant was fined for the first case 19s 6d including costs, or in default seven days, and for the second 9s 6d or in default seven days.”

1881 Census

1, Portway Road – GLADSTONE INN

- [1] William Shinton (64), beerseller, born Shropshire;
- [2] Louisa Shinton (56), wife, born Staffordshire;
- [3] Thomas Shinton (26), son, forgeman, born Wednesbury;
- [4] James Shinton (22), son, forgeman, born Staffordshire;
- [5] John Shinton (19), son, forgeman, born Staffordshire;
- [6] Aaron J. Shinton (6), grand-son, scholar, born Staffordshire;
- [7] William Savage (54), lodger, blacksmith, born Shropshire;
- [8] Alexander (50), lodger, labourer, born Liverpool;

William Shinton died in the 2nd quarter of 1885.

WEDNESBURY.—Desirable Beerhouse, Gladstone Inn, Portway Road, near Dudley Street; occupying good business position; well-arranged premises. Illness cause of leaving. In-coming about £50.—Apply, E. B. Scholefield, Valuer and Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/5/1886 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Desirable Beerhouse, GLADSTONE INN, Portway Road, near Dudley Street; occupying good business position; well-arranged premises. Illness cause of leaving. In-coming about £50. Apply, E. B. Scholefield, Valuer and Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1886

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Thomas Roberts, keeper of the PORTWAY INN, was convicted of creating a disturbance in the house of *Joseph Dicken*, the GLADSTONE INN, in the same locality, and was fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.

It seemed that whilst in the house on the 6th instant he used offensive language, and on being told to leave he gave another customer three smacks in the face, broke a jug, and threatened the landlord.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1887

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, William Gorton (66), alias ‘Jeremy Diddler’ of Hill Top, miner, no fixed abode, was brought up, on remand, charged with having, by false pretences obtained 2d from John Cuxson, keeper of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, and 2s from *Joseph Dicken*, keeper of the GLADSTONE INN, Portway Road.

It seemed that the prisoner went to the house of the former prosecutor and represented that he was Lord Calthorpe’s keeper, and had been out since two o’clock in the morning looking for poachers, five of whom he had secured and handed over to Superintendent Holland, who had got them locked up at the station. He accounted for his dilapidated appearance by saying that it was necessary to put on old clothes to disguise himself, so that the poachers might not recognise him, and he added that he had left his horse and trap at the BELL INN, Walsall Road. Upon these representations he obtained a loan of 2s, but the prosecutor, having some misgivings, sent a messenger after him, with the result that he was traced to a lodging house in High Bullen, where he was regaling himself with a beef steak. No horse and trap could be found at the BELL INN. The prosecutor went to him at the lodging house and asked for the return of the 2s, and the prisoner handed over 1s 7d, telling him he would have to be satisfied with that. He was then handed over to Sergeant Lightfoot, who had already had information of the other fraud. In that case the prisoner went to Mr. *Dicken*’s house, and said he was the manager at Messrs. Addenbrooke’s colliery, and having fallen out with the publican who had been in the habit of supplying the pit beer, was about to transfer the custom – which he said amounted to about £80 a quarter – to the prosecutor. He then obtained 2s and said he would give the prosecutor half-a-crown the next day.

Superintendent Holland said he had known the prisoner as ‘Jeremy Diddler, of Hill Top,’ for thirty-five years, and knew that he had been convicted eight times previously, and sent to penal servitude three times for similar offences to those now charged against him. He had also once attempted suicide.

The prisoner was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Chronicle 2/7/1887

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The following prisoners who had pleaded guilty were sentenced as follows.....

William Gorton (69), no occupation, for false pretences, at Wednesbury, on May 21, to 12 months’ hard labour and three years’ police supervision.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1887

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday Michael Joyce, Portway Road, a young man, against whom there were previous convictions, was charged with unlawfully wounding Rose Dicken, daughter of the keeper of the GLADSTONE INN, Portway Road.

It seemed that at about eight of o’clock on Monday night the accused went into the inn and began to use obscene language. He was ordered to leave, but he refused, and the landlord went to turn him out, his daughter, the complainant, going to his assistance, he being a cripple. Whilst she was so engaged the prisoner seized her right hand, and severely bit the forefinger. The police were then sent for, and he was removed to the police station.

The prisoner said he was very sorry, but he had had ‘a drop of beer.’

The Stipendiary sentenced him to four months’ imprisonment, with hard labour, remarking that he had committed a very brutal and cowardly assault.”

Birmingham 4/3/25 15/10/1890

“At Wednesbury Police court, yesterday, Arthur Waldron applied for the transfer of the GLADSTONE INN, Portway Road, to him from *Martha Harvey*. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared in support of the application, and Superintendent Holland opposed.

The applicant, in answer to questions, said he had kept the BRITANNIA INN, Wednesbury, for some time without complaint, and that afterwards he became manager of the TALBOT INN, Queen Street, West Bromwich. Whilst there, about two months ago, he was proceeded against for allowing gaming on the premises, and was fined in two cases. Since then he had faithfully carried out the promise which he made to the Bench that he would not have anything more to do with betting. He was fined £5 in one case and 40s in the other.

Inspector Ainsworth deposed to the convictions, and to the defendant having previously been warned with respect to card playing on his premises.

The Bench refused the application.”

1891 Census

1, Portway Road – GLADSTONE INN

- [1] *Nathaniel Longmore* (37), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Annie Longmore* (29), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *William R. Longmore* (8), son, scholar, born Smethwick;
- [4] *Sarah L. Longmore* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Beatrice Longmore* (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Nathaniel Longmore, beer retailer, 1, Portway Road. [1896]

1901 Census

1, Portway Road

- [1] *Joseph Hartshorne* (55), coach axle worker, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Zillah Hartshorne* (46), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Florence Hartshorne* (19), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Albert T. Hartshorne* (16), son, labourer, iron works, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *John Hartshorne* (81), father, widower, retired miner, born Tipton;
- [6] *Joseph Washburn* (14), grand-son, labourer, iron works, born Northwich, Cheshire;

Joseph Hartshorne, beer retailer, 1, Portway Road. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/6/1907

“Before the Wednesbury magistrates yesterday, Thomas Connor, of Portway Road, was charged with refusing to quit the GLADSTONE INN, and with breaking a window, doing damage to the amount of £4 10s. He had to be ejected from the public house, and afterwards threw a brick through the window. A fine of 10s and costs was imposed, and he was also ordered to pay the damage.”

1911 Census

1, Portway Road

- [1] *Wilfred Woodhouse* (27), coal tub emptier, above ground, and beerhouse keeper, born Dudley;
- [2] *Edith Woodhouse* (27), wife, married 7 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Doris Woodhouse* (4), daughter, born England;
- [4] *Wilfred Woodhouse* (11 months), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Leonard Sault* (23), brother, groom, born Wednesbury;

1921 Census

1, Portway Road – GLADSTONE INN

- [1] *Samuel Griffiths* (70), license holder, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Griffiths* (69), wife, home duties, born Sedgley;
- [3] *John Thomas Randall* (53), son-in-law, bricklayer, born Tipton;
- [4] *Eliza Randall* (50), daughter, tailoress, born Sedgley;

Samuel Griffiths – see also BELL AND CASTLE.

Albert Ridgway worked as a striker at Jon Edwards' Junction Works.
See also GLOBE, Holloway Bank, West Bromwich.

Albert Emms was married to *Esther*.

1939 Register

1, Portway Road (4 of 6)

- [1] *Esther Emms*, date of birth 6/2/1897, unpaid domestic duties and attending the bar, married;
- [2] *Fanny (Hadley) Abbott*, dob 19/9/1916, domestic duties and attending the bar, single;
- [3] *Francis Abbott*, dob 5/6/1916, slanger, constructional engineering, single;
- [4] *Edgar Ablett*, dob 2/8/1913, machine worker, constructional engineering, single;

Evening Despatch 15/3/1940

“Sentence of one month’s imprisonment was passed at Wednesbury today on Harry Hooper, aged 19, of 32, Great Western Street, Wednesbury, charged with stealing a cigarette case, door key, and wristlet watch, belonging to persons at the GLADSTONE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, where he had been lodging since the beginning of this year.

Hooper expressed regret to the Bench, and asked for a chance to join the Army. Supt. J. H. Hall said Hooper had quite a bad record and was at present on license from Borstal.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Darts League, Second Division. [1946]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/2/1978 – Thank You

“The GLADSTONE, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Kate and Keith Elson, champion hosts. Thanks for everything. Ladies Darts Team.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/11/1979 - Advert

“Nobby from the GLADSTONE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, wishes all Nobby’s Loonies the very best of luck in the Darts Tournament. All the best for the day.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/1/1981 - Advert

“Nobby from the GLADSTONE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, would like to wish all his customers and friends A Very Merry and Prosperous New Year. See you all in 1981.”

Walsall Observer 13/2/1981

“The darts and dominoes players of Bloxwich Mencap turned their skills to good account for charity, raising just over £60 last week. They lost the darts match at the GLADSTONE pub, Portway Road, Wednesbury, by the slim margin of 5-4. But the match realised £28.70.

At the FOUR CROSSES, Leamore, the dominoes game finished 10-3 in the host side’s favour. But the Mencap were happy with the £32.78 return.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Motor Services Crib League. [1986]

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1994 - Advert

“The Insolvency Act 1986. In Bankruptcy in the Walsall County Court.

Re: *John Henry Barlow*, of the ROYAL OAK, Walker Road, Blakenhall Heath, Walsall, West Midlands, and lately at the GLADSTONE, Portway Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, and lately carrying on business as a Newsagent. On 20 July 1994 the above-named Court made a Bankruptcy Order against the above-named debtor.

Note: All debts due to the estate should be paid to me.

4 August 1994.

R. W. Gardener, Official Receiver, Commercial Union House, 22, Martineau Square, Birmingham.”

It was refurbished in December 1998.

Black Country Bugle 27/5/1999 - Advert

“Fully Refurbished. The NEW GLADSTONE, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Karaoke every Thursday and Saturday evening.

Thursday night Foster Promotion night.

Early doors special Monday-Friday 4-7 Fosters first pint £1.80, second pint 99p.

Banks’s and Banks’s Bitter 99p a pint.

Bank Holiday Monday – Family Funday. Bouncy Castle and Karaoke.

Coming soon live entertainment with Janny Lee Stone. Friday 25th June 8.45pm.

Phone Colin or Mandy for details on 0121-502 3257.”

Express and Star 9/8/1999 - Advert

“Town Centre Public House. Single trading area community pub. Fully fitted catering kitchen. Car park and garden with outside drinking area. Benefits from an exceptional refurbishment in December 1998. 3 bedroom private accommodation. Last 12 months wet trade 150 Barrels. Tenancy. Approximate in-goings from £10,000 (purchase plan available for fixtures and fittings).”

[2006]

Closed [2007]

Demolished [2008]

**THE INSOLVENCY
ACT 1986**

**IN BANKRUPTCY IN
THE WALSALL
COUNTY COURT**

No. 59 of 1994

**RE: JOHN HENRY BAR-
LOW of 'The Royal Oak',
Walker Road, Blakenhall
Heath, Walsall, West
Midlands and lately at
'The Gladstone', Portway
Road, Wednesbury, West
Midlands and lately car-
rying on business as a
NEWSAGENT.**

**On 20 July 1994 the
above-named Court made
a Bankruptcy Order
against the above-named
debtor.**

**NOTE: All debts due to
the estate should be paid
to me.**

4 August 1994

**R.W. GARDNER
Official Receiver
Commercial Union House
22, Martineau Square
Birmingham B2 4UP**

1994

<p>FULLY REFURBISHED THE NEW GLADSTONE Portway Road, Wednesbury Karaoke every Thursday & Saturday evening Thursday night Foster Promotion night</p> <div><p>Early doors special Monday-Friday 4-7 Fosters - First pint £1.80 Second pint 99p Banks's & Banks's Bitter 99p a pint</p></div> <p>BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY - FAMILY FUNDAY Bouncy castle & Karaoke COMING SOON LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WITH JANNY LEE STONE Friday 25th June 8.45pm Phone Colin or Mandy for details on 0121-502 3257</p>

1999

GOLDEN CROSS

24, Market Place, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinson's Brewery Limited [1915], [1938]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1961], [1987]
Enterprise Inns [1998]
Stonegate Group [2024]

LICENSEES

Joseph Danks [1834] – [1846]
William Danks [1860] – [1861]
Eliza Danks [1868] – [1881]
Frank George Cox [1891] – [1901]
Benjamin Chambers [1904]
Albert Henry Ashwood [1911] – [1912]
Samuel Roberts [1913] – [1943]
Ronald Wilson [1961] – **1965**;
Alan Simcox **(1965 – [1966])**
Blake [1970]
Les Smith **(1984 – 1988)**
David Ingles **(1987 – [1988])**
Tom Norton [1997]
John Nicholls **(2005 – [2010])**

NOTES

It was originally the GOLDEN CROSS.

OLD GOLDEN CROSS [1901], [1915], [1921], [1943]
NEW GOLDEN CROSS [1961]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

John Wesley preached opposite here in 1743.

Joseph Danks, beer retailer, Market Place. [1835], [1841]

1841 Census

Market Place

- [1] Elizabeth Danks (50), born Staffordshire;
- [2] Martha Danks (20), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Eliza Danks (15), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Sarah Danks (5), born Staffordshire;
- [5] William Danks (25), butcher, born Staffordshire;
- [6] Charles Danks (20), whitesmith, born Staffordshire;
- [7] Mark Danks (15), whitesmith, born Staffordshire:

Joseph Danks, retailer of beer, Market Place. [1842]



2008



2025

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/10/1843

“David Richards, of Wednesbury, will run Hayward, of Bilston, 140 yards, for £5 or £10 a side. If this does not suit, he will run any one within four miles of Wednesbury for the same sum. His money is ready at James McGill’s, or at *Joseph Danks’s*, GOLDEN CROSS, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/7/1846

“*Joseph Danks* was fined 10s and costs for having his house open after eleven o’clock, at Wednesbury, on the 16th of June.”

Birmingham Journal 1/7/1848

“On Sunday afternoon, as a labourer named Samuel Lee was walking by the side of the new canal, near Wednesbury, he observed the body of a man in the water, and on giving an alarm he obtained the assistance of Police-constable William Thorneloe, who recognised the deceased to be Charles Noakes, cabinet maker, of the town, whom he had known for six or eight months. On enquiry it was ascertained that the deceased had been at the house of William Danks, butcher, of Wednesbury, on the previous Wednesday, when they had a walk together, and afterwards adjourned to the NAVIGATION INN, on the Walsall Road, where they had some ale and porter, and in the course of conversation Noakes told Danks that his circumstances were much straightened, and if they did not mend he would ‘make a hole in the water.’ It was eleven o’clock at night when they set out for home, but they had not proceeded far when the deceased left him, saying ‘he had a job to do,’ and he never afterwards saw him alive. The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned, but little doubt exists that the unfortunate man put a period to his own existence, a letter having been found in his possession from a brother who resides in London to whom he had applied for assistance. The unfortunate man has left a wife and a large family to deplore his loss.”

1851 Census

Market Place

- [1] William Danks (36), butcher, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Charles Danks (32), brother, whitesmith, fire irons, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Mark Danks (26), brother, whitesmith, fire irons, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Eliza Danks* (25), sister, housekeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Sarah Danks (14), sister, house servant, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/6/1852

“At Wednesbury Town Hall, on Tuesday.....

William Danks, Charles Danks, and Mark Danks, brothers, were fined 10s each and costs, for obstructing police constable Clarke in the execution of his duty on the night of the 22nd ult.”

1861 Census

Market Place

- [1] Charles Danks (43), whitesmith, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Mark Danks (36), brother, whitesmith, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Eliza Danks* (34), sister, housekeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Emma J. Peters (15), niece, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 6/8/1866

“A very distressing case of suicide occurred on Thursday at Wednesbury.

The GOLDEN CROSS INN, Market Place, was kept by two brothers and a sister, named *Danks*; and another kept a butcher’s shop close to. On Thursday morning, Mark Danks, one of the brothers who lived at the GOLDEN CROSS, and who followed the business of a screw-maker in a shop at the back of the inn, arose about six o’clock, and went into his brother’s butcher’s shop. He remained talking to his brother for a few minutes, and then, saying he would commence his work, went to his own shop, which could be seen from the butcher’s shop. After he had been there some five or ten minutes, his brother, thinking it strange he did not pursue his usual course of first opening the shutters, sent a man to see what was the matter, and the man found Mark suspended by a rope from the ceiling of an upper room, his feet hanging down the ladders which led to the shop below. An alarm was at once given, deceased was cut down, and medical assistance was immediately obtained, but life was found to be extinct.

Deceased was 40 years of age, and a widower, and for some time has been addicted to intemperance. For the last week he had been drinking heavily, and on the night before his death he slept very little, and appeared very much excited and restless. The rope by which he was suspended was a new sash-cord, so that it is probable it had been obtained on purpose, leading to the supposition that the rash act was premeditated.

At the inquest held on the body, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the TALBOT INN, on Saturday, the Jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity, the result of excessive drinking."

Eliza Danks = Elizabeth Danks

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/9/1868

"*Eliza Danks*, landlady of the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, was summoned by Superintendent Holland to the Police Court, for unlawfully and knowingly permitting gambling in her house.

Richard Ready, pork butcher, stated that on the evening of the 8th instant he was at the defendant's house. There were seven or eight other men there at the time and they played cards for money, and witness lost about twelve or fourteen pounds. The game they played was 'Blind Hookey.'

Mr. Sheldon, who appeared on behalf of the defendant, contended that his client knew nothing of the gambling, and that therefore she could not be guilty of 'knowingly and wilfully' permitting it.

Mr. Spooner, however, decided that she was cognizant of the fact that gambling was going on in her house, and imposed the full penalty of £5 and costs."

South London Press 13/11/1869

"A young married woman named Emma Ordidge, aged 23, on Friday committed suicide under the most distressing circumstances, at the GOLDEN CROSS beerhouse, Wednesbury, where she lived with her aunt Mrs. *Danks*, who, with a sister conducts the house. The poor creature, it seems, was married about 18 months ago to John Ordidge, who at that time was not 20 years of age, and who, since the marriage, has lived with his parents in Trowse Lane, and failed, so it is said, to provide for his wife's maintenance. Her anomalous and painful position naturally produced great depression of spirits, which, within the past few weeks, increased greatly. On Thursday she threatened to drown herself; and on Friday morning her aunt discovered that she was very ill, and called in a neighbour. The infatuated young woman then admitted that she had eaten a two-penny packet of vermin powder, adding, when asked the reason for the rash act, 'You know I'm in trouble.' Mr. Tucker and Mr. Morris, chemists attended, and administered emetics; and they were followed by Mr. Iliffe and Mr. Collins, surgeons, who applied the stomach pump, and other remedies, but without avail, the unfortunate sufferer expiring about two hours later, and to the last entreating those who were exerting themselves on her behalf to let her die. The poison, Barber's vermin killer, she had procured at the shop of Mr. Morris, chemist, where she had previously been a customer for the article."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/1/1871

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), *Eliza Danks*, landlady of the GOLDEN CROSS beerhouse, Market Street, was summoned for permitting gambling in her house on the 2nd inst.

Police-constable Farnell was on duty in Market Street on the night in question, when he heard a noise proceeding from defendant's house, which led him to suspect that something improper was going on. He went up an entry leading to the back of the premises, and on looking through the window of a room adjoining the kitchen (the blind being a little on one side), he saw two men playing at cards. From the conversation which was taking place in the room, the officer could tell that there were other persons present, and that the men were playing for ale. In a few minutes after he went into the room, but he could see nothing of the cards, they having evidently been cleverly 'shuffled' out of sight on his approach.

Mr. James Smith, who appeared for the defendant, was instructed to deny the charge. He called several witnesses, who stated that it was true the occupants of the room were 'talking about cards' at the time mentioned by the officer, but it was untrue that they were playing.

The officer was recalled, and in reply to Mr. Spooner, he said that soon after he had visited the defendant's house, one of the men whom he saw there came to him in the High Bullen and said, 'You didn't see me play at cards did you? It was two others who were playing.'

Mr. Spooner said he did not hesitate to say that, unless the policeman had committed gross perjury, the case was as clear as it could be. He did not doubt the evidence of the officer in the least. Defendant was fined £5 and costs, amounting to 14s 6d."

1871 Census

24, Market Place

- [1] *Eliza Danks* (42), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Peters* (51), sister, married, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Sarah Knowles* (34), sister, married, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Prudence Lort* (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William Lyndon* (35), lodger, furnace man, born Glasgow:

Sarah Knowles – see DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Ridding Lane.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1871

“West Bromwich Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The Magistrates also granted the renewed applications of....

Elizabeth Danks, beerhouse keeper, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

Mrs. Eliza Danks, beer retailer, 24, Market Place. [1872]

Midland Examiner 19/8/1876

“*Eliza Danks* was summoned for keeping her house open – the QUEENS [sic] CROSS, INN, Wednesbury – during prohibited hours. Police-constable Trimm said on Sunday morning, after midnight, he saw a woman come out of the defendant’s house with some ale.

Mr. Sheldon appeared for the defendant, and pleaded that the ale was paid for before closing time, and the Stipendiary dismissed the case with costs.”

Dudley Herald 2/9/1876

“On Wednesday the Annual Licensing Sessions for the parishes of West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton, &c, was held at the Public Office, West Bromwich.....

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston presented the following ‘black’ list of offences against publicans and beersellers which had been committed during the year ending 30th August last.....

Eliza Danks, GOLDEN CROSS INN, beerhouse, Market Place, Wednesbury, prohibited hours, to pay costs The offending publicans were ordered to appear at the adjourned licensing meeting before their licenses could be renewed.”

AND

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“West Bromwich Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The magistrates granted the renewal of the licenses of ten public houses and twenty beerhouses that had been adjourned from the general licensing day in consequence of the non-appearance of the applicants, or from convictions.”

1881 Census

24, Market Place – GOLDEN CROSS

- [1] *Eliza Danks* (50), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Peters* (60), sister, married, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *William Wright* (58), boarder, widower, labourer in iron works, born Wednesbury:

Magnet 22/11/1884 - Advert.

“Wanted, Twelve Nights, Monday next, Nov 24, by Lottie Marsh, Character Vocalist, and Male Impersonator.

Wire or write to GOLDEN CROSS INN, Wednesbury, Staffs.”

WANTED,—Twelve nights, Monday next, Nov 24, by **LOTTIE MARSH**, Character Vocalist, and Male Impersonator.—Wire or write to Golden Cross, Inn, Wednesbury, Staffs.

1891 Census

24, Market Place – GOLDEN CROSS

- [1] *Frank G. Cox* (30), joiner and beerhouse keeper, born Andover, Hampshire;
- [2] *Emily Cox* (30), wife, born London;
- [3] *Bertha D. Cox* (5), daughter, born Dudley;
- [4] *Lois Silk* (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 12/1/1895

“Wednesbury Town Council.....

The Building Committee asked the council to approve four improvement plans and recommended that a sum of £80 be paid to the owners of the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Market Place, for the piece of land in front of the house for the purpose of street improvement.”

Frank G. Cox, beer retailer, 24, Market Place. [1896]

Walsall Advertiser 22/5/1897

“*Frank Cox*, of Market Place, Wednesbury, was charged at Rushall on Monday with having allowed a dog to be at large without collar or muzzle. Police-constable 309 (Parsons) said that on the 2nd inst he saw a dog at Great Barr without collar or muzzle. No one would claim the dog, and he therefore impounded it. Subsequently the defendant claimed the animal. Defendant said that the dog wore a collar with a name-plate on. It was decoyed away from his premises, but had the collar on when he recovered it. The officer denied this, and defendant was ordered to pay 5s 6d and costs.”

Sporting Life 14/8/1897

“We have received articles and £2 (£1 a side) for a match between G. Conway, of Wednesbury, and *Frank Cox*, of the GOLDEN CROSS, Wednesbury, wherein they agree to shoot at five pigeons each, 24 yards rise, 60 yards fall, from three traps five yards apart.....

The match to take place at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, on Thursday, August 26.”

1901 Census

Market Place – GOLDEN CROSS

[1] *Frank George Cox* (40), beer retailer and joiner, born Andover, Hampshire;

[2] *Emily Cox* (40), wife, born London;

[3] *Bertha D. Cox* (15), daughter, born Dudley;

[4] *Dorothy Cox* (7), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Amelia Kendrick* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Frank George Cox – see also PRINCE OF WALES, King Street, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 24/8/1901

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt reported that at the licensing sessions last year the renewal of the licenses of one licensed victualler and one beerhouse keeper were opposed, mainly on the ground that they had been convicted of drunkenness, and at the adjourned meeting the justices renewed the licenses conditionally upon the licenses being transferred to other persons as early as possible. The licensed victualler had transferred his license, but the beerhouse keeper had not done so as yet.

The license of the OLD GOLDEN CROSS not having been transferred as arranged at the last meeting, the Bench wished the Superintendent of Police to serve notice of opposition on the license holder, and the renewal would be postponed until the adjourned meeting.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1901

“Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt objected to the renewal of the licenses, in consequence of convictions, of the following houses.....
OLD GOLDEN CROSS INN, Market Place.

It was explained that there was no conviction against the licensee of the OLD GOLDEN CROSS, but against a former tenant.

The magistrates renewed all the licenses but Mr. Joynson pointed out that if any of the applicants were again convicted they would in all probability lose the licenses.”

Benjamin Chambers, beer retailer, 24, Market Place. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1904

“Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

Eight licenses were objected to by the police.....

OLD GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place.

In each instance a conviction was recorded against the house. License renewed.”

Walsall Advertiser 30/10/1909

“Yesterday, Walter Foster, alias Walter Francis, recently living in Station Street, Walsall, was charged at Wednesbury Police Court with stealing a box containing a quantity of corn cure, a lamp, and a number of picture postcards, value 30s, the property of Amos Chandler, market salesman, also of Station Street, on the 22nd inst.

It was alleged that whilst the prosecutor was in the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, extracting a corn, the prisoner picked up his box and went off with it. Subsequently Police-constable Pinxton arrested the prisoner in the GEORGE HOTEL, and found the box in his possession. Replying to the charge, prisoner said, ‘I am not guilty I know that.’ Prisoner pleaded that the prosecutor lent him the box. Prisoner was discharged.”

1911 Census

Market Place – GOLDEN CROSS

[1] Albert Henry Ashwood (36), publican, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[2] Ellen Ashwood (28), wife, married 8 years, born Hednesford, Staffordshire;

[3] Frederick Ashwood (7), son, born Wednesbury:

Sporting Life 25/10/1911

“William Gillespie v George Brown. These two Walsall lads have signed *Sporting Life* articles to box 15 3-min. rounds with 4oz gloves at 7st 12lb (give or take 2lb) for £5 (open to £10) a side and the best inducement offered, the promoter of the contest to provide the gloves. Both lads weigh in at 2 o’clock pm on the day of the contest; the date to be fixed when making the second deposit. *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder and appoint referee. We hold £1 a side, the second deposit of £2 a side is to be made on October 29 at the GOLDEN CROSS HOTEL, Wednesbury, and final £2 or £7 a side on the day of the contest before weighing in.”

Albert H. Ashwood, beer retailer, 24, Market Place. [1912]

Birmingham Mail 26/3/1913

“A well-dressed young woman named Lucy Roberts (30), of the GOLDEN CROSS HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, was charged at the Birmingham Police Court this morning with stealing a lady’s raincoat, of the value of 21s, and a silk dress, of the value of £2 5s 6d, the property of Messrs. Lewis, Corporation Street, Birmingham.

Evidence was given by Miss Gertrude Cox, head saleswoman in the mantle department of Messrs. Lewis’s establishment, who said that about six o’clock on Thursday she saw the prisoner act in a suspicious manner. The witness watched her, and saw her place something in a bag which she was carrying. She thereupon covered it up with her muff. Miss Cox went up to the prisoner and asked her if there was anything she could get for her. The witness showed her some coats, with the object of finding out what she had under her muff. When the matter was mentioned to the prisoner she stated she had her own coat under her muff, but the witness saw the ticket, and pulled the article out of the bag. Roberts then begged the witness not to say anything about it.

It was stated by Detective-inspector Harris that the silk dress was found in the lock-up after the prisoner had been searched.

Miss Cox, replying to Mr. Povey Harper, who appeared for the prisoner, said there was another lady with the prisoner. They were walking round the department.

Addressing the Bench, Mr. Harper explained that the prisoner’s husband was a licensed victualler in Wednesbury, and until the commission of this offence she had borne an unblemished character. The prisoner and her sister came to Birmingham to do some shopping, and the latter had an intention of buying a raincoat. When in the shop the prisoner was overcome by a sudden impulse to steal the coat. She had no intention when she entered the shop of stealing anything. He asked the Bench to deal with her leniently.

The Chairman described the case as a painful one. They would deal with the prisoner as they would deal with a poor woman who had succumbed to sudden temptation. She would be placed on probation for twelve months, and would have to pay 10s for damage done to the goods and 5s witness’s expenses.

The prisoner, who appeared to feel her position keenly, wept bitterly in the dock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1915

“Mortgages and Charges.....

Atkinson's Brewery Limited. Mortgage dated June 25, 1915, to secure £700, charged on beerhouse known as the OLD GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury. Holder, Mrs. E. J. Cunliffe, Harrogate.”

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions.....

OLD GOLDEN CROSS. Mr. A. J. Glover made an application in respect of this house, and submitted plans for desired alterations. It was a beerhouse, and the oldest, perhaps, in the town. Mr. *Samuel Roberts* was the licensee. The proposed elevation of the building would be in conformity with the surrounding houses and shops. The interior accommodation would be much improved and also the comfort of visitors.

The architect (Mr. Clements) put in plans. There would be an increase of bedroom accommodation etc, and also a great improvement for the bar and smoke room. On market day the place was very congested.

The Mayor said the Bench could not give them another public house, which it practically meant, unless the parties were prepared to surrender a license first.

Mr. Glover asked for an adjournment, but subsequently asked leave to withdraw the application for the moment. This course was agreed to by the Bench.”

1921 Census

Market Place – GOLDEN CROSS

[1] *Samuel Roberts* (44), beerhouse manager, born Willenhall;

[2] *Lucy Roberts* (41), wife, help in above business, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Doris Roberts* (12), daughter, school, born Willenhall;

[4] *Alan Roberts* (6), son, school, born Wednesbury:

Lucy Roberts died in the 3rd quarter of 1937.

Evening Despatch 4/2/1938

“Annual Licensing Sessions at Wednesbury.....

The justices granted a provisional order to Mr. J. L. Kimberley, of Atkinson's Brewery Company Limited, in respect of the removal of the full license of the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, to premises to be erected on the adjoining and existing site of the GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place. No objection was raised.”

AND

Walsall Observer 5/2/1938

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Police Superintendent J. H. Hall said he had received a notice from Mr. John Leslie Kimberley, of 30, Little Moor Hill, Smethwick, of his intention to apply for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the license of the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, an alehouse, to a house and premises proposed to be erected, partly upon land at present forming the site of the licensed premises known of the GOLDEN CROSS (beerhouse ‘on’), Market Place, Wednesbury, and partly on land adjoining.....

Applying for the removal of the license of the RAILWAY INN to the proposed reconstructed GOLDEN CROSS, Mr. Frank Cooper, solicitor, remarked on the absence of any opposition to the application, and said it would be surprising thing to him, and to everyone in the court, if there had been any opposition to the application. Mr. Cooper went on to say that the existing premises of the GOLDEN CROSS, which belonged to Messrs. Atkins, were no credit to the owners, who realised that. The house had always done a substantial trade under very great difficulties. Mr. Cooper explained that difficulties that had prevented the improvement of the premises had now been overcome and the company was in a position to make the premises adequate.

The application was granted, the Mayor remarking that the new premises would be a fine improvement.”

1939 Register

9, Knowles Street

- [1] Samuel Roberts, date of birth 27/3/1877, licensed victualler, married;
 - [2] Maude Roberts, dob 12/12/1878, unpaid domestic duties, married;
 - [3] Doris Florence (Roberts) Swinbourne, dob 19/11/1908, barmaid, single;
 - [4] Barbara Paintin, dob 2/9/1918, shop assistant, single;
 - [5] Joan Paintin, dob 2/9/1918, shop assistant, single;
 - [6] Ralph G. Allman, dob 19/12/1917, newspaper reporter, single:
- [This might be during the rebuilding of the pub.]

Walsall Observer 2/12/1939

“The inquest on another black-out victim, Amelia Hattersley (82) of 52, Gladstone Street, Walsall, was held by the Borough Coroner (Mr. J. F. Addison) at the Manor Hospital on Saturday. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Doris Evelyn Hattersley, with whom she lived, said she used to take a walk ‘round the building’ every night, regardless of the weather. She had good health, but poor eyesight and hearing.

On November 13, the old lady went for her usual walk at about 5.30, just before it was dark and she was involved in an accident with a car near St. Peter’s church, in Stafford Street. She died on November 22 in the Manor Hospital, from heart failure due to senility, accelerated by her injuries. Dr. E. S. Clayton of the Manor Hospital said that on admission the woman was suffering from shock and extensive laceration of the right arm and breast.

Alfred Bradley, L.M.S. cartage inspector, of 48, Webster Road, Walsall, said that he was walking in the direction of Bloxwich at about 6.45, when he saw an old lady lying between a car and the gutter. She was injured and after rendering what first aid he could, he went with her in the ambulance to the hospital, but she did not tell him how the accident had occurred. She kept worrying about a little bag.

Police-constable Hewlett said that Samuel Allan Roberts (24), GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury, the driver of the car, made a statement in which he said that he was driving towards Bloxwich at about 20 miles per hour when he felt a bump and pulled up. When he got out, someone shouted, ‘There’s someone by the car,’ and he saw a woman hanging by her coat on the near-side door handle. He assisted her to the footpath and waited for the ambulance.

The Coroner in recording a verdict of Accidental Death said he was convinced that it was a pure accident. ‘I must emphasise again,’ he said, ‘the folly of elderly people, especially with bad eyesight and bad hearing, going out in the darkness. There was no necessity for the old lady to leave the house and it was asking for trouble for anyone to go out in the streets.’”

Maud A. Roberts died in the 1st quarter of 1940.

Rugeley Times 17/2/1940

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions An application for the final order of the removal of the license of the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, to the new GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, was granted.”

Doris Florence Roberts married Arthur E. Swinbourne in the 2nd quarter of 1943.

Walsall Observer 21/8/1943

“After mentioning various other explanations of a woman’s irregular attendance for fire-watching duty, Mr. S. Smith, as defending solicitor in a case at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday added, ‘To be frank, the reason for her bad attendance during this period is the fact that she was married on June 1, and I think there is some excuse.’ The defendant was Doris Swinbourne (33), of OLD GOLDEN CROSS INN, Market Square, Wednesbury, and she was summoned for failing to perform fire prevention duties.

Mr. S. L. Brunt, deputy town clerk, who prosecuted, told the Stipendiary, Mr. B. G. Grimley, that defendant was being summoned in respect of six occasions on which she did not appear at all, and four occasions when she signed on but then went away. There had been an improvement since the summonses were issued.

Mr. Smith said that Mrs. Swinbourne was the only child left at home with her father, who was a widower, a son being in the Forces. She had to do the housework and shopping and also to help her father in the business. Mr. Smith added that he had explained to his client her duties, and she was now prepared to undertake them fully.

In announcing the fines and costs amounting to £5 10s, the Stipendiary said that he was being lenient on account of the shortage of labour, which made it difficult in these times.”

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

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

GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express & Star 20/2/1965 - Advert

“Cleaner required; apply GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

CLEANER required; apply — Golden Cross, Market-place, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express & Star 9/7/1965 - Advert

“Morning Barmaid required.

Apply GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

MORNING Barmaid required Apply—Golden Cross, Market-place, Wednesbury.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962] , [1963], [1965]

Wolverhampton Express & Star 3/5/1966 - Advert

“Folk Singing by Candlelight.

Every Tuesday at 8.0pm. This week John Swift plus residents.

GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

FOLK SINGING by CANDLELIGHT
Every Tuesday at 8.0 p.m. This week,
JOHN SWIFT plus residents, Golden Cross, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express & Star 14/6/1967 - Advert

“Evening Barmaid required, experience not essential.

GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury 0004”

EVENING BARMAID required, experience not essential. — Golden Cross, Market-place, Wednesbury 0004.

Wolverhampton Express & Star 5/3/1968 - Advert

“Lady required, 20-35, as kitchen assistant, 11-3.

GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

LADY required, 20-35 as kitchen assistant, 11-0-3.0. — Golden Cross, Market-place, Wednesbury. WED 0004.

Wolverhampton Express & Star 27/2/1970 - Advert

“Barman or Barmaid wanted, evenings and weekends.

Blake, GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

BARMAN or Barmaid wanted, evenings and weekends.—Blake, Golden Cross, Market Place, Wednesbury 021 556 0004.

News Telephone 3/9/1970 - Advert

“Pub Alterations that are Popular with the Public.

Rayham (Contract Furnishers) Ltd. 7, Washington Street, Birmingham 1. Telephone 021 643 8691.

Sale Contractors for Furnishing for The Fairing Room, the GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.

The latest M&B ‘New Look’ Room.”

Wolverhampton Express & Star 4/11/1975 - Advert

“GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Smart lounge Barmaids required for new lounge, evenings only.

Apply Manager.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/9/1983

“From one sporting champ to another — West Bromwich Albion soccer star Dereck Statham stepped in to present a host of glittering prizes to Black Country pool ace Alan Trinder. Amateur player Alan ended the West Bromwich and District Pool League season in style by scooping no less than six trophies. Alan, who plays for the GOLDEN CROSS at Wednesbury, won the individual championship of the league, individual trophy for return to the league, the divisional aggregate championship, the knockout cup championships of the league, the runners-up cup for doubles, and the runners-up trophy for the league championship.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/11/1983

“Wednesbury’s Alan Trinder reached the quarter-final of the Silk Cut Pool Trophy at Blackpool. The 25-year-old GOLDEN CROSS player disposed of Bradford’s Derek Pollard in the opening round, but made his exit at the hands of Alan Allen from Hampshire.

The competition started with over 80,000 players, and Trinder was one of 35 who fought their way to Blackpool.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/7/1984

“There was nothing fishy about the competition staged by new licensee *Les Smith* for regulars at Wednesbury’s GOLDEN CROSS public house, although angling skills were a help.

Mr. *Smith* got off ‘on a tight line’ by staging an angling contest with a difference, and with pool cues used to fish for prizes. It was certainly no small-scale event as half-a-dozen drinking pals and staff stood on the pub balcony and tried to hook buckets full of water on lines fixed to the cues, and there were certainly no cast-offs among the prizes. Bottles of wine and sherry, cigarettes, chocolates and vouchers were all up for grabs at the pub where Albion stars Tony Godden and Derek Statham joined in the fun.

Lucky contestants who managed to haul up buckets had the added chance of soaking those below with water before collecting their winnings.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/1/1986

“With only a few weeks of the season left some of the promotion and relegation issues in the Wednesbury and District Pool League are being settled. The GOLDEN CROSS look to have sewn up the Premier Division once again, leaving the runners-up spot to be fought out between several contenders.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/10/1987

“Mitchells & Butlers is shortly to reopen the GOLDEN CROSS in Market Square, Wednesbury, which had been closed for several months for renovations.”

Birmingham Mail 6/8/1988

“Three licensees from the Midlands are each hoping to win the title Innkeeper of the Year in the fourth annual national competition. All three are first-time entrants in the contest run by the British Institute of Innkeeping, which will announce the winner next February at a gala lunch in London.....

Mr. *David Ingles* took over the GOLDEN CROSS in Market Place, Wednesbury, last November after a £330,000 refit made the pub a ‘vintage’ tavern.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/7/1989

“Gig Guide.....

Thursday Speed Kings, GOLDEN CROSS, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Mail 4/2/1994

“Gig Guide.....

Sunday Assassin, GOLDEN CROSS, Wednesbury.”

It was renamed PIG AND TRUMPET. [1996]

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/12/1997

“A pub licensee discovered an arson attack in a building 50 yards away from his Black Country inn, because his smoke alarm went off. Licensee *Tom Norton*, 49, and his wife Linda were sitting down eating a takeaway meal yesterday when the smoke detector in his upstairs flat at the PIG AND TRUMPET, Market Place, Wednesbury, went off. He said, ‘I don’t mind saying that for a couple of minutes it was panic stations. We shot upstairs to investigate and, when I looked out of the window, I could see this building well alight about 50 yards away.. I had let the dog out into the yard a short time before and an upstairs window was partly open. The smoke must have drifted in and set the alarm off.....”

John Nicholls was born c.1947.

[2015]

It was renamed GOLDEN CROSS. [2016]

Express & Star 14/8/2019

“Two men were injured after a fight broke out at a Wednesbury pub. Trouble flared at the GOLDEN CROSS pub, in the town’s Market Place, on Saturday night. The pub, once known as the PIG AND TRUMPET, remained cordoned off today as a police investigation continued. Officers were called at around 10.50pm to the brawl at the well-known pub. Police arrived to find two men with facial injuries. One of the men – understood to be aged 42 – was more seriously hurt and suffered a head injury. He remains in hospital today, say West Midlands Police. A force spokesman said an investigation was under way and CCTV in the area is being examined. Police are urging the people involved to get in touch so officers can understand exactly what happened.”

Express & Star 1/8/2022

“Town centre drinkers in Wednesbury are saying ‘Cheers’ after a popular pub reopened following a makeover. The GOLDEN CROSS, in Market Place, is ready to welcome customers back after bosses at parent company Craft Union spent £145,000 on the venue. The layout has been re-arranged to accommodate 60 additional seats to view 12 screens of TV sport and new carpets have been fitted throughout, as well as the pub being given a fresh coat of paint. Outside, an overhaul of the colour scheme of the pub sees a new cream and blue look to the entrance and a revamp of the beer garden, which has been given a new lease of life with a pagoda area, heat lamps fitted and two additional TVs added. Additional beers such as Carlsberg and Birra Moretti have also been added to the range of drinks available.

Adrian McKeever, who has run the GOLDEN CROSS for two years, said, ‘I’m excited to reopen the pub and welcome back guests following the refurb. It looks amazing inside and out, with the new colour scheme and outdoor improvements just in time for summer. We have a good bunch of loyal customers here in Wednesbury and I’m sure they will appreciate the work that has been done.’

The pub is open until 2am on Fridays and Saturdays with karaoke and live music at the weekend.”

[2025]



HIGHGATE MILD is now available in the following BUTLERS and ATKINSONS houses:—

BRIDGE HOUSE, Blaxwich Road, Walsall.	RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, Darlaston.
NEW NAVIGATION, Birchills, Walsall.	RISING SUN, Piercy Street, Newtown, Wednesbury.
WALSALL ARMS, Bank Street, Walsall.	FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Wednesbury.
FALCON, Lichfield Street, Walsall.	OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.
FITTERS ARMS, Matherton St., Walsall.	PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street, Wednesbury.
FORGE HAMMER, Rolling Mill Street, Pkch, Walsall.	COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury.
FOUNTAIN, Lower Forster Street, Walsall.	SPRING COTTAGE, The Paddock, Walsall.
NEW INN, Green Lane, Walsall.	HARDEN, Coalpool Lane, Walsall.
PRINCE OF WALES, Queen St., Walsall.	NEWPORT ARMS, Pkch Road, Walsall.
BEAR & RAGGED STAFF, High Street, Walsall.	VINE, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall.
COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridgeman St., Walsall.	KINGS ARMS, High Street, Blaxwich.
TANNERS ARMS, Day Street, Walsall.	FOUNTAIN, Portland Street, Walsall.
DUKE OF YORK, Mexley Rd., Darlaston.	STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.
BLACK HORSE, Pinfold St., Darlaston.	BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.
NELSON, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.	HORSE & JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury.
WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.	GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.
KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.	
DARTMOUTH INN, High St., Darlaston.	
RAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.	
OLD BUSH, The Green, Darlaston.	
STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge, Darlaston.	



Pride of the Midlands

1962

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The latest M. & B. "New Look" Room

1970

**GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place,
Wednesbury. Smart lounge Bar-
maids required for new lounge,
evenings only. Apply Manager.**

1975

GOLDEN CUP

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Hackwood [1834] – [1842]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

John Hackwood, beer retailer, High Street. [1835], [1841]

1841 Census

High Street

- [1] *John Hackwood* (45), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Maryann Hackwood* (50), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *William Hackwood* (20), cooper, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Samuel Hackwood* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Edward Hackwood* (10), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Jane Hackwood* (5), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Mary Cowden* (17), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Charles Wootton* (25), cooper;
- [9] *John Pountney* (48), cooper;
- [10] *Hyman Schild* (30), hawker;
- [11] *Joseph Schild* (25), hawker;
- [12] *William Cross* (30), tailor;
- [13] *Jonah Marks* (25), hawker;
- [14] *David Williams* (20), tailor;
- [15] *William Hackwood* (18), puddler, born Staffordshire:

John Hackwood, retailer of beer, High Street. [1842]

GOLDEN LETTERS

High Bullen, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Michael Toney [1818]

NOTES

ALL Persons having any claim or demand against MICHAEL TONEY, late of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, victualler and engineer, deceased, are requested forthwith to send the particulars thereof to Mr. William Bayley, of Wednesbury aforesaid, butcher, one of the Executors; and all persons indebted to the said Michael Toney are desired to pay the amount of their respective debts to the said Executor.
Wednesbury, Feb. 8, 1823.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/3/1823 - Advert

"All Persons having any claim or demand against *Michael Toney*, late of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, victualler and engineer, deceased, are requested forthwith to send the particulars thereof to Mr. William Bayley, of Wednesbury aforesaid, butcher, one of the Executors; and all person indebted to the said *Michael Toney* are desired to pay the amount of their respective debts to the said Executor.
Wednesbury, February 8, 1823."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/7/1823 - Advert

"All persons who have any claims or demands on the Estate of *Michael Toney*, deceased, are desired to send accounts thereof to Mr. W. Bailey, that they may be examined and discharged; and all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to pay the same immediately to Mr. W. Bailey aforesaid, of Wednesbury, or proceedings to recover the same will be immediately commenced."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/11/1823 - Advert

"To Iron-masters, Millwrights, &c.

To be Sold by Auction by W. Underhill, on Monday the 24th day of November inst subject to conditions then to be read, a part of the Effects of Mr. *Michael Toney*, of Wednesbury, deceased; consisting of a superior strong 13 feet driving wheel, and a 4 feet spur wheel to ditto, with a cast iron engine beam and spear-rod, all new, a steam cylinder, about 16 tons of new and old useful castings, eight pair of merchant bar rolls, complete set of engine gears, 10 feet wrought iron hogshead boiler, in very good condition, large strong turning lathe, a quantity of wood patterns, about two tons of best scrap merchant iron, in useful sizes, with a variety of valuable articles used in the iron trade, as will appear in catalogues previous to the sale, which may be had at the principal Inns in the neighbourhood, or at the Auctioneer's, Wednesbury.

A great variety of the articles for sale were intended to be used in an Iron-work began to be erected near to the Limekilns at Lea Brook, Wednesbury, where a part now remain, and the other part are in a warehouse and yard near the High Bullen, Wednesbury.

The sale to commence at the latter place precisely at ten in the morning.

An early attendance is particularly requested."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/12/1827 - Advert

"Unless the Person who left a quantity of Iron in the hands of the late *Michael Toney*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, will pay what he owes for work done, together with the expenses incurred by the said Iron, within fourteen days from the date hereof, the same will be sold without further notice.
Wednesbury, December 10, 1827."

UNLESS the Person who left a quantity of Iron in the hands of the late *Michael Toney*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, will pay what he owes for work done, together with the expences incurred by the said Iron, within fourteen days from the date hereof, the same will be sold without further notice.
Wednesbury, Dec. 10, 1827.

NOTICE.

ALL persons who have any claims or demands on the Estate of the late MICHAEL TONEY, deceased, are desired to send accounts thereof to Mr. W. Bailey, that they may be examined and discharged; and all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to pay the same immediately to Mr. W. Bailey aforesaid, of Wednesbury, or proceedings to recover the same will be immediately commenced.

To Iron-masters, Millwrights, &c.

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The sale to commence at the latter place precisely at ten in the morning.—An early attendance is particularly requested.

GRAPES

38, (44), (42), (Upper) High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Rowley [1864] – [1865]
Joseph Taylor [1868] – [1872]
George Perry [] – **1872**;
Daniel Griffiths **(1872 – [])**
William Smith Morris [1873]
Richard T Taylor [1880] – [1881]
Jacob Chilton **(1882 – [])**
Jesse Newman [1891] – [1901]
Frank Bateman [1901] – [1904]
Walter Iliff [1908] – [1911]
Joseph Stackhouse Jr. [1912]
John Lacey [1921] – **1922**;
F J Whitehouse **(1922 – [])**
Frank Wilkinson [] – **1924**)
Francis George Lockley [1925] – [1940]



1967

NOTES

44, Upper High Street [1871], [1881], [1891], [1901]
42, Upper High Street [1911]
44, High Street [1896], [1908], [1912], [1932]
38, High Street [1939]

Birmingham Daily Post 25/2/1864

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, a forgerman, named James Horseman, was brought up in custody, charged with assaulting Parish-constable Hackwood, and wilfully damaging the officer’s wearing apparel. The evidence went to show that on the preceding evening Hackwood was called into the house of Mr. *Rowley*, the GRAPES INN, High Street, and the defendant was given into his custody on a charge of indecently assaulting the landlady. He attempted to remove his prisoner to the police station, but on the way Horseman turned upon and severely maltreated him, tore his coat, and ultimately escaped, but was pursued and captured by Sergeant Gasson.

The defendant was ordered to pay 20s, the estimated amount of damage done to the coat, and was also fined 20s and costs, or in default one month’s imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/5/1864

“Walsall County Court Bourne v Rowley.

In this case the plaintiff, William Bourne, a professional runner, sought to recover the sum of £5 from *George Rowley*, licensed victualler, Wednesbury. It was alleged that the money had been deposited with defendant to abide the result of a foot-race between the plaintiff and a man named William Morriss. Plaintiff won the race, and on the evening of the day on which the race came off he called upon defendant for the money, which defendant refused to pay, upon the ground that plaintiff’s backers had not paid the second deposit of 25s.

Mr. Slatter, who appeared for the plaintiff, after stating the case, called William Wright and John Timmins, who swore positively to paying the deposit money to defendant’s barmaid, in presence of defendant, who said when the money was deposited it was all right: let the race go on.

Mr. Ebsworth, who appeared for the defendant, stated the case for his client, and called the defendant and his barmaid, Sarah Ryding, both of whom denied receiving the money. Several other witnesses were called, who had been in the house on the evening in question, and who said they had not seen the money paid. His Honour summed up very carefully, after which the jury retired, and were at last discharged, being unable to agree."

[This case was again in court in July when the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount.]

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1864

"Serious Disturbances at a Public House. The Rowleys Again.

At Wednesbury Police Court, Tuesday, *George Rowley*, manager of the GRAPES INN, High Street, appeared to answer three charges of having permitted drunkenness and disorderly conduct, and with having neglected to maintain order at his house on the morning of the 17th of June, and Selina Rowley, his wife, was charged with disorderly conduct, and with refusing to leave the house when called upon to do so, and also with assaulting Sarah Ryding, the barmaid at the GRAPES. Thomas Horseman, a mill furnaceman, was charged with having incited Mrs. Rowley to commit the assault on Sarah Ryding. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for *George Rowley*, and to save time it was agreed to take all the cases together.

The evidence, which was very voluminous, went to show that some two or three years ago Mr. and Mrs. *Rowley* agreed to and signed a deed of separation, and that since that time the husband had become manager or proprietor of the GRAPES INN, which ostensibly belonged to *James Rowley*, his nephew, and the wife had taken the SHAKESPEARE beerhouse, Dudley Street, which she carried on under the name of Ann Harvey.

Early on the morning of the 17th instant Mrs. Rowley went to the house of her husband, and having obtained admission she ordered Sarah Ryding to leave the premises, alleging that she had just returned from London, where she had been to stop a fight between her son and a man named Collett, and had there left her husband, who had empowered her to take possession of his home. Ryding refused to resign her post, and thereupon, according to the evidence of witnesses, Mrs. Rowley knocked her down and knelt upon her chest, and struck her with considerable violence. They were separated, but subsequently the struggle was renewed, to the great damage of the dress and persons of the combatants, and eventually Parish-constable Ellis and some of the neighbours were called in, and the women were again and again separated, and the fight was again and again renewed, Mrs. Rowley endeavouring to gain possession of the tap, and Sarah Ryding striving to retain her hold of it. During the affray bad language was freely used on both sides, and a larger crowd assembled, including several drunken persons, who were proved, however, not to have been supplied with drink in the house. Horseman, who was also present, incited Mrs. Rowley to fight, and urged her to turn Ryding into the street. After a time the police were called in, and each of the women endeavoured to give the other into custody. The police, however, declined to take either of the charges, but remained in the house for several hours, vainly endeavouring to make peace between the excited women, and taxed to the utmost to prevent jugs and glasses being used as missiles. Several hundred people congregated around the house, and the excitement was kept up until about ten o'clock at night, when, at the request of the police, the house was closed.

Mr. Ebsworth contended that his client had taken all needful precautions for preserving good order in his house, but at the close of the case the Magistrates retired, and after about a quarter of an hour's absence they returned into Court, and announced that *George Rowley* would be fined 40s and costs for not maintaining good order in his house, but the other two summonses against him would be dismissed. For the assault of Sarah Ryding Mrs. Rowley was fined 20s and costs, but the other summons against her was dismissed; and Thomas Horseman was fined 5s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/10/1864

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Appeal against a Public House Conviction at Wednesbury.

This was an appeal by *James Rowley*, proprietor of the GRAPES INN, Wednesbury, against Messrs. James Solly and J. Marshall, justices of the peace, and John James Holland, superintendent of police, against a conviction by the said magistrates for disorderly conduct at the above named place. Mr. Kenealy (instructed by Mr. Ebsworth) appeared for the appellant; the Hon. Mr. Ryder appeared for the respondents.

The circumstances under which the conviction was made were as follows. It appears that in 1861 *George Rowley*, the uncle of the appellant, and a gentleman well-known in pugilistic circles, separated from his wife, Selina Rowley, and to avoid future contact both took public houses under other persons' names. On the 28th of June last, *George Rowley*, being absent from home in London in a case affecting the interest of his son Robert, who was also affected with pugilistic proclivities, left his house under the control of Sarah Ryding, his housekeeper. Mrs. *George Rowley* 'put in an appearance' at the GRAPES INN, and an affray ensuing Mrs. Rowley took possession of the tap; in the

course of the assault Sarah Ryding being assaulted, if not in a very serious manner. The information for disorderly conduct was taken out by the police, who were censured at the time by the solicitor for the defence for not interfering in the matter. Mrs. Rowley was fined by the justices, and *James Rowley* was also convicted for permitting disorderly conduct in his house against the tenure of his license, and it was against the latter conviction that the appeal was made. The conviction was quashed.”

George Rowley – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Selina Rowley – see HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, and SHAKESPEARE, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/1/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a sharp, active Boy, about 14 of unexceptionable character, to Assist in a Vault, and make himself generally useful.

Apply, GRAPES INN, High Street, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a sharp, active BOY, about 14, of unexceptionable character, to Assist in a Vault, and make himself generally useful.—Apply, Grapes Inn, High Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/8/1866 - Advert

“Two Pounds Reward.

Lost, on Saturday last, between Birmingham and Stourbridge, a Gentleman’s Diamond Ring.

The above Reward will be paid to any one restoring the same to *J. Taylor*, GRAPES INN, Wednesbury.”

Joseph Taylor, GRAPES and SPREAD EAGLE, High Street and Portway Road. [1868]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/9/1869

“Thirty-Fourth Staffordshire Rifle Volunteers, Wednesbury.

The annual meeting of the Wednesbury Rifle Volunteers took place at the Tame Valley range, yesterday. The prizes competed for were valuable challenge cups and a handsome clock, presented by Mr. Benjamin Whitehouse, Harvells Hawthorn, with money prizes varying from £3 10s to 5s contributed by friends of the corps.....

The next was a cup, value £10, given by Mr. *Taylor*, of the GRAPES INN, High Street, Wednesbury.....’

[The cup was won by Sergeant Hampson.]

1871 Census

44, Upper High Street

[1] *Joseph Taylor* (42), wine and spirit merchant, born Stockport, Cheshire;

[2] *Catharine Taylor* (32), wife, born Felling, Durham;

[3] *Joseph Taylor* (6), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Thomas Taylor* (1), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] not christened (10 days), son, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Austin M. Winter* (9), nephew, born Manchester;

[7] *Henry Johnson* (25), waiter, born Macclesfield, Cheshire;

[8] *Mary Johnson* (23), waitress, born Whitefield, Lancashire;

[9] *Levi Johnson* (20), waiter, born Macclesfield, Cheshire;

[10] *Henry Johnson* (6 months), born Wednesbury;

[11] *John J. Jones* (17), waiter, born Birmingham;

[12] *Sarah Allander* (40), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill;

[13] *Julia Spittal* (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[14] *Elizabeth Cheshire* (78), widow, nurse, born Shropshire:

Joseph Taylor – see also GREEN DRAGON, Market Place.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1872 - Advert

“Found, a black Bull-and-mastiff Dog, with white star on the breast. If not claimed in 3 days, will be sold to pay expenses.

Apply, GRAPE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.”

FOUND, a black Bull-and-mastiff Dog, with white star on the breast. If not claimed in 3 days, will be sold to pay expenses — Apply, Grape Inn, High Street, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 7/8/1880 - Births

“On the 5th inst, at the GRAPES, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, Mrs. *R. T. Taylor*, of a son.”

1881 Census

44, Upper High Street – GRAPES INN

- [1] *Richard T. Taylor* (33), blind manufacturer, born Cheshire;
 - [2] Catharine Taylor (30), wife, born Wednesbury;
 - [3] Joseph B. Taylor (6), son, scholar, born Barrow-in-Furness;
 - [4] Richard H. L. Taylor (4), son, scholar, born Barrow-in-Furness;
 - [5] Harry Taylor (1), son, born Wednesbury;
 - [6] Thomas Riley (24), barman, born Bilston;
 - [7] Rhoda Oldbury (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
 - [8] Sarah Constable (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [*Richard T. Taylor* is crossed out and noted absent.]

Birmingham Daily Post 29/3/1882

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Thomas C. Mason, butcher, High Street, was summoned for having assaulted Charles Hall, a hawker; and Hall was summoned for using obscene language. Mr. J. Smith appeared for the defendant Mason, and also in support of the charge of using obscene language.

Hall’s statement was to the effect that at about eight o’clock on Thursday night he and his brother-in-law left the GRAPES INN, High Street, and went into an entry, where Mason threw a bucketful of blood and water over him, ‘smothering’ him from head to foot.

Mason’s case was that he was washing the utensils used in his trade, when he heard someone in his entry, and, on looking, saw the defendant, who was committing a nuisance. He quietly remonstrated, and Hall replied in very gross language. He then said that if Hall did not go away he would throw over him the contents of a pail which he held in his hand, and Hall, still refusing to go, and continuing to use bad language, he carried out his threat. After that Hall went into the street, repeated his gross language, and threatened to break the windows of the shop, and it was found necessary to send for Police-constable Noble.

Mason was fined 1s and costs, the Bench taking into account the great provocation he had received. Hall was fined 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1886

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, William Matthews, barman at the GRAPES INN, High Street, was summoned for assaulting Enoch Grice, senior, and Enoch Grice, junior, and under cross-summonses the Grices were charged with assaulting Matthews. Mr. Rose (Messrs. Joseph Smith and Co) appeared for the latter.

Evidence showed that as Matthews was swilling the front of his house, using a piece of elastic piping for the purpose, young Grice wantonly trod upon the piping. He pushed the boy away with the brush he had in his hand, and then the father and son abused him and stoned him, cutting his lip, and doing some damage to the front of the premises. The Bench held that Matthews had committed a technical rather than an actual assault, and they fined him 1s and costs. The elder Grice was fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

Huddersfield Daily Chronicle 5/3/1888

“James Adams, blacksmith, Bilston, was charged at Wednesbury on Saturday with unlawfully wounding Mary Ann Edwards. The prisoner and a number of other persons met on the previous night at the GRAPES HOTEL, Wednesbury, and, in consequence of some practical joking being resorted to, a disturbance occurred, during which the prisoner became greatly exasperated, and, seizing a knife, he stabbed the prosecutrix in the shoulder, inflicting some very serious wounds. Great loss of blood ensued, and prompt medical aid had to be obtained. The prosecutrix was unable to appear, and the prisoner, who expressed regret for having committed such a rash act, was remanded.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 5/3/1888

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Saturday, Joseph Adams (21), blacksmith, Walsall Street, Bilston, was charged with cutting and wounding Sarah Ann Edwards, a young woman living at Darlaston. Police-constable Mayer said that on the previous evening he went into the GRAPES INN, High Street, and found the complainant and the prisoner there. The former was bleeding from a wound on the shoulder, and after hearing statements from those present he

apprehended Adams, and charged him with wounding Edwards with a knife. The prisoner said, 'I did it freely. I am willing to suffer death. My old master has died and was buried today, and I meant to die the same day as he was buried.' The accused was remanded till Tuesday."

AND

Lichfield Mercury 23/3/1888

"At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Joseph Adams (22), Walsall Street, Bilston was brought up on remand with having, on the 2nd inst, stabbed Sarah Ann Edwards, a young woman living at Catherines Cross, Darlaston. The prosecutrix stated that on the night named she was in the smoke room at the GRAPES INN, High Street, with a young man whose name she did not know, when the prisoner entered and sat on the other side of the room. In about twenty minutes he got up from his seat, rushed across the room to where she sat, and struck her two violent blows on the shoulder. She screamed out, not knowing at the time that she had been stabbed, but on putting her hand up she found that blood was springing up from the shoulder. The prisoner tried to strike her again, but a young man named Withers prevented him. She was then assisted upstairs to a bedroom, where she was seen by Dr. Craig, who dressed her wounds, and she remained there from that day (Friday) until the following Monday, when she was removed to the West Bromwich Hospital, where she had been ever since. Before the night of the attack she had never seen the prisoner, and she knew no reason why he should have injured her. Neither she nor the young man she was with had spoken to him or taken any notice of him.

After further evidence was given the prisoner was sent for trial at the assizes, the Bench consenting to accepting bail, himself in £50, and two sureties in £25 each."

1891 Census

44, Upper High Street – GRAPES

- [1] Jesse Newman (45), public house manager, born Evesham;
- [2] Maria Newman (47), wife, born Stanway, Gloucestershire;
- [3] Annie Agg (14), niece, born Childs Wickham, Gloucestershire;
- [4] Florence Delany (11), visitor, scholar, born Dalston, Staffordshire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1898

"The Licensing Sessions for Wednesbury borough were held yesterday.....

The magistrates sanctioned plans for the restoration of the GRAPES INN, High Street."

1901 Census

44, Upper High Street

- [1] Jesse Newman (57), manager public house, full licensed, born Evesham;
- [2] Maria Newman (59), wife, manageress public house, born Stanton, Gloucestershire;
- [3] Myra Agg (20), niece, barmaid, born Childwicke, Gloucestershire;
- [4] John Agg (13), nephew, born Childwicke, Gloucestershire:

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

"At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, before Aldermen R. Williams, I. Oldbury, and Mr. F. W. Hackwood, a man named Edwin Hudson (50), of no fixed abode, but who has been living in apartments at Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, and with intent to defraud, between the 17th September and 3rd October.

The evidence showed that prisoner represented himself to be in the employ of the Midland Advertising Company, Wolverhampton, and canvassed for advertisements for the Wolverhampton Wanderers Fixture Card. He secured 2s 6d from Frank Turbot, manager of the South Staffordshire Coffee House, Market Place; 4s 6d from Benjamin E. Pewtriss, tobacconist, Market Place; 5s from Herbert E. Kent, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN; 5s from William H. Hadley, GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place; 2s 6d from James Faulkner, BULLS HEAD INN; 2s from William Macdonald, THREE SWANS INN; 5s from *Frank Bateman*, licensed victualler, High Street; 2s 6d from Edward Phillips, BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane; 2s 6d from John Jones, FORRESTERS ARMS, Portway Road; and 2s 6d from Albert Newbould, OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street.

Frederick L. Hodgetts, of the Penn Road, Wolverhampton, said he was a partner in the Midland Advertising Company. Prisoner had been in their employ, but left on the 27th April. He had not been connected with the company since, and was not authorised to canvass for advertisements.

Detective Truswell deposed to effecting the arrest of prisoner.

Alderman Oldbury (to prisoner): Didn't you consider you had a lot of 'flats' to deal with in Wednesbury? I am surprised that tradesmen should give their money away without even asking for a receipt. They must be very confiding.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Sessions, which commence on Tuesday next."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1901

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Edwin Hudson, 50, traveller, pleaded guilty to having obtained various sums of money by false pretences at Wednesbury, on September 17. There were previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sentenced to three years' penal servitude."

1911 Census

42, Upper High Street – GRAPES INN

- [1] *Walter Iliff* (40), hotel manager, born Burton on Trent;
- [2] *Jane Iliff* (40), wife, married 12 years, assisting in the business, born Harbury, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Annie Jane Iliff* (10), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Walter Charles Iliff* (9), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *James William Iliff* (7), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *William Iliff* (77), father, born Burton-on-Trent;
- [7] *Agnes Iliff* (41), sister, milliner, born Burton on Trent;
- [8] *Sarah Bradshaw* (20), bar general, born Wednesbury:

Walter Iliff – see also SPREAD EAGLE, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton; WAGGON AND HORSES, Darlaston; and BRITANNIA, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton.

1921 Census

High Street – GRAPES INN

- [1] *John Lacey* (67), licensed victualler, born Wexford, Ireland;
- [2] *Margaret Lacey* (54), wife, licensed victualler's assistant, born Carlow, Ireland;
- [3] *John Lacey* (38), son, licensed victualler's assistant, born Bilston;
- [4] *James Lacey* (36), son, licensed victualler's assistant, born Bilston;
- [5] *Ellen Lacey* (30), daughter, clerk, Ministry of Labour, born Cannock;
- [6] *Francis Lacey* (28), son, foundry work, out of work, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Agnes Lacey* (18), daughter, clerk, out of work, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Matilda Wylde* (53), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Eliza Spittle* (43), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

John Lacey – see also ROBIN HOOD, Portway Road, and CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road.

John Lacey – see SMITHS ARMS, Cross Street.

South Staffordshire Times 2/8/1924

"A pleasing function took place on Wednesday evening at the GRAPES HOTEL, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, when presentations were made to Mr. *Frank Wilkinson*, the licensee, and Mrs. *Wilkinson*. Mr. *Wilkinson*, who is well-known in Wednesbury, leaves England next Friday to take up a position with the Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Jamshedpur, India. Mr. W. S. McGill presided over a large gathering and a happy time was spent. The chairman presented Mrs. *Wilkinson* with a bottle of scent and a bottle of smelling salts, while Mr. *Wilkinson* received a pipe in a case from the Wednesbury Town Football Club, of which he was a late president, and a pipe and razor from Mr. Geo. Bytheway. Both Mr. and Mrs. *Wilkinson* returned thanks for the gifts. Four years ago when Mr. *Wilkinson* was president of the Town Club they won a challenge cup outright, and in recognition of his services they presented him with the trophy. Mr. *Wilkinson* said that as he now leaving the country he was desirous of presenting the cup back to the club, so that it could be kept by them as a souvenir. All good wishes were expressed to Mr. and Mrs. *Wilkinson* for their future success in India. During the evening an enjoyable musical programme was gone through, the artistes including Messrs. J. Sullivan, W. Staves, W. Shorthouse, W. Pincher, and W. Langley, while Mr. Herbert Whitehouse was the accompanist."

South Staffordshire Times 9/8/1924

"A series of presentations have taken place during the week to Mr. *Frank Wilkinson*, a former Wednesbury licensee who, with Mrs. *Wilkinson* and family, sailed on Friday for India.

On Saturday last the members of Lodge 128, of the Loyal Caledonian Corks, met at the GRAPES INN, under the chairmanship of Bro. Fred Rotton, and made a presentation of a pipe in a case, the gift being handed to Mr. *Wilkinson* by Bro. Bolton, who expressed on behalf of the lodge every good wish for Mr. *Wilkinson*'s future success in his new sphere. Mr. Albert Wassall also made a presentation of a shaving outfit.

On Tuesday evening Mr. and Mrs. *Wilkinson*'s friends arranged a farewell concert at the CROWN INN, Albert Street, when Mr. Martin Tracey, who presided, expressed the regret of the company at severing such a long connection with Mr. and Mrs. *Wilkinson*. They all hoped, however, that in India they would find happiness and prosperity. Mrs. Shorthouse made a presentation to Mrs. *Wilkinson* and during the evening a musical programme was provided by Messrs. J. Davies, T. Sullivan, G. Sullivan and A. Gainham.

On Wednesday evening a gathering was held in the GRAPES INN, Upper High Street, when several of the sportsmen of the town and customers of the house made presentations, Mr. W. Shorthouse presided, and expressions of regret at losing Mr. and Mrs. *Wilkinson* were again made. Mr. Tom Rose, on behalf of the subscribers, asked Mrs. *Wilkinson*'s acceptance of a leather hand bag, while Mr. *Wilkinson* was the recipient of a gold tie pin and tobacco pouch. In acknowledging the gifts Mr. *Wilkinson* thanked them all for their gifts and also for the feelings of goodwill which had been expressed."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 12/9/1925

"Charged with being drunk and refusing to quit licensed premises the previous night, Tom ___ (50), 20, Middle Row, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton, was charged, after being locked up all night. He pleaded guilty.

The evidence of PC Cox was to the effect that he received a complaint from the landlord of the GRAPES INN, Upper High Street, and upon getting there he saw ___ who was in a drunken condition, the landlord asked him to go out and he absolutely refused.

Francis George Lockley, licensee of the GRAPES INN, said the man went into the house with about five others at 9.15pm and asked for beer, and he refused to serve him. They then became quarrelsome, then becoming violent.

The Chairman: What about the other men, did you have any trouble with them?

Witness: Yes, all of them were troublesome.

PC Cox said the other men had cleared out of the house when he arrived.

___ told the court that he came to Wednesbury to look for a job, and when going to an ironworks, he met three of four 'old soldier pals,' who paid for beer for him. He had had nothing to eat all day and in consequence the beer 'got over' him.

Superintendent Sault said the landlord did very well in this case, and he wished more publicans would be more careful.

The Chairman: He may have got into trouble himself if he hadn't.

The Superintendent (handing up a list of convictions): This man seems to be a quarrelsome sort.

When imposing a fine of 20s, or 14 days' imprisonment, the Chairman said landlords of licensed premises had to be protected."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 11/2/1928

"A meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held on Tuesday at the GRAPES INN, Upper High Street. Wednesbury, when Mr. Alfred Blake presided over a good attendance....."

Dudley Chronicle 27/6/1929

"Serious charges were preferred at Wednesbury Police Court on Friday against George Anderson, 67, Well Lane, North Walsall. They were (1) being in possession of counterfeit coin with intent to utter the same, (2) uttering a counterfeit two shilling piece, and (3) having in custody and possession moulds for the manufacture of counterfeit coins.

Mr. B. G. Saywell (of London) appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions, and outlined the facts of the cases. On June 4th, at 1.30pm, accused went to the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, and tendered half-a-crown for half a pint of ale. In consequence of something said by the customers, the landlord spoke to prisoner, who made some excuse, and asked for the coin back, then leaving the bar. The next heard of him was on June 11th, when he went to the WHITE HORSE and tendered a two shilling piece, receiving change. Something was said to the daughter of the licensee. She looked at the coin again, and subsequently handed it to the police. Prisoner the same day went to

the BELL INN and the MIDLAND VAULTS, where he tendered two shilling pieces, and afterwards went to the GRAPES INN, where he was spoken to by PC Taylor. He asked him to go to the Police Station, and this the prisoner willingly did. When there he handed PS Nixon four counterfeit coins, also giving him a key, and telling him he would find all he wanted in a drawer at his home. A search was made and moulds and other articles necessary for the making of counterfeit coins were found.....

Joseph Glaze, jeweller and silversmith, High Bullen, Wednesbury, said he was shown the coins produced by PS Nixon and tested them with aqua fortis. He also weighted them and found them deficient. The whole of the coins were counterfeit.

Miss Edna King, daughter of the licensee of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, said that on June 11th, she served a man with half a pint of mild and bitter, for which he tendered a two shilling piece (produced). She could not recognise the man. After he left something was said to her by another customer, and she looked in the till. She took out the two shilling piece, and testing it with another coin found that the edge rubbed soft.

Mrs. Higgins, wife of the licensee of the MIDLAND VAULTS, said she remembered prisoner calling for half a pint of ale on June 11th, for which he tendered a two shilling piece. She picked accused out the following day at an identification parade at the Police Station.

Archibald Cross, licensee of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, also stated that he served prisoner with beer and cigarettes, which he paid for with a two shilling piece. Subsequently, from something which was said to him, he took it out of the till, and upon testing it found it to be a bad one.

Douglas George Young, licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, identified two half-crowns (produced), one dated 1923, and the other 1924, which were found in his takings on May 20th and June 4th respectively. He knew prisoner and saw him in the bar on both the dates mentioned Joseph Glaze said that the two half-crowns which Mr. Young found in his takings were counterfeit and light in weight.....

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Staffordshire Assizes. He intimated that it was his intention to plead guilty."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/7/1929

"Pleading guilty to uttering counterfeit coins at Wednesbury, and to having in his possession moulds for making counterfeit coins, George Anderson, aged 38, a french polisher, committed from Wednesbury, was sentenced to three years penal servitude at the Staffordshire Assizes yesterday.

It was stated for the prosecution that prisoner also admitted charges relating to embezzlement and the uttering of counterfeit coins five years ago."

Midland Advertiser 1/3/1930

"An inaugural meeting was held at the GRAPES INN, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, on Wednesday afternoon, for the purpose of forming a women's branch of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association, and in conjunction with the Birmingham Women's Auxiliary. Mr. E. Lawrence Levy gave an address, after which it was decided that a branch should be formed, and the following officials were elected: President, Mrs. King; Vice President, Mrs. A. Small; hon. treasurer, Mrs. F. H. Cook; and hon. secretary, Mrs. *F. Lockley*."

Walsall Observer 9/1/1937

"The Wednesbury Town Clerk has submitted to the General Purposes Committee a report of an interview with Mr. Lowe, of W. Butler and Company Ltd., brewers, of Wolverhampton, at which the latter suggested the sale of a strip of land near the GREEN DRAGON in the Shambles for the improvement of the hotel; also that the Corporation should acquire, in exchange, a piece of land owned by the brewery company in Church Street, that the Corporation should then close the right of way belonging to the brewery company and grant a right of way to the GRAPES INN into Church Street in a more convenient situation.

The question raised involved the car park scheme upon which the Borough Surveyor submitted a report as to the properties necessary for acquisition containing an estimate of £5,300 for the total scheme. It was resolved that the suggestion regarding the sale of land in the Shambles be not approved. The question as to the right of way has been left in abeyance until the position regarding the future of Church Street is clearer."

Walsall Observer 26/6/1937

"At Wednesbury special licensing sessions, yesterday week, approval was given to plans for alterations to..... GRAPES INN, Upper High Street."

1939 Register

High Street – GRAPES INN

- [1] Francis G. Lockley, date of birth 23/11/1873, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Rebecca Lockley, dob 14/3/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Phyllis M. (Lockley) Ginster, dob 14/10/1917, unpaid domestic duties, single;
- [4] Robert J. Sansum, dob 27/6/1914, ammunition machinist, single;
- [5] Ernest J. Jones, dob 7/9/1873, engineer's pattern maker, married;
- [6] Sarah Jones, dob 18/2/1874, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League in 1948.

Closed

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 1. The GRAPES, High Street, Wednesbury.

Situate in a very busy Retail position close to Multiples.

Frontage of 49ft and Site Area of 600 square yards or thereabouts.

Vacant Possession on Completion.”

It was demolished in March 1967.

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 1.

“ THE GRAPES ”

HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.

Situate in a very busy Retail position close to Multiples.

FRONTAGE of 49ft. and SITE AREA of 600 square yards or thereabouts.

VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

1961

GRAPES

21, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

J. Hanson and Son Limited [1925]

LICENSEES

George Perry [1871] – [1879]
Thomas Jones [1881]
Elon Adams [1886] – [1893]
Benjamin J E Adams [1891]
William Jones [1896]
Mrs. Susannah Jones [1901] – [1911]
John Thomas Jones [1921]
Mrs. Florence Winyard [1924] – **1925**;
John O'Brien (**1925** – []

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

21, Portway Road
[1] George Perry (51), puddler, born Tipton;
[2] Jane Perry (48), wife, born Tipton;
[3] Amy Perry (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;
[4] Joseph Perry (16), son, labourer, born Wednesbury;
[5] Arthur Perry (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
[6] Jane Perry (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
[7] Samuel Perry (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1879

“The undermentioned have filed petitions in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court.....

George Perry, Portway Road, Wednesbury, beer-seller and scrap dealer; liabilities £1,500, assets not ascertained.”

Wednesbury Herald 5/4/1879

“A meeting of the creditors of *George Perry*, beer seller and scrap dealer, Portway Road, Wednesbury, was held on Tuesday at the office of Mr. Joseph Smith, solicitor, Wednesbury. The liabilities were expected to amount to £450. It was decided to wind up the estate in liquidation, and Mr. T. S. Hatton, accountant, of Wolverhampton, was appointed trustee.”

Dudley Herald 30/10/1880

“James Lyons was charged on a warrant with being drunk on licensed premises on the 28th August last. PC Steel said on the day in question he saw the defendant turned out of the GRAPES INN, Portway Road. He went into the GLADSTONE INN. Witness went in and saw defendant there with a quart of ale before him. He was drunk. He was also charged with being drunk on Saturday night last, in Meeting Street, Wednesbury, and his wife, Mary

Lyons, with obstructing the police. PC Steel said when he was about apprehending the male defendant his wife obstructed him, and would not let him take him into custody. Mary Lyons was discharged with a caution, and the male defendant was fined for the first case 19s 6d including costs, or in default seven days, and for the second 9s 6d or in default seven days.”

Thomas Jones was a beer retailer and coalminer. [1881]

1881 Census

21, Portway Road – GRAPES INN

- [1] *Thomas Jones* (48), coal miner, born Monmore Green;
- [2] *Elenor Jones* (43), wife, born Moseley Hole;
- [3] *Charles Thomas Jones* (20), son, coal miner, born Moseley Hole;
- [4] *George Jones* (17), son, coal miner, born Moseley Hole;
- [5] *Eliza Jones* (15), daughter, scholar, born Moseley Hole;
- [6] *Harry Jones* (12), son, scholar, born Moseley Hole;
- [7] *James Jones* (10), son, scholar, born Moseley Hole;
- [8] *Elenor Jones* (8), daughter, scholar, born Moseley Hole;
- [9] *Frank Jones* (5), son, scholar, born Moseley Hole;
- [10] *Tilly Jones* (2), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich:

Elon Adams = *Elow Adams* = *Eton Adams*

Birmingham Daily Post 6/10/1886

At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *John Batchelor* (35), Portway Road, Wednesbury, stock-taker, and *Richard Holden* (34), labourer, of the same address, were charged with being on the premises of *Elow Adams*, the GRAPES beerhouse, Portway Road, for an unlawful purpose; with breaking into a lock-up shop, and stealing ham, soap, sugar, and other things; and with stealing a door key and meat-saw.

At about half-past two o'clock on the night of the 2nd inst Police-constables *Beech* and *Sutton* were watching in a brewhouse at the rear of the prosecutor's premises, when the two defendants walked up and attempted to enter, but finding that there was some one there they ran away. The officers went in pursuit, and having captured the prisoners made a search and found that the cellar window had been broken open and a casting which covered it taken away. Subsequently a quantity of grocery, a key, and a meat-saw were found in *Holden's* house, all of which the prosecutor identified as his property.

The prisoners were sentenced to three months' imprisonment each, with hard labour; the other charges not being gone into.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1888

“At the Walsall County Court, yesterday, before his Honour Judge Griffiths, *Elon Adams*, publican, Portway Road, Wednesbury, sued *Thomas Nicholls*, Kings Hill, publican and cowkeeper, for the sum of £10 13s, made up of £1 for illegal impounding cows belonging to the plaintiff, £6 for injuries caused to one of the cows by such impounding, £2 for loss of milk during the time the cow was ill and under treatment by a veterinary surgeon, £1 fee to a veterinary surgeon, and 8s 9d for release of the cows from pound. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. H. Jackson for the defendant.

The plaintiff's case was that on the 14th June, as his son was driving two of his cows along the road to his field, the defendant and a man in the employment of the defendant appeared, took possession of the cows, and drove them off and impounded them, remarking that the plaintiff had ‘had’ him, and he would retaliate. Whilst in the pound the cows were not allowed to be milked, and in consequence one of them suffered from inflammation, and had to be attended to by a veterinary surgeon.

The defence was that the cows were not taken from off the road, but from off the defendant's field, and that they were properly attended to and fed; and a counter-claim for £11 19s was made, arising out of the alleged illegal impounding by the plaintiff of some of defendant's cows on the 25th April.

His Honour, after a protracted hearing, found for the plaintiff on the claim and the counter-claim.”

Elon Adams – see also QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road.

1891 Census

21, Portway Road – GRAPES Public House

- [1] Benjamin J. E. Adams (43), fitter, born Colley Gate;
- [2] Martha Adams (42), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] John E. Adams (19), son, fitter, born Walsall;
- [4] Minnie Adams (17), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Walter Adams (15), son labourer, born Amblecote;
- [6] Henrietta Adams (13), daughter, scholar, born Amblecote;
- [7] Joseph J. Adams (11), son, scholar, born Stourbridge;
- [8] Lillis M. Adams (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Enoch Adams (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Beatrice Adams (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [11] Florence A. Adams (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Commercial Gazette 8/11/1893

“Extract from the Registry of County Courts Judgements.....

Elon Adams, GRAPES INN, Wednesbury, innkeeper, September 27, £21 11s 0d.”

W. Jones issued tokens from here.

William Jones, beer retailer, 21, Portway Road. [1896]

1901 Census

21, Portway Road

- [1] *Susannah Jones* (65), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Lichfield;
- [2] *William Jones* (27), son, engine fitter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *John T. Jones* (25), son, tube fitter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Cartwright* (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Mrs. Susannah Jones, beer retailer, 21, Portway Road. [1904]

1911 Census

Portway Road – GRAPES INN

- [1] *Susannah Jones* (75), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Lichfield;
- [2] *John Thomas Jones* (32), son, barman, born Wednesbury;

1921 Census

21, Portway Road

- [1] *John Thomas Jones* (46), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Leah Jones* (46), wife, household duties, born Hill Top, West Bromwich;
- [3] *Ethel Agnes Bingham* (23), boarder, household duties, born Tewkesbury;
- [4] *George A. Bingham* (24), boarder, millwright, out of work, born Smethwick;
- [5] *Albert Pratt* (36), boarder, stableman, out of work, born Banbury;

South Staffordshire Times 24/5/1924

“*Maria Pincher* (44), Foster Street, Wednesbury, was summoned by *Florence Winyard*, licensee of the GRAPES INN, Portway Road, for abusive language on May 18th, threats and abusive language on May 19th, and threats on May 20th. There was a cross-summons for threats and abusive language on May 18th.

The magistrates fined Mrs. Pincher 20/- in each of the first two cases, and on the threats summons she was bound over for six months in the sum of £5. The case against Mrs. *Winyard* was dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/10/1924

“The Stipendiary at West Bromwich yesterday delivered a reserved judgement in the case in which Mrs. *Florence Winyard*, licensee of the GRAPES INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, was summoned for supplying intoxicating liquor during non-permitted hours.

Four customers, John Clines, John Clark, and Annie Clark, all of Wednesbury, and William Aubin, of 109, Bright Street, Wolverhampton were summoned for consuming.

The Stipendiary said he found that the Clarks and Clines were bona fide friends within the terms of the section, but the case of Aublin was different, as he was a regular customer at the house, and was asked by the landlady to remain behind when the others left.

Mrs. *Winyard* was bound over for twelve months and ordered to pay costs (£4 9s 6d). Aubin was bound over for a similar period, and ordered to pay £2 7s costs.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/6/1925

“The Principal Meeting of the County Compensation Authority, under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Thursday.....

In the case of the GRAPES INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, Sergt. Thorpe stated that within 500 yards there were no fewer than 40 licensed houses. He added that the trade done was small, which Mr. Thompson, who applied for renewal, said was due to trade generally being bad in Wednesbury. He stated that four years ago over £400 was spent on the property. The license was refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/6/1925 - 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 18th day of June, 1925, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

GRAPES Beerhouse, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, Ante 1869. Licensee, *John O'Brien*. Registered Owner, J. Hanson and Son Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1926

“The County Licensing Committee, in their report for the past year compensation was fixed as follows.....

GRAPES INN, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,068.”

Closed

GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

1, Great Western Street (Victoria Street) / Potters Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Jane Handley, Holyhead House, 72, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1920s]

LICENSEES

William Sheldon [1861] – [1882]
Mrs. Betsy Sheldon [1891] – [1898]
John Hinkinson Sheldon [1891] – **1923**;
George Westall **(1923 – [1924]**
Fred Bates [1939] – [1940]
Bessie Bates [1944]
William Edward Burrows [1961] – **1965**;
Yvonne Zena Wordsworth **(1965 – [1966]**
William Wilkinson Hill [1976]



c1920s

NOTES

Victoria Street [1864], [1865]

It had a large clubroom upstairs which was used by the Ancient Order of Foresters.

Auctions were regularly held here.

William Sheldon issued tokens from here.

1861 Census

Potters Lane

- [1] *William Sheldon* (44), beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;
- [2] *Betsy Sheldon* (42), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Sarah Reeves* (22), general servant, born Bilston:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/10/1861

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held on Thursday last.....

The following is a list of applicants for wine and spirit licenses.....

W. Sheldon, Potters Lane, Wednesbury. The authorities of the Great Western Railway, near to whose station *Mr. Sheldon's* building has been recently been erected, through their solicitor, *Mr. George Whateley*, supported the application by stating that a house of the description named was much required. The application was consequently granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/12/1862

“At a meeting of the members of Court White Lion, Ancient Order of Foresters, held at *Mr. Sheldon's*, GREAT WESTERN INN, Wednesbury, it was unanimously agreed to subscribe £5 from the funds, for the relief of the distressed Foresters in the cotton districts.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/1/1863

“Stafford County Sessions.....

Martin Faahan, Martin Maley, and Patrick O’Connell were charged with maliciously wounding John Tierney, at Wednesbury, and inflicting grievous bodily harm. Mr. Hill conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Kenealy defended the prisoners.

The prosecutor stated that he went to the GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury, on the 19th of November last. O’Connell came in and asked what brought him there. Witness replied, ‘My legs.’ O’Connell said, ‘You’ve come to spy somebody,’ and used threatening language. Prosecutor left the house, followed by O’Connell and the other two prisoners, who commenced a most brutal attack, knocking him down and seriously injuring him. Money had been offered by Maley’s friends to compromise the matter.

The evidence of the prosecutor having been confirmed by the police, Mr. Kenealy addressed the jury for the prisoners Maley and O’Connell, and called several witnesses on their behalf.

Mr. Hill replied upon the whole case, and after a careful summing up all the prisoners were found guilty, and sentenced each to twelve calendar months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1863

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, Charles Price was charged with fraudulently removing his goods from a house at Willens Lane, Crook Hay, with intent to defraud his landlord, *William Sheldon*, of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. The case was before the Court a short time previously, and was then settled on the understanding that of the £3 7s 6d due, £1 should be paid within a week, and 8s a month afterwards. Mr. Bayley, on the part of the defendant, alleged that the defendant’s mother had been to Mr. *Sheldon* with the £1, but that gentleman would not take the money, unless she would be answerable for the payment of the remainder within a limited period. This she declined to do; and then it was asserted, Mr. *Sheldon* refused to accept the money. An order was eventually made for payment of £1 within a week, 8s a month afterwards.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1863

“Rejoicings in honour of the Royal marriage.....

Wednesbury Rifle Corps, with the band, dined together on Tuesday evening at the house of Mr. *Sheldon*, the GREAT WESTERN INN.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/3/1863

“The Royal Marriage. Local Rejoicings.....

The spontaneous burst of loyalty which animated every English breast and spread to every English home, was nowhere more conspicuous than in Wednesbury. At an early hour ‘the din of preparation’ sounded in the streets, as the transparencies, flags, festoons, &c, were being displayed.....

As soon as dusk set in, and the illuminations commenced, thousands of people poured out to see them Mr. *Sheldon*, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, and others were distinguished by the size and brilliance of their illuminations.”

[This was the marriage of Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark.]

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1863

“On Wednesday evening, to commemorate the completion of the new London and North-Western Railway stations, Messrs. Branson and Murray, the contractors, gave a dinner at the house of Mr. *Sheldon*, the GREAT WESTERN INN, when about fifty railway employees and others sat down. Dinner over and the tables cleared, Mr. Rate was called to the chair, and Mr. J. D. Frazer to the vice-chair. The usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured, the Chairman gave ‘The Town and Trade of Wednesbury,’ which was very heartily received. The Vice-Chairman followed with ‘The Contractors,’ and took occasion to refer in eulogistic terms to the very handsome and commodious stations erected by the firm in the town.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/10/1863

“Staffordshire General Quarter Sessions.....

Isaac Caddick, on bail, was indicted for stealing from the person of Isaiah Gill, the sum of 19s 9d, at Wednesbury, on the 26th September. Mr. Vaughan conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Kenealy defended the prisoner.

It appeared that on the day preceding the robbery the prosecutor was at the GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury. On that day he had ten sovereigns in his possession, which he left in the hands of Mrs. *Sheldon*, the

landlady. The next morning he returned to the Inn, and received the money he had left in the hands of Mrs. *Sheldon*. He then ordered three glasses of gin, and tendered a sovereign in payment, out of which he received in change 19s 9d. After drinking the gin the prosecutor fell asleep. Upon awaking the prosecutor found the prisoner standing over him, with his hand in his inside waistcoat pocket, where he had placed the remaining nine sovereigns. Upon feeling in his trousers pocket for the 19s 9d he found it gone. The prisoner had a quantity of silver in his possession, one shilling of which the prosecutor identified as his property.

The Jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/11/1863

"An inquest was held yesterday, by Mr. E. Hooper, the coroner, at Mr. *Sheldon's*, the GREAT WESTERN INN, Wednesbury, on the body of a man named Henry Wright, about fifty-six years of age, by trade a miner, who has left a widow and several children.

A witness named Paulina Wright stated that she was the wife of the deceased. Her husband had not enjoyed the best of health for the last twelve months. Some three years ago deceased had the misfortune to break his leg, at the colliery of Messrs. Horton and Willington, Riddings Lane, and since that time he had been obliged to accept a situation as watchman, as he was unable to resume his former employment. Last Sunday night, after being confined to his bed all day, he became suddenly worse. Witness made his bed, but at about twelve o'clock she heard him groan. David Lawton, a son-in-law of the witness, went for Mr. Horton, surgeon, who told him he was ill, and could not attend; deceased died before Lawton returned. Deceased had never been well since the accident. She considered it unnecessary to call in medical advice during the Sunday. The witness stated, in reply to Mr. Baker, the Government Inspector, that the deceased's leg had been fearfully crushed on the occurrence of the accident three years ago, and since that time he had suffered from asthma.

David Lawton, son-in-law of the deceased, was the next witness called, and stated that he went for Mr. Horton about twenty minutes after one o'clock. He did not go for any other surgeon, as he was not aware that the deceased was so seriously ill. Previous to the accident deceased was a strong and vigorous man, but since then he was only able to act as watchmen. He had been employed in that capacity on the new railway, and since then at the colliery of Mr. Hoskins, Potters Lane.

The Coroner summed up briefly, and the Jury returned a verdict of Died by the Visitation of God."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1863

"The Gale in the District....

During the gale a house belonging to Mr. *William Sheldon*, the landlord of the GREAT WESTERN INN, Wednesbury, situated between Hill Top and Crookhay, was struck by a blast of wind which knocked down a chimney on the roof, and occasioned damage to the amount of £20. The inmates, fortunately for themselves, were absent from the house at the time."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/2/1864

"Rifle Movement. Thirty-Fourth Staffordshire (Wednesbury) Company.

On Monday evening a dinner, given by the non-commissioned officers of this corps to the commissioned officers, took place at the house of Mr. *Sheldon*, the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL. Sergeant Blakemore (in the unavoidable absence of Quartermaster-sergeant Frost) presided over a numerous company, and Sergeant Smith occupied the vice-chair. The dinner, which was of good quality, and well served, having been disposed of, the usual loyal toasts were given from the chair, and duly honoured....

The members afterwards marched to St. John's school-room, where a large number of ladies and gentlemen had assembled to witness the distribution of a number of prizes, won by members of the corps during the past year....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/5/1864

"In answer to an invitation from the Wednesbury branch of the Association of United Puddlers, a deputation from the Birmingham Working Men's Committee, consisting of Mr. Josh. Jones, the Chairman; Mr. Christie, Secretary; and Messrs. Dalzell, Everard, and Dyers, committee men, last Saturday evening attended a numerous meeting at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, for the purpose of assisting this important association to mature a plan of action by which they could unite in the noble effort to raise a testimonial to Garibaldi....

Mr. Millard, secretary to the association, then rose to propose that voluntary contributions should be given by the members of that society to do honour to the great Italian liberator The deputation, with the chief officers and committee men of the association, adjourned to partake of a very plentiful repast provided for them."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/8/1864

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, William Jackson was charged with having assaulted *William Sheldon*, landlord of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL. Mr. Sheldon, solicitor, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Dicken for the defence.

It appeared that on the night of the 3rd inst a quarrel ensued between defendant and a man named Hammond, whom he struck. The landlord interfered, and defendant struck him a violent blow on the mouth, knocking out one of his teeth.

For the defence it was contended that Jackson had not struck complainant at all, and that the present proceedings had been taken because the accused was about applying for a license for a public house in the neighbourhood of the GREAT WESTERN INN.

The Bench held the offence proved, and imposed a fine on the accused of £3 and the expenses, or the alternative of two months' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1864

“An inquest was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday, before Mr. E. Hooper, touching the death of Phoebe Mills, fourteen, domestic servant.

Joseph Thornton, twelve, said deceased was a domestic servant in the house of his father, who lived in Stafford Street. The deceased was very playful and romping on Friday, and ate heartily at supper time of toasted eels. Witness slept in the same room as deceased, but in another bed. At bed time they arranged that whoever woke first in the morning should wake the other. Witness woke about five o'clock, and called out to deceased several times. Receiving no answer he got up and shook her, when she put her arm up, but did not speak. She looked very strange, and witness went to fetch his father. When they returned the deceased was purple in the face, and quite dead. The evidence was corroborated by witness's father and mother. Deceased has never been subject to fits, and had no illness since coming to Mr. Thornton's house.

The Coroner asked the Jury if they were satisfied, or wished for medical evidence. The Jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1864

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an enquiry, at the house of Mr. *Sheldon*, the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, into the circumstances attending the death of Noah Corser, a boy six and a half years of age, who was killed on the Great Western Railway, on the morning of Wednesday last. The enquiry was attended by Mr. Andrews, district superintendent of the line, and Mr. George Harris, station master at Wednesbury. The evidence went to show that on the morning named as Nicholas Simpson, one of the Company's engine drivers, was driving an engine, tender, and two carriages from Wolverhampton towards Wednesbury, the train having left the former town at 6.55, he saw a boy on the line near Mr. Hunt's chemical works, at Lea Brook. He sounded his whistle and the boy got out of the way. He passed on to Birmingham; and on returning to Wednesbury, about two hours later, he ascertained that the dead body of a boy had been found by John Varlow, one of the company's constables, near to Mr. Hunt's works. When found, another boy, the brother of the deceased, was standing near the corpse. The wheels and ash pan of Simpson's engine were examined, but no traces of blood were found on them. It was subsequently found that the boy had left the home of his parents, who live at Catherine's Cross, Darlaston, on the preceding night, and had followed his elder brother to the Willingsworth Furnaces, where the latter works. They were making a short cut across the line when the deceased met with his death.

The jury entirely exonerated the driver from blame, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The general feeling seemed to be that Mr. Hunt should put up a foot bridge at the point in question, for the use of his men, who frequently cross the line at that place. Mr. Andrews promised to facilitate the putting up of the bridge if Mr. Hunt was disposed to adopt the suggestion.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/10/1865

“An extraordinary meeting of delegates connected with the Ironworkers Association of Great Britain has been held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. The delegates represented the following eighteen districts: Liverpool, Manchester, Warrington, Derby, North Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, Brierley Hill, Wednesbury, Westbromwich, Golds Hill, Tividale, Tipton, Moxley, Bilston, Smethwick, Pelsall, Pleck, and New Birchills. Mr. Carlisle, the paid president of the association, whose head offices are at Brierley Hill, presided; and Mr. Hobson, the paid secretary, was also present.

The most important business before the meeting was the question of the future regulation of wages of puddlers and others persons engaged in ironworks. On the termination of the recent lock-out in South Staffordshire, representatives of the puddlers in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton obtained an interview with the ironmasters there, their object being to agree on a scale of wages which might be assented to both by masters and men, and so avoid the necessity for strikes and lock-outs for the future. The result of conferences was, that the masters adhered to the principle of the sliding scale The following not very courteous resolution terminated the discussion, 'That the master's proposition be swept from the board as being preposterous.'

It was stated that about a dozen men who were prominent in the late strike in North Staffordshire had been kept out of employment, and that one of them who had obtained work at a distance was discharged on account of his late master having discovered where he was and having written respecting him. It was agreed to allow these 'victims' 20s per week whilst out of employment. It was also resolved to pay the North Staffordshire men the balance of pay being the amount they were paid short in the late strike after they had been taken back into the association....."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/11/1865

"On Monday evening the members of the Wednesbury Rifle Corps assembled in St. John's School Room to witness the pleasing ceremony of the distribution of the prizes recently competed for at the annual prize contest of the company.....

Hearty cheers were given for the Queen and the commanding officer, and the company, headed by the band, then proceeded to the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, where the annual supper took place."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/6/1866

"Mr. Edwin Hooper held an inquest yesterday afternoon, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, to inquire into the circumstances connected with the death of William Hayer, a stock-taker, 60 years of age, who resided in Albert Street.

On Saturday afternoon last, between one and two o'clock, the deceased was carrying some sticks along High Street, when he suddenly reeled and fell to the ground. A young man named John Hackwood went to the assistance of the deceased, and he was afterwards placed in a vehicle, and conveyed to his home, where he died shortly afterwards. Mr. Blackwood, surgeon, was called to the deceased, and was of opinion that he died from a paralytic stroke and a fit of apoplexy. The deceased had been in a poor state of health for the last twelve months.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

Birmingham Journal 30/6/1866

"On Tuesday, Mr. Hooper, district coroner, opened an enquiry at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, touching the death of David Jones, aged 32, a puddler, who lived with his parents in Stafford Street, and who died on Friday night under circumstances which gave rise to a belief that he had taken an overdose of nux vomica [strychnine]. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for Mr. Tucker, chemist, at whose shop the prescription was made up which contained the drug in question, and Mr. Superintendent Holland was also present.

The first witness called was Samuel Jones, a brother of the deceased, but he fainted on presenting himself to be sworn, and consequently, as soon as he had recovered, he was removed, and his evidence was not taken.

The next witness was Margaret Madeley, a married woman, living near to the parents of the deceased. She said she had known the deceased for about twelve months, and to the best of her knowledge he had during that time enjoyed good health, until a week before his death, when he complained of being low and poorly, but he still continued to work. He went to his club doctor, Mr. Underhill, of Toll End, and on Wednesday last after working half a day, he also went to Mr. Palmer, surgeon, of Birmingham. On his return he got some medicine made up and took one dose before he went to work on Thursday morning. Witness was told he also took one dose with him to the works, and he took another on his return home. He then went to sleep, and soon after his father knocked the wall for witness to go in. She did so, and found the deceased black in the face and frothing at the mouth. Dr. Blackwood, who was at once sent for, immediately attended. The fit lasted about a quarter of an hour, and was followed by others at short intervals all that night and Friday, the deceased's limbs twitching violently. Deceased died at a few minutes after eleven o'clock on Friday night. Had never known the deceased or any of his family have fits before.

In cross-examination by Mr. Ebsworth, the witness stated that each dose of the medicine consisted of a meat-spoonful in a glass of water. She only saw one taken herself. Did not know that deceased suffered from heart disease.

Mary Sixsmith, another married woman, living near the deceased's parents, gave corroborative evidence, and stated that on Sunday week the deceased had a bottle of medicine from Mr. Underhill's assistant; but this doing him no good he was advised to go to Mr. Palmer. She described the deceased's fits as being of a very violent character. Dr. Thomas Blackwood said he was called in to see the deceased about five o'clock on Thursday night, and found him lying on the sofa just recovering from a fit. He was frothing at the mouth, and his muscles were twitching. Witness said he hoped it would turn out to be a case of epilepsy, and directed the friends to apply cold water to the deceased's head, and to loosen his clothes and give him plenty of air. Witness then went home, after giving some further directions, but was soon sent for again, when he found the deceased recovering from another fit. On looking at the deceased, witness said it looked as if the case would turn out a serious one. The deceased's brain was much congested, and he feared the result of the fits as much as the cause, whatever that might be. By witness's direction leeches were at once got and applied to deceased's head, and subsequently a bottle of medicine, bearing the label of Mr. Tucker, chemist, was produced, and it was stated that the deceased had got the prescription from which the medicine was made up, from Mr. Palmer, surgeon. Learning that the deceased was in Mr. Underhill's club, and had taken medicine obtained from that gentleman's surgery, witness told the friends that they had better apply to the club surgeon at once. Witness examined the prescription, and found one of the ingredients of the medicine to be tincture of nux vomica one grain and a half. He told the friends not to let the deceased have any more of the medicine, believing that a repetition of the doses would be fatal, but hoping that, by stopping it at once, the young man would recover. Witness thought the grain and a half might have been mistaken for an ounce and a half, and that consequently the medicine contained more of the drug than was intended, or else that by an idiosyncrasy of constitution, the deceased was peculiarly susceptible to its effects. It was likely, too, that from the manner in which the prescription was written, the tincture of nux vomica might have been mistaken for the powder, but in that case the drug would have been in a less powerful form than the tincture. Mr. Underhill's assistant subsequently saw the deceased, and Mr. Underhill himself also came over, but on learning that the deceased had taken medicine from Mr. Palmer, he left witness to attend to the case.

The witness then detailed the results of a post mortem examination of the body he had made under the Coroner's precept, and gave it as his opinion that the nux vomica had had somewhat to do with the death of the deceased, but he added that the quantity prescribed was in medicinal doses, and in ordinary cases would not have had a bad effect. He considered, however, that such a powerful drug should not be administered in cases where, as in this instance, the patient lived so far away from the practitioner, and could not be seen at very frequent intervals.

The witness was cross-examined by Mr. Ebsworth, at some length. At this point the Coroner expressed an opinion that it would be far more satisfactory to have an analysis made of the medicine, and also of the contents of the deceased's stomach. The Jury concurred, and Mr. Holland was instructed to convey both the medicine and the stomach (which had been deposited in a sealed jar by Dr. Blackwood) to Dr. Hill, of Birmingham.

The enquiry was then adjourned until Monday, the 26th July, and the Coroner was desired to request Mr. Palmer to attend."

[At the resumed enquiry, the analysis of Dr. Hill showed there was no strychnine in the stomach, and none in the medicine. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Convulsions, but what was the cause of the convulsions there is no evidence to show.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/10/1866

"On Saturday night a meeting of ironworkers connected with the National Ironworkers Association, whose headquarters are at Brierley Hill, was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, to discuss matters affecting the great strike at the works in the North....."

London Evening Standard 1/10/1868

"Mr. Walker, the Conservative candidate for the new borough of Wednesbury, was loudly applauded by a large audience who had assembled at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Tuesday night, on hearing from him a statement of his political views. At the close of his address it was unanimously resolved that Mr. Walker was the fittest person to represent that borough in the forthcoming parliament."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/9/1869 - Advert

"Freehold Public House and Four Dwelling Houses, in Portway Road, in the borough of Wednesbury. To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Powell and Son, at Mr. *William Sheldon's*, the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, the 6th day of October next....."

Sheffield Independent 4/11/1870

“On Saturday and Monday last, two large meetings of ironworkers employed in the Wednesbury district were held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, for the purpose of listening to two delegates from the North of England Board of Arbitration. The delegates explained their mode of working, and the benefits to both employers and operatives by settling their disputes by arbitration and conciliation, instead of by the old method of strikes and lock-outs, and tried to induce the men to organize themselves and endeavour to establish a Board of Arbitration and Conciliation for this district. The meetings were well attended and the following resolution was unanimously passed. ‘That this meeting pledges itself to use its influence to prevail on the men of this district to organize themselves to become members of the National Association, and to do all in its power to induce the employers to form a Board of Arbitration and Conciliation for the South Staffordshire iron trade.’”

1871 Census

Great Western Street – GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

[1] William Sheldon (54), hotel proprietor, born Tipton;

[2] Betsey Sheldon (52), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] William Sheldon (25), son, student of medicine, born West Bromwich;

[4] John Sheldon (13), son, scholar, born West Bromwich:

Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association met here. [1871]



Token

Birmingham Mail 19/9/1873

“Yesterday, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, an enquiry was held by Mr. Hooper, coroner, into the circumstances attending the death of Martin Berry (34), labourer, Portway Road. The deceased was killed whilst passing a level crossing on the London and North-Western Railway at Wednesbury on Tuesday evening. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and strongly recommended the company to take instant measures to render crossing more safe for the passengers using it.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1874

“The annual meeting and conference of the Licensed Victuallers National Defence League was held yesterday, at the Royal Hotel, Temple Row the following delegates were present.....

William Sheldon, Wednesbury.....”

Monmouthshire Merlin 18/12/1874

“On Saturday night a representative meeting of South Staffordshire ironworkers was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, to consider the propriety of joining the National Association of Miners, in sending a deputation to Belgium to inquire and report on the nature and character of the stone, coal, and other mineral products that are required in making coke, and smelting and manufacturing the product into pig, and then into finished iron; and the cost of shipping, &c, the whole to be arranged in a tabulated form, with a view to seeing whether the coal and iron trades of this country are endangered by Belgian competition.....”

[A representative was chosen to be recommended for the deputation to Belgium.]

Cannock Chase Examiner 16/1/1875

“The annual dinner of the past and present district officers in connection with the Greets Green district of the Ancient Order of Foresters took place on Wednesday evening, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. There was a good attendance of brethren present, including a number of the prominent members of the order from Walsall and adjacent districts. An excellent dinner was provided and well served up by Brother Sheldon, to which full justice was accorded.....”

Cannock Chase Examiner 10/4/1875

“A district meeting of the various lodges of ironworkers connected with the Wednesbury district was held on Monday morning at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. The lodges were well represented. The object to the meeting was the appointment of two representatives for the district on the South Staffordshire Conciliation Board.....

The desirability of joining the newly-formed Wednesbury Trade Council was next discussed, and it was resolved that each lodge should be recommended to join the Council, and at once proceed to elect its delegates to sit thereon.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/5/1875

“The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. John Bagnall and Sons Limited was held on Thursday at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL. Mr. John Richardson (chairman) presided.....”

County Advertiser 26/7/1879

“A conference of ironworkers took place at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday. About 70 delegates assembled The following resolutions were passed.

- (1) That this meeting is of opinion that the time has scarcely yet arrived to instruct the operative representatives on the Wages Board to make a claim for an advance in ironworkers wages.
- (2) That this meeting takes the present opportunity to express its unqualified disapproval of the conduct of certain employer members, and also of the conduct of certain operative members of the Wages Board; the former for claiming the right to make and the latter for being foolish enough to accept reductions in wages in a manner which is, to say the least, contrary to the letter and spirit of the Board rules.
- (3) That the ironworkers of Staffordshire, Worcestershire, and Shropshire, form a new association upon principles to be laid down by a sub-committee, consisting of one representative from each of the twelve districts comprising North and South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire, and Shropshire, such committee to meet for the object named during the coming month.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/3/1880

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquiry at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Elizabeth Holland (85), who had died from the effects of injuries sustained about six weeks ago. The deceased fell downstairs, and sustained such injuries as to cause her death. After a lengthy inquiry, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wednesbury Herald 27/3/1880

“On Saturday night a railway guard named William Bliss (38), residing at Wolverhampton, was killed on the Great Western Railway near Wednesbury Railway Station. The deceased was the guard in charge of the train leaving Wednesbury at 9.40pm for Wolverhampton, and on the train arriving at Bilston station deceased was missing. Search was made on the line, and his dead body was found near to Moxley station, the skull being smashed. It is supposed that deceased fell through the carriage window when the train was in motion. The body was removed to the railway station.

An inquest was held on the body on Tuesday morning at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL by Edwin Hooper, Esq, District Coroner. Mr. Ledbrooke represented the railway company.

Jessie Bath, signalman, identified the body of the deceased, and said he was a man of sober habits.

John Perry, a postman stationed at Bilston, said that on Saturday night he went to the Bilston Railway Station to meet the 9.10 train from Birmingham, for the purpose of sending mail bags to Wolverhampton. On the train arriving he went to the bag van and found the door fastened and found no guard inside. There was a lighted lamp on the floor, and at the side lay some mail bags. The window was down. Witness informed the booking clerk that there was no guard, and the engineer of the train said the guard left Wednesbury Station all right. On Sunday morning he heard that the guard had been found dead on the line at Bradley and Moxley.

Alfred Edges, a porter stationed at the Wednesbury Great Western Railway Station, said he saw the deceased get into the van at the station all right. He appeared to be perfectly sober. The deceased was brought to the Wednesbury station by the 11.16 train. He was quite dead, his head being completely smashed.

Richard Price, signalman, said he left Bilston station shortly after eleven o'clock, and he received instructions to look for the deceased as he was supposed to be killed. On arriving at the bridge near Moxley station he saw the deceased lying near the outside line under the bridge. The man was stretched out full length and he was dead. The train was stopped, and deceased was placed in the van. On the following morning he visited the spot and found a quantity of blood and hair on the buttress of the bridge.

John Ledbrooke, the Inspector of the Birmingham Division of the Great Western Railway, said the deceased had been in the employ of the Company about 14 years, during which period he had acted in the capacity of signalman and guard. He was a steady and industrious man, and he was under the impression that he had met with his death in consequence of walking on the footboard of the train when travelling at the rate of 30 miles an hour, and his head coming in contact with the buttress of the Moxley bridge.

In reply to the Coroner witness said that guards were not allowed to walk along the footboards when the trains were in motion, and only a month ago a guard was discharged for walking on a footboard when a train was in motion.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, to which they appended that the Company be specially requested to inform the guards that they must not walk on the footboards. Mr. Ledbrooke promised that the recommendation should be carried out.”

Wednesbury Herald 5/6/1880

“On Wednesday, Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquiry at the GREAT WESTERN INN, Wednesbury, relative to the death of William Chamberlain Smith, aged four years, the son of William Smith, labourer, Potters Lane.

The father of the deceased said that on Sunday he saw his son playing near to the house at about one o’clock. He afterwards missed him for about an hour and half, and at half past two o’clock a little boy came and informed him that ‘Willie was in the water.’

The Coroner: Do you mean to say that your little boy was missing an hour and a half, and you did not make any inquiries after him. – Witness: Yes sir.

The Coroner: All that I can say is that you are greatly to blame, and I don’t wonder at your child being drowned. What do you know about his death?

Witness said that the little boy took him to a catch pit, adjoining the London and North Western Railway, and said ‘that he was in the sewerage water.’ He obtained a hook, and the body was dragged out of the water. Dr. Blackwood was sent for, and upon his arriving he said that life had been extinct some time.

The Coroner said he considered the parent greatly to blame, and he would take the opportunity of warning him that if another child of his died under similar circumstances, he should deem it his duty to advise the jury to return a verdict of manslaughter against him, and he had no doubt he would be sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

The witness said could not be always looking after the children.

The Coroner said it was the duty of parents to protect their children, and in the present case it was evident that they had not.

Michael Sherdon proved to finding the body in a catch pit, which contained 10ft of filthy water.

In reply to the jury, witness stated that the children must have trespassed to have got near the pool. A large portion of the pit was boarded over, but a small portion was left open in order to let the sewage matter flow in.

A juryman said he considered that the Commissioners’ attention ought to be called to the matter with a view of the place being made more safe.

The Coroner said he would see the Surveyor to the Board with reference to the matter.

The jury afterwards returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

1881 Census

1, Great Western Street – GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

[1] William Sheldon (64), victualler, born Tipton;

[2] Betsey Sheldon (62), wife, born Golds Green;

[3] John Hinkinson Sheldon (23), son, barman, born Golds Green;

[4] Mary Elizabeth Sheldon (28), daughter-in-law, doctor’s wife, born Goole, Yorkshire;

[5] Mary Wells (19), general servant, born Hill Top;

Evening Express 16/5/1881

“An adjourned conference of the representatives of the ironworkers of Staffordshire, East Worcestershire, and Shropshire was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, this (Monday) morning, to consider the proposals of the members in lieu of the Employers Liability Act. Mr. Piggott was voted to the chair, and there was a very meagre attendance.

The Chairman said it appeared to him, from the small attendance of representatives at the present and previous meetings, that the men had lost all interest in the proposals put forth by the masters. It was desirable that a respectful reply should be sent to the masters, and that was the reason why meetings had been called from time to time. Every man in the district in which he was now located had received a circular to attend that meeting, but he thought if they were to pass a resolution that morning the majority would not abide by it.

Mr. Willascroft said he did not think it would be wise for the meeting to take any further steps in the matter than they already done, seeing they had so few representatives present. That was the fifth meeting held for the consideration of the masters’ proposals, which had not yet come to anything definite. From the intervening meetings he had held with the workmen he represented, he found that they were entirely against the insurance scheme and in favour of adopting the Act.....”

Evening Express 23/6/1881

"On Wednesday evening, a meeting of delegates representing the various friendly societies of the district was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. Mr. Cuxson presided....."

Birmingham Mail 11/1/1882 - Died

"On the 11th inst, at Wednesbury, in her 39th year, Hannah, the beloved wife of Samuel Burghope, and eldest daughter of *William Sheldon*, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury."

[Samuel Burghope and family were at 2, Great Western Street in 1871, 1881 and 1891.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/5/1882

"Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, &c.....

The following are amongst the societies which made returns.....

Untied Brothers branch, No.2, of the National Federation of Engineers Protection Association of Great Britain, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. Established 1875; funds, £34; annual income, £16; number of members, 13."

Evening Star 6/6/1882

"On Monday, E. Harper Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, touching the death of Caroline Taylor (31), the wife of Richard Taylor, patent window blind manufacturer, Wednesbury, who was found dead in bed on Friday evening last, about 11.20. The evidence showed that the deceased's husband went home after journeying from Wolverhampton, and found his wife's bedroom door locked, and burst it open, upon which he found her dead in bed. Information was given to the police by Dr. Garman, who upon arriving found a vessel containing the dregs of vermin killer in close proximity to the bed. The husband stated that at the request of the deceased he procured some vermin killer to kill some mice. In reply to a question asked he stated that she had been in a desponding state for some time, in consequence of being in reduced circumstances.

A verdict of committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1882 - Died

"On the 17th inst, in his 67th year, *William Sheldon*, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury; deeply regretted."

Dudley and District News 25/8/1883

"A meeting of the operative section of the South Staffordshire Mill and Forge Wages Board was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday, when Mr. W. Ellis proposed, Mr. S. Gittings seconded, and it was unanimously resolved, 'That the Secretary be instructed to give the requisite notice at the end of the present month to discontinue the operation of the existing sliding scale, with a view of claiming a revision in the wages basis that shall include all classes of iron, and also of shortening the period during which the new sliding scale shall operate.' It was also resolved to hold a number of mass meetings in the various districts, commencing at Great Bridge, on Monday, the 3rd September."

Dudley Mercury 24/12/1887

"On Saturday night a five hours conference between the operatives section of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Wages Board and the executive council of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers of Great Britain took place at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. In the end the following resolution was carried, 'That, in view of the present favourable conditions of the trade, this meeting affirms that the time has arrived when all the members of the trade should rally round the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers of Great Britain, and that the necessary steps be taken to secure a more effective support of the Wages Board by better organisation of the trade and the formation of lodges throughout the district affected by the Board.'"

Walsall Observer 7/3/1891

"*John Hinkinson Sheldon*, of Wednesbury, was summoned for having a house belonging to him, the ROSE AND CROWN, Birchills, open during prohibited hours on the 25th February. Mr. G. J. Thursfield defended.

Police-constable Lycett deposed that at 11.20 he visited the house, seeing a light in the bar. Mr. and Mrs. Perry were there, and the former drank out of a jug which was before him. Mrs. McGill, the wife of the manager of the house, told him that Mr. and Mrs. Perry were friends of hers, and had paid for nothing to drink. He told them that he should report the case, and Mrs. McGill told him to take a drink and not do so.

Mr. Thursfield stated that Mrs. Perry had gone there about ten o'clock for the purpose of rubbing Mrs. McGill's chest, she having bronchitis. She stayed a little while, and her husband coming to fetch her, he stayed a short time. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Perry had anything to drink.

Mrs. McGill, Mrs. Perry, Mr. Perry, and Mr. McGill were called in support of the defence, but after they had been subjected to a severe cross-examination by the Chief Constable, the Bench inflicted a fine of 20s and costs.

John Perry and Mary Ann Perry were summoned for being found on the licensed premises, but the case was withdrawn on payment of 1s and costs."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/3/1891

"*John Hinkinson Sheldon*, of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, was charged with keeping the ROSE AND CROWN, the Birchills, open during prohibited hours. Mr. G. J. Thursfield, of Wednesbury, defended.

The evidence was to the effect that at 11.40 on the night of the 25th ult he found the front door open, and in addition to the manager (a man named McGill) and Mrs. McGill, a Mr. and Mrs. Perry, of Green Lane, were in the house. The defence was that Mrs. McGill was suffering from a cold, and that Mrs. Perry went to rub her chest with goose oil. It was denied that either Mr. or Mrs. Perry had anything to drink, and stated that they sat conversing as friends the house has been kept by Mr. McGill for 14 years without complaint. Fined 20s and costs. Mr. *Sheldon* said he and his father had been engaged in the trade for over 50 years, and that was the first time he had had the misfortune to appear in court. Alderman Holden regretted the misfortune, and said that but for the very contradictory evidence of the witnesses who were called for the defence they would have dealt more leniently with him. Mr. and Mrs. Perry were fined 1s and costs each."

1891 Census

1, Great Western Street

[1] *Betsy Sheldon* (73), hotel proprietor, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Ann Mills* (29), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

AND

58, Potters Lane

[1] *John H. Sheldon* (34), hotel manager, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Sarah Eleanor Sheldon* (31), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Ernest Lloyd Sheldon* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Annie Carter* (16), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1891

"A meeting of the operative member of the Sheet Committee, the members of the Council of the Associated Iron and Steel Workers, and various other delegates was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday, for the purpose of receiving reports as to the adoption of the general wage list at the various works in South Staffordshire The reports showed that with a few exceptions the schedule had been adopted....."

Gloucester Citizen 2/1/1893

"Our Stroud readers will regret to learn that on Saturday Mr. Samuel Burghope, the secretary of the Licensed Victuallers National Defence League, died at his residence, Wood Green, Wednesbury, after a very painful illness. The deceased gentleman was well-known throughout the Midlands, having been for the last 30 years prominently identified with licensed victuallers associations, but during recent years he has devoted the major portion of his time to transacting business for the league at the head offices in London. About three months ago Mr. Burghope was seized with illness when engaged in London, and was removed to his town residence, where he remained in a very precarious state for several weeks. An improvement afterwards set in, and three weeks ago the surgeons who were attending him gave their sanction for his removal to Wednesbury. Since his arrival there he has gradually become weaker and died as stated. The deceased gentleman was born at Stroud, Gloucestershire, in January, 1840, and had he lived until today he would have been 53 years of age. He was originally intended for the law, for which profession he successfully studied. He, however, relinquished it in 1860, and accepted a position under the Great Western Railway Company. This he only held for three years, transferring his services to the London and North Western Railway Company, with whom he remained until 1879. In 1865 he married the eldest daughter of the late Mr. *William Sheldon*, of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. About that period he took a great interest in the licensing trade and rendered valuable services in organising the members. He aided the formation of a Licensed Victuallers Association for Wednesbury and District. He was subsequently elected a member of the committee of

the Licensed Victuallers National Defence League, and a few years later, upon the Defence League being amalgamated with the London and Provincial League, he was appointed secretary, which office he held until his death. For many years the deceased took an active interest in friendly societies, and obtained the highest honours in the Ancient Order of Foresters, being elected High Chief Ranger in 1867. He has also prominently identified with the Freemasons, and was PM of the Athol Lodge. Birmingham. He leaves two daughters."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/10/1893

"Wednesbury Municipal Elections.

Since the announcement a few days since of the selection of Mr. *J. Sheldon*, of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, to oppose Mr. Hackwood, the retiring representative of the Town Hall Ward, the latter has expressed his intention not to seek re-election....."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 9/10/1893

"Wednesbury Municipal Election.

.....The only other contest actually decided upon so far is the representation of the Town Hall Ward, vacated by Mr. Hackwood, Mr. *J. Sheldon*, of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, being before the burgesses with the support of the Conservatives and licensed victuallers, whilst his opponent, Dr. Dingley, will no doubt rally the Liberal and temperance forces."

[Sheldon was elected by 627 votes to 537.]

AND

Evening Despatch 24/4/1943

"One of Wednesbury's old public servants, ex-Alderman *John Hinkinson Sheldon*, has died at his home, Dudley Walk, Goldthorpe Park, Wolverhampton, aged 85. He served on Wednesbury borough council for 36 years, and was made an alderman in 1921. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters since 1877, and was one of the principal advocates and keenest supporters of friendly society work in South Staffordshire. Licensee of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL for many years, he was president of Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association for over 30 years."

Walsall Observer 4/11/1893 - Advert

"To Coal and Iron Masters, Speculators, and others.

Important Sale of a Valuable Plot of Freehold Land, with the ungotten Mines and Minerals, lately forming the site of the Moorcroft Iron Works, Moxley, near Wednesbury.

By E. Cox, on Tuesday, November 14th, 1893, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL. Wednesbury....."

Sarah Eleanor Sheldon died in the 4th quarter of 1894.

Wednesbury Herald 18/5/1895

"On Tuesday night a meeting of the Licensed Victuallers Protection Association was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Mr. E. Birch presiding.

The delegates who attended the recent conference held in connection with the Licensed Victuallers Defence League, at Plymouth, submitted reports, which on the whole were not deemed to be satisfactory, the delegates stating that the Executive Committee controlled business and practically prohibited the representatives of private societies from making propositions.

Mr. Plant said the secretary's salary was increased £50 per annum without the delegation being consulted.

It was decided to forward petitions to the House of Commons in opposition to the Direct Veto Bill."

Wednesbury Herald 19/10/1895

"On Monday evening, Mr. Edwin Hooper (Coroner) held an inquest at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, concerning the death of Thomas Garratt (33), stock-taker, Great Western Street. The deceased was described as a healthy man, never having had a day's illness. On Saturday night whilst smoking a pipe, he suddenly fell back in his chair and died before medical aid could be obtained. It was stated that the deceased had been working very hard during the week in lifting heavy weights, and it was probable through his exertions he had strained himself.

The jury did not think a post mortem examination necessary, and a verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/8/1898

"The funeral took place yesterday of Mrs. *Betsy Sheldon*, landlady of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, who died somewhat suddenly a few days ago. Mrs. *Sheldon* was the oldest licensed victualler in the town."

Birmingham Weekly Post 17/2/1900

"On Monday Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquest at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Amy Florence Jacques (7), whose parents reside at Potters Lane. On Thursday the child returned from school while her mother was away from home, and in reaching her dinner from the hob set fire to her clothing. She ran into the street in flames, which a man named Johnson extinguished. Dr. Garman, who was called in, found deceased extensively burned about the body, chest and arms, and death ensued on Saturday night. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Sporting Life 22/9/1900

"Wednesbury Swimming Club Sports.

The seventh annual sports were held at Wednesbury on Thursday evening, Councillor *J. H. Sheldon* presiding over a large attendance....."

1901 Census

1, Great Western Street

[1] *John Sheldon* (43), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Maud M. Sheldon* (27), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Catherine Delaney* (27), domestic servant, born Sutton, Staffordshire;

[4] *Florence Fones* (22), domestic servant, born Sedgley;

[5] *Joseph Mason* (16), man servant, born Sutton, Staffordshire:

Wellington Journal 26/7/1902

"A conference of ironworkers connected with the National Ironworkers Association and the Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board was held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday, under the presidency of Mr. W. Aucott (president of the association and operative secretary of the Wages Board). Mr. James Cox (association secretary) and Mr. S. Harris (vice-chairman of the Wages Board) were also present, with 60 delegates representing 50 branches in South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire, and Shropshire. The conference was convened to consider a difficulty which has arisen in connection with wages through the operation of the sliding scale under the Wages Board....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/6/1904

"Mr. A. A. Betham held an inquiry at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, yesterday, into the death of Josiah Wall, aged 58, widower, of Potters Lane, Wednesbury. The deceased was working at some shears at the Monway Ironworks, belonging to the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, on April 22, when he dropped a piece of iron on his foot, fracturing two of his toes. On May 8 blood poisoning set in, and he died on Tuesday last. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

London Gazette 3/1/1905

"Advertisement of Cancelling.

Notice is hereby given, that the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has, pursuant to s.77 of the Friendly Societies Act, 1896, by writing under his hand, dated the 30th day of December, 1904, cancelled the Registry of the Wednesbury, Darlaston, And District Friendly Societies Medical Association (Register No.2332), held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on the ground that the Society has wilfully, and after notice from a Registrar, violated the provisions of the above mentioned Act, in having failed to furnish the Annual Return of the said Society for the year ending 31st December, 1902. The Society (subject to the right of appeal given by the said Act) ceases to enjoy the privileges of a registered Society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the Society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancelling had not taken place.

J. D. Stuart Sim, Chief Registrar."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1907

"A large gathering assembled yesterday at a garden party and horse turnout competition in the Myvod House grounds, under the auspices of the Wednesbury Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club.

The horse competition resulted Best mare or gelding third, Coucillor *J. H. Sheldon*."

Birmingham Daily Mail 15/3/1906

"Today the following nominations were received for the Wednesbury and Oldbury parishes for seats upon the West Bromwich Board of Guardians Wednesbury No.1 district.....

J. H. Sheldon, licensed victualler, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL.

Contests have been avoided in each district."

AND

Evening Despatch 26/4/1926

"After 13 years chairmanship of West Bromwich Guardians Finance Committee, Mr. E. J. Fisher, of Oldbury, has resigned owing to advancing years and Mr. *J. H. Sheldon*, of Wednesbury, has been appointed to the position."

1911 Census

1, Great Western Street – GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

[1] *John Hinkinson Sheldon* (53), hotel keeper, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Maud Sheldon* (38), wife, married 12 years, born Bilston;

[3] *Ernest Lloyd Sheldon* (25), son, clerk, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Kathleen Blud* (21), waitress, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Mary Roberts* (25), servant, born Wednesbury;

Dudley Chronicle 27/5/1911

"The members of the Greets Green and Wednesbury district Foresters held a special meeting at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday afternoon, the whole of the Courts, with one exception, being represented. Bros. W. Dyer Drakeford, DCR, presided, with B. Groves in the vice-chair. There was a long and exhaustive discussion of the State Insurance Bill, and a resolution was passed requesting the Chancellor to appoint a committee to enquire into the probable effect of its working, and to give friendly societies a fair representation on the committee. There was a string feeling that ample time should be allowed to friendly societies to discuss the provisions of the Bill before it becomes law....."

London Gazette 22/8/1913

"Friendly Societies Act, 1896. Advertisement of Dissolution by Instrument.

Notice is hereby given, that the Wednesbury And District Juvenile Foresters Friendly Society, Register No.2403, held at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, in the county of" Stafford, is dissolved by Instrument, registered at this office, the 14th day of August, 1913, unless within three months from the date of the Gazette in which this advertisement appears proceedings be commenced by a member or other person interested in, or having any claim on, the funds of the Society, to set aside such dissolution, and the same be set aside accordingly.

G. Stuart Robertson, Chief Registrar, 28, Abingdon-street, Westminster, the 14th day of August, 1913."

South Staffordshire Times 24/1/1920

"The annual meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held on Tuesday evening at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL. Councillor F. H. Bridgewater, the auditor, stated that the income was £338 15s 9d which included the balance brought forward from last year of £223 18s 9d. The expenditure was £110 17s, including a donation of £21 to the Mayor of Wednesbury Peace Fund, leaving a credit balance of £227 18s 9d. In moving adoption of the balance sheet the Chairman said that the figures spoke well for the success of the society. Councillor *J. H. Sheldon* was re-elected president on the proposition of Councillor J. Lacey.

Mr. E Birch was re-elected vice-president, and Mr. G. Lloyd and Mr. E. Birch were re-elected trustees. For the position of secretary, Mr. Lacy, jun. was elected.

Mr. George Lloyd, who was re-elected trustee, stated that he was not a chicken as he was 87. He was one of the founders of the Association in 1867; in fact, was the only one living who helped form it."

South Staffordshire Times 25/9/1920

“A presentation was made at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, last Saturday night, at a smoking concert by the employees of the Brunswick Wheel and Steel Departments of the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, to Mr. F. Johnson, for the valuable services he had rendered for a number of years in first aid. Mr. L. S. Smart presided, and the presentation, which consisted of a gold watch, suitably inscribed, was made by Councillor H. A. Davies, general manager at the Patent Shaft Company.....”

South Staffordshire Times 8/1/1921

“The annual meeting of the Wednesbury and District Beer Retailers Association was held on Tuesday evening at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, Mr. *J. H. Sheldon* presiding.

The balance-sheet showed that the income during the year was £109 1s 2d, and the expenditure £134 9s 8d, a deficiency on the year's working of £25 8s 6d. The balance in the bank now stood at £204 10s 3d. Mr. A. Akers, the secretary, in his report, stated that the loss was due to the large number of deaths, which had occurred among the members during the year, and to other heavy expenses. The report and balance-sheet were adopted, and the Chairman said it was time some of the war restrictions were taken away, and the trade dealt with in a more generous manner and placed on a fair and proper basis.....”

South Staffordshire Times 9/4/1921

“A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Association was held on Tuesday afternoon at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury. Alderman *J. H. Sheldon*, who presided was congratulated upon being elected to the Aldermanic Bench of the Council, the members considering that it was an honour for their chairman, which was well merited.....”

1921 Census

1, Great Western Street – GREAT WESTERN HOTEL

[1] *John Sheldon* (63), hotel keeper, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Maude Sheldon* (44), wife, home duties, born Bilston;

[3] *Alice Powell* (24), barmaid, born Wednesbury:

South Staffordshire Times 28/1/1922

“The annual meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held Tuesday evening, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, when Ald. *J. H. Sheldon* presided.....”

South Staffordshire Times 15/12/1923

“Alderman *J. H. Sheldon*, the president, took the chair at the annual meeting of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Friendly Society, on Tuesday evening, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Victoria Street, when there was a good company present Alderman *Sheldon* was re-elected president for the year, though he stated that he was leaving the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, where he had been resident for 63 years, and would rather someone else took over the office. That was his 29th year as president of the association.....”

South Staffordshire Times 15/12/1923

“Mr. *J. H. Sheldon* (Alderman) applied for the transfer of the license of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Victoria Street to Mr. *Westall*. In granting the application the chairman commented upon the long period of Alderman *Sheldon* as licensee, 63 years, and wished him long life in his retirement. Supt. Salt associated himself with the remarks.

Mr. *Sheldon*: Thank you, sir.”

Dudley Chronicle 3/1/1924

“Events in Wednesbury during the past twelve months.....

Alderman *J. H. Sheldon*, licensee of the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, notified, after 63 years in the trade at that house, that he was retiring into private life.”

South Staffordshire Times 12/7/1924

"A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Society was held on Tuesday afternoon at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, when Alderman *J. H. Sheldon* presided.....

Two new members were made, Mr. *G. Westall*, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, and Mr. *G. Cartwright*, OAKESWELL TAVERN, Wednesbury.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 4/4/1925

"Not keeping to the footpath is said to have been the cause of death of James Davies (82), 38 Potters Lane, Wednesbury, who died from shock after being knocked down by a motor car on Camphill Lane, on March 26th. An inquest was held by the District Coroner (Mr. *W. C. Checkley*), at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, when Mr. *J. F. Bourke* (instructed by Haynes and Duffel, Birmingham) appeared for Messrs. Baldwin Ltd., owners of the car.

The first witness was Grace Davies (34), single daughter of the deceased, and residing at 39, Potters Lane. She said her father, who was an old age pensioner, was formerly a pattern maker at Messrs. John Russell's, but he had done no work for the last three years. He enjoyed fairly good health, with the exception that he was slightly deaf. About 11 o'clock on Tuesday, March 26th, he went on an errand, and subsequently she heard he had been knocked down by a motor car and taken to the hospital at West Bromwich. She went to that institution, but her father, after treatment, was allowed to return home. He died on Tuesday, March 30th. She asked him if he remembered anything about the accident and he told her he did not.

Superintendent Gilman (on behalf of Superintendent Sault): Was he in the habit of walking about with his head very low, and taking no notice of what was going by? – His head was not as upright as it should be, but that was on account of his age.

Phillip Horace Crump, a horse lorry driver, residing at 25, Albert Street, Wednesbury, said about 11.30 on March 26th, he was going from the works of Messrs. Russell and Sons, in Upper Dudley Street, and as he crossed the road in Union Street, he saw a motor car catch the deceased with a mud-guard. The car was travelling along Camphill Lane on its proper side, and at a very slow pace. It seemed to strike the man in the side, and when he fell into the road he rolled away from the car into the gutter.

The Coroner: And so far as you saw, the motor car was being driven carefully? – Yes, sir.

Questioned by Mr. Bourke, witness said the car stopped almost immediately after it hit the deceased.

Harold Benjamin Jacks, of Selly Park Road, Birmingham, commercial traveller, stated he was being driven in a touring car by Henry Alfred Foley, along Camphill Lane. They were going at a slow speed, because they were approaching cross roads, and the driver had blown his horn. He saw deceased walking slowly on the edge of the footpath in the same direction as the car was going, and looking in the ground. Just as the car got abreast of him, without the slightest warning, he stepped into the road. He took two steps, was caught by the near mud-guard, staggered and fell into the gutter. The car was travelling slowly and stopped about four or five feet after it hit the deceased.

The Coroner: Was there any possibility of avoiding him? – Witness: None whatever.

No possibility of stopping the car? – He walked into it, and had the blow before one realised he had got into the carriage way.

Mr. Bourke: How far were the near wheels to the gutter? – Very close, a matter of a couple of feet.

Henry Alfred Foley, the driver of the car, residing at 4 back of 28, Tennant Street, Ladywood, chauffeur to the last witness and employed by Messrs. Baldwins Ltd., said he sounded his horn several times before he got to the corner, because he knew the cross roads well. Apart from that, he had to slow up a short distance from the corner, because of workmen in the road. He noticed the deceased on the footpath, and when he stepped suddenly off the footpath the car was going very slowly. After deceased fell, he rolled into the gutter, and, witness thought, caught his head against the kerb-stone. It was impossible to avoid the accident, but had he been going faster he would doubtless have missed the man altogether.

Answering Mr. Bourke, witness said deceased never looked round.

Superintendent Sault: Had he been to the left of the footpath, he would have a better chance of seeing you? – Oh, Yes.

Witness added, in answer to the other questions from the Superintendent, that the accident was caused by the deceased being on the extreme edge of the footpath with his back to the on-coming traffic. It was always safer to walk on the left of the footpath, and to cross the road facing on-coming traffic.

PC Tudor spoke of making enquiries regarding the accident, in the course of which he saw Dr. Lionel Dingley, who told him that deceased died from shock, caused by the accident. The doctor also said the injuries he received were not severe, and if they had happened to a younger man he would have recovered.

The Coroner said the occurrence was a sad one, but, after all, deceased had no one but himself to blame for the accident. It seemed he stepped off the footpath without looking round or taking the slightest regard of what might be coming along the highway. He was satisfied that the accident was inevitable, and that the driver was in no way to blame. He returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Jacks expressed his regret at the unfortunate occurrence, and added he would be willing to contribute towards the funeral expenses."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 11/2/1928

"Mr. A. Hughes who recently retired from the position of G.W.R. goods agent at Wednesbury, which position he had held for 13 years, was the recipient of a wallet containing £43 at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, on Wednesday night. Making the presentation on behalf of Wednesbury and Darlaston traders, the Mayor (Councillor W. H. Wesson) spoke of the tact and ability of Mr. Hughes and his fair dealing with the traders whilst not forgetting his duty to the company. Supporting the Mayor's remarks Mr. D. Tonks paid a tribute to the capabilities of Mr. Hughes. In expressing his thanks to the traders for the gift, Mr. Hughes voiced his appreciation of the efforts of Mr. T. Dexter (treasurer) and Mr. A. E. Pitt (secretary) of the fund on his behalf."

1939 Register

1, Great Western Street – Public House

[1] *Fred Bates*, date of birth 12/2/1884, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Bessie Bates*, dob 1/6/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Winifred M. (Bates) Simmonite, dob 26/4/1907, domestic servant, single;

[4] Doris H. (Bates) Fisher, dob 31/7/1915, unemployed, single:

Fred Bates died in the 1st quarter of 1940.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/2/1940

"Latest donations to the West Midlands and *Express and Star* Comforts Fund.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £344 1s 3½d.....

GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, darts and dominoes tournament, £1 3s 9d."

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

"The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

GREAT WESTERN INN, Wednesbury £2 1s."

Walsall Observer 4/3/1944

"Two Wednesbury vicars and a Roman Catholic priest were among a number of Wednesbury people who were ordered by the Stipendiary (Mr. B. G. Grimley) at Wednesbury on Tuesday to pay fines for obtaining more coal than they were entitled to. Defending Mr. Walter Randle, trading as F. C. Randle and Co., coal merchants, of Wednesbury, summoned for supplying the coal, Mr. O. L. Bergendorf said their stocks of coal were so plentiful that they requested the colliery company not to send any more supplies for the time being; but the colliery company replied that they could not suspend the supplies and that his clients must have the coal. Those summoned for unlawfully obtaining coal they were not entitled to were.....

Bessie Bates, G. W. HOTEL.....

Randle was fined £5 for each of the twelve offence, 4s costs on two delivery note offences, and £16 5s 6d costs, making a total of £76 9s 6d....."

[*Bessie Bates* was fined 30s.]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Darts League, Second Division. [1946]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/10/1970 - Advert

“Carpet Sale of misfit and reject Carpets at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Great Western Street, Wednesbury, October 7, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. This is a private sale, not by auction, these carpets are in beautiful colours and designs, not in correct patterns but the quality is there.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/7/1973 - Advert

“Pifco Electric Paint Stripper, £3.

Apply, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, 1 Great Western Street, Wednesbury after 6pm.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/5/1976 - Notice

“The Licensing Act, 1964. West Midlands Metropolitan County.

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 Council Chambers, Council House, Smethwick, Warley, on the 25th day of June, 1976, at 3.30pm.

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 Act, 1964, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Great Western Street, Wednesbury. License, Intoxicating liquor of all descriptions. Licensee, *William Wilkinson Hill*.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/7/1976 - Notice

“The Licensing Act, 1964. West Midlands Metropolitan County.

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 25th day of June, 1976, to refuse the renewal of the licenses specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of compensation under the said Act (other than the licensee and the registered owners of the said premises) are required to send to the compensation authority notice of their claims before the 2nd day of August, 1976.....

GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Great Western Street, Wednesbury. License, Intoxicating liquor of all descriptions. Licensee, *William Wilkinson Hill*.”



c1960s

GREEN DRAGON

9, Market Place, (Wednesbury Fruit Market), (High Street) / The Shambles, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921], [1937]

LICENSEES

William Rock [1791] – [1810]
Mrs. Martha Rock [1815] – **1816**);
Richard Woolrich (**1816** – [1820]
Thomas Keay [1818]
Mrs. Martha Woolrich [1822]
Joseph Hobbins [1827] – [1837]`
Joshua Thompson [1839] – [1842]
Obadiah Howl [1845]
Thomas Hughes (**1846 – 1860**);
Josiah Griffiths (**1860 – 1864**)
Sarah Griffiths [1862]
Josiah Cornforth [] – **1864**);
Thomas Maunders (**1864 – 1870**);
Joseph Taylor (**1870** – [1881]
Thomas Taylor [1873]
Frederick Lynden [1885] manager
Edwin Butler [1888] – [1893]
Thomas Rigby [1893]
James Rigby [1896]
Edward James Wood [1900]
William H. Hadley [1901]
Leo Thomas Beighton [1903] – [1904]
Francis Henry 'Frank' Cook [1908] – **1936**);
John Underwood (**1936** – [1944]
Hawkswood [1950]
Holman [1953]
Wilfred Sanson Meir [] – **1961**);
George William Sawle (**1961 – 1963**);

NOTES

High Street [1822], [1828], [1830]
Market Place [1850], [1860], [1861], [1896], [1908], [1911]
9, Market Place [1911], [1912], [1932], [1939], [1940]
8½, Market Place [1921]

3d Tokens were issued from here "GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury. W. Butler & Co. Ltd."

Auctions were frequently held here.



Ex-pub 2025



Token

William Rock, whitesmith and DRAGON INN, Wednesbury. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/10/1798 - Advert

"Thomas Parkes's Creditors.

All Persons who have any Claim or Demand upon the Estate and Effects of the late Mr. Thomas Parkes, of the GEORGE INN, at Wednesbury, deceased, are desired to send in an Account of their Claims in twenty Days from the Date hereof, unto Mr. *William Rock*, at the Sign of the GREEN DRAGON, in Wednesbury aforesaid (one of the Executors named in the last Will of the said Mr. Parkes) in order that the same may be settled; and all Persons who are any Ways indebted to the said Mr. Parkes, are desired to pay the same immediately into the Hands of the said Mr. *Rock*.

Wednesbury, October 29, 1798."

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/9/1799

"On Monday se'nnight, the GREEN DRAGON public house, in the centre of Wednesbury, gradually sunk into the earth, occasioned, it is supposed, by the coals having been got from beneath the foundation, and the props left giving way; as the cellar and lower part were some time descending, the furniture was taken out, and the family had left the house in time to prevent any accident happening to them. Another house, and some shops adjoining, have also since given way."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/2/1800 - Advert

"Ironstone.

To be Sold by Auction, by Francis Pool, on Friday the 21st day of February, 1800, at the House of Mr. *William Rock*, the Sign of the GREEN DRAGON, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will be then produced, a Quantity of Ironstone now lying upon a Piece of Land nearly adjoining the Market Place, in the Town of Wednesbury aforesaid.

The Stone may be viewed, and Particulars known by applying to Mr. *William Rock* aforesaid."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/12/1804 - Advert

"To be Sold by private Contract, those Pieces of Land, lying and being in Monway Field, near Wednesbury, containing, by Estimation, two Acres and a Half, be the same more or less, together with all those rich and valuable Mines of Coal, Ironstone, and Clay contained therein, late the Property of Mr. Robert Spittle, deceased.

For Particulars enquire of the Executors, Mr. William Blagborne, at Mr. Richard Moore's, Wednesbury, or of Mr. Thomas Horton, West Bromwich.

NB. If the above Lands and Mines are not sold by private Contract before Monday the 7th of January next, they will be sold by public Auction, at the House of Mr. *Rock*, the Sign of the GREEN DRAGON. The Sale to begin at Four o'clock in the Afternoon."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/5/1810 - Advert

"To File-Makers.

Wanted, by the Gun Lock Committee, a steady Person capable of undertaking the Management of a File Manufactory. For Particulars apply to Mr. *William Rock*, DRAGON INN, Wednesbury."

William Rock died in November 1810.

William Rock – see also GEORGE.

TO FILE-MAKERS.
WANTED, by the Gun Lock Committee, a steady Person capable of undertaking the Management of a File Manufactory.—For Particulars apply to Mr. WILLIAM ROCK, Dragon Inn, Wednesbury.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/10/1815 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Isaac Farror, on Tuesday the 24th Day of October instant (by Direction of the Assignees) the Stock in Trade, Tools, useful Household Furniture, Carts, and other Effects belonging to Mr. Thomas Bulluss, of High Bullen, in Wednesbury, Gun Barrel Maker, Grocer, Dealer in Earthenware, &c; Catalogues of which will be distributed in due Time, and may he had at Mrs. *Rock*'s, the GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, and of the Auctioneer, 28, New Street, Birmingham.

The Sale to commence at Ten in the Morning."

William Rock's widow, *Martha* (30), married Richard *Woolrich* (26), bachelor, on 6th January 1816.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/7/1816 - Advert

"To be Let, and entered upon immediately, all that well accustomed Inn and Premises, called and known by the Sign of the GREEN DRAGON, situate in the Market Place, in, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, with a good Stable for five Horses, three Shops, a Warehouse, and an excellent Garden and Croft of Land behind the same, lately occupied by the Widow *Rock*, but now of Mr. *Richard Woolrich*, who is going to a Farm.

The Stock and Furniture to be taken at fair Valuation.

For Particulars apply to Mr. Jesson, Attorney, Walsall."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/6/1817 - Advert

"I Do hereby give Notice, that I will not pay or be accountable for any Debts which my Wife *Martha*, late *Martha Rock*, Widow of the late *William Rock*, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, shall or may contract, she having a sperate Maintenance.

Given under my Hand this 20th Day of May, 1817. *Richard Woolrich*."

Thomas Keay was also a plumber, glazier and painter. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/9/1820 - Advert

"Whereas a capital Tilted Cart, with Iron Arms, belonging to Wm. Joy, has been left at Mr. *Woolrich*'s, the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury; this is to give Notice, that unless the said Cart is redeemed before Friday, October 20, 1820, it will be sold by Auction, by John Taylor, at Two o'clock on that Day, to defray the Expenses."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/12/1823

"The Creditors who have proved their debts under a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued forth against *Richard Woolrich*, late of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innholder, dealer and chapman, deceased, are desired to meet the Assignees of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt on the sixth day of December, 1823, at twelve o'clock at noon, at the GEORGE HOTEL, in Walsall, in the county of Stafford, in order to assent to or dissent from the said Assignees selling and disposing of, by private contract or otherwise, certain real Estate of the said bankrupt, situate in the parish of Wednesbury aforesaid; and on other special affairs."

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/10/1827

"Timor Fairbanks, of Birmingham, an itinerant dealer in haberdashery and hardware, preferred a charge of assault against Mr. *Hobbins*, landlord of the THREE DRAGONS [sic], Wednesbury, and also against Mr. Lees and Mr. Dawes; and a very serious affair indeed, Timor was for making it. For, on the 17th of August, he said he happened to call at the THREE DRAGONS, and, as a honest and clever tradesman should, offered his goods for sale to the landlord; whereupon, without any provocation whatever, the landlord and the two gentlemen with him began to abuse him, charged him with having a forged license, took his knives and forks and four silk handkerchiefs from him, tore his license, and so maltreated his precious person, that he almost thought he should never be able to do any more business in the haberdashery and hardware line; and after all, and it was 'the unkindest cut of all,' Mr. Hobbins assailed him with one of his own knives and forks and turned him out of the house.

Mr. Whateley cross-examined Timor; but he stuck to his position that he had behaved in the quietest and most lamb-like manner, and by no means had done or said any thing to provoke so serious an attack; that he had called none of them thieves, nor highwaymen, neither had he lifted up a finger against any one of them. He explained that when he said he had been so injured that he thought he could not have it in his power to have transacted any more business, he meant that he should have 'his eyes blocked up, and not be in a condition to go to any respectable house.' Timor was very loath to acknowledge that he had brought a charge of felony against the defendants; but, after repeated questions from the learned Counsel, he said that 'he had laid a bill before the Grand Jury against them, for taking away his goods, not for stealing them;' and that it had been thrown out.

Mr. Whateley, for the defendants, put it to the Jury whether it was at all likely that the three respectable gentlemen who were his clients, could have been guilty of the conduct imputed to them by this man, and that without provocation? He would, however, call a person who was present, who would give a very different statement of the affair.

Thomas Bate, who was at the GREEN DRAGON at the time in question, then was sworn; and he stated that Timor was behaving in a very rude manner in the house; that he called Mr. Dawes and Mr. Lees highway robbers; and said

that Mr. Hobbins was no better for harbouring them. He struck Mr. Dawes, and knocked his hat off, before he was touched by any one; and that no force was used towards him more than was necessary to turn him out of the house. After some observations from the Chairman, the Jury immediately acquitted the defendants.”

The Tally-ho coach to Birmingham left from here every morning at 8 and afternoon at half past 1. [1828]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/3/1832 - Advert

“A most eligible opportunity for an industrious Person.

Public House to be Let, with immediate possession, the KING AND CONSTITUTION INN, Wednesbury, fitted up in the most complete manner, with large tap-room, two parlours, bar, &c, six lodging-rooms, detached cooking kitchen, brewhouse, stable, piggeries, large garden, and abundant supply of water, late in the occupation of Mr. T. Stone, deceased.

Apply to Mr. *Hobbins*, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury.

NB. No Good-will, Stock, or Fixtures to be taken to.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/12/1834

“*Russel v Cowley and Co.* The friends and neighbours of Messrs. James Russel and Son, with a laudable anxiety to demonstrate their gratitude for the great personal sacrifices made by those gentlemen in their unwearied prosecution of their Chancery suit, entertained them on Wednesday the 10th inst, at a most sumptuous banquet provided by Mr. *Hobbins*, of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, congratulatory of the successful termination of the case, and consequent establishment of their well-merited patent right. Sixty-two gentlemen sat down to dinner under the able presidency of E. Hinchliffe, Esq, of West Bromwich, and the conviviality and sterling old English feeling which predominated throughout the evening, furnished the surest test of the conviction of all present of the justice of the cause which all were met to commemorate.

The public at large, and more particularly all patentees in the kingdom, ought to feel grateful to Mr. J. Russel for the determination and perseverance with which he has not only defended his own right, but established a legal precedent by which persons who have displayed and exercised their talents and time, and spent their money in bringing to perfection any useful invention, will not in future, upon frivolous grounds or legal technicalities, have their rights destroyed or infringed upon by other parties wishing to reap the benefit of their ingenuity.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/5/1837 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, on Friday the 26th of May inst, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the GREEN DRAGON INN, in Wednesbury, either in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon.....

Lot I. All that substantial and respectable Inn or Public House, known by the sign of the GREEN DRAGON, with Liquor Shop and Vaults attached, situate in the Market Place, now occupied by Mr. *Joseph Hobbins*, with complete out-offices, front and back carriage entrances, yard, and part of the present garden.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/1/1838

“An inquest was held on Saturday last, before H. Smith, Esq, coroner, at the GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, on the body of a new born male infant, the illegitimate offspring of Ann Thirsfield, a woman about thirty years of age, and whom the result of the inquiry has most seriously affected.

According to the evidence of Sarah Thirsfield, who is sister-in-law to the mother of the child, and in the habit of attending poor neighbouring women when confined, she was present when the child was born, which was about four o'clock on Saturday morning, the 23rd of December, and after doing everything requisite on such occasions, she left about five o'clock. The child was perfectly healthy, and free from some marks on its face and lips which had since been pointed out to her. A little after eight o'clock Ann Thirsfield's sister came for her, and said the child was dead. On hastening to the mother she found her in bed, as she had left her, and the child lying dead by her side; it was cold and stiff, and appeared to have been dead several hours. She laid out the body, and dressed it in the clothes in which it was buried; and she was sure that the body of the child she had seen since the present inquiry had been instituted was the same. When she first looked at the child after its death, she said to the mother, ‘Good God, Nance, what have you done at this child?’ The mother replied she had done nothing at it, and witness rejoined, ‘I would not have had it happen for all the world.’ Witness asked if the child had been bad, and when the mother perceived it to alter, and the reply was that it had not been bad, and that she first perceived it change about five o'clock, when, it appeared, a little boy of Ann Thirsfield had been sent to fetch the witness, but he had only named that his mother was bad, in consequence of which the witness did not think it necessary to go then, as Ann Thirsfield had her sister with her, and

she was busily engaged. In consequence of the discolouration of the child's face, witness asked if it had had fits, to which the mother replied she did not know what had been the matter with it. Mr. Lees, surgeon, had, pointed out some marks on the child's face which appeared to witness to have been caused by some violence. The marks were upon the upper and lower lip, and upon the right cheek, the inside of the lips were black when she laid out the child, and its face was of a purple colour.

Mary Thirsfield, sister to Ann Thirsfield, said that she was present at the birth of the child, and corroborated the evidence of the preceding witness in most particulars; adding, that she attended her sister, and that no person except herself, the midwife, and her sister's son, a boy about six years old, was in the chamber between the time of the birth of the child in the morning, and when she saw it lying dead in Sarah Thirsfield's lap at night. Her sister had sent her son for Sarah Thirsfield about four o'clock, and again about eight, but as he loitered by the way, witness herself went and fetched her. She was sure the body she had seen pending the present inquiry was the body of the child which she took to the sexton for interment, but she did not observe the marks it now had on its face when it lay dead in the house.

Henry Marlborough, the sexton, proved the body on which the inquest was held was the same that he had received for interment from Mary Thirsfield on the evening of Christmas-day, and that it had been taken up by order of Mr. Taylor, the constable.

Mr. Frederick Lees, surgeon, said he had examined the body of the child, and that it was full grown, and at maturity in every respect. On examining the body externally he found that the face, head, neck and extremities bore a livid appearance; the nails of the hands and of the great toes were of a dark purple colour, and there was an excessive discolouration of the upper and lower lip on the left side, with corresponding marks on the inside of the lips. There was also a bruise on the end of the nose encircling the whole of the mouth, and the tongue was protruded and very much bruised. On the middle of the right cheek there was another circular bruise, and a little above that a slight indentation, which he thought might have been produced by the pressure of a finger nail. There could be no doubt that these appearances were produced by some violence, and it was very likely the pressure of a hand and fingers placed over the mouth would have caused them. It was impossible they could have been caused after death. On opening the body he found the brain and the chest very much gorged with blood, which, with the external appearances above described, he had no doubt was produced by suffocation from external violence.

After an able summing up of the evidence by the coroner, the jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against Ann Thirsfield, the mother of the child, and the coroner issued his warrant for her commitment for trial at the next Stafford Assizes. The prisoner remains at present in the workhouse, at Wednesbury, whither she had been removed, and will stay there until sufficiently recovered to be taken to Stafford."

AND

Suffolk Chronicle 24/3/1838

"At the Assizes, at Stafford, on the 15th instant, Ann Thursfield was indicted for the wilful murder of her illegitimate child by suffocating it, but Mr. Baron Gurney observed, as the evidence of the surgeon, the first witness, proved that the marks on the face might be caused by the child being overlaid, it was unnecessary to go further. Not Guilty!"

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/4/1839 - Advert

"A New Day Coach to Lichfield, called the Dart.

The Inhabitants of Wolverhampton, Bilston, Wednesbury, Walsall, and their vicinities, are respectfully informed that the above Coach has commenced running every Day (Sundays excepted), at Half-past Seven o'clock in the Morning, from the NEW HOTEL, Wolverhampton, and takes its route through Bilston, Wednesbury, and Walsall, to Lichfield, in time for the Telegraph to Burton, Derby, and Leeds; it calls at the KINGS ARMS INN, Bilston, at a quarter before Eight in the morning; the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, at Eight o'clock; and at the GEORGE HOTEL, Walsall, at half-past Eight. It returns from the George Hotel, Lichfield at half-past Two o'clock the same afternoon, arriving in Wolverhampton in time for the first and second class trains to Liverpool and Manchester, for coaches to Dudley, Stourbridge, and Kidderminster, for Wonder to Shrewsbury, and the Shropshire Hero to Bridgnorth."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/5/1839 - Advert

"GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by private Contract, all that old-established Inn or Public House known by the sign of the GREEN DRAGON, with Liquor Shop and Vaults attached, situate in the Market Place, Wednesbury, now occupied by Mr. *Joshua Thompson*, with complete Out-offices, Stables front and back Carriage entrances, Yard, and Garden thereto belonging.

For further particulars and to treat for the same apply to Mr. Hunt, Solicitor, Wednesbury."

1841 Census

High Street and Market Place

[1] *Joshua Thompson* (45), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Ann Thompson* (44), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Caroline Thompson* (20), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Henry Thompson* (15), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Emma Fletcher* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[6] *Phoebe Kendrick* (18), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/3/1842

“*Stanway v Rock*.

This was an action of ejectment to recover possession of a piece of land adjacent to the Market Place, in Wednesbury. The trial of the cause occupied seven hours, about a dozen witnesses being called in support of the plaintiff's case. It appeared the Mr. Stanway had purchased the land in question of the Lords of the Manor, Sir John Scott and Mr. Foley, and that a conveyance of the property had been made to him. The defendant, William Rock, who is in possession, refused to surrender the land.

It seemed that some years ago, a person of the name of *Rock* (a relation to the defendant) occupied the GREEN DRAGON public house adjoining the ground in question; and that after his death his widow married Richard Woolrych, who about the year 1815 entered into an agreement with the Lords of the Manor to purchase the ground adjoining the GREEN DRAGON for £30, and subsequently enclosed the land by causing to be placed round it a fence composed of thorns, posts, and rails. Mr. Woolrych, however, never paid the £30 to the Lords of the Manor, and as he was unable to raise that sum he had no conveyance of the land executed to him; but notwithstanding, he took possession, and in 1816 built thereon some shambles. In consequence of not paying the purchase money, Woolrych stood in the situation of tenant at will to the Lords of the Manor, until such time as he might pay the purchase money, and the land be transferred to him, which was never done. In January, 1822, Woolrych died, which terminated the relation of landlord and tenant between him and the Lords of the Manor; and without evidence of a subsequent tenancy, Mr. Stanway would have no right to recover the premises in question, as this action of ejectment would not under the circumstances have been brought within 20 years of the right of the Lords of the Manor accruing, as required by the Act of Parliament.

In order to prove subsequent tenancy, a witness was called with the view of shewing that after the death of Mr. Woolrych, his widow, Mrs. Woolrych, became the tenant to the Lords of the Manor. This witness did not prove that any rent was ever paid by Mrs. Woolrych (and it appeared from previous evidence that no rent was ever paid by her husband during the six or seven years he occupied), but the witness stated that he remembered having been sent by the agent of the Lords of the Manor to Mrs. Woolrych several months after the death of her husband, and that he told her he wanted the rent for the land where the shambles stood, to which she replied that she would come over to the rent house in half-an-hour. No further evidence was adduced to prove that Mrs. Woolrych did go to the rent house and pay the rent; but it appeared that subsequent to that time she received rent for the shambles which had been erected by her husband, and therefore it was contended on the part of Mr. Stanway that Mrs. Woolrych had contracted the relation of landlord and tenant between the Lords of the Manor and herself.

The learned Judge, in summing up, told the jury that if they were satisfied that Mrs. Woolrych did ever become tenant to the Lords of the Manor, then the plaintiff was entitled to recover possession of the ground on which the shambles stood, inasmuch as he had then brought his action within 20 years of his right accruing; but if they were not satisfied that such tenancy had ever existed, then they would find a verdict for the defendant, as the plaintiff was bound to prove his own right to the property. The defendant being in possession, was not called on to prove his right. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.”

[Another action was subsequently brought and Mr. Stanway was put in possession.]

[The land was later tenanted from Mr. Stanway's widow by Thomas Butler. In 1854 he sued *Thomas Hughes* for damages for trespass and won. In the evidence *Thomas Hughes* stated that he had occupied the GREEN DRAGON for eight years.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/5/1843

“Children’s Employment Commission. Wednesbury. From Mr. Horne’s Report.

.....In the brief description I have always given in my evidence of each child or young person I examined, you will be pleased to observe that the great majority are described as being healthy, clean, and well clothed. They are also very well fed. The boys are not generally subject to any severe corporal chastisement; but a few had instances occasionally occur, in which boys are beaten with a thick stick, or a piece of iron. A few months ago an adult workman broke a boy’s arm by a blow with a piece of iron. The boy went to school till his arm got well; his father and mother thought it a good opportunity to give him some schooling.....

I regret to be obliged to give very much the same account of the drunkenness of the adults here as in the other towns of the district. Saturday and Monday are the favourite days for getting drunk. Those who work all night at the ironworks commonly devote the next day to drinking.

The following memorandum is copied verbatim from my note book.

Wednesbury, April 2, 1841. Went into the GREEN DRAGON; conversation with the landlord Mr. *Joshua Thompson*, and others in the coffee-room. Went into the tap-room; saw a collier dancing; nobody else in the room except a boy and a blind fiddler, who was engaged by the collier to play as long as he danced. He had placed a large jug of ale beside his fiddler. Had been dancing long before I arrived. People now came in, and stood in a circle round the dancing man The floor was all kicked up in the centre; planks all ragged and torn by the hob-nailed shoes of these dancers. Landlord told me there were scores of them in almost every room on Saturday and Monday nights. Should be obliged to lay down a new floor soon.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1843 - Advert

“GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury.

To Publicans and persons in want of an old established Public House and Liquor Shop, in the centre of the Market Place.

To be Sold by Auction, by Septimus Davis, on Monday next, the 4th day of December, 1843, on the premises.

The valuable Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above excellent house and premises, with good Stabling, Coach-houses, and large Yard.

The premises are in good repair, in the centre of the Market Place, and in one for the best situations in Wednesbury. The household goods, brewing vessels, fixtures, and stock, to be taken to at a fair valuation by the purchaser.

The licenses will be put up at twelve o’clock in the forenoon, and if not sold, the whole of the furniture, fixtures, stock in trade, and other effects, will be Sold by Auction immediately after, and continue on that and the following day.

Full particulars will appear in catalogues, to be had at the place of sale, and of the Auctioneer, West Bromwich; or to treat by private contract apply to Mr. J. B. Hebbert, Solicitor, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

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.”

A coach to Birmingham left from here every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 9 in the morning. [1849]

1851 Census

Market Place West

- [1] *Thomas Hughes* (39), victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Hughes* (40), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Hannah Hughes* (18), daughter, house servant, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Miriam Hughes* (16), daughter, house servant, born Darlaston;
- [5] *John Balairs* (50), stable servant, born Peterborough;
- [6] *John Blakemore* (18), apprentice, born 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.....

Thomas Hughes, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, open on Sunday."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/10/1852

"Adjourned licensing sessions.....

The suspended cases were brought forward for decision.....

Thomas Hughes, of Wednesbury, was cautioned, and his license given to him again."

The Era 4/2/1855

"A Tradesman's ball was held on Monday last at Mr. *Hughes*'s, GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, where upwards of fifty couples kept up the dancing until a late hour. A most excellent band was in attendance, under the direction of Mr. Joseph Budd. Mr. H. Moreton, R.A.M., was the M.C."

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

"Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

Barrels of ale were given by Mr. *Hughes*, GREEN DRAGON.

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *Hughes*, GREEN DRAGON, Market Place."

Birmingham Journal 12/3/1856

"During Wednesday last a man about thirty years of age, who said he was a blacksmith, from Macclesfield, was in Wednesbury, it was inferred, in search of work. As night came on he had applied at several public houses in the town for a night's lodging, but not succeeding, it is supposed that during the night he went into the hay loft at Mr. *Thomas Hughes*'s, GREEN DRAGON INN. This is but conjecture, but on the following morning the fact presented itself of the poor tramp lying lifeless at the foot of the wood ladder or steps leading up to the loft. There is little question in such a state of things; that awaking, and desirous to leave the place, he either missed or forgot the loft steps, and falling to the earth dislocated his neck."

Birmingham Journal 12/3/1859 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property, Market Place, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph Dawes, at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, on the 18th of March, 1859, at Three pm precisely, by direction of the Assignees of William Rock, late of West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, Commission Agent, an Insolvent Debtor.

All that One Undivided Fifth Part or Share and all other the Interest of the said William Rock of and in certain Freehold Hereditaments, at the Market Place, Wednesbury aforesaid, consisting of a Public House, known by the sign of the GREEN DRAGON INN, together with Shops, Yards, Gardens, Stabling, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, now in the occupation of *Thomas Hughes*. And also of and in a Piece of Land lying at the back of the said Premises, occupied by the said *Thomas Hughes*, and containing with the site of the said Messuages and Buildings 4,562 square yards or thereabouts.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer; or to Messrs. Duignan and Ebsworth, Solicitors, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1860 - Advert

"*Thomas Hughes* begs most respectfully to inform his Friends and the Public generally, that he has Removed from the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, to the Talbot Inn, Stafford, about three minutes' walk from the Railway Station, where he has spared no expense in preparing the Bowling Green and Pleasure Grounds for the amusement and recreation of the Public, whom he trusts, by supplying the best Articles at the lowest possible prices, to gain a continuance of the favours hitherto conferred upon him.

The Green, &c, will be Opened on Easter Monday, the 9th day of April, 1860.

Ales, Wines and Spirits of the best quality.

Sandwiches, Chops, or Steaks, always ready. Dinners, on the shortest notice.

Best Foreign Cigars, of every description.

Beds, &c, moderate charges.

T. H. being no friend to monopoly, is determined that the Public shall reap the benefit of the New Tariff in the reduction of Wines and Spirits."

Josiah Griffiths = *Isaiah Griffiths*

Sporting Life 16/2/1861

"Ned Humpage of Wednesbury, and Burton of Dudley Port, are matched to fight at catch weight, for £10 a-side, within twenty miles of Wednesbury, on the 11th of March. Mr. *Griffiths*, of the GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, has now £3 a-side in hand."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/3/1861

"J. Wright of Wednesbury will shoot a match with W. Nurse of Princes End, for £50 a side, or as much more as he thinks proper, at as many birds as pounds; he can have the choice of his own weight of shot, so that it does not exceed 1¾oz. Wright will be at Mr. *Griffiths*'s, GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury tomorrow (Monday) night, between six and ten o'clock, prepared to make the match."

1861 Census

Market Place

- [1] *Josiah Griffiths* (42), roll turner and innkeeper, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Griffiths* (41), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Samuel Griffiths* (21), son, brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Caroline Griffiths* (19), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Josiah Griffiths* (15), son, apprentice, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Merander Griffiths* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Eliza Griffiths* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Sophia Griffiths* (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Sarah Griffiths* (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Louisaa Griffiths* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [11] *May Whitehouse* (11), nurse, born Wednesbury;
- [12] *David Coleman* (26), lodger, professional musician, born London;
- [13] *Emma Coleman* (21), lodger, professional musician, born Derby;
- [14] *Henry Churchyard* (22), ostler, born Suffolk;

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1861

"District Annual Licensing Day.....

The list of parties fined for various breaches of the law it appeared was rather less than that of preceding years, and comprised of the following persons.....

Josiah Griffiths, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, fined 20s for keeping open on a Sunday; decision on renewal of the license adjourned to the 26th September."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/10/1861

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held on Thursday last.....

The following licensed victuallers, fined for various infringements of the law, and whose cases had been ordered to stand over from the former licensing meeting in August last, were called before the Magistrates, and after their respective cases had been referred to they were admonished and warned that a second offence would be of serious consequence.....

Mr. *Isaiah Griffiths*, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/1/1863

“Stafford County Sessions.....

Richard Banks, labourer, was indicted for unlawfully and maliciously wounding Joseph Guy, a gas-fitter, at Wednesbury. Mr. Brown appeared on behalf of the prosecution, and Mr. Motteram on behalf of the defence.

It appeared that a quarrel took place between the prisoner and Guy at the GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, in December last. Both parties were more or less intoxicated. Two fights had taken place between them. After one fight the prosecutor went away home to wash his mouth; he returned and afterwards commenced another fight. A piece of gas-piping was taken from the prosecutor (which he had had in his trousers pocket all day). It was with that instrument that the blows were alleged to have been inflicted. During the fighting murder was called by Banks, the prosecutor having knocked him down, and was then on top of him.

George Thacker spoke to the fighting and the cry of murder, and to seeing prisoner strike Guy with the gas-piping, a piece of iron piping similar to that produced. Guy had pressed the fighting, and put down 2s to fight Banks, who at first refused, but afterwards consented. Witness saw a piece of iron gas-piping in the hands of Guy whilst they were fighting, and some persons called, ‘Look out, he’s got something.’ Banks fell,, and a person named Dimmack took the piping from Guy, the prosecutor. Afterwards Banks struck Guy with the piping (though no one saw Banks take it after it had been taken from Guy) so violently that the prosecutor was laid prostrate, and remained insensible for a long period.

Mr. Motteram, for the defence, contended that Guy’s conduct on that night was shameful.

The learned counsel for the prosecution had said no very great credence could be given to Guy, but three respectable witnesses would be called who they (the jury) would believe. Guy had been admitted by the same learned gentleman to be in fault, but Banks, he stated, to be more so. Banks’s cry of murder arose from Guy first assaulting Banks, who fortunately succeeded in getting the pipe from the hand of the prosecutor, and in the heat of the moment struck him with it as stated. The same weapon which Guy intended using upon Banks had been turned against himself.

The jury found the prisoner guilty of striking the blow, but strongly recommended him to mercy on account of the aggravation. The Chairman questioned the jury as to their view of any justification for the blow – was he obliged to do so in self-defence or not? They said they found him guilty of the charge, but strongly recommended him to mercy. His Lordship said the Court concurred in the verdict, and sentenced the prisoner to two calendar months’ imprisonment, hoping that the sentence, although light, would be a warning to him to keep out of such quarrels for the future.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/5/1863

“At Wednesbury Police Court, John Betts and Henry Westley were brought up on remand, charged with uttering various counterfeit coins. Inspector Holland deposed to having being called into the house of Mr. Armshaw, the TALBOT INN, Market Place, on Friday last, and to having there found the prisoner Westley, whom he charged with having passed two counterfeit florins to Mr. Armshaw’s barmaid, who had placed one coin in the till but had retained the other in her hand. Witness took the prisoner into an adjoining room and there searched him, but failed to discover any other spurious money upon him. The prisoner was then removed to the police station. Witness also produced a third counterfeit florin, which he had received from Parish-constable Ellis, and which it was alleged Westley had uttered on the same evening. The prisoner Betts, who had been in Westley’s company during the evening, absconded while Inspector Holland was engaged with Westley, but was subsequently apprehended by Sergeant Gasson, who produced a portion of galvanic battery found in Betts’s house. The prisoners were remanded till Monday at West Bromwich, but the learned Stipendiary consented to accept bail for Betts, himself in £40, and two sureties in £20 each. Mr. Sheldon appeared for Betts, and Mr. Ebsworth for Westley.”

[*Josiah Griffiths* of the GREEN DRAGON gave the third counterfeit florin to Parish-constable Ellis.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

“Henry Westley, on bail, appeared to answer a charge of uttering counterfeit coin at the house of Mr. Armshaw, the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury. The defendant was brought up at Westbromwich on the charge a short time ago, with another man, and was then remanded, to allow the authorities of the Mint to be communicated with. The stipendiary now announced that he had received a communication from the Mint authorities, who were willing to allow the charge to drop, as they believed that Westley might have been misled. The defendant was consequently discharged.”

[At the intermediate hearing Betts was discharged, there being no further evidence against him.]

Birmingham Daily Post 5/8/1863

“Ann Jackson, a domestic servant, recently in the service of Mr. *Josiah Griffiths*, of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, was brought up in custody, charged with stealing 13s, the property of her employer. It appeared that the prisoner entered the service of the prosecutor on the 22nd of July, and on the 27th of the same month he missed a half-sovereign, which he had left in the pocket of his waistcoat in his room on the preceding day. He accordingly marked a quantity of silver money, and gave it to his son, who placed it in the pocket of his trousers, and left the garment in his room when he went out in the morning. On his return in the evening, he found that 3s had been taken from the pocket, and a police-constable was therefore sent for. Upon the arrival of Sergeant Gasson, a person named Eliza Danks was called in, and instructed to search the prisoner. She repaired to the prisoner’s bed room for that purpose, and Jackson at once took off one of her stockings, and produced the half-sovereign, and also stated that she had spent some of the marked money. Sergeant Gasson subsequently searched the prisoner’s box, but failed to find any of the marked silver. Inspector Phair having proved a former conviction against the prisoner, she was committed to take her trail at the next Quarter Sessions.”

[At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Ann Jackson pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years’ penal servitude.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/8/1863

“Wednesbury Local Board.....

A letter was read from Thomas Stephens, the lessee of the market tolls, complaining that the field at the back of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, had been used during fair-day (Monday) for the sale of articles, and for the exhibition of shows, &c. The clerk was desired by the Board to consider the legal aspect of such a practice by the next meeting, as it was important to the Board.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/8/1863

“Wednesbury Local Board.....

A complaint of the lessee of the market tolls, Mr. Stephens, respecting tolls being taken at the fair, in a field near the GREEN DRAGON INN, by Mr. *Josiah Griffiths*, was again brought forward. The Clerk was instructed at the last meeting to consider the Acts of Parliament bearing upon the subject. He reported that he had complied with the wish of the Board, and said there was no doubt that if any person could be proved guilty of selling articles on a stall on private ground, he would be liable to a penalty not exceeding 40s and costs. The Board, after some discussion, instructed the Clerk to write to Mr. *Josiah Griffiths*, cautioning him not to allow any stalls, &c, on his ground; and also to issue placards announcing that any person selling goods on stalls which were placed out of the jurisdiction of the Board would be summoned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1863

“Wednesbury Local Board.....

The Clerk said he had remonstrated with the landlord of the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, respecting his allowing shows on his premises.”

Josiah Griffiths – see also SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road.

Thomas Maunders = Thomas Maunder = Thomas Manders = Thomas Mander

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/3/1864

“Patrick Boyle was charged with vagrancy and with having assaulted police-constable Birch. On Saturday night prisoner was begging in the GREEN DRAGON Music Hall, Wednesbury, and when the officer took him into custody he became very violent, kicked his legs most severely, and pushed him through a window. Fined 40s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1864

“Renewal of Licenses.....

A memorial, signed by a large number of inhabitants of High Street, Wednesbury, complained of the nuisance arising from the congregation of people in front of the GREEN DRAGON INN. The petition was presented by the Revds. J. Winter and J. Roberts. The rev. gentlemen complained that persons of a tender age – boys and girls, in fact – were admitted to the concert hall; a modern structure, which had been erected by Mr. *Manders*, and that that practice deserved reprehension as it had an immoral tendency, and was damaging to the interests and virtue of the young. The petition prayed for suspension of license.

Mr. *Manders* was called in and said his building was capable of seating a little over 600, although the place would contain about eleven hundred persons. He denied that boys and girls were admitted under any circumstances whatever under the age of twenty-one, unless with their parents. His concert room closed at 12 o'clock. After some conversation, in the course of which Mr. Hebbert, the Magistrates' Clerk, observed that the concert halls in Birmingham, which were upon a very large scale, were compelled to close at 11 o'clock, and he saw no reason why a comparatively small place like the one in Wednesbury should keep open until twelve. The subject then dropped..... Licenses suspended until 29th September Mr. *Manders*, of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury.”

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 proceedings commenced at eleven o'clock, when the Revds. J. Winter and J. Roberts presented a petition from the inhabitants of Wednesbury, complaining of the manner in which the GREEN DRAGON Music Hall, High Street, Wednesbury, was conducted by Mr. *Mander*, the proprietor. The grounds of the complaint were that young girls and youths were induced to drink there, and that the Hall was kept open until a very late hour, when 1,200 or 1,400 people poured out of the Hall, in the middle of the night, to the annoyance of the neighbours.

Mr. *Mander* stated that he conducted his Hall as well as any other person in the town, and referred the Magistrates to the police.

The Bench suggested that he should close his hall at eleven o'clock. It was ultimately arranged that Mr. *Mander* should think over the matter, and that its consideration be adjourned till the Special Sessions on the 29th September.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/10/1864

“On Saturday, at the Petty Sessions, before the sitting magistrates, Messrs. R. Bagnall and W. Sharp, a woman named Mary Murphy was convicted of having stolen several articles of wearing apparel from the house of *Thomas Manders*, the GREEN DRAGON INN, High Street. The prisoner had a previous conviction cited against her, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/11/1864 - Advert

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

Josiah Griffiths, for one week now last past residing in lodgings at No.81, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, previously and for eleven months of Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, in the said county of Stafford, Provision Dealer, Licensed Dealer in Tea and Tobacco, and also a Commission Agent, and previously thereto of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 21st day of October, 1864, 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 23rd day of November, 1864 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. Henry Langman, of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor in the Bankruptcy.

H. Langman Esq, Solicitor, Wolverhampton.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

The Era 13/11/1864 - Advert

“Mr. and Mrs. Pietro Carle finish a Successful Engagement of Six Weeks on Saturday, the 12th, this being their Fifth Engagement with Mr. Challingsworth. Open at the GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, on the 28th November, for Twelve Nights; and then to the Theatre Royal, North Shields, where P. Carle plays Clown. P. C. wishes to thank the Professionals for their kind services on his Benefit Night – Tamborino, Voy and Son, Mr. and Mrs. Denmeade, Mons, and Madame Lubriol.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/4/1865

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before I. Spooner (Stipendiary), a well-dressed and respectably-connected young man, named Thomas Augustus Frederick Brown, clerk, was charged with having unlawfully and maliciously caused to be taken by Eliza Griffiths, a certain noxious drug, to wit, calomel, with intent to injure, aggrieve, and annoy her. Mr. Dale (from the office of Messrs. Duigman, Lewis, and Lewis) conducted the prosecution and the prisoner was defended by Mr. J. E. Sheldon. Mr. Dale briefly opened the case, and then proceeded to call the following witnesses:

Eliza Griffiths, barmaid at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, said she was attending to her duties on Wednesday last, between twelve and one o'clock, when the prisoner, who was in the house, offered her a lemon-coloured lozenge. She took it, and ate it, whereupon Brown began to laugh at her. He then gave her two other lozenges for her fellow-barmaids, but they refused to take them. About twenty minutes afterwards witness became very ill, and suffered severely from acute and burning pains in the bowels and stomach, accompanied with violent purgings and vomitings. The defendant, who remained in the house, laughed at her, and told her he would not give her another lozenge for £5, nor take one himself for 10s. At the same time he went to a hot water kettle on the counter, and, taking off the lid, asked if he should put a lozenge into the water. Witness told him to let the kettle alone, and if he had 'jalaped' her not to 'jalap' the people. She took the lid from him, and he then went away from the counter. Subsequently she became worse, and went to bed, and between nine and ten o'clock Mr. Proctor, surgeon, was called in to attend her. She still remained under his care, and had not returned to her situation.

In cross-examination by Mr. Sheldon, witness denied that the defendant told her it was a worm cake, and cautioned her not to eat it.

Jane George, complainant's fellow-barmaid, gave corroborative evidence.

Sergeant Steele deposed to taking the prisoner into custody on Thursday, and found in his possession a lozenge similar to the one given to the complainant. The defendant said it was like the one he gave Miss Griffiths, and that both were part of a pennyworth which he had bought at the shop of Mr. Andrew Dawes, chemist. On Saturday witness took the lozenge to Dr. A. Hill, Birmingham, for the purpose of analysis.

Dr A. Hill deposed to having made an analysis of the lozenge referred to, which was marked 'Calomel 2grs,' and to having found it composed of sugar, flour, and about 2 grains of calomel. A lozenge of this nature would not affect some persons, but others would be made seriously ill by taking one.

Mr. H. E. Proctor spoke to having, on Wednesday night, been called in to attend the complainant, whom he found in a very exhausted state. He learnt that from midday on Wednesday until the time he was called in she had been purged from thirty to forty times. She vomited everything she took until Saturday night.

This completed the case, and the defence being reserved, the prisoner was committed for trial at the next Assizes for the county, but was admitted to bail."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/7/1865

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

The Grand Jury threw out the bills in the following cases.....

Thomas Augustus Frederick Brown, on bail, charged with unlawfully and maliciously administering a certain drug to Eliza Griffiths, with intent to injure and annoy her, at a public house at Wednesbury, on the 19th of April."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1865 - Advert

"Lost, on Wednesday last, near the CROSS GUNS, West Bromwich, a very large Black Dog, white breast, hair smooth, long nose.

Any one returning the same to *Thomas Maunders*, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, will be handsomely Rewarded for their trouble."

LOST, on Wednesday last, near the Cross Guns, West Bromwich, a very large Black DOG, white breast, hair smooth, long nose.—Any one returning the same to Thomas Maunders, Green Dragon, Wednesbury, will be handsomely Rewarded for their trouble.

The Era 27/8/1865 - Advert

"*Maunders'* Monstre Concert Hall, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

Wanted, First-class Talent in all Branches, to Open on Monday, September 11th and future dates. No stamp. Silence a negative.

Address, B. Nash, Manager."

Maunders' Monstre Concert Hall, Green Dragon, Wednesbury,
Staffordshire.

WANTED, First-class 'TALENT' in all Branches,
to Open on Monday, September 11th, and future dates. No stamp.
Silence a negative. Address, B. NASH, Manager.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/3/1866

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Henry Crane, 56, barber, was indicted for having stolen, on the 2nd of March, a woolen shirt and a pocket-handkerchief, the property of Thomas Dowler. Prosecutor said he met the prisoner, whom he knew, in the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, and being destitute took him home and sheltered him for the night. The next morning before the household got up the prisoner decamped, taking with him the shirt and handkerchief. He was met by Dowler a short time after wearing the shirt and with the handkerchief in his possession, and was handed over to Police-sergeant Langdon. Prisoner's defence was that prosecutor had lent him the articles, which was denied. The jury found prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy, on the ground that he may have intended to return the property. He was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for two calendar months.”

The Era 25/11/1866 - Advert

“Wednesbury. GREEN DRAGON, Music Hall. Proprietor, *Thomas Maunder*.

Glorious success of the present Company, viz, Jim Pymmer (Characteristic Comic Vocalist), Harry Whitfield (Shakespearian Comic), Signor Ethardo (Contortionist), Mr. St. George (a first-class Dancer), Yankee Henri (Negro Comedian, &c), Tom Benson (Negro Vocalist, Instrumentalist, and Dancer), Harry Reeves (Sensation Comic). Open on Monday, November 26th. The Three Sisters Alexander (Characteristic Vocalists, Dancers, and Duettists), together with Messrs. Newman and Francis (Comic Duettists). Vacancies for first-class Talent for December 3rd, and future dates. No stamp. Three days' silence a respectful negative. Good Niggers Wanted immediately. Mr. B. Nash, Manager.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/7/1867 - Advert

“Counter for Sale. To be Sold, a bargain, a splendid Counter and Fittings, not to be equalled for workmanship and material. Dimensions of Counter, 36ft long, 4ft 3in high. Spanish mahogany top; large Trusses to match. The Shelves and Fittings contain a large centre Mirror, 6ft 4in high by 4ft 2in; together with eight plate-glass panels, 5ft 4in high by 8in wide; beautifully stained, gilded, and marbled, with the whole of the Spirit and Cordial Casks. Application to be made to Mr. *Thomas Maunder*, GREEN DRAGON INN, High Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 27/7/1867 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Whitehouse, at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Friday, August 9, 1867, at Six o'clock pm precisely, in the following, or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, the following very valuable Freehold Property, in and near the Market Place, Wednesbury.....

Lot 10. The well-accustomed Old-licensed Public House, fronting the Market Place, Wednesbury, known as the GREEN DRAGON, and in the occupation of the Proprietor, Mr. *Thomas Maunder*, with the Outbuildings and Land thereto, coloured pink on the Plans, and containing 1,158 square yards or thereabouts.

The House comprises two roomy Liquor Shops, spacious Concert Hall, snug Parlour, Kitchen, and seven Chambers, with all convenient Out-buildings and Appurtenances.

The purchaser of this lot will not be entitled to any lights looking out upon lot 9 and he will be required to pull down and remove the two chimney shafts standing upon the land forming part of the same lot. The Vendor reserves the right to pull down and remove the materials of the large Concert Hall, built mainly of timber, now standing on the back part of this lot.”

Thomas Maunders was also a wholesale wines and spirits merchant. [1868], [1870]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/2/1868

“*Thomas Mander*, landlord of the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury, was charged at the Police Court, on Saturday, with furiously driving a horse and cart along the Birmingham and Wednesbury turnpike road. The case was proved, and the defendant, for whom Mr. T Bayley appeared, was fined 5s and costs, or the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/11/1868

“On Monday afternoon Mr. Walker attended a public meeting at *Maunder’s* Concert Hall, back of the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury. The reception was of the most intensely enthusiastic character, the large room, calculated to hold 1,000 persons, being densely filled. Mr. Walker addressed the meeting at considerable length A vote of confidence in Mr. Walker, as the candidate for the borough was proposed by Mr. Burghope, and seconded by Mr. Frewer, and carried by an overwhelming majority.”

[Thomas Eades Walker stood, unsuccessfully, as the Conservative candidate in the 1868 general election.]

The Era 22/11/1868 - Advert

“GREEN DRAGON Music Hall, Wednesbury, Staffordshire. Proprietor, *T. Maunder*.

Wanted, a Pianist, for November 30th, must be good; also, for December 7th, a Lady Serio and Characteristic Vocalist, Gentlemen Comic, and a good Single Nigger. No stamp. Three days’ silence a negative. Address, B. Nash.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 6/3/1869

“One of the most inhuman outages that have been perpetrated in this country for many years took place early on Sunday morning, when a woman named Eliza Bowen, aged fifty, of The Green, Darlaston, was murdered near Wednesbury, under circumstances of the most fiendish and horrible barbarity. The deceased has for several years lived at Darlaston with her husband, William Bowen, a miner, who is at present undergoing a term of nine months’ imprisonment at Stafford, for fowl stealing. The unfortunate woman was of most intemperate habits, and one of her children, a son, was in September last sent to a reformatory. The last known of the unfortunate woman while in life, is that towards midnight on Saturday night she was ejected from the DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, for violent and disorderly conduct, being then the worse for drink. An ostler, named Turner, in the employ of the Patent Shaft and Axle Tree Company, while on his way to his stables next morning between seven and eight o’clock, saw the body of a woman lying in a field by the side of a road known as Mud Lane. Without waiting to ascertain whether or not it was a corpse he saw, he called out to Henry Clay, a lamplighter, who entered the lane at the moment, and telling him there was a woman lying dead in the field, advised him to fetch the police. Clay suggested that they should first ascertain whether the woman was alive, and accordingly they entered the field and found she was dead and cold, and covered with dirt, and that he few ragged garments were disordered and torn.....

A post mortem of the body has been made, and an inquest held and adjourned until the 22nd inst. On Thursday the police arrested William Hall, a striker, aged forty-two, on the charge of being concerned in the murder. Hall was seen in the company of the deceased on Saturday night, and part of a muffler which has been found at his house corresponds with a piece of fabric picked up by the police on the scene of the murder. Hall, who is a married man, bears an exceedingly bad character.”

[For more on this see under VICTORIA, Darlaston.]

Ulverston Mirror 18/9/1869

“On Monday evening over 700 working men sat down to dinner in the large Concert Hall of the DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, to celebrate the Liberal triumph at the last election, by the return of Mr. Brogden, MP.....”

[Alexander Brogden was Liberal MP for Wednesbury from 1868 to 1885.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/5/1870

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before Mr. Spooner, Stipendiary.....

Thomas Maunders, landlord of the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, was charged with allowing drunkenness on his premises.

Police-constable John Stanton said that at a quarter to twelve on the night of the 25th ult, he heard a noise in the defendant’s house, and a woman shouting ‘murder.’ He saw the landlord and a man named Farrall struggling together. They were both drunk, and Farrall was trying to get away from the landlord. *Maunder* had hold of Farrall by the collar and was pushing him in a corner and knocking his head against the wall. He (witness) tried to part the men, when *Maunders* took hold of him and said he would have no policemen in his house. Two other officers then entered the house, and he told *Maunders* that if he did not keep his hands off him he would lock him up because that was not the first time he had served a policeman like that. He parted the landlord and Farrall, and on the latter again making a noise and striking Police-constable Jackson, he was taken into custody for drunkenness.

Police-constable Hill gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the defence, and was about to call several witnesses, when Mr. Spooner said that he might call them, but if he did so he should not treat it as a first offence, which was his custom to do under such circumstances. Mr. Ebsworth said that under such circumstances he would not call any witnesses. Mr. Spooner said he would fine defendant 1s and costs (total 11s), and if he came before him again he would put the highest possible fine upon him."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/8/1870

"A meeting was held yesterday, at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, at which the various delegates from the ironworkers gave in their reports, which were in favour of advance in wages of one shilling per ton. It was resolved to appoint a committee to confer with the masters, and to report the result to a future meeting."

The Era 28/8/1870 - Advert

"GREEN DRAGON Music Hall, Wednesbury. Proprietor, Mr. *Joseph Taylor*.

Wanted, First-class Talent in all Branches of Concert Hall Business, to open on Saturday Night, September 3rd, and Monday, September 5th. No stamp required. Silence a respectful negative. Address, Mr. B. Nash."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1873 - Advert

"Young Man, about 16, to assist in Spirit Vaults, and make himself generally useful. Good character indispensable. Apply to *J. Taylor*, DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury."

YOUNG Man, about 16, to assist in Spirit Vaults, and make himself generally useful. Good character indispensable.—Apply to *J. Taylor, Dragon Hotel, Wednesbury.*

Walsall Observer 27/6/1874 - Advert

"Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Farrington & Son, at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Friday, the 3rd Day of July, 1874, at Five o'clock pm, either altogether or in such lots as may be announced at the time of sale, and subject to conditions to be then produced, an Extensive Freehold Site of Building Land, with the Buildings thereon, called The Shambles, containing 659 square yards, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Butler, situate in front of the Market Place, and adjoining the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL in Wednesbury.

Further information and particulars and plan may be obtained on application to the Auctioneers, at Walsall; or to Mr. T. M. How, Solicitor, Shrewsbury."

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: C. McGuigan, PLOUGH AND HARROW; J. Jones, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen; *J. Taylor*, GREEN DRAGON INN."

Midland Examiner 30/12/1876

"At a meeting of the members of Wednesbury Conservative Association, at the GREEN DRAGON INN, on Friday evening, Mr. Wilson Lloyd presiding, it was decided to give up the rooms at present occupied by the association, and to take others in Russell Street, and ask the Earl of Dartmouth to attend and take part in the inaugural ceremony, which was fixed to take place at the end of next month."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1878 - Advert

“Vaultman. Good character indispensable.
Apply, GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

VAULTMAN. Good character indispensable.—Apply, Green Dragon Hotel, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1879 - Advert

“Man (young) Wanted, for Wine and Spirit Vault, whose character will bear the strictest investigation.
Apply, GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

MAN (young) Wanted, for Wine and Spirit Vault, whose character will bear the strictest investigation.—Apply, Green Dragon Hotel, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Dudley Herald 6/3/1880 - Advert

“To be Let or Sold, the WINDMILL INN, Stafford Street, Dudley, centrally situated in the midst of numerous good manufactories now in full work. The house is now doing a good business, principally counter trade, and possesses, besides a large Vault beautifully fitted up, a Smoke Room, large Bar, Parlour, good Kitchen, very good Yard, large Club Room, and eight Bedrooms. Present tenant going out of the business.
For further particulars, apply to *Josh. Taylor*, GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Dudley and District News 11/9/1880

“Although Wednesbury Wake has been abolished by the Home Secretary, in compliance with a memorial from the Local Board, an attempt has been made to revive it. On Monday there were two assemblages of shows, stalls, swings, &c, all located on private ground, belonging to or hired by publicans and others. One of the places used was the ground known as the Shambles, and situate at the back of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, and the other at the bottom of Addison Street at the back of the Board Schools, Lower High Street, the latter being the larger of the two. Both were crowded with visitors, especially in the evening. Several of the local friendly societies had their annual parades and dinners, and the streets wore an animated, holiday appearance, although large numbers of those who kept holiday wisely took train to distant places.

Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1880 - Advert

“Barman (Under). A young Man, about 18. Good character indispensable.
J. Taylor, DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

BARMAN (Under).—A young Man, about 18. Good character indispensable.—*J. Taylor*, Dragon Hotel, Wednesbury.

1881 Census

Market Place (west side) – GREEN DRAGON INN

- [1] *Joseph Taylor* (52), licensed victualler, born Breabury, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Catherine Taylor* (42), wife, born Felling, Durham;
- [3] *Frederick John Taylor* (6), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Harriet Scott* (34), general servant, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Emily Addis* (19), general servant, born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Timothy Dudley* (21), barman, born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Arthur George Roberts* (28), barman, born Birmingham:

Joseph Taylor – see also GRAPES, High Street, and SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/9/1885

“On Tuesday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the Town Hall, Wednesbury, touching the death of *Charles Gandey* (38), of Oxford Street, Bilston, who was found dead on Sunday morning in a closet at the back of the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, with a violin by his side.

When the names of the jurymen were called, *Frederick Lynden*, manager of the DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, was absent, and the coroner fined him 20s.....”

Worcester Journal 1/5/1886

“On Tuesday afternoon a young man named *Patrick O’Hare* went into the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury, and ordered a pint of stout. When in the act of drinking it he fell down, vomited a large quantity of blood, and died. It is supposed that deceased broke a blood vessel through hurriedly drinking the stout.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1887

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, John Nicks (22), hawker, Holland Street, Parade, Birmingham, was charged with causing the death of William Gallagher, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Harry Bridgewater, spring-fitter, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, deposed that on Monday night, at about twenty minutes past ten o'clock, he was in the 'back field,' behind the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, and saw the deceased and another youth in one of several swing-boats, which were under the care of the accused. The boat was swinging at a great rate, and the accused being desirous of stopping it, and being unable to do so immediately by the application of the lever, took a long pole, which he raised with the intention of aiding him. He missed the boat, however, and the pole caught the deceased under the right arm and pitched him 14ft out of the boat on to his back. Gallagher was then carried away in an unconscious state to a neighbouring house. The unfortunate youth was afterwards attended by Dr. Dingley, but his injuries resulted in death early in the morning.

The accused was remanded for a week on bail, himself in £40, and two sureties in £20 each.”

Burton Chronicle 18/8/1887

“An inquest was held on Wednesday at Wednesbury on the body of William Gallagher (17), who, through the incautious use of a pole by John Nicks (22) stopping a swing-boat, was thrown out of the boat on Monday night, and so injured that he died a few hours later.

The jury, after briefly deliberating in private, returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The Coroner said they did not consider that Nicks was entirely free from blame, and hoped that what had occurred would be a warning to him.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/7/1890

“Yesterday, Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on the body of Ann Rose (57), widow, Ridding Lane.

On the 3rd inst she was assisting in removing furniture, and whilst carrying a mattress down stairs she slipped and fell, her head striking some projecting part of the building, and sustaining serious injuries. She was attended by Dr. Crewe, but the injuries resulted in her death on the 11th inst.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

The Coroner observed that the name of Councillor *E. Butler* had first been entered on the precept as foreman, but had afterwards been struck out and the name of another person entered. The sergeant on duty said, in answer to the coroner, that the alterations had been made on the authority of Superintendent Holland, and a juror said that Councillor *Butler* believed he was exempt from service on a coroner's jury by reason of his being a councillor. The Coroner said a town councillor was not exempt from service, and as regarded the alteration of name he should have to make enquiries.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

Edwin Butler, the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, applied through Mr. W. S. Smith for the renewal of his license, and, to meet the objections that the licensee was non-resident and that no one lived on the premises at night, he undertook that someone should live on the premises, not as caretaker, but as manager, who would be always on the premises to attend to bona-fide travellers Renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Mr. W. S. Smith applied for the renewal of the license of *Edwin Butler*, the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, and the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, against whom objections had been taken on the ground that he had failed to obey the order of the Court, requiring the putting up of sign-boards. Superintendent Walters reported that the sign-boards had since the licensing session being put up. Granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1893

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Edwin Butler*, GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 2nd February. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the defence.

Police-constable Carter deposed that his attention was directed to the house, and on going there he found John Silvester, a haberdasher in the Market Place, drunk and asleep. Silvester was aroused, and witness took him home. In cross-examination he admitted that Silvester was well known for his habit of wandering about from public house to public house when 'on the spree.'

The defence was that Silvester was not supplied with drink in the house, and that he was ordered out; but was treated with some consideration, being a neighbour. He was in and out several times. The defendant said he would himself summon Silvester. A fine of 20s and costs was imposed.

George Holden, MARKET TAVERN, Russell Street, was, on the evidence of Police-sergeant McGuire and Police-constable Carter, fined 40s and costs for having, on the same day, supplied ale to John Silvester named above whilst the latter was drunk. The landlord said Silvester was not drunk, but merely 'fresh.'

The Stipendiary said Silvester seemed to be a nuisance to the people in the neighbourhood. (The defendant, 'When drunk.') But the publicans could turn him out, or if he refused to go, prosecute him. Then they would not only punish him but protect themselves. Had there been a previous conviction he would have imposed the full penalty of £10. As it was the defendant would be fined £2 and costs."

Edwin Butler – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

"The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday.... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of William Bird, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.

The renewals to be opposed were....

Thomas Rigby, the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place.

The Mayor commented with regret upon the increase in the numbers of offences and convictions shown by the returns; and the contentious business was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day, the 29th inst."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

"The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions."

Dudley Herald 17/9/1898

"On Tuesday night, at a meeting of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association, at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, Mr. H. J. Jones presiding, Councillor *Edwin Butler* announced that as he had retired from business he had decided not to seek re-election as a representative of Wood Green Ward in November next. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. *Butler*, and regret was expressed that he had decided to retire from the public life of the town. It was contended that as the licensed victuallers and others engaged in the brewing trade paid a large proportion of the rates that they should have increased representation on the Town Council, and a committee was appointed to deal with the question...."

1901 Census

Market Place – GREEN DRAGON

[1] *William H. Hadley* (32), licensed victualler's manager, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Ada Hadley* (33), wife, born Aston, Staffordshire;

[3] *Alice C. Hadley* (10), adopted daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Julia McTight*, (19), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

"At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, before Aldermen R. Williams, I. Oldbury, and Mr. F. W. Hackwood, a man named Edwin Hudson (50), of no fixed abode, but who has been living in apartments at Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, and with intent to defraud, between the 17th September and 3rd October.

The evidence showed that prisoner represented himself to be in the employ of the Midland Advertising Company, Wolverhampton, and canvassed for advertisements for the Wolverhampton Wanderers Fixture Card. He secured 2s 6d from Frank Turbot, manager of the South Staffordshire Coffee House, Market Place; 4s 6d from Benjamin E. Pewtriss, tobacconist, Market Place; 5s from Herbert E. Kent, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN; 5s from *William H. Hadley*, GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place; 2s 6d from James Faulkner, BULLS HEAD INN; 2s from William Macdonald, THREE SWANS INN; 5s from Frank Bateman, licensed victualler, High Street; 2s 6d

from Edward Phillips, BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane; 2s 6d from John Jones, FORRESTER'S ARMS, Portway Road; and 2s 6d from Albert Newbould, OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street.

Frederick L. Hodgetts, of the Penn Road, Wolverhampton, said he was a partner in the Midland Advertising Company. Prisoner had been in their employ, but left on the 27th April. He had not been connected with the company since, and was not authorised to canvass for advertisements.

Detective Truswell deposed to effecting the arrest of prisoner.

Alderman Oldbury (to prisoner): Didn't you consider you had a lot of 'flats' to deal with in Wednesbury? I am surprised that tradesmen should give their money away without even asking for a receipt. They must be very confiding.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Sessions, which commence on Tuesday next."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1901

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Edwin Hudson, 50, traveller, pleaded guilty to having obtained various sums of money by false pretences at Wednesbury, on September 17. There were previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sentenced to three years' penal servitude."

Walsall Observer 5/12/1903

"At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Kelly (58), of no fixed abode, was charged with assaulting *Leo Thomas Beighton*, landlord of the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, on Monday afternoon.

On Monday prisoner visited the prosecutor's house selling laces. He became very abusive, and the landlord ordered him to leave. The landlord went to find a constable, but whilst he was looking for one in the street the prisoner, it was alleged, rushed at him and struck him twice in the chest.

Prisoner admitted the assault, but said the prosecutor attempted to kick him first.

Superintendent Salt said prisoner was a stranger to Wednesbury, and he refused to give any account of himself.

The Stipendiary sent prisoner to gaol for 21 days with hard labour."

Birmingham Mail 17/5/1905 - Advert

"Barman (smart), age about 18; good references required; live in. GREEN DRAGON, Market Place. Wednesbury."

BARMAN (smart), age about 18; good references required; live in.—Green Dragon, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/3/1910

"The third round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Handicap Billiards Tournament was continued yesterday. In the afternoon, *F. Cook*, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, easily beat A. Woodward, SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury, by 104 points."

1911 Census

9, Market Place – GREEN DRAGON

[1] *Frank Cook* (45), licensed victualler, born Walsall;

[2] *Jane Cook* (40), wife, married 15 years, assists, born Chalvey, Buckinghamshire;

[3] *May Cook* (13), daughter, born Lichfield Barracks;

[4] *Minnie Cook* (11), daughter, born Lichfield Barracks;

[5] *Leah Wallett* (16), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Agnes Cook* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/1/1913

"The Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers billiards tournament will be commenced on Monday next. Entries.....

F. Cook, GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 31/3/1915

“The eighteenth Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Handicap Billiards Tournament was concluded yesterday. In the final *F. Cook*, GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury, rec.160, met W. Turner, FOX AND DOGS, West Bromwich, rec.440. Turner, who had displayed sound generalship in his previous games, had the better of the play at the afternoon session, taking few risks. *Cook* improved his position towards the close of the session, but at the interval the scores stood Turner 621, *Cook* 416. Play again favoured Turner in the early stages of the evening session, and the scores were called, Turner 746, *Cook* 601. The back-marker, however, playing well, collected points rapidly, putting on capital breaks. Turner failed when he required only 13 for game, and *Cook*, who needed 30, obtained these with an unfinished run. During the latter part of the game *Cook* scored 199 while Turner contributed 43. Final scores, *Cook* 800, Turner 787.”

[*Frank Cook* also won in 1923 and 1926.]

1921 Census

8½, Market Place – GREEN DRAGON

- [1] *Francis Henry Cook* (56), licensed victualler, born Walsall;
- [2] *Jane Cook* (50), wife, assistant to above, born Chalvey, Buckinghamshire;
- [3] *Frederick Harry Cook* (24), son, soldier on leave, born Whittington Barracks, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Minnie Cook* (21), daughter, shorthand typist, born Whittington Barracks, Staffordshire;
- [5] *Agnes Cook* (12), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Florence Proverbs* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/7/1921

“At Tipton, yesterday, John William Houlston, aged 23, Richard Street South, West Bromwich, who wore the uniform of a private in the Yorkshire and Lancashire regiment, pleaded guilty to two charges of theft, and also to being on enclosed premises with intent to commit a felony.

It was stated that on the 13th inst he was found by the landlady of the PRINCE REGENT INN, Horseley Heath, in a bed room, and detained until the arrival of the police.

Subsequently in a written confession Houlston admitted having taken £32 from a bedroom at the TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, and a silver brooch from the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury, remarking to an officer that he had spent the money in drink.

Prisoner was committed for six months on the charge of stealing £32, the magistrates intimating there would be no adjudication in the two other charges, and that charges from Dudley and Smethwick, the latter relating to the theft of articles to the value of £20, from the SWAN INN, Oldbury Road, Smethwick, had also been taken into consideration.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/10/1922

“Old Comrades of the South Staffordshire Regiment.....

The following are the representatives of the Association at the towns in which they reside, who will give full information about the Association to all applicants ex-Cr.-Sergt. *Cook*, GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

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 15/3/1924

“A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Friendly and Protection Society was held on Tuesday afternoon, at the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury. Mr. *Frank Cook* presided in the absence of Alderman Sheldon (president).....”

South Staffordshire Times 29/3/1924

“Mr. *F. H. Cook* of the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury, last year’s winner of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiard Handicap, who last week established a record break for the handicap, received a ‘knock-out’ in the third round on Monday at the hands of Mr. E. A. Webb, of West Bromwich.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 21/1/1928

“In the first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiards Handicap, on Wednesday, Mr. *Frank Cook* of the GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury defeated Mr. A. W. Porter of Birmingham.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 25/8/1928

“The half yearly meeting of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association was held on Tuesday evening at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, when Mr. A. Blakemore presided.

Reference was made to the new Shop Hours Act, whereby publicans can now sell cigarettes, tobacco and matches during all the hours they are permitted to be opened. The secretary said he had been instructed that license holders could also sell these articles outdoor after 8pm, as well as on the premises.

A letter was read from Mr. *Frank Cook* resigning his position as vice-president, and stating his reasons. The president said he was at a loss to know why Mr. *Cook* had resigned, despite what he said in his letter, and he very much regretted his decision. It was decided to let the letter lie on the table, and discuss it at the annual meeting.....”

Frank Cook was vice-chairman of Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Friendly and Protection Society. [1928], [1934]

He was also a councillor. [1934]

Lichfield Mercury 4/7/1930

“The annual dinner of the Old Comrades Association of the South Staffordshire Regiment was held at the Town Hall, Walsall, on Saturday evening, and was a greater success than ever, there being an attendance of well over 400.....

Representatives – Cannot speak too highly of the good work done by these gentlemen. The Association again take the opportunity to thanking them most cordially for their good work. They will at all times be pleased to give full information to all applicants and collect subscriptions.....

Mr. *F. Cook*, GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Market Square, Wednesbury.”

Dudley Chronicle 1/3/1934

“A quarterly meeting of the Wednesbury Friendly Societies Council was held at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, on Thursday evening recently when Bro. G. H. Lawrence presided, being supported by Bro. T. Davies (vice-president) and G. Willetts (secretary). There was a good muster of delegates and after the ordinary business of the council had been dealt with the president read the following paper on ‘National Health Insurance additional benefits’.....”

Walsall Observer 4/7/1936

“Mr. *F. H. Cook*, who for 30 years has held the license of the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury, retired yesterday from the licensed trade in which he has been engaged for 33 years. Mr. *Cook*, who is 70 years of age, is a former member of Wednesbury Town Council, and for a number of years was chairman of the Wednesbury branch of the British Legion, being also secretary of the South Staffs Old Comrades Association. He is Chairman of the Wednesbury Cricket Club, Vice-president and trustee of the Wednesbury and Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association. At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a temporary transfer of the license in respect of the GREEN DRAGON was granted to *John Underwood*.”

Walsall Observer 9/1/1937

“The Wednesbury Town Clerk has submitted to the General Purposes Committee a report of an interview with Mr. Lowe, of W. Butler and Company Ltd., brewers, of Wolverhampton, at which the latter suggested the sale of a strip of land near the GREEN DRAGON in the Shambles for the improvement of the hotel; also that the Corporation should acquire, in exchange, a piece of land owned by the brewery company in Church Street, that the Corporation should then close the right of way belonging to the brewery company and grant a right of way to the GRAPES INN into Church Street in a more convenient situation.

The question raised involved the car park scheme upon which the Borough Surveyor submitted a report as to the properties necessary for acquisition containing an estimate of £5,300 for the total scheme. It was resolved that the suggestion regarding the sale of land in the Shambles be not approved. The question as to the right of way has been left in abeyance until the position regarding the future of Church Street is clearer.”

Walsall Observer 26/6/1937

“At Wednesbury special licensing sessions, yesterday week, approval was given to plans for alterations to..... GREEN DRAGON, Market Place.”

1939 Register

9, Market Place

- [1] John Underwood, date of birth 28/5/1892, hotel manager, married;
- [2] Pamela Underwood, dob 9/3/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] John Underwood, dob 16/2/1924, school, single:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/3/1940

“Penny-A-Week way to put Comforts Fund on a permanent basis.

Nearly £500 has been added to the lists of the funds in the West Midland and *Express and Star* federation since the last list, indicating the enthusiasm of people is still on the increase.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged £380 18s 9½d.

Proceeds of boxes.....

J. Underwood, GREEN DRAGON, 15s.”

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, £5 5s.”

Birmingham Mail 23/3/1942 - Advert

“Reliable Woman assist in Bar occasionally exper. not neces. good wages child no objection.

GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

RELIABLE Woman assist in Bar occasionally exper. not neces. good wages child no objection—Green Dragon Hotel Wednesbury

Birmingham Mail 22/6/1944 - Advert

“Bechstein ebony case upright iron Grand overstrung beautiful tone new cond. offers over £80.

Underwood, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury. Tel.0473.”

BECHSTEIN ebony case upright iron Grand overstrung beautiful tone new cond. offers over £80—Underwood Green Dragon Wednesbury Tel. 0473

John Underwood – see also DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Willenhall.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League in 1948.

Daily Mirror 16/1/1950

“Joy Hawkswood was four when, in a green georgette frock trimmed with flowers, she danced on to the stage to make her first public appearance. The next day Joy received a gilt-edge card. Carefully printed capital letters said it was from Admirer. When Christmas came round Admirer sent her another card – and a present. Another present and another card arrived at Easter. Some time later she began getting presents and greetings on her birthday too. If she passed an exam, along came another gift. So it went on, for thirteen years. But now, with Joy seventeen, it is over. Delicately, and in verse Admirer has told her he would send her no more presents. ‘I must fade into the background,’ he wrote. She was now growing up, he pointed out, and had boy friends. So he did not want her to be embarrassed by gifts from someone she did not know. Joy said last night in her home, the GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, Staffs, she still does not know who he is, but, she said, he must be a nature lover because many of the presents have been books by Romany, with bunches of violets or primroses packed in cotton wool. ‘My one regret is I can’t thank him.’”

Evening Despatch 29/1/1953 - Advert

“Interviewers – Canvassers – Salesman.

Midlands finest Selling line again available. Interviews Saturday January 31st, 11am to 3pm.

Holman, GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

Wilfred Sanson Meir – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green and COURT HOUSE, Sedgley.

Brother of Wilfred Sanson Meir, Walter Frederick Meir – see WAGGON AND HORSES, Darlaston.

George William Sawle – see also LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL.

The house closed on the evening of 10th August 1963.

The license was suspended and was subsequently transferred to Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. on 2nd April 1965, but remained suspended.

Thomas Parkes's Creditors.

ALL Persons who have any Claim or Demand upon the Estate and Effects of the late Mr. THOMAS PARKES, of the George Inn, at Wednesbury, deceased, are desired to send in an Account of their Claims in twenty Days from the Date hereof, unto Mr. William Rock, at the Sign of the Green Dragon, in Wednesbury aforesaid (one of the Executors named in the last Will of the said Mr. Parkes) in order that the same may be settled; and all Persons who are any Ways indebted to the said Mr. Parkes, are desired to pay the same immediately into the Hands of the said Mr. Rock.

Wednesbury, October 29, 1798.

1798

IRONSTONE.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by FRANCIS POOL, on Friday the 21st Day of February, 1800, at the House of Mr. William Rock, the Sign of the Green Dragon, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to such Conditions as will be then produced, a Quantity of Ironstone now lying upon a Piece of Land nearly adjoining the Market Place, in the Town of Wednesbury aforesaid.

The Stone may be viewed, and Particulars known by applying to Mr. William Rock aforesaid.

1800

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately, all that well accustomed Inn and Public House, called and known by the Sign of the GREEN DRAGON, situate in the Market Place, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, with a good Stable for five Horses, three Shops, a Warehouse, and an excellent Garden and Croft of Land behind the same, lately occupied by the Willow Rock, but now by Mr. Richard Woolrich, who is going to a Farm.

The Stock and Furniture to be taken at a fair Valuation.—For Particulars apply to Mr. Jesson, Attorney, Walsall.

1816

I Do hereby give Notice, that I will not pay or be accountable for any Debts which my Wife MARTHA, late Martha Rock, Widow of the late William Rock, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, shall or may contract, she having a separate Maintenance. Given under my Hand this 20th Day of May, 1817,

RICHARD WOOLRICH.

1817

NOTICE.

WHEREAS a capital TILTED CART, with Iron Arms, belonging to Wm. Joy, has been left at Mr. Woolrich's, the Green Dragon Inn, Wednesbury;—this is to give Notice, that unless the said Cart is redeemed before Friday, October 20, 1820, it will be sold by Auction, by John Taylor, at Two o'Clock on that Day, to defray the Expences.

1820

THE Creditors who have proved their debts under a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued forth against RICHARD WOOLRICH, late of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innholder, dealer and chapman, deceased, are desired to meet the Assignees of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt on the sixth day of December, 1823, at twelve o'clock at noon, at the George Hotel, in Walsall, in the county of Stafford, in order to assent to or dissent from the said Assignees selling and disposing of, by private contract or otherwise, certain real Estate of the said bankrupt, situate in the parish of Wednesbury aforesaid; and on other special affairs.

1823

WEDNESBURY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by E. and C. ROBINS, on Friday the 26th day of May inst. at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the Green Dragon Inn, in Wednesbury, either in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon, and subject to conditions then and there to be produced:—

LOT I. All that substantial and respectable Inn or Public House, known by the sign of the GREEN DRAGON, with Liquor Shop and Vaults attached, situate in the Market-place, Wednesbury, now occupied by Mr. Joseph Hobbins, with complete out-offices, front and back carriage entrances, yard, and part of the present garden.

1837

A NEW DAY COACH TO LICHFIELD, CALLED THE DART.

THE Inhabitants of Wolverhampton, Bilston, Wednesbury, Walsall, and their vicinities, are respectfully informed that the above COACH has commenced running every Day (Sundays excepted), at Half-past Seven o'clock in the Morning, from the NEW HOTEL, Wolverhampton, and takes its route through Bilston, Wednesbury, and Walsall, to Lichfield, in time for the *Telegraph* to Burton, Derby, Sheffield, and Leeds: it calls at the KING'S ARMS INN, Bilston, at a quarter before Eight in the morning; the GREEN DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, at Eight o'clock; and at the GEORGE HOTEL, Walsall, at half-past Eight. It returns from the GEORGE HOTEL, Lichfield, at half-past Two o'clock the same afternoon, arriving in Wolverhampton in time for the first and second class trains to Liverpool and Manchester, for coaches to Dudley, Stourbridge, and Kidderminster, for the *Wander* to Shrewsbury, and the *Shropshire Herald* to Bridgnorth.

GREEN DRAGON INN, MARKET PLACE, WEDNESBURY.

TO be SOLD by private Contract, all that old-established Inn or Public House known by the sign of the GREEN DRAGON, with Liquor Shop and Vaults attached, situate in the Market-place, Wednesbury, now occupied by Mr. Joshua Thompson, with complete Out-offices, Stables, front and back Carriage entrances, Yard, and Garden thereto belonging.

1839

GREEN DRAGON INN, WEDNESBURY.

To Publicans and persons in want of an old established Public House and Liquor Shop, in the centre of the Market-place.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY SEPTIMUS DAVIS,

On Monday next, the 4th day of December, 1843, on the premises,

THE valuable LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above excellent house and premises, with good Stabling, Coach-houses, and large Yard.

The premises are in good repair, in the centre of the Market-place, and in one of the best situations in Wednesbury.

The household goods, brewing vessels, fixtures, and stock, to be taken to at a fair valuation by the purchaser.

The licenses will be put up at twelve o'clock in the forenoon, and if not sold, the whole of the furniture, fixtures, stock in trade, and other effects, will be Sold by Auction immediately after, and continue on that and the following day.

Full particulars will appear in catalogues, to be had at the place of sale, and of the AUCTIONEER, West Bromwich; or to treat by private contract, apply to Mr. J. B. HEBBERT, solicitor, Temple-street, Birmingham.

1843

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 provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said Obadiah Howl is hereby required to appear in Court before JOHN BALGUY, Esq., Q.C., 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 persons 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 WALPY, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, the Official Assignee nominated in that behalf by the Commissioner acting in the matter of the said Petition.

1847

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY, MARKET PLACE, WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. JOSEPH DAWES, at the Green Dragon Inn, Wednesbury, on the 18th of March, 1859, at Three p.m. precisely, by direction of the Assignees of William Rock, late of West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, Commission Agent, an Insolvent Debtor—all that One UNDIVIDED FIFTH PART or SHARE and all other the INTEREST of the said William Rock of and in certain FREEHOLD HEREDITAMENTS, at the Market Place, Wednesbury aforesaid, consisting of a PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the GREEN DRAGON INN, together with Shops, Yards, Gardens, Stabling, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, now in the occupation of Thomas Hughes. And also of and in a Piece of LAND lying at the back of the said Premises, occupied by the said Thomas Hughes, and containing with the site of the said Messuages and Buildings 4,562 square yards or thereabouts.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer; or to Messrs. Duignan and Elsworth, Solicitors, Wednesbury.

1859

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861. IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE HOLDEN AT WALSHALL.

JOSIAH GRIFFITHS, for one week now last past residing in lodgings at No. 81, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton, in the county of Stafford, previously and for eleven months of Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, in the said county of Stafford, Provision Dealer, Licensed Dealer in Tea and Tobacco, and also a Commission Agent, and previously thereto of the Green Dragon Inn, Wednesbury aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, Retail Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 21st day of October, 1864, 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 23rd day of November, 1864, 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. Henry Langman, of Wolverhampton, is the Solicitor in the Bankruptcy.

H. LANGMAN, Esq., Solicitor, Wolverhampton.
C. G. MEEHAN, High Bailiff.

1864

WEDNESBURY.—GREEN DRAGON MUSIC HALL.—(Proprietor, THOMAS MAUNDER.)—Glorious success of the present Company, viz., Jim Pymmer (Characteristic Comic Vocalist), Harry Whitfield (Shakespearian Comic), Signor Ethardo (Contortionist), Mr. St. George (a first-class Dancer), Yankee Henri (Negro Comedian, &c.), Tom Benson (Negro Vocalist, Instrumentalist, and Dancer), Harry Reeves (Sensation Comic). Open on Monday, November 26th. The Three Sisters Alexander (Characteristic Vocalists, Dancers, and Duetists), together with Messrs. Newman and Francis (Comic Duetists). Vacancies for first-class Talent for December 3d, and future dates. No stamp. Three days' silence a respectful negative. **GOOD NIGGERS WANTED** immediately. Mr. B. Nash, Manager.

1866

COUNTER for SALE.—To be SOLD, a bargain, a splendid COUNTER and FITTINGS, not to be equalled for workmanship and material. Dimensions of Counter, 36 ft. long, 4 ft. 3 in. high. Spanish mahogany top; large Trusses to match. The Shelves and Fittings contain a large centre Mirror, 6 ft. 4 in. high, by 4 ft. 2 in.; together with eight plate-glass panels, 5 ft. 4 in. high by 8 in. wide; beautifully stained, gilded, and marbled, with the whole of the Spirit and Cordial Casks.—Application to be made to Mr. Thomas Maunder, Green Dragon Inn, High Street, Wednesbury.

LOT 10—The well-accustomed Old-licensed **PUBLIC-HOUSE**, fronting the Market Place, Wednesbury, known as "THE GREEN DRAGON," and in the occupation of the Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Maunder, with the Outbuildings and Land thereto, coloured pink on the Plans, and containing 1,158 square yards or thereabouts.

The House comprises two roomy Liquor Shops, spacious Concert Hall, snug Parlour, Kitchen, and seven Chambers, with all convenient Outbuildings and Appurtenances.

The purchaser of this lot will not be entitled to any lights looking out upon lot 9, and he will be required to pull down and remove the two chimney shafts standing upon the land forming part of the same lot. The Vendor reserves the right to pull down and remove the materials of the large Concert Hall, built mainly of timber, now standing on the back part of this lot.

1867

GREEN DRAGON MUSIC HALL, WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.—(Proprietor, T. MAUNDER.)

WANTED, a **PIANIST**, for November 30th, must be good; also, for December 7th, a Lady Solo and Characteristic Vocalist, Gentleman Comic, and a good Single Nigger. No stamp. Three days' silence a negative. Address, B. NASH.

1868

GREEN DRAGON MUSIC HALL, WEDNESBURY.
(Proprietor, Mr JOSEPH TAYLOR.)

WANTED, First-class **TALENT** in all Branches of Concert Hall Business, to open on Saturday Night, September 3d, and Monday, September 5th. No stamp required. Silence a respectful negative. Address, Mr B. NASH.

1870

WEDNESBURY,
IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY MESSRS. FARRINGTON & SON,
at the **GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, WEDNESBURY**, on **FRIDAY**, the 3rd Day of **JULY**, 1874, at Five o'clock p.m., either altogether or in such lots as may be announced at the time of sale, and subject to conditions to be then produced, an **EXTENSIVE FREEHOLD SITE OF**

BUILDING LAND,
With the Buildings thereon, called The Shambles, containing 659 square yards, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Butler, situate in front of the Market Place and adjoining the Green Dragon Hotel in Wednesbury.

Further information and particulars and plan may be obtained on application to the **AUCTIONEERS**, at Walsall; or to

MR. T. M. HOW,
Solicitor, **SHREWSBURY.**

1874

TO be LET or SOLD, the **WINDMILL INN**, Stafford Street, Dudley, centrally situated in the midst of numerous good manufactories now in full work. The house is now doing a good business, principally counter trade, and possesses, besides a large Vault beautifully fitted up, a Smoke Room, large Bar Parlour, good Kitchen, very good Yard, large Club Room, and eight Bedrooms. Present tenant going out of the business.—For farther particulars, apply to Josh. Taylor, Green Dragon Hotel, Wednesbury.

1880

GREEN MAN

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Oldacre [1822]
William Cash [1830]
James Taylor [1834]
Thomas Taylor [1835]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/12/1830 - Advert

"Freeholds at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Henry Jacob, at the house of Mr. Taylor, the KINGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Friday the 7th of January, 1831, at four o'clock in the afternoon (by order of the Trustees of Mr. James Brown) the under-mentioned desirable Freehold Property.....

Lot 1. All that old established and well accustomed Public House in the High Street, Wednesbury, known as the GREEN MAN INN, in the occupation of Mr. *Cash*, with Brewhouse, Outbuildings, and Land behind the same; together with the adjoining House and Pork Shop, fronting the High Street aforesaid.

N.B. This lot is under the lease to Mr. *William Cash* at £28 per annum, of which seven years will be unexpired on the 12th of February, 1831."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/8/1832 - Advert

"GREEN MAN Public House, Wednesbury.

To be disposed of, the Lease, Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of the above desirable and well accustomed Public House, with a Pork Butcher's Shop attached, extensive outbuildings, &c, situate near the Market Place, Wednesbury aforesaid.

The stock, vessels, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c, Wednesbury."

GREEN MAN PUBLIC HOUSE, WEDNESBURY.

TO be disposed of, the Lease, Licences, Good-will, and immediate Possession of the above desirable and well accustomed Public House, with a Pork Butcher's Shop attached, extensive outbuildings, &c. situate near the Market-place, Wednesbury aforesaid.

The stock, vessels, &c. to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c. Wednesbury.

FREEHOLDS AT WEDNESBURY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by HENRY JACOB, at the house of Mr. Taylor, the King's Head Inn, Wednesbury, on Friday the 7th of January, 1831, at four o'clock in the afternoon (by order of the Trustees of Mr. James Brown) the under-mentioned desirable FREEHOLD PROPERTY in the town of Wednesbury aforesaid, and in the following, or such other lots as shall be agreed upon, viz.—

LOT 1. All that old established and well accustomed Public House in the High-street, Wednesbury, known as the GREEN MAN INN, in the occupation of Mr. Cash, with Brewhouse, Outbuildings, and Land behind the same; together with the adjoining House and Pork Shop, fronting the High-street aforesaid.

N. B. This lot is under lease to Mr. William Cash at £28 per annum, of which seven years will be unexpired on the 12th of February, 1831.

GREYHOUND

23, (Lower) Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd. [1936]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Mary Ann Fellows [1866] – [1872]
Edmund Louis Hammonds [1876] – [1891]
John Craven [1896]
Edward Wilkes [] – **1900**
William Harding [1901] – [1904]
George Peters [1911] – [1912]
Henry William Davies [] – **1925**;
Cyril Vernon Sleight **(1925 – [])**
William Hancox [1939]
William Bowers [1940]
Samuel Joseph Harry Beddow **(1944 – 1953)**



Edmund Louis Hammonds

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Mary Ann Fellows = Mary Ann Fellowes

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/11/1866

“L. Wallett of Church Street, Wednesbury, will fly his black and white wing cock pigeon Lord Lyon against any other pigeon in Wednesbury, Walsall, Darlaston, Westbromwich, Bilston, or the surrounding district that will fly eight miles from the Nelson Monument, Birmingham, and he will give or take the fly of any of the district named, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at Mrs. *Fellows*’s, GREYHOUND INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/8/1867

“W. Lee (the Boatman) of Great Bridge will run Sim Webb of Kates Hill 120 yards, for £10 or £25 a side; or take one yard of York, or will throw £10 in with Wareing and Wilcox, the winner to take the £30. Money ready at *Fellows*’s, the GREYHOUND INN, Wednesbury.”

Mrs. Mary Ann Fellows, beer retailer, Dudley Street. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

23, Dudley Street

- [1] Mary Ann Fellows (61), widow, publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] John Fellows (29), son, scrap dealer, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Julia Fellows (23), daughter-in-law, born Tipton;
- [4] William Fellows (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Sarah Yates (17), general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Samuel Wilkes (74), uncle, widower, not able to work, born Wednesbury;

Mrs. Mary Ann Fellowes, beer retailer, 23, Dudley Street. [1872]

Edmund Louis Hammonds = Edmund Louis Hammond = Edmund Lewis Hammond = Edward Hammond = Edward Hammonds

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/7/1876

“*Edmund Lewis Hammond*, landlord of the GREYHOUND public house, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was charged with permitting drunkenness on Saturday last. Mr. J. Sheldon defended.

Evidence in support of the charge having been given by Police-constables Hodgetts and Steele, witnesses were called for the defence, and after hearing their statements the magistrates, believing that there had been no wilful permission on the part of the defendant, dismissed the case.”

Midland Examiner 30/12/1876

“John Gallagher was charged with cutting and wounding Richard Williams, an engineer, and under a warrant of old date he was also charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

The evidence in support of the first-named charge was to the effect that on Saturday night the prosecutor went into the GREYHOUND INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, and having been served with a jug of ale he left it on the table while he went to the fire to light his pipe. On turning round he found that the prisoner had drunk nearly all his liquor. He remonstrated, and the prisoner struck at him, at the same time using offensive language, and subsequently, on his defending himself, stabbed him three times with a pocket-knife, once in the middle of the abdomen, and twice about the upper part of the legs, but owing to the thickness of his trousers the wounds were not serious.

The prisoner was sentenced to one month’s imprisonment for the assault, and was fined 10s for being drunk and disorderly.”

London Gazette 20/12/1878

“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 *Edmund Louis Hammonds*, of the GREYHOUND INN, Dudley-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Publican.

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 Joseph Edward Sheldon, 51, High-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on the 3rd day of January, 1879, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 18th day of December, 1878.

Joseph E. Sheldon, 51, High-street, Wednesbury, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

1881 Census

23, Dudley Street – GREY HOUND INN

[1] *Edward Hammond* (30), beerhouse keeper, born France, British subject;

[2] *Mary A. Hammond* (30), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Florance Hammond* (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Mary A. Pugh* (23), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Evening Express 27/9/1881

“*William Goode* (13), of Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was brought up in custody on the charge of breaking into the premises of Mr. *Edmund Hammond*, publican, Dudley Street.

The evidence of the prosecutor showed that prisoner had gained admittance into the house on the 19th inst by getting through a window. The prisoner had previously broken into the premises and stolen money.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said the prisoner’s mother had been thirty times convicted for being drunk, and was now undergoing a term of imprisonment.

The Bench sentenced the accused to 14 days imprisonment, and three years in a reformatory.”

Evening Star 25/1/1882

"Elizabeth Goode, of Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was brought up on three charges; first with doing wilful damage, second with being drunk, and third, assaulting the police.

Mr. *Hammond*, proprietor of the GREYHOUND INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, stated that on the 14th inst the prisoner came into his house and broke a pane of glass.

Police-constable Quimby said he was called yesterday to a disturbance in Dudley Street, Wednesbury. When he got there he saw the prisoner creating a disturbance, and who, on seeing him, went into a house and procured a glass of water and threw it in his face.

The Stipendiary said that soon after he came into the district the prisoner was introduced to him, and on many previous occasions he had occasion to see her features. She was sentenced for assaulting the police to 14 days imprisonment, and for being drunk and disorderly 14 days, and at the end of the four weeks she would have to pay for wilful damage 10s and costs, and 5s, the value of the pane of glass; or in default of payment, one month with hard labour."

Sporting Life 6/3/1883

"Birch v 'Time.' Mr. S. Middlebrook, publican of the Pleck, Walsall, has matched Thomas Birch, of Walsall, to run ten miles in one hour. The backer of 'Time' being Mr. *E. Hammond*, of the GREYHOUND INN, Wednesbury, the latter staking £10 to £8. The match to come off on Easter Monday, March 26, at the Robin Hood Grounds, Willenhall. Mr. D. Pike, who is appointed referee, timekeeper, and stakeholder, has received £9. The final deposit of £9 to be made at the grounds the day of running, by three o'clock. To be on the mark at four o'clock sharp."

AND

Sporting Life 28/3/1883

".....The weather was against the pedestrian, as a strong cold wind, accompanied with snow and hail at intervals, made the track, which had been well rolled, rather heavy The ped completed the full distance in 58 minutes 13-5 seconds, a brilliant performance considering the weather."

Sporting Life 29/12/1883

"Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

The 440 yards match between Frank Lloyd and Thomas Jones, both of Wednesbury, is going on all right. J. Harding holds £10 and articles, and they run on Monday, January 21, 1884, for £30. The next deposit of £5 a side is to be made at Mr. *Hammond's*, GREYHOUND INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, on January 5, 1884, between eight and ten o'clock. Lloyd receives 10 yard start. James Harding, stakeholder, pistol firer, and referee."

Wednesbury Herald 16/2/1884

"*Edmund Louis Hammond*, publican, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was, at the instance of the West Bromwich Board of Guardians, directed to pay 20s and costs for neglecting to support his wife."

1891 Census

23, Dudley Street – GREY HOUND INN

[1] *Edmund Hammond* (40), married, beerhouse keeper, born France, British subject;

[2] *Florence Hammond* (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Alice Riley* (22), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

"The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

Mr. W. S. Smith applied for the renewal of the license of *Edward Hammonds*, the GREYHOUND beerhouse, Dudley Street, Wednesbury. Objected to on ground of selling drink during prohibited hours Renewed."

Edmund Louis Hammonds (1850–1903), played cornet in the Wednesbury Rifle Volunteers Band, The Crown Works Band and The Royal Birmingham Orchestra.

He was married to Mary Ann.

He married, secondly, *Alice Riley* on 30th July 1892.

See also ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury, and BRITANNIA, Leabrook Road, Tipton.

John Craven, beer retailer, 23, Dudley Street. [1896]

Edward Wilkes was married to Ann, daughter of William Parker of the LITTLE SWAN, Bilston.
He died on 6th January 1900.

1901 Census

23, Dudley Street

- [1] William Harding (35), beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Sarah J. Harding (34), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Nellie Harding (11), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Florence Harding (9), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] William V. Harding (4), son, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Thomas H. Harding (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Alice Lally (26), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Wednesbury Leader 21/9/1901

“Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

William Harding applied for the granting of the license to him of the GREYHOUND, Dudley Street. Mr. S. M. Slater appeared for the applicant.

Mr. Salt reported a conviction against the house of permitting drunkenness License renewed.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1901

“Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt objected to the renewal of the licenses, in consequence of convictions, of the following houses.....
GREYHOUND INN, Dudley Street.....

The magistrates renewed all the licenses but Mr. Joynson pointed out that if any of the applicants were again convicted they would in all probability lose the licenses.”

William Harding, beer retailer, 23, Dudley Street. [1904]

Pure home-brewed ales from malt and hops only. [1911]

1911 Census

Dudley Street – GREYHOUND INN

- [1] George Peters (49), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Sylvia Peters (50), wife, married 22 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] George Joseph Peters (21), son, brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Ethel Page (18), niece, born Wednesbury;
- [5] James Buckley (7), grand-son, born Wednesbury:

George Peters, beer retailer and brewer, 23, Dudley Street. [1912]

George Peters – see also OCEAN HOUSE, Wednesbury.

Cyril Vernon Sleigh – see also OLD STILL, Digbeth, Walsall, TANNERS ARMS, Day Street, Walsall, RISING SUN, Green Lane, Walsall, BUILDERS ARMS, Wisemore, Walsall, CRITERION, Stafford Street, Walsall, and RED LION, Blue Lane, Walsall.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Table Tennis League. [1932]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

“A suggestion that an area at Wednesbury was being too drastically combed of public houses and swept up as a clearance area, was made by Mr. Frank Cooper, solicitor, at the adjourned Wednesbury Licensing Sessions yesterday. The remarks were prompted in a case concerning the renewal of the license of the GREYHOUND INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, Mr. Cooper representing the owners, Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Company, Aston, Birmingham. An objection to the renewal was made by the police on grounds of redundancy, Police-sergeant Martin stating that there were 25 public houses within a radius of 500 yards, the nearest being only 13 yards away.

Mr. Cooper remarked that during the last 10 or 12 years 13 licenses had been either taken away on grounds of redundancy, or surrendered, within a radius of 250 yards. 'I question if you looked all over England whether you would find an area of that size where so many licenses have been taken away,' observed Mr. Cooper.

Alderman C. W. D. Joyson, presiding, 'This is our clearance area.'

Mr. Cooper, 'And it has been very drastically cleared, too, sir.' He hoped the Justices would not brush away the license in view of the money spent on the property. 'The little man has his usage as much as the public man and, therefore, a small house structurally well built has just as much right to exist in the interests of the community as has the bigger places where large numbers of people congregate,' he added.

The license of the GREYHOUND was subsequently renewed."

1939 Register

23, Lower Dudley Street

[1] *William Hancox*, date of birth 10/4/1874, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Rose H. Hancox*, dob 29/6/1877, unpaid domestic duties and helping above, married:

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

"The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

GREYHOUND INN, Wednesbury, 8s."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

Evening Despatch 8/9/1953

"A well-known Wednesbury publican, Mr. *Samuel Joseph Harry Beddow*, licensee of the GREYHOUND, INN, Dudley Street, for nine years, has died at Burton Road Hospital, Dudley.

Mr. *Beddow* was 60. He leaves a widow and two daughters."

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1958]

It closed c.1960.

It became the premises of Brittoll Radiator Services Ltd.

It was demolished in the early 1970s.

HARE AND HOUNDS

85, Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Abel Round [1783] – [1813]
Joseph Round [1818] – [1835]
Daniel Partridge [1841] – [1842]
Henry Partridge [1845] – [1845]
John Cartwright [1849]–**1853**)
Richard Davis Jnr. [] – **1857**);
Joseph Palmer (**1857** – [1872]

PUBLIC HOUSE, WEDNESBURY.
TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, that old established and well accustomed Public House, the HARE and HOUNDS, in Wednesbury, which has been carried on very advantageously by the present Occupier upwards of thirty Years, and is such a Situation as seldom offers. The Stock and Utensils to be taken to by the coming-in Tenant.
For further Particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to Mr. Abel Round, on the Premises.

1812

NOTES

Abel Round, maltster and victualler, Wednesbury. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/12/1783 - Advert

"To be Sold to the best Bidder, at the House of Mr. *Abel Rounds*, near Wednesbury Bridge, on Monday the 15th Day of December Inst, between the Hours of Ten and Three o'Clock.....

Three Acres of Land, and Building thereto belonging, situate near Wednesbury Bridge....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/3/1807 - Advert

"Notice to Debtors and Creditors.

Whereas Peter Grocutt, of West Bromwich, in the County of Stafford, Woodscrew-maker, hath, by Deed dated the 9th Day of March instant, assigned all his Estate and Effects to Mr. Joseph Morris, of West Bromwich, Mealman, and Mr. *Abel Round*, of Wednesbury, Victualler, in Trust for the Benefit of the Creditors of the said Peter Grocutt....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/6/1812 - Advert

"Public House, Wednesbury.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that old established and well accustomed Public House, the HARE AND HOUNDS, in Wednesbury, which has been carried on very advantageously by the present Occupier upwards of thirty Years, and is such a Situation as seldom offers. The Stock and Utensils to be taken to by the coming-in Tenant.

For further Particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to Mr. *Abel Round*, on the Premises."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/5/1813 - Advert

"Public House, Wednesbury.

To be Let, that old established and well known House, the HARE AND HOUNDS, situate near Wednesbury Bridge. The Licences, Stock, and Utensils to be taken by the coming-in Tenant, who may enter immediately or at Michaelmas next.

For further Particulars, or to treat for the same, apply to Mr. *Abel Round*, on the Premises."

PUBLIC HOUSE, WEDNESBURY.
TO LET, that old established and well known House, the HARE and HOUNDS, situate near Wednesbury Bridge. The Licences, Stock, and Utensils to be taken by the coming-in Tenant, who may enter immediately or at Michaelmas next.
For further Particulars, or to treat for the same, apply to Mr. *Abel Round*, on the Premises.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/3/1817 - Advert

"Notice to Debtors and Creditors.

All Persons who stand indebted to the Estate of the late *Abel Round*, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, deceased, are requested to pay the Amount to Mr. *Joseph Round*, of Wednesbury aforesaid; and all Persons to whom the said *Abel Round* stood indebted at the Time of his Decease, are desired to send in their Accounts to the said *Joseph Round*, that the same may be examined and discharged.

Wednesbury, February 24, 1817."

Joseph Round was also a maltster, gun lock and barrel manufacturer. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/4/1823 - Advert

"To Cover this Season, at the HARE AND HOUNDS, Wednesbury, half-way between Wolverhampton and Birmingham, Nimrod, by Pierrepont, dam by George; Pierrepont was by Sir Peter, Sir Peter by Highflyer, Highflyer by Eclipse; George was by Dungannon, Dungannon by Eclipse. He is a rich brown colt, without white, 4 years old, with remarkably good temper, high action, and excellent constitution.

Two Guineas each Mare and 2s 6d the Groom."

1841 Census

Bridge Street

[1] *Daniel Partridge* (60), farmer, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Joseph Partridge* (20), farmer, born Staffordshire;

[3] *Maria Partridge* (55), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Sarah Partridge* (20), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Hannah Hartill* (20), born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 17/5/1845 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Septimus Davis, on Wednesday, May the 28th.

Four Freehold Dwelling Houses and Gardens, with the Mines and Minerals, situated at the Crab Mill, Hill Top, West Bromwich, at the house of Mr. *Partridge*, the HARE AND HOUNDS, Holloway, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the evening. Particulars will appear in catalogues."

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/3/1850

"Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

John Ingram and Thomas Holmes were charged with assaulting Walter William Cobb, and stealing from his person £1 10s in gold. Mr. Huddleston appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Kettle defended the prisoners.

Mr. Cobb, upon being sworn, stated that he was a traveller. On the night of the 29th of August he was at the door of the HARE AND HOUNDS, Wednesbury, when the prisoners came out of the house. He inquired for a conveyance to Birmingham, and they offered their services to get him one. They walked with him towards Birmingham, and directed him to a certain place to get a conveyance. When he got there he found it an uninhabited house. They then came to the high road, when he told the prisoners he did not require their services, and wished them to break off. They continued to follow him, and asked him to give them a shilling to accompany him to Lord Dartmouth's wall. This he declined to do, and they then began to beg for the poor colliers out of work. After talking some time, he wishing them to leave him, he was then knocked down by Ingram; he struggled with him on the ground, and caught hold of him by the hair. Ingram took out of his pocket £1 10s in gold. He (witness) shouted 'Murder;' Ingram called 'Tom, Tom,' and Holmes came up, and Ingram gave him the money. Holmes gave him (prosecutor) a tremendous kick on the side as he was rising, and sent him over. They then ran off towards Wednesbury.

The prosecutor, upon cross-examination, denied that he was drunk. He said his coat was torn in getting off an omnibus.

Edward Bayley, police-constable, deposed that on the night in question he saw the prosecutor at Hill Top, calling out for assistance. From a description given by the prosecutor, he afterwards apprehended the prisoners. The prosecutor was sober at the time. He walked with him to the HARE AND HOUNDS.

Mr. Kettle, after addressing the jury on behalf of the prisoners, called Mrs. *Cartwright*, landlady of the HARE AND HOUNDS, who said she found the prosecutor sitting upon her step, drunk, with his coat torn and dirty, as though he had been down, and that he said his money had been taken from him between that place and Bilston.

Joseph Harthill, son-in-law to Mrs. *Cartwright*, gave confirmatory evidence, declaring, however, that the prisoners went from the house a quarter of an hour before the prosecutor, while they in their declaration before the magistrates said they went away with him. He said he went with the prosecutor to the bridge, where they overtook the prisoners; he bade them good night, and called them by name. They went off towards their homes.

John Cartwright, the landlord of the HARE AND HOUNDS, and William Potts, blacksmith, at Wednesbury, gave the prisoners a good character.

The jury found the prisoner guilty. Sentence deferred.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/3/1850

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes Sentences.....

Thomas Holmes and John Ingram, for assaulting and robbing Walter William Cobb, at Westbromwich, to be transported for seven years each.”

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 Cartwright, Wednesbury.”

John Cartwright was also a mining agent. [1851]

1851 Census

Bridge Street

[1] *John Cartwright* (49), victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Nancy Cartwright (49), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] John Cartwright (13), son, born West Bromwich;

[4] Thomas Cartwright (9), son, born Oldbury;

[5] Rachael Cartwright (11), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Hannah Cartwright (6), daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] Eliza Henley (18), house servant, born West Bromwich:

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.....

John Cartwright, Wednesbury, cautioned.....

Those cautioned had that remark written on the back of their license.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“On Wednesday, the annual petty sessions for the Hundred of Offlow South was held.....

Licenses suspended until September 29.....

John Cartwright, HARE AND HOUNDS, Wednesbury, open on Sunday.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/10/1852

“Adjourned licensing sessions.....

The suspended cases were brought forward for decision.....

John Cartwright, of Wednesbury, was cautioned, and his license given to him again.”

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1853

“Annual Licensing Day.....

The whole of the renewals were duly granted, with the following exceptions of parties convicted and fined.

The following had their licenses suspended until the adjournment day, the 28th of September, when the decision of the Magistrates on their cases will be given.....

John Cartwright, HARE AND HOUNDS, Wednesbury.”

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 Cartwright, HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Wednesbury, reported and fined three years successively, had his license refused. He now said he hoped the Court would give him a little time; he was about to dispose of the house and business, and should have £50. The Bench said that could not at all influence their determination, he should have kept the house properly."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/10/1856 - Advert

"Wednesbury. Old-Licensed Public House to be Let.

The HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Bridge Street.

The above old-established House, in consequence of the present tenant engaging in other business. It is very advantageously situated in one of the most public thoroughfares of the town, near to several Works, and may be entered upon immediately.

The House contains excellent club-room, large kitchen, and every convenience for carrying on a good business. Coming-in about £250.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Mr. Davies, Auctioneer, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 7/4/1860 - Advert

"To Cover This Season, 1860, that Celebrated Horse Magician (late the property of Lord Strathmore, in whose hands he was regularly hunted, carrying upwards of twelve stone, and proved himself one of the stoutest horses of his day), now the property of Mr. John Cook, Little Sutton, at Five Guineas for thorough-bred mares, and Two Guineas for half-bred mares, and Five Shillings the groom. The groom's fee to be paid at the time of covering, and the remainder the last time round.....

Magician will attend the following places.....

Monday HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Wednesbury, at night."

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/10/1860 - Advert

"Whereas, on Monday, October 22, 1860, a brown Cart Colt, two years old, with three white feet, a star in forehead, long tail, and standing about 14 hands 2 or 3 inches high; and a thick, strong, brown Welsh Pony, about 12 hands 2 inches high, star in forehead, and long tail; did Stray from the field at the back of the HARE AND HOUNDS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. This is to give notice, that whoever will give such information as will lead to the recovery of the same, shall be handsomely rewarded, on application to Mr. *Palmer*, HARE AND HOUNDS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

1861 Census

Bridge Street

[1] *Joseph Palmer* (34), victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Margaret Palmer* (34), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] *Maryann Thomas* (19), house servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Journal 26/10/1861 - Advert

"House and Malthouse.

To be Let, a large Malthouse, with Two Kilns and a Dwelling House, situated near Wednesbury Bridge, in the parish of West Bromwich.

Apply to *Joseph Palmer*, HARE AND HOUNDS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/11/1862 - Advert

"Malthouse to be Let.

To be Let, a Malthouse, near Wednesbury Bridge; also a Dwelling House.

Apply to *Joseph Palmer*, HARE AND HOUNDS, Wednesbury."

HOUSE AND MALTHOUSE.
TO be LET, a large **MALTHOUSE**, with Two **KILNS** and a **DWELLING HOUSE** situated near Wednesbury Bridge, in the parish of West Bromwich.—Apply to *Joseph Palmer*, Hare and Hounds, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. 3132

MALTHOUSE TO BE LET.
TO BE LET, a **MALTHOUSE**, near Wednesbury Bridge; also a **DWELLING HOUSE**.—Apply to *JOSEPH PALMER*, Hare and Hounds, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1864

“West Bromwich. Meeting of the Guardians.....

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Whitehouse said his attention had been drawn to the case of a man named Thomas Hawkins, now an inmate of the Workhouse, who had been earning in the employment of a person named *Palmer*, of the HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Wednesbury, not less than 6s per week, besides being allowed his board. The man, although sixty years of age, was strong and vigorous, and he did not consider it necessary that he should become an inmate of the workhouse and a burden on the parish. Mr. Dee, the governor of the workhouse, Mr. Gittoes, the relieving officer, and the man were called into the presence of the Board, and Hawkins admitted having worked at the place mentioned by Mr. Whitehouse, which he left because he wanted clothes and shoes. The man was severely reprehended for quitting his employment, and was commanded to go to stone-breaking so long as he remained an inmate of the Union.”

Birmingham Journal 23/4/1864 - Advert

“Wednesbury Oak, Tipton. Freehold Public House and Dwelling Houses and Premises.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, all that Old-established Licensed Public House, situate near the Gospel Oak Turnpike Gate and Wednesbury Oak Works, in the parish of Tipton, called the SAMPSON AND LION, with the two Dwelling Houses adjoining.....

For further particulars, apply to Mr. *Palmer*, HARE AND HOUNDS, Wednesbury; to Mr. Thomas Cooksey, Auctioneer, or Mr. Thomas Bolton, Solicitor, both of Wolverhampton.”

An inquest was held here in September 1864 concerning the death of George Davis, landlord of the WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street.

[The report can be found under that pub.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/12/1866

“Birmingham Poultry Show.....

Mr. *Joseph Palmer*, HARE AND HOUNDS, Wednesbury, was awarded a third prize for golden-spangled pullets, and a fourth for a cockerel.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1868

“Yesterday morning an inquest was held at the HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, before E. Hooper, Esq, coroner, on the body of a child named John Simcox, sixteen months old. On the previous day, at about twenty minutes to one o'clock, the deceased child was playing with others at its mother's door. A loaded waggon drawn by three horses was passing at the time, and a child was hanging at the tail-board. The deceased child endeavoured to get across the road to join in the sport, but unfortunately ran between the front and hind wheels of the waggon, and was knocked down. One wheel passed over the arm and top part of the body, and the child was so severely bruised that it died about two hours afterwards. The mother was censured for not taking greater care of her child; but it was shown that the driver of the waggon was driving slowly at the time of the accident, and that he could not see the child in time to have avoided it. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1870 - Advert

“A Four-wheel Phaeton, nearly new; scarcely been used; in excellent condition. Price £35; cost £60.

Apply at *J. Palmer's*, HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

A Four-wheel PHAETON, nearly new; scarcely been used; in excellent condition. Price £35; cost £60.—Apply at *J. Palmer's*, Hare and Hounds Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

85, Bridge Street

- [1] *Joseph Palmer* (44), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Margaret Palmer* (44), wife, born Willenhall;
- [3] *Harriet Ward* (21), domestic servant, born Oaken Bridge, Shropshire;
- [4] *Elizabeth Martin* (14), domestic servant, born London:

Joseph Palmer was also a coal merchant. [1872]

"The adjourned licensing sessions for the new district of Wednesbury took place yesterday....

Mr. Disturnal applied on behalf of Joseph Hockley, junior, for a license for 85, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. He said a license was attached to the house until 1876, when the then owner of the premises allowed it to lapse. It was structurally in every way suited for a licensed house, there being no less than thirteen rooms in it. Mr. J. S. Sharpe opposed on behalf of adjoining occupiers, and Mr. W. S. Smith opposed on behalf of the Licensed Victuallers Association and Mr. Edward Smith. The Bench refused the application."

Notice to Debtors and Creditors.

ALL Persons who stand indebted to the Estate of the late ABEL, ROUND, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, deceased, are requested to pay the Amount to Mr. Joseph Round, of Wednesbury aforesaid; and all Persons to whom the said Abel Round stood indebted at the Time of his Decease, are desired to send in their Accounts to the said Joseph Round, that the same may be examined and discharged.

Wednesbury, Feb. 24, 1817.

1817

TO COVER this SEASON, at the Hare and Hounds, Wednesbury, half-way between Wolverhampton and Birmingham, NIMROD, by Pierrepont, dam by George; Pierrepont was by Sir Peter, Sir Peter by Highflyer, Highflyer by Eclipse; George was by Dungannon, Dungannon by Eclipse. He is a rich brown colt, without white, 4 years old, with remarkably good temper, high action, and excellent constitution.

£3. Two Guineas each Mare and 2s. 6d. the Groom.

1823

WEDNESBURY.

OLD-LICENCED PUBLIC HOUSE TO BE LET.

"THE HARE AND HOUNDS INN,"

BRIDGE-STREET.

THE above old-established HOUSE, in consequence of the present tenant engaging in other business. It is very advantageously situated in one of the most public thoroughfares of the town, near to several Works, and may be entered upon immediately.

The House contains excellent club-room, large kitchen, and every convenience for carrying on a good business. Coming-in about 250*l*.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Mr. Davies, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

1856

WHEREAS, on Monday, October 22, 1860, a brown CART COLT, two years old, with three white feet, a star in forehead, long tail, and standing about 14 hands 2 or 3 inches high; and a thick, strong, brown WELSH PONY, about 12 hands 2 inches high, star in forehead, and long tail; did STRAY from the field at the back of the Hare and Hounds, Bridge-street, Wednesbury. This is to give notice, that whoever will give such information as will lead to the recovery of the same, shall be handsomely rewarded, on application to Mr. PALMER, Hare and Hounds, Bridge-street, Wednesbury.

1860

HEN AND CHICKENS

47, Foster Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Whitehouse [1864]
Sarah (Careless) Dixon [] – **1870**;
John Dixon **(1870 – [1872]**
Alfred Onions [1881]
Edmund Lea [1883]
J A Allen [1886]
Emma Chamberlain [1888]
Celia Emma Chamberlain [1891]
William Chamberlain [1893]
William Chew [1901]
John Ricketts [1911]
William Winsper [] – **1914**);

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/2/1864 - Advert

“Freehold Property, at Wednesbury.

Charles Bayley will offer for Sale by Auction, on Wednesday, the 17th of February, 1864, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

A newly-erected and convenient Public House, called the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL, in the occupation of Mr. *James Whitehouse*, situate in Foster Street, Wednesbury, and near to the Turnpike Road from Wolverhampton to Birmingham, having a frontage of eleven yards to Foster Street, and containing an area of 291 square yards or thereabouts.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. J. H. Thursfield, Solicitor; Mr. William Rock; or at the Auctioneer's Office, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/8/1870

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Walter Williams, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Jesson, *John Dixon*, keeper of the HENS AND CHICKENS beerhouse, Foster Street, was charged with being duly licensed to sell beer, and not causing to be painted in letters at least three inches in length, on the board placed over the house and premises in which he was licensed, his name and surname, together with the words ‘licensed to be drunk on the premises.’

Superintendent Holland said the name on the sign was *Sarah Careless*, and *Dixon* was now her husband, so that the sign ought to have been altered. Police-constable Walters said he visited the house on Friday last, and the sign stated that *Sarah Careless* kept it.

The defendant's wife appeared for him, and said her husband worked at Messrs. James Bagnall's, the Imperial Works, Wednesbury. Mr. Williams said he believed it was a rule that none of the men employed at the works of Messrs. Bagnall, should keep any beerhouse. Superintendent Holland said he was not sure whether this was so or

FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
At WEDNESBURY.
CHARLES BAYLEY will offer for SALE by
AUCTION, on WEDNESDAY, the 17th of February
1864, at the Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednesbury, at Seven
o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read—
A newly-erected and convenient PUBLIC-HOUSE, called the
“HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL,” in the occupation of Mr. James
Whitehouse, situate in Foster Street, Wednesbury, and near to
the Turnpike Road from Wolverhampton to Birmingham,
having a frontage of eleven yards to Foster Street, and contain-
ing an area of 291 square yards or thereabouts.
Further particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. J.
H. Thursfield, Solicitor; Mr. William Rock; or at the Auc-
tioneer's Office, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

not. He further stated that at the latter end of last month he served a notice to renew the license of the house at the next licensing day at West Bromwich, and he referred the defendant's wife to the sign, telling her at the same time that it must be altered.

Mr. Williams said the defendant would have to pay for being 'careless' (laughter).

Mr. Thursfield (magistrates' clerk) said the Bench could not mitigate the penalty beyond 20s and costs. Defendant was accordingly fined 20s and costs (about 12s)."

1871 Census

47, Foster Street – HEN AND CHICKENS

- [1] *Alfred Onions* (44), axle forger, born Bilston;
- [2] *Frances Onions* (42), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *James Onions* (20), son, iron worker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Cornelius Onions* (12) son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Theresa Onions* (14), scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *William Jackson* (30), lodger, labourer, iron works, born Yoxall, Staffordshire;
- [7] *William Salisbury* (20), lodger, ironworker, born Shropshire;
- [8] *Jane Davis* (16) domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Robert Lewis* (31), visitor, ironworker, born Wrockwardine, Shropshire;
- [10] *Samuel Lewis* (39), visitor, labourer, iron works, born Wrockwardine, Shropshire;
- [11] *John Dixon* (29), puddler, iron works, born Pelsall;
- [12] *Sarah Dixon* (22), wife, born Wednesbury;

John Dixon, beer retailer, 47, Foster Street. [1872]

1881 Census

47, Foster Street – ORPHAN BOY INN

- [1] *Alfred Onions* (55), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Frances Onions* (52), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Theresa Onions* (26), daughter, dressmaker, out of employ, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Cornelius Onions* (22), son, axle turner, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Clara Eavis* (20), general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Robert Lewis* (41), lodger, shingler in iron work, born Shropshire;
- [7] *William Salisbury* (32), lodger, striker in iron work, born Shropshire;
- [8] *Richard Longmore* (32), roller in iron work, born Tipton;

Wednesbury Herald 27/1/1883

"On Monday evening last a portion of the leading employees of Messrs. John Bagnall and Sons Limited, Imperial Iron Works, Portway Lane, Wednesbury, met at the HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street, to present *Edmund Lea*, the proprietor, with a valuable time piece. After partaking of a substantial dinner Mr. Richard Edwards, manager of the Cyclops Iron Works, Walsall, was called to the chair, and made a very suitable speech. After the good wishes expressed by several of the party the chairman made the presentation and read the following address, 'To Mr. *Edmund Lea*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street, Wednesbury, late mill and forge manager at Messrs. Bagnall's Imperial Iron Works, under the past and present firms. It having been resolved by the workmen of the Imperial Iron Works, to present a testimonial to Mr. *Edmund Lea*, after the period of service of upwards of 22 years, as mill and forge manager, under the Messrs. Bagnall, in recognition of his long and faithful service, and the general esteem to which he has been held, by the whole of the employees, and beg his acceptance of the accompanying time piece, subscribed for by the workmen, and in presenting it beg to tender him our warmest esteem and best wishes for his future welfare. We further hope that his separation from us will be to his temporal advantage, and that he may have many years before him of health and prosperity.'

Mr. *Lea* then responded, which brought down several rounds of applause.

The evening was afterwards spent in harmony, singing, and music."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/8/1885 - Correspondence

“The Conservative Meeting at Toll End.

To the Editor of the *Express and Star*.

Sir, I did not think of troubling you again on the above subject, as I think enough has been said. The truth of the matter is the bargain was made on the ground, before Mr. Lloyd's carriage arrived, that neither Mr. Lloyd nor any of his supporters should address this meeting.

Yours truly, *Edmund Lea*, Foster Street, Wednesbury.

(Enough has now been written on the subject. Ed. *E.&S.*)

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/9/1885 - Correspondence

“Questions for Alderman Blades.

Sir, Will you kindly allow me to ask Mr. Blades two questions for public information? Mr. Blades has told the electors of West Bromwich that if the Church were disestablished, and it managed its own affairs and it did not compel him and others Dissenters to support it, it would go on and thrive much better. I ask Mr. Blades to kindly show (1) in what way he or other Dissenters is compelled to support the Church; and (2) I ask, suppose some person were to die, and will over to Mr. Blades a large estate to him and his heirs for ever, and the Government were to step in and say, ‘Your neighbours want a share, therefore we will be equally divide it so that you may all be equal,’ would Mr. Blades go on and thrive much better?

Yours, &c, *Edmund Lea*, Foster Street, Wednesbury.

Commercial Gazette 2/2/1887

“Extracts from the Register of County Courts Judgements.....

J. A. Allen, HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Road, Wednesbury, publican, 16th December 1886, £10 3s 4d.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 20/8/1887

“Mr. J. G. Thursfield applied on behalf of Mr. Edward Bennett for the transfer of the license of the HEN AND CHICKENS beerhouse at Wednesbury. He explained that a similar application had been made at Wednesbury, but refused on account of some previous conviction against his client, but he contended that they were not of a serious nature.

The Bench considered that no one with a list of convictions against him, such as the applicant had, was a proper person to hold a license, and saw no reason to overrule the decision of the Wednesbury Justices.

The application was therefore refused.”

Emma Chamberlain, beerhouse keeper, 47, Foster Street. [1888]

1891 Census

47, Foster Street

[1] *William Chamberlain* (56), agent, born Nottingham;

[2] *Celia Chamberlain* (55), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Willenhall;

[3] *Emma Chamberlain* (24), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Arthur Chamberlain* (19), son, baker, born West Bromwich:

Commercial Gazette 8/3/1893

“Extracts from the Registry of County Courts Judgements.....

William Chamberlain, publican, and *Celia Emma Chamberlain*, HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street, Wednesbury, 8th February 1893, £40 4s 2d.”

Wednesbury Herald 30/3/1895

“Mary Kenny, of Brickkiln Street, was summoned for assaulting Michael Sheridan, a lamp oil hawker, living in the same neighbourhood. Prosecutor stated that at 11.10pm on March 9th he was in Foster Street on his way home, when she met him, and tried to push his oil tank over. He told her she ought to have more sense. Thereupon she spat in his face and struck him on the head with a brick. He had to get her on the floor to take the brick from her. She was drunk, and had just come from the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, where she had broken four windows.

Defendant said Sheridan attempted to commit an indecent assault upon her, and she struck him in self defence. The Chairman said she would be fined 5s and costs, or seven days.”

1901 Census

47, Foster Street

- [1] William Chew (34), furnaceman, born Stroud, Gloucestershire;
- [2] Martha Chew (31), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] William Chew (10), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Samuel Chew (8), son, born Bilston;
- [5] Florence Chew (5), daughter, born Bilston;
- [6] Arthur Chew (3 months), son, born Bilston;
- [7] Edward Roberts (66), boarder, widower, lawyer, born Wem, Shropshire:

William Chew – see also SHAMROCK, Bilston.

1911 Census

47, Foster Street – HEN AND CHICKENS

- [1] John Ricketts (50), married, beerhouse keeper, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Ellen Ricketts (28), daughter, milliner, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1914

“The Wednesbury Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Superintendent Salt reported Since the last annual sessions three licensees had been proceeded against, and one convicted. Opposition was taken to the renewal of the license of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge.....

The Bench renewed all the licenses with the exception of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge; the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street; and the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Foster Street. The two latter were opposed on the ground of redundancy. Consideration of these objections were deferred until the adjourned meeting.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1914

“At Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions yesterday.....

The renewal of the licenses of the HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street, and the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, were opposed on the ground of redundancy, and both were referred to the County 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.....

HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *William Winsper*.”

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.....

Seven licenses had been referred from Wednesbury Division and two from Wednesbury borough. The latter, both ante-1869 beerhouses – the SHAKESPEARE, Dudley Street, and the HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street – were unopposed, and the renewal was refused.”

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.....

HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *William Winsper*. Registered Owner, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited.”

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.....

HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante-1869, £675.

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and will be paid on the 28th instant.”

HIGHGATE ARMS

Rowley View, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Highgate (Walsall) Brewery Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939)
Enterprise Inns [1990s]

LICENSEES

Albert Henry Boswell [1939]
Emily Elizabeth Boswell [1961] – [1966]
Don Woodward [1974]
John Brian Coleclough [1976] – [1990]
Derrick Howard Wood [1995]
Val Healy **(1995 – [1996]**
Elaine Turner **(1997 – [1999]**

NOTES

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.....

HIGHGATE ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

1939 Register

Holyhead Road – HIGHGATE ARMS (2 of 4)

- [1] *Albert H. Boswell*, date of birth 30/1/1905, licensed victualler, manager, previous occupation bolt forger, married;
[2] *Emily E. Boswell*, dob 3/4/1905, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Albert Henry Boswell died in the 2nd quarter of 1958.

Sports Argus 18/11/1961

“Practice makes Perfect is the slogan Alan Boswell, the 18-year-old goalkeeper who made his debut for Walsall against Norwich today, has seized on, and he certainly sticks to it. ‘He’s tremendously keen,’ says Walsall trainer Vic Potts. ‘He often comes back for a spot of extra training.’ But Wednesbury-born Alan doesn’t stop there. He is so keen to make a name for himself in soccer that he trains indoors with a full-size football. He stands at the foot of a flight of stairs at the HIGHGATE ARMS, the Wednesbury public house which is kept by his mother, and throws the ball up, catching it as it rebounds. Then, when it’s light enough, he takes the ball out on to the car park in front of the HIGHGATE ARMS, and again polishes up his goalkeeping.....”

[The score was Walsall 5, Norwich 0.]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1963]

Walsall Observer 13/12/1974

“A small pub with a big heart, that’s what you might put on the sign of the HIGHGATE ARMS in Darlaston. The pub has just held a Christmas dinner for 48 old people. Since February £600 has been raised to pay for the event. Licensee Mr. *Don Woodward* said, ‘It’s good for a small pub.’ Local group, Skin Deep, played for the old folk at the dinner arranged by the pub’s senior citizens committee. Mr. Reg Cooper, of Cooper Transport Ltd, donated £20.”

Walsall Observer 12/11/1976

“The firework fun of Darlaston youngsters helped raise money for local old folk on Friday. A bonfire at the HIGHGATE ARMS pub, Holyhead Road, raised £70 for the members of the pub’s senior citizens club. The bonfire and firework display was well attended, and £40 was raised through admission charges alone, even though children were let in free. The fire was lit by Mr. Reg Cooper, chairman of Darlaston Football Club. And the added attraction of a disco helped raise more money than last year’s bonfire, explained licensee Mr. *John Coleclough*.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/12/1978 - Advert

“The HIGHGATE ARMS offers you an excellent menu every lunch time including weekends. Enjoy anything from a tasty beefburger to a succulent steak in our relaxed and sociable atmosphere. Evening meals by order. Call in soon. Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/12/1978 - Advert

“*John* and Freda of the HIGHGATE ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, extend Heartiest Greetings for the New Year to all their customers, old and new.”

Superslim Slimming Club was held here. [1981]

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/7/1981

“A refurbished lounge will be opened tomorrow at the HIGHGATE ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. It has taken just 10 weeks to change the old room into the new Victoriana-style lounge bar at an estimated cost of £30,000. The HIGHGATE ARMS, or, as it is known locally, the ‘New Un,’ used to belong to the Walsall (Highgate) Brewery until they became part of Mitchells and Butlers some years ago.

John Coleclough, his wife Freda, and their daughter, Wendy, can now cater for parties of between two and 82, and would be pleased to answer any inquiries you may have regarding bookings. The HIGHGATE ARMS is *John*’s third house. He has lifelong experience in the trade, firstly working with his father at his pub in Checkley, near Uttoxeter, and since then with two other M&B houses after joining the brewery in 1967. *John* and Freda, who have been married twenty-eight years, were both born in Bilston, just along the road from their present home. With eleven years catering experience behind them, you can be sure that the food served in the new lounge, food which is all cooked and prepared on the premises by *John* and his daughter Wendy, will be of the highest standard.

John has been a member of the National Union of Licensed Victuallers since its formation. Obviously well thought of by his fellow victuallers, *John* was elected vice-president of the Wednesbury District Licensed Victuallers Association in 1979, and president in 1980 and 1981. He also represents over 150 public house tenants as the Mitchells and Butlers tenant group representative.

On a musical note, *John* is a Frank Sinatra fanatic. He has a fine selection of ‘Old Blue Eyes’ favourites on the juke box.”

Derrick Howard Wood and *Julia Pamela Wood* were bankrupts in 1995.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/9/1995 - Advert

"Pub Tenancy Opportunities. Enterprise Inns.

Fancy running your own local in the Black Country.

As one of the country's leading independent pub companies, we are currently looking for business partners to join us in the following business opportunities. Comprehensive training will be provided along with full ongoing support.....

HIGHGATE ARMS, Hollyhead Road, Wednesbury.

This prominent site offers an experienced operator the opportunity to build an extensive food operation attracting business, local and family trade.

All the above houses are due external decoration, to include new signs and lighting.

If you have between £6,000 and £15,000 to invest and are interested in these or other exciting business opportunities, telephone....."

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/7/1996

"Pint-pulling sisters help keep the beer flowing at a busy Black Country pub. *Val Healy*, aged 56, is licensee of the HIGHGATE ARMS, in Holyhead Road, Moxley. But when things get busy her sisters Mary Benton, aged 60, Dot Cambell, 54, and Kate Ratcliffe, 58, give her a hand. *Val* said, 'I have been here for eight months, it is my first pub and I love it. But it's nice to have my sisters to help if I need it.'"

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.....

Elaine Turner has raised £1,000 for the West Midlands Air Ambulance and Birmingham Children's Hospital in the 18 months she has been at the HIGHGATE ARMS.

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."



1978



1981

HIGHLAND LADDIE

Oakeswell Road / Crowther Street, Oakeswell End, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Barnett [1869]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/4/1869 - Advert

"HIELAND LADDIE INN, Oakeswell End, Wednesbury.

To Let, this excellent Business House, in a commanding situation. Contains Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Kitchen, Club Room, three Bed Chambers, large Cellars, &c, &c. Satisfactory reasons given why these premises are to let. Apply, E. B. Scholefield, Valuer, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury."

HIELAND LADDIE INN, Oakeswell End, Wednesbury.—To Let, this excellent Business House, in a commanding situation. Contains Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Kitchen, Club Room, three Bed Chambers, large Cellars, &c., &c. Satisfactory reasons given why these premises are to let.—Apply, E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, Valuer, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/9/1869 - Advert

"Peremptory Sale Of Freehold Properties, at Wednesbury, including the NORTH-WESTERN HOTEL, and Seventeen Other Dwelling Houses.

To be Sold by Auction, by Fallows and Smith (by order of the Mortgagees), at the TURKS HEAD INN, at Wednesbury, on Friday, the 3rd day of October next, at Six o'clock in the Evening....

Lot 1. A neat and compact newly-erected Public House, called the HIGHLAND LADDIE, occupied by Mr. *Barnett*, at the low rent of £18 a year; well situated in the Oakswell Road, forming the corner of Crowther Street.

This Lot is Copyhold of the Manor of Wednesbury."

PEREMPTORY SALE OF
FREEHOLD PROPERTIES,
AT WEDNESBURY,
INCLUDING
THE NORTH-WESTERN HOTEL,
AND
SEVENTEEN OTHER DWELLING HOUSES.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY FALLOWS and SMITH (by order of the
Mortgagees), at the Turk's Head Inn, at Wednesbury, on
FRIDAY, the 3rd day of October next, at Six o'clock in the Even-
ing, subject to conditions then to be produced—

FREEHOLD AND COPYHOLD,
AT OAKSWELL ROAD.

Lot 1.—A neat and compact newly-erected PUBLIC-HOUSE,
called "The HIGHLAND LADDIE," occupied by Mr. Barnett, at the
low rent of £18 a year; well situated in the Oakswell Road, forming
the corner of Crowther Street.

This Lot is Copyhold of the Manor of Wednesbury.

HOLLY BUSH

Dudley Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Gibbons [1818]

HOPE AND ANCHOR

136, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Watson

LICENSEES

Frederick Harrison [1871]
William Watson [1871] – [1881]
Thomas Watson [1872]
Thomas Staley [1882]

LOT 2.—All that very desirable FULL-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the "HOPE AND ANCHOR," at Kingshill, situate at the corner of Darlington Street and Darlington Road, Wednesbury, with the Stabling, Yard, and Out-offices thereto, as late in the occupation of the said William Watson.
The House contains large Spirit Vaults, Smoke Room and Kitchen, with Club Room and two Bed Rooms over, and there is an excellent Cellar.
The House, which is situate in the vicinity of some important works, occupies a good position, and a capital business has been carried on for some time.
The whole of the Trade Fixtures and Fittings will be sold with this lot.

1881

NOTES

1871 Census

136, Darlaston Road – HOPE AND ANCHOR

- [1] Frederick Harrison (39), labourer and innkeeper, born Nottingham;
- [2] Sarah Harrison (45), wife, born Tilstock, Shropshire;
- [3] Charles Edward Harrison (13), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Sarah Ann Harrison (11), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Mary Harrison (8), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1871 - Advert

"Freehold Property, situate at Kings Hill, in the Parish of Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. James Taylor, on Wednesday, the 19th day of July inst, at the house of Mr. *William Watson*, HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury....."

Thomas Watson was also the proprietor of the London and North Western Railway station refreshment rooms, Stafford Street, and also a wholesale and retail ale and porter merchant, 26 Holyhead Road. [1872]

William Watson was also a wine and spirit merchant of the ANCHOR HOTEL, 26 Holyhead Road. [1873]

Midland Examiner 8/5/1875

"A meeting of Wednesbury Protection Society as held at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on Tuesday evening....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/1/1877

"Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of Thomas Causer, aged 38, a striker in the employ of the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, who met his death on Saturday night by falling down the ventilation shaft of No.8 Pit, belonging to the company named.

Harriett Causer, the widow of deceased, stated that she saw him last on Saturday night, about six o'clock, when he went home to tea. He was then sober. She heard that he afterwards called at a public house, and that he then went to the pit, where he had been sent for. She did not blame anyone unless it was the watchman, who ought to have kept him back.

Samuel Perry, the watchman at the pit, said deceased went to the pit about a quarter-past seven with a bracket, and as he was in drink witness advised him to go home. He went as if he was going away by the 'lazy bank,' but returned to the bank, opened the fence around the pit mouth, and leaned against the tank. The engineman was at work in the

tank repairing it, and the stoker told deceased to stand back or he would fall in. Deceased said, 'All right.' Witness also told him that he was not safe. Deceased then said he would go, and made an effort to push himself away from the tank, when it moved, his hands slipped, and he fell down the shaft....

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. Perry was then called into the room again, and the Coroner addressing him said the deceased had to a great extent lost his life through his (Perry) not having done his duty as the watchman, and ordered him off the ground. If such a case ever came before him again in which Perry was concerned, the jury would be instructed to take a different view of the matter."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1877

"Mr. Hooper, Coroner, lately held an inquest at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Samuel Severn (56), master iron founder, Bright Street, Kings Hill, who, early on Monday morning, was seized with a fit, and died about an hour and a half afterwards, before a medical man arrived. His widow stated that he had been in ill-health for some months, and had been of intemperate habits. He was not sober when he went to bed on Sunday night. He could get drunk at any hour on Sundays from the THREE CROWNS INN, near his home.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned, and the Coroner ordered information to be given to Superintendent Holland of Mrs. Severn's statement with reference to the public house."

Bee-Hive 7/7/1877

"Trades Union Directory. Meeting Houses Boiler Makers Society.....
Wednesbury branch, HOPE AND ANCHOR, Kings Hill."

Wednesbury Herald 9/8/1879

"HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the above named premises on Tuesday, August 12th, 1879 at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above Well-known Old-Licensed Inn, containing Three Bedrooms, Club Room, Modern set up Liquor Vault, Smoke Room, Kitchen, good Cellars, Brewhouse, Workshop, large Yard, Stable, Shed, Pigstyes, and every convenience for retail business purposes.

The premises occupy an excellent position, being on the main road from Wednesbury to Darlaston, and in the centre of the thickly populated part of Kings Hill."

Wednesbury Herald 3/1/1880

"Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquiry on Wednesday at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Darlaston Street, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, relative to the death of an ironworker, named Richard Lloyd, aged 56 years, who was found dead in bed on the evening of the 27th ult.

Hannah Lloyd, wife of the deceased, said that on Saturday evening she heard her husband groan, and before she could obtain assistance he expired.

Dr. Partridge, of Darlaston, subsequently saw the deceased, and gave it as his opinion that death had been caused by apoplexy. The deceased had always good health, and in fact, had never been ill.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Wednesbury Herald 14/5/1881

"On Monday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, as to the death of Richard Rowley (16), of Kings Hill, who committed suicide under somewhat painful circumstances on the 6th inst.

The father of the deceased stated that until recently the deceased had been accustomed to read novels, and within the past two months had read the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' and the latter work had made him at times to be very excited. The deceased had also during the past few weeks been attending the Salvation Army Chapel, and upon witness seeing deceased on the street on Friday afternoon he requested the deceased not to stay out until a late hour at the Salvation Army Chapel. In the evening he was informed that the deceased had committed suicide by hanging.

Louisa Harvey, a neighbour, stated that she found the deceased hanging by means of a strap suspended from a nail in the wall, and was quite dead.

The jury returned a verdict of committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/10/1881

“A meeting of the creditors of *William Watson*, hotel keeper Wednesbury, was held yesterday, and all the creditors present or represented voted for liquidation by arrangement, but the resolution was vetoed by the principal creditor (Mr. Evershed), and consequently no resolution was passed. In the course of the day a petition in bankruptcy was filed in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court.”

AND

“A meeting of the creditors of *William Watson*, ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, and HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, licensed victualler, was held at the first-named house yesterday, when there was large attendance of creditors. Mr. Drewry was voted to the chair as the representative of the largest creditor, Mr. Evershed, brewer, Burton-on-Trent. Mr. Williams read the statement of affairs. This showed that there were creditors to the amount of £7,912 10s 5d entitled to rank for dividend The assets were £1,581 17s 3d.

Mr. Evershed had a mortgage of £3,500 upon the premises in which they were assembled, which the debtor estimated had cost him £7,000, but which Messrs. Roderick in July valued at £3,000, the premises in their opinion being too large for the place; and Mr. Evershed also had a mortgage for £1,000 upon the HOPE AND ANCHOR premises, which were valued at £900.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1881 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire. Valuable Freehold Property, Old-Licensed Houses, Beerhouse, Posting and Livery Stables, Ale Stores, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Leedam & Harrison, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Thursday, the 22nd day of December, 1881, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening precisely (by order of the Trustee of the Estate of *William Watson*, Bankrupt), the following very eligible Freehold Properties.....

Lot 2. All that very desirable Full-Licensed Public House, known as the HOPE AND ANCHOR, at Kingshill, situate at the corner of Darlington Street and Darlington Road, Wednesbury, with the Stabling, Yard, and Out-offices thereto, as late in the occupation of the said *William Watson*.

The House, which is situate in the vicinity of some important works, occupies a good position, and a capital business has been carried on for some time.

The whole of the Trade Fixtures and Fittings will be sold with this lot.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/1/1882

“At the Walsall County Court yesterday *William Watson*, licensed victualler and car and carriage proprietor, the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, applied for his public examination, supported by Mr. J. E. Sheldon, and passed unopposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/2/1882 - Advert

“HOPE AND ANCHOR SPIRIT VAULTS AND TAVERN, Kings Hill, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury; a most commanding position, close to Patent Shaft Axle Tree and other important works. In-coming £250.

Apply, Roderick and Son.”

H OPE and Anchor Spirit Vaults and Tavern, King's Hill, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury; a most commanding position, close to Patent Shaft Axle Tree and other important works. In-coming £250.—Apply, Roderick and Son.

Thomas Staley = Thomas Staylor

Wednesbury Herald 14/10/1882

“On Wednesday night, Mr. *Thomas Staylor*, late director of the Imperial Gardens, of the Shah of Persia, and who has lately taken to the ANCHOR HOTEL, and the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, entertained at dinner a number of friends, at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN. The chair was occupied by Mr. William Dawes, and upwards of 60 persons sat down to dinner. The toast of Mr. *Staylor* was received with musical cheers. A most convivial time was spent.”

Wednesbury Herald 30/12/1882

“On Tuesday Mr. *T. Staley*, the landlord of the ANCHOR HOTEL, and also of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, entertained about 200 persons to a substantial dinner consisting of roast beef, suckling pigs, cheese and salad, and ale. The recipients were highly pleased with Mr. *Staley*, and in response to a vote of thanks Mr. *Staley* said it was customary at many of the hotels in Persia, and he might say Burton on Trent, for the landlord of the hotels to entertain a number of persons at Christmas time. It was an old custom and he was pleased to revive it at Wednesbury.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 20/1/1883

“On Saturday afternoon, an inquest was held at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, on the body of Israel Clifford, aged one year and ten months, the child of Samuel Clifford, 2 Court, Kings Hill, who was found dead in bed on the morning of the 11th inst. Evidence was given showing that the child had no mother, and was looked after by its father. It had been unwell for some time, but no medical aid had been obtained. On the morning in question, the father left it in bed about five o’clock, but at seven it was found dead. The witnesses called said the house where the deceased had lived was in a most wretched and filthy condition, and the child appeared as though it had not been looked after at all. The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead, and at the request of the jury, the father of deceased was called in and strongly censured by the Coroner for neglecting to take better care of the child, and failing to obtain medical assistance.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, a Pianoforte Player, at once, for Saturday nights. Apply, HOPE AND ANCHOR, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a Pianoforte Player, at once, for Saturday nights.— Apply, Hope and Anchor, King's-hill, Wednesbury.

Lichfield Mercury 25/2/1887

“On Friday afternoon, as two wagons coupled together, the one behind the other, were being drawn along Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, Walter Pickstone (9), son of parents living in Darlington Street, got upon the hinder wagon, but after riding a short distance he fell off, and one of the fore wheels passed over the lower part of his body, causing injuries which resulted in his death the following morning.

An inquest was held on Monday at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Kings Hill, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, on the body of deceased, when the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, stating there was no blame to be attached to the driver, Thomas Davis.”

Check OLD BARREL, Darlaston Road.

HORSE AND JOCKEY

Church Hill, (Church Street), (Church Lane), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Holden [1822]

John Teasdale [1828] – [1830]

NOTES

Church Lane [1822]

Church Street [1828], [1830]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/8/1830 - Advert

“Valuable Public House, Wednesbury.

To be disposed of by private Treaty, the Licences, Possession, Brewing Vessels, Iron-bound Barrels, Fixtures, Furniture, and Effects of the well-accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Church Hill, Wednesbury aforesaid.

The present occupier is leaving on account of other engagements.

The whole or part of the Furniture and Stock, together with the Brewing Vessels, Barrels, &c, to be taken at valuation.

For further particulars apply on the premises, or to Mr. Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, Wednesbury, if by letter, post paid.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/3/1831 - Advert

“An old established Public House.

To be Let, and entered upon immediately, the HORSE AND JOCKEY, on Church Hill, Wednesbury. Coming-in very low.

For further particulars apply on the premises.”

An old established Public House.
TO be LET, and entered upon immediately, the
HORSE and JOCKEY, on Church-hill, Wednes-
bury. Coming-in very low.
For further particulars apply on the premises.

VALUABLE PUBLIC HOUSE, WEDNESBURY.
To be disposed of by private Treaty, the Licences,
Possession, Brewing Vessels, Iron-bound Barrels,
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Public House, known by the sign of the HORSE and
JOCKEY, Church-hill, Wednesbury aforesaid.

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with the Brewing Vessels, Barrels, &c. to be taken at
valuation.

For further particulars apply on the premises, or to Mr.
Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, Wednesbury, if by letter,
post paid.

HORSE AND JOCKEY

63, (68), Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, (Kings Hill), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Corns [1862] – [1864]
Ann Corns [] – **1866**);
James Latham (**1866** – []
Thomas Hitchen [] – **1867**);
Mary Ann Rushton (**1867** – []
Joseph Gilbert [1868] – **1871**);
William Holback Rogers (**1871** – [1873]
Joseph Oldback [1877]
Francis Lloyd [1881] – [1884]
William Clapp [1885] – **1894**)
James Cox [1896]
Frederick Aaron Stokes [1901] – [1904]
James Albert Chalker [1908] – [1921]
Mrs. Mary Chalker [1921]
Arthur Bishop [1923]
John L Fellows [1932] – [1940]
Thomas Lloyd [1961] – [1966]



NOTES

Fallings Heath [1877]
68, Franchise Street [1871], [1881], [1891]
63, Franchise Street [1911], [1921]

A lodge of the R.A.O.B. met here.

John Corns = John Cornes

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1862

“Annual Licensing Day The following is a list of the applicants for spirit licenses.....

John Corns, Fallings Heath.

These will be taken into consideration by the Magistrates on the 28th of September at a special Sessions.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1862

“On Thursday the following applications for spirit licenses were heard.....

John Cornes, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, granted.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/11/1864

“An enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Sarah Newton, a widow, aged 60, living at Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, was held on Tuesday, at Mr. *Corns*’, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN. Deceased kept house for her two sons, who supported her, and on Sunday morning about eight o’clock, as she did not rise, one of her sons went into the room, and found her dead in bed. Mr. Partridge, surgeon, having given an opinion that deceased suffered from disease of the heart, the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.”

John Corns died in the 4th quarter of 1865.

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/1/1866 - Advert

“Fallings Heath, Wednesbury. Valuable Public House and Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Richard Heseltine (by direction of the Mortgagee), at the house of Mr. George Perry, the CASTLE INN, in Darlaston, on Wednesday, the 17th day of January, 1866, at six o’clock in the evening, subject to such conditions as will be then read, and in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time.

Lot 1. All that old-licensed Freehold Public House, situate at Fallings Heath, near Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, known by the sign of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, together with a good Yard, Maltroom, Brewhouse, Carriage-house, Stable, Pigstyes, and other Outbuilding thereto belonging, late in the occupation of *John Corns*, deceased, but now of his widow, *Ann Corns*.

The land including the site of the buildings constituting this lot, contains by admeasurement 515 square yards, or thereabouts.

Lot 2. And also, all that Freehold plot of Land, with the four Dwelling Houses or Tenements recently erected, and standing thereon, situate at Fallings Heath aforesaid, in the occupation of Thomas Phillips and others, and contains by admeasurement 637 square yards or thereabouts.

The inn is well located for extensive business purposes, properly licensed, replete with every convenience, and presents a favourable opportunity for a good investment, and particularly to an active man desirous of entering upon the general public house business.

To view the property, apply to the Tenants; and for all further particulars, and to inspect a plan thereof, apply to the Auctioneer, or at the Offices of Mr. J. E. Sheldon, Solicitor, both of Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/8/1866 - Notice

“*John Corns*, Deceased.

Pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery made in a cause Aaron Millington (on behalf of himself and all other the unsatisfied creditors of *John Corns*, deceased) against *Ann Corns* and another, the creditors of *John Corns*, late of Fallings Heath, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper, who died in or about the month of November, 1865, are, on or before the first day of October, 1866, to send by post, prepaid, to Mr. Thomas Brevitt, of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, solicitor for the plaintiff (one of the Executors of the deceased), their Christian and surnames, addresses, and descriptions, the full particulars of their claims, a statement of their accounts, and the nature of the security (if any) held by them, or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said decree. Every creditor holding any security is to produce the same before the Master of the Rolls, at his Chambers, situate in the Rolls Yard, Chancery Lane, Middlesex, on Thursday, the first day of November, 1866, at twelve o’clock at noon, being the time appointed for adjudicating on the claims.

Dated the 6th day of August, 1866.

John Wm. Hawkins, Chief Clerk.

G. W. Greenwood, Solicitor, 8, Serjeants Inn, London, Agent for Thomas Brevitt, of Darlaston, Plaintiff’s Solicitor.”

John Corns – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, Butcroft, Darlaston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/2/1866

“Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest yesterday, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, on the body of a child of 2 years and 7 months old, named Sarah Jane Foulkes, who died in a sudden manner at an early hour on Monday morning. Deceased had been suffering from whooping cough, and had tried various remedies suggested by neighbours, and obtained from a chemist’s shop, instead of taking the child to a surgeon. At two o’clock on Monday morning the child was discovered dead in bed. The father of the deceased was examined, and informed by the Coroner that he should have taken the child to a properly qualified medical man. It was the second case of the kind he had investigated that morning, and he wished it to be known that in all cases children should be taken to a medical man; for if people were too poor to pay for medical advice there was the parish surgeon, who could always be consulted. The jury found a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, accelerated by want of medical aid.”

Birmingham Journal 8/6/1867 - Advert

“Clearing-Out Sale, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, Darlaston.

By E. Cox, on Tuesday Next, June 11.

The Public House Effects; a 9ft Slate-bottom Bagatelle Table, Ale Machine, Counters, Barrels, Tubs, Furniture and other Effects, at Eleven o’clock.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/3/1868 - Advert

“I, *Joseph Gilbert*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Fallings Heath, near Wednesbury, Publican, do hereby express my deep regret at having made statements reflecting upon the character of Mrs. Mary Mills, the Wife of Mr. Wm. Mills of the BRITANNIA INN, Black Lake, West Bromwich, as there is not the least foundation for them, and I hereby Apologise to her for having done so, and express my thanks to her Husband for discontinuing the legal proceedings against me on my making this apology and paying the costs incurred.

Dated this 20th day of March, 1868. *Josh. Gilbert.*”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 24/4/1869

“Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, Coroner, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, on the body of Richard Whitehouse, aged 55 years, a miner. The evidence showed that deceased was employed at the Essington Wood Colliery, belonging to Messrs. E. Hemmings, and on Thursday he was at work, when a large quantity of coal fell upon him. He was got out in a very short time, and was found dead, with his face downwards, but, strange to say, there were no bruises on the body. It is supposed he must have died from suffocation. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

68, Franchise Street – HORSE AND JOCKEY

- [1] *Joseph Gilbert* (37), licensed victualler, born Kingswinford;
- [2] *Ann Maria Gilbert* (38), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Lauraella Rhoda Gilbert* (14), daughter, scholar, born Kingswinford;
- [4] *Joseph Henry Gilbert* (11), son, scholar, born Kingswinford;
- [5] *Ann Banner* (18), domestic servant, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Charles Monk* (41), lodger, engine cleaner, born Warwick:

Joseph Gilbert – see also MAZEPPA, Church Street.

William Holback Rogers = William Holdback Rogers

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1873

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Joseph Platt (on bail) was charged with unlawfully wounding *William Rowe*, on the 21st July, at Darlaston. Mr. Bosanquet was for the prosecution; and Mr. Motteram defended the accused.

Rowe, the prosecutor, said that about eleven o’clock at night he and several others, after playing bagatelle at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, Kings Hill, were assembled outside the house, when a quarrel took place between two men named *Hodgkiss* and *Durham*, about a pipe. The defendant was one who had been engaged in the play in the house, and while the altercation was going on he ran towards him and, with a clasp knife, stabbed the

prosecutor under the stump of his left arm, which had been amputated some time before.

Benjamin Jones, examined, said he was at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, on the occasion referred to. After coming out just before eleven he saw Platt with his jacket off, and heard him say he would fight Hodgkiss, but he went towards Rowe, having at the time something 'glistening' in his hand. He saw him 'fling' round Rowe, and directly after Rowe said he was stabbed. Witness went up to prosecutor and saw he had been cut. After running up to Rowe, the defendant went off.

Further confirmatory evidence was given.

The police evidence went to prove that on the apprehension of the defendant he was confronted with the prosecutor, who was in bed, and who at once identified him as the man who had stabbed him.

Mr. William Wells and Mr. F. Sidney Winkworth, the medical witnesses who should have appeared on behalf of the prosecution, not having put in an appearance, the former forfeited his recognisances, and the latter his subpoena. The prosecutor was accordingly recalled, and said he was under treatment for a week. The wound bled profusely.

For the defence Mr. Motteram addressed the Jury, and submitted that the blow was struck, not by Platt, but by another person who was set upon by Rowe's party. He then called John King, who said he was present during the disturbance. After several blows had been struck by Hodgkiss and others, Durham pulled out a knife, and in about five minutes he heard Rowe say he had been stabbed. Hodgkiss was going to strike witness when Platt came up, and as they were overpowered by numbers, Platt and himself ran away to 'White's.' In about five Durham came in.

There was great excitement in the road, and Platt said he had not 'done' it, on which Durham said he himself had, and produced a knife which he asked White to make away with. In cross-examination, witness denied that Platt struck a blow, although he had pulled his coat off. Witness and Platt ran away because Hodgkiss was bringing up five or six to help him. Durham had gone away. Re-examined: He had made the statement about Durham when before the magistrates, and Durham was ordered into custody, but the matter against him was not proceeded with.

Mr. White, a grocer, living in Franchise Street, said that on the night of the affray, being out of his house, he heard that Joseph Platt had stabbed a man. On going into his house he found Platt and Durham. Platt denied, and Durham owned, that he had done it, and said he was no going to be killed and do nothing to defend himself.

Miss White, daughter of the last witness, corroborated this statement.

John Platt, iron-founder, uncle to the accused, said Durham was working for him up to Saturday night, when he took his tools away.

The defendant's attorney had attempted, through witness, to serve Durham with a subpoena, but he could not be found.

Witnesses who spoke to the peaceable disposition of the defendant were also called.

The Jury acquitted the defendant."

Joseph Oldback = Joseph Holdback

Midland Examiner 31/1/1877

"On Thursday evening last, a large and influential meeting was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Fallings Heath, for the purpose of electing representatives to serve on the general committee of the Wednesbury Liberal Association....."

Midland Examiner 23/6/1877

"*Joseph Oldback*, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, was summoned for having permitted drunkenness in his house on the 15th inst. Mr. G. Corbet, of Darlaston, appeared for the defendant. A police-officer proved to having visited the defendant's house and found a drunken man sitting in the tap-room, who upon his removal was found to be so helplessly drunk that it was necessary to take him to the police station in a handcart. For the defence it was contended that the defendant was not aware of a drunken man being in the house. As defendant bore a very good character the Stipendiary merely ordered him to pay the costs."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1877

"West Bromwich Annual Licensing Sessions....."

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

Joseph Holdback, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Fallings Heath, 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."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/11/1877

“An inquest was held yesterday afternoon, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, touching the death of William Dumbleton (64), farmer, who formerly resided at 95, Cobden Street.

William Dumbleton, nephew of the deceased, said that previous to the last seven weeks the deceased had resided in the Lozells, Birmingham, and had since lived with him. During the past two years the deceased had had two paralytic strokes, and on the night of the 23rd inst he heard him shout, and immediately went into the room and found him perspiring. Shortly afterwards he again went into the room and found that he was dead.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.

The Coroner said the inquiry had been held in consequence of the surgeon refusing to give a certificate.”

1881 Census

68, Franchise Street – HORSE AND JOCKEY

[1] *Francis Lloyd* (52), publican, born Madeley, Shropshire;

[2] *Harriet Lloyd* (54), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[3] *Alice Lloyd* (24), daughter, born Madeley, Shropshire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/12/1885 - Advert

“Bagatelle Board, slate bed, in capital condition; a bargain.

W. Clapp, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury.”

BAGATELLE Board, slate bed, in capital condition ; a bargain.—*W. Clapp, Horse and Jockey, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury.*

William Clapp, licensed victualler, Franchise Street. [1888]

1891 Census

68, Franchise Street

[1] *William Clapp* (54), licensed victualler, born Summerhill, Derbyshire;

[2] *Sarah Clapp* (47), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Martha Clapp* (26), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Annie Clapp* (21), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Ruth Clapp* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Thomas Clapp* (18), son, greengrocer, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Samuel Clapp* (13), son, greengrocer's assistant, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Herbert Clapp* (9), son, born Wednesbury;

[9] *Fred Clapp* (6), son, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/10/1893

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper held an adjourned inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, on the bodies of Eliza and Mary Maria Baird, the one aged one year and seven months and the other four years, both of whom died last month from acute diarrhoea, the older one after only two or three hours illness. It was supposed at the time that their decease was due to their having partaken of polluted water, the well from which the water was drawn being near to a couple of closets. This supposition was confirmed yesterday, Dr. Garman stating that the water was very impure, and that an analysis made by himself, and another by Mr. Jones, county analyst, Wolverhampton, showed that it was extensively contaminated with sewage. The protracted drought, they considered, had conduced to the contamination.

Mr. Yoxall, the owner of the property, put some questions as to the percentage of sewage matter in the water, and Dr. Garman said the presence of pollution was so obvious that he did not take the trouble to ascertain the exact percentage.

Mr. Yoxall said the wells had been closed, and he had ordered the South Staffordshire waterworks Company's water to be laid on.

The jury found that the deaths has resulted from drinking impure water.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1894

“Early yesterday morning, Mr. *W. Clapp*, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Franchise Street, was taken ill soon after he had retired to rest, and before medical aid could be procured he expired.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1894 - Died

“On the 3rd inst, aged 56 years, at Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, William, the beloved husband of Sarah Clapp; deeply lamented by all who knew him.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1897

“Yesterday, Mr. A. A. Betham (acting coroner) held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, on the body of William Holden (49), 78, Franchise Street.

On Christmas Day deceased went to bed, the worse for drink, shortly after seven o’clock, and soon after ten was heard to fall from the top to the bottom of the stairs. When picked up he was unconscious and bleeding from the nose, and it was found that the base of the skull was fractured. He received prompt surgical assistance, and everything possible was done for him until the following day, when he expired. There was no hand-rail to the staircase, and the Coroner and Jury commented on the necessity for such a protection in every house, especially where the stairs were as steep, as in this case.

Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1901 Census

Franchise Street – HORSE AND JOCKEY

- [1] *Frederick Aaron Stokes* (43), bricklayer, born Walsall;
- [2] *Ellen Stokes* (41), wife, born Colerne, Wiltshire;
- [3] *Jessie Louisa Stokes* (19), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Sidney Howdle Stokes* (9), son, born Darlaston’
- [5] *Fred John Henry Stokes* (7), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Amelia Ellen Snell* (14), visitor, born Bathampton, Somerset:

Worcestershire Chronicle 18/1/1902 - Advert

“General. Wanted, clean honest Girl, about 20; reference required.

Stokes, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.”

GENERAL.—Wanted, clean honest Girl, about 20; reference required.—*Stokes*, Horse and Jockey, Franchise St., King’s Hill, Wednesbury.

1911 Census

63, Franchise Street – HORSE AND JOCKEY

- [1] *James Albert Chalker* (48), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Chalker* (41), wife, married 22 years, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Elsie Chalker* (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Arthur Chalker* (15), son, template maker, bridge and roofing, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Jane Millard* (22), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Walsall Observer 18/4/1914

“Bowling Prospects.....

One of the clubs elected at the annual meeting of the Walsall League is the Fallings Heath Club, whose headquarters are at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Kings Hill, Wednesbury. Although new aspirants to League honours, this club is well known to many Walsall bowlers, amongst whom it will be better recognised under the name of *Chalker’s*. This club was founded some two or three years ago by Mr. *J. A. Chalker*, who, realising the desirability of fostering an interest in the game of bowls, was instrumental in laying down a green which, though on the small side, has been a source of much enjoyment to the knights of the wood. The game has developed so much in the Kings Hill district during the last twelve months or so that the old green is now altogether inadequate for the requirements of the club. Thanks to a commendable spirit of enterprise on the part of Mr. *Chalker*, an entirely new green has been laid down. The size of the new pitch is 50 yards by 19 yards and is in splendid condition. From this it will be seen that visitors to the green will have no cause to complain of their inability to get a good length on the jack. In fact, many of them may find themselves very often in difficulties, especially those who are used to much shorter greens. A first-class pavilion is in course of erection and will be ready for the opening match of the season.....”

Walsall Observer 5/12/1914

"The members of the HORSE AND JOCKEY Bowling Club, Fallings Heath, which is affiliated to the Walsall and District Bowling League, spent a very pleasant evening on Thursday of last week, the occasion being the annual dinner and prize distribution.....

The Secretary, in his report, referred to Mr. *Chalker's* services to the club in getting their new ground, which was opened on April 25. The club had a membership of 54. He considered that the club had done well in their league games, finishing fifth in the table....."

Walsall Observer 10/7/1915

"Bowling. Walsall and District League.....

HORSE AND JOCKEY v Pleck Liberal. Played at Fallings Heath on Saturday.

The home team won by 23 points. After the match both sides, including friends from Moxley and The Pleck, sat down to tea provided by the host, Mr. *Chalker*....."

Walsall Observer 22/1/1916

"Walsall and District Bowling League.

The annual meeting in connection with the above league was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, Wednesbury last week. Mr. C. Ross (president) presided, and large number of delegates were also present....."

James Albert Chalker died in the 2nd quarter of 1920.

1921 Census

63, Franchise Street

[1] *Mary Chalker* (51), widow, license holder, born Darlaston;

[2] *Elsie Chalker* (30), daughter, household duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Arthur Chalker* (25), son, template maker in wood, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Alice Giles* (40), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Walsall Observer 7/10/1922

"At a meeting of the combined Conservative and Unionist committees in the Kings Hill Ward of Wednesbury, held on Tuesday evening at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, Councillor H. Dean, who presided, proposed the adoption of Mr. W. H. Wesson as prospective candidate for the election on November 1, paying a high tribute to his business ability and shrewd commonsense, which he was willing to place at the service of the town and its inhabitants....."

[Wesson stood in the election and won.]

Dudley Chronicle 29/11/1923

"The annual supper in connection with the Earl Kitchener Lodge of the R.A.O.B. was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Franchise Street, Wednesbury. A good number sat down. The host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Arthur Bishop*) served an excellent meal. The musical programme, arranged by Mr. Archibald Constable, included several well-known items. Mr. George Mason opened with a pianoforte solo; Mr. R. Chaddock contributed two solos, 'Take a pair of sparkling eyes' and 'Oh, vision entrancing'; Mr. G. Robinson (baritone) sang 'A Prologue.' A novel feature of the evening was a couple of concertina solos by Mr. Brettell. Mr. C. F. Jones (tenor) sang 'If I can live.' The duet, 'The moon hath raised' was rendered by Messrs. Constable and Robinson. Mr. E. Bliss, ARCO, was at the piano. A vote of thanks to the host and hostess and artistes concluded a very pleasant evening."

Walsall Observer 24/1/1925

"There were over 130 present at a whist drive organised by the Earl Kitchener Lodge of the R.A.O.B. in aid of the lodge funds, and held at Messrs. F. H. Lloyd & Co's canteen, Darlaston. The lodge meets at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Franchise Street, and is some 200 strong....."

Walsall Observer 6/3/1926

"A new bowling league, the Darlaston Central, has been formed in the Darlaston and Wednesbury district, and the following ten clubs have affiliated HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street."

Walsall Observer 4/8/1928

“At a joint meeting of the Conservatives of Kings Hill ward, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, on Tuesday evening, the Mayor of Wednesbury (Councillor W. H. Wesson) was unanimously adopted candidate for the next Council elections in November....”

[He was elected.]

Walsall Observer 30/1/1932

“A verdict of death from of congenital weakness due to prematurity, was returned by the South Staffordshire Coroner’s Deputy (Mr. J. H. F. Addison) at an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, on Thursday morning, regarding the infant son of Charles Flowers, a grinder of 174, Franchise Street. Nurse Dixon, certified midwife, of Hall End Place, Wednesbury, said the child was premature when born on Sunday, and had little chance. Clara Dunn (a neighbour) said the baby was taken ill on Tuesday morning, and, at the request of the mother, she carried it in a shawl to the surgery of Dr. Barratt, of Walsall Road, Kings Hill, where it died before the doctor could examine it. Dr. Alan Wilson, of Wednesbury, who called at the home, gave his opinion as to the cause of death.”

1939 Register

Franchise Street – HORSE AND JOCKEY

[1] John L. Fellows, date of birth 24/3/1892, licensed victualler, previously steel chassis builder, married;

[2] Harriet Fellows, dob 20/1/1891, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Mary E. (Pugh) Read, dob 18/2/1927, domestic servant, single:

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1946]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/2/1965 - Letters

“The Government has a gift horse looking it in its face. By all means have a national sweepstakes on the Derby, the St. Leger, and all the big races. Let it be nationalised and run by the Government for the benefit of the country and instead of having a big prize of £300,000, zone the country into areas. Each zone would have prizes of smaller amounts. There would be more winning numbers, more share-outs and a lot more interest for the punters. Employment would be found for a lot of disabled people. More funds would be available for education, hospitals, medical research. Post offices all over the country could be used for the sale of tickets.

T. Lloyd, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Post 3/6/1970

“Settlement of an action by Bass, Mitchells and Butlers Ltd, against the Steel Nut and Joseph Hampton Ltd, should be completed within three weeks, counsel said in the High Court yesterday. The brewery, which alleges that the defendants permitted oil on their premises to percolate into the cellars of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, was granted a three week adjournment of its application for an interim injunction. Mr. Jack Hames, for the brewery, told Mr. Justice Megarry that the parties had been negotiating to settle the whole action. New terms had now been agreed.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/7/1970 - Advert

“Continental frame tent, all extensions, 2 camp beds, 2 sleeping bags, cost £85, accept £30.

HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.”

Closed

CONTINENTAL frame tent, all extensions, 2 camp beds. 2 sleeping bags, cost £85, accept £30. — Horse and Jockey, Franchise - street Wednesbury.

FALLING'S HEATH, WEDNESBURY.—Valuable PUBLIC HOUSE and LAND.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. RICHARD HESELTINE (by direction of the Mortgagee), at the house of Mr. George Perry, the CASTLE INN, in DARLASTON, on Wednesday, the 17th day of January, 1866, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions as will be then read, and in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale:—

Lot 1.

All that old-licensed FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE, situate at Falling's Heath, near Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, known by the sign of the Horse and Jockey, together with a good Yard, Maltroom, Brewhouse, Carriage-house, Stable, Pig-styes, and other Outbuildings thereto belonging, late in the occupation of John Corns, deceased, but now of his widow, Ann Corns.

The land, including the site of the buildings constituting this lot, contains by admeasurement 515 square yards, or thereabouts.

Lot 2.

And also, all that FREEHOLD plot of LAND, with the four DWELLING-HOUSES or TENEMENTS recently erected, and standing thereon, situate at Falling's Heath aforesaid, in the occupation of Thomas Phillips and others, and contains by admeasurement 637 square yards or thereabouts.

The inn is well located for extensive business purposes, properly licensed, replete with every convenience, and presents a favourable opportunity for a good investment, and particularly to an active man desirous of entering upon the general public-house business.

To view the property, apply to the Tenants; and for all further particulars, and to inspect a plan thereof, apply to the AUCTIONEER, or at the Offices of Mr. J. E. SHELDON, Solicitor, both of Wednesbury.

JOHN CORNS, DECEASED.—Pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery made in a cause Aaron Millington (on behalf of himself and all other the unsatisfied creditors of John Corns, deceased) against Ann Corns and another, the creditors of JOHN CORNS, late of Fallings Heath, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper, who died in or about the month of November, 1865, are, on or before the first day of October, 1866, to send by post, prepaid, to Mr. THOMAS BREVITT, of Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, solicitor for the plaintiff (one of the Executors of the deceased), their Christian and surnames, addresses, and descriptions, the full particulars of their claims, a statement of their accounts, and the nature of the security (if any) held by them, or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said decree. Every creditor holding any security is to produce the same before the MASTER of the Rolls, at his Chambers, situate in the Rolls-yard, Chancery-lane, Middlesex, on Thursday, the first day of November, 1866, at twelve o'clock at noon, being the time appointed for adjudicating on the claims.

Dated the 6th day of August, 1866.

JOHN WM. HAWKINS, Chief Clerk.
G. W. GREENWOOD, Solicitor, 8, Serjeants' Inn,
London, Agent for
THOMAS BREVITT, of Darlaston, Plaintiff's Solicitor.

1866

CLEARING-OUT SALE,
AT "THE HORSE AND JOCKEY,"
FRANCHISE STREET, DARLASTON.
BY E. COX, on TUESDAY NEXT, June 11—the
PUBLIC-HOUSE EFFECTS: a 9ft. Slate-bottom BAG-
GELLE TABLE, ALE MACHINE, Counters, Barrels, Tubs,
FURNITURE, and other Effects, at Eleven o'clock.

1867

I, JOSEPH GILBERT, of the Horse and Jockey Inn, Falling's Heath, near Wednesbury, Publican, do hereby express my deep regret at having made statements reflecting upon the character of Mrs. MARY MILLS, the Wife of Mr. Wm. Mills, of the Britannia Inn, Black Lake, West Bromwich, as there is not the least foundation for them, and I hereby APOLOGISE to her for having done so, and express my thanks to her Husband for discontinuing the legal proceedings against me on my making this apology and paying the costs incurred.—Dated this 20th day of March, 1866.

JOSH. GILBERT.

1868

HORSE AND JOCKEY

29, High Bullen, (Trowse Lane), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William John McLean [1913]
Atkinsons Ltd. [1921]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1961]

LICENSEES

James Parish [1841]
Henry Parish [1849] – [1851]
William Parrish [1853]
Birchnall [] – **1854**);
George Rowley (**1854 – 1861**);
Joseph Gwilt (**1861**)
Elizabeth Gwilt [1861] – [1862]
Mrs. Selina Rowley [1861] – [1862]
Guest [] – **1863**);
William Smith (**1863 – [1865]**)
John Cookson [1864] – **1866**);
Thomas Birch (**1866**)
James Birch (**1866 – 1870**);
Joseph Poyner (**1870 – 1871**);
Sarah Poyner (**1871**);
Edward Adams (**1871**);
James Jones (**1871 – [1882]**)
Mrs. Rebecca Jones [1888] – [1896]
William Henry James Jones [1892] – [1901]
John Stanley [1904]
William John McLean [1908] – [1916]
John Ernest Shaw [1921]
Thomas Jones [1921] – [1948]
William Edwin Jones [1961] – [1966]
E. J. Whiting [1967]



NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/1/1837 - Died

“On the 18th ult, aged 22, Elizabeth Lloyd, wife of Mr. *James Parish*, of the High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

1841 Census

High Bullen

- [1] *James Parish* (25), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *William Bailey* (50), butcher, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Michael Wiggin* (25), butcher, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Catharine Wiggin* (20), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Mary Hughes* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 16/3/1850 - Died

“On the 1st inst, aged four years, Emma Parish, only daughter of Mr. *Henry Parish*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 24/8/1850

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions on Tuesday, before John Leigh, Esq, Emily Rogers, a girl fifteen years of age, was charged with stealing a pair of gloves, the property of Mrs. *Henry Parish*, wife of a licensed victualler, residing in the High Bullen. The prisoner hawks tobacco pipes for a Birmingham maker, and the gloves being missed immediately after a visit she paid to the house on the previous day, Mrs. *Parish* followed her, and found the missing property concealed in her bonnet. Upon Mr. Leigh offering her the alternative of being convicted summarily or being tried by a Jury (in the terms of an act recently passed for the punishment of juvenile offenders), she chose the former, but in order that her master might be bound for her good conduct, Mr. Leigh, instead of sending her to gaol, directed him to be sent for, and remanded the prisoner to be brought up at Wolverhampton.”

1851 Census

High Bullen

- [1] *Henry Parish* (28), victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Ellen Parish* (29), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Joseph Parish* (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *James Parish* (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *George Parish* (1 month), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Emma Davis* (15), house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Clara Kendrick* (10), house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Martin Manyan* (22), servant, labourer, born Ireland;
- [9] *John Donald* (40), servant, labourer, born Ireland:

Birmingham Journal 17/7/1852

“On Saturday morning last an accident occurred in a limestone pit belonging to Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co., Old Park Fields, whereby three persons lost their lives, in consequence of a large quantity of rock and earth, which had become loosened from the roof, falling upon them. On Monday morning an inquiry was commenced before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, deputy coroner, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, on the bodies of John Brown, 25, and Joseph Williams, 15; also at the SCOTTS ARMS, Kings Hill, on the body of James Clansey. The inquiries were adjourned until Friday, to allow time to communicate with the Secretary of State. Yesterday afternoon, Thomas Wynn, Esq, one of the Government Inspectors, was in attendance.

The first witness called was Thomas Hampson, who stated that he was a limestone miner, and worked in a pit belonging to Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co., situated at Hobbs Hole, in the parish of Wednesbury. On Saturday morning last, the three deceased, with the rest of the men, went down the pit to work. After being at work a short time, a large quantity of rock from the roof suddenly fell upon the three deceased, and buried them. Williams was employed in making a hole to blow some stone with powder. Brown was breaking the stone into smaller pieces for the loading, and Clansey was loading stone. Williams and Adams examined the roof during the week to see if it was safe. The rock fell without giving any warning to the men who were at work; the quantity was from fifteen to twenty tons. The pit is properly worked, and the pillars left to support the roof are quite sufficient, and the workings are not so wide as in pits in the neighbourhood of Walsall and Dudley.

Mr. Wynn stated from an inspection of the pit, that no blame could be attached to any person, for he found the working to be much narrower where the accident occurred than in any other part of the pit. The roof was a good one, and the giving way of this part was one of those occurrences which did accidentally occur in following dangerous callings.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1853

“Annual Licensing Day....

The whole of the renewals were duly granted, with the following exceptions of parties convicted and fined. The following were cautioned, and the same entered on the back of their respective licenses.....

William Parrish, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/6/1854

“At the last Wednesbury Petty Sessions an application was made by *George Rowley*, to have the license of the HORSE AND JOCKEY transferred from *Henry Birchnall* to himself, but the application was opposed by Mr. Blayney, the superintendent of police, who alleged that gambling to a considerable extent was practised in the house, and the magistrates in consequence refused to grant the application.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 17/6/1854

“An application was made at Wednesbury Magistrates meeting, on Tuesday last, to transfer the license of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen from *John Birchnall* and *William Berridge*, to *George Rowley*. Inspector Blayney said he appeared to oppose the application, as he was well aware that gambling to a great extent (although not then prepared to prove it) was being carried on at the house. The Magistrates at once refused the application.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 15/7/1854

“On Tuesday last, at the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, the license of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, was transferred by the Magistrates from the assignees of Mr. *Birchnall* to Mr. *George Rowley*, without opposition. The proprietor assures his friends and the public that no gambling has or ever will be permitted there by him, and he has to inform them that his constant study will be their comfort and accommodation when they favour him with a call.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/7/1855

“William Rowley, who has just returned from Australia, will jump one running jump, hop 20 hops, run 100 yards, or fight any man in England of his own age and weight (56 years, 8st), for £50 or £100 a side. Money ready at *G. Rowley's*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/9/1855

“It had been intended to celebrate the capture of Sebastopol in Wednesbury yesterday week, but the Market Place being occupied on account of the wakes, the committee appointed to get up a demonstration deemed it advisable to defer it until Monday last. On that day Wednesbury certainly made a grand show. The streets were lined with the colours of our native land and her allies, and from the railway the town assumed a most gay aspect. The sight on entering the town was most striking. At the lowest computation not less than five hundred colours were displayed, and there was scarcely an inn or a shop, however small, that did not exhibit this mark of rejoicing.....

In the Market Place two sheep were roasted whole by the committee for gratuitous distribution. A sheep was also roasted whole by Mr. *George Rowley*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY; two by Mr. John Wells, of the ROYAL OAK, King Street; two by Mr. Rowley, of the ROYAL OAK, High Bullin.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *George Rowley*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullin.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/11/1855

“*George Rowley* of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, held a levee last Wednesday evening, which was extremely well attended by sporting men. Chief among these was Mr. Rowley, an Australian gentleman, no relation of the host, but a friend who had patronised him when in Australia, and who has come to this country to see something of its sporting customs. A capital spread was given, and Mr. Rowley's health and prosperity was toasted in sparkling champagne.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/12/1856

"*George Rowley*, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, appeared to answer the charge of assaulting Edward Adams, whose eyes exhibited evident proofs of the violence inflicted upon him. Mr. Burbury was for the complainant, and Mr. W. H. Duignan for the defendant.

It appeared that the former went to the defendant's house on the previous Friday night in company with a disreputable woman, and on being required to leave by the wife of the defendant (he being from home) addressed Mrs. *Rowley* in the presence of several persons in terms which conveyed a charge of infidelity to her husband. On the following night the complainant again went to the house, and the defendant, after asking for an explanation, beat him severely, according to the complainant's statement, knocking him down and kicking him while on the floor.

Mr. Duignan, for the defendant, admitted the assault, denying the kicking, but pleaded great provocation.

Mr. Leigh said the provocation was not an excuse for the assault, and fined the defendant £5, the highest penalty, but refused the complainant any costs on account of the provocation he had given."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/1/1857

"Mr. *George Rowley*, the landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, having resented a gross and unprovoked insult offered to his wife, was heavily fined by the Magistrates for an assault. His townsmen, thinking he had been hardy dealt with, have subscribed (unsought for) the amount, and presented it to him."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/9/1858

"Jemmy Shaw of London, now in Staffordshire, will give several prizes to be ratted for next Tuesday, at Mr. *Rowley's*, the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, for all dogs, to be fairly handicapped. A good supply of fresh barn rats for public sport next Tuesday evening. The show of spaniels, terriers, bulldogs, half-breed dogs, &c, tomorrow (Monday) evening, Jemmy Shaw will preside, faced by Mr. Careless, who will produce his beautiful stud of spaniels, &c. Entrance free.

The great 100 rat match with Jemmy Shaw's noted little dog, Jacko, fixed to come off last Wednesday evening, at Mr. *Rowley's* did not come off, through neglect of the railway delivery, until the following evening, when plenty of good sport took place in the presence of a numerous and respectable company, there being above 200 rats destroyed. Several matches of interest were made to come off at *George Rowley's*, next Tuesday evening, at eight o'clock."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/7/1859

"Mary Tolley was placed in the dock charged with stealing a quantity of spirits, the property of *George Rowley*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury. The prisoner had been given into custody on Sunday morning on the above charge, but Mr. *Rowley* did not appear to sustain it, and she was consequently discharged, with an intimation, on asserting her innocence, that she had a right of action against Mr. *Rowley* for false imprisonment."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/7/1860

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

John Collins, 29, miner, was indicted for feloniously wounding Henry Hathaway, police constable, on the 22nd of May, at Wednesbury, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. Mr. Hill prosecuted.

From the evidence it appeared that police-constables Henry Hathaway and Samuel Woolley were, on the day named, sent to the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury, to arrest the prisoner for an assault. They went in plain clothes, and found the prisoner upstairs. When the prisoner saw them coming he called out that he would murder the first man who entered the room. When they entered he seized a chamber utensil, and broke it over Woolley's head. He next struck Hathaway with his fist on the forehead, seized him by the hair, and both kicked and beat him. A severe scuffle ensued, but the prisoner was finally arrested. The prisoner was intoxicated at the time.

Mr. Proctor, surgeon, Wednesbury, described the nature of the injuries inflicted; after which the prisoner called two witnesses to prove that the constables used great violence.

The Jury returned a verdict of guilty, accompanied by an expression of opinion that it was very reprehensible in the officers to go in plain clothes.

The prisoner was sentenced to two months' imprisonment."

Sporting Life 4/8/1860

“Young Shaw, the champion of the light weights, will be at Mr. *Rowley*’s, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, on Monday and Tuesday, and will be glad to see all his Staffordshire friends. He is prepared to make a match with any man in the world for not less than £100 or £200 a side, at stone or 8st 2lbs, of course Lynch the American always preferred first. Shaw will be obliged to Lynch if he will come to some terms. Lynch can have the match on whatever terms or conditions he likes to ask for; but, Shaw says, he will not go to Lynch again unless Lynch stakes some money to show he means match making and not bouncing.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1860 - Advert

“The Great ‘Picture’ of the International Fight between Sayers and Heenan.
Sole Agent for Birmingham and Staffordshire, Mr. *George Rowley*, Wednesbury.
Specimens to be seen, and Orders taken at the Swan Inn, Upper Priory.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/1/1861

“Mrs. *Rowley* returns her sincere thanks to her numerous friends and the public generally for their liberal patronage during the absence of her husband, Mr. *George Rowley*. Copies of the beautiful engraving of the International Fight can now be had with key, &c, per order to the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, Staffordshire. Harmony, good fellowship, &c, will reign predominant at this favourite resort this (Saturday) evening, also tomorrow (Monday) and during the week, the worthy and enterprising hostess sparing no expense for talent, vocal and instrumental.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/4/1861

“*G. Rowley*’s, the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury, is the favourite resort of the right sort, from the surrounding towns, to discuss the Fancy generally, as well as the earliest and latest news from the States of America. Those beautiful American sporting and other engravings, lately sent over, can now be seen at the bar, as well as that of Newbold’s great international fight. The harmonic meetings are carried on as usual. This evening, and during the week, a galaxy of amusement.”

1861 Census

Trouse Lane – HORSE AND JOCKEY

- [1] *George Rowley* (40), innkeeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Selina Rowley* (34), wife, born Coventry;
- [3] *James Rowley* (21), nephew, gentleman, born America;
- [4] *Ann Gilmore* (23), maid servant, born Ireland;

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/6/1861

“John Collins, one of the worst characters in Wednesbury, who has been convicted of assaults very many times, and has once been convicted at the assizes for an assault upon a policeman, was charged with assaulting Mary Lenskey, on Sunday night, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury. The assault was very violent, and he bit the woman’s fingers. He got off with a fine of 10s, or fourteen days, imprisonment.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/7/1861

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, Mrs. *Selina Rowley* was charged with having assaulted Catherine Orgill. Mr. Slater appeared for complainant, and Mr. Bailey defended.

The complainant’s statement was to the effect that on Monday week she sent her daughter to the house of defendant, the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, to get change for a sovereign, and the child returned with only eighteen shillings. Complainant then went to defendant, and stated that there were two shillings short, whereupon Mrs. *Rowley* commenced using a series of abusive epithets, and after handing over the two shillings, and remarking that she should always consider herself robbed of it, she committed the assault complained of, and inflicted a wound on complainant’s finger with her teeth.

For the defence it was urged that the complainant called Mrs. *Rowley* some very foul names, refused to leave the house, and challenged her to fight. Mrs. *Rowley* then turned her out of the house. A number of witnesses were called, after which the Bench intimated that they would like to see Mr. Howitt, surgeon, who had attended complainant, and dressed the finger, which it was alleged had been bitten. Mr. Howitt, on being sworn, said that the

wounds he saw on complainant's finger might have been produced by a bite, but he could not swear that they were produced by teeth. They might have been produced by a pinch, or crushing between hard substances. The Magistrates, after deliberating in private, which lasted about ten minutes, decided to dismiss the charge."

George Rowley – see also GRAPES, High Street, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/8/1861

"James Lewis, said to have been formerly a publican at Toll End, was charged with stealing 5lbs of copper, the property of *Elizabeth Quilt* [sic], of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury. He was seen to enter the brewhouse on the previous Saturday, and re-appear with the copper in his possession. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three months' hard labour."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/10/1861

"Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held on Thursday last.....

The following licensed victuallers, fined for various infringements of the law, and whose cases had been ordered to stand over from the former licensing meeting in August last, were called before the Magistrates, and after their respective cases had been referred to they were admonished and warned that a second offence would be of serious consequence.....

Mrs. *Elizabeth Gwilt*, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/10/1861 - Advert

"Public Notice.

I, *George Rowley*, late of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, do hereby give notice, that by an Indenture dated the twentieth day of April, 1861, I Assigned and Transferred the Business of the said Inn, and my Property and Interest therein, to *Joseph Gwilt*, of Westbromwich, Staffordshire, Innkeeper (since deceased), in consideration of the said *Joseph Gwilt* paying my creditors therein named in manner therein mentioned the amount of the debts owing by me to them respectively, and of his indemnifying me against the payment of the same debts, and from all damages consequent upon non-payment thereof.

And I hereby further give notice, that I am not liable to, nor will I pay, any debts my wife, *Selina Rowley*, may have contracted since the date of the said Indenture, or to any debts she may hereafter contract in my name, I having been legally separated from her by deed of contemporaneous date with the said Indenture, and she has since been carrying on the said business on account of the said *Joseph Gwilt* and his widow respectively.

George Rowley.

NB. The estate of the late *Joseph Gwilt* is amply sufficient to pay all just debts and demands.

Wednesbury, 30th September, 1861."

Joseph and Elizabeth Gwilt – see also EIGHT LOCKS, West Bromwich.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1862 - Advert

"Wanted, a General Servant, who understands Plain Cooking. One used to public business preferred.

Apply at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Street, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a GENERAL SERVANT, who understands Plain Cooking. One used to public business preferred. - Apply at the Horse and Jockey, High Street, Wednesbury.

Illustrated Sporting News and Theatrical and Musical Review 22/3/1862 - Advert

"HORSE AND JOCKEY Music Hall, Wednesbury.

Great Success of the New Company – which includes Madame Cohere, Miss Jenny and Annie Cohere, Mr. Jack Barnett (Comedian), and Miss Louise Yorke (Vocalist and Pianist).

Mr. Tom Linney, the unrivalled Skate and Operatic Dancer, will shortly appear."

HORSE and JOCKEY MUSIC HALL, WEDNESBURY.

Great Success of the New Company—which includes Madame COHERE, Miss JENNY and ANNIE COHERE, Mr. JACK BARNETT (Comedian), and Miss LOUISE YORKE (Vocalist and Pianist).

Mr. TOM LINNEY, the unrivalled Skate and Operatic Dancer, will shortly appear.

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/10/1862

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Murphy, 22, and Emma Hodgkiss, 20, no occupation, were charged with having, on the 5th of August last, at Wednesbury, inflicted grievous bodily harm on Thomas Smith. Mr. Vaughan conducted the prosecution.

It appeared that, early on the morning of the 5th of August, the prosecutor was leaving the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, when he was attacked in the passage by the two prisoners. Murphy struck him a severe blow on the face with his fist, which knocked him down and made his nose bleed freely. While he was on the ground the female prisoner threw a quart jug at him. Murphy then pulled a gutta percha life-preserver out of his pocket and struck him a violent blow on the back of the head. The female prisoner took up another jug to throw at the prosecutor, but was prevented. From the evidence of Mr. Proctor, surgeon, who dressed the wounds, it appeared that they were of a very dangerous nature.

The prisoners were convicted and sentenced, the male prisoner to twelve and the female prisoner to three months' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1862

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Friday, Ann Knockton was charged with stealing a jug and a glass, the property of Mrs. *Rowley*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen. Sergeant Gasson saw the woman leaving the house with the articles in her possession, and took her back to Mrs. *Rowley*, who at once identified her property. Sentenced of one month's imprisonment with hard labour.”

Selina Rowley – see also SHAKESPEARE, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Journal 29/11/1862

“From Friday night's *London Gazette* Bankrupts.....

E. Gwilt, West Bromwich and Wednesbury, innkeeper.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/12/1862

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *E. Gwilt*, West Bromwich and Wednesbury, victualler.

First sitting, at which Mr. John Titley, of Wednesbury, innkeeper, and Mr. Henry Smith, Garlick Hill, London, wine merchant, were appointed assignees. The proceedings were removed to the County Court at Walsall.”

Walsall Free Press 17/1/1863

“In the case of Mrs. *Elizabeth Gwilt*, innkeeper, West Bromwich and Wednesbury, Mr. Duignan applied for leave to sell certain articles in the order and possession of the bankrupt at the time of her bankruptcy. It appeared that Mrs. *Gwilt* got her landlord to distrain on the Saturday for £100, alleged to be due for rent, and on the Monday she went with her solicitor to Birmingham, and was made bankrupt. Subsequently it transpired that there were only £40 due for rent, and that the goods distrained upon were worth £200, and Mr. Duignan now applied for leave to sell the goods for the benefit of the creditors, and stated that the landlord had consented to this course upon the understanding that he should be paid the amount of rent due, £40. The order was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/1/1863

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before W. Partridge, Esq, Stipendiary, Samuel Hackwood, parish constable, *Selina Rowley*, and Robert Rowley, her son, were charged with having on Saturday last, induced a great number of people to riot, and to eject from possession of the HORSE AND JOCKEY public house, High Bullen, certain County Court bailiffs who were then in possession under an order from the Judge of the Walsall County Court. Mr. W. H. Duignan represented the assignees, who claimed possession, Mr. Bartlett, of Wolverhampton, appeared on behalf of Mr. Megevan, High Bailiff of the Court; and Mr. Bayley defended the Rowleys.

The defendant Hackwood applied for an adjournment. He said he was only served with the summons on Monday night, and had not had sufficient time to summon his witnesses. He had twenty witnesses to summon, whose testimony would fully exonerate him.

Mr. Duignan said that an adjournment would be very inconvenient, and would result very seriously to his clients. He stated the facts of the case briefly, remarking that a person named *Elizabeth Gwilt*, of West Bromwich, petitioned the Birmingham Bankruptcy Court in November last, that Messrs. Titley and Smith were then appointed assignees,

and by an agreement amongst the creditors the proceedings were transferred to the Walsall County Court. The house, known well as the HORSE AND JOCKEY, in the High Bullen, Wednesbury, had been for a long time in the bankrupt's name, her name being over the door and on the licenses, but the defendant, Mrs. *Rowley*, had lived there, and managed the business. Under the bankruptcy the bailiffs entered the house, and had possession for two or three weeks, until the assignees could get a customer for the stock and goodwill, and Mrs. *Rowley* was allowed to remain there until her conduct was so bad that she was ordered to leave the premises. This she refused to do, and was backed up by some of her friends. Mr. Megevan, the High Bailiff, at length obtained sufficient force, and she and her friends were ejected. On Saturday last, however, the defendant Hackwood got together between 300 and 400 people, and between three and four o'clock on that afternoon they broke into the house and forcibly ejected the bailiffs, injuring one of them so seriously that he had kept his bed ever since. The defendants and their friends at the present time remained in triumphant possession of the place, and were very much depreciating the value of the stock. The assignees had succeeded in getting a customer for the goodwill and effects for £220, and that sum would enable the creditors to obtain a dividend of about 10s in the pound, but if the defendants were allowed to run riot in the house for a week the value of the stock would probably be much decreased.

Mr. Bayley said that on behalf of his clients he disputed the right of the assignees to take possession or to issue any order.

Mr. Duignan produced the bankruptcy proceedings, and referred to the Judge's order. He afterwards made some remarks respecting the fact that the police had not interfered on Saturday to stop the illegal proceedings of defendants. Mr. Partridge said he was glad Major McKnight, Deputy Chief-constable of the County, was present to hear Mr. Duignan's remarks. For his own part he did not see that he could give any instructions to the police, and he was sure Major McKnight knew his duty and would perform it.

Mr. Bartlett suggested that if the case were adjourned the defendants should be called upon to give a guarantee that possession of the house should be immediately given up to the assignees.

Mr. Bayley intimated that his clients would not consent to any such course.

After some discussion it was agreed to adjourn the hearing until Tuesday next.

Mr. Megevan then said he must charge Hackwood with having assaulted one of his bailiffs whilst in the execution of his duty. The man was seriously hurt, and he thought Hackwood ought to be called upon to put in bail for his appearance.

Hackwood denied having committed any assault, and said he could produce five or six witnesses. He would take care to be present to answer the charge. As for the possession of the house, he held a warrant on behalf of the landlord for rent.

Mr. Duignan said he quite understood that the landlord's claim had been compromised.

Major McKnight having explained that the police had no authority to interfere in such matters, this terminated the proceedings in Court.

A consultation between Major McKnight, Mr. Megevan, Mr. Inspector Holland, and Mr. Bartlett, subsequently took place, the result of which was that in the course of the afternoon the High Bailiff, and four or five bailiffs of the County Court, went up together to the HORSE AND JOCKEY to re-obtain possession. Major McKnight, Mr. Inspector Holland, and the majority of the division of the police were at hand to prevent a breach of the peace. A crowd of people, numbering 150 or 200, assembled in front of the house. After the bailiffs had knocked at the doors and requested admittance, and were refused, one of the bailiffs attempted to force a door with a crowbar. This door being too firmly barricaded to yield to such force the window was attempted, and after some difficulty the shutters were forced, and the sashes were shattered. Mrs. *Rowley* and the besieged then appeared armed with formidable weapons, which they threatened to use upon the head of the first bailiff who should dare to enter, and thus the keepers were held at bay for some time.

At length Major McKnight held a parley with Mrs. *Rowley*, which resulted in the bailiffs entering through the window. They remained in the house for a considerable time, and in the meanwhile the mob outside shouted encouragement to Mrs. *Rowley* and her friends who had so gallantly defended the fortress. A row at the door called general attention to it, and when it was opened Robert Rowley, the son, was forcibly ejected. He resisted boldly, and assaulted two of the bailiffs in the street, which was the signal for the interference of the police, who, amongst the yelling of the mob, took him into custody. Benjamin Rowley, uncle to the young man, was afterwards ejected, and as he was violent he was also taken to the station.

After the siege had lasted nearly an hour, Mrs. *Rowley*, considering perhaps that discretion was in such a case the better part of valour, and especially as she had given unmistakable proof of valour during the conflict, escaped by a side window, and so the bailiffs were left in possession. They immediately commenced removing the goods, an

operation which would occupy a long time, and in which they were engaged when our reporter left. It was anticipated that in the course of the night some disturbance might take place, but the police were on the spot to suppress anything of the kind should it be attempted. The affair has excited much interest in the town.”

[At the adjourned hearing, which lasted several hours, after hearing the prosecution case and a long discussion, eventually it was decided that the charges would not be proceeded with and that justice would be met by the defendants being bound over, themselves in £30, and two sureties in £30 each, to keep the peace for six months.]

Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1863 - Advert

“HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury.

By Joseph Whitehouse, This Day on the Premises, High Bullen, the Licenses, Brewing Plant, &c, and Tomorrow, at the Auction Rooms, near the Market Place, Wednesbury, the Household Furniture, &c.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1863 - Advert

“Re *Elizabeth Gwilt*, Bankrupt. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Joseph Whitehouse will Offer for Sale, This Day, commencing at half-past Ten, at the Midland Counties Auction Rooms, near the Market Place, Wednesbury (removed from the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, for convenience of sale).

The whole of the Household Furniture, Public House Requisites, Stock of Ales and Spirits, Public House Fixtures, Sporting Prints, and other Effects, according to catalogue.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1863

“The license of that much disputed tenement, the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, was transferred to *James Severn* from the assignees of the estate of Mrs. *Elizabeth Gwilt*, at the Petty Sessions, West Bromwich, on Saturday last.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/2/1863

“On Saturday the license of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, was transferred from the assignees of the estate of Mrs. *Elizabeth Gwilt*, by the West Bromwich Bench to Mr. *James Severn*. It will be remembered that the above house was the scene of the very riotous proceedings which have recently engaged so much of the time of the Wednesbury justices.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/3/1863 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of *Elizabeth Gwilt*, of West Bromwich, in the County of Stafford, and of Wednesbury in the same County, Innkeeper, 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 18th day of February, 1863.

C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/2/1864

“G. Holden of Walsall will fight Jem Fox of Birmingham, at 8st 2lb, for £25 or £30 a side. Articles sent to the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bolling, Wednesbury, and a deposit to *Bells Life*, will ensure a match.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/7/1864

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

John Bagley, 30, labourer, was charged with feloniously wounding Thomas Connell, on the 6th of June, 1864, at the parish of Wednesbury, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. Mr. Griffiths appeared to prosecute.

Thomas Connell, the prosecutor, said he was at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, on the evening of the 6th of June, and left shortly after twelve. He met prisoner, who asked him where he was going, and prosecutor said, ‘That is my business.’ The prisoner then knocked him down, and kicked him in the private parts. Prosecutor followed prisoner across the street, when prisoner struck at him with a knife which he had in his left hand; the blow struck him on the temple. He then struck him again on the face, and prosecutor fell to the ground. The prisoner went to his lodging house and knocked at the door. Prosecutor was taken to the HORSE AND JOCKEY public

house, where he gave information to the police. He was afterwards taken to a surgeon.

James Roden saw the prisoner kick at prosecutor. He afterwards struck Connell and knocked him down.

Mr. Morgan, assistant to Mr. Proctor, surgeon, of Wednesbury, said prosecutor was brought to the surgery on the morning of the 7th of June. He had three wounds on the right side of the face, two incised wounds and one lacerated. One of the incised wounds was at the corner of the temple, and about one inch in length. The other was two and a half inches in length, and was about half an inch in depth; it extended down to the bone. The wounds were slightly dangerous, and very severe. The wounds must have been inflicted by some sharp instrument.

Sergeant Steele, of the County Constabulary, apprehended the prisoner at about two o'clock on the morning of the 7th. There were marks of blood on his shirt and clothes. On being charged with the offence, the prisoner said, 'I am not the man.'

The prisoner, who was undefended, said he was not the man. He had no witnesses, as he had no money. If he had money, he could have plenty of them.

The learned Judge went carefully through the evidence, and the jury found him guilty of feloniously wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The learned Judge said the prisoner had been found guilty on satisfactory evidence, and it was necessary to put a stop to such proceedings. He therefore sentenced him to penal servitude for four years."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/10/1864

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Appeal against a Public House Conviction at Wednesbury.

This was an appeal by James Rowley, proprietor of the GRAPES INN, Wednesbury, against Messrs. James Solly and J. Marshall, justices of the peace, and John James Holland, superintendent of police, against a conviction by the said magistrates for disorderly conduct at the above named place. Mr. Kenealy (instructed by Mr. Ebsworth) appeared for the appellant; the Hon. Mr. Ryder appeared for the respondents.

The circumstances under which the conviction was made were as follows. It appears that in 1861 *George Rowley*, the uncle of the appellant, and a gentleman well-known in pugilistic circles, separated from his wife, *Selina Rowley*, and to avoid future contact both took public houses under other persons' names. On the 28th of June last, *George Rowley*, being absent from home in London in a case affecting the interest of his son Robert, who was also affected with pugilistic proclivities, left his house under the control of Sarah Ryding, his housekeeper. Mrs. *George Rowley* 'put in an appearance' at the GRAPES INN, and an affray ensuing Mrs. *Rowley* took possession of the tap; in the course of the assault Sarah Ryding being assaulted, if not in a very serious manner. The information for disorderly conduct was taken out by the police, who were censured at the time by the solicitor for the defence for not interfering in the matter. Mrs. *Rowley* was fined by the justices, and James Rowley was also convicted for permitting disorderly conduct in his house against the tenure of his license, and it was against the latter conviction that the appeal was made. The conviction was squashed."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/12/1864 - Advert

BREWER WANTED.—A good **BREWER**, to live in the house; good wages given.—Apply to Mr. Cookson, Horse and Jockey, High Street, Wednesbury.

"Brewer Wanted. A good Brewer, to live in the house; good wages given.

Apply to Mr. Cookson, HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Street, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/10/1866

"Sarah Dean was charged yesterday at Wednesbury Petty Sessions with stealing several shillings, the moneys of her master, Mr. *James Birch*, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen. The prisoner was in the service of Mr. *Birch*, and in consequence of his having missed money he marked several shillings on the 6th of October, and left them in the cash drawer. On the following day he missed them, and afterwards found several of them, with other money, in the possession of the prisoner.

The accused was sentenced to prison for one calendar month."

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 1 am 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 beershop 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 deceased 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."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1869 - Advert

"Wanted, an honest industrious Young Man, to assist in Brewing, and make himself generally useful.

Apply, HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen Wednesbury."

WANTED, an honest industrious Young MAN, to assist in
Brewing, and make himself generally useful.—Apply, Horse
and Jockey, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Illustrated Midland News 22/1/1870

“On Tuesday an enquiry was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury, before the coroner, touching the death of Ann Horan, aged 70 years, who, it was alleged, had received ill-treatment at the hands of the relieving officer of Wednesbury (Mr. Johnson), which had accelerated her death.

Mary Ann Tolley said the deceased had received relief from the parish (2s-a-week) up to Thursday fortnight; that was a cold day, and many persons could not attend the pay-room. Mr. Johnson told deceased's daughter her mother must come herself or she would say she had not had it; but that if her mother was too ill he would go and see her. Mr. Johnson said believing Horan's daughter was telling an untruth, he refused to give her the money, but told her he would call and see her mother. The old woman subsequently came; if she had not attended he would have visited her in half-an-hour's time.

The verdict was that deceased had died from Apoplexy, caused by cold and exposure, to which they added that they thought Mr. Johnson was culpable in compelling the attendance of Ann Horan, knowing her age and her decrepit and diseased state of health. The jury wished their verdict to be laid before the Board of Guardians, and the coroner said he would comply with their request.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/6/1870

“On Monday Mr. Hooper, held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on the body of a woman named Smith, thirty-eight years of age, the wife of a scrap dealer of that name, at Ladburys Lane, who died somewhat suddenly on the 3rd inst. Rumours have been in circulation that the deceased has been ill-treated, and as she has a black eye and there are some marks about the body, the request of the jury that the inquiry should be adjourned until Friday was granted, so that a proper examination may be made.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/6/1870

“Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an adjourned inquest on Friday, touching the death of Keziah Smith, wife of a scrap dealer, living in Ladburys Lane. Considerable interest was manifested in the inquiry, owing to a report that the death of the deceased was caused by foul play, but according to the evidence of Dr. Kerr, there were no marks of violence on the body with the exception of a black eye. He said the deceased had been subject to a failing of the heart's action for several years. She had been examined by Dr. Bell Fletcher, of Birmingham, who advised her to take brandy as a stimulant, and it was his opinion that she had died from delirium tremens through drinking. The evidence of the witnesses was very conflicting as regarded the conduct of the husband, but the jury ultimately returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Joseph Poyner = Joseph Poynor = Joseph Paynon = Joseph Pagnon

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/9/1870 - Birth

“On the 17th inst, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Street, Wednesbury, the wife of *Joseph Pagnon*, of a son.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/12/1870

“An inquest was held yesterday, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, by Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, touching the death of Edward Cook, aged two years and three months, who had lived with his parents in the High Bullen. On Saturday last the deceased upset a teapot which was standing on the table full of hot tea, and the greater part of the contents went over his chest and arms, scalding him very badly. Mr. J Garman, surgeon, was called in to attend him; but despite all the efforts made to restore him, deceased died on Wednesday. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/2/1871 - Died

“On the 21st inst, aged 44 years, Mr. *Joseph Paynon*, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury; deeply regretted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1871

“Transfer of Licenses.....

HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, from *Joseph Poyner* to *Sarah Poyner* (widow).”

1871 Census

29, High Bullen

- [1] Sarah Poynor (42), widow, victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Kate Hadley (29), friend, widow, dressmaker, born West Bromwich;
- [3] J. Beebee (35), barmaid, born Bilston;
- [4] Amy Preston (21), general servant, born Princes End:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/6/1871 - Died

"On the 3rd inst, aged 7 months, Joseph, only and beloved child of the late *Joseph Poynor*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury."

The license renewal to *Sarah Poyner* was refused in June 1871.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/6/1871

"At the Police Court, yesterday.....

An application for the transfer of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, from *Sarah Poyner* to *Edward Adams* was refused."

James Jones was also a wine and spirit merchant. [1872]

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: C. McGuigan, PLOUGH AND HARROW; *J. Jones*, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen; J. Taylor, GREEN DRAGON INN."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/9/1875 - Advert

"Brewer Wanted, to live in the house, and make himself useful.
Apply, *James Jones*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury."

BREWER Wanted, to live in the house, and make himself useful.
Apply, *James Jones*, Horse and Jockey, Wednesbury.

Midland Examiner 24/1/1877

"William Preedy, carter, was charged with leaving a waggon and pair of horses without anyone in charge thereof, outside the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, for upwards of half-an-hour, on the 18th inst, between five and six o'clock pm. Police-constable 101, William Noble, proved the case.

Defendant said that on the evening in question he had to deliver at the HORSE AND JOCKEY 30 bags of malt, that he had used all expedition in doing so, and after the malt was inside the house he was requested to help store it in its proper place. He did not stay a single minute longer than he could help. He called Mr. John Thompson, who said he was defendant's employer. He was quite sure the defendant had not lost any time. Defendant had worked for him for some time, and he was trustworthy.

The Bench said there was a doubt in their minds, and the defendant, in consequence of the good character received, should have the benefit thereof. Summons dismissed."

Wednesbury Herald 27/12/1879

"On Saturday, an inquest was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, by Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), relative to the death of Thomas Proverbs, aged two years, who resided with his parents in Ladburys Lane.

It was showed that on the 16th inst a kettle containing boiling water fell upon him, which so injured him as to cause him to expire on the 17th inst.

There was no blame attached to the parents, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

1881 Census

29, High Bullen – HORSE AND JOCKEY

[1] James Jones (66), publican, born Elmley Lovett, Worcestershire;

[2] Rebecca Jones (61), wife, born Droitwich;

[3] Henry W. J. Jones (22), son, brewer, born West Bromwich;

[4] Mary Jones (61), sister, assistant, born Elmley Lovett, Worcestershire;

[5] Ann Oliver (69), sister, assistant, born Elmley Lovett, Worcestershire;

[6] Harriet J. Holder (5), niece, scholar, born Ireland;

[7] Ann Tilley (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 18/2/1882

"On Saturday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury, on the body of John Burke, alias 'Teapot,' a labourer, residing at Pitts Square, High Bullen, Wednesbury, who died on Thursday morning last. At the time of death it was alleged that he died from the results of violence.

Bridget Joyce, at whose house deceased lived, stated that the deceased left home for work on Tuesday morning, and did not return till Wednesday morning, and when asked where he had been, replied, 'At the Welshman's house.' He said his cheek was bad, and his jaw bone broken, and he thought it had been done by the Welshman. After being in bed for a short time he went to the WREXHAM [either the DARTMOUTH ARMS or GEORGE], returned about 3.30, and went to bed. About 7.30 he got up and asked for some drink, and about an hour after, as he was upstairs, she heard him rattling in the throat. Dr. Blackwood was sent for but was not at home. Deceased died a little after 12 o'clock. Witness did not see him die as she was getting some drink ready for him.

Edward Rowland, alias 'Ned the Welshman,' a labourer, of Portway Road, stated that he and deceased were drinking together on Tuesday morning, and about 12.30 were in witness's house together. Burke was then quite drunk and misconducted himself. Witness changed his (Burke's) clothes for him and left the house, when he returned about 5.15 and found Burke there still, and who remained all night. During the night witness heard him making a noise, got up to him, and in accordance with his request, gave him something to drink. Deceased was near the fireplace, and the 'raker' was close to him, and witness believed that Burke would have been burnt, had he not got up to him. Witness went to his work, and on returning for breakfast Burke said, 'Ned, look up here under my jaw, and see how it is swelling; it is welly all over with me.' Witness looked and found a swelling, but did not ask him how it was done. Witness's wife thought it was the draft of the doors. Deceased left about 7.30, went to a public house, and had some more drink. There had not been any quarrel. Witness did not hear till after deceased had died that deceased had said he (witness) had ill-used him. Deceased was a man that was given to drink very much.

Police-constable Lytle gave the information he had obtained relative to the deceased's death, but there was nothing to show definitely that deceased had been ill-used. He had not heard of any quarrelling at all.

A juryman said he had known deceased for 40 years, during which period he had been addicted to drink.

The coroner said that his own impression was that the deceased had not been ill-used by anyone, but that his death was simply the result of drink.

The verdict of the jury was that deceased had died from excessive drinking."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1882 - Advert

"Brewer. Wanted, a steady young Man to Brew and make himself useful.

Apply, J. Jones, HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury."

BREWER.—Wanted, a steady young Man, to Brew and make himself useful.—Apply, J. Jones, Horse and Jockey, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1882

"Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, yesterday, touching the death of Frederick Henry Edwards (16), who was employed as an assistant to Mr. H. Haines, grocer, Upper High Street, and with whom he resided. The family retired to rest about eleven o'clock on Sunday evening, Edwards sleeping in a separate room. He was heard to strike a match, with the intention, it is supposed, of lighting the gas. As he did not make his appearance at the breakfast table next morning, Mr. Haines went upstairs, and on entering his room found that Edwards was dead in bed. The room was full of gas, which was escaping from the burner, the tap being turned on. Dr. Moore was called in, and expressed the opinion that the deceased died from suffocation, through inhaling the gas. It is believed that, after extinguishing the light to get into bed, Edwards must have caught his hand against the tap. The Coroner pointed out that the gas bracket was defective; but Mr. Haines stated that he had examined it, and found that the gas did not escape in that way. The jury were of opinion that deceased came by his death through inhaling the gas, and a verdict to that effect was accordingly returned."

Dudley and District News 12/1/1884

"Mary Knight, of no fixed abode, was charged with stealing 2lbs of beef, 2½lbs of pork, and a pocket handkerchief, the property of a labourer named John Darby.

On Saturday night last, the prosecutor was at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, and had the meat mentioned tied up in a pocket handkerchief, with him. Prisoner was also there, and she, during the temporary absence of the prosecutor, left the house and took the bundle with her. She was subsequently arrested at a lodging-house in the High Bullen by PS Lightfoot, and pleaded guilty to the charge. She was committed to 14 days' imprisonment, with hard labour."

Wednesbury Herald 1/3/1884

"On Saturday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner), held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, touching the death of Benjamin W. Ethell, aged 12 years, who died suddenly on Thursday. He went to school as usual on Thursday morning, and on leaving at twelve o'clock complained of a violent pain in his stomach, and died at a quarter past twelve.

The Coroner remarked that there was no doubt that death had been caused by a severe attack of inflammation.

The jury did not consider a post mortem examination necessary, and returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/3/1885

"An inquest was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on Thursday evening, on the body of John Groves (57), carter, Ladburys Lane.

On Tuesday the deceased was with his horse and cart in Oxford Street, Tipton, when the horse shied at a passing tram car, and caused the cart to jerk. The deceased fell from the cart on to the road, and one of the wheels of the cart passing over his chest, he sustained severe injuries, which resulted in his death on the following day.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/5/1889 - Advert

"Wanted, respectable Servant Girl.

Apply, *Jones*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury."

WANTED, respectable Servant Girl.—Apply, *Jones*, Horse and Jockey, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Mail 20/1/1891

"In the Queen's Bench Division, yesterday, Mr. Justice Lawrance gave judgement in the case of Merrick and others v *Jones* and another, which was tried before his lordship at Birmingham, in August last. This was an action brought to recover possession of a licensed house and premises, known as the HORSE AND JOCKEY, at Wednesbury.

By an indenture, dated September, 1835, Elizabeth Lloyd Sutton, upon her marriage with *James Parish*, settled the house and premises upon herself and her husband and the survivor of them for life, with remainder to herself. On December 16, 1836, Elizabeth Lloyd Parish died intestate, leaving her husband surviving. Subject to the life interest of James Parish the estate descended to John Sutton, as the heir-at-law. On the death of John Sutton, intestate, on December 30, 1839, the estate descended to his three daughters as co-heiresses in thirds, to shares they now claimed that they were entitled. *James Parish* died on April 16, 1886, and the defendants, it was alleged, then wrongfully took possession of the premises. The plaintiffs also claimed mesne profits.

The defence was that George H. Parish was in possession by himself or by *Rebecca Jones*, his tenant. If the indenture of September 2, 1835, ever existed as a valid indenture, which the defendants did not admit, and if it affected the premises in question, which was not admitted, the premises were never affected by the indenture in that part which purported to be covenant to surrender certain copyholds. The copyholds were never surrendered by Elizabeth Lloyd Sutton or her heirs, and the covenant became barred by the lapse of time and the statute of limitations. If the premises were affected by the indenture, John Sutton was not the heir of Elizabeth Lloyd Parish according to the custom of the manor of Wednesbury, neither would the plaintiffs take by descent from John Sutton according to the custom of the manor.

His Lordship, having taken time to consider the evidence, now gave judgement for the plaintiffs with costs, and directed that the rent now due from the tenant should be paid to plaintiffs.”

Wednesbury Herald 31/1/1891

“Yesterday (Friday) afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, touching the death of John Turner (58), moulder, of 81, Ladburys Lane, who committed suicide by hanging himself on Wednesday.

His widow gave evidence that for some time past her husband had been strange in his manner, brought about, in her opinion, by violent pains in his head which had prevented him from following his employment. On Wednesday morning he thought himself sufficiently recovered to be able to resume his work at the Crown Tube Works, and he went thither accordingly. Before long, however, he returned and complained to witness that his head was bad again and he could not work. He went upstairs to rest. After an interval of more than three hours she called him, and receiving no response went into the bedroom and found him suspended by means of a rope attached to a hook in the bed post. He was apparently quite dead. She raised an alarm and a neighbour named Timmins came in and cut him down. Deceased had only been in receipt of 5s a week lately, and this had preyed on his mind very much. He had told her that he could not live through it, and she had several times been afraid of him.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.”

1891 Census

29, High Bullen – HORSE AND JOCKEY

- [1] *Rebecca Jones* (71), widow, publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] William H. J. Jones (32), son, brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sarah Jones (32), daughter-in-law, born Wednesbury;
- [4] George Jones (7), grand-son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Harry Jones (2), grand-son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] James Jones (4 months), grand-son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Ann Oliver (79), sister-in-law, born Elm Lovatt, Worcestershire;
- [8] Harriet J. Holder (15), niece, assistant in pawnshop, born Dublin;
- [9] Florence Brockhouse (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/5/1892 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire. Important Sale of Old-established Full-Licensed Inn, known as the HORSE AND JOCKEY, situate at the High Bullen, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, May 23rd.

Messrs. Belcher and Son are favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, upon the above date, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Half-past Seven o’clock in the evening precisely.....

All that old-established Full-licensed Inn and Premises known as the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, situate in the High Bullen, Wednesbury, comprising Bar-Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Club Room, four Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Pantry, Brewhouse, Cellar, Stabling, Piggeries, Shedding, and commodious Yard.

The whole is in the occupation of Mrs. *Rebecca Jones*, at the low rental of £50 per annum.

The Property has a commanding corner position in one of the busiest parts of the town, and is in the centre of a dense population, in close proximity to large works, and capable of doing a large and remunerative trade.

The Property is Copyhold of the Manor of Wednesbury.

NB. Arrangements, if so desired by a purchaser, can be made for the enfranchisement of the Property in the vendors’ names prior to the completion of the purchase, the purchaser bearing the expense attending the same.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston, or to Thursfield and Messiter, Solicitors, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1892

“William Pottinger, Greets Green, appeared to answer two summonses; the one charging him with having killed a young homing pigeon, value £1, the property of *William Henry James Jones*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wednesbury, and the other with having killed a young homing pigeon, the property of William Gabb, Neal Street, West Bromwich.

Mr. A. H. Halford, of Worcester, appeared for the Midland Homing Pigeon Protection Society, and referred to the serious losses sustained by the keepers of homing pigeons through people systematically assembling to shoot the pigeons as they fled homewards. There was also, he said, some danger to the general public, as was shown by cases which had recently been seen before some of the courts of the district. He then called Mr. *Jones*, who said that on the 18th ult he sent seventeen birds to be tossed at West Bromwich. Only ten of them returned that day, another coming back to the loft in a wounded condition on the following morning. The one which the defendant was charged with killing was worth at least £1, the parents having been famous birds, and having cost £5. He, in common with other keepers of such pigeons, had had many of them shot.

Other witnesses were called, whose evidence showed that the defendant and other persons were assembled at Greets Green with guns, and that defendant succeeded in bringing down one bird, which fell on to a stable of Mr. Rabone's works. The ring and marked feather showed that it was one of the prosecutor's birds. A fine of 1s and costs (£1 3s) and 20s damages was imposed, with the option of one month's imprisonment.

In the second case, Mr. Gabb deposed that on the 13th July he sent several birds to Kings Norton to be liberated, and he identified the ring and marked feather as showing the bird killed was one of those belonging to him. The bird was worth 20s, its parents having cost £2 2s, and it was in training. In the absence of a material witness, who was said to be afraid to attend without being summoned, the case was adjourned for a fortnight.”

Midland Sun 3/6/1893

“On Monday afternoon last, Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on the body of George Francis Longmore, aged six months, who died very suddenly on Saturday, May 27th. The mother of the deceased said she put her child to bed on Saturday at about two o'clock, when it appeared to be in its usual good health. She went upstairs again about four o'clock on the same day, thinking it strange the child had not wakened, when to her surprise she found that it had had a fit. She instantly communicated with Dr. Dingley, but before he arrived the child was dead. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Wednesbury Herald 16/2/1895

“A supper attended by several tradesmen and friends was given at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, on Tuesday evening last. The spread was a very enjoyable one, and credit is due to Mr. and Mrs. *Jones* for their catering.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/12/1898

“On Tuesday night at a meeting of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, Councillor Sheldon presiding, a lengthy discussion took place respecting the unfair trading resorted to by certain brewers in giving the ‘long pull.’

Mr. E. Birch said the retail dealers had undoubtedly a very serious grievance, for they were being most unfairly handicapped by certain brewers who supplied a quart of ale for a pint.

The Chairman said he considered the action of some brewers as mean and contemptible, as it would undoubtedly cause some of the retailers to be ruined.

It was unanimously resolved to ask the representatives of the association to bring the question before the delegates at the meeting of the National Trade Defence Fund at Birmingham in January.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1901 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Old-Established Full-Licensed Inn, known as the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, situate at the High Bullen, Wednesbury. Tuesday, March 26, 1901.

Belcher & Son, FAI, are favoured with instructions to offer for Sale by Public Auction, upon the above date, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to Conditions which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, to be then produced and read.

All that Old-Established Full- Licensed Inn and Premises, known as the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, situate in the High Bullen, Wednesbury, comprising Bar, Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Club Room, four Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Pantry, Brewhouse, Cellar, Stabling, Piggeries, Shedding, and commodious Yard. The whole is in the occupation of

Mr. *W. H. Jones*, at a low rental producing £65 per annum, the tenancy being determinable by three months' notice. The House has a commanding corner position in one of the busiest parts of the town, and is in the centre of a dense population, in close proximity to large works, Market Place, and Theatre, and is capable of doing a large and remunerative trade.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston; or to Thursfield and Messiter, Solicitors, Wednesbury."

1901 Census

29, High Bullen

[1] *William H. J. Jones* (42), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Sarah Jones* (42), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *William Jones* (8), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Bertha Jones* (6), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Clarence Jones* (5), son, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Clifford Jones* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Baden Jones* (1), son, born Wednesbury;

[9] *Elizabeth Shirley* (21), barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[10] *Mary Adson* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[11] *Maria Turner* (18), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

William Henry James Jones – see also OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1904

"Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

Eight licenses were objected to by the police.....

HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen.

In each instance a conviction was recorded against the house. License renewed."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 5/3/1904

"Wednesbury sessions took place yesterday.....

The Mayor said the magistrates twelve months go recommended that the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, should be rebuilt, as it was in a most dilapidated condition, and he questioned whether a tall man could stand upright in some of the rooms. The Bench hoped no further time would be lost in complying with their wishes."

1911 Census

29, High Bullen – HORSE AND JOCKEY INN

[1] *William John McLean* (44), licensed victualler, born Leith, Midlothian;

[2] *Elizabeth Ann McLean* (43), wife, married 12 years, assisting in the business, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Hector Archibald Donald McLean* (11), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Jessie Josephine Adelaide McLean* (11), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Elspeth Alexandra Hillary McLean* (7), daughter, school, born West Bromwich;

[6] *Muriel Francis Sybil McLean* (6), daughter, school, born Walsall;

[7] *Marie Madeline May McLean* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Ronald Alexander Stuart McLean* (2 months), son, born Wednesbury;

[9] *James McLean* (31), brother, gunner, army, born Annan, Dumfriesshire;

[10] *Alice Florence Hartshorn* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[11] *Lois Edwards* (18), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Walsall Observer 9/11/1912

"At the Police Court, on Tuesday, *William John McClean*, licensee of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, was summoned for allowing children under fourteen years of age to be in the bar of licensed premises. Evidence was given by Sergeant Harris to the effect that on October 1st he found two children in a room where adults were partaking of drink. Mr. H. A. Glover defended, and said that this room was a private one, but unfortunately on this occasion the adults had taken their drinks inside.

A fine of 10s and costs (£1 15s in all) was imposed."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/11/1912

“An exciting incident occurred at Wednesbury, this morning, resulting in a groom being seriously injured. From the facts obtained it appears the Mr. Fritz Albert Bendar, of 53, Wellington Road, Bilston, who is a traveller for Messrs. Barlow, millers, of Bilston, was being driven in a gig by his groom, Robert Maybury, of 13, Millfields Road, Ettingshall, and when crossing the High Bullen, the horse shied and collided with a waggon loaded with iron. The two occupants were thrown out, and the shafts of the gig were broken. The horse freed itself and dashed away, eventually being captured at James Bridge, Darlaston.

The two men were immediately attended to, and conveyed into the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, near by. It was found that Mr. Bendar had not sustained any injuries, but was suffering from shock. The groom, however, was very seriously injured, and Dr. Garman was called in. It was then found that Maybury had sustained two broken ribs and other minor injuries. He was attended to at once, and afterwards conveyed to his home.”

Black Country Bugle 24/8/2000

‘Wednesbury’s Horse and Jockey.....’

“.....A newspaper report dated Saturday February 1st 1913 described the bizarre events that had befallen it the previous Tuesday. Customers in the ‘most ancient and historic hostelry’ heard a rumble from above them at about half past eight that evening, and as they looked up saw the ceiling quake as if it was about to come crashing in on them. There ensued a great scuffle as regulars and staff alike made a bid for the door onto the street, and fortunately everyone got out in one piece. It was only when they gathered on the pavement and looked up that they all realized just how lucky they had been. The place was a mass of debris, and the pub’s huge sign which the reports say weighed about 15 hundredweight was lying in the road. The cause of the mayhem was soon apparent. The roof had completely collapsed and most of it had fallen in on the building, or slid off altogether, thanks to the support beams being completely rotted through.....

The HORSE AND JOCKEY was reputed to be two hundred years old when it collapsed.....”

Evening Despatch 30/1/1913

“Wednesbury was startled last night by the unaccountable collapse of a portion of a local public house, and until an early hour this morning a large crowd remained on the High Bullen viewing the effects. The HORSE AND JOCKEY, one of the oldest public houses in the town, in front of which it is said John Wesley preached, was the establishment involved. About half the roof, consisting of the whole of the front section and covering that portion of the premises set apart as a club-room, fell in, and the wing presented the appearance of a ruin. Fortunately, the happening was not attended by personal mishap.

Mr. *W. J. McLean*, the proprietor, told the story in detail to a *Despatch* representative. ‘It was a startler,’ he observed. ‘The house was fairly well-filled with customers, when a singular rumbling noise was heard and then a terrific bang. I was in the smoke-room at the time, and rushed into the front portion of the house, to find a leg of the table protruding through the ceiling. Something like a panic occurred. Everyone rushed from the house, and I ran out to see what was the matter. The huge sign bearing the name of the inn lay on the ground, and it became clear that the whole roof had collapsed into the club-room. I went upstairs and there saw that which took my breath away. The whole place was completely shattered. A piano valued, I should say, at £15 was broken into splinters, and a number of pictures had shared the same fate, including one worth about £10.’

Viewed from within, the scene was remarkable. The unroofed walls stood out darkly, the sky being visible. Though the club-room suffered severely, an adjoining bedroom escaped damage.

The cause of the occurrence cannot be stated; but the age of the premises may have been a factor. The inn is Mr. *McLean*’s own property, and quite recently repairs were executed.”

Walsall Observer 8/2/1913

“At the Police Court, yesterday week, William Bethell (45), Chapel Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for stealing a quantity of coal, the property of *William John McLean*.

Mr. *McLean* stated that he was the proprietor of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, which house collapsed on Wednesday night. The prisoner was engaged by Mr. Holloway, a builder, to watch the premises during the night after the accident had occurred. He was supplied with a quantity of coal to keep the fires going, but had no right to use it for any other purpose. The coal produced was similar to that supplied to the prisoner.

Police-constable Ansell stated that on January 30th he saw prisoner near his home in Chapel Street with some coal in a handcart. In answer to witness prisoner said the coal had been given to him to keep the fires going at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, and as there was more than he wanted he took it home. No one gave him permission to do so. He said he did not think he was stealing it, and expressed his sorrow. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and the Bench gave him another chance, binding him over for six months in the sum of £5."

Walsall Observer 15/2/1913

"Wednesbury Licensing Sessions.....

With regard to the renewal of the license of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, that would be adjourned until the licensing sessions in March, and in the meantime notice of opposition would be served on the ground that the premises were structurally unsuitable. He hoped the owner would be in a position to submit plans to the justices. Mr. A. H. Glover said he was instructed to say that already the architect had been instructed to prepare certain plans for the rebuilding of the house. He would submit plans at the adjourned sessions which would be acceptable to the licensing justices and the Corporation."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/3/1913

"Wednesbury. Thursday.....

Mr. A. J. Glover applied for the renewal of the license of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, an ancient Wednesbury inn, the upper storey of which collapsed some weeks ago, and with regard to which objection was now taken that the premises were structurally unsuitable to be licensed. He said that at the Annual Licensing Meeting it was suggested by the justices that this house should be practically rebuilt, and Mr. *W. J. McLean*, the owner and tenant, undertook to comply with their wishes. From plans which had been deposited it would be seen he had carried out his promise. The magistrates approved the plans and renewed the license."

It was rebuilt in 1913.

1921 Census

High Bullen/Trouse Lane – HORSE AND JOCKEY INN

[1] *Thomas Jones* (33), public house manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Maud Jones* (32), wife, born Coseley;

[3] *Edith Lees* (27), general servant and barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Lily Webb* (22), boarder, tailor's assistant, out of work, born Wellington, Shropshire:

The Stage 14/5/1931 - Advert

"Have a Basin Full of Tripe and Onions. The Tasty Comedy Revue. Full Star Cast. Vacant Monday. Wire, Manager, HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wednesbury."

Walsall Observer 3/12/1932

"When Mr. J. W. Banfield, MP, was the guest of the Wednesbury branch of the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers, Confectioners, and Allied Workers, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, on Saturday night, he took the opportunity of impressing on his colleagues in the Union, of which he is secretary, the necessity for the abolition of night baking on the ground that it was unnecessary to the trade. He referred to the Bill on the subject that he was to present in Parliament last Tuesday, and he said that whilst he did not expect it to go through the first time he would know, when it did get through, that it would have been his life's work. He said that the men who were working every night were 'condemned' and he knew that the trade could do without it. Mr. Banfield also thought the time had come for a general reduction in the hours of labour in favour of the unemployed who wanted to work. Forty hours were sufficient in a week, he thought, and at the same time wages should be brought up to a decent standard. The country was big enough and powerful enough to give everyone a chance....."

Evening Despatch 14/7/1934

"Emily Page, aged 72, of no fixed abode, was sentenced in Birmingham today to three months' imprisonment for stealing a pair of stockings from Marks and Spencers, High Street, and a bottle of scent from Henry's Stores. The theft of a diamond ring (valued at £14) from a bedroom at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, was also taken into consideration at her request. Det-Con. Renshaw said that the woman (who had a bad record) was the wife of a Methodist minister in Yorkshire, but had been separated from him for 20 years. He allowed her £5 a month."

1939 Register

High Bullen – HORSE AND JOCKEY

[1] *Thomas Jones*, date of birth 13/8/1887, licensee, wines and spirits and beer, married;

[2] *Maude Jones*, dob 15/10/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Faith (Gough) Lloyd*, dob 12/2/1903, bar general, paid domestic, single:

Bilston and Willenhall Times 16/2/1946

“On Monday night at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, a crib match took place between the Pick of the League and the HORSE AND JOCKEY in aid of Walsall General Hospital.

HORSE AND JOCKEY won 8-3. A concert which followed was a great success.....”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

Teams from here took part in the Wednesbury Darts League. [1946]

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.....

Thomas Jones, HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 1/3/1952

“A meeting will be held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury, at 7-30pm on Monday next, to consider the formation of a new football league for works teams in Wednesbury, Walsall, Darlaston, and the adjoining district. Clubs interested should communicate with Mr. T. E. Shaughnessy, 1, Wesley Grove, Bilston Road, Wednesbury. The league, if formed, will be under the jurisdiction of the Staffordshire FA.”

Evening Despatch 31/8/1954

“Twenty candidates from Birmingham and the Midlands were successful in the licensed trade diploma examination held in July, it is announced today. Entrants for this examination – which followed a three months course dealing with all aspects of running a modern inn – include men and women, many of whom are already licensees.....

Credit *W. E. Jones*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

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

HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 23/3/1967

“The wedding took place at St. Bartholomew’s Parish Church, Wednesbury, on Saturday, of Mr. Peter Graham Wilkes, youngest son of the late Mr. W. Wilkes and Mrs. C. Horney of 13, Abbots Street, Bloxwich and Miss Brenda Yvonne Whiting, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *E. J. Whiting* of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury. The Rev. P. G. Owen conducted the ceremony.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a full-length gown of lace and nylon with a chiffon train falling from the waist. A four veil was held in place by a diamante band and she carried a bouquet of lemon tea roses and white freesias. She was attended by Misses Christine Whiting (sister), Elaine Higgins, Madeline Higgins, and Susan Hayward (cousins). The two senior bridesmaids wore full-length dresses in ice blue brocade with royal blue velvet belts and headbands. They carried bouquets of white carnations. The two juniors wore matching dresses in apricot brocade with floral head-dresses and carried bouquets of white mixed flowers.

Mr. R. W. Wilkes, the bride-groom’s brother, was the best man.”

Closed

It was demolished in 1968 for the Northern Orbital Bypass.

THE GREAT 'PICTURE'

OF
THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT
BETWEEN
SAYERS AND HEENAN.

SOLE AGENT FOR BIRMINGHAM AND STAFFORDSHIRE
MR. GEORGE ROWLEY,
WEDNESBURY.

Specimens to be seen, and Orders taken at
THE SWAN INN,
UPPER PRIORY.

1860

PUBLIC NOTICE.—I, GEORGE ROWLEY, late of the Horse and Jockey Inn, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, do hereby give notice, that by an Indenture dated the twentieth day of April, 1861, I ASSIGNED and TRANSFERRED the BUSINESS of the said INN, and my PROPERTY and INTEREST therein, to JOSEPH GWILT, of Westbromwich, Staffordshire, Innkeeper (since deceased, in consideration of the said Joseph Gwilt paying my creditors therein named in manner therein mentioned the amount of the debts owing by me to them respectively, and of his indemnifying me against the payment of the same debts, and from all damages consequent upon non-payment thereof.

And I hereby further give notice, that I am not liable to, nor will I pay, any debts my wife, SELINA ROWLEY, may have contracted since the date of the said Indenture, or to any debts she may hereafter contract in my name, I having been legally separated from her by deed of contemporaneous date with the said Indenture, and she has since been carrying on the said business on account of the said Joseph Gwilt and his widow respectively.

GEORGE ROWLEY.

N.B.—The estate of the late Joseph Gwilt is amply sufficient to pay all just debts and demands.

Wednesbury, 30th September, 1861.

1861

"HORSE AND JOCKEY INN," WEDNESBURY.
BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, THIS DAY (Wednesday), on the Premises, High Bullen—the LICENS&S, BREWING PLANT, &c. And TO-MORROW (Wednesday), at the Auction Rooms, near the Market Place, Wednesbury—the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.

RE ELIZABETH GWILT, BANKRUPT.

TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.

JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE will OFFER for SALE, THIS DAY (Thursday, Jan. 23), commencing at half-past Ten, at the Midland Counties Auction Rooms, near the Market Place, Wednesbury (removed from the Horse and Jockey Inn, for convenience of sale)—the whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Public House Requisites, Stock of ALES and SPIRITS, Public House Fixtures, Sporting Prints, and other Effects, according to catalogue.

At Two o'clock precisely will be offered for Sale, a Well-built PLEASURE VAN, capable of carrying forty people; also an excellent SPRING TRAP.

Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's Offices, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WALSALL.

IN the Matter of ELIZABETH GWILT, of West Bromwich, in the County of Stafford, and of Wednesbury in the same County, Innkeeper, 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.

1863

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.
Important SALE of Old-established FULL-LICENSED INN,
known as the

"HORSE AND JOCKEY,"

Situate at the High Bullen, Wednesbury,
ON MONDAY NEXT, MAY 23RD.

MESSRS. BELCHER and SON are favoured with instructions to Offer for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION, upon the above date, at the Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, to be then produced and read—all that old-established Full-licensed Inn and Premises known as the

"HORSE AND JOCKEY" INN,

Situate in the High Bullen, Wednesbury, comprising Bar-Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Club Room, four Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Pantry, Brewhouse, Cellar, Stabling, Piggeries, Shedding, and commodious Yard.

The whole is in the occupation of Mrs. Rebecca Jones, at the low rental of £50 per annum.

The Property has a commanding corner position in one of the busiest parts of the town, and is in the centre of a dense population, in close proximity to large works, and capable of doing a large and remunerative trade.

The Property is Copyhold of the Manor of Wednesbury.

N.B.—Arrangements, if so desired by a purchaser, can be made for the enfranchisement of the Property in the vendors' names prior to the completion of the purchase, the purchaser bearing the expense attending the same.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston, or to Thursfield and Messiter, Solicitors, Wednesbury.

1892

WEDNESBURY.

IMPORTANT SALE OF FREEHOLD
OLD-ESTABLISHED FULL-LICENSED INN,

Known as the

"HORSE AND JOCKEY INN."

SITUATE AT THE HIGH BULLEN, WEDNESBURY.
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1901.

BELCHER & SON, F.A.I., are favoured with instructions to offer for Sale by Public Auction, upon the above date, at the Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to Conditions which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, to be then produced and read—all that OLD-ESTABLISHED FULL-LICENSED INN AND PREMISES, known as the

"HORSE AND JOCKEY INN."

situate in the High Bullen, Wednesbury, comprising Bar, Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Club Room, four Bed Rooms, Kitchen, Pantry, Brewhouse, Cellar, Stabling, Piggeries, Shedding, and commodious Yard. The whole is in the occupation of Mr. W. H. J. Jones, at a low rental producing £65 per annum, the tenancy being determinable by three months' notice.

The House has a commanding corner position in one of the busiest parts of the town, and is in the centre of a dense population, in close proximity to large works, Market Place, and Theatre, and is capable of doing a large and remunerative trade.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston; or to Thursfield and Messiter, Solicitors, Wednesbury.

1901

HAVE A BASIN FULL

OF

TRIPE & ONIONS

The Tasty Comedy Revue.

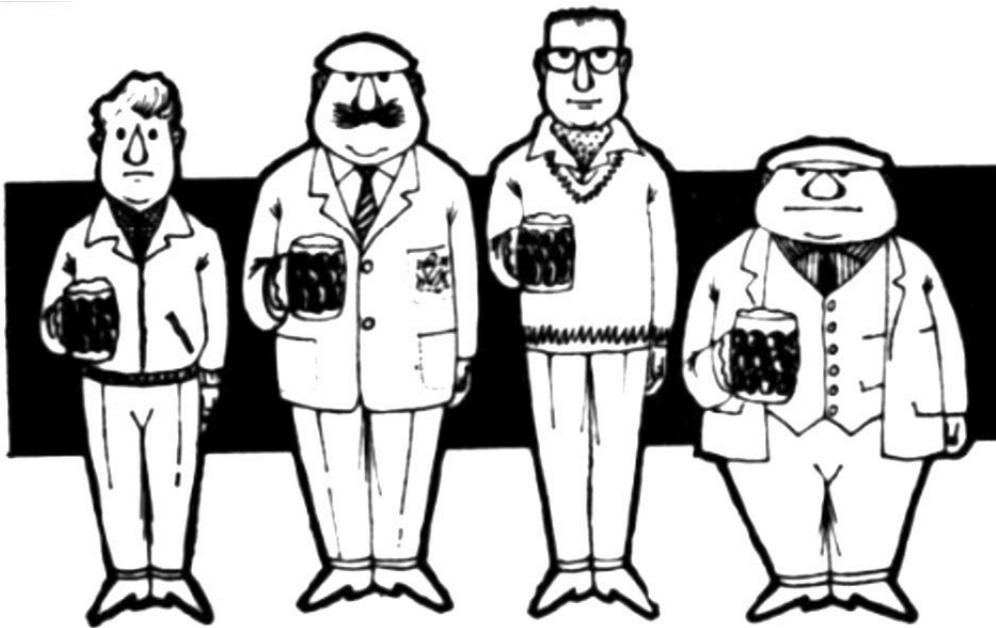
FULL STAR CAST.

VACANT MONDAY

Wire, MAN'GER.

Horse and Jockey Hotel, Wednesbury.

1932



ATTENTION! all MILD drinkers

**HIGHGATE MILD is now available in the
following BUTLERS and ATKINSONS houses:—**

BRIDGE HOUSE, Bloxwich Road, Walsall.
NEW NAVIGATION, Birchills, Walsall.
WALSALL ARMS, Bank Street, Walsall.
FALCON, Lichfield Street, Walsall.
FITTERS ARMS, Hatherton St., Walsall.
FORGE HAMMER, Rolling Mill Street, Pieck, Walsall.
FOUNTAIN, Lower Forster Street, Walsall.
NEW INN, Green Lane, Walsall.
PRINCE OF WALES, Queen St., Walsall.
BEAR & RAGGED STAFF, High Street, Walsall.
COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridgeman St., Walsall.
TANNERS ARMS, Day Street, Walsall.
DUKE OF YORK, Moxley Rd., Darlaston.
BLACK HORSE, Pinfold St., Darlaston.
NELSON, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.
WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.
KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.
DARTMOUTH INN, High St., Darlaston.
NAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.
OLD BUSH, The Green, Darlaston.
STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge, Darlaston.

RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, Darlaston.
RISING SUN, Piercy Street, Newtown, Wednesbury.
FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Wednesbury.
OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.
PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street, Wednesbury.
COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury.
SPRING COTTAGE, The Paddock, Walsall.
HARDEN, Coalpool Lane, Walsall.
NEWPORT ARMS, Pieck Road, Walsall.
VINE, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall.
KINGS ARMS, High Street, Bloxwich.
FOUNTAIN, Portland Street, Walsall.
STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.
BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.
HORSE & JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury.
GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.



Pride of the Midlands

HORSE AND JOCKEY

Wood Green Road, (84, Wood Green), (84, Walsall Road) / Hobs Road, Wood Green, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Edwin Butler
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1893 for £2,800)
Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired 1st March 1935)
Ansells Ltd. [1961], [1982]
Allied Breweries
Vanguard [1987]

LICENSEES

William Brighton [1818]
Samuel Bayley [1828] – [1830]
James Turner [1834]
Maria Keay [1835] – [1842]
Charles Spittle [1844] – [1845]
Miss Helen Spittle [1849] – **1851**;
Thomas Wells **(1851)**;
William Bradley **(1851 – 1852)**;
James Yates **(1852 – 1856)**;
Frederick Beeson **(1856 – 1866)**;
William Minifie **(1866 – [1870]**
Mrs. Harriet (Minifie) Smallman [] – **1871**;
John Smallman **(1871 – [1872]**
William Benjamin Hammond [1876] – [1881]
Edwin Butler [1887] – [1892]
Harold Shaw Butler [1901] – [1903]
Job F Piper [1904]
A H Robinson [1908]
Arthur E Tavenner [1911] – [1916]
William Taylor [1921] – [1927]
Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor [1928] – [1934]
Herbert Vivian Barlowe **(1934 – 1936)**;
Arthur Robert Royce **(1936 – []**
Jessie Sophia Maud Meir [1939] – **1958**;
Wilfred Sanson 'Wilf' Meir **(1958 – [1969]**
Nick Cutler [1970]
John Joseph McCullagh []

NOTES

84, Walsall Road [1871]
84, Wood Green [1881]

OLD HORSE AND JOCKEY [1841], [1842], [1850]



1996



2025

1841 Census

Wood Green

- [1] *Maria Keay* (60), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Charles Spittle* (39), gun lock maker, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Helen Spittle* (35), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Frederick Spittle* (30), plumber and glazier, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Ann Hodgetts* (13), f.s.:

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1844

"A Lodge of the Ancient Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity, was opened at the house of Mr. *C. Spittle*, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, April 9, 1844. A number of members were initiated and others proposed, after which an excellent dinner was provided by the worthy host, whose endeavours to render his guests comfortable and happy were duly appreciated by all present. The cloth having been drawn, the chair was taken by Mr. Henry Richards, and the able manner in which he discharged his duty frequently elicited loud bursts of applause. Mr. *Charles Spittle* occupied the vice-chair, who assisted much in promoting the harmony of the day. The many loyal toasts were drunk with applause; the Queen, Prince Albert, Prince of Wales, Queen Dowager, &c. Mr. Halford, NG, delivered a very impressive speech, as did also the officers of the Walsall district, who assisted much in the proceedings of the day. The company separated at a late hour, highly gratified with the day's proceedings."

Charles Spittle died in the 3rd quarter of 1845.

Birmingham Journal 25/10/1845 - Advert

"In the Matter of the Late Mr. *Charles Spittle*, Wood Green, Gun Lock Contractor and Innkeeper. All Persons having proved their Debts against the above Estate, may receive a first and final Dividend by applying at the WHITE LION INN, Wednesbury, on Monday next, at Three o'clock. Henry Richards, J. W Purvis, Trustees."

Helen Spittle = Ellen Spittle

Birmingham Journal 18/1/1851 - Died

"On the 12th inst, Miss *Ellen Spittle*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, aged 46 years, much lamented."

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/1/1851

"On Sunday morning last, Miss *Helen Spittle*, aged 43 years, died at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury. Deceased was a passenger in the train which recently met with an accident near Vauxhall, Birmingham, and upon that occasion she received some slight injuries. Whether those injuries resulted in her death will be determined, probably, at the adjourned inquest, which is to be held on the body on Tuesday next."

Birmingham Journal 25/1/1851

"We stated last in week's *Journal*, that an inquest had been opened by Mr. Hinchliffe, the Coroner, on the body of Miss *Helen Spittle*, landlady of the HORSE AND JOCKEY public house, Wood Green, Wednesbury, in consequence of its being conjectured that her death had been accelerated by certain injuries she received in a collision which took place between a South Staffordshire train and some coke waggons, near Vauxhall Station, Birmingham, two or three months back. The adjourned inquiry took place on Tuesday last, when there were present a number of gentlemen connected with the railway. However, evidence in regard to the accident itself was rendered unnecessary by the evidence of deceased's regular medical attendant, Mr. Best, who, from the post mortem examination, was able to give an unqualified opinion that death had resulted from inflammation of the stomach, not in any way connected with any of the bruises she received on the occasion in question. The Jury returned a verdict to that effect. We may state that the railway company had paid Miss *Spittle* every attention, and even made her some pecuniary recompense for the injuries she sustained, although they were not of a serious character."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/4/1851

“The following licenses were transferred.....

HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury, transferred under the following circumstances. The former holder, Mrs. *Spittle*, had died (from the effects of a railway accident), insolvent. Some friends, through Mr. Purvis, had settled her affairs, and today Mr. Dalby, on behalf of those who had paid this money, asked the Court to appoint Mr. *T. Wells* as landlord, allowing him the license; and this was accordingly done.”

1851 Census

Wood Green

[1] *Thomas Wells* (29), licensed victualler, born Handsworth;

[2] *Harriot Wells* (32), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Ann Mousley* (17), house servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“On Wednesday, the annual petty sessions for the Hundred of Offlow South was held.....

Licenses suspended until September 29.....

James Yates, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury. This was a curious matter; Mr. *Yates* had very recently taken this house from the former landlord (Mr. *William Bradley*) and a few days ago was found not only permitting gaming in his house but he himself taking a hand at the cards. Being summoned by the chief-superintendent, *Yates* did not attend, and a warrant has been issued to compel his attendance at Wednesbury before the magistrates; on Saturday the defendant came to Barr sessions, and referring to his absence at the Public Office, Wednesbury, said he had a brother very ill. The suspension thus stands over until the result of the gaming inquiry.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/10/1852

“Adjourned licensing sessions.....

The suspended cases were brought forward for decision.....

James Yates, of Wednesbury, was cautioned, and his license given to him again.”

Birmingham Journal 25/2/1854

“The following Prisoners, whose Estates and Effects have been vested in the Provisional Assignee, by orders of the Court, and whose Petitions and Schedules filed in the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, have been duly referred and transmitted to the County Court of Warwickshire, holden at Coventry, pursuant to the Statute in that behalf, are ordered to be brought up before the Judge of the said County Court, at Coventry aforesaid, to be dealt with according to law, on Wednesday, the 22nd day of March, 1854.....

William Bradley, late and for the last nine weeks residing in lodgings at No.15, Suffolk Street, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, out of business, before then and for about fifteen months residing at Highgate Tavern, Moseley Road, Birmingham aforesaid, and during such time carrying on the business of a Builder, Retail Brewer, and Lime Dealer, previously thereto and for about two months residing in Victoria Street, Spark Brook, in the county of Warwick, and carrying on the business of a Lime Dealer, before then and for about nine months residing at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and during such time carrying on the business of a Victualler, at Wednesbury aforesaid, and a Lime Dealer, at Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, and formerly and for upwards of eight years residing at No.50, Lower Camden Street, Birmingham aforesaid, and during the whole of such time being a Lime Dealer and Retail Brewer, and also for about eighteen months of the said eight years carrying on business and being a Lime Dealer, at Hatton, in the county of Warwick, now a Prisoner for Debt in the Gaol of Coventry, in the county of Warwick.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1858

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, George Baugh was charged by William Ward with stealing from his pocket £2 5s. The prosecutor said that on that day week he had been at Walsall to sell a pig. On his return he called at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, where he met the prisoner and a man named Adams, who asked him for a quart of ale, which he gave them. He then left the HORSE AND JOCKEY in company with the two men, and the three then went into the LEATHER BOTTLE, where he paid for another quart, and fell asleep. During his slumbers his companions ‘Robbed him quite bare of the price of his pig.’ The landlady of the LEATHER BOTTLE deposed to having seen Adams take the money out of Ward’s pocket and hand it to Baugh. He, however, maintained his innocence, and was committed for trial.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/3/1858

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

George Brough, 30, shoemaker, was found guilty of stealing £2 5s from the person of a companion named William Warr, at Wednesbury, and was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment. Mr. Warren conducted the prosecution. Elijah Adams, who had pleaded guilty to being concerned in the robbery, was also sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

1861 Census

Wood Green

[1] *Frederick Beeson* (30), innkeeper, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Mary Beeson* (26), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *William A. Beeson* (5), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Ann Nicklin* (14), house servant, born Wenlock, Shropshire;

[5] *Christopher Smith* (48), lodger, edge tool maker, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/1/1863

“An inquest was held on the 21st inst, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, on the body of a child four months old, named Thomas Millington, who, it transpired, died suddenly the Sunday before, whilst in his mother’s lap. Verdict, died from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/1/1864

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, on the body of Richard Dudley Taylor, a lad 15½ years of age, who lost his life by the breaking of the ice, at Elwell Pool, on Saturday last. The first witness called was James Adams Wilkes, a medical student, residing at Tame Bridge, who stated that the deceased was a son of Mr. Dudley Taylor, a gentleman residing in the Old Westbromwich Road, in the parish of Walsall. Witness and deceased were skating on the pool together on Saturday afternoon. Witness was a little before the deceased, and had just passed over the ice at that part of the pool where a communication existed with the adjoining pool, when, hearing some one fall, he turned round, and saw the deceased disappear beneath the ice. He also saw Mr. Crump run to assist the deceased, and went himself, but finding the ice give way beneath his feet he withdrew. About the same time he saw Mr. Crump fall into the water. No time was lost in attempting to rescue the deceased, but nearly three-quarters of an hour elapsed before the body was recovered. The ice was thinner at the spot where the accident occurred than elsewhere.

Alfred Elwell, a grandson of the owner of the pool, said that being informed that someone was in the pool he procured the drags, and used them, and subsequently, with his brother, got out a boat, and again used drags, when the body was recovered. The body was found about fifteen yards from either bank, in eight feet of water, and the ice at that spot had been very thin, in consequence of a flow of water beneath it from the next pool.

Mr. J. H Crump, solicitor, of Walsall, said he was walking home along the footpath by the side of the pool when the accident occurred. He immediately jumped on the ice and called for assistance, and at the same time extended a walking stick to the deceased, who grasped it, but, while witness was drawing him towards the ice, it broke, and he fell into the water with the deceased. He supported the deceased for a few moments, but finding his strength failing, he was obliged to relinquish his grasp. He was subsequently rescued himself, but he never saw the deceased again. No other evidence was adduced, and the jury at once returned a verdict of Accidental Death, At the commencement of the inquiry the Coroner remarked that he had found it necessary to cause some private inquiries to be made, and not having received an answer to his questions earlier than the preceding day, he could not hold the inquest earlier. He hoped this would satisfactorily account for the apparent delay in holding the inquiry.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/11/1864

“On Sunday evening, a young man named Thomas Nowall, living in Potters Lane, entered the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, with two companions, and after sitting twenty minutes over his ale, fell to the floor, and died in a few minutes. At the inquest on Thursday, it transpired that he had been suffering from an injury to the heart, inflicted while lifting a heavy cask at Mr. E. Smith’s works, two months ago. The jury returned a verdict of died from Natural Causes.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/3/1865

"To be shot for on Monday, March 27, at Mr. *F. Beeson's*, the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, a double-barrelled gun, value £5, 20 tickets, 5s each, 3 sparrows each, usual conditions. Shooting at two o'clock. Plenty of birds for sweeps after."

Birmingham Journal 28/4/1866

"Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *F. Beeson*, of Wood Green, victualler. First meeting.

No creditor appearing to take the choice, the management of the estate was left to the official assignee.

Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the bankrupt."

AND

London Gazette 12/6/1866

"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 April, 1866, by *Frederick Beeson*, of Wood Green, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, did, on the 4th day of June, 1866, grant the Discharge of the said *Frederick Beeson*; 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."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/5/1866

"Mr. Hooper, District Coroner, resumed an enquiry on Tuesday, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury, on the body of Emma Dawkes, a young married woman, whose lifeless body was found in Elwell's Pool, on the morning of the 18th of March last. The inquiry had been adjourned from time to time – first, to give the police an opportunity to make enquiries as to the truthfulness of certain rumours reflecting on the conduct of the deceased's husband towards her; and next, on account of the illness of one of the jurors.

The additional evidence adduced on this occasion was that of Mr. H. E. Proctor, surgeon, who deposed to having made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased, and to having found such appearances as led him to the conclusion that drowning was the cause of death; and a woman named Eliza Lester, who deposed to having seen the deceased crying in the public street, at twelve o'clock on the night preceding the discovery of the body.

No other evidence being forthcoming, the jury returned an Open Verdict."

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.....

Wilfred Minifie, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, keeping open on Sunday."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/9/1867

"To the Editor of the *Birmingham Daily Post*.

Sir, In your *Daily Post* of Friday last, under the heading of 'Alleged Death from Violence,' it is stated that I threw a large door weight at the deceased, which is totally untrue, and I have numerous witnesses who can testify to the contrary.

Yours most obediently, *William Minnifie*.

HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, August 31, 1867."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/9/1867

"Yesterday afternoon, Mr. W. N. Phillips held an inquest at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Hollyhead Road, Wednesbury, respecting the death of a young man named Samuel Edge, about 19 years of age, which took place under rather mysterious circumstances. Mr. Ebsworth attended to watch the inquiry on behalf of *William Minifie*, the landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

It appeared from the evidence adduced that the deceased, along with a number of other persons, had been in the HORSE AND JOCKEY on the evening of the 22nd of June last, when a disturbance arose, which called for the interference of the landlord, and the party were put out of the house. The disturbance continued in the street, and brickbats and other missiles were thrown about very freely. In the melée the deceased got a blow on the temple, of which he did not think much at the time; the injury gradually became worse, but it was not until some weeks afterwards that he applied for medical aid. He continued to get worse until Saturday, the 24th ult, when he expired,

and a post mortem examination of the body showed that death was the result of a fracture of the skull. It was stated that the deceased, a short time prior to his death, expressed his conviction that he would die, and said he should attribute his death to *William Minifie*, the landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY.

A number of witnesses were examined, including *Minifie* himself, but nothing was elicited which in any way tended to criminate the landlord of the house where the affray took place.

The jury, after hearing all the evidence, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against some person or persons unknown, and the inquiry then terminated.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/11/1867

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before I. Spooner, Esq, Stipendiary, *William Minifie*, publican, Wood Green, was charged with the manslaughter of Samuel Edge, a lad eighteen years old, who lived with his parents in Dudley Street.

The deceased and some companions quarreled while at the accused’s public house, the HORSE AND JOCKEY, at Wood Green, on Saturday, the 22nd of June, and the party being turned out a general fight took place, during which the deceased appears to have received a blow on the temple, which proved fatal on the 27th of August. He told his mother that the injury was caused by the accused, and told her to lay his death at ‘*Minifie*’s door.’ Some of the deceased’s companions alleged that the accused struck the deceased on the temple with a heavy piece of iron used to keep the door open. At the inquest, however, the jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against some person or persons unknown.

On Tuesday a man named Isaac James, between whom and another man the row at the public house commenced, and who had since that time been serving a term of imprisonment, gave evidence to the effect that when the men were turned out of the house he remained in the passage, and the deceased proposed to the rest to fetch him out. Upon that the accused said, ‘I’ll give you fetch him out,’ and threw a weight at the deceased, striking him on the right temple and ‘sending him spinning.’

The Stipendiary, being of opinion that there was not sufficient evidence to justify the case being sent for trial, discharged the accused.”

William Minifie was also a blacksmith. [1868], [1870]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/9/1868

“*William Minifie*, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury, was summoned by Superintendent Holland for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 6th inst. It appeared that at about half-past eleven on that day Police-constable Stanton found two or three men drinking in the defendant’s house; but as it was shown in defence that the men had brought something for the defendant’s son, and that the ale had been given to them, the case was dismissed, with a caution.”

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. Minifie, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury.”

William Minifie died in the 1st quarter of 1870.

Harriet Minifie married *John Smallman* in the 1st quarter of 1871.

1871 Census

84, Walsall Road

[1] *John Smallman* (30), licensed victualler and commercial traveller, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Harriet Smallman* (44), wife, born Wellington, Somerset;

[3] *Thomas Minifie* (23), step-son, blacksmith’s striker, born Wellington, Somerset;

[4] *William Minifie* (11), step-son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Ann Slaters* (15) domestic servant, born Willenhall:

John Smallman was also a commission agent. [1872]

It was adopted as the headquarters of Wednesbury Old Athletic FC.

The Wells Field was situated opposite to the pub. It is now the Rook Street area.

It was here that Wednesbury Old Athletic played their first match, against Wednesbury FC, on 17th October 1874.

Forest of Dean Examiner 4/2/1876

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary, a young man, named Francis White, of The Pleck, Walsall, was placed in the dock, charged with attempting to commit a burglary.

William Benjamin Hammond, landlord of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury, said that on Saturday night last, about twelve o’clock, after he had gone to bed, he heard a noise at the door, and afterwards heard the breaking of a pane of glass. He went down stairs and opened the front door, and on climbing over the wall of the yard he saw a man standing near a window at the back. The man ran away, and witness followed, and caught him, and found that the prisoner was the man.

In reply to Mr. Bailey, who defended, witness said he saw blood on the prisoner’s face. He fired a pistol to frighten the prisoner. The house was in a lonely place, and, as witness now heard, the prisoner would have to pass it in going home.

Police-constable Sheldon, who received the prisoner into custody from the last witness, said the prisoner was marked on the face, and was not sober. Witness charged him with attempting to break into the house, and he said he was sorry that he ever went to there. Four hours before that witness saw the prisoner fighting with a man at Newtown, about a mile away.

For the defence, it was alleged that the prisoner was terribly frightened by several men who assailed him and abused him, that to escape them he climbed over the prosecutor’s wall, and that the window was broken by a stone thrown over the wall after him by his assailants.

Witnesses as to character having been called, the Stipendiary said the case was a very dangerous and doubtful one, and he should remand the prisoner in custody, to consider what should be done with him.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1876

“Francis White, of the Pleck, Walsall, came up on remand from Wednesbury, charged with being on the premises of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN there for an unlawful purpose. The Stipendiary said inquiries proved the prisoner’s statement to be untrue and sentenced him to three months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Wednesbury Herald 13/12/1879

“On Monday morning Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, relative to the death of Thomas William Jewkes, five years of age, who died on the 4th instant from the effects of burns.

The evidence showed that the deceased’s clothes became ignited when playing before the fire in the bedroom. The flames so injured his chest and throat as to cause him to expire. The mother, on seeing her child enveloped in flames, endeavoured to subdue them by wrapping him up in a rug.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Dudley Herald 1/5/1880

“An inquest was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, by Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), on Monday, relative to the death of Hannah Heath (51), the wife of Henry Heath, ironworker, Wood Green. The deceased retired to rest on the night of the 22nd inst, in apparently good health, and on the following morning she was found dead in bed by her husband. As soon as possible medical assistance was obtained and restoratives applied, but they proved to be of no avail.

In reply to the Coroner, the husband said the deceased had hitherto enjoyed good health; in fact, she had never complained of being ill.

There were no suspicious circumstances, and the jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Wednesbury Herald 15/1/1881

“Mr. Edwin Hooper held an inquiry on Monday, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, as to the death of Thomas Astbury (27), who had died from the effects of a kick received from a horse at the stables of the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, under circumstances already reported in the *Herald*. The evidence showed that the occurrence was a pure accident, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1881 Census

84, Woodgreen – HORSE AND JOCKEY

[1] William B. Hammond (36), licensed victualler, born France, British subject;

[2] Emma Hammond (37), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] William B. E. Hammond (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] Emma Clara Hammond (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] Alice Theresa Hammond (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[6] Mary H. Hammond (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[7] Sarah Foster (16), general servant, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Herald 23/9/1882

“On Tuesday afternoon E. Hooper, Esq, district coroner, held an adjourned inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Samuel Timmins, aged 72 years, a colliery clerk, lately residing with his daughter at Hobbs Hole, Wednesbury. At the previous inquiry, held on the 12th instant, the deceased’s daughter, Rosannah Cutler, deposed that her father enjoyed good health until about three weeks ago, when he began to grieve sadly at having no employment. On Monday the 11th last, witness took him his breakfast to his bedroom as usual, and he then appeared quite well. Later on, however, the deceased said he did not feel well, and when witness visited him in his bedroom at half past ten o’clock he looked exceedingly pale, and in a few minutes afterwards expired. Witness did not believe that the deceased had taken anything to kill himself.

George Fox, manager for Mrs. Tomlinson, chemist, Wednesbury, deposed that on the Saturday previous to his death the deceased, accompanied by a Mr. Keay, called upon him and said, ‘Will you let me have the poison now?’ The deceased had been to the shop previously, and witness had refused to serve him with the vermin killer which he asked for. As witness knew Mr. Keay, he let the deceased have two three-penny packages of vermin killer, for which he signed the book in the presence of Mr. Keay.

There being nothing in the evidence adduced to show the exact cause of death, several of the jury desired that a post mortem examination should be held, and for this purpose the enquiry was adjourned till Tuesday.

Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon, Wednesbury, who had made a post mortem examination of the body, deposed that there were no external marks of violence, and the body was well nourished. He did not discover any traces of poison. The heart was very much loaded with fat. There were no signs of any disease in the heart itself, but the walls were very thin and weak. He considered that the cause of death was due to sinking or fainting, which would be produced by condition of the kidneys, which were diseased. In his opinion the deceased died from natural causes.

A verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/6/1885

“At the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, on Friday afternoon, Mr. F. W. Topham, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest touching the death of Elizabeth Collett, aged 24, who resided with her parents at Hobbs Hole, Wednesbury, and met with her death under singular circumstances on Wednesday morning. Deceased had been subject to fainting fits, and on Wednesday morning when her brother Thomas Collett came downstairs he found her lying on the kitchen floor, with one leg upon the sofa. Her neck was entangled with a clothes line, which was fastened to a hook in the ceiling. She was quite dead, and he called in some neighbours. He believed she was putting up the clothes line, and whilst in a fit she became strangled, fell, and was suffocated. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/11/1885

“This morning, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, touching the death of William Byatt (67), formerly a packer at Messrs. Elwell’s works, Wood Green. For four years he had been suffering from rheumatism, and was unable to work. He was in the habit of going about in a bath chair, drawn by a donkey, with a boy in attendance. On the 3rd inst, as he was returning from Walsall and crossing the Wednesbury Road, a runaway pony and trap came in contact with the chair, turned it over, and rendered Byatt unconscious. The pony was also badly injured. The unfortunate man lingered until Wednesday last, when he died. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/5/1887

“John Pickin (13), of Wood Green, Wednesbury, was yesterday sentenced at the Police Court to three years’ detention in an industrial school, for having stolen an iron oven door and frame, belonging to *Edwin Butler*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green.”

1891 Census

Wood Green – HORSE AND JOCKEY INN

- [1] *Edwin Butler* (45), publican, born Ashton, Lancashire;
- [2] Anne Butler (46), wife, born Ashton, Lancashire;
- [3] Tom Butler (17), son, barman, born Stalybridge, Cheshire;
- [4] Dora Butler (15), daughter, scholar, born Liverpool;
- [5] Louisa Carlyne (17), barmaid, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1892

“The annual licensing session at Wednesbury.....

The magistrates said it was necessary that a proper signboard should be put up to every licensed house. Superintendent Walters said one license-holder, Mr. *E. Butler*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, had stated he should not put up a sign unless obliged to do so. Alderman Lloyd said no exception could be made in favour of any person, and if a publican did not put up a sign his license would not be renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Mr. W. S. Smith applied for the renewal of the license of *Edwin Butler*, the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, and the GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, against whom objections had been taken on the ground that he had failed to obey the order of the Court, requiring the putting up of sign-boards. Superintendent Walters reported that the sign-boards had since the licensing session being put up. Granted.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/12/1892 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, Spirit Merchants, and Others. Preliminary Notice of Sale.

Belcher and Son, have received instructions from Mr. *Edwin Butler*, to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, early in January next.

All that Very Valuable Old-Established and Full-Licensed House and Premises, known as the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, situate at Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Full particulars in future advertisements.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/12/1892 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, Spirit Merchants, &c.

Important Sale of Highly Valuable Freehold Licensed Premises, at Wood Green, Wednesbury, Monday, 16th January, 1893.

Belcher and Son have received instructions from Mr. *Edwin Butler* to Sell by Public Auction, on the above date, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Half-past Seven o’clock in the evening precisely.....

All that Old-established, Full-Licensed House and Premises known as the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, in the parish of Wednesbury, containing Bar, Bar Parlour, commodious Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Tap Room, Kitchen, four Bed Rooms, Bath Room, Store Rooms, good Cellaring, Pantry, Scullery, Washhouse, Coachhouse, Stable, Closets, capacious Conservatory, Greenhouse, and Potting Shed with hot water apparatus; together with extensive and well-cultivated Garden at the rear and side thereof, the whole being in possession of the Vendor; total area, 1,498 square yards, or thereabouts.

The House is situated on and has a frontage of 41 yards and 2 feet, or thereabouts, to the main road between Wednesbury and Walsall, near to Wednesbury Park, and is one of the most noted wayside Inns in the district. It is well and respectably fitted up, and its arrangements are modern and convenient.

A first-class trade has been done for many years.

The Upholstered Seating, Fixed Plant, Electric Bells, Bath and Connections, and Gas and Water Fittings will be included in the Sale.”

Edwin Butler – see also GREEN DRAGON.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/1/1893

“On Monday evening, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, Messrs. James Belcher and Son offered by auction the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green. The sale attracted a large company. Eventually, Messrs. Showell and Sons were declared to be the purchasers for £2,800.”

Wednesbury Herald 12/10/1895

“Licensed Victuallers Association. The annual meeting of this association was held on Tuesday night at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Councillor Sheldon presiding.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/8/1898

“The annual licensing meeting for the borough of Wednesbury took place this morning at the Police Court.... Mr. J. S. Sharpe called attention to some alterations it was proposed to carry out at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green. He said the premises were dilapidated, and plans had been prepared by Mr. Kendrick for the execution of the work, and he would explain them in detail. Superintendent Scott said he thought the proposed information would be an improvement. The magistrates approved the plans, subject to certain suggestions being carried out, which were agreed to.”

Dudley Herald 17/9/1898

“On Tuesday night, at a meeting of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association, at the GREEN DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, Mr. H. J. Jones presiding, Councillor *Edwin Butler* announced that as he had retired from business he had decided not to seek re-election as a representative of Wood Green Ward in November next. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. *Butler*, and regret was expressed that he had decided to retire from the public life of the town. It was contended that as the licensed victuallers and others engaged in the brewing trade paid a large proportion of the rates that they should have increased representation on the Town Council, and a committee was appointed to deal with the question.....”

Historic England Website

“The HORSE AND JOCKEY in Wednesbury, in the West Midlands, is a great example of a suburban public house/hotel, dating from 1899. The Grade II listed pub still has many original features, including a splendid ceramic-fronted bar counter, most likely manufactured by Craven Dunnill of Jackfield. As one of only 12 known examples in England, the counter is a rare survival. Other historic fixtures include the bar back, with rich timber mouldings and decorated mirrors, and the Art Nouveau-style leaded windows. The building was designed by Wood and Kendrick, who designed pubs around the Black Country during the late 19th century.”

Sporting Life 10/1/1901

“Mr. J. H. Ellis, the honorary secretary of the Birmingham Licensed Victuallers Billiard League, has favoured us with an advanced copy of the entries for this year’s competition. All the best known men in the Midlands have signified their intention of taking part in the tournament, which promises to furnish better sport than in any previous year.....

H. S. Butler, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury.”

Wednesbury Leader 16/3/1901

“Early on Thursday morning a rumour to the effect that Mr. W. H. Edgerton had died by his own hand, threw the centre of the town into a state of consternation, which, when the news proved unhappily to be true, the feeling of excitement changed to one of intense sorrow. The deceased gentleman, who was exceedingly well known and highly esteemed, left his home in the Hollies Drive shortly before nine, and appears to have gone straight to the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, where, having asked to be supplied with a brandy and milk, entered the billiard room. A short time afterwards a loud report was heard, and the landlord, Mr. *Butler*, on entering the room found deceased sitting in a chair with a bullet wound in the right temple and a revolver in his hand. Dr. Crew was immediately sent for, but Mr. Edgerton had expired before the doctor’s arrival. The remains were removed to the Mortuary to await an inquest, which is to be held today. The deceased, who was 39 years of age, leaves a widow and two children, for whom the greatest sympathy is expressed. No cause is at present known for the deplorable event other than that some months ago Mr. Edgerton met with a railway accident, causing severe injuries to the head, from which he seems not to have completely recovered.”

[At the inquest the verdict was Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.]

1901 Census

Wood Green Road – HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL

- [1] *Harold S. Butler* (30), licensed victualler, born Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire;
- [2] *Mary J. Butler* (32), wife, born Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire;
- [3] *Harold E. Butler* (7), son, born Walsall;
- [4] *Constance A. Butler* (3), daughter, born Amroth, Pembrokeshire;
- [5] *Rose Smith* (25), visitor, living on own means, born Chigwell, Essex;
- [6] *Mabel Smith* (11), visitor, born Stepside, Pembrokeshire;
- [7] *Annie E. Kelley* (21), barmaid, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Emma Lealan* (27), domestic housemaid, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *George Fellows* (15), billiard marker, born Handsworth;

Walsall Advertiser 22/8/1908

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, Thomas Baugh, of Whitehall Road, Walsall, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, on the 15th inst. Police-constable Walkenden saw the defendant at 10.10 on the night in question staggering about the footpath, and he was trying to find the side door of the hotel. He eventually found the front door, and went inside the public house, but they refused to serve him. Defendant was fined 5s and costs, or seven days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1908 - Advert

“Barmaid (Working) Wanted, at once; must have good references. Apply, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury.”

BARMAID (Working) Wanted, at once; must have good references.—Apply, Horse and Jockey, Wood Green, wednesbury.

1911 Census

Wood Green Road – HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL

- [1] *Arthur E. Tavenner* (43), publican, born Cheltenham;
- [2] *Mabel Tavenner* (38), wife, married 19 years, born Queenstown, Cape Colony;
- [3] *Lilian Boucher* (25), barmaid, born Burbish, Worcestershire;
- [4] *Edith Phillips* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 15/4/1911

“The annual meeting in connection with the Wednesbury Cricket Club was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, on Monday evening. In the unavoidable absence of His Worship the Mayor (president), the chair was taken by Alderman A. E. Pritchard.....”

Wednesbury Herald 6/5/1911

“Wood Green Bowling Club. On Saturday last the green at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL was opened by the President, Mr. A. Richardson. The green is in splendid position, and a good season is anticipated. The Club is affiliated with the Staffordshire Association, and will compete in the Cup Ties. A challenge cup, given by Mr. J. Norton Griffiths, MP, vice-president, will form the principal competition.”

Wednesbury Leader 9/9/1911

“On Monday morning, very early, the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, kept by Mr. *A. Tavenner*, was unlawfully entered. It appears that the intruder, for it is thought to be the work of one person only, obtained admission to the house by climbing over an ashpit, and then through a grating into the cellar, from where he reached the hall, and subsequently the large bar at the front of the house. Here a stay was made long enough to drink a considerable quantity of ginger wine, to turn the place topsy-turvy, and secure the following: A box (containing about 20s) used for the purpose of collecting money for a crippled children’s home at Kinver, three bottles of whisky, sixteen half ounce packets of tobacco, and a coat belonging to Mr. *Tavenner*, which the intruder changed for his own, leaving the latter, a well-worn garment, behind. A visit to an outhouse showed that there the box had been broken into splinters, while the basket attached to the cycle of the barmaid, Miss Boucher, had been opened, and a sum of money, amounting to several shillings, extracted. The remains of the box were discovered amongst a quantity of straw. The police have the matter in hand.”

Birmingham Mail 19/9/1912 - Advert

"Barmaid Wanted; good references required.

Apply, *A. E. Tavenner*, JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury."

BARMAID Wanted; good references required.—Apply, *A. E. Tavenner*, Jockey Hotel, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Mail 24/3/1914 - Advert

"Girl, smart, as General Servant, for licensed house, and assist in bar; wages 7s per week.

Tavenner, JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury."

GIRL, smart, as General Servant, for licensed house, and assist in bar; wages 7s. per week.—*Tavenner*, Jockey Hotel, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Mail 26/4/1917 - Advert

"Bar-General; barmaid kept; experience not necessary but must have good reference.

JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury."

BAR-GENERAL; barmaid kept; experience not necessary but must have good reference.—Jockey Hotel, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/3/1919

"The first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Handicap was continued yesterday at the Castle Hotel, Birmingham. In the afternoon *W. Taylor*, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury (owes 100) beat C. O. Brettell, Holt Brewery (rec.30), by 83 points....."

[He was knocked out in the second round by someone who received 120 points.]

1921 Census

Wood Green Road – HORSE AND JOCKEY

[1] *William Taylor* (57), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Elizabeth Taylor* (59), wife, home duties, born Oldbury;

[3] *Florence E. Taylor* (27), daughter, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[4] *William A. Taylor* (24), son, assistant fitter, engineering, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Mary E. Preece* (18), domestic servant, born Tipton:

South Staffordshire Times 5/4/1924

"Despite the many difficulties that were met with in the cricket world last year, the Wednesbury Club had a successful season. This fact was reported to the annual meeting at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, on Thursday night, when in the absence of the president (Alderman Sir Albert E. Pritchard) the Mayor (Alderman A. Beebee) presided over a large attendance....."

South Staffordshire Times 10/5/1924

"A meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Protection and Friendly Society was held on Tuesday night, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury....."

Dudley Chronicle 3/4/1924

"In the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiards Handicap, Mr. *W. Taylor*, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, was knocked out in the fourth round on Thursday, by Mr. E. A. Webb, of West Bromwich. *Taylor*, who only received 30 to his opponent's 190, played a good uphill game, and lost by 400 to 316."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 6/12/1924

"Fifty years ago the Wednesbury Cricket Club adopted its present name, and on Thursday, it held its jubilee dinner at the headquarters, the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Woods Green, when some eighty members sat down to an excellent repast provided by Mr. A. Wadsworth....."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/2/1925

"The annual dinner and prize distribution in connection with the Wood Green Bowling Club, was held at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL on Saturday, when an excellent repast was provided....."

Dudley Chronicle 14/10/1926

“A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held at Mr. W. S. McGill’s, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Tuesday afternoon.....

Reference was made by the chairman to the serious illness of Mr. *W. Taylor*, HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, who last Sunday had to go through a painful operation. They would all be glad to know he was progressing satisfactorily, and would wish him a speedy recovery.”

Dudley Chronicle 10/3/1927 -Deaths

“On the 3rd inst, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, *William Taylor*.”

Walsall Observer 12/3/1927

“The funeral took place on Tuesday of Mr. *William Taylor*, the well-known licensee of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury. Mr. *Taylor* died on Thursday week at the age of 63, having been in failing health for some time.....

Mr. *Taylor* came of an old Wednesbury family, and was educated at the Parish Church Schools. By trade he was a fittings maker, and followed this occupation for some years at the Crown Tube Works.

Mr. *Taylor* was best known for his skill as a billiards player, and he was the holder of many trophies. Only two years ago he made the highest break – 99 – in the Birmingham and District Licensed Victualler handicap. Bowling, also, was a favourite pastime with Mr. *Taylor*, and until the founding of the Wood Green Club in 1908, he was the Conservative Club’s most useful man. Until last season no Staffordshire team was thought complete unless his services were enlisted, and he possessed numerous medals and trophies.

Mr. *Taylor* leaves a widow, two daughters and a son.”

Rugeley Times 22/4/1927

“On Saturday, in ideal weather, the bowling green at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, was opened. The president (Mr. H. F. Johnson) played the first game with Mr. R. Johnson (the popular host of the OLD PARK HOTEL). The president won by 7 points to 5. The captain of the club (Mr. J. Wright) welcomed the players and reference to the loss the club had sustained by the death of Mr. Taylor, was made during the proceedings.”

Walsall Observer 21/4/1928

“Mr. *William Taylor*, licensee of the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, who died in March, 1927, was a well-known county bowler, and, in fact, the founder of the Staffordshire County Bowling Association, and the Wood Green Bowling Club, whose headquarters are at the hotel, have provided a memorial to him. It consists of a large oak-framed panel, containing in the centre a photograph of 51 members of the Wood Green club, many of them ‘in action.’ It was unveiled in the bar of the HORSE AND JOCKEY on Saturday by Mr. Herbert Johnson, president of the club, who was supported by Mr. E. J. Burns, club chairman and president of the memorial committee, Mr. A. Shirley, deputy president of the County Association, and Mr. Brice Smith. The president later opened the green, and played a short game with Mr. R. D. Johnson. Mrs. *E. Taylor*, the present licensee, entertained the members with refreshments.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 25/2/1928

“The Stipendiary (Mr. B. G. Grimley) was occupied for a considerable time at Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, hearing summonses for offences against the Licensing Act.

Elizabeth Taylor, licensee of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours to Leonard Holmes, Hales Road, Wednesbury, and Albert Edward Poxon, Windmill Street, Wednesbury, also for aiding and abetting Holmes and Poxon to consume during prohibited hours; William Archibald Taylor, son of the licensee was summoned for aiding and abetting in the selling and consumption; Julian Henry Drinkwater, 34, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for aiding and abetting in the consumption, while Holmes and Poxon were summoned for consuming intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours.

Mr. E. E. Brown prosecuted on behalf of the police. Mr. Arthur Ward (instructed by Messrs. Glover and Smith) defended, while Mr. Frank Cooper held a watching brief for Showells Brewery Ltd, owners of the HORSE AND JOCKEY.

Mr. Brown, in his opening statement, said that the alleged offences took place on January 28th at 11.23pm, the licensee having been granted an extension of one hour on the occasion of the annual dinner of the Wood Green Bowling Club. PC Roweswell saw a number of persons standing in the entrance in Hobs Hole Road. He went in

and saw Mrs. *Taylor* and her daughter standing at the bottom of the stairs. He went into the clubroom and saw the defendants standing at a small table behind the door, on this were a number of empty glasses. He saw both the defendants drinking out of glasses and spoke to them. They made replies and he saw them next day, when he went to verify their names and addresses.

PC Rowseswell was the first witness and in supporting Mr. Brown's opening statement spoke to going in the HORSE AND JOCKEY and seeing standing by the bottom of the stairs, the licensee and her daughter. He said something to Mrs. *Taylor* and then went to the clubroom. He saw the licensee's son by the door and there were four persons in the room, including Holmes and Poxon. He saw the last two named each holding a half pint glass, half full of beer, which they hurriedly consumed and put the glasses on the table by the empty ones. He smelt the glasses and without any doubt both had contained beer. He spoke to them and asked how they accounted for consuming beer after the closing hour, 11pm. Holmes replied, 'I wasn't consuming beer.' Poxon replied, 'My beer was filled before eleven.' Holmes then said, 'Remember there has been a club dinner,' and both defendants admitted having attended the dinner. He took their names and addresses there and then the following day he called at Holmes' house to verify his address. He spoke to him, and Holmes said, 'I didn't mean to say that I wasn't drinking beer when you came in. I meant that I hadn't bought it after 11pm. I went for my coat and hat in the billiard room and came back to the clubroom to drink my beer.' He also called at Poxon's and he said, 'It's no use them arguing we were caught drinking beer after time.'

Mr. Ward then cross-examined PC Rowseswell and asked him whether it was a big dinner. He said he did not know about it being big, there were several there.

What do you mean by several? – About 50.

Do you know there were over 80? – No.

Mr. E. J. Burns, who is a man well-known in the district and headmaster of St. John's School, was present when you spoke to the defendants? – Yes.

He would be able to hear all that was said? – Yes.

Young Mr. Taylor was also there and Mr. Drinkwater? – Yes.

If they all said that Mr. Holmes was not drinking, what would you say to that? – I should say that they were telling untruths.

Did you make your note of the conversation in the presence of all these gentlemen? – Yes.

Did you make any note of the conversation the following day? – Yes, about half an hour after.

Was Mr. Drinkwater clearing the things away from the table? – No.

Do you put your word against those others in the room? – Yes.

Did Poxon tell you he had to wait to get his clothes out of the billiard room till practically the last? – He did not.

Did he say, 'I went back into the clubroom to drink my beer which I bought before eleven o'clock. I did not think I was doing any harm'? – No.

If your story is true you had corroboration in Mr. Burns, who is a man of the highest repute. Why didn't you speak to him? – He is President of the club.

Because you say he is President of the club, do you insinuate that you could not get him to go into the box? – Yes.

You have not made any attempt to get anyone here and you stand uncorroborated. – Yes.

Answering the Stipendiary, witness said Holmes had got his hat and coat on.

Mr. Ward said he would now withdraw his plea of not guilty in respect of Poxon and enter a technical plea of guilty. Holmes pleaded not guilty.

Leonard Holmes said he had been present at the dinner and concert at which there were 80. The billiard room had been used as a cloakroom. The 'King' was sung at 10.55 and everyone cleared out of the clubroom to get their hats and coats. There were no tickets or attendants and as a result there was a crush. He and Poxon got their things out together, he having hat, coat and scarf and Poxon a hat only. They were the last two out of the billiard room and Poxon went into the clubroom. He followed and saw Poxon pick up a glass, which contained a small quantity of beer. At that moment Mr. Taylor, the licensee's son, walked in and Poxon drank the beer. He himself did not drink out of any glass at all after eleven o'clock, nor had he got any glass in his hand. So far as he could see there was no other glass with beer in it except the one Poxon had got. The constable never at any time accused witness of drinking beer. The following day PC Rowseswell went to his house and said, 'You know I have got my duty to do.' He replied, 'I am aware of that constable.' He also said, 'When I denied drinking, I was not denying it for Poxon as well.' The officer made no note of the conversation either Saturday or Sunday in his presence. Cross-examined, Holmes said the last drink he had was brought about ten minutes to eleven, and he finished it as soon as 'The King' had been sung. He could not say whether Poxon emptied his glass or not and after he got his hat and coat he went back into the clubroom. He did not see the constable make any note in his book except to write down the names and addresses.

Albert Edward Poxon agreed with what the last witness had said. Holmes did not have anything to drink at all after they had got their hats and coats. He had always admitted drinking the beer, but was under the impression he could do so if it had been paid for before closing time. When PC Rowswell visited him on the Sunday, he said nothing to him about Holmes drinking beer and he (witness) did not say, 'We were caught drinking beer.'

William Archibald Taylor, son of the licensee, said that nothing was served or sold in the room after 'The King' had been sung. When he left the clubroom there was no one in except Mr. Drinkwater, who was clearing the glasses away. He went up again to help him to clear the glasses and then saw Holmes and Poxon in the room. He saw Poxon with the glass in his hand and said, 'What are you doing here? Clear out.' Answering Mr. Brown, witness said he went back upstairs in front of the police constable. There was no rushing to the door and he did not say anything when the constable accused Holmes of drinking because Holmes denied it himself.

Julian Henry Drinkwater also gave evidence to the effect that no drinks were served at the singing of 'The King' and the guests filed out to the billiard room. He was clearing up the glasses when he heard a commotion at the bottom of the room and heard the police constable speaking to Holmes and Poxon.

Mr. Herbert Johnson said he presided at the dinner and concert and at 10.45 he was informed that he had better have the last song. This was done and he left the room at eleven.

Mr. Edward James Burns said that he had been headmaster at St. John's Schools for 25 years and was a member and vice-captain of the Wood Green Bowling Club. He was particularly keen on getting the proceedings concluded by the proper time and 'The King' was sung at 10.55. He saw everyone cleared out of the room except Mr. Drinkwater, by 11.2 or 11.3pm and no drink was consumed. He went downstairs and was speaking to PC Rowswell. The latter came into the house and went out again, and someone then said to witness, 'I don't think they have all cleared out.' He proceeded upstairs and PC Rowswell, who had re-entered the house, followed on his heels. He heard him speak to Holmes and Poxon, and the former said, 'I am not consuming.' The constable did not make any notes except taking the names and addresses at the time he was in the room. Cross-examined by Mr. Brown, witness said he did go to see Supt. Adams on Sunday.

The Stipendiary said Poxon had pleaded guilty, but he found both defendants guilty.

The summonses against William Archibald Taylor for aiding and abetting were then proceeded with.

PC Rowswell said that as he got upstairs Taylor appeared in the doorway of the clubroom, and then upon sighting witness, said, 'Drink up, here's a copper.' He went into the room and saw Holmes and Poxon drinking beer. He asked Taylor how he allowed the men to consume beer after the closing hour. He replied, 'Well, it was purchased before eleven o'clock.'

Mr. Ward: Did you that conversation in your notebook at the time? – No.

Will you produce it? – Not unless I am advised to do so.

Have you got the book with you? – Yes.

Then produce it.

Asked by the Stipendiary what the point was, Mr. Ward said Rowswell had committed perjury, and he was not going to let the matter rest there after the evidence of Mr. Burns.

After several further questions PC Rowswell handed his notebook to the Stipendiary, and this was referred to by the Stipendiary.

Mr. Ward said he should ask the Stipendiary to keep the book, and if it was impounded then an officer of the court, which would be Mr. A. J. Glover, could ask to be allowed to look at it.

Mr. Ward then submitted that supposing everything the officer had said was true did it amount to aiding and abetting. The Stipendiary said that it did not, and dismissed the summonses, while those against Mrs. *Taylor* for selling and William Taylor and Julian Drinkwater were withdrawn.

The summonses against Mrs. *Taylor* for aiding and abetting in the consumption were then proceeded with.

PC Rowswell said that when he entered the hotel he saw Mrs. *Taylor*, and said to her, 'Are they all out of the clubroom?' She replied, 'There are two up there.' He then went up and found both Holmes and Poxon consuming. He spoke to the licensee, who said, 'I was not aware they were consuming after 11 o'clock.' When he served the summons, on February 13th, Mrs. *Taylor* said, 'It is very unfortunate this should have happened. I am sure, but we make these mistakes although done quite innocently. I know you have your duty to do.'

Mr. Ward argued that there had not been any evidence of aiding and abetting against Mrs. *Taylor*. She did not know the men were consuming. Referring to PC Rowswell, he said the officer seemed to have a wrong impression as to what a licensee could do and went to licensed houses telling people what would happen if customers were allowed to stop after time. He must learn that people could stop all day and all night if they chose, and it was no offence providing they were not drinking during prohibited hours. By the fact that Mrs. *Taylor* said there were two people upstairs was not proof that she knew they were consuming.

Mr. Brown put forward legal arguments in support of his case, and the Stipendiary said he would go carefully into the case and give his decision later. Regarding Holmes and Poxon, the evidence there was that they went back to finish these drinks which had been ordered before 11 o'clock, was supported by the fact that they had their hats and coats on. If they had wanted to have stopped drinking they would have not gone to the cloakroom. By going back and drinking what they had left they were breaking the law. It was not a serious offence, however, and defendants would each be fined 20s.

Asked by Mr. Ward if he would impound the notebook, the Stipendiary said if he did that he felt that he should be reflecting on the officer, and especially after what Mrs. *Taylor* had said about him when he served the summons."

Walsall Observer 3/3/1928

"Wednesbury Adjourned Brewster Sessions yesterday.....

The objection to the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, was withdrawn after Police-constable Rowsell had given evidence that two men had recently been convicted for consuming intoxicants there after hours, and that in a summons against the licensee, Mrs. *Taylor*, the decision had been reserved, Police Superintendent Adams saying he had no objection to the licensee even if a small penalty were imposed upon her."

Rugeley Times 5/10/1929

"New Headquarters for Wednesbury Harriers.

About 30 members of this Club reported at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, to participate in a social run of about five miles. The youths, however, only covered a distance of about three miles.....

The above address is the new headquarters of this Club and they are indeed fortunate in having so convenient a venue offered them. Messrs. Allsop's Brewery and Mrs. *E. Taylor* have been most considerate in meeting the requests of the Club in making these premises as suitable for this class of sport.

Walsall members of this Club will greatly benefit by the change as they will be a mile nearer their residences. The open country is readily reached, it being only necessary to cover 220 yards of road before the meadowland is reached.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Knowles [BLUE BALL] are to be presented with a hall stand in recognition of their wonderful services to the Club during their tenancy of the Club's previous headquarters."

Midland Advertiser 15/2/1930

"Members of the Wood Green Bowling Club, Wednesbury, held their annual dinner last Saturday night at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, when Mr. H. J. Johnson (the president) occupied the chair....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/12/1932

"Cross-Country Runs Wednesbury Harriers.

Fast and slow packs will be out from headquarters, the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, at 3.15pm. A new course is to be selected, and members are requested to attend in view of the forthcoming Christmas handicap."

Rugeley Times 17/2/1934 - Deaths

"At the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury, on February 4th, *Elizabeth Taylor*, aged 75 years."

Birmingham Gazette 18/7/1936

"A protection order in respect of the license of the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, was granted to *Arthur Robert Royce* by Wednesbury Bench yesterday. It was stated that the licensee, Mr. *Barlow*, had left the hotel on Monday and nothing was known of his whereabouts. His wife said she was not expecting him to return."

Rugeley Times 22/8/1936

"Stated to have been an army captain and to have occupied responsible positions to the satisfaction of his employers, Herbert Vivian Barlowe (55), of no fixed address, but formerly manager of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury, appeared at a special court at Wednesbury on Saturday, charged with embezzling the sum of £52 1s 5d, the property of Ind Coope and Allsop Ltd. Barlowe pleaded, 'Guilty under very extenuating circumstances,' and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment by the Magistrates.

Mr. Sydney W. Smith, representing the Brewery Company said *Barlowe* was manager of the HORSE AND JOCKEY from June 1934 for Messrs. Showells Brewery. On March 1st, 1935, the house was taken over by Ind Coope and Allsop, and *Barlowe* remained as manager, signing an agreement on the same terms. He remained in possession

of the house until July 13th, when at 2.30pm he left the house, it being understood that he was going to bank the takings for the week. He took the takings with him but did not return. Information was laid before the brewery and the licensed-house supervisor went to the house and found *Barlowe's* statement of receipts and payments for the week. According to the statement, which was in *Barlowe's* handwriting, the takings were £74 11s 4d, and respective payments £22 9s 11d, leaving a balance of £52 1s 5d.

A warrant was issued and *Barlowe* was arrested on August 12th at Cannon Row Police Station, London. When charged by Detective-constable Lockley, he said, 'I understand.' When cautioned at Wednesbury he said, 'I'll explain what happened,' and made the following statement. 'On Monday, 13th July, I found I was unable to make my deposit at the bank, and this had been brought about through circumstances which have extended over a considerable period.' He said these had been caused by the expenses entailed in the management of the house being much greater than his allowance, and by the long and serious illness, entailing two operations, of his wife, and the support of his son. 'For some time I had been borrowing to meet my weekly bank. When I found I could no longer carry on, I seemed to break down and took the step I did. I did not take away the sum of £52 odd, as I had only just under £20 actual cash in hand. I deeply regret the trouble my action has caused my employers. Mr. Smith said the reference to the cost of operations was hardly true. The operations did not cost *Barlowe* anything, being performed at a hospital to which they were contributors.

The firm felt it was their duty to bring *Barlowe* before the court, as a lesson to other managers. They left the matter in the hands of the justices. Mr. Smith added that he thought *Barlowe* now realised the seriousness of what he had done. Colin Rae Gotham, licensed-house supervisor of the brewery company, of 59, Thursfield Road, West Bromwich, gave evidence in support of Mr. Smith's statement. In reply to *Barlowe*, witness said he had asked for a cash register to check his takings. They had no previous complaints of money going astray from Mr. *Barlowe*.

Detective-constable Lockley stated that at 11.20am on August 12th he saw *Barlowe* at the Cannon Row Police Station. He understood that *Barlowe* surrendered himself at Rochester Row Police Station, London, about two weeks previous.

Barlowe handed the magistrates a pencil-written statement which was not read out.

It was disclosed that in June, 1904, he was sentenced to four months' hard labour at Norwich Assizes for forgery.

At *Barlowe's* request, Mr. Ernest E. Brown (Clerk) gave particulars of his career. He was a native of Crewkearn, Somerset, and had a 29-year-old invalid son who was practically dependent on him. He served in the 6th Dragoon Guards from 1899 to 1904, and while in the regiment was involved in a charge of forgery over the mess accounts and was sentenced to four months' hard labour. When he was discharged from prison, the Colonel of the regiment employed him as his personal servant until his death five years later. From then until the outbreak of war, he was in private service. He joined the R.A.S.C. on the outbreak of war. He served until 1923 and attained the rank of Captain. On leaving the army he held a number of responsible positions to the satisfaction of his employers. At the time of his arrest on the present charge, he was employed as a stoker porter at a block of flats in London. He worked 12½ hours a day for seven days a week, and his wage was £2 10s 0d.

The Clerk said the charge of 1904 was not being considered by the magistrates in relation to the present charge.

Passing sentence, the Chairman said that it was a serious offence, as *Barlowe* occupied a position of trust and should have known better."

1939 Register

Hobs Road

[1] *Jessie S. M. Meir*, date of birth 1/12/1880, licensed victualler, widowed;

[2] *Wilfred S. Meir*, dob 9/1/1916, assistant in public house, single;

[3] *Cyril Hewitt*, dob 31/7/1897, branch manager, retail grocer, single:

Walsall Observer 9/9/1939

"Wednesbury's Raid Shelters.

Following is list of the air raid shelters which are now ready or will be available shortly, with the accommodation provided.....

HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green Road (60)."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1950/51]

London Gazette - Died

"Jessie Sophia Maud Meir, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Wood Green Wednesbury, Widow (Licensed Victualler). 7th December, 1958."

Plans were approved for alteration of rooms upstairs and the car park, on 3rd January 1964.

New lounge, steak bar and upstairs cocktail bar opened.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/9/1965 - Advert

"Chef Required for the new luxurious Steak Bar opening in October at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.

This new project comprises of a cocktail bar and grill restaurant, lavishly decorated in an old world atmosphere. Applicants for the position of Chef should be aged between 20 and 30, of smart appearance, with some experience of grill work, and the ability to take control. Good remuneration and bonus scheme. No Sunday work.

In addition the following are required: Full and Part-time Waitresses, Full and Part-time Barman/Barmaid, Full and Part-time Kitchen Helps.

Applications to the Resident Manager at the above address or Telephone Wednesbury 0464 for interview."

Wilfred Sanson Meir was the vice-president of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association. [1966], [1967]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/2/1969 - Advert

"HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Steak bar require Waitress, five evenings weekly, also Bar Help, weekends and two evenings weekly."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/12/1969 - Deaths

"Wilf S. Meir, of HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury, died peacefully 11.10pm, Tuesday, December 16. Funeral Monday, December 22, at St. Bartholomew's, Wednesbury, at 3.0pm. Floral tributes for hospital. God bless. Paul and Les, Phil and Gill."

Wilfred Sanson Meir – see also GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, and COURT HOUSE, Sedgley.

Brother of Wilfred Sanson Meir, Walter Frederick Meir – see WAGGON AND HORSES, Darlaston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/2/1970 - Advert

"HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, Wednesbury, require the following: Attractive Lady for cocktail bar, evenings only; Waitress for grill bar; Cleaner, six mornings a week; apply Manager or Telephone Wed 0464."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/3/1970 - Advert

"Nick and Jan Cutler, late of the Kilhendre Club, Walsall, Extend a Welcome to all their Friends, both Old and New, to the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Woodgreen, Wednesbury. Telephone 021-556-0464.

We can offer you a Pint of Ansells and a Pie in the Victorian Bar (Olde Worlde Charm), or a Meal with Don Cortez in the Steak Bar."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/4/1976 - Advert

"Evening Bar Staff required, male/female.

Apply The Manager, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1975 - Advert

"Chris and Sue of the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, wish to extend their heartiest Greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all customers and friends. Cheers!"

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1976 - Advert

“Sandra and Alan of HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, wish all their customers and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/4/1982 - Advert

“Liqueur Coffee Offer!

Go on, treat yourself to a delicious meal out at Ansells!

In return, we'll treat you to an Irish Coffree. To be sure!

An Irish Coffee, or any liqueur of your choice, is absolutely free to you and each member of your party after a meal at any Ansells Restaurant or Cavalier Steakbar listed.....

HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.”

Closed

It reopened in July 1983.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/7/1983 - Advert

“Waitresses/Waiters and Bar Staff required for high class licensed restaurant.

The HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 2/3/1984 - Advert

“Roger's Rib Room at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury.

Full Restaurant Facilities Available. Every Lunchtime and Evening.

Home Made Bar Food. Traditional Sunday Lunches.

We supply Walsall FC Players and Officials with their Pre-Match Meals for every game.

Well Done Lads at Anfield.

Wood Green Road, Wednesbury 021-556-0464.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/5/1985 - Advert

“The HORSE AND JOCKEY, Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury, Offers You the Best!

Superb Cold Table with a wide range of Cooked Meats and Salads.

Hot Special of the Day.

Delicious Home Made Pies; A Variety of Sweets.

Fine Traditional Ales. Large Car Park.

Yor Ideal Lunchtime Rendezvous.”

Great Barr Observer 13/11/1992 - Advert

“HORSE AND JOCKEY. Roger's Rib Room.

The Rib Restaurant at the HORSE AND JOCKEY offers high quality food and service, at very realistic prices.

Our downstairs restaurant offers a wide range of home-made pies, steaks, fish, gammon and chicken at very low prices.

Our Big Murphy 24oz T-Bone is a great favourite.

Family Sunday Lunches from only £4.25. Also open Sunday evenings 7-9.30pm.

Also we have a full A La Carte menu each lunchtime and Saturday evenings.

Few Xmas Booking Still Available.

HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury. Security Patrolled Car Park.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/4/1997 - Deaths

“*John Joseph McCullagh*. Formerly Landlord of the Boars Head, Parson and Clerk, Four Oaks Carvery, the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wednesbury, and the Railway Inn, Studley. Died suddenly on April 21, 1997. Will be sadly missed by all those who loved him. Requiem Mass at the Abbey Church, Erdington, on Thursday, May 1 at 1.30pm followed by interment at Oscott College Cemetery.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1997 - Advert

“Vanguard. HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.

New Premium Free Lease Available.

The HORSE AND JOCKEY is well known for its restaurants and bar food. We are currently seeking experienced leasees with a high level of catering skills to continue the successful operation at this popular site. An investment of around £30k would be required on a new 10/20 year lease.....”

Black Country Bugle 5/8/1999 - Advert

“HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands.

Morning. Big Breakfast 9am-11.30am £3.95.

Noon. Sandwiches, Sizzlers, Baguettes and Baltis from £1.75.

Night. 2 Meals for the price of 1 Monday-Saturday evening from £5.50.

Cut out and bring this advert with you to get 50p off your first drink.”

Black Country Bugle 16/9/1999 - Advert

“HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands.

Disco from 8pm Friday nights on our Upstairs Room.

2 Meals for the price of 1 Monday-Saturday evening from £5.50.

Cut out and bring this advert with you to get 50p off your first drink.”

Black Country Bugle 4/11/1999 - Advert

“HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, West Midland. Tel: 021 566 0464.

Two Meals for the Price of One. Monday-Saturday inclusive (Downstairs Restaurant).

Menus now available for Christmas Day Lunch and Christmas Party Booking from 1st November.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/12/1999

“Restaurant Directory Pub Meals.....

The Hurdles Restaurant at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.

Offering a fantastic range of wonderful meals and wide selection of good wines which have been chosen for their compatibility with the style of food.”

[2025]

IN THE MATTER OF THE LATE MR. CHARLES SPITTLE, WOOD GREEN,

Gun Lock Contractor and Innkeeper.

ALL Persons having proved their Debts against the above Estate, may receive a first and final Dividend by applying at the White Lion Inn, Wednesbury, on **MONDAY NEXT**, at Three o'clock.

**HENRY RICHARDS, } Trustees.
J. W. PURVIS, }**

1845

WILLIAM BRADLEY, late and for the last nine weeks residing in Lodgings at No. 15, Suffolk Street, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, out of business, before then and for about fifteen months residing at Highgate Tavern, Moseley Road, Birmingham aforesaid, and during such time carrying on the business of a Builder, Retail Brewer, and Lime Dealer, previously thereto and for about two months residing in Victoria Street, Spark Brook, in the county of Warwick, and carrying on the business of a Lime Dealer, before then and for about nine months residing at the Horse and Jockey Inn, Wood Green, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and during such time carrying on the business of a Victualler, at Wednesbury aforesaid, and a Lime Dealer, at Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, and formerly and for upwards of eight years residing at No. 50, Lower Camden Street, Birmingham aforesaid, and during the whole of such time being a Lime Dealer and Retail Brewer, and also for about eighteen months of the said eight years carrying on business and being a Lime Dealer, at Hatton, in the county of Warwick, now a Prisoner for Debts in the Gaol of Coventry, in the county of Warwick.

1854

TO BREWERS, LICENSED VICTUALLERS, SPIRIT MERCHANTS, AND OTHERS.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF SALE.

BELCHER and SON have received instructions from Mr. Edwin Butler to **OFFER for SALE** by **PUBLIC AUCTION**, early in January next—all that Very Valuable **OLD-ESTABLISHED and FULL-LICENSED HOUSE and PREMISES**, known as

“THE HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL,”

situate at Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Full particulars in future advertisements.

1892

TO BREWERS, LICENSED VICTUALLERS, SPIRIT
MERCHANTS, &c.
IMPORTANT SALE OF
HIGHLY VALUABLE FREEHOLD LICENSED
PREMISES,
AT WOOD GREEN, WEDNESBURY, MONDAY,
16th JANUARY, 1893.

BELCHER and SON have received instructions
from Mr. Edwin Butler to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION,
on the above date, at the Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury, at Half-
past Seven o'clock in the evening precisely (subject to condi-
tions which will incorporate the common form conditions of
the Birmingham Law Society, to be then produced and read),
in one lot—all that Old-established FULL-LICENSED HOUSE
and PREMISES known as the "HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL,"
Wood Green, in the Parish of Wednesbury, containing Bar, Bar
Parlour, commodious Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Tap Room,
Kitchen, four Bed Rooms, Bath Room, Store Rooms, good
Cellaring, Pantry, Scullery, Washhouse, Coachhouse, Stable,
Closets, capacious Conservatory, Greenhouse, and Potting
Shed with hot water apparatus; together with extensive and
well-cultivated Garden at the rear and side thereof, the whole
being in possession of the Vendor; total area, 1,498 square
yards, or thereabouts.

The House is situated on and has a frontage of 41 yards and
2 feet, or thereabouts, to the main road between Wednesbury
and Walsall, near to Wednesbury Park, and is one of the most
noted wayside Inns in the district. It is well and respectably
fitted up, and its arrangements are modern and convenient.

A first-class trade has been done for many years.

The Upholstered Seating, Fixed Plant, Electric Bells, Bath
and Connections, and Gas and Water Fittings will be included
in the Sale.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, Bank
Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston; or to George Rose,
Esq., Solicitor, Wednesbury.

1892

CHEF REQUIRED

for the new luxurious Steak Bar
opening in October at

THE HORSE AND JOCKEY,

WOOD GREEN-ROAD,

WEDNESBURY.

This new project comprises of a
cocktail bar and grill restaurant,
lavishly decorated in an old world
atmosphere. Applicants for position
of Chef should be aged between 20
and 30, of smart appearance, with
some experience of grill work, and
the ability to take control. Good
remuneration and bonus scheme. No
Sunday work.

In addition the following are
required—

Full and Part-time

WAITRESSES,

Full and Part-time

BARMAN/BARMAID,

Full and Part-time

KITCHEN HELPS.

Applications to the Resident Man-
ager at the above address or Tele-
phone Wednesbury 0464 for interview.

1965



1970

CHRIS AND SUE

of

**THE HORSE AND
JOCKEY,
Wood Green Road,
Wednesbury**

wish to extend their heartiest
Greetings for Christmas and
The New Year to all customers
and friends.

Cheers!

1975

SANDRA AND ALAN

of

HORSE AND JOCKEY,

Wednesbury

wish all their customers and
friends a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.

1976

**WAITRESSES / WAITERS
AND BARSTAFF**
required for high class
licensed restaurant.
THE HORSE AND JOCKEY,
Wood Green Road,
Wednesbury.
Telephone 021-556 0464.

1983

Roger's
RIB ROOM

**AT THE HORSE & JOCKEY
WEDNESBURY**

Full Restaurant Facilities Available. Every Lunchtime and Evening.

**HOME MADE BAR FOOD
TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCHES**

**WE SUPPLY WALSALL F.C PLAYERS AND
OFFICIALS WITH THEIR PRE-MATCH
MEALS FOR EVERY GAME
— WELL DONE LADS AT ANFIELD**

**WOOD GREEN RD., WEDNESBURY
021-556 0464**

1984

Horse & Jockey

The Rib Restaurant
at the
HORSE & JOCKEY

Offers high quality food and service, at very realistic prices

Our downstairs restaurant offers a wide range of home-made pies, steaks, fish, gammon and chicken.

AT VERY LOW PRICES

**Our Big Murphy 24oz T-Bone is a great favourite
FAMILY SUNDAY LUNCHES FROM ONLY £4.25.**

Also open Sunday evenings 7-9.30pm

ALSO we have full A La Carte menu each lunchtime and Saturday evenings

FEW XMAS BOOKING STILL AVAILABLE

Please telephone for menu & booking for
021-556 0464 - HORSE & JOCKEY
Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, W. Mids
(1 min from Junc 9, M6)
SECURITY PATROLLED CAR PARK

1992

THE HORSE & JOCKEY
Woodgreen Road
Wednesbury

**OFFERS YOU
THE BEST!**

Superb Cold Table with a wide range of
COOKED MEATS & SALADS

★ **HOT SPECIAL OF THE DAY** ★

Delicious Home Made
Pies — A Variety of
Sweets — Fine Traditional
Ales — Large Car Park

**YOUR IDEAL
LUNCHTIME
RENDEZVOUS**

Tel.: 021-556 0464
(1 minute Junction 9, M6)

1985

**Christmas
Seasonal
Fayre
at the**

HORSE AND JOCKEY

Starters
Chefs home made soup of the day.
Crown of melon filled with Norwegian prawns and topped with a Marie Rose sauce.
Pastry case filled with smoked chicken, mushrooms, asparagus tips and bound in a cream sauce.

Main Course accompanied by a glass of wine or a fruit juice.
Roast Norfolk Turkey, stuffed and cranberry jelly.
Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding.
Poached supreme of salmon with white wine, prawn and watercress sauce.
Vegetarian lasagne/cheese and broccoli bake.

Desserts
Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce.
Choice of Gateaux of the day.
Ice cream Sundae topped with Whipped Cream.
Fresh fruit salad.

£14.95 per head
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Cheese and biscuits with celery and grapes followed by coffee and mint

1998

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Cocktail bar (upstairs)



Wilfred Sanson Meir



Lounge



Bar

INKERMAN

Cook Street, Fallings Heath, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Moses Millington [1858] – [1861]
Hales [1869]

TO be LET, INKERMAN HOUSE, Cook Street, Fallings Heath: containing front Kitchen, front Parlour, back Parlour, back Kitchen, large Club Room, seven Bed Rooms, with Gasfittings; large Cellars, Brewhouse, Boilers, Vats, Malt Room over, Stabling for three horses, Loft over, Shed, large Yard; suitable for Horse or Cow Keepers; with possession at Midsummer-day. Rent low.

1869

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1858

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

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

Wednesbury.....

Moses Millington, Fallings Heath, was supported by Mr. Duignan Refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/12/1858

“On Wednesday afternoon, an inquest was held at a beerhouse kept by *Moses Millington*, Fallings Heath, near Darlaston, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of James Langford, aged three years, who died on the 28th ultimo. It appeared in evidence that about three o’clock on the afternoon of the 27th ult, during the temporary absence of the child’s mother (who had left him in the house by himself) he had taken a candle to light at the fire, and by some means had set his clothes on fire. Emma Williams, a neighbour, on hearing screams went into the house and found the child enveloped in flames; but he was so severely burnt that he died the following morning. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/3/1859

“To be shot for, at *M. Millington’s*, INKERMAN TAVERN, Fallings Heath, near Darlaston Station, on Monday, March 28, a fat pig, warranted 20 score, by 20 members, at 10s each; the winner can have either the pig or the money.....”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/4/1859

“At Mr. *Millington’s*, INKERMAN TAVERN, Fallings Heath, on Monday, the list for the pig not filling, three sweepstakes were shot.....”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/5/1859

“Mr. T. Cottis of Westbromwich will shoot a match at pigeons with Mr. Thomas Brown of Walsall, for £10, £20, or £25 a side; as many birds as pounds, to find and trap against each other. The match to come off at Aston Cross Grounds, Birmingham. Mr. Cottis will be at Mr. *Millington’s* INKERMANN INN, Darlaston, tomorrow (Monday), prepared to make the match and draw up articles. Mr. Adams can be accommodated on the same terms. Money ready at Bashford’s, BLACK BOY, Oldbury.”

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.....

Moses Millington, Fallens Heath, supported by Mr. Slater, and opposed by Mr. Bird, licensed victualler Refused.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/1/1860

“To be shot, at *Moses Millington*’s, INKERMAN TAVERN, Fallings Heath, a match between Carter of Darlaston and an unknown, for £5 a side, 3 birds each, tomorrow (Monday), January 16, and afterwards a sweepstakes, by 20 members, at sparrows, 10s each, all guns 1½oz shot, ¾-bore, 19 yards rise.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1860

“To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Wednesbury 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.....

Moses Millington, beerhouse keeper, was charged with allowing dice to be shaken in his house. The case was one of ‘shaking off’ unsold tickets for a gun, which was to be raffled for. Police-constable Hollis proved the transaction to have taken place on the 31st March, and that he had a chance of a ticket for which he paid 3d. Fined 5s and costs, the mitigated penalty being made in consideration of the peculiarity of the case.

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 11/8/1861

“*M. Millington*, of the INKERMAN TAVERN, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, will give £1 to be flown for by young pigeons under eight weeks old, distance 10 miles, to come off on Tuesday, August 27, 6d entrance, and 6d to accept. All entrances to be made on or before tomorrow (Monday), August 12, and acceptances the week following. All pigeons showed and marked when entered.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/10/1862

“At the Petty Sessions, yesterday, before H. Highway and J. Shannon Esqrs, William Pickering was brought up on a warrant charged with having committed perjury in the year 1860 during the progress of a trial in the County Court. Mr. Matthews appeared for the prosecutor, *Moses Millington*, who at the time of the alleged offence kept the INKERMAN TAVERN, at Fallings Heath. Mr. Glover defended.

The evidence went to show that on the 28th of September, 1860, complainant entered a plaint in the County Court to recover £1 11s 9d from defendant, 1s of that sum being for money lent, and the remainder for ale supplied. The case was heard before Mr. Registrar Clarke, on the 31st of October, when a woman named Martha Newill appeared and proved the debt, representing herself as Mrs. Millington. Pickering denied that he had ever had any ale from complainant, or that he owed him a farthing. Upon this the case was adjourned for the production of witnesses, and on the 28th of November again came on for hearing, before A. M. Skinner, Esq. The defendant then admitted that he had had ale from *Millington*, but swore that he had paid for it regularly every fortnight, and that he had ‘never borrowed money from Mrs. Millington.’ The Judge gave a verdict for complainant, and directed him to take proceedings against defendant for perjury. A summons was accordingly issued, but defendant absconded and was not found until the present year. The evidence also showed that *Millington* and his wife had been living apart for many years, and that Mrs. Newill, who was also separated from her husband, had occupied the place of Mrs. Millington, and frequently passed by that name. The principal point for the defence was that defendant, when asked if Mrs. Millington had lent him a shilling, told the strict truth when he answered in the negative, the person from whom he received the money being Mrs. Newill. The Bench, however, sent the case to the Assizes, but consented to take bail for the prisoner’s appearance, himself in £50, and two sureties in £25.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1863

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Sentences William Pickering, for perjury at the Walsall County Court, six months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1869 - Advert

“To be Let, INKERMANN HOUSE, Cook Street, Fallings Heath; containing front Kitchen, front Parlour, back Parlour, back Kitchen, large Club Room, seven Bed Rooms, with Gasfittings; large Cellars, Brewhouse, Boilers, Vats, Malt Room over, Stabling for three horses, Loft over, Shed, large Yard; suitable for Horse or Cow Keepers; with possession at Midsummer-day. Rent low.”

Dudley Herald 5/6/1869

Licensee Mr. *Hales* 3½ year old daughter died after her clothes caught fire, on 29th May 1869.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1870 - Advert

“To be Let, at a low rent, the INKERMANN INN, Cook Street, Fallings Heath, suitable for a Butcher, or keeper of Horses or Cows. The House contains front and back Kitchen, front and back Parlour, good Bed Room and Club Room, with Water and Gasfittings, large Cellaring; Brewhouse, with Boilers and Vats, and Malt Room over, Stabling and Piggery; large entire Yard, with Gateway.

Apply to Mr. John Wilkes, Woods Bank, Darlaston.”

TO be LET, at a low rent, the “INKERMANN INN,” Cook Street, Fallings Heath, suitable for a Butcher, or keeper of Horses or Cows. The House contains front and back Kitchen, front and back Parlour, good Bed Room and Club Room, with Water and Gasfittings, large Cellaring; Brewhouse, with Boilers and Vats, and Malt Room over, Stabling and Piggery; large entire Yard, with Gateway.—Apply to Mr. John Wilkes, Woods Bank, Darlaston.

ISLE OF MAN

Brunswick Park Road, (Crankhall Lane), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Closed

‘Wednesbury Revisited’ by Ian M. Bott, published 1998

“Picture of Foley Street, 1967, showing the houses on the right that were demolished in the 1980s. Centre of the picture is the Crown Stores, Brunswick Park Road, originally a public house named the ISLE OF MAN INN, but today known as the Oakeswell off license.”

Crown Stores (off license) [1881], [1967]

Oakeswell off license [1998], [2009]

Demolished [2012]



Ex-pub 2009

ISLE OF MAN

18, Lower High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Henry Black [1862]
Jonathan Rowlinson [1866] – [1891]

TO GRINDERS.

AT a Meeting held at Jonathan Rowlinson's, Isle of Man, Wednesbury, March 26, 1866, it was unanimously resolved to form ourselves into a Union, which will be open to Grinders of every description.
The next MEETING will be held at the Isle of Man, Wednesbury, on MONDAY NEXT, April 2, 1866, at Five o'clock; open to all Grinders.

1866

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/12/1855

“On Friday last an inquest was held at the ISLE OF MAN INN, Wednesbury, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of John Gross. Deceased was the son of an engine fitter, and was between one and two years of age. On Friday, the 23rd ultimo, his mother left him with some other children in the house, and by some means during her absence her son's clothes caught fire, he was severely burned, and died on the following day. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The coroner reprimanded the mother for leaving children in a house without some one to take care of them, and without a guard around the grate.”

Jonathan Rowlinson = Jonathan Rollinson = Jonathan Rolinson

Birmingham Daily Post 29/3/1866 - Advert

“To Grinders.

At a Meeting held at *Jonathan Rowlinson's*, ISLE OF MAN, Wednesbury, March 26, 1866, it was unanimously resolved to form ourselves into a Union, which will be open to Grinders of every description.

The next Meeting will be held at the ISLE OF MAN, Wednesbury, on Monday next, April 2, 1866, at Five o'clock; open to all Grinders.”

The Sportsman 28/9/1867

“J. Glover, of Wednesbury, will take four yards start in 100 yards of Ordidge, of Ocker Hill, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *J. Rowlinson's*, ISLE OF MAN, Wednesbury.”

1871 Census

18, Lower High Street

- [1] *Jonathan Rollinson* (49), engine driver and coach smith, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Eliza Rollinson (49), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] John Rollinson (27), son, coach smith, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Richard Rollinson (25), son, coach smith, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Martha Rollinson (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] William Rollinson (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Paul Adams (30), son-in-law, forge man, out of employ, born Bilston;
- [8] Martha Adams (22), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] John Adams (2), grand-son, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Maria Adams (1 month), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;

Jonathan Rollinson, beer retailer, 18, Lower High Street. [1872]

1881 Census

18, Lower High Street – ISLE OF MAN beershop

[1] *Jonathan Rowlinson* (58), engineer and publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Eliza Rowlinson* (59), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Richard Rowlinson* (34), son, brewer, born Wednesbury;

[4] *William Rowlinson* (20), son, ironworker, born Wednesbury:

1891 Census

18, Lower High Street – ISLE OF MAN

[1] *Jonathan Rolinson* (70), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Eliza Rolinson* (70), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Richard Rolinson* (45), son, brewer, born Wednesbury;

[4] *William H. Rolinson* (29), son, iron moulder, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Richard Adams* (11), grand-son, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1892

“Wednesbury Town Council.....

Alderman Williams proposed the adoption of a recommendation of the Public Works and General Purposes Committee in favour of the purchase of the ISLE OF MAN public house, in Lower High Street, at the price of £675, for the purpose of completing the street improvement in that locality, and application being made to the Local Government Board for their sanction to a loan for that amount. He considered that a very satisfactory arrangement, but thought the time had arrived when they should hold their hand in the matter of street improvements. Alderman Kilvert seconded the proposal, and concurred with Alderman Williams’s latter remark. In the course of a discussion, it was stated that a large portion of the purchase money would be got back by the resale of the unused land, and that the question of reserving the license would be considered by the committee. The recommendation was eventually agreed to.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

“The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday..... The license of the ISLE OF MAN beerhouse, Lower High Street, was not renewed last year, and the property had been acquired by the Corporation for street improvement purposes.”

JOINERS ARMS

14, Camp Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Twist's Brewery Ltd.
John Foley

LICENSEES

Thomas Andrews [1861] – [1862]
Thomas Burns [1871] – [1875]
Mrs. Susan Burns [1881] – [1901]
Mrs. Sarah Onions [1904] – [1942]
Clifford Charles Onions [1945]

THOMAS BURNS, JOINERS' ARMS
CAMP-STREET, WEDNESBURY.
ALES and STOUT of the best quality.
A neat HORSE and TRAP for Hire.

1874

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

It was known locally as "The Gluepot".

1861 Census

Camp Street – JOINERS ARMS

- [1] *Thomas Andrews* (61), builder and beerseller, born Tong, Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Andrews* (61), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Whittaker* (40), lodger, brewer, born Sutton Coldfield:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/7/1862

"An inquest on the three unfortunate fellows who perished by the well accident on the premises of *Thomas Andrews*, beerhouse keeper and carpenter, Camp Street, was opened yesterday afternoon, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, at Mr. Bill's, the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury. The names of the deceased are George Lees, aged 58, living in Forster Street; John Orgill, aged 33, residing in Cross Street; and John Smith, 42, living in St. James's Street. The deceased were each married, and have left wives and families. The Jury having proceeded to view the bodies, the following evidence was taken.

Thomas Thomson, a plasterer, stated that on Saturday morning, between nine and ten o'clock I went to the yard attached to Mr. *Andrews*'s house. The deceased were sinking a well. Mr. *Andrews* asked me to assist. John Orgill and George Lee were in the well. Several quantities of earth were brought up while I was there, and about half-past eleven I heard something burst in the well, and both men shouted 'draw up.' Smith, who was banking, drew up, and there was one man in the 'bowk.' Orgill shouted 'short,' and Smith did so, when Orgill fell out. Smith then drew the 'bowk' up to the top, and I went to a carpenter's shop to get assistance. We then said that Smith had better go down, as he knew more about the work than we did. We loosed him down about half way, when he shouted 'hold.' He then shouted 'George,' three times. Then he shouted 'short.' Then we 'shorted' him down to about six feet of the water, when he fell out. I went for more assistance, as no collier was present. The well was being sunk for drainage purposes. When I returned to the yard a butty collier offered 5s to any man who would go down. In about a quarter of an hour afterwards a lighted candle was let down, and it burned clearly. William Moseley thereupon went down, and sent Smith up first, and the others afterwards. The doctor was on the spot before Smith was brought up. When I heard the noise I supposed it was the water.

By the Coroner: I noticed a very peculiar smell after the explosion. Mr. *Andrews* was present, and did all he could to render assistance. The deceased were all colliers.

William Mosely, a miner, deposed: I had been at work all night, and as I sat in my house on Saturday Thomson came to me and told me to run down the road, as some men were stopped up in a 'heading' in the cellar. I went, and it seemed to me that there had been an explosion of water and 'damp.' I supposed so by the well falling in. I saw a man's head in the water. I tried a candle, fastened the tackle to myself, went down, and sent the deceased up. They were all dead. I suppose there was about six feet of water in the well. I could not see where the water had come from. There is a great deal of broken mine about the premises. I believe that the water and the damp caused their death. There were some hundreds of persons on the bank, but none of them would assist me to fetch the bodies up, although I was very exhausted.

The Coroner: Your conduct was very praiseworthy.

Thomas Andrews deposed: I am a builder, and live in Camp Street. I began to sink the well in question on Wednesday morning. The well was then about five and a-half yards deep. Orgill, Lees, and Smith were at work on Saturday. I should suppose that at the time of the accident the well was ten and a-half yards deep. I did not hear them make any remark about the well on Friday. The well was being made to drain my cellar. The water in the cellar was about a foot deep. I was in the bar at the time of the accident. I ran out and rendered assistance, and also sent for the doctor. There was no water in the cellar on Saturday. I cannot tell where the water came from, but there was a very bad smell about it. They began to 'head out' on Friday night. From that time they were working on broken mine. They had gone about five feet into the coal. The well was about eight feet from the cellar. Smith would not stop to fasten the rope round his body. Several persons advised him to do so. Lees was a miner, and came to help me because he was an old friend. He told me that one part of the well was on the solid, and the other was on the hollow. When I went to the mouth of the well I saw Lees sitting up in the shaft. Lees advised me to drive the heading. The water, I believe, was about 18 or 20 inches deep when I went to the well.

Thomas Smith: I was in my house, which is a very short distance from the well. I heard the disturbance there, and ran out. I advised Smith to put the rope round him, but he would not. On looking down I saw Lee's arm waving g about. Mr. Fereday tried the depth of the water, and found that there was about 18 inches of water on the scaffold. The Coroner then read over the evidence, and the Jury at once returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

The Coroner said that before separating he would like to express his admiration of Moseley's conduct, and also of the conduct of the poor fellow Smith, who lost his life attempting to rescue his companions. The Jury concurred in the Coroner's remarks."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1862

"The proceeds of the collections at the special services at St. James's Church, Wednesbury, on Sunday last, on behalf of the widows and orphans of the men recently suffocated in Camp Street, amounted to £23."

1871 Census

14, Camp Street – Beerhouse

- [1] *Thomas Burns* (55), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Susan Burns* (55), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Benjamin Burns* (32), son, fitter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ellen Burns* (25), daughter-in-law, born Shifnal, Shropshire;
- [5] *Anne Burns* (18), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *George Burns* (17), son, moulder, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Edward Burns* (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Sarah Burns* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Thomas Burns, beer retailer, 14, Camp Street. [1872]

Midland Examiner 19/12/1874 - Advert

"*Thomas Burns*, JOINERS ARMS, Camp Street, Wednesbury.

Ales and Stout of the best quality.

A neat Horse and Trap for Hire."

Thomas Burns died in the 2nd quarter of 1877.

1881 Census

14, Camp Street

- [1] *Susan Burns* (65), widow, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Annie Burns* (28), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Sarah Burns* (22), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 27/1/1883

“On Tuesday night last an annual gathering of friends and customers took place at the JOINERS ARMS, Camp Street. The spread (which was provided through the liberality of Mrs. *Burns* and friends) was placed upon the table in excellent style, and reflected great credit upon Mrs. and Misses *Burns*. The cloth having been removed, Mr. G. Cammock (late of Wrexham), was voted to the chair, and Mr. Holmes to the vice chair.....”

Sarah Burns married *Thomas Onions* in the 4th quarter of 1890.

1891 Census

14, Camp Street

- [1] *Susan Burns* (75), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Edward Burns* (35), son, carpenter and joiner, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *George Burns* (9), grand-son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Thomas Onions* (37), son-in-law, axletree maker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Sarah Onions* (31), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 5/10/1894

“Yesterday *Edward Burns* (37), described as an undertaker, residing at the JOINERS ARMS, Camp Street, Wednesbury, was admitted into the West Bromwich District Hospital with his throat cut, the wound having, so it is alleged, been self-inflicted. *Burns* was under the delusion that he had to appear at the police court yesterday, and rather than do so he said he would destroy himself. About nine o’clock one of his sons found him with a gash in his throat. He lies in the hospital in a serious condition.”

Mrs. *Susan Burns*, beer retailer, 14, Camp Street. [1896]

Thomas Onions died in the 3rd quarter of 1896.

1901 Census

Camp Street – JOINERS ARMS INN

- [1] *Susan Burns* (85), widow, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Edward Burns* (43), son, carpenter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Sarah Onions* (41), daughter, widow, assistant innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *George Burns* (19), grand-son, clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Rachael Burns* (16), grand-daughter, assistant innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Thomas Onions* (8), grand-son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Clifford Onions* (6), grand-son, school, born Wednesbury;

South Staffordshire Times 17/2/1923 - In Memoriam

“In loving memory of our dear mother, *Susan Burns*, late of the JOINERS ARMS, Camp Street, Wednesbury, who entered into rest February 13th, 1903. *Until the day dawns and the shadows flee.*”

Mrs. *Sarah Onions*, beer retailer, 14, Camp Street. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

14, Camp Street – JOINERS ARMS

- [1] *Sarah Onions* (51), widow, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Thomas Burns Onions* (18), son, stores keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Clifford Charles Onions* (17), son, fitter, tube works, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Rachel Burns* (26), niece, companion, born Wednesbury;

Walsall Observer 7/8/1920 - Marriages

“On July 29, at St. John’s Church, Pleck, by the Rev. W. Felton, vicar, *Clifford Charles Onions*, youngest son of the late Mr. Thomas Onions and Mrs. *Onions*, Camp Street, Wednesbury, to Matilda Wilkinson, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilkinson, Scarborough Road, Pleck.”

1921 Census

Camp Street

- [1] *Sarah Onions* (61), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Thomas Burns Onions (28), son, electrician, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Clifford Charles Onions* (26), son, turner, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Matilda Onions (23), daughter-in-law, home duties, born Walsall:

Dudley Chronicle 13/9/1934 - Birth

“On September 6th, at May Villa Nursing Home, to Mr. and Mrs. *Clifford C. Onions*, Camp Street, Wednesbury, a son.”

Black Country Bugle 28/3/2002

Letter from Allan Onions OBE, Lichfield

“.....I lived in Camp Street, Wednesbury in the 30s and 40s at a well known pub named the JOINERS ARMS but known as the Glue Pot. Home brewed ales until the 39-45 War made things difficult, and it changed to Twist’s and M&B beers.

In the 1930s many pigs were driven along the roads from the railway goods yard for slaughter at Hollingworth’s. The Glue Pot was used by many who worked there.....”

1939 Register

14, Camp Street – JOINERS ARMS (4 of 6)

- [1] *Sarah Onions*, date of birth 4/1/1860, innkeeper, widowed;
- [2] *Clifford C. Onions*, dob 13/10/1894, engineer’s turner, special constable, married;
- [3] Matilda Onions, dob 10/12/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] Clifford W. Onions, dob 25/11/1921, architect’s pupil, single;

Walsall Observer 22/11/1941

“Eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. *C. C. Onions*, of Camp Street, Wednesbury, Sergeant Pilot Clifford William Onions, has been reported missing after a raid on Germany. Aged 19, Sergeant Onions was educated at Wednesbury Boys High School where he was very keen on sport and played for the first teams in both cricket and football. When he left school he was engaged as an architect’s pupil under Baron Underhill of Birmingham. He joined the RAF in August, 1940, and in less than six months received his wings.”

[On the Bomber Command Losses Database Clifford Williams Onions is recorded with date of death 8th November 1941, aged 20.]

Evening Despatch 3/3/1942

“Wednesbury’s oldest licensee, both in age and length of service, Mrs. *Sarah Onions*, of the JOINERS ARMS, Camp Street, has died at the age of 82.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/7/1945 - 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 23rd day of July, 1945, to Refuse the Renewal of the License of the Premises specified below.....

JOINERS ARMS, Camp Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse ‘on’ Ante 1869. Licensee, *Clifford Charles Onions*. Registered Owners, The Trustees of John Foley, deceased, namely, Miss L. J. Tench, Solicitor, Spring Head, Wednesbury, and Miss K. L. Willies, Spring Head, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 24/1/1948 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Sale by Public Auction of Valuable Freehold Properties, comprising Two Capital Villa Residences, also De-Licensed Premises and Land (all with Vacant Possession on Completion), and Valuable Investments..... Estate of John Foley, deceased.....

Lot 3. The De-Licensed Premises, formerly known as the JOINERS ARMS, Camp Street, Wednesbury, with the Valuable Parcel of Land adjoining, with Vacant Possession on Completion, the whole having a frontage to Camp Street of 78 feet and an Area (according to the Deeds) of 971 square yards or thereabouts.”

LOT 3.—The DE-LICENSED PREMISES, formerly known as “The Joiner’s Arms,” CAMP STREET, WEDNESBURY, with the Valuable Parcel of Land adjoining, with VACANT POSSESSION on Completion, the whole having a frontage to Camp Street of 78 feet and an Area (according to the Deeds) of 971 square yards or thereabouts.

JOLLY BREWER

18, (16), Camp Street / Fletchers Court, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Darby's Brewery Ltd. [1921]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Anthony Cornhill [1834] – [1851]
Mrs. Sarah Cornhill [1860] – [1861]
Ann Cornhill [] – **1862**;
Joseph Russell (**1862 – 1868**);
Smith (**1868 – []**)
Miss Emma Smith [1869] – **1871**;
Anthony Faragher (**1871 – 1872**);
Bridget Faragher (**1872 – []**)
Benjamin Bissell [] – **1874**;
Edmund Wood (**1874 – [1884]**)
Anthony Kilkenny [1884] – [1885]
Samuel Bolton [1888] – [1891]
Mrs. Phoebe Lowe [1896]
George Potter [1901]
Mrs. Elizabeth Blundell [1904]
Mrs. Mary Gorton [1908]
Job Bache [] – **1911**;
William Burke (**1911 – [1912]**)
Charles Clarke [1916]
Edward John Morgan [1921] – [1921]
Isaiah Turner [1923]
Edward Stevens [1934] – [1940]
Florence Steventon [1961] – [1966]



E. J. MORGAN,
The Jolly Brewer Inn''
CAMP ST., WEDNESBURY.
*CHARLES DARBY'S NOTED ALES.
WINES AND SPIRITS.
DUNKIRK BREWERY W'BROMWICH*

NOTES

Fletchers Court [1834]
Camp Street [1841], [1849], [1850], [1865]
16, Camp Street [1871], [1872], [1881], [1888], [1891], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1901], [1911], [1921], [1934], [1939]
18, Camp Street [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]

JOLLY BREWER [1834], [1864], [1872], [1873], [1896], [1912], [1932]
JOLLY BREWERS [1842], [1850], [1860], [1862], [1868], [1896], [1904], [1908]

It had a beerhouse license.

Anthony Cornhill = Anthony Cornill

Anthony Cornhill, beer retailer, Camp Street. [1835]

1841 Census

Camp Street

[1] Anthony Cornhill (50), publican,

[2] Sarah Cornhill (50), born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Camp Street

[1] Anthony Cornill (60), licensed victualler and labourer at gas tube works, born Aston, Warwickshire;

[2] Sarah Cornill (61), wife, born Chorley, Staffordshire;

[3] Emma Cornill (26), niece, general servant, born West Bromwich:

Anthony Cornhill died on 28th December 1855.

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/4/1858

“Richard Sillitoe, Michael Wiggin, and Henry Roper, trustees of a friendly society, meeting at the JOLLY BREWER public house, Wednesbury, were charged with having unlawfully appropriated the funds of the society, without satisfying the claims of John Field, a blacksmith, then in receipt of relief from it. Mr. Duignan, Walsall, prosecuted; Mr. Bayley, Wednesbury, appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Duignan said this was, he believed, the first prosecution under the new Friendly Societies Act, and in his opinion the circumstances of the case were so aggravated, and the question so important as regarded such societies, that should he prove the charge he should ask the bench to inflict the full penalty of three months' imprisonment with hard labour. His client had been a member of the society for forty-two years, and for two years chargeable to the funds, and entitled to a weekly payment of 7s, which he had received. Although a member of the club so many years the other members of the club had repeatedly endeavoured to get rid of him, and he had twice been obliged to have recourse to the County Court to obtain what was his due. In order to get rid of him they had dissolved the society, distributing the funds; but this could not be done legally without the consent in writing of five-sixths of the members, and the consent of those in the receipt of relief. It appeared not to be denied that the society was dissolved for the purpose of getting rid of Field, but Mr. Bayley offered several legal objections, which the bench took a fortnight to consider.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1858

“In a case heard some time ago the officers of a friendly society, meeting at the JOLLY BREWERS public house, Wednesbury, were proceeded against for dissolving the society in order to get rid of a member who was entitled to relief under its funds. Several legal points were raised in the course of the case, and the further consideration of it was adjourned. Mr. Ebsworth, of Walsall, stated today that the matter had been arranged amicably. It is understood that the opinion of Mr. Tidd Pratt is favourable to the claim of the member who instituted the proceedings.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/3/1860

“On Saturday last G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the JOLLY BREWERS INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Joseph Wood, aged 14 years. Deceased was employed in Messrs. Kite and Dart's coalpit to push the skips along the road and hang them on at the bottom of the shaft. He had been warned to stand clear while the waggons were ascending, but disregarding this caution, he remained at the bottom of the shaft as a loaded skip was being drawn up, and a lump of coal falling upon him, fractured his skull, and killed him almost instantaneously. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

Camp Street – JOLLY BREWER

[1] Sarah Cornhill (71), widow, victualler, born Farewell, Staffordshire;

[2] Leah Coley (22), general servant, born Stourport:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/3/1865 - Advert

“Found, a Brown Grayhound Bitch.

Apply at the JOLLY BREWER, Camp Street, Wednesbury. If not owned in three days will be sold to defray expenses.”

FOUND, a Brown GRAYHOUND BITCH.—Apply
at the Jolly Brewer, Camp Street, Wednesbury. If not
owned in three days will be sold to defray expenses.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1866 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, Camp Street, and Russell Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by James Taylor, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday Next, 28th day of February, at Seven for Eight o’clock precisely.....

Lot 1. That Compact and Desirable Old-Licensed Inn known as the JOLLY BREWER INN, situate in Camp Street, now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Russell*, at the yearly rental of £28, and comprising two Cellars, Brewhouse, Bar, Parlour, large Club Room, Malt Room, and three Bed Rooms, Yard, Piggeries, &c. The lot contains 453 square yards, or thereabouts.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/4/1869

“Wednesbury Local Board Nuisance Inspector’s report.....

The drainage on premises occupied by *Emma Smith*, of the JOLLY BREWER public house, Camp Street, was in a very offensive state.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/5/1869

“Yesterday, an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, coroner, at the JOLLY BREWER, Camp Street, Wednesbury, on the body of Keziah Collins, a child, the daughter of Hannah Maria Collins, of the same street. The evidence showed that on Tuesday afternoon the child was playing near a tub of water, which was in the house, when she fell into it and was found dead there by a neighbour named Isaiah Oldbury, who is a screw forger. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/5/1869

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Emma Smith*, the keeper of the JOLLY BREWER public house, Camp Street, was charged with having had her house open, on Sunday, the 16th May, at improper hours, and also with permitting drunkenness. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the defence.

Police-constable Evans said he visited the house at twenty-five minutes to two in the morning, and found the door fast. On its being opened he saw seven or eight Irishmen and women in the passage. One man was drunk, and there were three men in the bar.

Mr. Ebsworth said the police had not proved that the men were not travellers, and the case, in accordance with the recent decision, must be dismissed, as far as that charge was concerned.

The officer said he knew the men who were in the house, but not their names.

Several witnesses having been called for the defence, the Bench agreed to dismiss the first charge, but fined the defendant 5s and costs for permitting drunkenness.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/8/1869

“Wednesbury Local Board Nuisance Inspector’s report.....

The premises of Miss *Emma Smith*, of the JOLLY BREWER, Camp Street, were kept in a filthy manner.”

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.....

E. Smith, JOLLY BREWER, Camp Street, Wednesbury.”

1871 Census

16, Camp Street – Beerhouse

[1] *Emma Smith* (30), unmarried, publican, born Shifnal, Shropshire;

[2] Elizabeth Trow (20), general servant, born Wednesbury:s

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/4/1871 - Advert

“Wednesbury. To be Let, the Old-licensed Public House, the JOLLY BREWER, Camp Street.
Apply on the Premises.”

WEDNESBURY.—To be Let, the Old-licensed PUBLIC-
HOUSE, The Jolly Brewer, Camp Street.—Apply on the
Premises.

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 Westbromwich, 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.....

Bissell’s, JOLLY BREWER, Wednesbury.....

Betting and gambling strictly prohibited. No one allowed to run unless in proper costume.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 3/10/1874 - Advert

“To Benefit Societies.

Benjamin Bissell, JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, having a Commodious Club Room, is desirous of treating with any benefit society desiring such accommodation.”

South Staffordshire Examiner 10/10/1874 - Advert

“Wednesbury and District Retail Brewers and Beersellers Benevolent and Protection Society. Established 1870.

The Benefits of this Society are extended to Members residing in Wednesbury, Darlaston, Great Bridge, Moxley, Tipton, and West Bromwich.

The Trade are respectfully requested to become Members of this Society.

All Particulars and Terms of Membership can be obtained by application to Mr. *Benjamin Bissell*, JOLLY BREWERS INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury.

NB. No person is authorised by the above Society to sell any article whatever.”

South Staffordshire Examiner 31/10/1874 - Advert

“Notice of Removal.

Benjamin Bissell begs to inform his numerous friends that he has Removed from the JOLLY BREWERS TUN, to 54, Stafford Street, Wednesbury, where all communications are to be addressed.”

South Staffordshire Examiner 7/11/1874

“On Thursday evening, a number of gentlemen assembled round the social board at the JOLLY BREWERS INN, Wednesbury, as a mark of respect to Mr. *Benjamin Bissell* upon his retiring from the hostelry. Mr. Schofield occupied the chair, and Mr. John Marsh the vice-chair. An excellent spread was provided, and the health of Mr. *Bissell* was proposed with a bumper, amid a general expression of good wishes for his future welfare and prosperity. The evening was spent in good fellowship, in harmony, toast, and song.”

Benjamin Bissell – see also BUTCHERS ARMS and LAMP.

Cannock Chase Examiner 14/11/1874 - Advert

“*Edmund Wood* begs respectfully to inform his Friends and the Public that he has taken to the JOLLY BREWERS INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, and hopes, by the supply of the Best Articles, to merit a share of patronage and support.

A good Club Room for Club purposes.”

E D M U N D W O O D
BEGS respectfully to inform his Friends and the Public
that he has taken to the
J O L L Y B R E W E R S’ I N N,
C A M P - S T R E E T, W E D N E S B U R Y,
and hopes, by the supply of the Best Articles, to merit
a share of patronage and support.
A good CLUB ROOM for Club purposes.

Midland Examiner 19/12/1874

“On Friday evening, a complimentary dinner took place at the JOLLY BREWER INN, Wednesbury, in the shape of a ‘house warming’ consequent upon Mr. *Edmund Wood* becoming the host of the hostelry. The chair was taken by Mr. Schofield, and the vice-chair by Mr. Smith. About 30 gentlemen sat down to dinner, which was served up in very superior style by the new host. The usual loyal and complimentary toasts having been proposed by the Chairman and duly honoured, the ‘Health of Mr. *Wood*’ was drank in a bumper, and he received an enthusiastic welcome back to his native town after a residence of many years in America. The ‘Health of Mr. *Bissell*,’ Mr. *Wood*’s predecessor, was among the special toasts of the evening, and was well received. The proceedings were enlivened by some excellent songs by Mr. Kimberley, Mr. Jones, Mr. Lockett, and others, and the evening’s proceedings were enlivened by some excellent glees and part-songs. A very agreeable evening was spent.”

Midland Examiner 18/9/1875

“On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the JOLLY BREWERS ARMS, Camp Street, Wednesbury, on the body of a man named John Reynolds, aged 36 years, described as a labourer, residing in Camp Street. From the evidence it appeared that on Saturday morning last at half-past five o’clock the wife of the deceased was in bed when the latter was in the kitchen downstairs. After he had been there for a short time his wife heard a loud crash, and at once ran downstairs to see what was the matter. On arriving in the kitchen she found her husband lying on the floor, the table and the whole of the breakfast things together with a chair being upset and lying around him. She picked him up, and he expired in her arms, in about five minutes after she went to his assistance. Some years ago, it was stated the deceased had his skull fractured, the result of which was that he had suffered considerably at intervals since that unfortunate occurrence took place. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from Natural Causes.”

Wednesbury Herald 8/2/1879

“At the JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street, on Wednesday, Mr. Edwin Hooper, held an inquest on the body of Patrick Welsh, labourer, aged 66 years, of 7, Camp Street. The wife of the deceased stated that her husband had not been in very good health for several months. He had been strange in his mind. He went into the workhouse, and was employed at stone breaking. While following this avocation his eye was damaged, and the accident had, witness thought, disturbed his mind. She last saw him alive on Sunday evening about half past eight, at which time he was in bed. At nine o’clock a lodger went upstairs, and saw deceased standing against the bed post. The man ran down stairs and told witness what he had seen, upon which she proceeded up to the bedroom. Her husband was standing against the bed post, and had a handkerchief around his neck. He was quite dead.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst suffering from Temporary Insanity.”

1881 Census

16, Camp Street

[1] *Edmund Wood* (57), publican, born Dursley, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Mary Ann Wood* (61), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Mary A. Amos* (23), general servant, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Sarah Amos* (3), servant’s daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Edith Amos* (1), servant’s daughter, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 13/8/1881

“Ancient Order of Foresters. The officers and members of Court Foresters met at the JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, on Saturday, August 6th, to celebrate their 17th anniversary. The Cloth being removed Brother Thomas Taylor, DS was voted to the chair, and Brother Paul Griffiths to the vice-chair.....”

Wednesbury Herald 11/11/1882

“On Saturday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the JOLLY BREWERS INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, respecting the death of *Maria Cherrington* (70), of No.8, Hortons Square.

On the 28th ult the deceased accidentally fell down near to the fireplace and struck her right arm against the dust preventer, causing an incised wound just below the elbow. Gangrene subsequently set in, and the deceased expired on the 2nd inst.

A verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.”

Wednesbury Herald 2/12/1882

"Yesterday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street, respecting the death of Joseph Stanyard (5), who had died from the effects of a fall. About three months ago deceased fell off a wall and fractured his skull, from the effects of which he died. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Wednesbury Herald 3/2/1883

"Samuel Bowes, iron worker, was charged with assaulting Thomas Stanley, on the 20th inst. The complainant alleged that on the day in question he went into the JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street, to have a pint of ale. Whilst he was drinking the ale the defendant created a disturbance, and eventually assaulted him. Defendant denied the assault, and added that the complainant created a disturbance, and also assaulted several persons. The case was dismissed."

Walsall Observer 22/3/1884

"At the Walsall County Court on Wednesday, on the calling on of the action for trial, *Edmund Wood*, licensed victualler, Camp Street, Wednesbury, not appearing to his summons to serve on the jury, was fined £3."

Commercial Gazette 20/11/1884

"Bills of Sale....."

Anthony Kilkenny, JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, victualler.
11th November 1884. £100 in favour of William Buller and others."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/1/1885

"At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, William Harris, a young man, hailing from the Pleck, Walsall, was charged with stealing a watch, value £3, belonging to *Anthony Kilkenny*, keeper of the JOLLY BREWER, Camp Street, Wednesbury. Mr. J.E.J. Sheldon appeared to defend.

Complainant deposed that on the 26th of December he lent his watch (produced) to a man named Talbot, to time some pigeons with. On the 28th he asked for it, and in consequence of what he learned he went to a public house at the Pleck, where he saw the prisoner. He said nothing about the watch till he went out with the prisoner and asked him for it. The latter said, 'I know who told you, a man saw me take it', and added 'if it is broken, I will pay for it.' Detective Noble said that last night about eleven o'clock, he was in the station, when the prisoner came in and said he had come to 'give himself up.' Complainant, who had been in search of the watch, said, 'For stealing that watch?' and he replied, 'Yes.'

Mr. Sheldon said that there was a pigeon race, and a number of watches were wanted to time the birds. His client said, 'I might as well have a watch as anyone else,' and, in the presence of eight persons, put the watch in his pocket. About 50 yards from the spot where he stole it he exposed it. On getting home he accidentally broke the watch, and was afraid to take it back.

Fined 10s and costs, or in default fourteen days' imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/5/1886 - Advert

"Wednesbury. JOLLY BREWERS INN; to Let, this well-frequented old-licensed house, near Market Place; liquor vault, smoke room, club room, bar; several lodges attached. Average weekly takings £15; proof given. Incoming £200; part can remain.

E. B. Scholefield, Auctioneer, Wednesbury."

WEDNESBURY.—Jolly Brewers Inn; to Let, this well-frequented old-licensed house, near Market Place; liquor vault, smoke room, club room, bar; several lodges attached. Average weekly takings £15; proof given. Incoming £200; part can remain.—E. B. Scholefield, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1889

"Yesterday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the JOLLY BREWERS INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, on the body of Thomas Eagles (60), of 34, Camp Street, who was found dead in bed on Monday morning.

The evidence showed that he had been too unwell for some little time before his death to allow of his following his business as a greengrocer and fruiterer, and that he had been of intemperate habits. During the last six weeks most of his time had been spent in public houses drinking.

Verdict, Death from Natural Causes."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/7/1889

“.....According to the evidence of Police-constable Platt, the deceased had been addicted to drink for the last eight years, and during the last six weeks had devoted the whole of his time to it. On Saturday night he was taken home drunk, and on Monday morning was found dead in bed. The jury, which consisted of ten publicans, returned a verdict of Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

16, Camp Street – JOLLY BREWERS

- [1] *Samuel Bolton* (36), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Eleanor Bolton* (35), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Joseph W. W. Bolton* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Samuel H. Bolton* (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Emily M. Bolton* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Thomas Bolton* (7 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Mary Banks* (34), barmaid, born Walsall:

1901 Census

16, Camp Street – JOLLY BREWER INN

- [1] *George Potter* (39), coach smith, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Kate Potter* (39), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *George Potter* (15), son, post office messenger, born Walsall;
- [4] *Florence Whitehouse* (14), domestic servant, born Langley Green:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/1/1902

“The Wednesbury magistrates were engaged yesterday for three hours in hearing a charge of permitting drunkenness preferred against *George Potter*, landlord of the JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street. It was alleged that on the 14th ult a woman named Bridget Welch was supplied with drink and allowed to get drunk, and to afterwards remain on the licensed premises.

Mr. Glover, who defended, denied that the woman was drunk, and contended that she was excited in consequence of having experienced difficulties during the day.

The Bench held that the law had been broken and fined defendant £3 18s 6d.”

A team from here took part in the West Bromwich and Tipton Quoits League. [1903]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/2/1911

“At the Wolverhampton County Court on Monday, before his Honour Judge Howard Smith, the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Company sued Joseph [sic] *Bache*, of the JOLLY BREWER, Wednesbury, for £14 17s 6d. There was a counter-claim for £15 for loss, consequent on the refusal of plaintiffs to supply goods. Mr. W. A. Foster appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. Darby for defendant.

The JOLLY BREWER is tied to the plaintiff company, and the claim was for goods supplied.

The defendant stated that he had sunk £120 in the fittings of the house. In consequence of the refusal of the plaintiffs to supply him, he was without beer for nine days, and the takings fell from £4 to 22s a week.

Mr. Foster contended that defendant should have bought at once in the open market as he was entitled to.

Judgment for plaintiffs on the claim, with costs, and for defendant for £1 on the counter-claim, with such costs as this amount carried.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/2/1911

“A Correction. In our issue of Tuesday we stated that the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries were the plaintiffs in an action against Joseph [sic] *Bache*, of the JOLLY BREWER, Wednesbury, at the Wolverhampton County Court. This was a mistake. As a matter of fact the plaintiffs were the Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd. We much regret the error.”

Birmingham Mail 3/3/1911

“Wednesbury adjourned annual Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. C. H. Darby applied for the renewal of the license of the JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street, which had been objected to on the ground of redundancy.

Superintendent Salt said the premises were practically unfit for habitation, and when he visited the public house the fixtures were being sold under a distraint for rent levied by the landlord.

Mr. W. A. Foster, who represented the owners, mentioned that other premises in the same neighbourhood, when deprived of a license, were converted into a working men’s club, and he asked the police superintendent whether he thought it would be better to retain this license or to have another working men’s club. The superintendent replied that for the purpose of supervision a public house was preferable.

The Bench referred the license to the compensation authority.”

AND

Evening Despatch 3/3/1911

“Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.

.....Superintendent Salt stated that there were five licensed houses within 250 yards of the JOLLY BREWER, but it was the only fully-licensed house in the same street.”

1911 Census

16, Camp Street – JOLLY BREWER INN

- [1] *Job Bache* (46), publican, manager for brewery, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Gertrude Emily Bache* (41), wife, married 20 years, born Lichfield;
- [3] *Elizabeth Bache* (19), daughter, born Lichfield;
- [4] *George Bache* (16), son, carter, born Lichfield;
- [5] *Edith Mary Bache* (13), daughter, born Lichfield;
- [6] *Arthur Ernest Bache* (12), son, born Lichfield:

Birmingham Daily Mail 30/6/1911

“At Wednesbury Police Court, today, an application was made by Mr. W. A. Foster, on behalf of the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, for the transfer of the license of the JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street. Mr. C. H. Darby, West Bromwich, opposed on behalf of *Job Bache*, the present licensee, to whom, he stated, the brewery company were indebted in respect of an amount he had paid into the compensation fund. Mr. Foster replied that *Bache* owed the company a considerable amount for arrears of rent, and that if the transfer were granted there was nothing to prevent his taking proceedings against the company. The latter, however, would certainly have a counter-claim against him.

The Bench granted the transfer, with an intimation that if *Bache* felt aggrieved he could take civil proceedings.”

1921 Census

16, Camp Street

- [1] *Edward John Morgan* (41), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ellen Gertrude Morgan* (38), wife, home duties, born Workington, Cumberland;
- [3] *Dorothy Margaret Morgan* (12), daughter, school, born Dudley;
- [4] *Nellie Louise Morgan* (8), daughter, school, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Edward Stanley Morgan* (4), son, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Betsy Morgan* (73), mother, widow, born Staffordshire:

Dudley Chronicle 20/12/1923

“The mysterious disappearance of a pretty Wednesbury girl and her lover on November 26th was partially solved last week by the discovery of their bodies in the Birmingham Canal. The man’s body was found near the electric works at Ocker Hill, Tipton, and that of the young woman further up the canal towards Golds Green, in the West Bromwich police district. No explanation has been put forward as to how the couple met so untimely a fate, save the theory that they lost their way in the mist on the night of their disappearance, and fell into the canal.

The lovers were last seen alive walking arm-in-arm towards Hill Top shortly after nine o’clock in the evening. They had kept company for over a year, and there is no reason to believe that they were on anything but the best of terms with each other and with their relatives. So far as is known they had never quarrelled.

The victims of this distressing tragedy were John Alfred Webster (22), a moulder, of 61, Lower High Street, and Florence Edna Turner (17), daughter of the licensee of the JOLLY BREWER, Camp Street. Their movements on the evening of their mysterious disappearance can be traced fairly easily up to a point. After taking tea with Webster's mother, a widow, the couple left to attend an election meeting. Miss Turner was overcome by the heat and pressure of the crowd, and fainted. She was carried out by a police officer, and very soon recovered. Both she and Webster then returned to 61, Lower High Street, where they rested awhile and ate a little supper....

The dead girl is described as lively, high-spirited, generally popular amongst her acquaintances, and quite a favourite with the customers of her father's house, where she assisted with the business. Mr. *Turner* was formerly a West Bromwich Albion footballer, and Florence was his eldest daughter.

Alfred Webster was the youngest of four sons, and the only one living with his mother, a widow in reduced circumstances. He had been out of work for 18 months, but in spite of this he was not depressed, and was in a happy, joking mood before going out to the election meeting on the Monday evening. His health was quite good, says his mother, although he had suffered from an epileptic fit about two years ago.

Not the slightest objection was placed in the way of the couple by either of the parents, and they were apparently very happy together.

The inquest on the girl, Frances Edna Turner, was held at the Law Courts, West Bromwich, on Wednesday last week, before Mr. Lyon Clark and a jury.

Isaiah Turner, the father, said he was a publican, living at 16, Camp Street, Wednesbury. He identified the body lying in the mortuary as that of his daughter....

Dr. Hodgetts said he made a post mortem examination. He said that the bruises to the eyes were probably caused after death. The body was well developed and well nourished. The young woman was pregnant, and in his opinion the cause of death was drowning.

The Coroner briefly addressed the jury, and said that the young couple were probably going for their usual walk on a dark and foggy night, and they might have caught their feet in the projections on the towing path, and fallen into the water. That, from the evidence, appeared to be the only inference to draw.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned, the foreman adding that they did so in case something might be revealed at the inquest on the young man, which was being held in another area.

In consequence of the body of Webster having been found in the canal on the confines of Tipton, Mr. G. C. Lewis, the Coroner, deemed it necessary to hold a separate enquiry. This was held at the RISING SUN, Toll End, on Wednesday week, the body having been removed to the mortuary, which is near.

PC Pinkstone and PC Grattage deposed that Webster's body was floating in the water about 800 yards from where that of the girl was found. Had they fallen into the water together the bodies might have been separated by passing boats, as there was a good deal of traffic in that locality. The towpath was a favourite walk, but it was dangerous in the dark, and especially on foggy nights, such as that when the calamity happened. There were several mooring posts to which boats were tied, and it was more than probable that the pair tripped over one of these and were thus cast into the water.

The Coroner said that death was evidently due to drowning, and as there was no evidence as to how the man got into the water he could only record a verdict of Found Drowned.

The two Wednesbury lovers, John Webster and Florence Turner, who were found drowned in the Birmingham Canal were buried together amid impressive scenes at the Wednesbury Borough Cemetery last Friday afternoon Many beautiful wreaths were a testimony to the deep feeling that has been stirred into the neighbourhood by the sad and untimely end of these two young people."

Walsall Observer 9/7/1932

"JOLLY BREWER Top.

The Wednesbury and District Table Tennis League concluded their fixtures last week.

JOLLY BREWER played 10, won 10."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/7/1934

"A verdict of Natural Causes was returned at a Wednesbury inquest yesterday on Joseph Alexander Stevens, aged 34, a tube-cutter, of 16, Camp Street, Wednesbury.

Edward Stevens, licensee of the JOLLY BREWER INN, said that on Saturday his son did not get up to go to work as usual, and going to his room witness found him dead in bed.

Dr. A. Wilson said death was due to cardiac failure secondary to acute pericarditis."

1939 Register

16, Camp Street – JOLLY BREWER INN

[1] Edward Stevens, date of birth 3/5/1876, licensee, married;

[2] Emma Stevens, dob 30/4/1881, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Walsall Observer 24/8/1940

“JOLLY BREWER Showed a Light.

Three lighting offenders came before the Stipendiary at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday.....

Edward Stevens, JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, was fined 20s.”

Evening Despatch 13/9/1940

“Described by the presiding magistrate at Wednesbury, today, as an incorrigible rogue, Alexander Henry Morbey, aged 29, labourer, 254, Green Lane, Walsall, was sentenced to six months’ hard labour on a charge of stealing a pedal cycle from outside the JOLLY BREWER INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, on 9 September.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League in 1948.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/7/1962 - Notice

“Notice is Hereby Given that the Minister of Housing and Local Government, in pursuance of the powers vested in him by the Housing Act, 1957, on the 18th day of July, 1962, confirmed with modifications the ‘Borough of Wednesbury (Russell Street Clearance Areas Nos.1-4) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1961,’ submitted to him by the Wednesbury Borough Council authorising them to purchase compulsorily under Section 43 of the said Act the lands described in the Schedule to this notice, which lands are lands in areas declared to be Clearance Areas by a resolution of the Council, dated the 25th day of July, 1960, and also lands surrounded by or lands adjoining the said clearance areas.....

Lands outside the clearance areas.....

The JOLLY BREWER, Camp Street.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1965]

Closed

It was demolished in 1970.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
CAMP STREET, AND RUSSELL STREET, WEDNESBURY.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY JAMES TAYLOR, at the Dartmouth Arms Hotel,
Wednesbury, on WEDNESDAY NEXT, 28th day of February, at Seven for Eight o'clock precisely; subject to conditions then to be read—

Lot 1.—That Compact and Desirable OLD-LICENSED INN known as the “Jolly Brewer Inn,” situate in Camp Street, now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Russell, at the yearly rental of £28., and comprising two Cellars, Brewhouse, Bar, Parlour, large Club Room, Malt Room, and three Bed Rooms, Yard, Piggeries, &c. The lot contains 453 square yards, or thereabouts.

1866

TO BENEFIT SOCIETIES.
BENJAMIN BISSELL,
JOLLY BREWER INN,
CAMP STREET, WEDNESBURY,
Having a Commodious Club Room, is desirous of treating with any benefit society desiring such accommodation.

WEDNESBURY AND DISTRICT
RETAIL BREWERS' & BEERSELLERS'
BENEVOLENT & PROTECTION SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1870.

The Benefits of this Society are extended to Members residing in WEDNESBURY, DARLASTON, GREAT BRIDGE, MOXLEY, TIPTON, and WEST BROMWICH.

The Trade are respectfully requested to become Members of this Society.
All Particulars and Terms of Membership can be obtained by application to
MR. BENJAMIN BISSELL,
Jolly Brewers' Inn, Camp-street, Wednesbury.
N.B.—No person is authorised by the above Society to sell any article whatever.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
BENJAMIN BISSELL begs to inform his numerous friends that he has REMOVED from the Jolly Brewers' Inn, to 54, STAFFORD STREET, WEDNESBURY, where all communications are to be addressed.

1874

JOLLY COLLIER

53, (54), Meeting Street / Lloyd Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Darby's Brewery Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1968]

Bass Ltd. [1970]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Elizabeth Parker [1860] – [1881]

Joseph Parker [1891] – [1896]

John C Berry [1901] – [1912]

Jeremiah Bray [1921]

Edward Henry Smith [1927] – **1930**;

Sydney Griffiths (**1930** – []

Oswald Horace Burkitt (**1934** – [1947]

Edna Joan Hough (**1961 – 1986**):

NOTES

54, Meeting Street [1861], [1864], [1868], [1872], [1881], [1891], [1896], [1911], [1912]

53, Meeting Street [1939]

It had a beerhouse license.

1851 Census

Meeting Street

[1] *Elizabeth Parker* (39), widow, beer shop keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *William Parker* (19), son, coal dealer, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Joseph Parker* (15), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Betsy Parker* (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Sarah Parker* (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Mary Parker* (3), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Mrs. *Elizabeth Parker*, beer retailer, Meeting Street. [1860]

Mrs. *Elizabeth Parker*, beer retailer, 54, Meeting Street. [1861], [1864], [1868], [1872]

1871 Census

Meeting Street

[1] *Elizabeth Parker* (59), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Joseph Parker* (32), son, no occupation, lame from birth, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Thomas Parker* (19), son, labourer in iron works, born Wednesbury;

[4] *John Berry* (30), son-in-law, blacksmith, born Harborne;

[5] *Betsey Berry* (29), daughter-in-law, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Samuel Horton* (9), grand-son, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Thomas Hodggets* (31), lodger, labourer in iron works, born West Bromwich;

[8] *John Plester* (19), lodger, labourer in iron works, born Bambury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/2/1877

“*Elizabeth Parker*, beerhouse keeper, of Meeting Street, Wednesbury, was charged with selling beer during prohibited hours. Mr. Topham, solicitor, of Wednesbury, appeared for the defendant. The charge was admitted. In mitigation it was urged that defendant had been a beerhouse keeper for forty years and had never previously offended.

Mr. Spooner dismissed the summons, observing that the summons was taken for selling during prohibited hours. It had not been proved to his satisfaction.”

1881 Census

54, Meeting Street

- [1] *Elizabeth Parker* (73), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Joseph Parker* (42), son, labourer in works, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *John C. Berry* (41), son-in-law, blacksmith, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Betty Berry* (39), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Samuel Orton* (19), step-son, labourer in works, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Hannah E. Berry* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury:

1891 Census

54, Meeting Street – JOLLY COLLIER

- [1] *Joseph Parker* (52), unmarried, labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *John C. Berry* (51), brother-in-law, blacksmith;
- [3] *Betsy Berry* (48), sister, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ellen H. Berry* (11), niece, born Wednesbury:

Joseph Parker, beer retailer, 54, Meeting Street. [1896]

1901 Census

Meeting Street – JOLLY COLLIER INN

- [1] *John C. Berry* (61), publican, born Leamington;
- [2] *Betsy Berry* (59), wife, born Wednesbury:

1911 Census

54, Meeting Street

- [1] *John Berry* (71), publican, born Warwick;
- [2] *Betsy Berry* (69), wife, married 42 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Alfred Jones* (34), son-in-law, roll sheet turner, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ellen Jones* (30), daughter, born Wednesbury:

John Berry, beer retailer, 54, Meeting Street. [1912]

1921 Census

Meeting Street – JOLLY COLLIER

- [1] *Jeremiah Bray* (47), iron furnaceman, out of work, born Great Bridge;
- [2] *Kate Bray* (47), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Jessie Riley* (25), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Lenard Riley* (32), son-in-law, steel roller's helper, out of work, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Cathleen Bray* (10), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Doris Bray* (7), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Cyril Bray* (2), son, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 23/4/1927

“Having been discovered in the yard at the rear of the JOLLY COLLIER, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, shortly before midnight on Sunday, William Whitehouse (33), 65 Station Street, Darlaston, was sentenced to fourteen days’ hard labour for being on enclosed premises for an unlawful purpose. When found by *Edward Henry Smith*, the licensee, Whitehouse was not wearing his boots, and it was stated that he must have climbed a wall five feet high to enter the yard.

When charged by PC Hudson, by whom he was arrested, prisoner said, ‘I cannot give you any explanation now.’ Prisoner stated that he had had some drink and he remembered taking off his boots because they hurt him, but nothing afterwards until the licensee picked him up.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Table Tennis League. [1932]

Walsall Observer 11/2/1933

“Wednesbury annual licensing sessions.....

Police Superintendent Adams in his report stated.....

On September 23 last plans were approved for alterations to the JOLLY COLLIER, Meeting Street, but the work has not yet been commenced.”

Rugeley Times 24/4/1937

“‘If you go up there you’ll catch him,’ was the statement that was alleged to have caused two police officers to visit the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, at 10.45pm on March 19th and to have resulted in the appearance at the Court of *Horace Oswald Burkitt*, the manager of the inn, his wife, Mabel Burkitt, and Sarah Slade and John James Lloyd, customers. The licensee and his wife were summoned for aiding and abetting Slade and Lloyd to consume intoxicating liquor on licensed premises during prohibited hours, and Slade and Lloyd were summoned for consuming the liquor.

Mr. Ernest E. Brown, prosecuting, said *Burkitt* had been manager since June 1934 without previous complaint. On March 19th, in consequence of an intimation, Sergeant Martin and another officer went to the JOLLY COLLIER where they found the premises lighted, the yard door at the side open and heard voices inside. They then found the living-room door open, and Slade and Lloyd were inside. In front of Slade was a glass containing beer, and Lloyd was in the act of drinking from a glass. The licensee and his wife were in the room with two others, but there was no drink in front of them.

In answer to Mr. Sydney W. Smith (for the defence), Sergeant Martin said the beer he saw looked fresh; there was a top on it and both glasses were half-full. Slade drank her beer while he was closing the door. When he asked her if she had had a half glass of beer in front of her when he had opened the door she replied that she had brought it from the smoke room before 10 o’clock. Lloyd told him he had brought his glass of beer out of the bar before 10 o’clock. *Burkitt*, the licensee, said the beer had not been paid for after 10 o’clock and added, ‘You have your job to do the same as I have.’ The other two persons in the kitchen at the time were Lloyd’s wife and Slade’s son. There was no suggestion of concealment.

Mr. Smith said the defendants were people of good character. Slade was 69 years old and she and Lloyd were old friends of the licensee and his wife. They had been customers in the house before 10 o’clock. The last drink was supplied to Slade at 9.40. At that time one of the licensee’s children, which had been and was still ill, began to cry and as the girl who usually looked after it was out, Slade went to nurse the child, as she had previously done, taking her beer with her. Lloyd was served with his last beer at 9.50pm. He had been collecting money for a pantomime trip and offered Mrs. *Burkitt* the money, but she had asked him to wait until later. He was settling that business when the police officers arrived, having carried his glass of beer into the kitchen. The licensee now realised that innocent as the act had been it was wrong.

At this stage Mr. Brown said a woman saw Mrs. Slade go into the kitchen with a glass of beer in her hand and going up to a police officer said, ‘If you go up there you’ll catch him.’ Mr. B. G. Grimley, Stipendiary Magistrate, said that the fact that someone had complained to the police did not alter his view of the case; it was very unfair to other licensed houses.

The licensee was ordered to pay costs of £5 9s 0d, his wife to pay costs of 8s, and Slade and Lloyd to pay costs of 4s each.”

Walsall Observer 5/2/1938

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Police Superintendent J. H. Hall stated during the year the licensee of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Meeting Street, a beerhouse ‘on,’ was proceeded against, and was ordered to pay the costs He had served notice opposing the renewal of the license.....

The Mayor announced that all the licenses, including the two objected to by the Superintendent, would be renewed.”

The pub joined the Wednesbury and District Darts League and entered the Lonsdale Darts Trophy Competition in 1938.

1939 Register

53, Meeting Street (4 of 5)

[1] Oswald H. Burkitt, date of birth 15/9/1898, manager, beerhouse, married;

[2] Mabel Burkitt, dob 15/5/1901, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] James Harper, dob 10/8/1914, vehicle chassis fitter, single;

[4] John O. Burkitt, dob 19/1/1926, school, single;

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

JOLLY COLLIER, Wednesbury, £1 18s.”

Evening Despatch 2/6/1947

“Jack Birkitt, the clever young centre-half of Darlaston Football Club, has been transferred to Nottingham Forest at a fee stated to be in the region of £500, which is a record for the club. Birkitt, who has played for Darlaston for two seasons, is a son of Mr. *Horace Birkitt*, licensee of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.”

[Jack Burkitt played for Nottingham Forest until 1962.]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1963]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Cribbage League. [1970]

The license was not renewed in 1986.

It closed and was sold, delicensed, by the brewery.

It was converted into an office known as Collier House.

It was demolished in March 1991.

JOLLY COLLIER

Shambles, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Ike Turner []

NOTES

Ike Turner played football for Wednesbury Old Athletic.

Check Meeting Street.

JUNCTION

24, (31), Trowse Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinsons Brewery Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

Thomas Jolly [] - **1855**);
Mary Batch (**1855** - []
Mrs. Elizabeth Jolly [] - **1856**);
Thomas Pritchard (**1856** - [1863]
Thomas Fletcher (**1863**);
Frederick Rabjohns* (**1863** - [1868]
William Rabjohns [1871]
Frederick Rabjohns* [1871] - [1873]
William Henry Taylor [1878]
Henry Noakes [1879] - **1881**);
Joseph Thickett (**1881** - []
Thomas Cartwright [1888]
William Bird [1891] - [1896]
Joseph Malborn [1891]
Joseph Marwin [1892]
John 'Jack' Wilkes [1898] - [1901]
Thomas W Nicholls [1904]
George Epps [1907]
John Cunningham [1908]
Daniel Potts [1908]
Henry John Birkin [1911] - [1912]
William Richards [1915] - [1921]
Samuel Taylor [1921] - [1934]
William Richard Hulse [1939] - [1948]

NOTES

31, Trowse Lane [1904]

[31, Trowse Lane is the BRITANNIA, but this directory entry says JUNCTION INN.]

24, Trowse Lane [1871], [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911], [1908], [1921], [1939], [1940]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/1/1855

“At the Petty Sessions, West Bromwich, on Saturday last before the sitting Magistrates.....

the license of the JUNCTION INN, Wednesbury, was transferred from the executors of the late *Thomas Jolley* to *Mary Batch*.”

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.....

Thomas Pritchard, JUNCTION INN, Wednesbury, cautioned.”

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1900.

MESSRS. NOCK & JOSELAND will
Sell by Auction at the STORK
HOTEL, WALSALL, on the above date at
6 30 in the evening punctually.
WEDNESBURY.
LOT 1.
The Valuable FREEHOLD FREE FULL
LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the
“Junction Inn,” Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.
in the occupation of Mr John Wilkes, at the
annual rental of £100.
NOTE.—This is one of the best Business
Houses in the district, and where home brew-
ing houses are very scarce.

1900

1861 Census

Trouse Lane

- [1] *Thomas Pritchard* (36), gas tube manufacturer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Pritchard* (35), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Edward Pritchard* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Emma Pritchard* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Thomas Pritchard* (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Albert Pritchard* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Sarah Cartwright* (25), servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/11/1863

“*Thomas Pritchard*, of the JUNCTION INN, Wednesbury, was fined 5s and costs for selling in prohibited hours.”

* probably the same person

1871 Census

24, Trowse Lane

- [1] *Frederick Rabjohns* (38), publican, born Devon;
- [2] *Rhoda Rabjohns* (38), wife, born Bath;
- [3] *Alfred Rabjohns* (17), son, wheelwright's apprentice, born Wellington, Somerset;
- [4] *Frederick Rabjohns* (11), son, scholar, born Bridgewater, Somerset;
- [5] *Olliver Rabjohns* (9), son, scholar, born Bridgewater, Somerset;
- [6] *Rhoda Ann Bramfill* (12), niece, scholar, born Wiviliscombe, Devon;

Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1871 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, At the risk of being considered presumptuous, I cannot help giving it as my opinion that slight paralytic attacks are of more frequent occurrence than even medical men are aware of. The attacks I refer to are not in all cases so severe as to produce utter insensibility, but enough so to produce sickness, and during the succeeding sleep to destroy all recollection of what has taken place, in some instances even of occurrences immediately preceding the attack. No doubt, I have described some of the characteristics of epilepsy, but the following, I think, must surely be a distinguishing mark in these cases. Unlike fits generally, the sufferers, although instantly rendered incapable, and utterly prostrated for different lengths of time, do not in all cases become insensible, many only for a few seconds, and in no case beyond a very short time; in proof of which, if it must be so, they can answer questions, doing so generally by a nod or shake of the head; but, if possible, evading the painful effort from sheer exhaustion. My ambition, however, is not so much to give a correct name to this malady as to bring the subject fairly before those who can.

My principal object in asking the favour of the insertion of a long letter is to invite attention to the fatal fact that it is next to impossible for railway officials, police officers, or, indeed, anyone else, to distinguish between such symptoms and those of thorough drunkenness, except it be a medical man, or one, who, like myself, has been locked up more than once while labouring under a similar affliction.

The following is a case in point. On Thursday evening, 22nd inst, while waiting for the train at Snow Hill Station, a respectably dressed middle-aged female fell down on the platform, and was brought into the waiting-room. She was evidently very ill, but was perfectly conscious, and talked coherently. After giving a half-sovereign to a female to get her a ticket to Wednesbury, she told me, in answer to a question, that when there she would be known. I expressed to the bystanders a belief that she had had a stroke of some kind, and she had many sympathisers among them; but shortly the inevitable sickness came on, and changed the complexion of things altogether – her former friends, one and all, as they left the waiting-room, expressing an opinion she was drunk. I do not think (and I had a better opportunity of judging than others) that she had taken anything of an intoxicating nature. Shortly afterwards I asked the guard, whose train was on the point of starting, to have her put into the train, but he declined the responsibility on the same score. The station master, however, who came up at the time, in view of the bare possibility of my conjecture being correct, at once gave consent, and ordered her to be lifted into the train, on my engaging to ride in the same compartment, and give her into the care of the porters at Wednesbury. This I did, and on her arrival, she was carried bodily by the porters to a seat, her legs dragging, and twisted behind her whenever they touched the ground. On the following Sunday evening she died.

Now it is positively alarming to remember that if that poor woman had been left behind the tender offices of the police would have been substituted for the medical aid she was so much in need of. What else could have befallen her? She would in all probability have died in the police cell before the turn of midnight. I have no remedy to offer, but if I am fortunate enough to enlist the attention of any able to alleviate the suffering of a single patient, I shall feel happy in having made this attempt,

Your respectfully, Whisper, Bilston, June 30, 1871.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1871 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, In reference to a letter signed ‘Whisper,’ in your issue of the 4th instant, whoever the writer may be, it does credit to his head and heart, and if he will do me the favour of calling upon me, it will afford me pleasure to express my gratitude for his kindness to my late dear wife; while that part of the public who have had any experience in the dreadful visitation he so faithfully describes, will join me in thanks for the philanthropic endeavour he has made to put railway officials and others on their guard when a sudden case, like the one in question, should unfortunately occur.

I can assure ‘Whisper,’ and the persons who saw my wife stricken down at the Snow Hill Station, that she was of temperate and exemplary habits. She was a person of weak digestion, and had to be very careful of what she ate and drank, and although spending a great part of time in the bar, seldom could she be persuaded to take even a glass of brandy, when I thought she needed one, and pressed her to do so. On her arrival at home, I sent for the best medical aid within reach, but the case was pronounced hopeless from the first. The loss I have sustained has had a serious effect upon me, and the more so that a suspicion should have been entertained that her helplessness had arisen from drunkenness.

I beg very respectfully the insertion of this letter in your next impression, and am yours respectfully, *Frederick Rabjohn*, JUNCTION INN, Wednesbury, July 6, 1871.”

William Rabjohns was fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness in September 1871.

[This was probably *Frederick Rabjohns*.]

Birmingham Daily Post 20/9/1871

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner, Stipendiary.....

William Rabjohns, of the JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, was charged with having allowed drunkenness in his house. The case was proved by Police-constables Bayley and Hill, who visited the house at 8.30 on the night of the 11th inst, and found there two drunken men, the one being asleep, and the other quarrelsome and wanting to fight. They returned in about half an hour, and found one of the men still present.

Witnesses were called to show that one of the men was a tramp, who had just entered the house when the police came, but had had nothing to drink, and that the other was a man whose head had been hurt while at work, and who was resting it upon the table.

The police, in answer to the Stipendiary, said the defendant had not been convicted before, but many complaints had been received as to the manner in which the house was conducted. The Stipendiary imposed a fine of £5 and costs, telling the defendant that he and those like him were the curse of the neighbourhood.”

Midland Examiner 4/5/1878

“*William H. Taylor*, landlord of the JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, was summoned for permitting gambling in his house, on the 26th ult. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the defence.

Police-constable Berks visited the defendant’s house, and upon going into the bagatelle room found a number of men playing at bagatelle for ale, and upon the game being finished three of the men went into the bar and ordered two pints of ale, at the same time remarking, ‘This is the winnings ale.’ Police-constable Ford corroborated this evidence. For the defence it was stated that the gas escaped in the house, and two young men named Dee and Wedge remedied the defect. They afterwards had a game at bagatelle, and a pint of ale was given to them by the landlord for stopping the escape of gas.

The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant 50s and costs. The defendant gave notice of appeal.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/5/1878

“*William Henry Taylor*, landlord of the JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, was summoned for having permitted gaming – bagatelle-playing for beer – in his house on Friday, the 26th ult. Defendant was fined 50s and costs, his license not being endorsed. Defendant said he should appeal ‘if it cost him his last penny.’”

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.....

William Henry Taylor, JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, fined 50s and costs, for permitting gaming.....

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.”

Henry Noakes = *Henry Nokes*

Wednesbury Herald 15/11/1879

“*Benjamin and Mary Teneman*, mother and son, were each fined 2s 6d and costs, for refusing to quit the JUNCTION INN, when requested to do so by *Henry Nokes*. The defendants created a disturbance in the house, assaulted the landlord, and when requested to leave they refused to do so.”

1881 Census

24, Trowse Lane – JUNCTION INN

[1] *Joseph Thickett* (48), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Esther E. Thickett* (45), wife, born High Arcal, Shropshire;

[3] *Venyenness Cheshire* (4), adopted child, female, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Mary Collern* (25), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Thomas Cartwright, beerhouse keeper, 24, Trowse Lane. [1888]

Wednesbury Herald 17/1/1891

“On Tuesday Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, touching the death of *Phoebe Morgan* (27), who had died suddenly.

The deceased, who is the daughter of a chartermaster, residing in Trowse Lane, has been an imbecile for upwards of six years and for a long time it has been customary for her relatives, at dinner time, to cut up her meat into small pieces. On the 10th inst she was supplied with her dinner properly prepared, and subsequently she was found unconscious and apparently choking. Medical aid was promptly obtained, but deceased expired immediately after the arrival of Dr. O’Hare.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

24, Trowse Lane – JUNCTION INN

[1] *Joseph Malborn* (47), gun lock maker, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah A. Malborn* (44), wife, born Bedworth, Warwickshire;

[3] *Fanny Malborn* (14), daughter, born Wednesbury:

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.....

William Bird, JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.”

William Bird was also the licensee of the BLUE BALL. [1896]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/12/1898

"*John Wilkes*, landlord of the JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours, and Thomas Simkin and Ann Simkin, of Trowse Lane, were charged with being on the licensed premises after hours. Mr. G. H. Thursfield appeared for the defence.

Police-sergeant Bentley stated at 11.50pm on Monday, October 13th, he visited the JUNCTION INN, kept by *Wilkes*, and in a small room adjoining the bar he saw the Simkins' sitting on a form with two glasses of whisky between them. *Wilkes* and his wife were also in the room. Witness asked *Wilkes* for an explanation of the presence of the Simkins, and he replied that about closing time, Mrs. Simkin went to ask his wife a question, and she stayed there because she said she was unwell. Her husband followed her, and remained there also.

Police-constable Wallace gave corroborative evidence.

In defence, Mr. Thursfield submitted that in consequence of Mrs. Simkin being unwell, *Wilkes* gave her some whisky, and when her husband followed her he gave him some also. No payment was made.

The magistrates considered that the police were justified in bringing the case before them for investigation, but under the circumstances dismissed it."

Walsall Advertiser 17/11/1900 - Advert

"Tuesday, November 27th, 1900.

Messrs. Nock & Joseland will Sell by Auction at the STORK HOTEL, Walsall, on the above date at 6.30 in the evening punctually.

Wednesbury.

Lot 1. The Valuable Freehold Full Licensed Public House, known as the JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mr. *John Wilkes*, at the annual rental of £100.

Note. This is one of the best Business Houses in the district, and where home brewing houses are very scarce."

Sporting Life 27/2/1901

"Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Despite the many football attractions in this district on Saturday afternoon last, there was a good assemblage of gun followers at these grounds, when the attraction comprised a couple of matches, the chief one undoubtedly being between Mr. Geo. Hall, of Greets Green, and Mr. Jonah Debney, of the TIGER INN, Oldbury, who were billed to shoot at eleven sparrows each, 21 yards rise, 40 yards fall, 1¼oz of shot, from three traps, five yards apart, for £20.....

Mr. *Jack Wilkes*, the well-known pigeon shot, of the JUNCTION INN, Wednesbury, officiated as referee."

[Jonah Debney was the winner.]

1901 Census

24, Trowse Lane – JUNCTION TAVERN

[1] *John Wilkes* (45), married, licensed victualler, born Walsall;

[2] Arthur Wilkes (19), son, jockey, born Walsall;

[3] Benjamin Wilkes (18), son, barman in tavern, born Walsall;

[4] Elsie Wilkes (10), daughter, born Walsall:

Wednesbury Leader 5/10/1901

"At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, Messrs. Hudson and Stafford, mineral water manufacturers, of Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, were charged that they on the 16th August sold beer by retail without having a license.

Mr. James Lush, supervisor of the Inland Revenue authorities, appeared to prosecute and said defendants, who were a firm carrying on business in the town, had been in the habit of sending out their draymen with bottled beer, and they got custom and disposed of it. As defendants pleaded guilty there was no desire to press the charges, but the authorities wished it to go to the public they could not do this.

William Collins, Inland Revenue officer for Wednesbury, said on the 16th August he was in the JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, when a drayman named John Jones, in the employ of the defendants, came in and solicited an order for Guinness's stout. Receiving an order he brought in four dozen half-pint bottles. He told the man he had been breaking the law, and he admitted the offence. Witness also referred to a warning he gave the man in December last.

The magistrates said that as defendants pleaded guilty they would fine them £5 and costs."

Worcester Journal 23/3/1907 - Deaths

“March 17th, at JUNCTION INN, Wednesbury, Staffs, *George Epps* (late of Kings Head, Sidbury), second son of the late Thomas Epps, Albion Inn, Bath Road, Worcester, aged 42.”

AND

Worcester Journal 23/3/1907

“The death occurred at Wednesbury, on Sunday evening, after a short illness, of Mr. *George Epps*, formerly of this city. Mr. *Epps*, who was 42 years of age, and who leaves a widow but no family, was the second son of the late Mr. Thomas Epps, of the Albion Inn, Bath Road, and for some years was the licensee of the Saracens Hotel, Tything. Afterwards he was at the Kings Head, Sidbury, and a short time ago took the JUNCTION INN, at Wednesbury. He was a member of the Worcester City Council, as a representative of St. Peter’s Ward, from November 1900 to November 1901, succeeding the late Mr. J. Rogers, and again from 1902 to 1905. He was also a member of the Board of Guardians for some years, from April 1895 to April 1898.....”

Birmingham Mail 28/4/1908

“This afternoon, at the Wednesbury Police Court, Mary Partridge, residing in Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of the JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, and also for assaulting the landlord, *Daniel Potts*, on Easter Monday. Mr. A. J. Glover prosecuted.

The defendant and her husband were in the JUNCTION INN, when one of the company trod on the defendant’s foot. Although an apology was tendered, defendant became very violent, and ultimately the landlord had to speak to her and request her to leave. Defendant refused, and when the landlord tried to eject her she struck him in the mouth, knocking a tooth out. Afterwards, it was alleged, the defendant came back and struck the landlord another blow in the mouth, and before she was finally ejected tables were upset and jugs were broken.

Defendant pleaded that a person trod on her foot whilst doing the cake walk. (Laughter.)

For the assault the Stipendiary sent the defendant to gaol for one month, and for refusing to quit he fined defendant 10s and costs, or 14 days. The defendant’s daughter, Florence Partridge, was also fine 5s and costs and ordered to pay 30s damage for breaking a plate-glass window with her fist at the JUNCTION INN.”

1911 Census

24, Trowse Lane – JUNCTION INN

[1] *Henry John Birkin* (50), licensed victualler, born Penkridge;

[2] *Florance Birkin* (38), wife, married 15 years, assisting in business, born Ocker Hill;

[3] *Maryann Curley* (19), domestic servant, born Walsall:

Henry John Birkin – see also CROSS KEYS, Wisemore, Walsall.

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1915 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General.

Apply, *Richards*, JUNCTION INN, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, good General.—Apply,
RICHARDS, Junction Inn, Wednesbury.

William Richards was secretary of Wednesbury and District Free and Protection Society. [1918]

1921 Census

24, Trowse Lane

[1] *Samuel Taylor* (55), public house manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Emma Valentine Taylor* (37), wife, home duties, born Walsall;

[3] *Arthur Clarence Taylor* (15), son, school, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Ethel Taylor* (13), daughter, school, born Wednesbury:

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 28/3/1925

“In the third round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Handicap at Birmingham on Monday, Mr. *S. Taylor*, of the JUNCTION INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury (rec.175), lost to E. Fletcher, of Birmingham (rec.250), after a capital finish by 400 to 380.”

1939 Register

24, Trowse Lane – JUNCTION INN

[1] *William R. Hulse*, date of birth 22/1/1899, threshing machine driver and licensee, married;

[2] Rose (Rosannah) H. Hulse, dob 28/9/1905, manageress public house, married;

[3] Arthur E. Hulse, dob 26/12/1929, school, single:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

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.....

W. R. Hulse, JUNCTION INN, Wednesbury.”

KINGS ARMS

37, High Bullen, (Dudley Street), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Bernard T. Hickman and Richard S. Pullen (acquired c.1904) [1927]
Atkinsons Brewery Ltd. (acquired in December 1927 for £3,100) [1932]

LICENSEES

Thomas Lawton [1791] – [1794]
Robert Winfield [1828] – [1840]
Betsy Winfield [1841] – [1842]
Richard Richards [1845] – **1857**;
Thomas Jones (**1857** – [1871]
Thomas Jones [1876] – [1879]
William Edwin Jones [1881] – [1888]
Harry Jones [1885] – [1896]
Edwin Jones [1901]
John T Jackson [1904]
George Fazackerley [1908]
Andrew Alexander Brownhill [1911] – [1916] manager
William Samuel Pritchard [1921] – [1921]
William Beddow [1927]
John Henry Hobson [] – **1925**;
Harry Day (**1925** – []
Edwin David Price [1932] – [1932]
John Cross [1932]

NOTES

Dudley Street [1828], [1830], [1850]
37, High Bullen [1871], [1872], [1881], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932]

KINGS HEAD [1851], [1861]

It had an alehouse license.

Thomas Lawton, victualler, KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/1/1794 - Advert

“Wednesbury, January 11, 1794.

Strayed or Stolen, out of a Piece of Ground near to the GOLDEN CUP, in Tole End and Tipton, in the County of Stafford, a little BROWN PONEY, about twelve Hands and a Half high, lame on the near Foot before, a short switch Tail, a thin Main, and a small Star on his Forehead.

Whoever will give Intelligence, or bring the said Poney, to *Thomas Lawton*, at the KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury, shall be well rewarded, and all Charges paid them, by *Thomas Lawton*.”

Wednesbury, Jan. 11, 1794.
STRAYED or STOLEN, out of a Piece of Ground near to the Golden Cup, in Tole End and Tipton, in the County of Stafford, a little BROWN PONEY, about twelve Hands and a Half high, lame on the near Foot before, a short switch Tail, a thin Main, and a small Star on his Forehead.
Whoever will give Intelligence, or bring the said Poney, to *Thomas Lawton*, at the King's Arms, Wednesbury, shall be well rewarded, and all Charges paid them, by

THOMAS LAWTON.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/5/1827 - Advert

"Any Person having a well-made light six-inch wheel Waggon, a ditto Cart, and any other Farming Implements to dispose of, in good condition, and suitable for the immediate use of a Farmer, may hear of a purchaser by applying (if by letter, post-paid) to Mr. Parton, at Mr. *Winfield's*, KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Gazette 28/11/1840 - Deaths

"November 19, at Wednesbury, Mr. *Robert Winfield*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, aged 50."

Betsy Winfield = Betsey Winfield

1841 Census

High Bullen

[1] *Betsey Winfield* (35), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] Rosanna Hindley (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[3] Betsey Pearce (13), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[4] George Weet (20), m.s.;

[5] John Goddard (4), born Staffordshire:

Betsy Winfield (41), widow, married *Richard Richards* (32), bachelor, coach-smith, on 4th August 1842.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/8/1842 - Married

"On Thursday last, at Wednesbury Church, by the Rev. R. Goldham, Curate, Mr. *Richard Richards*, eldest son of Mr. James Richards, coach-smith, to Mrs. *Winfield*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, both of Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/4/1845 - Advert

"Free of Auction Duty. Two Freehold Messuages, with Gardens, at Lea Brook, near Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by S. Bloore, on Monday the 28th day of April inst, at the house of Mr. *Richard Richards*, known by the sign of the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, Wednesbury....."

Birmingham Journal 25/4/1846

"At Wednesbury, on Tuesday, Benjamin Garbett appeared before the sitting Magistrates, to prefer a charge against James Jones for violently assaulting him. It appeared that on Easter Tuesday, the men were at the KINGS ARMS, in Wednesbury, drinking, and Jones challenged Garbett to fight. Jones struck him a tremendous blow upon the face, and broke both of his jaw bones. Mr. Dalby appeared for the defence, and addressed the Bench on behalf of the defendant, but the Magistrates said it was a most brutal assault, and fined the defendant £3 and costs, or three months' imprisonment."

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/5/1846

"On Saturday afternoon, an inquest was held at the KINGS ARMS INN, Wednesbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of James Mack, aged 15 years, who came to his death under the following circumstances. The deceased worked in a coal pit, at Church Hill, belonging to Mr. Hackett, and on Thursday night was ascending the shaft, and when near the top, the rope slipped, and the skip dropped about twenty yards. The deceased fell to the bottom of the pit, a depth of 45 yards, and had his thigh broken, and several other injuries were inflicted. He was immediately conveyed home, but he died from the injuries received. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/11/1846

"Patrick Lee, Michael Lee, William Lee, Patrick Clarty, Mary Clarty, John Clarty, and John O'Keif, were charged by James O'Donnell with assaulting him on Saturday night last at Wednesbury. Complainant was drinking at the KINGS ARMS INN, Wednesbury, and on leaving the house he was struck several times. The Bench fined Patrick Lee, Michael Lee, Patrick Clarty, and John O'Keif 1s each and expenses"

AND

"Patrick Lee, Michael Lee, William Lee, Patrick Clarty, George Clarty, and John O'Keif, were charged with assaulting police constable C. Harrison and committing a breach of the peace. The Bench fined Patrick Clarty 2s 6d for the assault, and ordered them all to find bail for six months and pay the expenses."

Birmingham Journal 20/2/1847

"We are informed that a delegate meeting of the Wolverhampton Good Samaritan Order of Odd Women was held on Tuesday last, at the house of Mr. *Richards*, KINGS ARMS INN, Wednesbury, which was represented by delegates from Wolverhampton, Dudley, Bridgnorth, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Brierley Hill, Wednesbury, Walsall, Darlaston, Bloxwich, and Tipton. Mr. E. Humpage, Grand Master of the Order, presided, and gave the following statement of the condition of the institution. The lodges had increased during the last year from thirty-four to forty-four, and he was proud to say that 'no other society could boast of so many odd women.' The money collected during the past year was £363 19s 4½d, and the payments were £345 1s, leaving a balance in hand of £18 18s 4½d. Mr. Humpage was re-elected grand master for the ensuing year, and the meeting separated about eight o'clock."

Birmingham Journal 15/12/1849 - Advert

"To Ironfounders.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph Dawes, on Friday Next, the 21st December, 1849, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Richard Richards*, known by the sign of the KINGS ARMS INN, in the High Bullen, Wednesbury, in one lot, and subject to conditions to be produced at the Sale.

The Ironfoundry and Premises late belonging to Mr. William Ward Wilkes, situate in Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston....."

1851 Census

High Bullen

- [1] *Richard Richards* (40), coal master, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Betsy Richards* (45), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ann Griffiths* (15), niece, born Birmingham;
- [4] *John Goddard* (14), nephew, scholar, born Walsall;
- [5] *Samuel Derrey* (36), brewer, born Burntwood, Staffordshire;
- [6] *Sarah Johnson* (19), house servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Journal 14/8/1852 - Advert

"Recommencement of the No.1 Loan Society, at the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullin, Wednesbury, in Shares of £25, £50, £100, and upwards.

5s 6d per Fortnight, for £25

10s 6d per Fortnight, for £50

20s 6d per Fortnight, for £100

Richard Richards embraces this opportunity to return his sincere and heartfelt thanks to his numerous Friends and the Public generally, for the liberal support he has met at their hands since commencing the above Society, and begs to assure them that it will be his continual study to merit those favours which have been so liberally bestowed upon him from all his Clubs, which proves the general appreciation of the system of management adopted in them, and without wishing to appear invidious, would beg to draw public attention to the success of his Clubs over the no spending and no feast Clubs, which are more expensive in the management, although puffed up as being more economical, and are altogether deficient of that friendly intercourse which begets confidence among the members. The above Society will Recommence on Wednesday Evening, the 25th day of August, at Seven o'clock, and any person becoming a member will much oblige his obedient servant, *Richard Richards*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

"Licensing Day for Offlow South.....

Inspector Blaney addressed a notice to the chief superintendent complaining of the conduct of the following licensed victuallers, who, having music and allowing dancing in their respective inns, were accused of letting out the company at a late hour. Some of these persons, elevated with liquor, made noises and created disturbances in the street, much to the annoyance of the peaceable and well disposed. Major M'Knight laid the paper before the Court, and the delinquents, who did not deny the music and dancing, merely said they discharged their company at the proper hour; they did not suffer drunkenness on their premises. The Bench, through the Rev. I. Clarkson, said the evil appeared especially to prevail on Monday and Saturday nights, and the defendants must be seriously admonished as to their future conduct. This referred to.....

Richard Richards, KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/3/1854 - Deaths

“On the 23rd ult, Mrs. *Richards*, the wife of Mr. *Richard Richards*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/5/1854

“Inquests by Mr. Hinchliffe.....

On Saturday, at the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on the body of a child of twelve months, named Margaret Swift, who had been left by her mother in the care of a neighbour, in whose absence the child’s clothes took fire, and death ensued. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/7/1857

“On Monday last 70 members of the Prince Albert Lodge, No.11, of the Wolverhampton Loyal Reformed Order of Odd Fellows, held their annual dinner at the house of Host *Thomas Jones*, the KINGS ARMS INN, Wednesbury. N.G. James Small presided; Mr. Proctor, surgeon to the lodge, proposed the usual loyal toasts, which were drunk with due honour. The feast was served up in true old English style. A variety of excellent songs were sung by the members, and Bro. T. Cooper gave one of his favourite recitations, and was loudly encored. The company broke up at an early hour, and generally expressed their approbation of the manner in which the host and hostess had entertained them.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/8/1857

“Wednesbury Annual Licensing Meeting.....

The license of the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, kept by *Thomas Jones*, was ordered to be suspended. A short time ago *Jones* was fined 40s for selling on the Sunday; and the police authorities now urged against the renewing of the license that the KINGS ARMS was kept in a very disorderly manner, and required every Sunday constant watchfulness on their part, in consequence of the excesses of the low Irish who associated there.”

AND

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.....

Thomas Jones, KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury, license suspended till the 25th September.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 26/9/1857

“.....licensed victuallers who had their licenses suspended the Magistrates, after due caution, restored the licenses.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1860

“On Friday, the workmen employed at the Monway Ironworks (180 in all) held their annual dinner at the house of Mr. *Thomas Jones*, the KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury. The dinner was served in excellent style. After dinner, the health of Mr. Marshall, their employer was most enthusiastically drunk; and also the healths of Mr. Henry Mills, his wife and family. During the evening, the healths of Mr. John Finnemore, the chairman; Mr. Samuel Mincher, the vice-chairman; Mr. Hubbard, the treasurer of the sick club; and Mr. John Hickman, senior, the oldest workman in Mr. Marshall’s employ, were likewise drunk. The accounts of the sick club in connection with the works were read, and passed unanimously. The evening was well spent by the workmen in singing good old Christmas Carols, which were accompanied by Messrs. Harris and Butler on their concertinas.”

1861 Census

High Bullen

[1] *Thomas Jones* (36), victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Mary Ann Jones* (30), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *Harry Jones* (5), son, born Halesowen;

[4] *Thomas Jones* (2), son, born Halesowen;

[5] *William Duckworth* (76), boarder, widower, born Hall Green, Cheshire;

[6] *Sarah Gilbert* (20), house servant, born Tipton;

[7] *Abigail Lyndon* (15), house servant, born Tipton:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/10/1861

“At Wednesbury Public Office, yesterday, before J. Haines and T. Davies, Esqs, two rough-looking fellows, named respectively Thomas Conroy and Michael Cunningham, were charged with creating a disturbance at the house of Mr. *Thomas Jones*, of the KINGS HEAD, High Bullen. It appears that on the previous Saturday night the prisoner Conroy came into the house drunk and commenced quarrelling with the other accused. The landlord attempted to turn them out and they resisted, and broke the jugs and glasses in the room. Conroy was fined 5s and costs; and the other defendant who it appeared had not been so violent, 6d and costs.

Another man named Anthony Conroy was charged with creating a disturbance at the same house on the same night, and committing damage to the amount of 8s on a door. He was also charged with violently assaulting Police-constable Freeman. The offence was fully proved, and defendant was fined 8s for the damage to the door and costs, and 40s and costs for the assault on the officer. In default of payment he was sent to gaol for two months.”

Birmingham Journal 17/5/1862 - Advert

“BRUNSWICK INN. To be Let, with immediate possession, near the Great Western Station, a compact neatly fitted-up Public House. Rent Moderate.

Apply to Mr. *Thomas Jones*, KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/7/1862

“Some time between half-past one and half-past nine on Sunday morning some thieves entered the premises of Mr. *Jones*, KINGS ARMS INN, Wednesbury. They made their way to the malthouse, where some fowls were kept, and took nine of them away, and a sack, in which it is supposed they carried their booty.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/4/1863

“Staffordshire Easter Sessions.....

Bridget Connor, 23, no occupation, was charged with having stolen one silver watch, the property of James Willetts, at Wednesbury. Mr. Ryder prosecuted; the prisoner was not defended.

Prosecutor, a gas fitting maker, went into the KINGS ARMS public house, on the evening of the 31st of March, when he saw the prisoner, whom he conversed with for about five minutes. He then left the house in company with the prisoner for an immoral purpose, and the prisoner took the watch from his pocket, and gave it to a man named John Gibbons, who handed it to a policeman. The prisoner was acquitted by the jury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/6/1863

“Edward J. Morris, school-master, John Small, James Saunders, John Wood, and Thomas Law were charged with assaulting Mr. William Stevenson, builder, of the Holyhead Road. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Ebsworth for the defendants.

Mr. Stevenson said that on the previous Thursday evening he was at the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, superintending some alterations of the premises, and while in the street he met with Mr. Hill, stonemason, with whom he went into the house. They there saw Morris sparring with a man named Woolley, and in the course of a minute or two Morris's hat was knocked off and rolled behind complainant, who accidentally trod on it. Morris picked up his hat and walked out of the room, but returned in a short time with the four other defendants, and commenced abusing witness. After a great deal of foul language had been used, the defendant Saunders struck witness on the mouth, loosening several of his teeth, and the other three joined in the attack upon him. He was rendered insensible by their blows, and his face was covered with blood. He himself was sober at the time, but Morris was drunk. He strongly denied having struck any of the defendants.

Mr. *Jones*, the landlord of the KINGS ARMS, proved that on hearing a disturbance he went into the room, and saw two or three men, whom he would not swear to, striking complainant; one of them had hold of his hair.

John Robinson, a working man, said that he was in the room when the row began. Morris and Saunders blackguarded Stevenson, and Stevenson called Saunders a ‘scamp’ and a ‘thief.’ Saunders then struck Stevenson on the mouth, although he (Saunders) had got one arm tied up. Wood also struck Stevenson, and was going to strike him again, but witness prevented him. The other two defendants helped to beat him, but Morris did not join in the attack.

For the defence, Mr. Ebsworth contended that the affair was a mere public house brawl, arising from complainant having maliciously stamped upon and smashed Morris's hat, and that if there was any real quarrel it was owing to complainant's own conduct. He called two witnesses who deposed to complainant striking Saunders.

Mr. Stevenson was then charged with assaulting the same James Saunders, who stated that the former called him foul names and then struck him twice.

The magistrates, after consulting, decided to bind over all the defendants, except Morris, for assaulting Stevenson, and Stevenson for assaulting Saunders, each in his own recognizances."

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/4/1864

"Thomas Highlan was placed in the dock on a charge of fighting and disorderly conduct. Mr. *Thomas Jones*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, said there was a disturbance commenced on the previous day by some men in his house, and the prisoner came in, took his jacket off, and joined in the affray. He struck several people, an Irishwoman included. Prisoner was ordered to pay 6d and costs."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/11/1864

"An important movement among the journeymen wheelwrights' blacksmiths has just been commenced, to compel their employers to accede to their request to reduce their present labour by one hour per day. A meeting was held on Thursday evening last, at the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, Wednesbury, for the above purpose, when there were present about fifty men of the above-named trades, representing Wolverhampton, Walsall, Wednesbury, and Bilston districts.

Several of the members addressed the meeting, stating that in the above-named towns their general hours of labour were Monday, from seven o'clock to seven; and on the four following days, from six to seven; and on Saturday, from six o'clock to six; making a total of seventy-six hours per week that they have to be upon their employers' premises. This, after deducting nine hours per week allowed for meal times, leaves sixty-seven hours nett labour to be performed per week, being, as the speakers believed, seven hours per week in excess of what is performed by other artisans in their district. It was also stated that some of the employers were willing to grant their request for the reduction in the working hours, if it could be made a general rule.

The Chairman recommended that a committee should be appointed, to consist of two members from each town, to carry out the instructions and opinions of that meeting, and to wait upon all the master wheelwrights in the district and acquaint them with their request, and endeavour to obtain the reduction of labour in an amicable and quiet manner, if possible. A resolution was then moved that a committee of seven be appointed to carry out the above suggestions. This was seconded and carried, and it was determined that this committee should meet on Friday next, at their present place of assembling, to report the opinions of the various employers, and to consider what further can be done in the matter. Several other resolutions were passed of a minor importance, but all tending to a determination on the part of the men to obtain their request."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1870

"Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, coroner, at the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, on the body of Thomas Joseph Pearson, aged seven years, of Factory Entry, Wednesbury. It appeared that on Thursday the deceased went to the Patent Shaft Ironworks with his brother's dinner, and remained there from about one to half-past four, when he went to wash his hands at a spout which supplies a 'bosh' containing hot water, and fell in. Mr. Blackwood, surgeon, was sent for, and ordered the youth, who was dreadfully scalded all over the right side, to be taken home, and he died on the afternoon of the following day. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Thomas Jones was an ale brewer. [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

37, High Bullen

- [1] *Thomas Jones* (47), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary A. Jones* (41), wife, born Harborne;
- [3] *Edwin Jones* (17), son, assists in public house, born Tipton;
- [4] *Harry Jones* (15), son, pattern maker, born Tipton;
- [5] *Thomas Jones* (11), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [6] *Eliza Taylor* (14), niece, barmaid, born Oxford;
- [7] *Hannah Dipple* (18), general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Maria Richards* (18), general servant, born Bilston;

Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1871

“Wednesbury Board of Health. The usual fortnightly meeting of the Board was held yesterday evening.....

The main complaint in the Inspector of Nuisances report was of a foul and filthy cesspool on the premises of Mr. *T. Jones*, the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, the contents of which found its way into some adjoining cottages belonging to Mrs. M’Gill. A notice was ordered to be served for the abatement of the nuisance forthwith.”

Walsall Free Press 5/4/1873 - Advert

“Important Freehold Business Premises, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. James Taylor, at the house of Mr. *T. Jones*, KINGS ARMS INN, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, April 16th, 1873, at seven o’clock in the Evening.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/1/1876

“Kate Dunn, 22, a domestic servant in the employ of *Thomas Jones*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen. Wednesbury, was brought up in custody charged with stealing a scarf and a brooch, the property of her master. The articles in question having been missed, the prisoner was suspected, and on her box being searched it was found that she had taken them. She was committed to gaol for a month.”

Dudley Herald 14/10/1876

“Thomas Joyce, a labourer, was summoned for having been drunk and refusing to quit the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on Saturday week, and the charge having been proved by Mr. *Thomas Jones*, the landlord, he was fined 20s and the costs.”

Wednesbury Herald 16/8/1879

“The annual dinner of the Prince Albert Lodge of the United Order of Free Gardeners was held at host *Thomas Jones*’s KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on Saturday. By the invitation of the members Bros. Alexander Patterson (Grand Master of the Order) and George Feeney (District Secretary) were present. Bro. M. Pratt presided.....”

Wednesbury Herald 9/10/1880

“On Tuesday evening Edwin Hooper, Esq, (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, relative to the death of a child named Edward Skitt, aged eleven months, the illegitimate child of Eliza Skitt, who resided at Morley’s lodging house, High Bullen.

The mother of the deceased, a poorly dressed woman, said that eleven months ago she was confined in the Workhouse with the deceased child. Three weeks after her confinement she left the Workhouse in order to obtain a livelihood by ‘going out washing.’ The deceased became ill and very thin, and on August 4th she left the child in a house in Chapel Street, whilst she went to a surgeon for some medicine. On her return the child had been taken out of the house by some neighbours, some of whom complained that the child did not have sufficient food. The same day witness and the child were taken to the police station, and both were subsequently taken to the Workhouse where they remained for four months. Three weeks ago she again left the Workhouse, as she thought she would be able to obtain some work. The child grew worse, and although she fed it well with milk it died on the morning of the 1st inst.

The Coroner: What quantity of milk did the child have in the Workhouse?

Witness: A pint morning and evening.

The Coroner: You lived at Morley’s lodging house?

Witness: Yes.

The Coroner: And what quantity did the child have at the lodging house?

Witness: Only a halfpennyworth morning and evening. I could not afford to buy any more.

The Coroner: Did you leave the Workhouse for the purpose of seeing a man.

Witness: I wanted to see the father of the child.

In reply to further questions witness said the father of the child had refused to contribute towards its support, and she had been unable to take proceedings against him in consequence of having no money.

Several jurymen said the father of the child had acted in a most inhuman manner, and considered that the police ought to have summoned him to attend the inquiry.

The Coroner said he regretted to say that the police would not have been justified in causing him to attend inasmuch as the child had not been fathered.

A woman called Hamptongs gave evidence showing that the mother had paid every attention to the child. Police-sergeant Curtis said he had met the mother of the child in the streets at two o'clock in the morning, and had taken them to the police station and provided them with fire and food. On the 4th August a report was brought to the police station to the effect that the mother had left the child in a dying state in an empty house. Both were afterwards sent to the Workhouse.

The Coroner having summed up, the jury, after a lengthy deliberation returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes, accelerated by want of nourishment. At the request of the jury the Coroner informed the mother that in the event of her having more children and neglecting them she would be liable to be committed for manslaughter."

1881 Census

37, High Bullen – KINGS ARMS INN

- [1] William E. Jones (27), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Augusta Jones (28), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Mary G. Jones (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Thomas Jones (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Annie A. Jones (4 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Rosannah Bradshaw (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Selina M. Russell (18), domestic servant, born Tividale;
- [8] Hannah R. Fellows (15), nurse, born Wednesbury;

Dudley and District News 4/3/1882

"On Monday night a labourer named Edward Meakin, who had been observing 'Saint Monday,' residing in School Street, Wednesbury, went home in a state certainly not sober, and made a desperate attempt to murder his wife by stabbing her with a carving fork. Shortly after seven o'clock Meakin went home and commenced an altercation with his wife, who made a remark upon his condition, afterwards knocking her down and kicking her in a most brutal manner with his heavy boots. The poor woman shouted for help, and a neighbour named Humpage ran into the house and caught Meakin in the act of striking his wife on the head with a carving fork. Before Meakin could be prevented he inflicted such injuries upon his wife as rendered her insensible. Information was given to the police, and upon PCs Watson and Lytle going to the house they found Mrs. Meakin bleeding from wounds on the back of her head. Her face, breast, shoulders and other parts of the body were shockingly discoloured. Meakin having left home the officers went in search of him, and found him in the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen. When taken into custody Meakin said, 'I left her in the house; I have done nothing to her.' At a late hour on Monday night Mrs. Meakin, who is under the care of Dr. McKennas, was in a dangerous state. The prisoner is about forty years of age."

AND

Dudley and District News 11/3/1882

"At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before Mr. W. F. F. Boughey (Stipendiary), Edward Meakin (40), labourer, School Street, Holyhead Road, was charged with an aggravated assault on his wife on the 27th ult.

The complainant stated that on the day in question she and her husband, while both drunk, fought, and fell to the ground. She afterwards became insensible, and remained so until the following Thursday.

A child seven years of age, daughter of the prisoner, stated that her mother struck her father with a can, after which her father struck her mother on the head with a large fork.

Mary Ann Humpage corroborated.

The Stipendiary said the prisoner ought to think himself lucky that he was not charged with murder. As the complainant had occasioned a great deal of discomfort at home by her drunken habits, he should only sentence the prisoner to four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

PC Curtis said it was only due to Mrs. Humpage that his Worship should be informed that three surgeons refused to attend Mrs. Meakin when sent for, and as it was impossible to get one without payment, Mrs. Humpage paid a surgeon 2s 6d, which was all the money she possessed. Had it not been for the assistance of Mrs. Humpage the woman must have died.

The Stipendiary thanked Mrs. Humpage for her kindness, and as the Court could not allow her expenses, the learned Stipendiary gave her 5s out of his own pocket."

Dudley and District News 22/4/1882

“George Pitt, saddler, Bordesley Street, Birmingham, was charged with stealing a horse collar at Wednesbury on the 29th October last, value 15s, the property of Frederick Cadman, butcher, Wednesbury.

Prosecutor said the prisoner was a travelling working saddler, and on the day in question he gave him a horse collar to repair which he was to bring back the same day. Prisoner did not bring the collar back, and he did not see him again until last Wednesday when he was in custody. He had heard that prisoner offered to sell the collar for 1s in the RED LION, Wednesbury.

PC Lytle said he apprehended the prisoner on the 12th inst, in the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen; he had been tramping the country under different aliases. He charged him with the offence, and prisoner replied, ‘Well I know I took it, and I suppose I shall have to suffer now.’

Prisoner was committed for trial to the Stafford Assizes.”

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/5/1882

“Staffordshire and Salop Assizes.....

George Pitt (54), saddler, was indicted for stealing a horse collar, the property of Frederick Cadman, at Wednesbury, on the 29th October last. Mr. Fisher prosecuted.

The prisoner, who is a travelling saddler, called upon the prosecutor, a butcher, at Wednesbury, and was entrusted with a horse collar to repair, on condition that he should return it the same evening. He failed, however, to bring back the article, and it subsequently transpired that he had sold it for 1s 6d, although its estimated value was 15s. He was found guilty and sentenced to a month’s hard labour.”

Wednesbury Herald 2/9/1882

“On Tuesday morning Edwin Hooper, Esq, (District Coroner) held an inquest in the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, touching the death of William Wright (22), puddler, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning in Morley’s lodging house in High Bullen. Before going to view the body the Coroner said he should like to know if the lodging house was situate in a district where smallpox was prevalent. PC Lytle (the Coroner’s officer) said he was not aware that there were any small pox cases near the lodging house in question. The Coroner said it was important that he should know, as he did not think it advisable for him and the jury to go to places where small pox existed. A juryman stated that he believed there were several cases of small pox within 100 yards of the room in which they were then sitting.

The Coroner said he wished it to be understood that in future he should object to hold any inquiry in a district where small pox was known to be prevalent. He was not going to risk his own life and the lives of the jury in going to view bodies in houses where persons were suffering from small pox and other contagious diseases, in future he would expect the police to remove the bodies of the persons who had died, and into the cases of whose death it was necessary to hold an inquiry, to the public mortuary. The local authorities had provided a good mortuary, and considering the disease that was prevalent in the town it was desirable that it should be used.

After viewing the body the Coroner said the corpse was in a shocking state, and should not be kept in a lodging house. At the latest the body should not be allowed to remain in the house longer than that evening, in future he hoped the police would remove the bodies of persons who had died in lodging houses. PC Lytle said he would convey the message of the Coroner to Superintendent Holland.

Elizabeth Bates, who said that she resided at Greenhill, Lichfield, stated that deceased was a militiaman, and resided at Moxley. On Saturday she met the deceased at Lichfield, and in the afternoon both came to Wednesbury, and after partaking freely of drink, they took lodgings at Morley’s. In the bedroom there were three beds in which four persons slept. At a quarter to seven o’clock she found the deceased dead in bed. She gave information to the landlord, who took the necessary steps to obtain the service of a medical gentleman. When deceased obtained the lodgings he said he was a married man. She was not married, but she slept with the deceased. There slept in the same room two women, both of whom she believed was married. She had known the deceased for some time. She was sure death was not caused by violence.

John Morley, the proprietor of a registered lodging house in the High Bullen said he knew the deceased who had followed the employment of a puddler. On Saturday night he came to his house the worse for beer and asked for lodgings for himself and wife (Bates) who he said he had married whilst he had been up at Lichfield. Shortly before twelve o’clock deceased went to bed apparently in good spirits. Bates came down stairs shortly after seven o’clock on Sunday morning and said, ‘Bill is in a fit,’ and he immediately went upstairs and found that deceased was dead. He afterwards sought medical aid and information to the police. When the deceased went to bed he was undoubtedly the worse for beer, but he appeared to be in good spirits. He did not think the death had been caused by foul play.

The Coroner said the evidence did not say much for the morality of those who frequented the lodging house in question, and as there appeared to him (Coroner) some irregularities going on there he thought it would be as well for the Inspector of Lodging Houses to visit the place. Referring to the death that had taken place the Coroner said judging by the appearance of the body he should say that death had been caused by drink. Police constable Lytle informed the Coroner that the deceased had been a frequent visitor at the Police Court for drunkenness and other offences.

The Coroner said it would be for the jury to say as to whether they would have a post mortem examination, or not. After a short discussion, the jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Wednesbury Herald 10/8/1885

“The officers and members of the Prince Albert Lodge (1298) N. U. O. F. G. sat down to dinner on Saturday last at Bro. *Harry Jones*, KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen. After dinner Bro. George Feasey, LM, occupied the chair, and Bro. A. Faulkner, DM, the vice chair.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/9/1885

“On Tuesday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the Town Hall, Wednesbury, touching the death of Charles Gandey (38), of Oxford Street, Bilston, who was found dead on Sunday morning in a closet at the back of the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, with a violin by his side.

When the names of the jurymen were called, Frederick Lynden, manager of the DRAGON INN, Wednesbury, was absent, and the coroner fined him 20s.

The wife of the deceased said he was formerly a puddler, but for some time had been accustomed to go about from town to town playing on a violin. He left home on Saturday last at mid-day, as usual, but did not say what time he should return. He, however, usually returned about 11.30 or 12 o’clock. He had complained of being poorly for a fortnight. As he did not return on Saturday evening she went after him to Wolverhampton, but could not hear of him, and on Sunday morning went to Walsall, where she was told at the Police Station that a man had been found dead at Wednesbury that morning. Upon going there the body was identified as that of her husband.

Witnesses were called who saw deceased fall down in Dudley Street, Wednesbury, on Saturday afternoon, and afterwards turn into Jones’s opening, High Bullen.

Henry West, a labourer, of Bilston Road, spoke to finding the body in the closet.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Mail 22/9/1886

“Further particulars of the fall of the empty house at Wednesbury, yesterday, show that the tenement which fell was the last on the left-hand side of Beggars Row, being partially detached from the others, and there being a large open space at the back and beyond it. It had been unoccupied for some months, and the dwellers in the locality had been carrying off the woodwork piece by piece, until they had reduced the structure to a very dilapidated condition. At about 3 o’clock in the afternoon Alice Costigan, Mrs. Martin and Alice Garmstone, Costigan’s husband, a man named Salt, and some others were engaged in the work of spoliation, and had just sawn through a main beam in one of the rooms, when one-half of the loosened length of timber swung downwards, and caused the end which was embedded in the wall to act as a lever upon the brickwork, and bring down the chimney, a part of the roof, and the front of the house. The alarm which was occasioned in the neighbourhood when the crash took place was, of course, very great, and it was seen that there was no little danger in venturing near the injured women, the side wall being in an insecure condition. The poor creatures were, however, speedily got from beneath the mass of bricks, and removed into their homes, all in the court, and Dr. McKenny was fetched. Costigan and Martin were beyond his aid, and little, if anything could be done to relieve Garmstone. Salt and the man Costigan were only slightly injured, and several children who were close by escaped hurt almost miraculously.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1886

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, on the bodies of Alice Costigan (42) and Mary Martin (about 50), both of Beggars Row, High Bullen, Wednesbury, and who lost their lives on Tuesday, owing to the fall of a tenement in the row.....

Ultimately the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, Mr. Thursfield, on behalf of the owners, giving an assurance that the part of the property still standing should be taken down at once.

Alice Garmstone, who is at the West Bromwich District Hospital, was yesterday stated to be somewhat better, but to be still unconscious at times.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/1/1887

“Irish National League. The ordinary weekly meeting of this branch took place on Sunday evening last at Mr. Jones’s KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, Mr. Byrne in the chair. The election of officers for the ensuing half year will take place on the 17th inst, when all members are expected to attend.”

High Bullen Brewery, 39, High Bullen [1888]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/4/1889

“At Wednesbury Police Court this Tuesday morning, before Messrs. E. Ellwell and R. Williams, William Melia and Patrick Kenealy, Trowse Lane, were each charged with assaulting John Flaherty, of Trowse Lane, on Easter Monday. Mr. W. S. Smith defended.

Prosecutor, whose head was plastered, said that on Easter Monday night he was in the KINGS ARMS, on the High Bullen, when he declined to pay for a quart of ale for the prisoners. A woman named Mary Flaherty, of Portway Road, remonstrated with the prisoners, and a man, named Martin Gately, ran at her, hit her on the bosom, and knocked her down. Prosecutor went towards Gately and asked him if he was not ashamed of hitting a woman with a child in her arms. Prisoners pulled him out of the house, and after knocking him about kicked him with such violence that he was stunned, and was unconscious for three hours afterwards.

William Flaherty and Martin Gately were charged with assaulting Mary Flaherty while in the public house. Prosecutrix said Gately knocked her down, took hold of her throat, pressed his knee on her chest, dragged her into the street by the hair of her head, and left her in the gutter. Another Mary Flaherty, of Trowse Lane, attempted to rescue prosecutrix, and she received such treatment as necessitated her appearing in the witness box with a badly blackened eye.

Mr. Smith, for the defence, said it was all a drunken row in the public house, and called a number of Irish witnesses, who said there was a general fight, which was begun by John Flaherty, of Trowse Lane, and that as many as six at a time were standing up fighting in the public house.

Each of four prisoners was fined 10s and costs or in default 21 days’ hard labour, Mr. Williams saying that the assault on the female was the worst feature of the affray.”

1891 Census

High Bullen – KINGS ARMS

- [1] Harry Jones (35), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Sarah J. Jones (34), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Marian E. Jones (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Florence Francis (18), domestic servant, born Millfield, Yorkshire;
- [5] Sarah Love (14), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 27/7/1895

“On Saturday last the members of the Grand Samaritan Lodge, Bescot District, Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, held their annual dinner at the club house, KINGS ARMS, High Bullen. An excellent repast was served up in good style by the worthy host, Bro. *W. H. J. Jones*, to which a very large number of members did ample justice.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/1/1901

“At a special Court at Wednesbury this afternoon, Eliza Hickman (27), of Golds Green, West Bromwich, was remanded until Friday on a charge of stealing about £8 in money and a few oddments, the property of *Edwin Jones*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen.

Prisoner, it appeared, was in the complainant’s employ as a domestic servant up to a week ago, and when she left on Thursday last the money and oddments were missed. She was arrested by Police-constable O’Hara at Great Bridge.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1901

“At Wednesbury, yesterday, Eliza Hickman (27), domestic servant, of Golds Hill, West Bromwich, was committed to the Quarter Sessions for trial, charged with stealing £8 2s in money and other articles of the value of 7s, the property of her employer, *Edwin Jones*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Prisoner had been in prosecutor’s employ since October, and suspicion being aroused prisoner’s box was searched and the money and other property found in it.”

AND

Lichfield Mercury 8/3/1901

“Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions.....

Eliza Hickman (27), servant, was indicted for having between October 10 and January 3, at Wednesbury, stolen the sum of £8 2s, two salt-cellars, and other articles, the property of *Edwin Jones*. Mr. Plumptre prosecuted, and Mr. R. J. Lawrence defended.

Prisoner had been in the employ of the prosecutor as domestic servant, and the articles she was alleged to have stolen were found in her box by Mrs. *Jones*.

The jury found the prisoner not guilty, and she was acquitted.”

1901 Census

High Bullen – KINGS ARMS

- [1] *Edwin Jones* (37), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *Martha Jones* (36), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Hilda Jones* (10), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *William E. Jones* (4), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Albert S. Jones* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Rose Law* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

A team from here took part in the West Bromwich and Tipton Quoits League. [1901]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

John T. Jackson was also a brewer. [1904]

1911 Census

37, High Bullen – KINGS ARMS

- [1] *Andrew Alexander Brownhill* (40), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *Mary Brownhill* (31), wife, married 2 years, assisting in business, born Dudley;
- [3] *James Brownhill* (1), son, born Dudley:

Sports Argus 20/7/1912

“National Air Rifle Association.....

The whole of the results are now to hand for the Gunmakers Cup. The checking of the 350 sets of targets has been a tedious process. The trophy will find a resting place again in the Black Country, Mr. J. Platt, of the KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury, having topped all comers throughout the United Kingdom with the fine score of 171.....”

[*T. Taphouse*, of the KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury, came fourth with 161.]

Richard S. Pullen was killed in action with the South Staffordshire Regiment on 26th October 1917.

1921 Census

37, High Bullen – KINGS ARMS

- [1] *William S. Pritchard* (41), public house manager, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Edith Pritchard* (40), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *George Pritchard* (15), son, clerk in nut and bolt works, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Gladys Pritchard* (18), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Thomas Edwards* (61), boarder, labourer in brewery, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/5/1927 - Advert

“Re Messrs. Hickman and Pullen Ltd, the Brewery, Wednesbury.

Important Sale of Five Licensed Houses.....

KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury, with Brewery, Maltings, and Pleasure Green.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/5/1927

“An important sale of Staffordshire and Worcestershire licensed houses was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, when Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, of Wolverhampton, disposed of eight of the twelve lots offered..... Of the six properties belonging to Messrs. Hickman and Pullen Ltd, the Brewery, Wednesbury..... The KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, Wednesbury, with brewery and maltings, was withdrawn.”

William Beddow = William Beddows

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/10/1927

“The marriage took place at the Registry Office, Newhall Street, Birmingham, yesterday, of Mr. Frederick Harris, youngest son of the late Mr. R. Harris, syringe manufacturer, of Birmingham, and Miss Bertha Beddows, eldest daughter of Mr. *William Beddows*, licensee of the KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury.

The bride, who wore a dress of embossed chenille georgette, with silver shoes and veil, was attended by three bridesmaids. They were Miss Isabel Harris (sister of the bridegroom), Miss Elsie May Beddows (sister of the bride), and Miss Hilda Watts (a friend of the bride). They were similarly dressed to the bride.”

William Beddow – see also COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston Road, Wednesbury.

Weekly Dispatch 14/10/1928

“With the first football forecast she has ever filled up in her life, a woman has won the £3,000 prize in the *Sunday Dispatch* Football Competition No.7, run in conjunction with the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Pictorial*. She is Mrs. A. M. Hobson, 68, Delph, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire. Her entry form contained twenty-two correct results.

The prize has come a little too late to be a wedding present, for Mrs. Hobson, who is a postmistress, was married only nine weeks ago to Mr. *J. H. Hobson*, a well-known licensee in the district, who formerly kept the KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury. Her husband is a keen follower of football, and it was because of this that Mrs. Hobson decided to see what she could do. Both her husband and her brother, Mr. Charles Swayn, another football enthusiast, however, refused to give her any assistance, and she was left with the ‘Hobson’s choice’ of doing it herself.”

Evening Despatch 12/2/1932

“In his report to the Wednesbury Licensing Justices today Supt. Adams stated.....

The whole of the licenses would be renewed, with the exception of the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, and the ROYAL OAK, King Street, to which notice of objection would be given on the grounds of redundancy.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.

License renewal was refused on 25th July 1932.

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/7/1932

“Principal Meeting of Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority.....

The question of the license of the KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury, came up for consideration, Mr. McGregor Clarkson, for the justices. Mr. H. A. Tucker, barrister, applied for renewal of the license on behalf of the owners (Messrs. Atkinson) and the licensee.

Evidence as to the accommodation at the house was given by PS Gilman, who stated that the general structure was bad and much in need of renovation. Within 500 yards there were 55 licensed houses, including 36 full licenses. The CROWN AND CUSHION, a fully-licensed house, immediately adjoined the KINGS ARMS. The ELEPHANT AND CASTLE was 27 yards and the HORSE AND JOCKEY 73 yards away. Both were owned by Messrs. Atkinson, and were structurally superior to the KINGS ARMS. A long tube factory opposite to the KINGS ARMS had been pulled down, and the site was now vacant.

Replying to Mr. Tucker, witness stated that the KINGS ARMS was one of the largest houses in Wednesbury, and there was about half an acre of land at the rear of the house, which had an extensive frontage. Witness admitted that the vacant site opposite the premises might be built upon in the near future.

Mr. Clarkson: Supposing that this old site were built upon, do you think that the 55 other licenses are quite capable of satisfying the needs of prospective dwellers? – They are.

Mr. Tucker said that Messrs. Atkinson desired to retain this license. The premises were of an unusual character as regards size. The property was acquired by the firm for £3,100 in December, 1927, and the price paid did not include a brewery which was now in use. He asked the committee to consider the question of the license not merely from

The Chairman said that Mr. Tucker had given them all the information possible, and had certainly made out the best case that could be made from the details before the justices, but the committee thought the renewal authority were right in referring the license, and its renewal would be refused.”

KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury. Alehouse. Licensee, *John Cross*. Registered Owners, Atkinson's Brewery Ltd."

KINGS ARMS, Wednesbury, £1,950."

Closed

Police Superintendent Adams in his report stated that there are 111 licensed houses in Wednesbury – 54 fully licensed, 41 beerhouses ‘on,’ 15 beerhouses ‘off,’ and one wines ‘on.’ This is a reduction of two full licenses, the ROYAL OAK, King Street, and the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, having been closed by the Staffordshire County Compensation Committee during the past year.”

“Attempted thefts by two 13-year-old Wednesbury boys during the school holiday on the day King George was buried were disclosed at a Wednesbury Juvenile Court today when they were charged with breaking and entering a warehouse at High Bullen Mr. Tony Snape, theatre manager, of Bilston, said that he stored a large quantity of theatrical equipment in a room at the old KINGS ARMS.....”

1827

209. 67. 100

RICHARD RICHARDS embraces this opportunity to return his sincere and heartfelt thanks to his numerous Friends and the Public generally, for the liberal support he has met at their hands since commencing the above Society, and begs to assure them that it will be his continual study to merit those favours which have been so liberally bestowed upon him from all his Clubs, which proves the general appreciation of the system of management adopted in them, and without wishing to appear invidious, would beg to draw public attention to the success of his Clubs over the no spending and no feast Clubs, which are more expensive in the management, although puffed up as being more economical, and are altogether deficient of that friendly intercourse which begets confidence among the members.

The above SOCIETY will RECOMMENCE on WEDNESDAY EVENING, the 25th day of August, at Seven o'clock, and any person becoming a member will much oblige his obedient servant,

RICHARD RICHARDS.

1852

KINGS ARMS

Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Farley [1861]

KINGS HEAD

Church Road, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Rock [1807] – **1810**

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/6/1807 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Building Land, Wednesbury Church Hill.

To be Sold by Auction, by Josiah Robins, on Monday the 29th Day of June, 1807, at Mr. Hateley's, the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, the most commanding and cheerful Part of Wednesbury Church Hill, fronting with a SW by W Aspect over an extensively varied and beautiful Country, and is certainly a very desirable Situation for building.....

Lot I. A Piece of Land, in Part cultivated as a Garden by Mr. *John Rock*, fronts twelve Yards to the Church Road, opposite the KINGS HEAD INN, and adjoining the Gun Lock Shops of Mr. Philip Martin, twenty-two Yards in Depth, and contains 254 Square Yards.

Lot II. Part of the said Garden of Mr. *John Rock*, twelve Yards fronting the said Inn and the Buildings of Mr. Horton, containing 251 Square Yards.

Lot III. Also Part of the said Garden, twelve Yards fronting to the said Buildings of Mr. Horton and of Mr. Samuel Wilkes, containing 242 Square Yards.

Lot IV. A Piece of Land, upon which is erected a Hovel, occupied by the said Mr. *Rock*, twelve Yards fronting the Buildings of the said Mr. Samuel Wilkes, and containing 241 Square Yards."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/5/1810 - Advert

"Convenient House and Premises, Church Hill, Wednesbury.

To be Let and may be entered upon immediately after Midsummer next, the above eligible Premises, known by the Name of the KINGS HEAD, situate on the Church Hill, Wednesbury as aforesaid, and now in the Occupation of Mr. *John Rock*, who is removing to his new House on the great Road from Birmingham to Shrewsbury.

The Premises consist of four Sleeping Rooms, two Parlours, Sitting Room, Kitchen, China Pantry, spacious Hall, and three roomy Cellars, with the particular Advantage of excellent Water. The Tenant may be accommodated with a capital Garden, opposite the House, and a Lease if required.

For Treaty apply on the Premises, or of W. Chapman, Appraiser and Auctioneer, 105, Snow Hill, Birmingham."

John Rock – see also GEORGE.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND,
Wednesbury Church Hill.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOSIAH ROBINS,
on Monday the 29th Day of June, 1807, at Mr. Hateley's,
the Talbot Inn, Wednesbury, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon,
the most commanding and cheerful Part of Wednesbury Church
Hill, fronting with a S.W. by W. Aspect over an extensively
varied and beautiful Country, and is certainly a very desirable
Situation for building; the whole is squared to proper Building
Lines, in the following Lots:—

LOT I. A Piece of Land, in Part cultivated as a Garden
by Mr. John Rock, fronts twelve Yards to the Church Road,
opposite the King's Head Inn, and adjoining the Gun Lock
Shops of Mr. Philip Martin, twenty-two Yards in Depth,
and contains 254
LOT II. Part of the said Garden of Mr. John Rock,
twelve Yards fronting the said Inn and the Buildings of Mr.
Horton, containing 251
LOT III. Also Part of the said Garden, twelve Yards
fronting to the said Buildings of Mr. Horton and of Mr.
Samuel Wilkes, containing 242
LOT IV. A Piece of Land, upon which is erected a
Hovel, occupied by the said Mr. Rock, twelve Yards fronting
the Buildings of the said Mr. Samuel Wilkes, and con-
taining 241

Convenient House and Premises, Church Hill, Wednesbury.
TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately after
Midsummer next, the above eligible Premises, known by the
Name of the KING'S HEAD, situate on the Church Hill, Wed-
nesbury as aforesaid, and now in the Occupation of Mr. John Rock,
who is removing to his new House on the great Road from Bir-
mingham to Shrewsbury.
The Premises consist of four Sleeping Rooms, two Parlours, Sit-
ting Room, Kitchen, China Pantry, spacious Hall, and three roomy
Cellars, with the particular Advantage of excellent Water. The
Tenant may be accommodated with a capital Garden, opposite the
House, and a Lease if required.
For Treaty apply on the Premises, or of W. Chapman, Appraiser
and Auctioneer, 105, Snow Hill, Birmingham.

KINGS HEAD

Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Poxon [1867]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1867

“West Bromwich special Session for hearing new applications for victuallers licenses.....

Mr. Slater supported an application for a license, made by *William Poxon*, of Kings Hill. It was urged that the wants of the neighbourhood demanded increased inn accommodation, but the Bench refused to grant a license. This was the fifth application.”

AND

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].....

William Poxon, KINGS HEAD, Wednesbury, supported by Mr. Slater. Refused.”

KINGS HILL TAVERN

13, Darlaston Road, (13, Kings Hill), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns [1990s]

LICENSEES

Moses Devey **(1858 – 1859)**
Jonathan Preston [1861]
Mrs. Hannah Preston [1871] – [1872]
Arnold Arthur Emery [1878]
Mary Summerhill [1881] – [1891]
Benjamin Ludlow [1896]
James Boynton [1901]
Charles William Goodyear [1902] temporary
Edward J Beddows [1911] – [1912]
Thomas Foster [1912]
Samuel Robinson [1921]
Reuben Pinner [1923] – [1937]
Harold Plant [1940]
Harry Chapman [1961] – **1962**;
Harry Leighton **(1962 – [1972])**
Michael John Durkin [1981]
Jasbir Jhalli [1986]
Michael Duffy [1993]



1997

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/12/1858

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Town Hall, Amos Izon was charged with stealing 36 gallons of ale from Henry Hodgkiss, Tipton. It appeared that Izon was in the employ of Hodgkiss, and the prosecutor sent the prisoner to his (prisoner’s) father for a barrel of ale to be exchanged. The prisoner, instead of taking the ale direct from his father’s house to that of the prosecutor, took it to a person named *Moses Devey*, who advanced 15s upon it. The Magistrates did not consider it amounted to a case of felony, and discharged the prisoner. “

Birmingham Journal 9/4/1859 - Advert

“To Ginger Beer Manufacturers.

To be Sold, a Machine for Manufacturing Ginger Beer, with all the appliances complete.
Apply to *Moses Devey*, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury.”

TO GINGER BEER MANUFACTURERS.
TO be SOLD, a MACHINE for Manufacturing
GINGER BEER, with all the appliances complete.—Apply to
Moses Devey, King’s Hill Tavern, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Journal 8/10/1859

“In the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Walsall.

Whereas a Petition of *Moses Devey*, at present and for eleven days last past residing Fallings Heath, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and working as a Collier, for three months previous thereto residing in lodgings at the house of Mrs. Patten, Wolverhampton Road, Walsall, in the county of Stafford, and working as a Collier, for two weeks previous thereto residing in lodgings at the house of Mary Wilkes, Cock Street, Darlaston, in the said county of Stafford, out of employment, for eight months and three weeks previous thereto residing at Kings Hill, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the said county of Stafford, carrying on business during such last-mentioned time as a Publican and Butty Collier, and also during part of the said time carrying on business as a Ginger Beer Manufacturer, for three years previous thereto residing at the Pleck in the Foreign of Walsall, in the said county of Stafford, and carrying on business as a Butty Collier, for two years and six months previous thereto residing at Darlaston aforesaid, and carrying on business as a Butty Collier, 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 *Moses Devey*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Moses Devey* is hereby required to appear in the said Court, to be holden at Walsall aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on Thursday, the 27th day of October, 1859, 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 *Moses Devey*, 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.

Barnett and Marlow, Attorneys, Walsall. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.

The 9th day of September, 1859.”

Birmingham Journal 29/10/1859

“Walsall County Court.....

The following insolvency petitions were adjudicated upon yesterday.....

Moses Devey, of Wednesbury, butty collier and publican.

Mr. Ebsworth supported the insolvent, who came up for his first examination. Mr. Barnett and Mr. Wilkinson opposed on behalf of sundry creditors; and the hearing was adjourned for two months, protection being refused.”

Birmingham Journal 21/1/1860

“At Walsall County Court, yesterday, the only case of insolvency which came before his Honour, A. M. Skinner, Esq, was that of *Moses Devey*, collier, Kings Hill, who received his final order without opposition, on the application of Mr. Barnett.”

1861 Census

Darlaston Road – Beerhouse

[1] *Jonathan Preston* (39), beer retailer, born Drayton, Staffordshire;

[2] *Hannah Preston* (33), wife, born Cheadle, Staffordshire;

[3] *Herbert Preston* (12), son, scholar, born Uttoxeter, Staffordshire;

[4] *Augustus Preston* (7), son, scholar, born Tean, Staffordshire;

[5] *Walter Thomas Preston* (1), son, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Sarah Allcock* (21) house servant, born Sandbach, Cheshire:

Jonathan Preston died in the 1st quarter of 1870.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/1/1870 - Advert

“Wednesbury. To be Let, with immediate possession, the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury. In-coming low.

Apply to Mr. James Taylor, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

WEDNESBURY.—To be Let, with immediate possession, “THE KING'S HILL TAVERN,” Darlaston Road, Wednesbury. In-coming low.—Apply to Mr. James Taylor, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

13, Darlaston Road – KINGS HILL TAVERN

- [1] Hannah Preston (43), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Cheadle, Staffordshire;
- [2] Herbert Preston (21), son, no occupation, born Uttoxeter, Staffordshire;
- [3] Augustus Preston (16), son, clerk at goods station, born Lower Tean, Staffordshire;
- [4] Walter Preston (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Hannah Preston (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Flora Preston (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Frederick Preston (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Arthur Preston (3), son, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/9/1871

“At the Police Court, yesterday, the following cases against Wednesbury publicans were brought before the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner) and adjudicated upon.....

Hannah Preston, KINGS HILL TAVERN beerhouse, Kings Hill, for supplying drink during prohibited hours.

Police-constable Yapp stated that on Sunday, the 27th ult, he found defendant's son, together with four others, on the wall of the back yard. They had a jug of porter before them, three-parts full. He directed the landlady's attention to it, when she admitted having supplied the porter to her son, but had not received any money for it. On being called she said she was not aware of there being anyone with her son. She had kept her house for 30 [sic] years, and there had never been a complaint against her. Police-constable Walters confirmed her statement.

The Stipendiary said the case was a very clear one, but in consideration of the previous good character the house had borne a fine of £1 was imposed; the certificate to be endorsed.”

Mrs. *Hannah Preston*, beer retailer, 13, Darlaston Road. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/7/1873 - Advert

“Woman (young respectable) Wanted, for a public house.
Apply No.13, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

WOMAN (young respectable) Wanted, for a public-house.—Apply
No. 13, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/5/1877 - Advert

“KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.

The Proprietor being manager at large works and not allowed to hold a license; Brewing twice weekly.
Apply, Joseph Greenway, 12, Cannon Street, Birmingham.”

KING'S Hill Tavern, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.—The
Proprietor being manager at large works and not allowed
to hold a license; Brewing twice weekly.—Apply, Joseph
GREENWAY, 12, Cannon Street, Birmingham.

Birmingham Daily Post 15/1/1878 - Advert

“KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.
Home-brewing Beerhouse. Cash required £80 down.
Greenway, 12, Cannon Street.”

KING'S Hill Tavern, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.—Home-brew-
ing Beerhouse. Cash required £80. down.—Greenway, 12,
Cannon Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/6/1878

“At Tuesday's Police Court, Wednesbury, *Arthur Arnold Emery*, publican, Kings Hill, was fined 20s and costs for having permitted drunkenness in his house.”

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.....

Arnold Arthur Emery, KINGS HILL TAVERN, 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.”

1881 Census

13, Darlaston Road

- [1] Mary Summerhill (45), widow, publican, born Derbyshire;
- [2] Thomas William Summerhill (19), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Rose Maud Summerhill (15), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Roseannah Tarbuck (16), boarder, domestic servant, born Wednesfield:

1891 Census

13, Darlaston Road – KINGS HILL TAVERN

- [1] Mary Summerhill (56), widow, innkeeper, born Wirksworth, Derbyshire;
- [2] Thomas Summerhill (29), son, surveyor and insurance agent, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Rosehannah Summerhill (25), daughter, milliner, born Wolverhampton:

Benjamin Ludlow, beer retailer, 13, Darlaston Road. [1896]

1901 Census

13, Kings Hill

- [1] James Boynton (44), beerhouse keeper, born Walsall;
- [2] Rosetta Boynton (44), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Thomas Boynton (19), son, blacksmith's striker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Fanny Boynton (16), daughter, born Normington, Yorkshire;
- [5] Frank Boynton (11), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Sydney Boynton (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Thomas Powell (34), brother-in-law, driver, electric crane, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Thomas Lomas (26), lodger, coal miner, hewer, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/4/1902

“Charles William Goodyear, of the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, was yesterday charged before the Wednesbury borough magistrates with selling without a license.

The defendant paid £75 for goodwill to go into the house, and was granted a temporary permit, but at the transfer Sessions, the magistrates refused to grant a transfer, as he had been fined for permitting gaming. The defendant was advised by some irresponsible person that he could trade for a few days with the old license, but directly he learned he could not legally do so he closed the house.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe said the defendant was a man who had held a license for 16 years, and except for having once been fined bore an irreproachable character. Defendant thought he had the right to sell until the license was transferred to another person.

The magistrates regarding it as a technical offence only inflicted a fine of 5s and costs.”

1911 Census

Darlaston Road – KING HILL TAVERN

- [1] Edward J. Beddows (27), publican, born Walsall;
- [2] Annie Emma Beddows (29), wife, married 8 years, assisting in business, born Walsall;
- [3] Lily Beddows (3), daughter, born Walsall;
- [4] May Beddows (2 weeks), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Tom Beaumont (27), boarder, electrical engineer, born London;
- [6] Ada Beaumont (26), boarder, married 4 years, born Walsall;
- [7] Dora Beaumont (2), boarder, born Walsall:

Edward J. Beddows, beer retailer, 13, Darlaston Road. [1912]

Walsall Observer 26/10/1912

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday week, two men, Leacroft Gill (25), no fixed abode, and Joseph Warden (48), Leabrook Square, Wednesbury, were charged with housebreaking and stealing 22 bottles of stout, and further with stealing two fowls, the property of *Thomas Foster*, licensee of the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury. Evidence was given by *Thomas Foster* to the effect that the prisoners were in his house drinking until 11 o'clock on Monday night. Next morning he missed two fowls, and at 7 o'clock the two prisoners came in. Witness was talking about the theft, and Gill said, 'I hope you don't think it is me, Tom. I have had nothing to do with this lot. You have been too good to me.' Later Gill took him to a field at the rear of the house, where witness found one of the fowls with its head severed from the body. Gill said he only wanted to clear himself. Sergeant Harris stated that when he arrested Gill on suspicion of breaking and entering the KINGS HILL TAVERN, prisoner said that he was sleeping at home from 11.30 on Monday night until six o'clock the next morning. When Warden was arrested he said, 'Me and Gill slept out together in the field at the back of the KINGS HILL TAVERN.' Both prisoners denied the offence, and the Bench decided that there was not enough evidence to go before a jury. The prisoners were, therefore, discharged."

1921 Census

13, Darlaston Road – KINGS HILL TAVERN

[1] *Samuel Robinson* (60), beerhouse manager, born Darlaston;

[2] *Sarah Robinson* (59), wife, beerhouse assistant, born Wednesbury:

Samuel Robinson – see also ROYAL GEORGE, Station Street, Darlaston, and FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN, Wednesbury.

Western Chronicle 7/9/1923 - Advert

"Pedigree Miniature Black Pom Bitch, three months; exact weight 1lb 3oz; corky; dense coat, tiny ears, fine bone; certain winner; four guineas; exchange poultry, parrot. Offers.

Pinner, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury."

Dudley Chronicle 24/5/1928 - Advert

"Sale. Wire-haired Fox Terrier Bitch Puppy, Highest blood lineage.

Pinner, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury."

SALE—Wire-haired Fox Terrier Bitch Puppy.
Highest blood lineage.—*Pinner*, King's
Hill Tavern, Wednesbury.

Evening Despatch 18/5/1932 - Advert

"Sale, exceptional coloured Light Blue Cocker Bitch, £3 3s; registered.

Pinner, KING HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury."

SALE, exceptional coloured Light Blue Cocker
Bitch, £3 3s.; registered.—*Pinner*, King Hill
Tavern, Wednesbury.

Evening Despatch 5/2/1937

"Four licenses were objected to by Supt. J. H. Hall at the annual Licensing Sessions at Wednesbury today. In his report, Supt. Hall said that the town contained 106 licensed premises, one to every 297 of the inhabitants.....

Objection was taken to the renewal of the licenses of KINGS HILL TAVERN.

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the four objected to, which were put back for consideration at the adjourned meeting."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1937

"The licenses of houses referred to the adjourned licensing sessions were renewed at Wednesbury yesterday. They were KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road."

Evening Despatch 7/1/1938

"A public house affray on Christmas Eve had a sequel at Wednesbury today, when Stanley Edwards, aged 31, of 97, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, was fined 40s for assaulting *Reuben Pinner*, licensee of the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston, and 10s for refusing to quit licensed premises. He was also ordered to pay £2 12s special costs, and the Mayor (Coun. C. Collins) observed that if it had not been for the plea of leniency made by complainant, Edwards would have probably been sent to prison.

Evidence was that at 7.30pm Edwards was supplied with three half-pints of beer. He left and returned at 9.15, when Mr. *Pinner* thought he had had sufficient, so he gave him a mineral water. He returned again drunk, and the licensee told him to leave. He was put out by someone else. Later Edwards came back and struck Mr. *Pinner* a violent blow in the face. Edwards denied the allegations, but agreed that he had had plenty to drink.”

Rugeley Times 15/10/1938

“Support for the independent candidature of Mrs. W. L. Bayley, JP, in the Kings Hill Ward at the forthcoming elections was expressed at a meeting of the Ward Committee of the Wednesbury Conservative Association held at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, on Monday.....”

Closed

It was rebuilt pre WW2.

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

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

KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

Harry Leighton was fined £15 each for aiding and abetting Ronald and Harry Williams to consume beer after hours, with £2 2s special costs added, at Wednesbury Borough Magistrates Court on 11th January 1963.

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1963

“Two brothers, Ronald Williams (35), of Wingate Road, Bentley, and Harry Williams (27), of Coronation Road, Wednesbury, were each fined £10 at Wednesbury yesterday for drinking beer in licensed premises after permitted hours. *Harry Leighton* (43), the licensee of the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, where the offences took place, was fined a total of £30 for aiding and abetting.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/4/1964

“The wife of the licensee of the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, was commended by Wednesbury magistrates yesterday for throwing the contents of a large tin of pepper into the face of a thief she caught opening the bar till. William Ernest Handley (30), unemployed, of Hall Lane, Ocker Hill, Tipton, was sentenced to a total of 12 months’ imprisonment after admitting attempting to steal money from the till, stealing a quantity of coppers from the public house, stealing £1 from the SCOTT ARMS public house, Kings Hill, and the breach of two-year probation order.

Chief-Insp. B. Taylor said that the woman, Mrs. Isabella Leighton rushed into the bar when she heard the till bell and saw Handley on top of the counter with his hand in the till. She grabbed him, pulled him over the counter, then threw the pepper in his face before running for help.

Earlier the same day Handley had taken the coppers being collected for spastic children.”

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1969]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/12/1972 - Advert

“*Harry* and Belle *Leighton* wish all their friends and customers seasons greetings.

KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road.”

A team from here were runners-up in Division 2 of the Darlaston M&B Darts League. [1974]

A team from here took part in the Sandwell Football League. [1975/76], [1976/77], [1977/78]

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/3/1981

“A 38-year-old Wednesbury publican has had his license renewed by West Bromwich Licensing Justices in spite of strong police objections. But chairman Mr. Fred Bownes told the licensee Mr. *Michael John Durkin*, ‘This fate of your license has been very much in the balance. We expect a very high standard of control in public houses and in this case you failed to exercise full control.’ The Licensing Justices took more than 90 minutes to reach a decision and Mr. *Durkin* was warned that any breaches of the Licensing Act in the future would lead them to refuse any further applications.

Superintendent John Mellor told the court that he objected to the renewal of Mr. *Durkin*'s license at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, because he had been convicted of aiding and abetting eight people to drink after hours on his premises. Supt. Mellor cited a number of occasions where the premises had been visited and people were discovered drinking after hours, including one instance the day after Mr. *Durkin* had admitted the aiding and abetting charges before West Bromwich magistrates. Supt. Mellor added that Mr. *Durkin* had been warned several times for allowing people to remain on the premises after closing time. He said there was one instance where people were still drinking at 11.50pm.

Mr. Peter Taylor, for Mr. *Durkin*, said that his client had been very conscious of his duties since appearing in court and had done his best to stay within the law. He had already been fined for the aiding and abetting cases and taking his license would be punishing him twice for the same thing."

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1982

"Fourteen Wednesbury pubs have failed in a bid to cash in on the Bank Holiday beer trade by applying for license extensions. West Bromwich magistrates refused to allow an extra hour's drinking time on August Bank Holiday The 14 pubs which have been denied the extra hour's drinking are..... KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury."

Walsall Observer 19/11/1982

"The B.F.M.H. charity darts team helped raise another £83.57 for the Bloxwich Friends of the Mentally Handicapped when visiting Wyken WMC in Coventry. B.F.M.H. lost 10-9 in a thrilling encounter. Tomorrow B.F.M.H. visit KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury."

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/4/1986

"Regulars at a Wednesbury pub have given a big boost to a campaign helping a seven-year-old crippled Birmingham boy attend vital treatment in Hungary. Fourteen regulars from the KINGS HILL TAVERN, in Darlaston Road, raised £1,500 by staging a 24-hour sponsored darts marathon held at the pub. The money has included several donations of £100 or more while the team clocked up a score of 573,000....."

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/11/1986

"Wednesbury darts players will have an unusual tasty dish to keep them going during a 48-hour darts marathon – pumpkin curry. The giant pumpkin will be shared between the two dozen regulars from the KINGS HILL TAVERN, who will begin their charity marathon tonight. Mr. *Jasbir Jhalli*, landlord of the Darlaston Road pub, said, 'The 60lb pumpkin was grown by one of the regulars and we are proposing to use it in a dry vegetable curry as part of the survival rations for the team.' He said, 'Each of the players has already donated £10 each to play so we are off to a cracking start.' The darts marathon starts at 6pm with all proceeds going to the Children In Need appeal."

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."

A team from here joined the Walsall Friday Night Darts League Premier Division in 1993.
 They were champions in 1993.
 Two teams from here took part in the Walsall Friday Night Darts League Premier Division in 1994.
 KINGS HILL TAVERN A were champions in 1994 and KINGS HILL TAVERN B were fourth.

A football team from here took part in the Sandwell Premier and District League. [1995]

Closed [1997]

It was demolished on 1st February 1999.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE.

HOLDEN AT WALSALL.

The 9th day of September, 1859.

WHEREAS a Petition of **MOSES DEVEY**, at present and for eleven days last past residing at Fallings Heath, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and working as a Collier, for three months previous thereto residing in lodgings at the house of Mrs. Patten, Wolverhampton Road, Walsall, in the county of Stafford, and working as a Collier, for two weeks previous thereto residing in lodgings at the house of Mary Wilkes, Cock Street, Darlaston, in the said county of Stafford, out of employment, for eight months and three weeks previous thereto residing at King's Hill, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the said county of Stafford, carrying on business during such last mentioned time as a Publican and Butty Collier, and also during part of the said time carrying on business as a Ginger Beer Manufacturer, for three years previous thereto residing at the Pleck, in the Forcign of Walsall, in the said county of Stafford, and carrying on business as a Butty Collier, for two years and six months previous thereto residing at Darlaston aforesaid, and carrying on business as a Butty Collier, 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 Moses Devey, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said Moses Devey is hereby required to appear in the said Court, to be holden at Walsall aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on THURSDAY, the 27th day of October, 1859, 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 Moses Devey, 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.

BARNETT and MARLOW, Attorneys, Walsall.
 C. G. MEGEVAN, High Bailiff.

1859

PEDIGREE Miniature Black Pom Bitch, three months; exact weight 1lb. 3oz.: corky; dense coat, tiny ears, fine bone; certain winner; four guineas; exchange poultry, parrot. Offers.—PINNER, King's Hill Tavern, Wednesbury.

1923



ATTENTION! all MILD drinkers

HIGHGATE MILD is now available in the following BUTLERS and ATKINSONS houses:—

BRIDGE HOUSE, Blaxwich Road, Walsall.	RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, Darlaston.
NEW NAVIGATION, Birchills, Walsall.	RISING SUN, Percy Street, Newtown, Wednesbury.
WALSALL ARMS, Bank Street, Walsall.	FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Wednesbury.
FALCON, Lichfield Street, Walsall.	OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.
FITTERS ARMS, Hatherton St., Walsall.	PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street, Wednesbury.
FORGE HAMMER, Rolling Mill Street, Pleck, Walsall.	COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury.
FOUNTAIN, Lower Forster Street, Walsall.	SPRING COTTAGE, The Paddock, Walsall.
NEW INN, Green Lane, Walsall.	HARDEN, Coalpool Lane, Walsall.
PRINCE OF WALES, Queen St., Walsall.	NEWPORT ARMS, Pleck Road, Walsall.
BEAR & RAGGED STAFF, High Street, Walsall.	VINE, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall.
COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridgeman St., Walsall.	KINGS ARMS, High Street, Blaxwich.
TANNERS ARMS, Day Street, Walsall.	FOUNTAIN, Portland Street, Walsall.
DUKE OF YORK, Maxley Rd., Darlaston.	STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.
BLACK HORSE, Pinfold St., Darlaston.	BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.
NELSON, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.	HORSE & JOCKEY, High Street, Wednesbury.
WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.	GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.
KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.	
DARTMOUTH INN, High St., Darlaston.	
HASS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.	
OLD BUSH, The Green, Darlaston.	
STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge, Darlaston.	



Pride of the Midlands

1962

HARRY AND BELLE LEIGHTON,
 wish all their friends and customers
 seasons greetings. Kings Hill
 Tavern, Darlaston Road.

1972

KINGS HILL TAVERN

89, Mill Street, (89, Old Park Road), (89, Front Street), Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1927], [1961]

LICENSEES

William Bourn Snr. [1851] – **1867**;
William Bourn Jnr. **(1867 – 1882)**
William Rogers [1891] – [1896]
Thomas Butler [1901] – **1926**;
Philip Weston **(1926 – 1928)**;
Joseph Frederick Hammonds **(1928 – 1933)**
Sidney Arthur Stiles [1939] – [1940]
Ernest Turley **(1960 – 1962)**;
Richard Reginald Young **(1962 – 1963)**;
Stanley Hughes **(1963 – 1972)**



NOTES

89, Front Street [1871]
89, Old Park Road [1873]
Old Park Road [1861], [1881], [1891]
Mill Street [1901], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932]
89, Mill Street [1911]

The bowling green was opposite to the pub.

William Bourn = William Bourne

1851 Census

Kings Hill

- [1] *William Bourn* (63), gun lock forger and retail brewer, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Mary Bourn* (58), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Bourn* (37), son, coach bolt maker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Samuel Bourn* (23), son, coach bolt maker, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Simeon Bourn* (16), son, coach bolt maker, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Sarah Bourn* (15), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Martha Bourn* (9), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;

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 Bourne*, beerhouse keeper, Kings Hill.”

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.....

William Bourne, Kings Hill, Wednesbury Granted.”

1861 Census

Old Park Road – KINGS HILL TAVERN

[1] *William Bourn* (71), gunlock forger, born West Bourne, Staffordshire;

[2] *Mary Bourn* (69), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *William Bourn* (48), son, screw maker, born Darlaston;

[4] *Sarah Bourn* (27), daughter, born Kings Hill;

[5] *Martha Bourn* (18), grand-daughter, born Kings Hill;

[6] *William Bourn* (14), grand-son, bolt turner, born Kings Hill;

[7] *Martha Bourn* (6), grand-daughter, scholar, born Kings Hill;

[8] *Sarah Jane Bourn* (1), grand-daughter, born Kings Hill;

[9] *James Kent* (20), visitor, miner, iron or coal, born Wednesbury:

William Bourn was also a coach bolt manufacturer. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 19/5/1864

“Mr. E. Hooper, the District Coroner, on Monday, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *William Bourn*, the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of *Henry Palmer*, aged twenty five, who died in an awfully sudden manner, on Saturday last, whilst at his work.

James Jukes, a riveter, stated that he worked for Mr. *Simeon Carter*, a railway contractor, at Kings Hill. On Saturday morning the deceased, who was close by the witness, reeled and suddenly fell on his back insensible. Witness called for aid, and a surgeon was sent for. Two medical gentlemen immediately attended.

Thomas Palmer, the father of the deceased, deposed that he lived in Bilston, and was a blast furnaceman. His son had, during the past few months, complained of giddiness and pain in the head, and had been compelled to cease work for a week at a time.

After some other evidence, the Coroner left it to the Jury to decide whether they would adjourn the enquiry for medical evidence, but they said they did not require it, and returned a verdict to the effect that death had resulted from disease of the brain.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/11/1864 - Advert

“No.1 Loan, held at Mr. *William Bourne*’s, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury.

Shares, £12 10s each. Payments, 1s 3d per week.

W. Bourne begs to thank those Persons who have patronised him in the last Loan, which has been carried on successfully; and also begs to inform the Public in general that it Re-Commenced on Monday, October 24, 1864.

Persons may enter at any time without Arrears.”

William Bourn (51), bachelor, innkeeper, Wednesbury, married *Charlotte Bould* (50), spinster, Stafford, on 29th December 1864.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/7/1867

“At the West Bromwich Petty Sessions the following transfer of licenses took place.....

KINGS HEAD [sic] INN, Wednesbury, from *William Bourne*, the elder, to *William Bourne*, his son, the younger.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/11/1868

“Wednesbury Election.

On Friday last Mr. Walker attended meetings in Wednesbury at the ROYAL OAK, King Street, at half-past one; at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Kings Hill, at seven; at the FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, at eight; and at the MUSEUM TAVERN, Elwell Street, at nine. At each he was most enthusiastically received, and his addresses and replies to questions gave the greatest satisfaction. At the FORESTERS ARMS the harmony of the proceedings were

somewhat interrupted by an attack by Mr. Benjamin Danks and a few other Brogdenites on the chairman, Mr. Cullis, an ex-member of the late Liberal Committee, who now supports Mr. Walker, and by an attempt afterwards by the same party to pass a vote in favour of Mr. Brogden, but which was most vociferously negatived, Mr. Walker securing the support of his audience at each meeting.”

[Alexander Brogden was Liberal MP for Wednesbury from 1868 to 1885.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/11/1868

“Wednesbury Local Board.....

The report of Mr. J. C. Garman, medical officer was read Typhoid fever had made a visitation at Kings Hill, in the same locality as it broke out last year, at about the same time. There were three cases in one house, and the locality alluded to was the district surrounding the KINGS HILL TAVERN, near Hill Street.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/2/1869 - Deaths

“On the 17th inst, aged 79, Mr. *W. Bourn*, senior, of Kings Hill, Wednesbury; much regretted.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/9/1869 - Advert

“Ten Shillings Reward. Lost, on Monday last, September 13th, a Russian White Dog.

Anyone returning him to Mr. *W. Bourn*, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, shall receive the above, or detaining him after this notice, will be prosecuted.”

TEN Shillings Reward.—Lost, on Monday last, Sept. 13th, a Russian White DOG.—Anyone returning him to Mr. *W. Bourn*, King's Hill, Wednesbury, shall receive the above, or detaining him after this notice, will be prosecuted.

1871 Census

89, Front Street, Kings Hill Field – KINGS HILL TAVERN

[1] *William Bourn* (58), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *Charlotte Bourn* (56), wife, born Wolsley, Staffordshire;

[3] *Sarah Jane Bourn* (11), niece, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Mary Partridge* (16), domestic servant, born Much Wenlock, Shropshire:

Charlotte Bourn died in the 4th quarter of 1873.

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

Old Park Road

[1] *William Bourn* (69), widower, licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] *William Bourn* (30), nephew, bolt forger, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Sarah A. Darby* (24), general servant, born Rushall:

Evening Express 2/4/1881

"An inquest was held yesterday (Friday) forenoon, at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, before E. Hooper, Esq, touching the death of James Corns, veterinary surgeon, aged 60 years, lately residing in Corns Street, Wednesbury.

The principal witness was the deceased's wife, who stated that on Monday night the deceased went to bed in apparent good health, but when she awoke about half past three o'clock she found him dead by her side. Dr. Partridge was immediately sent for, and attended soon after, but his services were of no avail, as life was extinct.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

Walsall Observer 21/1/1882 - Advert

"Kings Hill, Wednesbury.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Inn, known as the KINGS HILL TAVERN, and adjoining Messuages, situate in Old Park Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. James Belcher, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on Monday, the 23rd day of January, 1882, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely.....

Lot 1. The Freehold and Possession of all that Old-Established Full-Licensed Inn, called the KINGS HILL TAVERN, fronting the Old Park Road, leading from Darlaston to Wednesbury, and occupied by Mr. *William Bourn*. The House contains Bar, Tap Room, Front and Back Parlours, Four Bedrooms, Attic, excellent Cellaring, together with commodious Yard, large Club Room, Malt Room, Brewhouse, Washhouse, Stabling, Cart Shed, Piggery, Shopping, and the usual Outbuildings."

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1887

"On Saturday, Mr. Hooper (Coroner) held an inquest, at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, on the body of Charles Henry Preston (6), son of parents living in Birmingham Street. It seemed that on the 23rd September the lad, in attempting, contrary to the injunctions of his mother, to take a bucket of hot water down some steps, fell and spilled the water over him, sustaining severe scalds. At first he was attended by Mr. Grove, herbalist, but afterwards Dr. Nolan was called in, and that gentleman continued to attend the boy until Wednesday, when death took place. He then gave a certificate of the cause of death, which the registrar refused to receive.

The Coroner said he did not see how the doctor could have thought of giving a certificate in such a case, and he should have to communicate with him about it. As for Mr. Grove, he clearly had no right to attend people, and the father was blameable for not calling in a properly qualified practitioner directly the accident occurred. If death had taken place before he called in Dr. Nolan, he and Mr. Grove would have been in danger of being charged with manslaughter. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, and the father was called and reprimanded by the Coroner, with the concurrence of the jury."

1891 Census

Old Park Road – KINGS HILL TAVERN

- [1] William Rogers (40), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Fanny J. Rogers (37), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Gertrude C. Rogers (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] William J. Rogers (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Smethwick Telephone 13/8/1898

"A shocking tragedy occurred at Wednesbury on Saturday night, resulting in the death of Sarah Shaylor, wife of a labourer, Mill Street, Kings Hill, and their boy Horace, aged two-and-a-half years. The man was in bed suffering from injuries alleged to have been caused by his wife a few days ago. The woman took the boy and a child named Elsie, aged twelve months, into the bedroom, and because the boy began to cry said she would kill him if he did not get out of the room. She then went into the attic with the children, and as the man could not leave his bed he threw a boot through the window, in consequence of which a neighbour named David Higgs entered the house, and upon going into the attic found the woman and the boy dead with their throats cut, also two table-knives stained with blood. The baby lay on the floor uninjured. It is stated that the woman had given way to drink, and that of late she had been very strange in her manner."

AND

Ludlow Advertiser 13/8/1898

"On Tuesday Mr. H. A. Pearson (county coroner) held an inquest at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury, respecting the deaths of Sarah Shaylor and her son, Horace Shaylor, when a verdict of Wilful Murder against the woman, and that she committed Suicide while Temporarily Insane was returned."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/8/1898

"Football Notice.

Entries to Kings Hill Reading Room Shield Competition close Monday, 29th instant. Junior clubs should send representative to meeting at 7.30, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on that date. Sample medals may be then seen. J. G. Bullock, secretary."

1901 Census

Mill Street – KINGS HILL TAVERN

- [1] Thomas Butler (42), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Jane Butler (41), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] William John Butler (20), son, die sinker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Horace Butler (15), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Edna Butler (12), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Ethel Butler (10), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Tom Butler (5), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Beatrice Butler (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Mary Ann Shutt (28), domestic servant, born Deepfields;
- [10] John Butler (72), father, widower, living on own means, born Darlaston;

Walsall Observer 11/4/1903

“At a meeting of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association, held on Tuesday night, at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, the Chairman (Mr. Councillor J. H. Sheldon) said he deemed it to be his duty to publicly protest against remarks made by the Mayor (Alderman F. Oldbury) with respect to the trade, at the adjourned licensing sessions. He said many of the house were in a disgraceful, dirty, and neglected condition, and hoped the license holders of the town would see in the future that their premises were in a proper sanitary state, so that the possibilities of contracting disease, which now existed, would be entirely removed. Another objectionable statement made by his worship was ‘he noticed that the licensed victuallers in the town had held a meeting that week with the object no doubt of influencing the justices’ action that day.’ He had no hesitation in saying, after an inspection of the houses, that they would compare most favourably with properties owned by some of the magistrates (hear, hear). The meeting of the trade referred to by the Mayor was not held for the purpose of influencing the licensing magistrates. It was an ordinary monthly meeting at which they met to discuss trade matters and trade grievances (hear, hear). He strongly protested against the allegations made, nearly all of which were groundless. It was decided to urge the local members of Parliament to support Mr. Butcher’s bill, providing compensation for license holders who are called upon to confiscate their licenses through no fault of their own, and also Lord Wemyss’s Licensing Amendment Bill, proving increased security of licenses.”

1911 Census

89, Mill Street

- [1] *Thomas Butler* (52), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Jane Butler* (51), wife, married 31 years, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Edna Butler* (22), daughter, assisting, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ethel Butler* (20), daughter, assisting, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Tom Butler* (15), son, die sinking, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Beatrice Butler* (13), daughter, assisting, born Wednesbury:

The Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association held a meeting here in 1911.

Wednesbury Herald 6/5/1911

“On Saturday afternoon the Kings Hill Bowling Club formally opened their green in Mill Street, Kings Hill, the President (Councillor N. Bishop) performing the ceremony in the presence of a large company. The Darlaston Town Band played selections At the close of the opening ceremony the members sat down to tea at the headquarters, the KINGS HILL TAVERN.”

Thomas Butler was a committee member of Wednesbury and District Free and Protection Association. [1918]

1921 Census

Mill Street – KINGS HILL TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Butler* (62), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Sarah Jane Butler* (61), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Tom Butler* (25), son, widower, die sinker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Beatrice Butler* (24), daughter, home duties, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 10/11/1923

“Formed in 1911, the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Bowling League has passed through many anxious and trying times, but its position today, as indicated at the annual concert and prize distribution, which took place at the club’s headquarters, the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening, is eminently satisfactory. Owing to a large increase in the number of affiliated clubs, two divisions of the Association had to be formed last season, this being the first time in the history of the body that such a course has become imperative. This arrangement necessitated the provision of some trophy for the winners in the new section, and accordingly a handsome silver cup has been purchased. Some idea of the stability of the Association financially may be gathered from the fact that this season, after expending nearly £50 in medals, etc, there is still a balance in hand of well over £20.....”

South Staffordshire Times 31/5/1924

“An inquest was held at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Old Park Road, Wednesbury, on Tuesday afternoon, by Mr. W. C. Checkley (Coroner), relative to the death of Amelia Vaughan (78), wife of Thomas Vaughan, a retired steel-furnaceman, residing at 25, Joynson Street, King’s Hill. The husband of the deceased told the court that Mrs. Vaughan had fairly good health up to about three years ago, when she had a stroke. On May 12th she was sitting in a chair in the kitchen when she attempted to stand up by herself and fell to the ground. She received an injury to her left leg, and Dr. Wilmot Smith, who was sent for, attended her until her death on Monday.

Dr. Wilmot Smith, of Darlaston, said he had attended Mrs. Vaughan for many years. She was paralysed on one side as a result of a stroke. He was called to the house on May 12th, and upon examining deceased after her accident found she had dislocated her left hip. She was also suffering greatly from shock due to her advanced age. The dislocation could not be reduced without an anaesthetic, but this he dare not administer to her. She died from senile decay, accelerated from the shock caused by the accident.

The Coroner gave a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 18/10/1924

“The distribution of prizes won by members of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Bowling League took place on Thursday evening at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury, when the chairman of the League, Mr. J. Billingham, presided over a large gathering.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/2/1925

“The annual meeting of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Bowling Club was held at headquarters, KINGS HILL TAVERN, when two clubs, the BARREL, Princes End, and the STATION HOTEL, James Bridge, were elected as members.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 31/10/1925

“The annual dinner and presentation of prizes in connection with the Wednesbury and District Bowling League was held on Thursday, at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, when Mr. A. Short MP presided over a large attendance.....”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/11/1925

“The members of the King’s Hill Bowling Club held their annual dinner and presentation of prizes on Wednesday evening, at the headquarters, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury.....”

Walsall Observer 9/7/1927

“Monday’s meeting of the Wednesbury Town Council Plans approved include..... Alterations to the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, for Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.”

Joseph Frederick Hammonds = Joseph Frederick Hammond

Joseph Frederick Hammonds was married to Ginnie.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 24/11/1928

“The twelfth annual dinner and presentation of prizes in connection with the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Bowling League took place on Thursday evening at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury; a representation was present for all the clubs in the league. Mr. J. Billingham presided.....”

Dudley Chronicle 2/10/1930

“Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Bowling League.....

Wood Green v KINGS HILL TAVERN.

The above match was played to decide who should be League winners, as both clubs had equal League points. Players on both sides were keen and after a close finish Wood Green won by 212 to 207.”

Lichfield Mercury 28/4/1933

“Mr. J. Hammond, of KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, has been appointed steward of the Hednesford Progressive Club, Market Street, in succession to Mr. P. Suthard. He will take up his duties in a fortnight’s time.....”

Rugeley Times 31/10/1936

“The annual dinner and prize distribution of Kings Hill Bowling Club, held at KINGS HILL TAVERN, on Monday, proved a happy event. The Mayor (Alderman B. W. Griffiths, JP) presided.....”

1939 Register

Mill Street – KINGS HILL TAVERN (2 of 4)

[1] Sydney A. Stiles, date of birth 8/1/1900, manager public house, married;

[2] Margaret Stiles, dob 22/1/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Birmingham Mail 10/7/1940 - Advert

“Bar-General reqd. exper. unnecessary, also Waiter for West Bromwich house.

KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury.”

BAR-GENERAL reqd. exper. unnecessary also
Waiter for West Bromwich house—King's Hill
Tavern Mill St. Wednesbury

Tipton Herald 14/5/1960

“Despite lack of support by the majority of licensed victuallers associations, the Midland Federation of Licensees, formed in principle in January, is not to be disbanded. The decision was made by delegates from six societies who attended a meeting at KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, presided over by Mr. *Ernest Turley*, President of the local association.....”

Ernest Turley was president of Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association 1955-1968.

Walsall Observer 17/3/1961

“A former pupil of Wednesbury Technical College, Mr. Gordon Edward Turley, son of Mr. and Mrs. *E. Turley*, of KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury, and Miss Joan Goode, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Goode, of 25, Darwin Road, Leamore, were married at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Walsall, on Saturday. The ceremony was conducted by Father W. Sheeran.....”

Walsall Observer 24/3/1961 - Advert

“White Brocade full-length Wedding Dress, 34 bust, suit small person, also veil and head-dress.

Mrs. G. E. Turley, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury.”

Ernest Turley – see also WODEN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, FORGE, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, BUSH, Leabrook Road, Tipton, and WHEATSHEAF, Wordsley, Stourbridge.

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1969]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/11/1972 - 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 26th day of October, 1972, 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 1st day of December, 1972, for the purpose of enabling the compensation authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the person entitled to compensation under the said Act in respect of the said premises.....

KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Darlaston. Publican's Old on-license. Licensee, *Stanley Hughes*. Registered Owners, Mitchell and Butlers Ltd.

Dated the 6th day of November, 1972. F. H. Hatchard, Clerk of the Walsall Compensation Authority.”

NO. 1 LOAN,
HELD AT MR. WILLIAM BOURNE'S,
KING'S HILL TAVERN, WEDNESBURY.

SHARES, £12. 10s. EACH.

PAYMENTS, 1s. 3d. PER WEEK.

W. BOURNE begs to thank those Persons who have patronised him in the last Loan, which has been carried on successfully; and also begs to inform the Public in general that it RE-COMMENCED on Monday, October 24, 1864.

Persons may enter at any time without Arrears.

1864

KING'S HILL, WEDNESBURY.

SALE OF
VALUABLE FREEHOLD INN,
Known as the "KING'S HILL TAVERN,"
and adjoining
MESSAGES,
Situate in Old Park Road, King's Hill, Wednesbury.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY

MR. JAMES BELCHER, at the WHITE LION INN, Darlaston, on MONDAY, the 23rd day of January, 1882, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions to be then produced, the following Properties:—

Lot 1.

The Freehold and Possession of all that OLD-ESTABLISHED FULL-LICENSED INN, called the "King's Hill Tavern," fronting the Old Park Road, leading from Darlaston to Wednesbury, and occupied by Mr. William Bourn. The House contains Bar, Tap Room, Front and Back Parlours, Four Bedrooms, Attic, excellent Cellaring, together with commodious Yard, large Club Room, Malt Room, Brewhouse, Washhouse, Stabling, Cart Shed, Piggery, Shopping, and the usual Outbuildings.

1882

WHITE Brocade full-length Wedding Dress, 34 bust, suit small person, also veil and head-dress.—Mrs. G. E. Turlev, Kings Hill Tavern, Mill Street, Wednesbury.

1961

LAMB AND FLAG

22, Camp Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Old Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Harper [1855] – [1865]

Thomas Middleton [] – **1871**);

Sarah Rose (**1871**);

Thomas Garmston (**1871** – []

E Harvey [1877]

Benjamin Lowe [1881]

Joseph Dicken [1888] – [1904]

John Thomas Hoggins [1907]

Isaac Rogers [1911] – [1912]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1855

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before J. Leigh and E. Elwell Esqrs, *Joseph Harper*, beerhouse keeper, of Wednesbury, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of beer on Sunday night, after the hours allowed by law.

The case was heard before eleven o’clock, to enable the police constable who appeared as a witness to attend the sessions.

The defendant did not appear, and as the evidence was to the effect that eight men were drinking in the house about one o’clock in the morning, the defendant was fined 40s and costs.

After the case had been decided, Mr. W. H. Duignan entered the court, and stated that he appeared for the defendant, but was not aware that the Court sat before eleven o’clock.

Mr. Leigh said the summonses were for ten, but it was usual not to begin before eleven, and he would hear the witnesses for the defence. Mr. Duignan then called two men, who stated that they were carol singers, and were singing on the night in question with six other men, when they were invited, as was usual, into the defendant’s house, where they received a quantity of pork pie and some mulled porter, for which they did not pay. Mr. Leigh, on this evidence being given, dismissed the case.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/3/1859

“If Benjamin Roden of Hill Top is not satisfied with his late defeat, Thomas Harper will run him 100 yards, for £5 a side. Money ready any night next week, at *Joseph Harper*’s, LAMB AND FLAG, Camp Street, Wednesbury.”

1861 Census

Camp Street – LAMB AND FLAG

- [1] Joseph Harper (36), iron furnaceman and beer seller, born Darlaston;
- [2] Maria Harper (39), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] James Harper (14), son, iron founder, born Darlaston;
- [4] Joseph Harper (12), son, labourer at ironworks, born Darlaston;
- [5] Elizabeth Harper (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Thomas Harper (8), son, scholar born Wednesbury;
- [7] William Harper (6), son, scholar born Wednesbury;
- [8] John Harper (4), son, scholar born Wednesbury;
- [9] Samuel Harper (2) son, born Wednesbury,,
- [10] Enoch Harper (9 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [11] Elizabeth Haddock (27), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/2/1865

“Joseph Harper, proprietor of the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Wednesbury, was charged with keeping his house open and selling beer during prohibited hours on the 5th instant. This was his first offence, and a fine of 6d and 9s 6d costs was imposed.”

1871 Census

22, Camp Street – Beerhouse

- [1] Sarah Rose (31), born Deepfields;
- [2] Alice Rose (22), sister, tailoress, born Highfields:

Thomas Garmston – see also PRINCE OF WALES, King Street.

Midland Examiner 17/2/1877

“Wednesbury Whisperings.....

Camp Street should be two streets. It belongs to the T shaped variety which is of very common occurrence in this parish to the utter confusion of strangers. The portion representing the stem of the letter runs from Union Street, and the part corresponding to the top cross-bar of the letter extends from Camphill Lane to the Market Place. Perhaps this last assertion may be new to many people who imagine that Camp Street terminates near the LAMB AND FLAG INN. But this supposition is entirely wrong, for the houses adjoining Mr. E. Harvey's back premises are numbered consecutively with those of Camp Street and not with those of Upper Russell Street, as is generally supposed. The only explanation of this, that one can see, is that the surveyor anticipated that greatly-to-be-desired improvement, a street right away from Victoria Street to the Market Place.”

1881 Census

22, Camp Street

- [1] Benjamin Lowe (34), publican, born Wall Heath;
- [2] Pheabe Lowe (33), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Martha Lowe (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Elizabeth Lowe (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Benjamin Lowe (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Pheabe A. Lowe (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] James E. Lowe (1), son, born Wednesbury:

Joseph Dicken = Joseph Dickin = Joseph Deakin

Joseph Dicken, beer retailer, 22, Camp Street. [1888], [1892], [1896], [1900]

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1890

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Joseph Deakin*, of the LAMB AND FLAG TAVERN, Camp Street, was summoned for assaulting Thomas Marshall, on Friday last. Mr. W. S. Smith defended.

For the complainant it was stated that he went into the house, but was refused drink for which he asked, and was turned into the street by the defendant and his daughter, the former of whom broke a stick over his head and threw the pieces at him.

For the defence, witnesses were called whose evidence showed that the complainant was drunk when he went into the house, and was using bad language. The defendant's daughter turned him into the street, and he fell down into the gutter.

The Bench dismissed the case.”

1891 Census

22, Camp Street – LAMB AND FLAG

- [1] *Joseph Dicken* (52), widower, brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Francis Dicken* (22), son, iron founder core maker, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Rosanna Dicken* (20), daughter, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Frederick Dicken* (18), son, pipe screw in tube works, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Anne Dicken* (16), daughter, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Maud Dicken* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

The Superintendent withdrew the objection to the renewal of the license to *Joseph Dicken*, the LAMB AND FLAG beerhouse, Camp Street, Wednesbury, certain desired structural alterations having been made Renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1892 - Advert

“Situation Wanted, by Publican's Daughter, age 18; willing to make herself useful. Salary not so much an object as comfortable situation.

Address, A., LAMB AND FLAG, Wednesbury.”

SITUATION Wanted, by Publican's Daughter, age 18; willing to make herself useful. Salary not so much an object as comfortable situation.—Address, A., Lamp and Flag, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1893

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Joseph Dicken*, keeper of the LAMB AND FLAG public house, Camp Street, was summoned for having assaulted his wife, Sarah Ann Dicken, who applied for a judicial separation. Mr. Sharp appeared in support of the complainant, and Mr. W. S. Smith for the defence.

The complainant said she was married to the defendant on the 24th August last year, she being a widow and he a widower. On the 13th February she was at dinner, when he called her bad names, and knocked her off the chair. His sons held him back, and she got into the passage, where he came to her again and threw beer over her, also using more bad language to her. She fetched a policeman to guard her whilst she got her box, and then she went to Birmingham, where she has since remained. For some weeks before she and her husband had slept apart; and she had taken her meals upstairs, because he told her that her presence was loathsome to him. He gave her a black eye on the 1st December, and then she went away for a few days, and he had ill-treated her on the 24th November.

For the defence it was stated that the defendant had been in the district thirty years, and had kept the same house for eighteen years without complaint. Evidence was also called for the purpose of showing that the complainant had systematically aggravated her husband to induce him to strike her, her avowed object being to get a separation and an allowance.

The Stipendiary came to the conclusion that the evidence on behalf of the complainant had been exaggerated, and that it was not such as would warrant him in granting a separation. He imposed a fine of £2 and costs, or one month's imprisonment.”

Walsall Observer 15/4/1899

“On Monday, at Darlaston Police Court, John Poxon, Monway Fields, Wednesbury, was charged with assaulting Frank Dickin, of the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, on the 25th ult.

It was shown that complainant drove away prisoner's dog, and prisoner remarked that complainant, by insulting the dog, insulted him. He afterwards knocked complainant down, and beat him badly.

Prisoner was committed for a month's imprisonment.”

1901 Census

22, Camp Street – LAMB AND FLAG INN

- [1] Joseph Dicken (62), married, publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] Frank Dicken (33), son, iron moulder, born Princes End;
- [3] Alfred Dicken (28), son, axle cap screw, born Princes End;
- [4] Walter Hill (21), son-in-law, steel works labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Maud Hill (19), daughter, born Wigan;
- [6] Walter Hill (10 months), grand-son, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/7/1903

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury, a young married man named Herbert Sinter, residing in the Backfields, was fined 20s for violently assaulting Maud Hill on the 11th inst.

In consequence, it was alleged, of the complainant’s father requesting defendant to leave the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Camp Street, defendant was very much enraged, and upon meeting the complainant in the street, said he would have his revenge, and struck her, and also attempted to strangle her.

Defendant denied the allegations.”

Walsall Observer 19/10/1907

“At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, on Tuesday, Abraham Kilvert (21), striker, and John Connor (21), labourer, were charged with stealing a jacket, two pencils, a photograph album, and a cigarette case, the property of *John Thomas Hoggins*, of the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Wednesbury, on September 11th. Kilvert pleaded guilty, and Connor not guilty.

The evidence showed that prisoners visited the inn, and when they left it was found that the coat was missing.

Connor gave evidence on oath, and said he had nothing whatever to do with the theft. Kilvert went into the yard, and when he returned he was wearing the coat in question. He afterwards sold the other articles and divided the money with Connor.

The jury found Connor guilty of receiving the goods knowing them to have been stolen.

Police-constable Taylor said Connor had been imprisoned for twelve months for wounding a police officer, and in April of last year he assaulted two constables with such severity that one of them had been incapacitated ever since. Connor was committed to prison for six months with hard labour, and Kilvert for three calendar months with hard labour.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun League. [1909]

1911 Census

22, Camp Street – LAMB AND FLAG

- [1] Isaac Rogers (29), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Emily Rogers (27), wife, married 9 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Jack Rogers (8), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary Cook (22), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Emily Rogers – see SCOTT ARMS, Wednesbury, and COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, Darlaston.

Isaac Rogers, beer retailer, 22, Camp Street. [1912]

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.....

List of Licensed Premises.....

LAMB AND FLAG INN, Camp Street. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Isaac Rogers*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/7/1912

“Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority.....

LAMB AND FLAG INN, Camp Street, had been referred from Wednesbury borough. Mr. Glover made formal application for renewal on behalf of the owner and licensee. The license was referred for compensation.”

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.....

LAMB AND FLAG INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Isaac Rogers*. Registered Owner, Old Wolverhampton 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.....

LAMB AND FLAG INN, Camp Street, Wednesbury, beerhouse ante 1869, £550.....

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties and will be paid out on the 21st of December.”

LAMP

18, (14), (Upper) High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

W. H. Anderson, Wolverhampton [1881]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1921], [1928]

Enterprise Inns [1990s]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Griffiths [1818] – [1825]

J Winkless [1827]

Job Winkless [1828] – [1830]

Thomas Griffiths [1834] – [1842]

William Biddle [1845] – [1847]

Samuel Cook [1849] – **1854**;

William Clews (**1854 – 1856**);

William Entwistle (**1856 – 1859**)

Richard Stockley [1860] – [1861]

Benjamin Cartwright [] – **1861**;

William Case (**1861 – 1863**);

James Samuel Bennington (**1863 – 1864**);

John Lucas (**1864 – 1865**);

Mrs. Hannah Lucas (**1865 – 1866**);

John Hartill (**1866 – 1873**)

John Stringer [] – **1875**;

Benjamin Bissell (**1875 – []**)

C M Anderson [1876]

Henry Glover [1881]

William Kettle [1888] – [1890]

William Thomas Holt [1890] manager

Cornelius Brough [1891]

Charles Jackson [1896]

John W Lazenby [1901]

Joseph Martin [1904] – [1904]

John Stanley [1908] – [1912]

McGill [1913]

Walter Adams [1914] – [1918]

Francis Thomas Dicken [1921] – [1921]

Joseph Turner [1932]

George Charles James [1939] – [1940]

Sydney 'Syd' Homer [1942] – [1949]

Reginald Mole [1956]

John Frederick 'Jack' Harris [1961] – [1976]

Sidney Gordon 'Sid' Parkes [1980] – **1984**)

Steve and Wendy [1998]



2004

NOTES

High Street [1822], [1828], [1830]
14, Upper High Street [1871], [1888]
14, High Street [1891]
18, Upper High Street [1911]
18, High Street [1921], [1932], [1939], [1940]

LAMP TAVERN [1849], [1860], [1861]

It stood next door to the MALT SHOVEL.

Benjamin Griffiths was also a gun maker. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/7/1819 - Advert

"Freehold, situated in Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Rodway, at the House of Mr. *Benjamin Griffiths*, known by the LAMP TAVERN, in Wednesbury, at Five in the Evening, on Wednesday next, July 28....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/4/1825 - Advert

"Well-accustomed Public House in Wednesbury, and other valuable Property.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Underhill, at the LAMP TAVERN INN, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on Friday the 6th day of May next, at three o'clock in the afternoon.....

All that well accustomed Public House, called the LAMP TAVERN, in High Street, in Wednesbury, with the convenient Outbuildings, Gardens, and Land at the back thereof, containing by admeasurement 1656 square yards, or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Griffiths*."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/11/1827 - Advert

"To Persons in want of a good Public House.

That old established Public House known by the Sign of the LAMP TAVERN, in Wednesbury, which is paying about thirty pounds per sitting for ale duty, besides doing a great scope of business in the Liquor line.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Rodway, on the premises, on Friday next, the 23rd of November, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the Licenses, Good-will, and valuable Possession of the above compact House, which is surrounded by various coal and iron-works, and a populous neighbourhood.

The premises are spacious and very convenient, with Stabling, large Garden, &c.

The stock and effects to be taken at a fair valuation.

For further particulars apply to Mr. *Winkless*, upon the premises, who is leaving the same solely on account of other engagements, or to the Auctioneer, Edgbaston Street, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/12/1827 - Advert

"LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury.

To be Re-Sold by Auction (in consequence of the non-performance of the contract by a late purchaser) on the premises, by John Rodway, on Friday next, December 14, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the Licenses, Good-will, and valuable Possession of that old established and well accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, now in the occupation of Mr. *J. Winkless*.

The premises are surrounded by various Coal and Iron Works and a populous neighbourhood; and, to any industrious couple, a situation so truly desirable seldom presents itself, as an independency may be realized in a few years.

The present tenant is leaving solely on account of other engagements.

For further particulars apply on the premises, or to the Auctioneer, Edgbaston Street, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/12/1839 - Advert

"Very Valuable Property, the LAMP TAVERN, and Building Land, in High Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Farrington, at the LAMP TAVERN, High Street, Wednesbury, on Friday the 10th day of January next, at five o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 7. All that very valuable Freehold well-accustomed Public House and Premises, known by the sign of the LAMP TAVERN, well situated in High Street, Wednesbury, and successfully carried on by the present tenant, Mr. *Griffiths*, for many years; comprising a good bar, tap-room, two good parlours, kitchen, brewhouse, excellent cellars, a capital lodge-room the full length of the house, good sleeping-rooms, good stable, yard, piggery, and every requisite convenience; together with the excellent Garden and brick Summer-house erected thereon, and containing together 1,646 square yards."

1841 Census

High Street

[1] *Thomas Griffiths* (60), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Christiana Griffiths* (60), born Staffordshire;

[3] *John Griffiths* (25), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Eleanor Nicholls* (20), f. s., born Staffordshire:

Thomas Griffiths died in January 1842.

All that very valuable Freehold well-accustomed Public House and Premises, known by the sign of the LAMP TAVERN, well situated in High-street, Wednesbury, and successfully carried on by the present tenant, Mr. *Griffiths*, for many years; comprising a good bar, tap-room, two good parlours, kitchen, brewhouse, excellent cellars, a capital lodge-room the full length of the house, good sleeping-rooms, good stable, yard, piggery, and every requisite convenience; together with the excellent Garden and brick Summer-house erected thereon, and containing together

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/2/1842 - Advert

"Mr. *Thomas Griffiths*, Deceased.

All Persons who have any claims or demands against the Estate of the late Mr. *Thomas Griffiths*, of the LAMP TAVERN INN, Wednesbury, are hereby requested to forward the particulars of them to the undermentioned Trustees, so that they may be examined, and, if right, discharged; also all persons who stood indebted to the estate of the late Mr. *Griffiths* at the time of his decease, are particularly requested forthwith to pay their respective debts to the Trustees of the above Estate.

Jesse Whitehouse, Samuel Bayley, Trustees.

Wednesbury, February 12, 1842."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/4/1842 - Advert

"LAMP TAVERN INN, Wednesbury.

The Public is respectfully informed, that Thomas M. Bills is commissioned by the Trustees under the Will of the late Mr. *Thomas Griffiths*, to Dispose of the Licenses and Possession of the above old-established Inn, with immediate or such other possession as a respectable tenant may require. The house is doing a good and steady retail trade.

Fixtures, Stock, &c to be taken to at a fair valuation. Rent moderate.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Mr. Jesse Whitehouse, Maltster, of Wednesbury; Mr. Samuel Bayley, Maltster, of Holloway Bank, West Bromwich; or at the offices of Thomas M. Bills, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Public House Agent, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/5/1847

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

On Wednesday, at the LAMP TAVERN INN, Wednesbury, upon the body of Harriet Biddle, aged 28 years, whose death was occasioned from an attack of apoplexy. Verdict accordingly."

Samuel Cook = Samuel Cooke

Birmingham Journal 23/2/1850 - Advert

"To be Shot For, at Mr. *Samuel Cook's*, LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, a fine Hog Pig, forty score, on Tuesday, March 5th, 1850. Twenty Tickets, £1 each. Dinner on the table at Five o'clock. Shooting to commence at Twelve o'clock. All Tickets to be paid for previous to shooting."

TO be SHOT FOR, at Mr. Samuel Cook's, Lamp Tavern, Wednesbury, a fine HOG PIG, forty score, on TUESDAY, March 5th, 1850. Twenty Tickets, £1 each. Dinner on the table at Five o'clock. Shooting to commence at Twelve o'clock. All Tickets to be paid for previous to shooting. 6520

1851 Census

High Street

- [1] Samuel Cook (49), victualler, born Brettle Lane;
- [2] Sarah Cook (41), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] James Jibson (30), lodger, blacksmith, born Wolverton, Lancashire;
- [4] Maria Jibson (27), lodger's wife, born Derby;
- [5] John Jibson (3), lodger's son, born Derby;
- [6] Thomas Jibson (1), lodger's son, born Birmingham;
- [7] Joseph Singleton (21), lodger, blacksmith, born Bolton;
- [8] Mary Singleton (23), lodger's wife, born Bolton;
- [9] Robert Singleton (2), lodger's son, born Leeds;
- [10] Margaret Chalmer (18), house servant, born Stockport;

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

"Licensing Day for Offlow South.....

Inspector Blaney addressed a notice to the chief superintendent complaining of the conduct of the following licensed victuallers, who, having music and allowing dancing in their respective inns, were accused of letting out the company at a late hour. Some of these persons, elevated with liquor, made noises and created disturbances in the street, much to the annoyance of the peaceable and well disposed. Major M'Knight laid the paper before the Court, and the delinquents, who did not deny the music and dancing, merely said they discharged their company at the proper hour; they did not suffer drunkenness on their premises. The Bench, through the Rev. I. Clarkson, said the evil appeared especially to prevail on Monday and Saturday nights, and the defendants must be seriously admonished as to their future conduct. This referred to.....

Samuel Cook, LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 8/10/1853

"The annual dinner of the Wednesbury Ratepayers Protection Society was held on Monday evening last, at the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, when an excellent and substantial repast was provided by Mr. S. Cooke, the worthy landlord of that house....."

Samuel Cook – see also BRITISH QUEEN.

Birmingham Journal 29/7/1854

"Thomas Flanagan was, on Tuesday, brought up on the charge of assaulting Police-officers Clarke and Gettings, and rescuing a prisoner. On the 8th inst a disturbance took place at the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury; the officers were called in to quell it, and in doing so were obliged to take a man into custody, whom Flanagan rescued. The Bench fined him £5 and expenses, and for the rescue in the same amount. In default of paying, the prisoner was committed for two months to hard labour."

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

"Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *Clews*, LAMP TAVERN, High Street."

William Entwistle = William Entwisle

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.....

William Entwisle, LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, open after hours, fined 5s and costs.....

These parties were generally admonished or cautioned by the Magistrates."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1859

“Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Friday.....

Mary Perry had been arrested at the instance of William Harris, charged with stealing an Albert chain and a looking glass, which she had pledged. Harris and Perry are both singers at the Music Saloon at the LAMP TAVERN, and live together as though married. Harris did not appear to prosecute, and the prisoner was discharged.”

Birmingham Journal 25/6/1859 - Advert

“I Hereby Give Notice, that unless Mr. John Adkinson fetches away the Cart which he deposited with me by way of Loan, I shall order the same to be Sold by Auction after seven days’ notice, and the expenses of such sale defrayed out of its result.

William Entwistle, LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury, June 24th, 1859.”

William Entwistle – see also SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, and ROYAL OAK, King Street.

Birmingham Journal 24/3/1860 - Advert

“To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, all that business-doing and well-frequented Old-licensed House, the LAMP TAVERN, High Street, and near the Market Place, Wednesbury. The Premises are convenient and roomy, affording accommodation for keeping Cows, Pigs, &c. Rent and payments low. Coming-in from £200 to £300. Apply on the Premises; or to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer, TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/6/1860 - Advert

“LAMP TAVERN, High Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Cotton, on Wednesday and Thursday Next, the 27th and 28th days of June.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the said Inn; also the whole of the clean and genteel Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, large quantity of well-seasoned Casks, Liquors, and the whole of the Effects in and upon the Premises, now in the occupation of Mr. *Stockley*, under a Deed of Assignment.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the LAMP TAVERN will be offered the first lot on Wednesday, the remainder on that day and Thursday.

Sale to commence each morning at Eleven o’clock.

Further particulars may be had at the Place of Sale; and at the Office of the Auctioneer, High Street, Bromsgrove.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/6/1860 - Advert

“Notice.

The Sale at the LAMP TAVERN, will not take place, as the whole has been Disposed Of by Private Contract.

William Cotton, Auctioneer, Bromsgrove. June 23rd, 1860.”

NOTICE.
THE SALE at the: LAMP TAVERN WILL
NOT TAKE PLACE, as the whole has been Disposed Of by
Private Contract. **WILLIAM COTTON,** Auctioneer, Bromsgrove.
June 23rd, 1860.

Birmingham Journal 5/1/1861 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Friday, 18th of January, 1861, at Seven in the evening.....

Lot 1. That well-accustomed Old-Licensed Public House, known by the Sign of the LAMP, situate in High Street, Wednesbury, and containing Bar, Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, China Closet, large Club Room, three Bed Rooms, large Ale Cellars, Wine Cellar, with the Brewhouse, Stabling, Dairy, Out-buildings, Yard, and 978 square Yards of Garden Ground belonging thereto, the whole now in the occupation of Mr. *Benjamin Cartwright*, at the annual rent of £39.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1861 - Advert

“Capital Investment.

J. Whitehouse has been favoured with Instructions to Let, with immediate possession, that excellent old-licensed and well-frequented House, the LAMP TAVERN, near the Market Place, High Street, Wednesbury. The present Proprietor is retiring from Business. Rent low. Stock to be taken at a fair valuation.

For particulars, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer, &c, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1861

“District Annual Licensing Day.....

The list of parties fined for various breaches of the law it appeared was rather less than that of preceding years, and comprised of the following persons.....

Benjamin Cartwright. The house formerly tenanted by this person having passed into other hands, the offence of being open on a Sunday was not gone into.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/11/1861

“Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest on Saturday last, at the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, on the body of a widow named Eliza Bate, thirty-five years of age, who had been found drowned in a well at the back of her premises, where she took in lodgers, on the previous Thursday night. The unfortunate woman, who had previously shown symptoms of insanity and been ill, left her house, and some time afterwards being missed, search was made, and her dead body was found in a well at the back of the premises. It was shown that the wall of the well was raised some feet from the ground, and that the mouth was only eighteen inches wide, so narrow that it seemed impossible that the deceased could have fallen in. The jury, under the coroner’s direction, at once returned an open verdict of Found Drowned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1863

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions.....

James Samuel Bennington, of the LAMP TAVERN, High Street, was fined 10s and costs for allowing persons of notoriously bad character to assemble in his house on the 3rd instant.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1863

“On Tuesday, at the Petty Sessions, George Collis was charged with stealing 19s from the person of a man named William Wall. The prosecutor’s statement was to the effect that on the evening of Tuesday, the 17th instant, he entered the kitchen of the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, and several men who were drinking there asked him to treat them. He took out his money, and having handed some to the men, returned the rest, 19s, to his pocket. Shortly afterwards he found the prisoner’s hand in his pocket, and, on searching, discovered that his money had been abstracted. The prisoner in the meantime had run away, but prosecutor gave such information to the police as resulted in his apprehension the following evening. He was remanded to Wolverhampton.”

[Collis was committed to the Staffordshire Sessions, found guilty, and sentenced to one month’s imprisonment.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/3/1863

“Thomas Humpage, miner, was charged with having committed wilful damage at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Wednesday week. Mr. Armishaw, landlord, proved that the prisoner came into the house on Wednesday night, and behaved very disorderly. He threw the jugs and glasses about, and assaulted a man named Caddick violently with a gutta percha stick. He was ordered to pay the damage, 1s 6d, and 5s costs. The case of assault was also proved, and he was fined 10s and costs, or a month at the gaol in default.

Edward Humpage, brother of the previous prisoner, was also charged with an assault on Caddick, in the LAMP TAVERN, High Street, but the case was adjourned for a week for the production of further evidence.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/5/1863

“During the night of Friday last Mr. *Bennington*, of the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, was robbed of his watch whilst in Livery Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/6/1863

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, James Green, a working man, supposed to have come from the Potteries, was charged with having stolen a shirt and other articles of wearing apparel, the property of *James Samuel Bennington*, of the LAMP TAVERN, High Street. The articles were proved to have been safe on the prosecutor’s premises on the 28th ult, and were missed shortly after the prisoner, who had been drinking in the house, had left. On the following day a portion of the articles were pledged by the prisoner at the shop of Mr. Houston, pawnbroker, and on Saturday he was apprehended by Police-constable Myatt, with the stolen shirt in his possession. The prisoner was committed to take his trial at the ensuing County Quarter Sessions.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/6/1863

“At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions James Green, 33, brewer, was indicted for stealing one shirt, the property of S. [sic] *Bennington*, and one pair of drawers and two handkerchiefs, the property of Elizabeth Haddock. The shirt was left in the yard with other articles to dry, and was afterwards stolen and traced to the prisoner. He was found guilty, and sentenced to two calendar months’ hard labour.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/6/1863

“Edward B. Scholefield, an auctioneer, living in Church Street, Wednesbury, was charged, under the Bailee Act, with having fraudulently converted to his own use the sum of £30 belonging to *James Samuel Bennington*, of the LAMP TAVERN. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the prosecutor, and Mr. Bayley for the defence.

Mr. Sheldon stated that in the month of February last the defendant was employed to sell the stock-in-trade, &c of the prosecutor, who was then a plumber and glazier. He (defendant) handed over to *Bennington* £170 12s 5d as the result of the sale. He did not, however, submit any regular debtor and creditor account of the sale, and as there was a surplus of £30, *Bennington* made an application for the money and a proper statement. About three weeks ago, the defendant sent in an account showing only 5s 8d due to the prosecutor. Upon this a summons was issued under the Bailee Act. Mr. Spooner ruled that this Act did not apply in such a case; the proceeding was merely a civil one. The charge was therefore dismissed.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/6/1863

“Jane Price, a girl about 17 years of age, living on Darlaston Road, was brought before the Wednesbury magistrates on a charge of stealing a chicken, the property of *James Samuel Bennington*, landlord of the LAMP TAVERN.

Elizabeth Haddock, the housekeeper at the LAMP TAVERN, said they did not wish to press the charge against the girl.

A woman named Peters came into the witness box and said the girl had asked her if she had lost a chicken, as she had found one in the street. It appeared about four days old. The girl also enquired of some other neighbours whether they had lost a chicken, showing she had no intention of concealing the matter. The girl was therefore discharge, there being no evidence whatever against her.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1864

“From Friday night’s *London Gazette*. Bankrupts.....

John Lucas, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, licensed victualler.”

AND

London Gazette 16/2/1866

“*John Lucas*, of the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, adjudicated bankrupt on the 2nd day of February, 1864. A Dividend Meeting will be held on the 27th day of February instant, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/2/1864 - Advert

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

John Lucas, of the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged Bankrupt, on the 2nd 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 at the said Court, on the 5th day of March, 1864, 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 Messrs. Duignan and Lewis, of Walsall, are the Solicitors 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.

Messrs. Duignan and Lewis, Solicitors, Walsall. C. G. Megevan, high Bailiff.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/3/1864

“Walsall County Court Bankrupts.....

In re *John Lucas*, publican, Wednesbury, who came up for final examination, supported by Mr. Cranch, from the office of Messrs. Duignan and Lewis, the bankrupt passed unopposed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/6/1864

"James Jobson was on Saturday brought up at the West Bromwich Police Court, charged with having, on Tuesday night last, stolen a dog belonging to Mr. *John Lucas*, of the LAMP TAVERN, High Bullen, Wednesbury. The fellow was seen loitering on the premises on the night mentioned, and shortly afterwards was observed by a man named Mathews leading the animal in a string down the street. Mathews questioned him, and the defendant, waxing wrath, expressed a great desire to 'mill' his interrogator, which resolution he carried into execution, with the usual 'black country' proficiency. The Magistrates sent him to Stafford for fourteen days with hard labour."

John Lucas – see also COTTAGE SPRING, Bilston Road.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1865

"On Saturday the following licenses were temporarily transferred.....

LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, from *John Lucas* to *Hannah Lucas*, his widow."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/2/1865

"Elizabeth Evans, a denizen of Oatmeal Square, was charged before Mr. I. Spooner, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, with cutting and wounding a companion in misfortune at the LAMP TAVERN, on Wednesday night last. Mary Ann Beards said she lived in Oatmeal Square, where the prisoner also lived, and on going to the LAMP TAVERN on the evening in question, the prisoner attacked her, cutting her face with a penknife. Mr. Spooner said the marks on the prosecutrix's face were mere scrapes. Prosecutrix, however, positively stated that the wounds had been inflicted by a knife. She stated, in further reply to queries from the Bench, that fights were daily, if not hourly, witnessed in 'the Square,' and about the public house referred to.

Mr. Spooner said such a state of things was a disgrace to humanity. The Local Board should take the matter up seriously, and institute proceedings. It was stated that part of the property in the locality was about to be sold.

Witnesses were examined to show that Beards and Evans were equally to blame, and Mr. Spooner discharged the prisoner."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/5/1865

"Alfred Hardy, alias 'Count'em,' appeared at Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, charged with having assaulted Eliza Lucas, daughter of Mrs. *Lucas*, of the LAMP TAVERN, High Street. On the case being called, the defendant said he had settled it; but the Stipendiary remarked that he was the proper person to effect a settlement, and insisted upon hearing evidence.

It seemed that on the 15th instant, on the occasion of the brass band contest in Messrs. Russell's recreation grounds, at New Town, Mrs. *Lucas* and her daughter had charge of a booth belonging to the former, in Mr. Whitehouse's field. During the day some slight disagreement occurred between Miss Lucas and the defendant, and the latter, dealing the former a violent blow on the face, broke the bridge of her nose. Subsequently the complainant accepted 30s to settle the matter. The Stipendiary ordered the defendant to pay a further sum of £2, or submit to one month's imprisonment."

Worcester Journal 21/10/1865

"Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.....

John Tuffley Kinton, 33, labourer, was indicted for obtaining, by false pretences, on 30th of May, 116 gallons of cider and two casks, from R. W. Gardener, of Ombersley; and also with obtaining from the same prosecutor, 120 gallons of perry. Mr. Streeten prosecuted and Mr. Richards defended.

The prosecutor stated that on the 10th of May he received the letter (produced), dated from the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, directing him to send some cider to Droitwich, to be forwarded to the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, as the writer required some cider himself, and said that if it was good he would recommend it to other publicans. The cider was duly sent, and on the 24th of May he received another letter requesting that some perry should be forwarded to the same address. The letter stated that the money would be remitted upon the receipt of the perry. It was in consequence of the letters that he sent both the cider and perry, and from the letters he was led to believe that the prisoner was the landlord of the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury.

The prisoner was apprehended at Walsall, by PS Steel, of the Staffordshire force, on the 12th August. Prisoner had been living at Walsall since March last, and when charged, he said, 'I do recollect having the cider.' In cross-examination Steel said he knew the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, and had seen the prisoner there. He was not the landlord, as the house was kept by a Mrs. *Lucas*. Goods and letters were often left at the LAMP TAVERN for Kinton, as he was in the habit of attending Wednesbury market.

PS Pardoe, of the Worcester County Police, stated that he received the prisoner into his custody from Steel, and upon his showing him the letters he said they were his, and that he had received the perry and cider. On the way to Worcester, Kinton asked witness if he thought Mr. Gardener would make it up, because if so he thought he could raise the money to pay him.

Mr. Richards, for the defence, contended that the case was not one of false pretences, and that it was only a debt the prisoner had contracted with Mr. Gardener, and that he intended to pay it.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour. The prisoner, it appeared, had but recently left Derby Gaol."

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/3/1866

"Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

William Lawton and Abraham Lloyd were indicted for feloniously assaulting John Conner and stealing from his person the sum of £4 5s. Mr. Godson was for the prosecution.

The prosecutor, a labourer, deposed that on the night of the 5th inst he and the prisoners were drinking at the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury. They left about two in the morning, and the prisoners went part of the way home with him. On the road they asked him for the price of a quart and he gave them sixpence. They asked him if he had any more money and he said he had not, upon which they threw him down. Lawton held him while Lloyd robbed him of his purse containing £4 5s, and they then ran away together.....

The evidence of the prosecutor being uncorroborated, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty."

John Hartill = John Hartell = John Hartil = John Hartwell

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/11/1866

"Humpage of Wednesbury will fight Malpass of Dudley at catch weight, for £10 or £20 a side, in three weeks from signing articles. Money ready at *Hartell's*, LAMP TAVERN, High Street, Wednesbury."

Sporting Life 14/11/1866

"Mr. Harding's New Shooting and Pedestrian Grounds, Wednesbury.

On Monday last, the announcement that Joe Spittle, a local shot, and Jem Dickens, of Hill Top, would come together for the fifth time, brought out an extraordinary concourse of people. The match was to shoot at thirteen pigeons each, subject to ordinary conditions, for £15 a side.....

[Joe Spittle won 8-4.]

Hearing that Mr. Boothroyd, of Sheffield, wishes to match Mr. G. Clayton, of Birmingham, to shoot a match with J. Spittle, he will accommodate him, for £25 a side, at twenty-five-pigeons, to shoot at the Beacon Barr, near Birmingham. Money ready any time at Mr. *Hartwell's* LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, or at Henry Spittle's, BLUE BALL, Wednesbury."

John Hartill was fined 1s and costs for permitting drunkenness in July 1868.

1871 Census

14, Upper High Street

[1] *John Hartil* (56), innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] Hannah Hartil (56), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Benjamin Lucas (29), step-son, labourer, iron works, born Wednesbury;

[4] Mary Lucas (6), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] Emma Ford (14), general servant, born Clifton, Herefordshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 20/9/1871

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner, Stipendiary.....

John Hartill, of the LAMP TAVERN, High Street, was charged with having allowed drunkenness in his house.

The case was proved by Police-constable Jones, who stated that at 9.30 on the evening of Tuesday, the 12th instant, he visited the defendant's house in the company with Police-constable Collier, and there found a drunken man, who, on his speaking to the landlord, was carried out into the street, and placed upon the pavement. Two hours later, witness and his companion returned to the house, and found another drunken man there asleep. That one was able to walk out of the house with assistance.

A previous conviction being proved against the defendant, he was fined £5 and costs, the Stipendiary stating that he would impose a fine of £10 if the defendant came there again, and that he hoped the Magistrates would withdraw the license."

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/4/1872

"*John Hartill*, of the LAMP TAVERN, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house on the 4th inst. Mr. Motteram (instructed by Mr. Sheldon) appeared for the defence.

Sergeant Morris, hearing a noise in defendant's house on the day mentioned, sent Police-constable Downes to the place, and he found several men very much gone in liquor, one of them being so much so that he had to be taken home in a wheelbarrow. The two witnesses for the defence did not put in an appearance. The defendant, who had been previously fined for an offence against his license, was now fined £10 and costs, and his license was endorsed."

Midland Counties Evening Express 24/3/1875

"An application for the transfer of the license of the LAMP TAVERN, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, from *John Stringer* to *Benjamin Bissell* was refused, the applicant having been convicted in February, of being drunk and refusing to quit a public house."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 5/4/1875

"An application was made for the transfer of the license of the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, from *John Stringer* to *Benjamin Bissell*.

Mr. Joseph Young, barrister, appeared on behalf of the applicant, who, he said, had been a beerhouse keeper for five years, and a licensed victualler for twelve months, and had had no conviction against him for the manner in which he had conducted his business. Unfortunately, however, he had been fined 5s and costs for refusing to quit the house of a neighbouring publican, but he did not think the magistrates would, for so slight an offence, deprive him of his means of livelihood, and cause him to lose a considerable amount of capital he had expended on the premises.

The application was granted."

Midland Examiner 3/4/1875 - Advert

"*Benjamin Bissell*, LAMP TAVERN, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

Begs respectfully to intimate his friends and the public that he has taken to the above old-established house, where he hopes, by strict attention and the supply of the very best articles, to receive a share of their support.

Wines and Spirits of the Best Quality."

London Gazette 6/7/1875

"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 *Benjamin Bissell*, of the LAMP TAVERN, High-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

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. James Slater, Solicitor, Butcroft, Darlaston, in the county of Stafford, on the 23rd day of July, 1875, at eleven o'clock in the fore-noon precisely.

Dated this 2nd day of July, 1875.

James Slater, Darlaston, Attorney for the said *Benjamin Bissell*."

Benjamin Bissell – see also BUTCHERS ARMS and JOLLY BREWER.

Its name was changed to MIDLAND VAULTS.

Midland Examiner 11/11/1876 - Advert

"*C. M. Anderson*, Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Merchant.

The MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

Agent for Chester's celebrated Mild and Bitter Ales.

Wines and Spirits of the best quality.

Cigars of the best brands."

C. M. ANDERSON,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
THE MIDLAND VAULTS,
UPPER HIGH-STREET, WEDNESBURY.
—
Agent for Chester's celebrated Mild and Bitter Ales.
Wines and Spirits of the best quality.
Cigars of the best brands.

Birmingham Daily Post 30/3/1877 - Advert

"Barman. Wanted, an experienced young Man, about 17 or 18. Good references required.

Apply, MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury."

BARMAN.—Wanted, an experienced young Man, about 17 or 18. Good references required.—Apply, Midland Vaults, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

Evening Express 12/3/1881

"Mark Holland (19), and Stephen Wall (21), both of Wednesbury, were charged with stealing a pewter measure, value 3s, from the MIDLAND VAULTS, High Street, Wednesbury, belonging to Mr. W. H. Anderson, KINGS HEAD, Wolverhampton.

The prisoners were employed at the vaults, to clear some water out of the cellar, and when they had finished their work Wall was seen to leave the house with a quart measure.

Holland, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to 2 months' and Wall to 1 month's imprisonment, each with hard labour."

1881 Census

Upper High Street (south side) – MIDLAND VAULTS

[1] E. J. A. Glover (15), manager in charge, born Leominster, Herefordshire;

[2] L. S. Morris (61), grand-mother, annuitant, born London;

[3] John Edwards (29), manservant, born Middlesbrough:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/6/1881

"William Sayers, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, for refusing to quit the MIDLAND VAULTS on the 14th inst, was fined 10s and costs.

The defendant, who had been drinking in the house the greater part of the day in question, commenced to gamble with another man, and when the landlord, *Henry Glover*, asked him to desist, he refused, and used most offensive language. The landlord then put defendant out, but he immediately returned and struck and kicked him several times."

AND

Wednesbury Herald 25/6/1881

"William Sayers, ironworker, was charged with refusing to quit the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, on the night of the 14th ult.

The landlord stated that on the night in question the defendant and others commenced to gamble in his house. Upon requesting them to desist, defendant assaulted him by striking him in the face and kicking him on the legs. He was requested to leave the house and refused to do so.

The defendant, who had been previously convicted, was now fined 10s and costs, or in default 21 days' imprisonment."

William Kettle = William Ketley

Birmingham Daily Post 7/3/1888

"Bridget Macfarlane (22), no fixed residence, was charged with maliciously breaking a sheet of glass, value £4 10s, the property of Mr. *W. Ketley*, of the MIDLAND VAULTS, High Street, Wednesbury.

The woman was drunk and disorderly. As she was being removed in custody she sprang at the window and smashed it.

Macfarlane was fined 10s and costs for being drunk and disorderly, and 1s and costs, together with the damage (£4 10s), or, in default, one month."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/10/1889

"Minnie Johnson, who has been convicted seven times this year of different offences, was charged with refusing to quit the MIDLAND VAULTS, Market Place, Wednesbury.

It was stated that the defendant went into the vaults in a drunken state and made use of disgusting language.

The defendant, who conducted herself in a very disorderly manner in Court, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1890

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *William Kettle*, keeper of the MIDLAND INN, Upper High Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness, and also with allowing prostitutes to assemble on his premises.

Early in the evening police officers found men drunk and asleep in the house and five women of ill-fame gathered there. At a later hour the officers visited the house again, and then found six prostitutes there.

Mr. W. S. Smith, for the defence, said the owners of the house were endeavouring to remove the defendant and transfer the license to someone else, but hitherto they had not succeeded.

Thomas Holt (the manager of the house), Joseph Partridge, and William Fitzgerald were then charged with being drunk on the premises.

Kettle was fined £3 and costs in each case, making £7 15s altogether; *Holt* was fined 10s and costs; and the others 1s each and costs.”

1891 Census

14 High Street

[1] *Cornelius Brough* (34), publican, joint tenant, born Kirk Langley, Derbyshire;

[2] *Norah Brough* (35), wife, born Thorpe Satchville, Leicestershire;

[3] *Anne E. Brough* (2), daughter, born Queniborough, Leicestershire;

[4] *Eliza A. Silk* (18), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Wednesbury Herald 21/9/1895

“A meeting of the members of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association was held on Tuesday night at the MIDLAND VAULTS.

The Chairman (Mr. Birch) reviewed the reports recently submitted to the licensing justices in that and adjoining districts, and said they were on the whole satisfactory to the trade, the magistrates in many instances having commented upon the great improvement that has taken place in the management of public houses.

Several members warmly approved of the steps recently taken in several districts to stop illegal trading on Sundays, and stated that it was the duty of the association to do all it possibly could to assist the police in maintaining the proper observance of the law.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Quoits League. [1900]

1901 Census

Upper High Street – MIDLAND VAULTS

[1] *John W. Lazenby* (37), publican, born Peterborough;

[2] *Jessie Lazenby* (36), wife, born Peterborough;

[3] *Jessie May Lazenby* (15), daughter, born Brighton;

[4] *Joel Lazenby* (11), daughter, born Peterborough;

[5] *Victoria Maud Lazenby* (2), daughter, born Pendleton, Lancashire;

[6] *Betsy Smith* (19), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/4/1904

“A coloured man named *George Montrose*, no fixed abode, was at Wednesbury yesterday committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions charged with stealing £7 10s, the money of *Joseph Martin*, of the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

The prisoner went into the public house, and after he had left a cash box containing £7 10s, including forty-three threepenny pieces, was missed from under the counter.

When arrested the man admitted the theft. He was wearing new clothes and boots, and had in his possession thirty-three threepenny pieces.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/7/1904

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

George Montrose, 45, engraver, a man of colour, pleaded guilty to stealing, in the house of *Joseph Martin*, at Wednesbury, on April 7, a cash-box and £7 10s in money, and he was sentenced to three months hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/5/1904

“Wednesbury magistrates yesterday fined Frederick Breakwell, of Franchise Street, Kings Hill, £1 10s, including costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment, for stealing a bottle of stout belonging to *Joseph Martin*, landlord of the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

The defendant took the stout out of a case in the yard, and the landlord, afterwards noticing the bottle in his pocket, demanded it from him. Defendant said he did it for a joke.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/3/1905

“Frank Dudley, a coloured man, said to belong to the ‘Uncle Tom’s Cabin’ company, was fined 2s 6d and costs by the Wednesbury magistrates yesterday for drunkenness.

The defendant went to the MIDLAND VAULTS, in Upper High Street, the worse for drink, and although the landlord would not serve him he refused to leave, and a policeman had to be called to eject him.

Defendant told the magistrates that this was the first time he had been before the court, whereupon the Mayor humorously remarked that it was not the first time he had been drunk. The defendant admitted that he had been several times a bit ‘tiddley.’”

Walsall Observer 8/6/1907

“The coming of age of the Misses Ethel and Amy Stanley, of the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, was celebrated with much merry-making on Tuesday last. Invitations having been previously issued about forty lady friends assembled at three o’clock, at the residence of their parents, where they were received by the hostesses. The reception being over, the party gave themselves over to dancing and other amusements. About five o’clock the party were entertained to tea, and subsequently the tables were cleared, and the party enjoyed an impromptu concert. The afternoon proceedings were terminated with each guest receiving a pass for the performance at the local theatre.

In the evening about fifty gentlemen friends presented themselves on the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. *John Stanley*. After being received the party adjourned to the club room, where an excellent repast had been prepared, and reflected great credit upon the host and hostess. When the cloth was drawn the company settled themselves down for a good night’s enjoyment. Mr. Jack Allen was elected chairman, while Mr. S. Webb made an excellent vice-chairman.

The chairman, after eulogising the Misses Stanley, said he had a very pleasant duty to perform, and that was to present Miss Ethel and Miss Amy Stanley with a beautiful marble clock each, and in the course of a few remarks expressed the hope that the clocks would always be kept going. The Misses Stanley, in neat little speeches, thanked the donors of the presents for their kindness....

The following is a list of the presents. Mr. and Mrs. *John Stanley*, gold neck chain and locket each; Mr. J. Birch to Ethel, diamond ring.....”

Walsall Observer 4/1/1908 - Marriages,

“On the 29th ult, at St. John’s Church, Wednesbury (by the Rev. G. Percival Jones, MA), James, youngest son of Edward Birch, L. & N. W. HOTEL, to Ethel May, twin daughter of *John* and *Mary Stanley*, MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury (late of the SIR ROBERT PEEL, Walsall).”

AND

Walsall Observer 4/1/1908

“A pretty wedding was celebrated at St. John’s Church, Wednesbury, by the Rev. Percival Jones, on Sunday morning last, the contracting parties being James, youngest son of Edward Birch, L. & N. W. HOTEL, and Ethel May, twin daughter of *John* and *Mary Stanley*, of MIDLAND VAULTS, late of the SIR ROBERT PEEL, Walsall.

The bride was charmingly dressed in a costume of biscuit fawn satin cloth, trimmed with tuck net medallions and white satin ribbon, hat of white silk braid trimmed with white plumes to match. She carried a beautiful shower bouquet of lilies of the valley and white chrysanthemums, and also wore a handsome gold brooch, the gift of the bridegroom.

The bridesmaids were Miss Amy Stanley (sister of the bride) and Miss Ada Birch (sister of the bridegroom). They wore skirts of fawn Panama cloth, with velvet coats, and hats of silk braid trimmed with white silk and fawn-tipped feathers, and carried shower bouquets of pink roses and chrysanthemums, and wore gold pendants, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr. William Birch officiated as best man. A representative gathering of the happy couple’s relations and friends attended the ceremony, and the reception, which was afterwards held at the residence of the bride’s parents. The bride’s present to the bridegroom was a gent’s dressing case.....”

AND

“A supper was given at the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, on Tuesday evening last, in celebration of the marriage of the daughter of the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Stanley*, to Mr. J. Birch. About thirty friends sat down to a well-served and substantial supper, after which a capital concert was ably rendered During an interval in the programme the Chairman took the opportunity of presenting Mr. and Mrs. J. Birch with a handsome pair of bronzes, and in a few words hoped the recipients would live long to enjoy the gift. Mr. Birch, on behalf of Mrs. Birch and himself, thanked the donors of such beautiful presents, and said they would always treasure their gifts.”

1911 Census

18, Upper High Street

[1] *John Stanley* (50), licensed victualler, born Walsall;

[2] *Mary Stanley* (44), wife, married 26 years, assisting in the business, born Walsall;

[3] *Amy Stanley* (24), daughter, assisting in the business, born Walsall:

Walsall Observer 31/8/1912 - Deaths

“On August 22nd, at the MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury, *Mary Stanley*, dearly-beloved wife of *John Stanley*, aged 46 years. Interred at Ryecroft Cemetery August 27th.

The call was short, the shock severe,

To part with one we loved so dear.

May she rest in peace.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/11/1913

“Christmas Card League. Over 900 Members.

Dear Chicks,

I had to get the Lady Editor to write to you yesterday; I was so busy arranging about sending you the names of the poor children. Do you know that there are thousands of cards for you to send if we are going to send the postman to all the houses that I cannot visit? We have today 902 members. I am relying upon you to make this up to a thousand before the end of the week. A longer letter tomorrow.

Your loving Santa Claus, The Snow Castle, North Pole.

The Eighth List of Members.....

W. S. McGill, MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 28/11/1914

“George Dudley, 74, Sandbank, Bloxwich, was summoned for taking a pigeon, value 20s.....

In the course of his duty on October 29, Detective Thomas visited the defendant's pen and there found a number of pigeons, seven of which bore the Homing Union rings, and were subsequently found to belong to people in different parts of the country – Derby and other places. The pigeon which was the subject of the charge belonged to Mr. *Adams*, of Wednesbury, and was lost in July last.....

The explanation of the defendant was that he kept an open pen, and the birds had come there of their own accord.

Walter Adams, licensee of the MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury, said he owned some valuable pigeons. The bird produced was one he lost in July last. It was well bred, and he gave £6 for the father and £3 for the mother. He believed it would have come back had it had the chance.

The defendant said he had fed the bird and looked after it, and it was at liberty to go any time.....

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed, with the alternative of fourteen days.”

South Staffordshire Times 25/9/1920

“Wednesbury Police Court. Before the Mayor (Alderman Withers) presiding; Messrs. C. Southern, E. Austin, J. A. Kilvert, Fullmood, and A. Tonks.....

In the case of the MIDLAND VAULTS, Mr. Shepard (Tipton) represented the licensee.

Superintendent Salt brought up a certain complaint, but after hearing it, the magistrates hoped the landlord would give the matter his particular attention in future.....”

1921 Census

Upper High Street – MIDLAND VAULTS

[1] *Francis Thomas Dicken* (32), hotel manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Gertrude Eva Dicken* (34), wife, hotel manageress, born Bilston:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 10/1/1925

“The magistrates sanctioned plans for structural alterations to the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill; the OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, and the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 5/12/1925

“A meeting of the Management Committee of the Darlaston Central Bowling League was held at the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, when it was announced that a new club had been formed in connection with that house, and would be known as the Midland Vaults Bowling Club. Mr. H. Reade (the chairman of the league), in welcoming the new club, said it was proof of the popularity of the game that so much interest was being taken in the league, due to Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers Ltd., for the green that had been laid down by the MIDLAND VAULTS. It showed to what an extent the popularity of the game had reached in Wednesbury. New rules for the league were drawn up, and it was stated that Mr. E. Smith would act as secretary, pro tem, of the Midland Vaults Club. Mr. E. Higgins proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding, and also for his remarks regarding the club.”

Walsall Observer 6/3/1926

“A new bowling league, the Darlaston Central, has been formed in the Darlaston and Wednesbury district, and the following ten clubs have affiliated MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 3/3/1928

“When Mr. A. J. Glover applied on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for the sanction of plans for improvements at the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, the Mayor said the justices had viewed the premises, and seeing that the alterations would increase the drinking facilities and add to the value of the house as well as improve the neighbourhood, they thought the brewery company should give some quid pro quo and surrender at least an off-license. Mr. Glover said he did not know whether they had an off-license in the town to give up.

The Mayor: Perhaps the company will offer something else.

The matter was adjourned until April 20, it being intimated that the Bench would only sanction the plans on condition that something was given in return.”

Dudley Chronicle 27/6/1929

“Serious charges were preferred at Wednesbury Police Court on Friday against George Anderson, 67, Well Lane, North Walsall. They were (1) being in possession of counterfeit coin with intent to utter the same, (2) uttering a counterfeit two shilling piece, and (3) having in custody and possession moulds for the manufacture of counterfeit coins.

Mr. B. G. Saywell (of London) appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions, and outlined the facts of the cases. On June 4th, at 1.30pm, accused went to the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, and tendered half-a-crown for half a pint of ale. In consequence of something said by the customers, the landlord spoke to prisoner, who made some excuse, and asked for the coin back, then leaving the bar. The next heard of him was on June 11th, when he went to the WHITE HORSE and tendered a two shilling piece, receiving change. Something was said to the daughter of the licensee. She looked at the coin again, and subsequently handed it to the police. Prisoner the same day went to the BELL INN and the MIDLAND VAULTS, where he tendered two shilling pieces, and afterwards went to the GRAPES INN, where he was spoken to by PC Taylor. He asked him to go to the Police Station, and this the prisoner willingly did. When there he handed PS Nixon four counterfeit coins, also giving him a key, and telling him he would find all he wanted in a drawer at his home. A search was made and moulds and other articles necessary for the making of counterfeit coins were found.....

Joseph Glaze, jeweller and silversmith, High Bullen, Wednesbury, said he was shown the coins produced by PS Nixon and tested them with aqua fortis. He also weighted them and found them deficient. The whole of the coins were counterfeit.

Miss Edna King, daughter of the licensee of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, said that on June 11th, she served a man with half a pint of mild and bitter, for which he tendered a two shilling piece (produced). She could not recognise the man. After he left something was said to her by another customer, and she looked in the till. She took out the two shilling piece, and testing it with another coin found that the edge rubbed soft.

Mrs. Higgins, wife of the licensee of the MIDLAND VAULTS, said she remembered prisoner calling for half a pint of ale on June 11th, for which he tendered a two shilling piece. She picked accused out the following day at an identification parade at the Police Station.

[Another newspaper report says Mrs. Hawkins, wife of the licensee, Ernest Hawkins.]

Archibald Cross, licensee of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, also stated that he served prisoner with beer and cigarettes, which he paid for with a two shilling piece. Subsequently, from something which was said to him, he took it out of the till, and upon testing it found it to be a bad one.

Douglas George Young, licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, identified two half-crowns (produced), one dated 1923, and the other 1924, which were found in his takings on May 20th and June 4th respectively. He knew prisoner and saw him in the bar on both the dates mentioned Joseph Glaze said that the two half-crowns which Mr. Young found in his takings were counterfeit and light in weight.....

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Staffordshire Assizes. He intimated that it was his intention to plead guilty." AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/7/1929

"Pleading guilty to uttering counterfeit coins at Wednesbury, and to having in his possession moulds for making counterfeit coins, George Anderson, aged 38, a French polisher, committed from Wednesbury, was sentenced to three years penal servitude at the Staffordshire Assizes yesterday.

It was stated for the prosecution that prisoner also admitted charges relating to embezzlement and the uttering of counterfeit coins five years ago."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Bowling League. [1930], [1931], [1937], [1939]

Bilston and Willenhall Times 3/2/1934

"The annual dinner of the Midland Vaults Bowling Club was held on Thursday at the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, when there was a large gathering, presided over by Mr. Sidney Webb, who has been president of the club since its inception....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/9/1937 - Advert

"Bar-General, smart, live in, experienced; good references.
MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury."

BAR-GENERAL, smart, live in, experienced;
good references.—Midland Vaults, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 15/1/1938

"There were nearly 100 entries from all over the Midlands at the annual show, at the MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury, on Saturday, of the Wednesbury Cage Bird Society....."

1939 Register

18, High Street (5 of 6)

- [1] George C. James, date of birth 14/2/1899, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Alicia S. James, dob 8/5/1901, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Malcolm M. James, dob 24/12/1925, school, invalid, single;
- [4] Ethel McDonald, dob 6/8/1889, nurse, untrained, single;
- [6] Ivy Irene (Weate) Wallace, dob 3/11/1913, bar general, public house, single:

Walsall Observer 4/4/1942 - Personal

"The Engagement is announced of Hazel, niece of Mr. and Mrs. *Sid Homer*, MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury, and Ben, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Reece, Manor House Road, Wednesbury.

Heartiest congratulations to Hazel on attaining her 21st Birthday, April 6th. Celebrations held at MIDLAND VAULTS.

Love and best wishes. Auntie and Uncle."

Syd Homer was married to Mary.

Evening Despatch 20/1/1949

“Nearly all professional footballers maintain their interest in the game after they have hung up their boots for the last time. I found an exception when I dropped into the MIDLAND VAULTS at Wednesbury, and chatted to the landlord about a photograph of Bristol City Football Club (season 1932-33) which was hanging on the wall of the dining-room. Mine host, a member of the group in the picture, turned out to be *Sid Homer*, the five-foot-high outside right who played for Wolverhampton Wanderers before being transferred to the Bristol club.

I expected Sid to declare himself a firm supporter of the Wolves nowadays, but no. He told me he had seen only three professional soccer matches in the past 14 years, and after each he had felt less inclined to go again. Like other players of the middle ‘thirties,’ and many of the older generation of spectators, he thinks the standard of professional football has deteriorated progressively. ‘In my day, it was ball control that counted,’ he declared. ‘I was only a little ‘un, and I had to do something special to beat the big fellows. Ball control was the only way. Nowadays they think too much about speed.’”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/4/1956

“Clifford Geoffrey Bunce, a labourer, of 152, Bassett Road, Friar Park, West Bromwich, was remanded in custody at Wednesbury yesterday. He was charged with stealing pillowslips, blankets and towels valued at £5 11s 6d, the property of *Reginald Mole*, licensee of the MIDLAND VAULTS public house, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, on April 10.”

Tipton Herald 12/5/1956

“Alan George Wheatley, aged 26, of 111, Canterbury Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, was fined £3 by Wednesbury Magistrates on Friday for refusing to leave a local public house on Saturday night, April 21st, when asked to by the licensee. He was also fined £2 for being drunk and disorderly outside the MIDLAND VAULTS INN that night.

Reginald Mole, licensee, told the court that after investigating a commotion in the bar, he had asked Wheatley and a companion – dealt with at a previous court – to quit the premises. ‘He would not go so I called the police,’ he said. ‘I did not want any trouble.’

PC Berry said that Wheatley adopted a fighting attitude and used obscene language when he was arrested. ‘He was obviously drunk,’ he added.

Wheatley, who pleaded not guilty to both charges, said that he was never asked to leave the inn.

He was to have appeared before the court last week, but failed to do so because he was ‘needed at work.’ He forfeited his bail of £2.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962] , [1963], [1965]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/9/1962

“The COACHMAKERS team last night won the Presidents Cup in the final of the competition organised by the Wednesbury Central Darts League. They beat MIDLAND VAULTS 8-1 and received the cup from the league president, Councillor Tom Berry.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/10/1962

“The Wednesbury Central Darts League’s prize presentation and doubles cup final will be held on Friday at the MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/8/1966 - Advert

“MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.
Bar Staff required, male/female, with or without experience.
Apply in person. *J. F. Harris.*”

MIDLAND VAULTS. Upper High-street,
Wednesbury.—Bar Staff required, male/
female, with or without experience.
Apply in person—*J. F. Harris.*

A team from here won the Wednesbury Social Domino League, West Section, in 1966.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/4/1967 - Advert

“Bar Staff, evenings and weekends, male or female, two.
MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.”

BAR STAFF, evenings and weekends,
male or female, two.—Midland Vaults,
Upper High-street, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 26/5/1967

"The Songsmiths, a local folk song group literally 'brought the house down' when they performed at a folk song and poetry evening at the MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury, on Monday. The enthusiastic stamping of an appreciative audience brought complaints from the publican that plaster was falling from the ceiling of the room below....."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Cribbage League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/1/1971

"What's On Monday.....

Aquarist Society, MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, 8.0."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/3/1973 - Advert

"Wanted. Barmaid full-time or part-time.

MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury."

WANTED. — Barmaid full-time or part-time, Midland Vaults, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/7/1974

"What's On Tomorrow.....

Midland Cichlid Society meeting, MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, 8.0."

Silhouette Slimming Club held classes here on Thursdays. [1974], [1975]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/5/1975 - Advert

"British Marine Aquarists Association, West Midland Group, welcomes everyone interested in marine fish.

General meeting May 6, at the MIDLAND VAULTS, High Bullen, Wednesbury, 8pm.

Slides and talk on setting up a marine tank."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/11/1976 - Deaths

"*John Frederick Harris*. MIDLAND VAULTS – LAMP. Aged 60, passed away peacefully after much suffering. Service at St. Bart's, Wednesbury, 3pm Tuesday, November 30. Cremation 3.30pm, Newton Road. Sadly missed by wife, Maud, and family."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/12/1976 - Notices of Thanks

"MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

The wife of *Jack Harris* wishes to thank everyone concerned, relatives, friends, customers, staff, for their beautiful floral tributes and messages in her sad loss. God bless you all."

1977 Probate

"*John Frederick Harris* of MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, West Midlands, died 25 November 1976. Administration Birmingham 12 January. Effects £9,974."

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/10/1979

"Shop stewards are to join the fight against the Leyland cuts in a campaign to be launched in Sandwell tomorrow. It is being organised by the Black Country Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, a newly-formed group pledged to oppose the Government's proposals for union reform. Tomorrow's meeting at the MIDLAND VAULTS in High Street, Wednesbury, is expected to draw hundreds of union members from factories throughout Sandwell and the Black Country....."

Superslim held classes here on Mondays. [1980]

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/9/1980

".....This year's Wednesbury Leek Show, held at the MIDLAND VAULTS pub, Upper High Street, was the club's fourth. Winner was Mr. Len Barlow, of Barlow Road, Wednesbury, who presented three leeks totalling 112 cubic inches. There were £900 worth of prizes for the exhibits and Mr. Barlow won a £120 greenhouse."

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/9/1980

“Actors went on strike in Wednesbury to protest against employment and trade union laws – in a drama-packed play. The controversial Cast Theatre Group called at the MIDLAND VAULTS pub in Upper High Street to present a play which looks at current laws affecting strikers and pickets.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/12/1980 - Advert

“*Sid* and *Ruby* of the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, Would like to wish all their customers and friends all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/9/1982

“Today and tomorrow the Wednesbury Leek Club holds its show at the MIDLAND VAULTS.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/6/1984 - Advert

“The Bankruptcy Acts 1914 and 1926. In the Dudley County Court in Bankruptcy.
Re *Sidney Gordon Parkes*, residing at and carrying on business from the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, in the Metropolitan County of West Midlands as a Tenant Publican.
Receiving Order March 12, 1984.
Order of Adjudication March 12, 1984.
First Meeting of Creditors June 27, 1984.
Public Examination July 18, 1984.
Note: All debts due to the estate should be paid to me.
A. T. R. Stretton, Official Receiver, May 24, 1984.”

MIDLAND VAULTS Public House. has now re-opened under new management. Come & join in the fun with The Golden Sounds Sing-a-Long every Sunday Night. High St., Wednesbury. — Tel: 021-502 6273

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/11/1984 - Advert

“MIDLAND VAULTS Public House has now re-opened under new management. Come and join in the fun with the Golden Sounds Sing a Long every Sunday Night. High Street, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/2/1985

“Glamorous girls in the Sandwell and Dudley Evening Mails darts team will be aiming to score another bullseye at their second charity Wheels Appeal challenge. The five-strong girls A and B teams are travelling to the MIDLAND VAULTS pub, known locally as the LAMP, in Upper High Street, Wednesbury. The head-to-head match against locals tomorrow night is sponsored by Birmingham-based computer firm Software World.

The lovely lasses have already notched up a victory against the BRUNSWICK pub at Wednesbury. They raised £85 towards a target of £25,000 needed to buy a special minibus each for the Albert Bradford Special School, Smethwick, and Old Park School, Dudley.

Team member Leigh Churchill said, ‘The darts match is sure to be a good laugh for a good cause but we will be aiming to give the men a run for their money.’”

[The match was drawn. A further £62.71 was raised.]

Two teams from here took part in the Wolverhampton Air Rifle League. [1985/86]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Motor Services Crib and Domino Leagues. [1986]

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/11/1988

“Youngsters from Wednesbury 18-plus Group are to step out in style to aid charity, on a sponsored fancy dress pub crawl. Up to 24 members of the group will be taking part in the event on Saturday, November 26, in the hope of raising more than £1,000. Starting and finishing at the MIDLAND VAULTS public house in Upper High Street, Wednesbury, half the group will cover 20 pubs in Wednesbury and Darlaston and the rest another 20 pubs in West Bromwich and Great Bridge.

All the money will go to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/3/1989

“Wednesbury 18 Plus are holding a social night for new members on Thursday, March 30 at the MIDLAND VAULTS pub, Wednesbury.”

It closed and reopened as the LAMP. [1996]

Black Country Bugle 8/10/1998 - Advert

"The LAMP, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

Steve and Wendy welcome customers old and new.

Function Room available. Ideal for Christmas parties. Bookings now being taken.

Don't miss our Live Entertainment every weekend; Karaoke Discos sponsored by BRMB Radio."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/1/2001

"The LAMP, Wednesbury, are to hold a singles darts competition on January 28.

7.30pm register and £2.00 entry fee per player."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/5/2001

"The LAMP, Wednesbury, are holding a darts knock out with a guaranteed minimum £200 payout.

Registration 7.45pm on Saturday May 12."

[2010]

Closed [2012]

It was converted into an Indian restaurant. [2013]

To Persons in want of a good Public House.

That old established Public House known by the Sign of the LAMP TAVERN, in Wednesbury, which is paying about thirty pounds per sitting for ale duty, besides doing a great scope of business in the Liquor line.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by J. RODWAY, on the premises, on Friday next, the 23d of November, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the Licences, Good-will, and valuable Possession of the above compact House, which is surrounded by various coal and iron-works, and a populous neighbourhood.

The premises are spacious and very convenient, with Stabling, large Garden, &c.

The stock and effects to be taken at a fair valuation.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Winkless, upon the premises, who is leaving the same solely on account of other engagements, or to the Auctioneer, Edgbaston-street, Birmingham.

LAMP TAVERN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be RE-SOLD by AUCTION (in consequence of the non-performance of the contract by a late purchaser) on the premises, by JOHN RODWAY, on Friday next, December 14, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the Licences, Good-will, and valuable Possession of that old established and well accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the LAMP TAVERN, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, now in the occupation of Mr. J. Winkless.

The premises are surrounded by various Coal and Iron Works and a populous neighbourhood; and, to any industrious couple, a situation so truly desirable seldom presents itself, as an independency may be realized in a few years.

The present tenant is leaving solely on account of other engagements.

For further particulars apply on the premises, or to the Auctioneer, Edgbaston-street, Birmingham.

1827

MR. THOMAS GRIFFITHS, DECEASED.

ALL Persons who have any claims or demands against the Estate of the late Mr. THOMAS GRIFFITHS, of the Lamp Tavern Inn, Wednesbury, are hereby requested to forward the particulars of them to the under-mentioned Trustees, so that they may be examined, and, if right, discharged; also all persons who stood indebted to the estate of the late Mr. Griffiths at the time of his decease, are particularly requested forthwith to pay their respective debts to the Trustees of the above Estate.

JESSE WHITEHOUSE, } Trustees.
SAMUEL BAYLEY, }

Wednesbury, Feb. 12, 1842.

LAMP TAVERN INN, WEDNESBURY.

THE Public is respectfully informed, that THOMAS M. BILLS is commissioned by the Trustees under the Will of the late Mr. Thomas Griffiths, to DISPOSE of the LICENCES and POSSESSION of the above old-established INN, with immediate or such other possession as a respectable tenant may require. The house is doing a good and steady retail trade.

Fixtures, Stock, &c. to be taken to at a fair valuation.—Rent moderate.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Mr. Jesse Whitehouse, Maltster, of Wednesbury; Mr. Samuel Bayley, Maltster, of Holloway Bank, West Bromwich; or at the offices of Thomas M. Bills, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Public House Agent, Wednesbury.

1842

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that unless Mr. John Adkinson fetches away the CART which he deposited with me by way of Loan, I shall order the same to be SOLD by AUCTION after seven days' notice, and the expenses of such sale defrayed out of its result.

WILLIAM ENTWISTLE.

Lamp Tavern, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury, June 24th, 1859.

1859

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, all that business-doing and well-frequented Old-licensed HOUSE, "THE LAMP TAVERN," High Street, and near the Market Place, Wednesbury. The Premises are convenient and roomy, affording accommodation for keeping Cows, Pigs, &c. Rent and payments low. Coming-in from £200. to £300.—Apply on the Premises; or to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer, Turk's Head, Wednesbury.

"LAMP TAVERN,"

HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. W. COTTON, on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY NEXT, the 27th and 28th days of June—the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the said INN; also the whole of the clean and genteel HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Brewing Utensils, large quantity of well-seasoned Casks, Liquors, and the whole of the Effects in and upon the Premises, now in the occupation of Mr. Stockley, under a Deed of Assignment.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the Lamp Tavern will be offered the first lot on Wednesday, the remainder on that day and Thursday.

Sale to commence each morning at Eleven o'clock.

Further particulars may be had at the Place of Sale; and at the Office of the Auctioneer, High Street, Bromsgrove.

1860

Lot 1.—That well-acquainted OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the Sign of "THE LAMP," situate in High Street, Wednesbury, and containing Bar, Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, China Closet, large Club Room, three Bed Rooms, large Ale Cellars, Wine Cellar, with the Brewhouse, Stabling, Dairy, Out-buildings, Yard, and 978 square Yards of GARDEN GROUND belonging thereto, the whole now in the occupation of Mr. Benjamin Cartwright, at the annual rent of £39.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

J. WHITEHOUSE has been favoured with Instructions to LET, with immediate possession—that excellent old-licensed and well-frequented HOUSE, the "LAMP TAVERN," near the Market Place, High Street, Wednesbury. The present Proprietor is retiring from Business. Rent Low. Stock to be taken at a fair valuation.—For particulars, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer, &c., Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

1861

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE

HOLDEN AT WALSALL.

JOHN LUCAS, of the Lamp Tavern, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler; having being adjudged Bankrupt, on the 2nd 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 at the said Court, on the 5th day of March, 1864, 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 Messrs. Duignan and Lewis, of Walsall, are the Solicitors 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.

Messrs. DUIGNAN and LEWIS, Solicitors, Walsall.

C. G. MEGEVAN, High Bailiff.

1864

BENJAMIN BISSELL,
LAMP TAVERN,
UPPER HIGH-STREET,
WEDNESBURY.

Begs respectfully to intimate his friends and the public that he has taken to the above old-established house, where he hopes, by strict attention and the supply of the very best articles, to receive a share of their support.

WINES and SPIRITS of the Best Quality.

1875

BRITISH MARINE AQUARISTS ASSOCIATION. West Midland Group welcomes everyone interested in marine fish. General meeting May 6, at the Midland Vaults, High Bullen, Wednesbury. 8 pm. Slides and talk on setting up a marinetank.

1975

SID AND RUBY

OF

THE MIDLAND VAULTS

**UPPER HIGH STREET,
WEDNESBURY**

TEL. 556 02 95

*Would like to wish all
their customers and
friends all the very best
for Christmas and the
New Year.*

1980



THE LAMP

**UPPER HIGH STREET,
WEDNESBURY**

Steve & Wendy welcome customers old & new

**Function Room available
Ideal for Christmas parties**

Bookings now being taken

DON'T MISS OUR

- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY WEEKEND
- KARAOKE DISCO'S SPONSORED BY BRMB RADIO

FOR MORE INFORMATION TEL: 0121-585 2764

1998

LEABROOK TAVERN

54, Lea Brook Road, (54, (Lower) Dudley Street), Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Millward Brothers
Patent Shaft and Axletree Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Harrison [1861] – [1871]
John Nutt [1881] – [1891]
George Challinor [1896]
John Thomas Challinor [1900] – [1901]
Alfred James Merrick [1911]
William Dunn [1921] – [1922]

LEABROOK TAVERN,
LEABROOK, WEDNESBURY.
TO be LET, the above well-situated Retail TAVERN,
now and for years doing a good in and out-door Trade.
To treat for this genuine Concern, apply to Mr. Thomas Harrison,
upon the Premises.

1868

NOTES

It stood at the entrance to the Patent Shaft Works.

It had a brewery attached.

1861 Census

Dudley Street

- [1] Thomas Harrison (55), publican, born Drayton, Worcestershire;
- [2] Elizabeth Harrison (57), wife, born Kinver;
- [3] Ann Harrison (28), daughter, born Kinver;
- [4] Caroline Dodd (13), servant, born Chester:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1865

“George Bray, a smith, recently employed at the Patent Shaft Works, Wednesbury, sued George Robson, a manager at the same establishment, for the sum of £10 as damages for an assault. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Ebsworth for the defendant.

The plaintiff's case was that on the night of the 10th of July last he was at the house of Mr. *Harrison*, the LEABROOK TAVERN, and there met the defendant, under whom he had been working at the works named above. He asked the defendant for 5d, which the latter owed him, and having received the money, left the parlour, where the defendant was sitting, and going into the kitchen, showed the money to some of his companions, who had been jeering him about having to pawn his clothes, and told them he was not yet reduced to that extremity. He had barely said this when the defendant followed him into the kitchen, struck him on the face, and upon his falling to the ground, kicked him, and, in addition to giving him ‘a pair of black eyes,’ so severely injured him that for a fortnight he was unable to work, and was attended by Mr. Garman, surgeon.

For the defence it was stated that the plaintiff was drunk on the night in question, that he used very abusive and irritating language to the defendant, among other things alleging that the defendant's wife had dropped a purse in the street containing a considerable number of pawn tickets, and that he challenged the defendant to fight, and put his arms round the latter's waist before a blow was struck.

The case occupied a considerable time, several witnesses being examined on each side, but in the end his Honour intimated that he thought justice would be met by a verdict for the plaintiff for five shillings. Verdict accordingly.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1868 - Advert

“LEABROOK TAVERN, Leabrook, Wednesbury.

To be Let, the above well-situated Retail Tavern, now and for years doing a good in and out-door Trade. To treat for this genuine Concern, apply to Mr. *Thomas Harrison*, upon the Premises.”

1871 Census

54, Dudley Street

- [1] *Thomas Harrison* (65), publican, born Belbroughton, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Harrison* (67), wife, born Kinver;
- [3] *Harriett Simpson* (28), daughter, widow, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] *George Simpson* (9), grand-son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [5] *Thomas Simpson* (6), grand-son, scholar, born Nottinghamshire;
- [6] *Ann E. Simpson* (4), grand-daughter, scholar, born Manchester:

1881 Census

54, Dudley Street

- [1] *John Nutt* (48), millwright, forge, born Netherton;
- [2] *Elizabeth Nutt* (47), wife, born Netherton;
- [3] *Elizabeth Nutt* (24), daughter, born Netherton:

Wednesbury Herald 13/8/1881

“Opening of a Free Gardeners Lodge. On Monday evening last a new Lodge (in connection with the Bilston, Walsall and Cannock district) was opened at the house of Mr. *John Nutt*, LEA BROOK TAVERN. Mr. T. B. Matchett presided, Mr. J. Sims occupied the vice-chair.....”

1891 Census

54, Lower Dudley Street

- [1] *John Nutt* (59), widower, publican, born Netherton;
- [2] *John W. Roden* (40), son-in-law, brewer, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Elizabeth Roden* (37), wife, born Netherton;
- [4] *Naomi Roden* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William Roden* (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Florance Roden* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Roseanna Roden* (6 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Harriet Little* (23), domestic servant, born Netherton:

Walsall Observer 25/7/1891

“National United Order of Free Gardeners (Bilston, Walsall, and Cannock District).

A meeting of delegates of the above society was held at Bro. *J. Nutt*’s, LEA BROOK TAVERN, Wednesbury, on Monday, July 20, when upwards of 80 delegates attended The business transacted showed the district to be in a good financial position considering the heavy amount of death claims paid out.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1892 - Advert

“To Let on Lease, or Sold, that free Beerhouse, known as the LEA BROOK TAVERN, Wednesbury, close to the G. W. R. station and recreation grounds, and close to large works. Good reasons for leaving; the proprietor retiring from business.

Apply on Premises.”

TO Let on Lease, or Sold, that free Beerhouse, known as the Lea Brook Tavern, Wednesbury, close to the G.W.R. station and recreation grounds, and close to large works. Good reasons for leaving; the proprietor retiring from business.—Apply, on Premises.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/10/1896

“At Wednesbury yesterday *George Challinor*, landlord of the LEA BROOK TAVERN, Wednesbury, was fined £5 and costs for selling intoxicants during prohibited hours on Sunday, September 6.”

Walsall Observer 29/12/1900

"On Wednesday, Mr. H. A. Pearson, district coroner, held an inquest, at Wednesbury, respecting the death of James McCabe (36), gas stoker, of Hobbins Street, whose charred body was discovered on Saturday night in a steel furnace, at the Brunswick Works of the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company Limited.

Evidence was given that deceased and a man named Enoch Weston were employed on a steel furnace, which was known as the Jubilee mill soaking pit, in which ingots of steel are heated by gas, preparatory to being worked. On Saturday the men, who were in the employ of Benjamin Lowe, a contractor to the company, finished work between one and two o'clock, and as notice had been given that the works were to close for a fortnight the lid over the pit was removed and the gas turned off, but the metal was then red hot, and it was said to take days to cool, owing to the intense heat generated.

Deceased left the works, after being paid his wages, and was next seen in the LEABROOK TAVERN, where he was supplied with drink. He left, stating that he intended going to a football match, but returned shortly afterwards, and remained until about half-past four, when he went out. He was then said to be quite sober, and stated that he was going home. His further movements were lost sight of, but about half-past eight o'clock at night, Benjamin Marston, watchman at the Brunswick Works, was going his rounds, and was attracted by a blaze in the soaking pit, which is seven feet deep. On looking down he saw a man's body, and at once obtained the assistance of another watchman, and of Police-sergeant Sims. A stream of water was poured into the pit, and about three hours later it was found possible to bring the body up by means of a drag, and it was afterwards identified as that of the deceased. His cap lay near the side of the pit, but his clothing was nearly all burnt away, and the body itself destroyed beyond recognition, some of the limbs having disappeared altogether. No reason could be suggested for deceased being in the works, as he had no business there.....

Eventually an open verdict was returned that deceased was found burnt to death, but that there was no evidence to show how he came to be in the pit."

1901 Census

54, Lea Brook Road – LEA BROOK TAVERN

- [1] *John T. Challinor* (25), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Annie L. Challinor* (25), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Elsie Challinor* (6 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Emily F. Morris* (24), domestic servant, born Bilston:

1911 Census

54, Lea Brook Road

- [1] *Alfred James Merrick* (29), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ellen Merrick* (27), wife, married 4 years, born Minmi, Australia;
- [3] *Alfred Merrick* (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Annie Merrick* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Nellie Merrick* (6 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Beatrice Gibbins* (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Alfred James Merrick – see also CROWN AND CUSHION and CASTLE.

Ellen Merrick was the daughter of *Thomas* and *Mary Gorton*.

Thomas Gorton – see PARK and MARKET HOUSE.

Mary Gorton – see CROSS KEYS.

1921 Census

54, Lea Brook Road

- [1] *William Dunn* (39), boat on-loader of coal, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mercy Dunn* (37), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *William Dunn* (17), son, iron worker, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Emma Dunn* (11), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Mercy Dunn* (8), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Annie Dunn* (6), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Sarah Dunn* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury:

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.....

The LEABROOK TAVERN. Mr. A. J. Glover represented the owners and the tenant in this case, it being suggested by the police that the license was not required.

As it was understood that Patent Shaft and Axletree Co. were interested, Mr. T. J. Withers did not take any part in hearing of this case.

Sergt. Thorpe gave evidence.

Mr. Glover: All the nearby houses are fully licensed? – Yes.

Have not some houses been taken away during the past years? – Yes, four, five or six perhaps on the ground of redundancy.

Mr. Glover: Would you be surprised to hear that the LEABROOK TAVERN was doing about six barrels a week? – Witness did not think so.

Mr. Glover contended that it was unfair to take away this particular license, and if any license was to be cancelled it should not be the LEABROOK TAVERN beerhouse. The house was doing more trade than any of the surrounding houses, proportionally. There had not been any complaint and not a transfer for the past seven years, which spoke well.

Mr. Millward (Millward Bros., Wednesbury), said they had been supplying goods to the LEABROOK TAVERN for the last forty years. They now held a lease, and *Dunn* had been tenant for seven years.

The magistrates retired and upon returning the Mayor said would be referred for compensation, renewal refused.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/7/1922

“At a meeting of the Stafford County Licensing Committee yesterday the following houses were referred, without opposition, for compensation.....

LEABROOK TAVERN, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/8/1922

“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 20th day of July, 1922, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

LEABROOK TAVERN, Wednesbury. Beer on, ante 1869. Licensee, *William Dunn*. Registered owners, The Patent Shaft and Axletree Co. Ltd.”

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. The Committee approved the following awards of compensation.....

LEABROOK TAVERN, Wednesbury, beer on (ante 1869 so far as can be ascertained), £2,200.”

£2,200 compensation was paid.

It closed on 31st December, 1922.

LION AND LAMB

Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Dabbs [1848]

NOTES

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1848

“Annual Licensing Day Applications for Spirit Licenses.

Licenses were granted to *James Dabbs*, LION AND LAMB, Kingshill Field, Wednesbury.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 2/9/1848

“*James Dabbs*, retail brewer, Wednesbury, applied for a spirit license. Mr. Holland supported the application, which was granted without opposition.”

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mary Perry [1868]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/6/1868

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary, the following persons were summoned.....

Mary Perry, LIVE AND LET LIVE, Portway Road, refusing to admit the police, fined £2 and costs.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/6/1868

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday.....

Mary Perry, beerhouse keeper, of Portway Road, was summoned for having on the 10th instant refused to admit the police and for selling ale during prohibited hours on the same day.

Police-constable Chapman stated that he called at the defendant's house about half-past 11 o'clock on the 10th instant, in company with Police-constable Evans. The doors were fastened. He heard a number of men in the house and witness and his companion asked for admission. They heard a rush towards the back door, and the gas having been put out the door was opened and they entered. Evans gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Spooner observing that the present was a very serious charge fined the defendant £2 and costs, for not admitting the police and ordered the other charge to stand over for a month.”

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN (ROYAL) HOTEL

66, Stafford Street / Albert Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Stevenson
Edward Birch
Frederick Smith Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Stevenson [1867] – [1870]
William Wharton [] – **1871**;
John Henry Collier (**1871** – [1872]
Daniel Lockett [1872] – [1875]
James Birch [1877]
Edward Birch [1878] – [1921]
Thomas Edward Birch [1921] – [1926]
Ada Birch [] – **1933**;
Charles John White (**1933** – [1939]
George William Sawle [1960]



c1938

NOTES

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL [1868], [1872]

It was situated opposite the London and North Western Railway Station.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1867

“West Bromwich special Session for hearing new applications for victuallers licenses.....

Mr. Travis applied, on behalf of *William Stevenson*, for a license to an hotel which he had erected in Stafford Street, Wednesbury, near to the railway station. The facts put forward in support of the application were the commodious character of the house, the necessity for increased accommodation to commercial men travelling along the line, and the inability of the RAILWAY INN to supply the increased accommodation.

Mr. J. T. Bailey opposed the application on behalf of the railway refreshment rooms and the landlord of the RAILWAY INN. He said that there was ample accommodation in the neighbourhood, and contended that Mr. *Stevenson*, as a builder, had built the house simply as a commercial speculation, and that his object in endeavouring to obtain a license was to enhance its value.

Mr. Ebsworth opposed on behalf of the occupant of the WHITE HORSE, taking up the same line of argument as Mr. Bailey, and pointing out that the only buildings intervening between his client's house and Mr. *Stevenson's* were the bank and the police station.

The Bench granted the application.”

AND

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].....

William Stevenson, builder, applied for a license for a new house in Stafford Street, Wednesbury. The application was supported by Mr. Travis, and opposed by Mr. J. T. Bayley, on behalf of the lessee of the Refreshment Rooms and the tenant of the RAILWAY INN. Mr. Bayley contended that this license was not required, and that it was simply a builder's speculation. Mr. *Stevenson* was as well known in Wednesbury as a building speculator as the parish church, and such houses sprung up like mushrooms under him. Respecting this very house, he had undertaken to

build it and to guarantee a license for it. He therefore asked the Bench not to encourage speculations of this kind at the expense of people who had made large investments and done all that the Court required when their licenses were granted. Mr. Ebsworth also opposed the application on behalf of James Evans, the occupier of the WHITE HORSE INN. He urged that this license was quite unnecessary. Granted.”

Birmingham Journal 5/10/1867 - Married

“On the 30th ult, at St. John’s Church, Wednesbury, by the Rev. J. Winter, *William Stevenson*, senior, Builder, LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL, Stafford Street, to Elizabeth Phillips, of Russell Street, Wednesbury.”

William Stevenson was also a wine and spirit merchant. [1868]

Birmingham Journal 18/7/1868

“Wednesbury Mutual Friendly Society. The members of this old-established society held their annual festival on Monday, and afterwards dined together at the house of Mr. *Stevenson*, the NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, under the presidency of Mr. J. Goddard. The statement of accounts shows that the society numbers 400 members, and possesses a reserve fund of £3,824, being a gain of about £175 on the year’s transactions.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1868

“On Saturday evening a meeting of the supporters of Mr. Walker, the Conservative candidate for Wednesbury, was held at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, in that town.....

The meeting was concluded with cheers for Mr. Walker and three groans for Mr. Brogden.”

[Alexander Brogden was Liberal MP for Wednesbury from 1868 to 1885.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/12/1868

“Mr. *Stevenson*, of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, was charged with an assault upon Samuel Timmins, a boy. Mr. J. T. Bayley appeared for Mr. *Stevenson*, and Mr. Sheldon for the lad. There was a cross-summons in the case, Mr. *Stevenson* charging the lad’s father with having assaulted him at the time named.

The evidence showed that the boy was wheeling a barrow at the front of the hotel, and Mr. *Stevenson* reprimanded him, on which he became saucy, and he then kicked him once. Mr. *Stevenson* went into the hotel, and on coming out shortly afterwards, the lad’s father struck him upon one of his eyes and caused him to be blind for several days. Mr. *Stevenson* said he had been very much annoyed by wheelbarrows being place opposite his door, and his customers falling over them.

Mr. Spooner said he could not for a moment suppose that Mr. *Stevenson* did not strike the boy, and the question was whether the father or the lad was not labouring under excitement when he struck Mr. *Stevenson*. Both cases would be dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/12/1868

“Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, Coroner, at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, kept by Mr. *Stevenson*, on the body of the young man who was found in a closet at the railway station at Wednesbury, on the previous morning, he having blown out his brains with a pistol. There was a large attendance of the public. The name of the deceased was not known when he was found, but the police found out that he was Thomas Butler, a butcher, of Princes End. It was proved that for some time past he had been in a very low state of mind, and somewhat singular in his actions. He was twenty-one years of age, and had only been married three months. The union had apparently been a happy one, one of the witnesses stating that deceased and his wife were passionately fond of each other. We subjoin the evidence, which was as follows:

Thomas Bettridge, engine driver on the London and North-Western Railway, said that on the previous morning he was at the Wednesbury Station, and coming from a closet, when he perceived some blood under the door of an adjoining closet. He thought there had been an effusion of blood from somebody’s nose; but to satisfy himself, he pushed the door, and on finding there was some one in the place, he ran to give the alarm, and met a man employed at the goods department. He informed this man of what he had seen, and on going to the place the man decided that, before opening the door, it would be as well to fetch a policeman. An officer came immediately, and he (witness) then informed some platelayers that a man had been found in the closet, and he afterwards went away with the train of which he was driver. The body in the stable was the same that he found in the closet.

Police-constable John Stanton, of Wednesbury, said that about a quarter past eight on Tuesday morning a man came to him and said he thought that some one had cut his throat. On going to the place he found deceased, with his right side to the door of the closet, and a pistol by his left side, which he now produced. Deceased's head was hanging down, and on lifting it up he saw there was a severe wound in the region of right temple. The man was alive, and he got him out of the place, telling a person by to fetch the nearest doctor. Mr. Ernest Mill was sent for, and on examining the wound said the case was a hopeless one. Deceased died in about ten minutes, and was conveyed to the stable of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, kept by Mr. *Stevenson*. On searching the body he found four pounds sterling in gold, one shilling in silver, two-pence in copper, some percussion caps, and powder and shot (now produced). The gunpowder was in one of deceased's pockets, and the pistol had been discharged. He found nothing else upon the body. No one heard the report of the pistol.

Mr. Edmund Hodgkinson, farmer and beer-seller, of the HARE AND HOUNDS, Tipton, said he was father-in-law to deceased, who was a butcher, and twenty years age last birthday. The body in the stable was deceased's, and he formerly lived at Princes End, Sedgley parish. He (deceased) was married, and his wife was living. He last saw deceased alive about a fortnight ago, and was always on good terms with him. His (witness's) son, who carried meat out for deceased, had told him that for a few days his master had been in a very queer way. Deceased had been married about five months. He (witness) had not heard of any disagreement between deceased and his wife. He had never heard of deceased being out late since his marriage. He had no reason to think that anybody had committed the act but deceased himself. A certain uncle of deceased's might once have been a little out of his mind about two years since. The name of this person was Henry Gibbins. He did not know that the deceased had ever threatened to destroy himself.

Edward Dunmatthew, butcher, of Owen Street, Tipton, said on the previous Thursday deceased agreed with him that they should have a beast between them. When he asked deceased about having the beast on Monday, he appeared as if he did not know anything about it, or want anything to do with the transaction. He (witness) thought this strange, as deceased had agreed to have part of it, and they were to fetch it on the Tuesday. Deceased appeared very low in his spirits, and after being asked a question, would return an answer which appeared to have not the slightest relevance to it. He did not see deceased afterwards, and left him at the ALBION INN, Tipton, about three o'clock. On going home he told a youth about Butler being strange. Deceased appeared as if he did not want anything to do with him. He (witness) had frequently been to the shop, and had often seen him and his wife together. They always appeared to be on good terms. Deceased had not been in the habit of taking beer.

John Garrett, porter at the station, said that on the previous morning, about a quarter past eight, there were two young men came in by the 7.55 train from Walsall. One of them went along the platform, as if he intended going to the Great Western Station. The other young man who stopped at the station was he who was dead; and having given him (witness) his ticket, he stood, as if in deep thought. He left him, and went across the line to where deceased followed him, and went round the inspector's office, as if going to the closets. He did not see deceased afterwards. This was about ten minutes past eight, and it was about five minutes to nine that he heard of deceased being found in the closet. In the intervening time he (witness) went to his breakfast, a distance of about two hundred yards, but he did not hear any report of a pistol. A young lady in the refreshment room had told him that she heard one discharged. Deceased looked strange when he gave him his ticket.

George Sanders, Princes End, who lived near deceased, said he last saw deceased alive on the Monday, when he was drawing water at the well, with which to clean the front part of his shop. He and deceased spoke about the weather, but of nothing else. He had noticed lately that deceased had acted somewhat strangely, and especially on Friday, when he brought three pigs up the yard, and, contrary to his usual custom, deceased began to kill the pig. He assisted deceased to kill the pig, which he did without having his proper boots on, or without a cap on, and had to fetch the water to wash it. His (witness's) wife said to deceased, 'You seem very strange. You make me feel very queer about you. Why don't you put something on?' Deceased was crying most of the day, and appeared very low-spirited. He (witness) had lived about three months near deceased, and he appeared to be passionately fond of his wife, who for some time had been ill. On the night when deceased was out all night they sat up for him (deceased) until two o'clock in the morning.

The Coroner said there could be very little doubt as to the mode by which deceased had come to his death, and it would be for the jury to consider whether or not he was of unsound mind when he committed the act. If they were in the slightest doubt as to the state of mind in which deceased was at the time of his death they must give him the benefit of that doubt. There was not the slightest doubt that deceased was in possession of a pistol at the time of his death, and that the one produced was the one.

The jury having been allowed time to consider the decision, they returned a verdict to the effect that deceased committed Suicide whilst he was of was of Unsound Mind."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/1/1869 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold and Copyhold Property at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL, Stafford Street, Wednesbury, on Monday, the 8th day of February, 1869, at six for seven o’clock.....

Lot 9. An excellent Family and Commercial Hotel (freehold) known as the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL, in the occupation of the proprietor, Mr. *William Stevenson*, and situate at the junction of Stafford Street and Albert Street, Wednesbury, within a few yards of the Wednesbury Station of the London and North-Western Railway. This newly erected and substantially built house contains seven bedchambers, six closets, china closet, two commercial rooms, large assembly-room, 51ft by 17ft, capital liquor shop, smoke-room, bar-parlour, tap-room, and kitchen, (with conveniences for brewing), three large ale cellars, wine and spirit cellar, and soft water cistern; and the lot comprises in addition, excellent stabling, hay loft, corn room, spacious yard, and other outbuildings and conveniences.

.....For further particulars, apply to the proprietor, Mr. *William Stevenson*, at the Hotel, or to Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, and Lewis, Solicitors, Walsall and Wednesbury, or to the Auctioneers, Wednesbury.”

[There were 13 lots in this sale, comprising 33 properties.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1869

“Prosecutions by Wednesbury Local Board.....

Mr. *William Stevenson*, landlord of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, was charged by Mr. Bayley, under the Public Health Act, with having offended against the bye-laws of the Local Board, on the 19th inst, by permitting a new house to be erected in Oakswell Street, Oakswell End, before the same had been certified by the surveyor as fit for human habitation. The case occupied a considerable time. The defence set up by Mr. *Stevenson* was that he had been prevented from proceeding in the work for having had to apply to the Waterworks Company to put in a main at the foot of a building. This main was now finished, and he was about to finish the work as suggested by the surveyor. Defendant was fined 1s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/5/1869 - Advert

“Re *William Stevenson*, a Bankrupt.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL, Stafford Street, Wednesbury.

Important Sale of the Licenses and Possession of the costly Liquor Shop, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, Brewing Vessels, Ale Machine, capital Brougham, Horse, Harness, Metal Tap Counters, Glasses, Liquor Bottles, Timepiece, handsome Lamp, Sign Boards, Chandeliers, Gasfittings, Beds, Bedsteads, Chairs, Tables; Cottage Piano-Forte, in rosewood case (by Broadwood and Sons); Sofas, and numerous other Effects, which will be Sold by Auction, by E. B. Scholefield, on Saturday Next, May 15th 1869, commencing punctually at Ten o’clock am.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale, the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, and at the Auctioneer’s Office, Wednesbury; and at the *Gazette* Office, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/5/1869 - Advert

“Sales by Auction Tomorrow.

Re *William Stevenson*, Bankrupt.

Notice is Hereby Given, that the Sale by Auction of the Household Furniture, advertised to take place at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Stafford Street, Wednesbury, by E. B. Scholefield, Tomorrow (Saturday), is Postponed for the present.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/5/1869 - Advert

“LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL, Stafford Street, Wednesbury.

John Osbourn will Sell by Auction, upon the Premises as above, This Day (Wednesday), May 19th (under Distraint for Rent).

All the Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, prime Ale Barrels, quite new; two large Boilers, twenty-bushel Mash Tub, new Gathering Tub, narrow-wheel Cart, Chaff Engine, and other Effects, belonging to *William Stevenson*.

Sale to commence at Ten o’clock, under the usual conditions.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/5/1869 - Advert

"Re *William Stevenson*, a Bankrupt.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Whitehouse, on Tuesday Next, May 25th, 1869, at the Holyhead Road Timber Yard, Wednesbury.

The Stock of excellent and well-seasoned Timber, Scaffold Poles and Planks, 8 Carpenter's Work Benches, Patent Mortising Machine, Timber Carriage, large Sign, Chimney Pipes, Grates, Window Frames, Office Fittings, Cut Nails, Sprigs, and other Effects, according to catalogue.

Sale to commence at half-past Twelve o'clock am precisely.

Catalogues may be obtained at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, or at the Auctioneer's Office, Russell Street, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1869

"In re *William Stevenson*, Wednesbury, licensed victualler and builder.

Last examination and discharge.

Mr. Harris, who appeared for the assignee, examined the bankrupt with reference to acceptances given by the bankrupt to Short and Son. The bankrupt said these acceptances were not accommodation bills; they represented bona fide trade transactions.

Mr. Harris remarked that the deficiency would be comparatively small if the securities held by creditors realised the value put upon them.

Mr. Griffin, who appeared for the bankrupt, said the property had been valued by Messrs. Fallows and Smith.

There was no opposition, and the order of discharge was granted.

Liabilities to unsecured creditors, £1,292; to creditors holding security, £7,282; to creditors to be paid in full, £13; total, £8,587. Assets £8,319, including £7,930 property in the hands of creditors; deficiency, £268."

[Later in the year *William Stevenson* is mentioned in the bankruptcy of Short and Son, timber merchants of Birmingham.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/6/1869 - Advert

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District.

Notice is hereby Given, that an Order of Discharge was, on the 7th day of June, 1869, granted by the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, at Birmingham, to *William Stevenson*, of Stafford Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Builder.

James and Griffin, Solicitors, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/9/1869 - Advert

"Peremptory Sale of Freehold Properties, at Wednesbury, including the NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, and Seventeen Other Dwelling Houses.

To be Sold by Auction, by Fallows and Smith (by order of the Mortgagees), at the TURKS HEAD INN, at Wednesbury, on Friday, the 3rd day of October next, at Six o'clock in the Evening.....

Freeholds, by the North-Western Railway Station.

Lot 3. All that large and commodious newly-erected Property, known as the LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN HOTEL, lately occupied by *William Stevenson*, situate and forming the corner of Stafford Street and Albert Street; with large Premises forming the opposite corner of the same streets, consisting of a seven-stalled Stable, and Loft over, large Coach-house, and Warehouse over, Yard and Out-buildings.

The Hotel has Entrance Hall, Bar, and Spirit Shop, two Parlours, Tap Room, very large Club or Assembly Room, six Chambers, Brewhouse, excellent dry Cellars, Yard, and every accommodation for business or comfort. It has cost upwards of £400 fitting up, and the Fixtures, Counters, Gas Fittings, Shelves, with plate-glass back, Ale Machine and Piping, Screens, handsome Lamp, and Sign Boards, will be valued to the purchaser.

The Property is newly-erected, most conveniently arranged, and in perfect order. It contains an area of about 400 square yards, and presents a rare opportunity to anyone wishing to enter the public business. Immediate possession can be had. As an investment it is estimated to produce £80 per annum."

1871 Census

66, Stafford Street – LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL

- [1] William Wharton (24), hotel proprietor, born London;
- [2] Jane E. Wharton (24), wife, born Swansea;
- [3] William Wharton (3 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Ann Wharton (46), mother, widow, born London;
- [5] Martha Wharton (17), sister, born London;
- [6] Mary Wharton (14), sister, scholar, born London;
- [7] Elizabeth Wharton (11), sister, scholar, born London;
- [8] Thomas E. Wharton (7), brother, scholar, born Birmingham:

PEREMPTORY SALE,
At the LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL,
WEDNESBURY.
BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, at half-past Ten o'clock,
TOMORROW (Thursday)—the LICENSES and POSSESSION,
Liquor Fountains, Casks, Glasses, Measures, Bottles, Drawers, FURNITURE, and numerous other Effects.
Auctioneer's Office, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/4/1871 - Advert

“Peremptory Sale, at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL, Wednesbury.

By E. B. Scholefield, at half-past Ten o'clock, Tomorrow (Thursday).

The Licenses and Possession, Liquor Fountains, Casks, Glasses, Measures, Bottles, Drawers, Furniture, and numerous other Effects.

Auctioneer's Office, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/7/1872

“A preliminary meeting of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire mill wagoners was held at Mr. *D. Lockett's*, LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL, to take into consideration their future rate of wages. It was resolved that a rise of 10 per cent be asked, wagons to be unloaded by one o'clock on Saturdays. The Bilston Mill, Willenhall Mill, Oldbury Mill, Kidderminster Mill, Bentley, and Wednesbury have risen their men.”

Daniel Lockett was also a coal agent of Holloway Bank. [1873]

South Staffordshire Examiner 7/11/1874 - Advert

“*D. Lockett*, Coal Merchant, the Bridge Wharf, Wednesbury.

The Best Cannock Chase Deep Coal supplied at the following rates.

At the Wharf, 17s per ton.

Delivered, 18s and 19s per ton.

For Boat Loads, etc, at the lowest possible rates.

All Orders to be addressed to the Offices, Wednesbury Bridge Wharf, or to the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Midland Examiner 30/1/1875 - Advert

“Notice. Public Appeal.

In consequence of trade depression and other consequences over which he has no control, Thomas James Lees, late of NAGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, has become involved in serious pecuniary difficulties. Being totally blind, and having no means of extricating himself from his unfortunate position, a few friends have formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of making an appeal to the public on his behalf, feeling confident that the facts of the case have only to be made known to secure a hearty and generous response.

Persons who have kindly undertaken to collect subscriptions for the above object will greatly oblige by forwarding their cards, together with the amounts subscribed, on or before Tuesday, February 2, 1875, either to Mr. *Daniel Lockett* (LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN HOTEL), Chairman of Committee; Mr. George Lloyd (ROYAL EXCHANGE), Treasurer; Mr. Rogers, Secretary; or to Thomas J. Lees, New Town, Wednesbury.

NB. Any subscription, however small, will be thankfully received.”

Midland Examiner 3/4/1875 - Advert

“*D. Lockett*, LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury.

(Opposite the London and North Western Railway Station.)

Wines and Spirits of the Best Brands.

Burton and other Ales, in Bottle and Draught.

Agent for the Smithfield Brewery, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/5/1876

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on the body of William Bayliss, aged 48, master tailor, Walsall Street, West Bromwich.

The evidence showed that on Saturday night the deceased reached Wednesbury, by a train from Walsall, at about ten minutes past nine, and was crossing the line at the Potters Lane end of the platform, apparently with the intention of going to the Great Western station, when he was knocked down by a engine and tender, part of his right arm being taken off, and other injuries caused. Mr. Butler, assistant to Mr. Garman, promptly rendered professional aid, but the unfortunate man died in about a quarter of an hour.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The deceased leaves a widow and ten children.”

Birmingham Daily Mail 24/5/1877

“An inquest was held yesterday at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, touching the death of John Robson (63), agent for the Prudential Insurance Company, 49, Caldmore Road, Walsall, who was killed on Monday night at the railway station while endeavouring to enter a train. After evidence had been given the Coroner said he did not see that any blame was to be attached to any person with the exception of the deceased. The jury were also of the same opinion, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/11/1877

“At the Walsall County Court yesterday, before the Judge (Mr. W. D. Griffiths), James Harding, of Lea Brook Grounds, sued *James Birch*, cab proprietor, and keeper of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, for £9 5s 6d, the value of a gun and satchel. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. J. Smith for defendant.

From the evidence it appeared that in May plaintiff lent defendant the gun for a few days rook shooting, on the understanding, plaintiff alleged, that it could be either returned or paid for.

Defendant denied that he had undertaken to pay for it. Defendant never complained about the gun not suiting him, and never saw the plaintiff again until they met in the street at the end of August. Plaintiff had then begun his action, after sending several letters, but the defendant then told him that he would try the gun again for one day. After this he returned it as unsuitable.

Mr. Smith maintained that his client could not try the gun until September, and that no unreasonable time had elapsed; but Mr. Ebsworth maintained that the time was unreasonable.

Ultimately verdict was given for plaintiff, payment to be made in a month.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/11/1877

“Mr. James Harding, of Lea Brook Grounds, sued Mr. *James Birch*, of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, for the sum of £9 5s 6d, being the value of a gun and satchel. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. Smith for the defendant.

The evidence was to the effect that in May last the defendant had a gun from the plaintiff for a day’s rook shooting, with the understanding that if it suited him he would buy it, or otherwise he would return it in two or three days. No complaint of the gun was made, and the parties did not meet till the end of August, by which time plaintiff, after having written some letters, had commenced the proceedings in the court. The defendant then said he would try the gun for two or three days more, and early in September he returned it, objecting that the catch was too small and the stock too short. Mr. Ebsworth urged that the time the defendant had taken to ascertain this was unreasonable, and his Honour came to the same conclusion, and found for the plaintiff, payment to be made in a month.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/9/1878

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, Jane Evans, a middle-aged woman, who said she ‘had five little children at home with no one to mind them,’ was convicted of having, on Saturday night, stolen a loaf of bread, two plates, and a knife, from the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, the property of *Edward Birch*. She was sentenced to seven days’ imprisonment

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/11/1880

“A meeting of Wednesbury ratepayers was held yesterday at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL for the purpose of protesting against the action of the Local Government Board in forbidding pig-styes to be erected within sixty feet of any dwelling house. Mr. J. B. Hatchett presided, and there was a good attendance.

The Chairman said the question they had met to consider was one of considerable importance, insomuch as if a certain bye-law, which had been suggested by the Local Government Board, was enforced by the Local Board the whole of the working men in the town would be prevented from keeping a pig.....”

1881 Census

66, Stafford Street

[1] *Edward Birch* (42), licensed victualler, born Waterfall, Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Birch* (37), wife, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[3] *Thomas Edward Birch* (9), son, scholar, born Manchester;

[4] *Ada Birch* (7), daughter, scholar, born Manchester;

[5] *Arthur Birch* (6), son, scholar, born Manchester;

[8] *Sarah Alice Birch* (4), daughter, born Manchester;

[7] *William Henry Birch* (2), son, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Annie May Birch* (10 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[9] *Mary Faulkner* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[10] *Emma Stanton* (15), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Walsall Observer 3/4/1886

“The Strike in the Fitting and Socket Trade.

We have been requested on behalf of the men to publish the following report.

At a general meeting of the above trade, held at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday evening last, the following correspondence was read as having passed between the employers and Mr. G. Smith, secretary to the men’s union, on behalf of the men.

85, Hatherton Street, Walsall, 18th March 1886.

To Mr. Guy, Manager Crown Tube Works.

Sir, At a general meeting of fitting and socket makers, held on Wednesday evening last the following resolution was unanimously carried, ‘That in the opinion of this meeting the dispute now in existence between the fitting and socket makers and their employers should be submitted to an independent arbiter, and that the masters be asked to allow the matter to be submitted to, and settled by, arbitration; and that Mr. Griffith, County Court judge, be asked to officiate as arbiter.’

Your faithfully, G. Smith, Secretary.

The following is a copy of reply from the Crown Tube Works, Wednesbury.

Crown Tube Works, Wednesbury, March 19, 1886.

Mr. G. Smith, 85, Hatherton Street, Walsall.

Sir, We beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours 18th inst, and in reply have to say that, as the men have voluntarily left our service, we do not see what arbitration should be required under the circumstances. The men know the position of the case, and if any of them have any desire to return to work they must make application in the usual way.

Yours truly, P. Pro James Russell and Sons Limited, G. S. Guy, Manager.

Having communicated the answer to the men, the Secretary was requested to write again as follows.

85, Hatherton Street, Walsall, March 23, 1886.

To Mr. G. S. Guy, Manager Crown Tube Works.

Sir, I beg to acknowledge yours of the 19th inst, the same having been submitted to the committee of men on strike, when one of the notices issued by yourself to the men was read to the meeting (the wording of all the others being exactly the same). It was the unanimous opinion of those present that, instead of the men voluntarily leaving your employ, it was exactly the contrary, as none would have left your firm had it not been for the notice they received for the 10 per cent reduction. I can assure you that the men are anxious to returned to work; but are you as anxious to pay them their original price? If so, we agree with you that no arbitration is necessary; but if, on the contrary, you are not prepared to pay the original price, and the men think that your terms are both arbitrary and unjust, then in

our opinion arbitration is the best means to adopt to settle the dispute, both for masters and men; and, seeing that our offer of arbitration has gone forth to the public through the press, if you do not accept of it the sympathies of the public will be on our side, and we are afraid your firm will be looked upon by the public as aggressive to their workmen.

Awaiting your reply, I am, yours truly, Pro the Men on Strike, G. Smith, Secretary.

Reply.

James Russell and Sons Limited. Crown Tube Woks, Wednesbury, March 26, 1886.

Mr. G. Smith, 85, Hatherton Street, Walsall.

Sir, We beg to acknowledge receipt of yours 23rd inst; but, in reply, can only refer you to ours of 19th, the remarks of which we beg to confirm.

Yours truly, P. Pro James Russell and Sons Limited, G. S. Guy, Manager.

No notice having been taken of the Secretary's letter by the firm of John Russell, a personal interview was obtained to the effect that they held the same views on the subject as James Russell and Sons; but when it was pointed out to Captain Harrison (the chairman of the board) that his men had already been working for the past six years at 7½ per cent below the average of the trade prices, he (the captain) stigmatised them as donkeys for doing it; upon which the men's secretary asked him if he thought the men would make themselves bigger donkeys still by accepting a further reduction of 10 per cent. Eventually the interview ended by Captain Harrison stating that his word had gone forth, and it was unalterable; and that if his men would not accept his terms they could walk about for twelve months.

After further remarks, the following resolution was unanimously carried, 'That this meeting, having heard with regret that the employers whose men are involved in the dispute will not agree to have the matter settled by arbitration, expresses its deep sorrow and disappointment at the same; but, believing as it does that the cause of the men is just, and the action of the employers both unreasonable and arbitrary, urges the men to continue the struggle for right by all legitimate means that lie in their power; and further, that the secretary be instructed to again write to the employers, and request them to give a definite answer as to whether they are prepared to submit the case to arbitration or not, meantime the committee prepare a scheme for commencing co-operative works forthwith in the event of the employers refusing to comply with the request.'

A very interesting address was given by Mr. Welsh, which was listened to with marked attention throughout and frequently applauded."

Birmingham Mail 24/2/1888

"A meeting of representatives connected with the Midland Counties Trades Federation was held yesterday at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, to consider the effects of the carriage tax upon the condition of the working classes. Mr. R. Juggins presided, and gave it as his opinion that it acted injuriously to the nut and bolt trade. It was ultimately resolved to agitate for the total repeal of the tax."

Lichfield Mercury 13/7/1888

"The half yearly meeting of the Bilston, Walsall, and Cannock district of the National United Order of Free Gardeners was held on Monday at the house of Brother *Birch*, LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. The DM, Bro. Finch, was supported by Bro. Keen, DDM, and Bro. Fessey, DS, and there were about 100 delegates present, representing nearly 3,000 members. After the Worthy Master's speech, the auditor's report for the past six months was submitted and received. Appeals to the amount of £17 10s were allowed to members in distress."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1889

"Yesterday morning the delegates selected by the Midland Counties Trade Federation to report upon certain exhibits at the Paris Exhibition left the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, for Paris. The delegates represent the nut and bolt makers; cable, block, and small chain makers; spike and nail makers, anvil-makers, tube-makers, lock-makers, and miners; and they are accompanied by Mr. R. Juggins, the delegate from the Federation to the International Trades Congress which will be held in Paris next week. The fund to defray the expenses of the party has been raised by public subscription."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/7/1890

“Last night a general meeting of tube-makers was held at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. Mr. Nightingale presided.

The General Secretary, Mr. Jones, asked them to decide whether they would accept the withdrawal of the notice and the offer that they should return to work on the old terms, which had been announced at a meeting that morning. They must not suppose that the battle was over; they had been engaged in the preliminary skirmish; and the real fight would come over the question of the uniform price list. That he advised them to prepare themselves for.

The Chairman then recapitulated the announcement made at the morning meeting by Mr. Juggins, which was to the effect that he had received on the previous day a telegram from Captain Harrison to meet him, and who had accepted on behalf of the masters a proposition that the men should return to work on Monday at the wages at which they left off, and promising that he would do his best to bring about a uniform list.

Mr. Bardell moved that the men should return to work on Monday morning. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Mr. Fiddler proposed, as an amendment, that the men should return to work only on condition that steps were at once taken to work out the uniform list. The Secretary suggested that the proposed amendment should be added to the original resolution, and that was agreed to. The motion as amended was then carried unanimously.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1890

“The adjourned annual meeting of the Midland Counties Trades Federation took place last night at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury; Mr. Taylor presiding. Mr. Cox reported that the dispute in the spade and shovel trade continued. Mr. Russell had not approached the men in any way, but still demanded the 10 per cent reduction, and the men at Wood and Aston’s, and Mr. Yardley’s had again received notice for the reduction. It was agreed to continue the grant to the men on strike until the next meeting of the council.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1891

“Last night, a meeting of railway men was held at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, under the presidency of Mr. R. Juggins, for the purpose of establishing a branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in the town and neighbourhood, and a resolution was passed to do so.”

1891 Census

66, Stafford Street – LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL

- [1] *Edward Birch* (52), licensed victualler, born Waterfall, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Sarah Birch* (48), wife, born Wombbridge, Shropshire;
- [3] *Thomas E. Birch* (19), son, assistant barman, born Manchester;
- [4] *Ada Birch* (17), daughter, barmaid, born Manchester;
- [5] *Arthur Burch* (16), son, brass worker, born Manchester;
- [6] *Sarah A. Birch* (14), daughter, scholar, born Manchester;
- [7] *William H. Birch* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Annie M. Birch* (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *James Birch* (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Emma Genders* (24), domestic servant, born Walsall;
- [11] *Margaret Summers* (51), boarder, living on her own means, born Newcastle on Tyne;
- [12] *Lucy Done* (21), visitor, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [13] *William Roberts* (30), lodger, plumber, born Abingdon, Berkshire;
- [14] *Thomas Simpson* (45), lodger, farm labourer, born Burton on Trent;
- [15] *Lydia Simpson* (36), lodger, born Newbury, Staffordshire;

Birmingham Daily Post 5/9/1891

“A special general meeting of the Amalgamated Tube Trade Society was held at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Thursday night, for the purpose of hearing a report from their secretary (Mr. T. Jones) of the proceedings of the Labour Congress recently held in Belgium. There was a large attendance.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1892

“Conservative Soiree. This pleasant annual reunion of the Conservatives of Wednesbury town and neighbourhood took place last night in the municipal buildings, and proved as attractive as any of those of previous years, and perhaps more enjoyable, by reason of the Art Gallery being for the first time open to the guests. Mr. Dicken had the decorative work in hand, the floral accessories, which were rich and extensive, being furnished by Mr. Stanley; and the refreshments were supplied by Mr. *Birch*, of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/11/1893 - Deaths

“November 6, at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, Sarah, the beloved wife of *Edward Birch*, aged 48 years; deeply regretted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1894

“Yesterday afternoon a meeting under the auspices of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants was held in the Central Hall, Bradford Street, Walsall.....

In the evening another meeting was held, at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, when Mr. Bell again spoke on the subjects of a living wage and the Railway Servants Hours Bill and the Employers Liability Bill.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/2/1894

“The annual dinner of the Town Hall Lodge of the National Conservative League was held at the LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Thursday evening. Mr. Walford D. Green, Unionist candidate for the borough presided, and there was a large attendance.....”

Wednesbury Herald 14/12/1895

“At a meeting of the Licensed Victuallers Association, held on Wednesday, at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, reference was made to the great increase in the number of clubs being opened in various parts of the country, and a resolution was passed urging the National Defence League to call the attention of the Government to the importance of clubs being licensed and under police supervision. It was stated that in some towns the clubs were opened at 11 o’clock on Sunday mornings for drinking purposes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/8/1898

“On Thursday night the half-yearly meeting of the Amalgamated Tube Trade Society was held at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury. There was a large attendance of members. The balance-sheet submitted showed that steady and substantial progress was being made, thanks to an absence of any disputes terminating in a strike.

It was resolved to make grants to the South Wales miners, the leather-workers appeal case, and the Cardiff coal trimmers. Grants were also made to individual members who had met with misfortune.....”

Walsall Observer 21/7/1900

“On Monday evening a special meeting of the members of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association was held at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, to consider the ‘long pull’ question, Mr. *E. Birch* presiding. It was pointed out that united efforts were now being made to abolish the ‘long pull’ system throughout the Midland Counties.....”

1901 Census

66, Stafford Street

- [1] *Edward Birch* (62), widower, innkeeper, born Waterfall, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Thomas E. Birch* (29), son, barman, born Manchester;
- [3] *Ada Birch* (27), daughter, housekeeper, born Manchester;
- [4] *William J. Birch* (22), son, joiner, born Manchester;
- [5] *James Birch* (19), son, domestic groom, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Cassandra Hall* (17), domestic servant, born Hednesford, Staffordshire;
- [7] *John James* (59), widower, boots, born Shrewsbury;

Wednesbury Leader 21/12/1901

“Mr. *Birch*, of the NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, applied for an occasional license for the Drill Hall on the 26th December, the occasion being the annual Volunteers Ball. A license from 9pm to 3am was granted.”

Tipton Herald 14/3/1903

“On Tuesday evening a meeting of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association was held at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL. Councillor J. H. Sheldon presided over a large attendance. The chairman said unless the whole of the members of the trade united many of them would be deprived of their licenses and ruined, through no fault of their own.....”
[This was to discuss the Licensing Act.]

Birmingham Mail 25/11/1903

“In connection with our report of an assault case at Dudley Police Court on Monday, Mr. Edward Birch, landlord of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, asks us to state that the defendant in the case, Mr. Newbury, is only a lodger in his hotel, and he has no connection with the business.”

Birmingham Mail 9/5/1906

“At Walsall County Court, today, *Edward Birch*, licensee of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN INN, Wednesbury, sued William Henry Adams, wholesale beer bottler, Wednesbury, for the return of 100 chairs, alleged to have been wrongfully detained by defendant, or for £7 16s 8d, the value of the chairs and damages for their wrongful detention.

Mr. A. J. Glover appeared for the plaintiff, whose case was that he was asked to assist a man named Newbury, who started a circus in the Drill Hall, Wednesbury. After advancing various loans, plaintiff agreed to buy the chairs in question from Collins and Co, Walsall, for use at the theatre, and the receipt was made out to him. The circus proved a failure, and had only been on a short time when the landlord put in a distress for rent. Defendant then advanced money to Newbury to pay out the distress, and took possession of the chairs.

The defence set up by Mr. Sergeant was that the chairs belonged to Newbury, and that *Birch* merely advanced the money as a loan.

Judge Smith gave a verdict for the amount claimed, with costs.”

Walsall Observer 4/1/1908 - Marriages,

“On the 29th ult, at St. John’s Church, Wednesbury (by the Rev. G. Percival Jones, MA), James, youngest son of *Edward Birch*, L. & N. W. HOTEL, to Ethel May, twin daughter of John and Mary Stanley, MIDLAND VAULTS, Wednesbury (late of the SIR ROBERT PEEL, Walsall).”

AND

Walsall Observer 4/1/1908

“A pretty wedding was celebrated at St. John’s Church, Wednesbury, by the Rev. Percival Jones, on Sunday morning last, the contracting parties being James, youngest son of *Edward Birch*, L. & N. W. HOTEL, and Ethel May, twin daughter of John and Mary Stanley, of MIDLAND VAULTS, late of the SIR ROBERT PEEL, Walsall.

The bride was charmingly dressed in a costume of biscuit fawn satin cloth, trimmed with tuck net medallions and white satin ribbon, hat of white silk braid trimmed with white plumes to match. She carried a beautiful shower bouquet of lilies of the valley and white chrysanthemums, and also wore a handsome gold brooch, the gift of the bridegroom.

The bridesmaids were Miss Amy Stanley (sister of the bride) and Miss Ada Birch (sister of the bridegroom). They wore skirts of fawn Panama cloth, with velvet coats, and hats of silk braid trimmed with white silk and fawn-tipped feathers, and carried shower bouquets of pink roses and chrysanthemums, and wore gold pendants, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr. William Birch officiated as best man. A representative gathering of the happy couple’s relations and friends attended the ceremony, and the reception, which was afterwards held at the residence of the bride’s parents. The bride’s present to the bridegroom was a gent’s dressing case.....”

AND

“A supper was given at the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, on Tuesday evening last, in celebration of the marriage of the daughter of the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley, to Mr. J. Birch. About thirty friends sat down to a well-served and substantial supper, after which a capital concert was ably rendered During an interval in the programme the Chairman took the opportunity of presenting Mr. and Mrs. J. Birch with a handsome pair of bronzes, and in a few words hoped the recipients would live long to enjoy the gift. Mr. Birch, on behalf of Mrs. Birch and himself, thanked the donors of such beautiful presents, and said they would always treasure their gifts.”

1911 Census

66, Stafford Street – LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL

- [1] *Edward Birch* (72), widower, licensed victualler, born Waterfall, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Thomas Edward Birch* (39), son, barman, born Manchester;
- [3] *Ada Birch* (37), daughter, housekeeper, born Manchester;
- [4] *William Henry Birch* (31), son, joiner, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Lora Foster* (22), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/12/1919

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, several prosecutions were taken at the instance of the Ministry of Food against publicans for charging more than the maximum price for spirits in a public bar.....

Edward Birch, NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, was fined £14, with £3 3s special costs.”

South Staffordshire Times 6/3/1920

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Objection to the L&NW RAILWAY HOTEL.

Edward Birch, licensee, had his license objected to owing to a fine having been imposed on a summons for selling rum at a price over and above the stipulated price.

Mr. A J. Glover, who defended, pointed out that Mr. *Birch* had held the license for 12 years, and was the owner of the hotel. No conviction had ever been taken against him in the past, and he was away from home at the time of these two summonses. The summonses in question were taken under the Emergency Act through the war.....

The magistrates retired to consider their decision in all the forgoing cases.

The Chairman subsequently announced the licenses of L&NW RAILWAY HOTEL would all be renewed.”

E. Birch was vice-chairman of Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association. [1921]

Edward Birch also owned the EAGLE TAVERN, Greets Green Road, West Bromwich.

Edward Birch died in the 2nd quarter of 1921.

1921 Census

66, Stafford Street – LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL

- [1] *Thomas E. Birch* (49), licensed victualler, born Manchester;
- [2] *Ada Birch* (47), sister, home duties, born Manchester;
- [3] *William H. Birch* (43), brother, carpenter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William G. Cook* (50), brother-in-law, widower, clerk, Wednesbury Corporation, born Cheltenham;
- [5] *Dorothy Knight* (23), niece, clerk, Ministry of Pensions, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Laura M. Cook* (20) niece, home duties, born Leamington;
- [7] *Hilda M. Cook* (18), niece, drapery shop assistant, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Annie Williams* (43), visitor, home duties, born Wiltshire;
- [9] *Marjorie William* (9), visitor, school, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1924

“New Companies.....

Edward Birch Ltd. Capital £5,000. To acquire the business of licensed victuallers carried on by *T. E. Birch*, *Ada Birch*, and *W. H. Birch* at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, 66, Stafford Street, Wednesbury. Directors: *T. E. Birch*, licensed victualler; Miss *Ada Birch*, and *W. H. Birch*, carpenter and joiner; all of 66, Stafford Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1926

“‘He must have shut his eyes to what was going on,’ said Mr. Frank Cooper, prosecuting on behalf of the police at Wednesbury yesterday, in a case in which *Thomas Edward Birch* (55), licensee of the L.N.W. HOTEL, Stafford Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for aiding and abetting Charles Archibald Chambers, 14, Perry Street, Wednesbury, to consume intoxicating liquors during non-permitted hours.

The evidence given by the police was that an officer went into the public house at 2.20pm on October 9 and saw Chambers with half a glass of beer in front of him. The defence was that the beer was supplied before two o’clock and that the landlord had been trying to persuade Chambers to leave the premises.

Birch was fined 40s and £3 3s special costs, and Chambers was fined 20s for consuming liquor during non-permitted hours.”

Walsall Observer 5/2/1927

“Objection was raised by the police at the Wednesbury annual licensing sessions yesterday to the renewal of the license of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Stafford Street, and the NOAHS ARK, beerhouse, New Street. The NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, it was explained, had been ill-conducted, while it was said the NOAHS ARK was a house of a disorderly character, and on July 13 there was a conviction for supplying intoxicants during non-permitted hours. These licenses were referred to the adjourned meeting on March 4, together with those of the SMITHS ARMS, beerhouse, Cross Street, and the MAZEPPA, beerhouse, Elwell Street, which were objected to on the ground of redundancy.”

Walsall Observer 5/3/1927

“At the adjourned Wednesbury Licensing sessions yesterday, the license of the SMITHS ARMS, Cross Street, was referred for compensation, but that of the MAZEPPA, Elwell Street, which had also been objected to on the ground of redundancy, was renewed. The licenses of the L.N.W. HOTEL, Stafford Street, and the NOAHS ARK, New Street, which had been objected to on the ground of convictions, were renewed.”

Dudley Chronicle 24/1/1929 - Marriages

“On January 16th, at St. John’s Church, Wednesbury, by the Rev. F. H. Masters (Rector), William Henry Birch, L. & N. W. HOTEL, Wednesbury, to Gladys Mary Taylor, youngest daughter of Henry Taylor, Rutter Street, Walsall.”

London Gazette 7/9/1934

“Re *Ada Birch*, Deceased. Pursuant to the Trustee Act, 1925.

Notice is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having any claims against the estate of *Ada Birch*, deceased, late of 31, Bernard Street, Walsall, and formerly of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, who died on the 27th day of February, 1934, and whose Will was proved by Ernest Edward Brown, the executor therein named, on the 24th day of March, 1934, in the District Probate Registry at Birmingham, are hereby required to send particulars thereof, in writing, to us, the undersigned, on or before the 10th day of November next, after which date the executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice.

Dated this 5th day of September, 1934.

Stockdale and Brown, Victoria Chambers, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Solicitors to the said Executor.”

1939 Register

66, Stafford Street

[1] *Charles John White*, date of birth 3/9/1887, publican, married;

[2] *Annie May (White) Hughes*, dob 24/2/1899, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Henry Thursfield Hollingsworth*, dob 21/2/1887, clerk, tube works, single;

[4] *Frances Hall*, dob 19/5/1884, unpaid domestic duties, single:

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1960

"A Scotsman who paid for a pint of beer with a Scottish £1 note received change for a £5 note. He left without pointing out the error, Wednesbury magistrates were told yesterday. William Melville Sheirs (43), of Hill Top, West Bromwich, admitted stealing, under a mistake, £4, the property of Mr. G. W. Sawle, licensee of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury.

The licensee, said Supt. I. R. Cogbill, mistook the Scottish note for an English £5 note and gave the appropriate change.

Sheirs was fined £6 and ordered to repay the money."

George William Sawle – see also GREEN DRAGON.

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 2. The LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Stafford Street, Wednesbury.

Occupying a corner position at the junction of Albert Street and Stafford Street in close proximity to the Town Centre.

Total Frontage of 126ft and a Site Area of 221 square yards or thereabouts.

Vacant Possession on Completion."

Lot 9.

An excellent FAMILY and COMERCIAL HOTEL (freehold) known as the London and North-Western Royal Hotel, in the occupation of the proprietor, Mr. William Stevenson, and situate at the junction of Stafford-street and Albert-street, Wednesbury, within a few yards of the Wednesbury Station of the London and North-Western Railway. This newly erected and substantially built house contains seven bedchambers, six closets, china closet, two commercial rooms, large assembly-room, 51ft. by 17ft, capital liquor shop, smoke-room, bar-parlour, tap-room, and kitchen, (with conveniences for brewing), three large ale cellars, wine and spirit cellar, and soft water cistern; and the lot comprises in addition, excellent stabling, hay loft, corn room, spacious yard, and other outbuildings and conveniences.

RE WILLIAM STEVENSON, A BANKRUPT.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL,
STAFFORD STREET, WEDNESBURY.

Important Sale of the Licenses and Possession of the costly Liquor Shop, Fixtures, STOCK-IN-TRADE, Brewing Vessels, Ale Machine, capital BROUGHAM, Horse, Harness, Metal Tap Counters, Glasses, Liquor Bottles, Timepiece, handsome Lamp, Sign Boards, Chandeliers, Gasfittings, Beds, Bedsteads, Chairs, Tables; Cottage PIANO-FORTE, in rosewood case (by Broadwood and Sons); Sofas, and numerous other Effects, which

WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, on SATURDAY NEXT, May 15th, 1869, commencing punctually at Ten o'clock, a.m.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale, the Turk's Head Hotel, and at the Auctioneer's Office, Wednesbury; and at the Gazette Office, Birmingham.

Sales by Auction To-morrow.

RE WILLIAM STEVENSON,
BANKRUPT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Sale by Auction of the Household Furniture, advertised to take place at the London and North-Western Royal Hotel, Stafford Street, Wednesbury, by E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, To-morrow (Saturday), is POSTPONED for the present.

LOT 2.

"THE LONDON & NORTH WESTERN HOTEL"

STAFFORD STREET, WEDNESBURY.

Occupying a corner position at the junction of Albert Street and Stafford Street in close proximity to the Town Centre.

TOTAL FRONTAGE of 126ft. and a SITE AREA of 221 square yards or thereabouts. VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL,

STAFFORD STREET, WEDNESBURY.

JOHN OSBOURN will SELL by AUCTION, upon the Premises as above, THIS DAY (WEDNESDAY), May 15th (under Distraint for Rent)—all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Brewing Vessels, prime Ale Barrels, quite new; two large Boilers, twenty-bushel Mash Tub, new Gathering Tub, narrow-wheel Cart, Chaff Engine, and other Effects, belonging to William Stevenson.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock, under the usual conditions.

RE WILLIAM STEVENSON, A BANKRUPT.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY J. WHITEHOUSE, on TUESDAY NEXT, May 25th, 1869, at the Holyhead Road Timber Yard, Wednesbury—the Stock of excellent and well-seasoned TIMBER, Scaffold Poles and Planks, 8 Carpenter's Work Benches, Patent Mortising Machine, Timber Carriage, large Sign, Chimney Pipes, Grates, Window Frames, Office Fittings, Cut Nails, Sprigs, and other Effects, according to catalogue.

Sale to commence at half-past Twelve o'clock a.m. precisely. Catalogues may be obtained at the Turk's Head Hotel, or at the Auctioneer's Office, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

IN THE COURT OF BANKRUPTCY FOR THE BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT.

NOTICE is hereby Given, that an ORDER of DISCHARGE was, on the 7th day of June, 1869, granted by the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, at Birmingham, to WILLIAM STEVENSON, of Stafford Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Builder.

JAMES and GRIFFIN, Solicitors, Birmingham.

FREEHOLDS,

By the NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY STATION.

LOT 3.—All that large and commodious newly-erected PROPERTY, known as "THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN HOTEL," lately occupied by William Stevenson, situate and forming the corner of Stafford Street and Albert Street; with the large Premises forming the opposite corner of the same streets, consisting of a seven-stalled Stable, and Loft over, large Coach-house, and Warehouse over, Yard and Out-buildings.

The Hotel has Entrance Hall, Bar, and Spirit Shop, two Parlours, Tap Room, very large Club or Assembly Room, six Chambers, Brewhouse, excellent dry Cellars, Yard, and every accommodation for business or comfort. It has cost upwards of £400, fitting up, and the Fixtures, Counters, Gas Fittings, Shelves, with plate-glass back, Ale Machine and Piping, Screens, handsome Lamp, and Sign Boards, will be valued to the purchaser.

The Property is newly-erected, most conveniently arranged, and in perfect order. It contains an area of about 400 square yards, and presents a rare opportunity to anyone wishing to enter the public business. Immediate possession can be had. As an investment it is estimated to produce £80. per annum.

D. LOCKETT,
COAL MERCHANT,
THE BRIDGE WHARF, WEDNESBURY.

The Best Cannock Chase Deep Coal supplied at the following rates:—

At the Wharf 17s. per ton.
Delivered 18s. & 19s. per ton.
For Boat Loads, etc., at the lowest possible rates.

All Orders to be addressed to the Offices,—
WEDNESBURY BRIDGE WHARF,
OR TO THE
LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL,
WEDNESBURY.

1873

D. LOCKETT,
LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL,
WEDNESBURY.
(Opposite the London and North Western Railway
Station.)
Wines and Spirits of the Best Brands.
Burton and other Ales, in Bottle and Draught.
Agent for the Smithfield Brewery, Wolverhampton.

1875

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 1.

"THE GRAPES"

HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.

Situate in a very busy Retail position close to Multiplex.

FRONTAGE of 49ft. and SITE AREA of 600 square yards or thereabouts.
VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

LOT 2.

**"THE LONDON & NORTH
WESTERN HOTEL"**

STAFFORD STREET, WEDNESBURY.

Occupying a corner position at the junction of Albert Street and Stafford Street in close proximity to the Town Centre.

TOTAL FRONTAGE of 126ft. and a SITE AREA of 221 square yards or thereabouts.
VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

LOT 3.

FREEHOLD CORNER SITE

STAFFORD STREET AND ALBERT STREET, WEDNESBURY

with brick buildings thereon at present let on tenancy terminating 25th March, 1962.

Situated opposite to Lot 2 at the junction of Stafford Street and Albert Street.
TOTAL FRONTAGE of 67ft. and SITE AREA of 187 square yards or thereabouts.

LOT 4.

"DOLPHIN INN"

GEORGE STREET, WALSALL.

Situate just off High Street close to the Town Centre.

The property has a FRONTAGE of 55ft. 6in. and a SITE AREA of 458 square yards or thereabouts.
VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

LOT 5.

"THE WHITE HORSE"

CHURCH STREET, OLDBURY.

Situated close to the Town Centre in Retail trading position

and having a FRONTAGE of 54ft. and SITE AREA of 430 square yards or thereabouts.
VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

LOT 6.

"THE ROSE & CROWN"

AND No. 16 ADJOINING.

HIGH STREET, WEDNESFIELD.

WITHDRAWN FROM SALE

AS A COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER HAS BEEN MADE BY
WEDNESFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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.

To be offered for Sale by Auction by

NEALE & ALLDRIDGE
AND
FOSTER & PARTNERS

At "REGENT HOUSE," ST. PHILIP'S PLACE, COLMORE ROW, BIRMINGHAM 3, on THURSDAY NEXT, 1st June, 1961, at 2.30 p.m. (subject to Prior Sale and Conditions).

Vendors' Solicitors: Lots 1-3 and 5-7, Messrs. Fowler, Langley & Wright, 20, Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton. Telephone: Wolverhampton 20261; Lot 4, Messrs. C. L. Hodgkinson & Benson, Imperial Buildings, Bridge Street, Walsall. Telephone: Walsall 22116.

Particulars from:—

Auction and Survey Offices: "CORNWALL HOUSE," 50, NEWHALL STREET, BIRMINGHAM 3. Telephone: CENTRAL 2066/9.

1961

MALT SHOVEL

13, (12), (Upper) High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Rock [1841] – [1848]
Joseph Wright [1849] – [1851]
Joseph Taylor [1852] – **1854**;
Mrs. Jane Spittle **(1854 – [1873]**
James Spittle [1862]
Samuel Machin [1881]
Edward Horton [1885] – [1892]

NOTES

12, Upper High Street [1871], [1881]
12, High Street [1872], [1873]
12+13, High Street [1888], [1891]
13, High Street [1892]

1841 Census

High Street
[1] William Rock (35), victualler, born Staffordshire;
[2] Hannah Rock (28), born Staffordshire;
[3] William Rock (5), born Staffordshire;
[4] Thomas Rock (3);
[5] Martha Rock (5 months), born Staffordshire;
[6] Ann Bradbury (60), ind., born Staffordshire;
[7] Elizabeth Slade (18), f.s., born Staffordshire;

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/1/1843

“John Pritchard, of Wednesbury, is, it is said, prepared to make a match with Wright, of Birmingham, to run six or seven score yards, for from £10 to £25 a side, Pritchard to receive one yard at the start. The money will be ready at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Wednesbury, on Tuesday evening next, from seven to nine o’clock.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/11/1843

“William Oldsbury, of Wednesbury, will be prepared to make a match with William Page, of Darlaston, for £5 or £10. His money is ready at Mr. *William Rock*’s, MALT SHOVEL, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/11/1847

“W. H. Duignan v *William Rock*.

This was an action brought by the plaintiff, a solicitor, practising at Wednesbury, against the defendant, a publican, for the recovery of £10 18s 8d, the balance of his account.

In May last the defendant engaged the plaintiff to defend an action upon a bill of exchange, when the defendant was allowed time to pay the bill and costs, amounting to £23, upon plaintiff becoming bound for the payment. This amount the plaintiff had since paid for the defendant, and he now sought to recover the balance of £10 18s 8d left unpaid.

The defendant admitted the facts, but stated that he considered the plaintiff had charged too much for his services. Judgment for plaintiff, by instalments of £6 a month.”

Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. PLANT AND SONS,
WHOLESALE
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
Market Place, Bilston,

Supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of the following Branch Establishments :—

THE BALLOON, High Street, Bilston ;
” **ROYAL GEORGE**, Church Street, Bilston ;
” **MALT SHOVEL**, Oxford Street, Bilston ;
” **WAGGON AND HORSES**, Oxford Street, Bilston ;
” **PIED BULL**, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton ;
” **SHAKESPEARE**, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton ;
” **LORD RAGLAN**, Brickkiln Street, ”
” **KING’S HEAD**, Market Place, Willenhall ;
” **MALT SHOVEL**, Upper High Street, Wednesbury ;
” **BULLS HEAD**, High Street, Princes End.

H. P. & S. Will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond or duty paid, samples or prices.

1883

Birmingham Journal 3/6/1848 - Advert

“To Publicans, Retail Brewers, and Others.

Sale at the MALT SHOVEL Public House, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, upon the Premises above named, on Monday Next, June 5th, by Joseph Dawes.

All the valuable Public House Fixtures, Licenses, Household Furniture, &c, comprising a capital four-pull Beer Machine, Bar Fittings, painted Liquor Barrels and Taps, Pewter Measures, Glassware, Frames and Shelves, Partitions, and Benches; Iron Furnaces and Settings, stout Mash Tub, Vat, with lead pipe, Malt Mill, Sack Waggon, superior and well-seasoned Ale Casks, large Gathering Tubs, Oval and Round Tube, Gas Fittings, Bagatelle Board, mahogany Drinking and other Tables, Chairs, capital eight-day and other Clocks, mahogany Chest of Drawers, Feather Beds, Mattresses, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *William Rocke*, who is leaving in consequence of other engagements.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/2/1851

“On Tuesday last, at the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, *Joseph Wright*, of the MALT SHOVEL INN, and Joseph Griffiths, beerhouse keeper, for infringements of their licenses, were fined, the former £5, and the latter £1, with costs in each case.”

1851 Census

High Street

- [1] *Joseph Wright* (47), victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Drucilla Wright* (50), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Maria Collins* (14), niece, house servant, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Thomas Mathews* (38), lodger, widower, coal miner, born Bilston;
- [5] *Samuel Brookes* (30), lodger, boatman, born Tipton;
- [6] *John Askey* (32), lodger, journeyman tailor, born Dudley;

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.....

Joseph Wright, Wednesbury, 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 5/11/1853 - Advert

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of the Petition of *Joseph Wright*, formerly of Toll End, Tipton, Staffordshire, then of Hill Top, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, Baker, Hay, Corn, and Provision Dealer, and Beer Seller, afterwards of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Innkeeper and Licensed Victualler, then of Shelfield, in the foreign of Walsall, Staffordshire, Beer Seller, Baker, and Pig Dealer, then of the same place, Beer Seller and Journeyman Baker, then and now of Ryecroft Hill, Rushall, Staffordshire, Journeyman Baker, an Insolvent Debtor.

Notice is hereby given, that the Court will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, on Friday, the 18th day of November, 1853, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

By order of the Court, Duignant and Hemmant, Attorneys, Walsall. The 21st day of October, 1853.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“Licensing Day for Offlow South.....

Inspector Blaney addressed a notice to the chief superintendent complaining of the conduct of the following licensed victuallers, who, having music and allowing dancing in their respective inns, were accused of letting out the company at a late hour. Some of these persons, elevated with liquor, made noises and created disturbances in the street, much to the annoyance of the peaceable and well disposed. Major M’Knight laid the paper before the Court, and the delinquents, who did not deny the music and dancing, merely said they discharged their company at the proper hour; they did not suffer drunkenness on their premises. The Bench, through the Rev. I. Clarkson, said the evil appeared especially to prevail on Monday and Saturday nights, and the defendants must be seriously admonished as to their future conduct. This referred to.....

Joseph Taylor, MALT SHOVEL, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/3/1854

“Patrick Hagarty, John White, James Donison, and Anthony Conolly, were brought before the magistrates on Tuesday, charged with being concerned in a general row on Saturday night, at the MALT SHOVEL, High Street, Wednesbury, and with assaulting a policeman who was endeavouring to quell the disturbance.

Police-constable Clarke said he was sent for at twelve o’clock on Saturday night, and found a furious riot taking place, on attempting to stop which he had his hat knocked off, and the prisoners attempted to take away his truncheon.

The Bench ordered them to find sureties or be imprisoned for one month each.

Joseph Taylor, landlord of the house, was summoned for permitting this disorder to take place. He stated that when the fight began he turned some of the belligerents out, but they forced open his door, came in again, and smashed a table, the legs of which they used as weapons. When he perceived the officer enter, he went to the bar to protect his family and his property.

It appearing that this was the first time he had been summoned, the Magistrates cautioned him, and inflicted a fine of 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 15/7/1854

“Transfer of public house licenses.....

MALT SHOVEL, Wednesbury, from Mr. *Joseph Taylor* to Mrs. *Jane Spittle*, widow.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/3/1855

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

William Smith was indicted for feloniously assaulting Daniel M’Iver, at Wednesbury, on the 17th of February, and stealing from him a pair of trousers. Mr. Wade conducted the prosecution.

The prosecutor, an Irish tailor, from Dudley, said that about a quarter past ten o’clock on the night in question he went into the MALT SHOVEL public house, at Wednesbury. He had four pairs of trousers with him, and offered to sell one pair to the prisoner. Prisoner said they would suit him, and threw them across the room to another man. He (prosecutor) attempted to get possession of them again, and caught hold of them, but the prisoner beat his arm until he was obliged to loose them. Another man then struck him, and in the confusion the prisoner snatched from under his arm another pair of trousers and made off with them. He had never seen the trousers since.

George Gibson, a boiler-maker, at Wednesbury, corroborated the prosecutor’s testimony.

The prisoner, in his defence, denied having taken the trousers; he never touched any trousers except those the prosecutor first gave him.

His Lordship, in summing up, said he regretted the jury could not convict of the assault only. There was no doubt the prisoner did assault the prosecutor, but that at the time he did so he intended to rob him, was to his mind by no means so clear.

The jury found the prisoner guilty of the robbery, and a police officer having given the prisoner a good character, his Lordship sentenced him to two months’ imprisonment, remarking that it was the punishment to which he would have been sentenced if convicted of the assault.”

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

MALT SHOVEL, High Street.”

1861 Census

High Street – MALT SHOVEL

[1] *Jane Spittle* (58), widow, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] Sarah Spittle (22), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[3] Elizabeth H. Spittle (20), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Illustrated Sporting News 23/4/1864

“Shooting J. Dickens, of Hill Top, Westbromwich, and J. Bennett, of Kidsgrove.

In this match, Dickens is willing to increase the stakes to £25 a side, and the number of birds to 25, and will allow any reasonable expense, to have the match shot at Aston Cross Grounds. A deposit sent to our paper, and articles to the MALT SHOVEL, Wednesbury, will ensure a match.”

The Sportsman 12/9/1865

“A Crown sweepstakes was shot for yesterday at *J. Spittle*’s well-known hostelry, the MALT SHOVEL, Wednesbury, among a number of gentlemen who were handicapped according to their previous performances, the result being Messrs. Millington and Dickens divided. Other sweeps followed, and shooting was kept up as long as the light would allow.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/1/1867

“J. Spittle of Wednesbury is surprised that Clayton of Birmingham (late of Sheffield) should challenge him, but will shoot him a match at 25 birds, 1oz or 1½oz of shot, for £25 or £50 a side, the match to come off at Harding’s, Wednesbury, or Barr Grounds. If articles, &c, are sent to *Spittle*’s, MALT SHOVEL INN, Wednesbury, a match will be ensured.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1869 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Treaty, the well-known Old-licensed Public House, the MALT SHOVEL INN, High Street, Wednesbury, together with a House adjoining, forming a compact Property. The tenancy of the Public House has only changed hands twice in twenty years.

For particulars, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Geo. C. Whitehouse, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.”

1871 Census

12, Upper High Street

[1] *Jane Spittle* (68), widow, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] William Spittle (47), son, widower, fitter, born Wednesbury;

[3] Sarah Spittle (33), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Maria Spittle (25), grand-daughter, general servant, born Wednesbury:

Mrs. *Jane Spittle* – see also QUEENS HEAD, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Midland Examiner 31/1/1877

“Tonight (Wednesday) the Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes holds a grand banquet at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Upper High Street, Wednesbury, at which is expected the Grand Prime of England.”

1881 Census

12, Upper High Street – MALT SHOVEL INN

[1] *Samuel Machin* (42), licensed victualler, born Madeley, Shropshire;

[2] Elizabeth Machin (41), wife, born Cressage, Shropshire:

Samuel Machin – see also ROYAL GEORGE, Church Street, Bilston.

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/12/1883 - Advert

“Wines and Spirits for Christmas.

H. Plant and Sons, Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants, Market Place, Bilston, supply Wines and Spirits, well matured, to Families and the Trade at very reasonable prices.

Wholesale and Family orders may be left at any of the following Branch Establishments.....

MALT SHOVEL, Upper High Street, Wednesbury.....

H. P. & S. will be glad to forward to the Trade, in bond or duty paid, samples or prices.”

Edward Horton = Edwin Horton

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/5/1885

“At Wednesbury Court, Mary Lawton, married, of Upper High Street, Wednesbury, was charged with damaging panes of glass to the amount of 15s, also three drinking glasses, and two jugs.

Edward Horton, landlord of the MALT SHOVEL INN, High Street, Wednesbury, stated that on Saturday evening defendant came into his house, and struck her husband in the face. She refused to leave, and was put out. As witness was endeavouring to get defendant’s husband out of the house she broke the glasses and jugs, and afterwards the panes of glass.

Defendant said her husband was spending the money he ought to have taken home, and she went after him. She and her children were without food. She alleged that complainant assaulted her when she went to his house for her husband.

Defendant was fined 1d and the costs, and ordered to pay 5s damages.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/3/1889 - Advert

“Pony, Trap, and Harness for Sale, perfect and fast, pass trams; price £16; to be seen any time after two on Monday.

MALT SHOVEL, Wednesbury.”

PONY, Trap, and Harness for Sale, perfect and fast,
pass trams; price £16: to be seen any time after two
on Monday.—Malt Shovel, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

12+13, High Street

[1] *Edward Horton* (39), public house manager, born Princes End;

[2] Elizabeth Horton (38), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Kate Horton (13), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[4] Clara Horton (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;

[5] Edward F. Horton (8), son, scholar, born Darlaston;

[6] Albert E. Horton (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/9/1891

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Edwin Horton*, the MALT SHOVEL INN, was summoned for permitting drunkenness, and for selling drink to an intoxicated person. Mr. Whitehouse defended.

The evidence of Police-constables Parton, Platt, and Williams was to the effect that at a quarter past ten o’clock on the night of Saturday, the 5th inst, a man named Thomas Evans was being led along Upper High Street, and that five minutes or so later he was in the taproom of the MALT SHOVEL. The landlady, in the presence of Parton, brought a jug of ale before him, turned the handle towards him, and picked up some money from the table in front of him. A quarter of an hour later he was still there.

The defence was that whatever his condition he was no worse when he left, according to the testimony of the police, than when he entered, and consequently the charge of permitting drunkenness must fail. With regard to the other charge it was sworn that no drink was supplied to Evans, but that he drank with some friends of his who were in the house.

The Bench considered it an aggravated case, and imposed a fine of 20s and costs, or twenty-one days’ imprisonment. Evans was fined 5s and costs for being drunk in the house.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

"The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday; the magistrates present being Messrs. A. Elwell, Wilson Lloyd, R. Williams, G. Heaton, J. Nayler, J. B. Lees, F. H. Lloyd, and A. H. Partridge, and the Rev. A. A. Cary.....

Edward Horton, the MALT SHOVEL INN, High Street, applied for the renewal of his license, which had been opposed on the grounds that the premises were dilapidated, insanitary, and unfit for license or habitation, and not of sufficient annual value, and that the house was not required for the convenience of the locality. On the case being called on, Mr. Williams and Mr. Wilson retired. Mr. Disturnal (instructed by Messrs. Slater) supported the application, and submitted that there had been no formal objection, the grounds of objection not having been stated in open court at the licensing session. The Magistrates Clerk said he believed the objections were stated; and Mr. Heaton said he could not say the grounds were stated, but certainly the case was adjourned because of the objections. The magistrates, on the advice of their clerk, decided that the general notice in open court was sufficient. Evidence was then called in support of the objections.

Police-constable Partin deposed that on Friday he visited the applicant's house in company with Sergeant Betts. The walls and the cellar were an inch thick in filth, which was oozing through from the sewer in the street, and forming in little pools on the floor, causing a very bad stench; there was a closet about two yards from the smokeroom door; the rain came into the bedroom through the roof. The timbers were rotten, the ceiling very dilapidated, the bricks and mortar were in a crumbling state, and most of the walls shattered. The whole place was not fit to live in. There were sixteen other houses within 200 yards of this house. In cross-examination he said he was aware that for some years there had been a desire on the part of the Corporation to make improvements in High Street which would involve the taking of the front part of the house. Police-sergeant Betts gave like evidence, and the Magistrates' Clerk said the magistrates themselves had visited the house. Mr. C. W. D. Joynson, surveyor and architect, gave evidence in support of the application, denying that the house was in the dilapidated condition stated by the police; the premises needed repair, but it was quite possible to do it. He added, after some pressure on the part of the superintendent and the magistrates, that he considered the house fit for use as an alehouse, but repairs were evidently needed. Mr. Disturnal, in speaking in support of the application, referred to the hardship that would be occasioned by closing an old-established house like that, and said Mr. Wilson Lloyd at the licensing meeting remarked that it would be an injustice to close a house unless compensation was given. Mr. Heaton said Mr. Lloyd expressed his own opinion, but his remarks did not meet with the approval of other members of the Bench. Mr. Disturnal, in conclusion, asked that the license should be granted upon the understanding either that the premises were taken by the Corporation, or the property be put into condition before the next licensing session Refused."

Closed

TO PUBLICANS, RETAIL BREWERS, AND OTHERS. SALE AT THE MALT SHOVEL PUBLIC HOUSE, WEDNESBURY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, upon the Premises above named, on **MONDAY NEXT, June 5th**, by **JOSEPH DAWES**—all the valuable **PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES, LICENSES, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, &c., comprising a capital four pull Beer Machine, Bar Fittings, painted Liquor Barrels and Taps, Pewter Measures, Glassware, Frames and Shelves, Partitions, and Benches; Iron Furnaces and Settings, stout Mash Tub, Vat, with lead pipe, Malt Mill, Sack Wagon, superior and well-seasoned Ale Casks, large Gathering Tubs, Oval and Round Tubs, Gas Fittings, **BAGATELLE BOARD**, mahogany Drinking and other Tables, Chairs, capital eight day and other Clocks, mahogany Chest of Drawers, Feather Beds, Mattresses, and other Effects, belonging to Mr William Roake, who is leaving in consequence of other engagements.

1848

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE, HOLDEN AT WALSALL.

The 21st day of October, 1853.

IN the Matter of the Petition of **JOSEPH WRIGHT**, formerly of Toll End, Tipton, Staffordshire, then of Hill Top, West Bromwich, Staffordshire aforesaid, Baker, Hay, Corn, and Provision Dealer, and Beer Seller, afterwards of the Malt Shovel Inn, Wednesbury, Staffordshire aforesaid, Innkeeper and Licensed Victualler, then of Sheffield, in the foreign of Walsall, Staffordshire, Beer Seller, Baker, and Pig Dealer, then of the same place, Beer Seller and Journeyman Baker, then and now of Ryecroft Hill, Rushall, Staffordshire, Journeyman Baker, an Insolvent Debtor.—*Notice is hereby given*, that the Court will proceed to make a **FINAL ORDER** thereon, on Friday, the 18th day of November, 1853, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

By order of the Court,
DUIGNANT and HEMMANT, Attorneys, Walsall.

1853

TO be SOLD by **PRIVATE TREATY**, the well-known Old-licensed **PUBLIC-HOUSE**, "The Malt Shovel Inn," High Street, Wednesbury, together with a House adjoining, forming a compact Property. The tenancy of the Public-house has only changed hands twice in twenty years—For particulars, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Geo. C. Whitehouse, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

1869

MARKET HOUSE

8, (55), Church Street, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

R. A. Harper Ltd. [1916], [1921]

LICENSEES

William Hardman [1871] – [1878]
William Hardman [1881]
Mary Ann Hardman [] – **1882**;
Thomas Hampson (**1882** – []
Joseph Adam Hardman [1890] – [1891]
Thomas Gorton [1901]
George Bloor [1911] – [1916]
Mrs. Sarah Lucy Bloor [1921] manager

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/4/1864

“Hannigan and Noah Raby (both of Wednesbury) are matched to fight, for £10 a side. The men meet at the MARKET HOUSE TAVERN on Monday, April 11, to sign articles, to fight the second week in May.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/4/1869 - Advert

“MARKET HOUSE INN, Church Street, Wednesbury.

To Let, a well-known good Business House, close to the Market Place. Given up on account of the present proprietor having taken a house at a distance.

Apply on the premises, or to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

MARKET HOUSE INN, Church Street, Wednesbury.—To Let, a well-known good Business HOUSE, close to the Market Place. Given up on account of the present proprietor having taken a house at a distance.—Apply on the premises, or to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, West Bromwich.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/5/1869 - Advert

“To be Let, the MARKET HOUSE INN, Church Street, Wednesbury. Valuation only required.

Apply to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

TO be Let, the MARKET HOUSE INN, Church Street, Wednesbury. Valuation only required.—Apply to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, West Bromwich.

1871 Census

55, Church Street

- [1] William Hardman (44), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Ann Hardman (40), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] William Hardman (16), son, gas fitter, born Tipton;
- [4] Henry Hardman (14), son, gas fitter, born Tipton;
- [5] Mary Hardman (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Joseph Hardman (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] George Hardman (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] John Wright (28), boarder, boiler maker, born Rugeley;

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/6/1878

“William Hardman, landlord of the MARKET HOUSE INN, Church Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 16th inst. Police-constable Hodgetts proved the case, and the Bench fined the defendant 20s and costs.”

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.....

William Hardman, MARKET TAVERN, Church Street, 20s and costs, for selling 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.”

William Hardman died in the 3rd quarter of 1878.

1881 Census

8, Church Street – MARKET HOUSE

[1] *William Hardman* (25), gas fitting maker, born Horseley Heath;

[2] *Mary E. Hardman* (21), sister, born Wednesbury;

[3] *George Hardman* (13), brother, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Ann Denton* (22), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Dudley and District News 14/1/1882

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Edward Humpage* (46), who had been convicted upwards of twenty times previously, was, on the evidence of Police-constables *Bott* and *Watson*, sentenced to two months’ imprisonment with hard labour, for being drunk and disorderly on Saturday night, and refusing to quit the MARKET TAVERN, Church Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1890

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Sarah Maria Allen* (17), of respectable appearance, was charged with having stolen two flannel skirts, a cloth skirt, a quilt, and other articles, the property of *Joseph Adam Hardman*, of the MARKET HOUSE beerhouse, Church Hill.

The evidence showed that the prisoner was the cousin of the prosecutor, and had been staying at his house during the period stated. The things were missed last week, and on enquiries being made it was found that most of them had been pledged for the prisoner by various people living in the same locality.

The accused declared that the persons who had pledged the goods had had some of the money.

The prosecutor asked the Bench to deal leniently with the prisoner, and said he thought the women who had taken the things to the pawnbrokers, women old enough to be her mother, ought to have declined to act for her, and sent the goods back.

Fined £3, or two months’ imprisonment.”

1891 Census

8, Church Street – MARKET HOUSE INN

[1] *Joseph A. Hardman* (26), brewer, born Wednesbury;

[2] *William Hardman* (35), brother, tube fitting maker, born Tipton;

[3] *George S. Hardman* (22), brother, tube fitting striker, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Sarah A. Hardman* (19), sister, housekeeper, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Ethel Wright* (4), niece, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Albert Hackwood* (28), cane chair repairer, born Wednesbury:

1901 Census

8, Church Street

[1] *Thomas Gorton* (43), beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Mary Gorton* (44), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Samuel Gorton* (20), son, assistant in public house, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Ellen Gorton* (17), daughter, born Australia;

[5] *Alice Gorton* (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Thomas Gorton* (12), son, born Wednesbury:

Thomas Gorton – see also PARK.

Mary Gorton – see CROSS KEYS.

Walsall Observer 19/6/1909

“At Wednesbury Police Court, Charles Bullock, of Short Street, Wednesbury, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the MARKET HOUSE TAVERN on Saturday night. Defendant went into the house the worse for beer, and when asked to leave he refused. He was fined 5s and costs or seven days.”

1911 Census

8, Church Street – MARKET HOUSE TAVERN

- [1] George Bloor (33), manager of public house, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Sarah Lucy Bloor (32), wife, married 10 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Frederick Bloor (10), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Edith Bloor (7), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [5] George Bloor (5), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Alfred Bloor (1), son, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/3/1916

“At the adjourned Licensing Sessions at Wednesbury yesterday the police opposed, on the ground of redundancy, the renewal of the license of the MARKET TAVERN, Church Street.

It was mentioned that this was one of the oldest public houses in the Black Country, and in the days when bull-baiting and cock-fighting were prevalent it was the resort of all the sportsmen of the district.

The house was referred to the Licensing Compensation Authorities.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/7/1916

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee was held in the County Buildings, Stafford, on Saturday morning.....

Mr. Riley Pearson, barrister, who appeared for the owners and licensee of the MARKET HOUSE TAVERN, Wednesbury, offered no objection to the refusal of the license, but said there was some difficulty in obtaining particulars as to the trade done owing to one of the executors of the will of the late Mr. Richard Harper, of Bilston, who owned the house, being at the front. The case was adjourned for further information.”

George Bloor died in the 3rd quarter of 1916.

Sarah Lucy Bloor = Sarah Lucy Bloore

1921 Census

8, Church Street

- [1] Sarah Lucy Bloor (41), widow, beerhouse manager, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Edith May Bloor (18), daughter, home duties, born Wednesbury;
- [3] George Bloor (15), son, grocer's assistant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Alfred Bloor (11), son, school, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/2/1921

“Wednesbury annual Licensing Sessions.....

The justices intimated that opposition would be offered to the renewal of the licenses of the MARKET HOUSE TAVERN, Church Street; BRUNSWICK INN, Great Western Street; and the COACH AND HORSES, Lower High Street, on the grounds of redundancy.”

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions.....

MARKET HOUSE TAVERN. Mr. J. Pritchard applied for the renewal of the license opposed on the ground of redundancy.

Superintendent Salt gave details of rateable value and other particulars. Mrs. *Sarah Lucy Bloore* was the manageress. There had been one transfer during the past 10 years and no convictions.

Mr. Pritchard appeared on behalf of the owner and licensee, Mr. Harper, who gave £2,000 for it originally. The house was small, and a beerhouse, but it was well surrounded by a population who supported it. He handed in the figures showing the beer consumed during a given period.

The chairman said the MARKET HOUSE would be referred for compensation.”

South Staffordshire Times 23/7/1921

“At a meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority at Stafford, on Thursday, there was no opposition to the closing of the MARKET HOUSE, Wednesbury, the COACH AND HORSES, Wednesbury, and the WOODMAN INN, Tipton, and the licenses were refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1922

“The Principal Meeting of the Compensation Authority was held on July 21, when the committee, after careful consideration of each case referred, refused to renew seven licences.....

The Supplemental Meeting was held on November 12 and by adjournment on December 10. 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 five cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

MARKET HOUSE, Wednesbury, beerhouse on (ante 1869). £1,550.

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and was paid on the 24th ult.”

MARKET TAVERN

69, (Upper) Russell Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Oliver Limited [1906]

LICENSEES

George Holden [1862] – [1893]

Walter William Jones Symes [1893] – [1894]

Job Newton [1900] – [1904]

Edward Young [1906]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

George Holden = George Holding = George Holded

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1862

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Police Court.....

George Holden, of the MARKET TAVERN, Russell Street, was charged with permitting gambling in his house, on two separate occasions, the first with dominoes, and the second with cards. It was not clearly shown that the domino players were playing for money, and the case was therefore dismissed. The witnesses necessary to prove the second charge were not forthcoming, and the hearing was consequently adjourned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/2/1863

“*George Holden*, of the MARKET TAVERN, Wednesbury, was fined 10s and costs, for keeping open at improper hours.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/12/1863

“*George Holding*, landlord of the MARKET TAVERN, Wednesbury, was summoned for selling ale during prohibited hours. Mr. Cuttler, solicitor to the Birmingham Licensed Victuallers Association conducted the defence.

Sergeant Jesse Steele proved that on Sunday night week, about half-past eleven o'clock, he went to the defendant's house. He got on a wall at the rear of the premises, and saw the defendant come out of his own house, carrying a jug, and walk across the yard to an adjoining house. Witness followed directly and looked into the house, where he saw a jug of ale on the table. There were four or five people in the room. In cross-examination the sergeant declined to swear that the defendant was carrying a jug of ale, for he could not see what was in it; he lost sight of him when he went into the house. The defendant interrupted, and muttered something about a man saying, ‘You’ve only brought a quart instead of a gallon,’ thus condemning himself.

Mr. Cuttler contended that the bench could not convict; there was no sale of ale proved. The officer could not tell whether the jug that he found on the table was the same that the defendant carried.

The magistrates fined *Holding* £20 and costs, a previous conviction having been proved against him. They declined to grant a case for a superior court.”

George Holden, beer retailer, Russell Street. [1864], [1865]

Wednesbury.—Sale of Old-established LICENSED BEERHOUSE, situate in Upper Russell Street. TUESDAY, 6th March, 1894.
BELCHER & SON will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the White Horse Hotel, Wednesbury, at Eight o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions—the following Valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY, in one lot: The Old-established LICENSED BEERHOUSE, situate in Upper Russell Street. Wednesbury aforesaid, in the occupation of the Vendor, Mr. W. W. J. Symes, and known as “THE MARKET TAVERN,” containing Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Sitting Room, Club Room, four Bed Rooms, two Cellars (with rolling-in way), Brew-house, Wash-house, Stable, Cartshed, Piggery, Coalhouse, Fowls, and large Yard.
The House is neatly fitted up, and supplied with improved modern Brewing Plant, and has changed hands once only in thirty-four years.
The situation is excellent, being in close proximity to the Market Place.
The whole is in good condition of repair, and possession will be given on completion of the purchase, or earlier if desired.
For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Darlaston, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Bridge Street, Walsall; or to Mr. Enoch Evans, Solicitor, Walsall.

1894

1871 Census

69, Russell Street – Beerhouse

- [1] *George Holden* (41), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Esther Holden* (45), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *George H. Holden* (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *James A. Holden* (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Walter Holden* (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Edward Holden* (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Jane Connel* (19), housemaid, born Wednesbury;

George Holden, beer retailer, 69, Russell Street. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 13/3/1873 - Advert

"Furniture-Van, good condition, suitable for one or two horses.

FURNITURE-VAN, good condition, suitable for one or two horses.—Apply, G. Holding, Market Tavern, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

Apply, *G. Holding*, MARKET TAVERN, Russell Street, Wednesbury."

Forest of Dean Examiner 19/3/1875

"Walsall County Court. Wednesday. (Before Mr. A. Martineau, Judge.)

His Honour gave a judgement in the case of *George Holded*, innkeeper, MARKET TAVERN, Wednesbury v *Frederick Clews*, broker, Windmill Street, Walsall, *Joseph Dawkins*, Kings Hill, and *Thomas Bishop*, 22, Chapel Street, Wednesbury.

The claim was made for £3 10s 3d, being the balance of an advance of £10 received by the defendants from a money club held at plaintiff's house.

Mr. Sproston appeared for defendants, and the evidence was gone into at length, at the last sitting of the court. The defence was that the money had been paid to the secretary of the club, who had since absconded without paying it over.

His Honour, in giving judgement, said his verdict would be in favour of the defendants. The seconded rule connected with the club contained no stipulation as to where the money should be paid, and it appeared to him that sometimes it had been paid at the club house, and at other times to the secretary. He had no doubt the money had been paid to the secretary, but not always accounted for."

1881 Census

69, Russell Street

- [1] *George Holden* (51), beer retailer and publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Esther Holden* (53), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Walter Holden* (20), son, labourer in tube works, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Edward Holden* (18), son, carpenter and joiner, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Eliza Bennett* (24), general servant, born Dudley;

George Holden, licensed victualler, 69, Russell Street. [1888]

1891 Census

Upper Russell Street – MARKET TAVERN

- [1] *George Holden* (61), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Esther Holden* (64), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Elizabeth Bruce* (22), domestic servant, born Dudley;

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1893

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Edwin Butler*, GREEN DRAGON, Market Place, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 2nd February. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the defence.

Police-constable *Carter* deposed that his attention was directed to the house, and on going there he found *John Silvester*, a haberdasher in the Market Place, drunk and asleep. *Silvester* was aroused, and witness took him home. In cross-examination he admitted that *Silvester* was well known for his habit of wandering about from public house to public house when 'on the spree.'

The defence was that Silvester was not supplied with drink in the house, and that he was ordered out; but was treated with some consideration, being a neighbour. He was in and out several times. The defendant said he would himself summon Silvester. A fine of 20s and costs was imposed.

George Holden, MARKET TAVERN, Russell Street, was, on the evidence of Police-sergeant McGuire and Police-constable Carter, fined 40s and costs for having, on the same day, supplied ale to John Silvester named above whilst the latter was drunk. The landlord said Silvester was not drunk, but merely 'fresh.'

The Stipendiary said Silvester seemed to be a nuisance to the people in the neighbourhood. (The defendant, 'When drunk.') But the publicans could turn him out, or if he refused to go, prosecute him. Then they would not only punish him but protect themselves. Had there been a previous conviction he would have imposed the full penalty of £10. As it was the defendant would be fined £2 and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

"The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday..... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of William Bird, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.

The renewals to be opposed were....

Walter Symes, the MARKET TAVERN, Russell Street.

The Mayor commented with regret upon the increase in the numbers of offences and convictions shown by the returns; and the contentious business was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day, the 29th inst."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

"The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday.....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1894

"At the Guildhall, yesterday, *Walter William Jones Symes*, the MARKET TAVERN, Russell Street, Wednesbury, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises.

Police-constables Wallace and Barrow deposed that at seven o'clock on the evening of the 30th ult they found a man named Earl standing in a drunken condition at the corner of the counter in defendant's house, a jug being before him, from which he drank.

Mr. J. G. Thursfield, for the defence, called witnesses to show that the police were called in to eject Earl.

The Bench came to the conclusion that there was a doubt in the case, but that, notwithstanding the suspicion which justified the police taking action, it was not sufficient to warrant a conviction. Accordingly the defendant was merely required to pay the costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1894 - Advert

"Wednesbury. Sale of Old-established Licensed Beerhouse, situate in Upper Russell Street, Tuesday, 6th March, 1894.

Belcher and Son will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Eight o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions, the following Valuable Freehold Property, in one lot.

The Old-established Licensed Beerhouse, situate in Upper Russell Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, in the occupation of Mr. *W. W. J. Symes*, and known as the MARKET TAVERN, containing Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Sitting Room, Club Room, four Bed Rooms, two Cellars (with rolling-in way), Brewhouse, Wash-house, Stable, Cartshed, Piggery, Coalhouse, Fowlpen, Closet, and large Yard.

The House is neatly fitted up, and supplied with improved modern Brewing Plant, and has changed hands once only in thirty-four years.

The situation is excellent, being in close proximity to the Market Place.

The whole is in good condition of repair, and possession will be given on completion of the purchase, or earlier if desired.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Darlaston, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Bridge Street, Walsall; or to Mr. Enoch Evans, Solicitor, Walsall."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1898

“The Licensing Sessions for Wednesbury borough were held yesterday.....

The magistrates sanctioned plans for the restoration of the THREE CROWNS INN, Kings Hill.”

The magistrates refused to sanction alteration to the MARKET TAVERN, as it was proposed to increase the licensing area.”

1901 Census

Upper Russell Street – MARKET TAVERN

[1] Job Newton (41), widower, innkeeper, born Darlaston;

[2] Albert Newton (6), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[3] James Hall (26), lodger, labourer, steel works, born Wednesbury;

[4] Emily Elizabeth Evans (25), domestic servant, born Kidderminster:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Job Newton, beer retailer and coal dealer, 69, Russell Street. [1904]

Walsall Observer 30/7/1904 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, Beersellers, and Others.

Important Sale of Old-Established Freehold Beerhouses, Business Premises, and Dwelling Houses, situate at Wednesbury.

Monday, 15th August, 1904.

Belcher & Son, FAI have received instructions to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, at half-past Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely.....

Lot 2. The Old-Established Beerhouse, situate in Russell Street, near Market Place, Wednesbury, and known as the MARKET TAVERN, comprising bar, tap room, smoke room, kitchen, three bedrooms, sitting room, club room, two cellars, with rolling-in way, washhouse, coalhouse, privies, piggeries, stable and coachhouse, together with a well-arranged Brewery, the whole being in the occupation of Mr. *Job Newton*, at a net annual rental of £50.

The Property, which is in good repair, is well situated for business purposes, and in close proximity to the Market Place.”

Job Newton – see also GEORGE, Church Street, Darlaston.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1906

“The adjourned licensing sessions at Wednesbury were held yesterday.....

Superintendent Salt opposed the licenses of MARKET TAVERN, Upper Rushall [sic] Street.

The magistrates after private deliberation sent all the cases to the quarter sessions for compensation.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1906

“The members of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee met again yesterday, at the Shire Hall, Stafford, to resume the consideration of the licenses houses referred to them under the compensation clauses of the Licensing Act.....

The license of the MARKET TAVERN, Upper Russell Street, Wednesbury, was refused, there being no opposition.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/7/1906 - 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 11th day of June, 1906, and by several Adjournments thereof on the 18th, 25th, and 30th of June, 1906, 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 30th day of July, 1906, 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.....

MARKET TAVERN, Upper Russell Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse ‘on’ (ante 1869). Licensee, *Edward Young*. Registered Owners, Thomas Oliver Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/8/1906

"The County Licensing Committee held their supplementary meeting at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday, for the purpose of disposing of the claims sent in for compensation under the Licensing Act, 1904, in respect of those houses to which the renewal of the licenses had been refused.....

MARKET TAVERN, Wednesbury, £1,100 approved, apportioned £1,085 to the owners (Thomas Oliver Limited) and £15 to the tenant."

London Gazette 15/1/1907

"Friendly Societies Act, 1896. Advertisement of Dissolution by Instrument.

Notice is hereby given, that the Wednesbury Permanent Money Society, Register No.2253, held at MARKET TAVERN INN, Russell-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, is dissolved by Instrument, registered at this office, the 3rd day of January, 1907, unless within three months from the date of the *Gazette* in which this advertisement appears proceedings be commenced by a member or other person interested in or having any claim on the funds of the Society to set aside such dissolution, and the same is set aside accordingly.

T. Hall Hall, Acting as Chief Registrar.

28, Abingdon-street, Westminster, the 3rd day of January, 1907."

Lot 2.

The Old-Established BEERHOUSE, situate in Russell Street, near Market Place, Wednesbury, and known as the "MARKET TAVERN," comprising bar, tap room, smoke room, kitchen, three bedrooms, sitting room, club room, two cellars, with rolling-in way, washhouse, coalhouse, privies, piggeries, stable and coachhouse, together with a well-arranged BREWERY, the whole being in the occupation of Mr. Job Newton, at a net annual rental of £50.

The Property, which is in good repair, is well situated for business purposes, and in close proximity to the Market Place.

MAZEPPA

55, Church Street, Market Place, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Joseph Hackett

LICENSEES

William Hardman [] – 1871);
Joseph Gilbert (1871 – [1877]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 30/4/1869 - Advert

“To Brewers and Publicans.

A quantity of Brewing Utensils and Barrels for Sale, cheap.
Apply, MAZEPPA INN, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

TO Brewers and Publicans.—A quantity of BREWING UTENSILS and Barrels for SALE, cheap.—Apply, Mazeppa Inn, Church Street, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

55, Church Street

- [1] William Hardman (44), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Ann Hardman (40), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] William Hardman (16), son, gas fitter, born Tipton;
- [4] Henry Hardman (14), son, gas fitter, born Tipton;
- [2] Mary Hardman (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Joseph Hardman (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] George Hardman (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] John Wright (28), boarder, boiler maker, born Rugeley;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/9/1871

“At the Police Court, yesterday, the following cases against Wednesbury publicans were brought before the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner) and adjudicated upon.....

Joseph Gilbert, ANCHOR INN, Church Street, was ordered to pay the costs for allowing gaming. Police-constable William Bayley proved seeing a number of persons playing at bowls in the bowling alley for ale. The Stipendiary thought the game a very harmless one if not abused; and for his part could see no objection to its being played so long as no infringement of the law was committed by betting or playing for money.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1872 - Advert

“QUEENS ARMS HOTEL and Liquor Vaults, and seven Houses and Shops adjoining, in one lot, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury; also, the MAZEPPA Retail Beerhouse, Church Street, Market Place, Wednesbury.
Enquire, 62, Villa Road, Handsworth.”

QUEEN'S ARMS HOTEL and Liquor Vaults, and seven Houses and Shops adjoining, in one lot, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury; also, the "Mazeppa" Retail Beerhouse, Church Street, Market Place, Wednesbury.—Enquire, 62, Villa Road, Handsworth.

County Express 21/3/1874 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire. Valuable Freehold Building Land, Public House, and Nineteen Other Dwelling Houses in Church Street, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Messrs. Hawkins and Son will Sell by Auction, by order of the Executors of the late Mr. Joseph Hackett, on Monday, the 30th day of March, 1874, at the house of Mr. Henry Spittle, the BLUE BALL INN, Earp Street, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced, in the following or such other Lots as may be agreed upon, the undermentioned valuable properties.

Lot 1. All those Eighteen Dwelling Houses in Church Street.....

Lot 2. All that Public House, now known by the sign of the MAZEPPA, formerly the ANCHOR, with suitable Stabling, Buildings, and Premises thereto, fronting Church Street, aforesaid, and opposite Lot 1, and now in the occupation of *Joseph Gilbert*, at a rental of £20 per annum.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1877

“West Bromwich Annual Licensing Sessions.....

Captain Corngreve then objected to the renewal of the licenses of....

Joseph Gilbert, HOPE AND ANCHOR, Church Street, Wednesbury, on the ground of non-residence.....

The consideration of the case of *Joseph Gilbert*, of the HOPE AND ANCHOR, Church Street, Wednesbury, was also deferred until the adjourned day.”

Joseph Gilbert – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, Franchise Street.

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND, PUBLIC HOUSE. AND NINETEEN OTHER DWELLING HOUSES IN CHURCH STREET, MARKET PLACE, WEDNESBURY.

MESSRS HAWKINS and SON will SELL by AUCTION, by order of the Executors of the late Mr Joseph Hackett, on MONDAY, the 30th day of MARCH, 1874, at the house of Mr HENRY SPITTLE, the Blue Ball Inn, Earp Street, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced, in the following or such other Lots as may be agreed upon, the undermentioned valuable properties:—

LOT 1.—All those Eighteen DWELLING HOUSES in Church Street, aforesaid, fourteen of which have an extensive frontage to the said Street, and the other four are in the rear thereof, with extensive Shopping Outbuildings, and Yards, all being well tenanted, at an aggregate rental of £148 per annum.

LOT 2.—All that PUBLIC HOUSE, now known by the sign of the Mazeppa, formerly the Anchor, with suitable Stabling, Buildings, and Premises thereto, fronting Church Street, aforesaid, and opposite Lot 1, and now in the occupation of *Joseph Gilbert*, at a rental of £20 per annum.

LOT 3.—All that valuable piece of BUILDING LAND, with DWELLING HOUSE thereon, having a frontage of 58½ yards to Church Street, aforesaid, and containing in the whole 3330 square yards or thereabouts. This land is very suitable for the erection of a Market Hall or any other Public Building.

For further particulars apply to Messrs Bourne and Owen, Solicitors, Dudley, or the Auctioneers, 32, Dudley Street, Brierley Hill.

MAZEPPA

41+42, (41), Elwell Street / Friar Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1927]

LICENSEES

Thomas Nicholls [1869] – [1872]
Joseph Cooksey [1871] – [1875]
Mrs. Charlotte Cooksey [1881] – [1896]
Albert J Court [1901] – [1904]
Annie Garbett [1911] – [1912]
John Thomas Henderson [1921]
Mrs. Annie Sarah Henderson []
Arthur Cartwright [] – **1927**;
Cyril G H Reeves **(1927 – [])**
William Powell [1935] – [1940]
Elsie May Andrews [1961] – **1964**;
Thomas Clarke **(1964 – [1966])**



1962

NOTES

41, Elwell Street [1871], [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911], [1921]
41+42, Elwell Street [1939]

ROYAL OAK [1869], [1871], [1873], [1875], [1888], [1901], [1902], [1911]
MAZEPPA [1881], [1886], [1904], [1935], [1964], [1970]

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/10/1869

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, *Thomas Nicholls* of the ROYAL OAK beerhouse, Mestycroft, Wednesbury, was charged with having a bagatelle board and using it without a license. Police-constable Sheldon was called to prove the case. The defendant said he did not know he was acting contrary to the law, and he was exceedingly sorry for having so offended. He had shut up the table since the police had told him about it. The magistrates said that as the defendant had undertaken not to use the table again they should allow the proceedings to be settled on his paying the costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/1/1871

“*Joseph Cooksey*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK, New Town, Wednesbury, was summoned for infringing the terms of his license. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the defence.

On the morning of the 8th inst, about one o’clock, Police-constable Sheldon heard a noise proceeding from the house adjoining the defendant’s, and on going nearer, he found, from the nature of the conversation which was going on in the house, that the occupants were playing at cards. Presently he saw three men and two women come out of the house by way of the back door. The officer then, feeling suspicious, knocked at the defendant’s door, and on being admitted, he saw the defendant sitting with a man in the bar. There was a pint jug on the table partly filled with ale. The officer noticed a door which, beyond all doubt, opened into the adjoining house in which the card-playing had taken place. The door was locked. The defendant, in reply to the officer, said the house adjoining was rented by

him, the front part being used as a shop, and the back as a private house. The officer then went away, and soon after he saw the man whom he found in the bar with the defendant leave the house and go home.

For the defence, it was urged that the man referred to was in the habit of brewing for defendant, and had been so engaged on the night in question. The door mentioned by the officer had been nailed up for a long time, and was not used as a means of communication between the two places.

Mr. Spooner remarked that there could not be the slightest possible doubt that the defendant had infringed his license. However, taking into account the fact that he had previously borne a good character, he should inflict the lowest fine he could, 20s and costs. Addressing the defendant, he said he would give him fair notice that if it was found that there was any means of communication between his house and the adjoining one, he (defendant) would assuredly lose his license at the next licensing sessions. The conviction was endorsed on defendant's certificate."

1871 Census

41, Elwell Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] Joseph Cooksey (39), gas fitting maker and publican, born Dudley Wood;

[2] Dinah Cooksey (35), wife, born Netherton;

[3] Ann Cooksey (16), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;

[4] John Cooksey (13), son, scholar, born Netherton;

[5] Mary A. Cooksey (11), daughter, scholar, born Netherton;

[6] William Cooksey (8), son, scholar, born Burnley, Lancashire;

[7] Joseph Cooksey (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[8] Elizabeth Cooksey (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[9] Henry Lloyd (37), lodger, ironstone miner, born Bridgnorth:

Joseph Cooksey, beer retailer, 41, Elwell Street, Mesty Croft. [1872]

Thomas Nicholls, beer retailer, 41, Elwell Street, Mesty Croft. [1872]

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/11/1873

"William Hadley, *Joseph Cooksey* (landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN), Thomas Boucher, and William Betts, all living at Newtown, Wednesbury, were summoned for assaulting Police-constable Beech; and by a cross-summons Beech was summoned for assaulting Ann Cooksey and William Hadley.

It appeared that on the night of the 17th inst the officer heard a disturbance at the ROYAL OAK, and on going to the place and interfering he was assaulted by Hadley and *Cooksey*. Afterwards, on following Hadley into the kitchen, the other defendants assaulted him.

The evidence given against the policeman directly contradicted his statement. The girl said she was knocked down by the policeman's staff, and Hadley asserted that the officer's interference had been most unwarrantable.

The learned Stipendiary said the evidence which had been given for the defence was manifestly false in some of its details, but the policeman had acted indiscreetly in taking such serious notice of some slight interference he met with when he entered the public house. This indiscretion led to what subsequently took place. The greatest discretion and forbearance ought to be shown in such cases. It was perfectly idle for policemen to think that they had the liberty of taking people into custody for every common assault that was committed. The proper course to pursue was to take out a summons against the offender. The cases were dismissed."

Midland Examiner 10/7/1875

"*Joseph Cooksey*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Elwell Street, New Town, Wednesbury, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house, on the 26th ultimo. Mr. Edwards defended.

Police-constable Curtis stated that on Saturday night, the 26th ultimo, at 10.50 he visited the house of the defendant in Elwell Street, New Town, Wednesbury. In the tap room he saw five or six people and the defendant with them. In an adjoining room he found Charles Wilcox. He was asleep and apparently drunk. The defendant's attention was called to the man, and he asked the man to get up. With the assistance of two persons he was raised from the seat, and as soon as the defendant loosed him with the other person, Cox stumbled against the door. He was very drunk. There was a quart of ale before the man who was drunk. The man went away quietly after the officer called the attention of the defendant to him. Fined £1 and the costs."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/4/1879

“*London Gazette* (last night) Liquidations by Arrangement.....
Joseph Cooksey, Elwell Street, Newtown, Wednesbury, beerhouse keeper.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/5/1879

“On Saturday a meeting of the creditors of *Joseph Cooksey*, publican and scrap dealer, New Town, Wednesbury, was held at the offices of Mr. Joseph Smith, solicitor, Wednesbury. Mr. C. Cox, of Aston, was elected chairman. The statement of the debtor’s affairs having been read, it was resolved to accept a composition of 3s 6d in the pound.”

Wednesbury Herald 6/3/1880 - Notice

“*Joseph Cooksey*, Deceased.

Creditors and other persons having any Claims and Demands upon or against the Estate of *Joseph Cooksey*, late of Elwell Street, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Publican and Gas Fitting Maker, deceased, who died on the 10th day of February, 1880, and whose Will was proved on the 3rd day of March, 1880, by Charlotte Ann Cooksey, and Edward Broadhouse Scholefield, the executors therein named, are hereby required to send particulars in writing, of their Debts, Claims, and Demands to the said Edward Broadhouse Scholefield, at his Offices, situate in Church Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, on or before the 30th day of April next, that the same may be examined, and if found correct, discharged.....”

1881 Census

41, Elwell Street

- [1] *Charlotte Cooksey* (62), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Joseph Cooksey* (16), son, forge heater, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Elizabeth Gainham* (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Commercial Gazette 21/1/1886

“Bills of Sale Re-Registered.....

Charlotte Cooksey, MAZEPPA INN, Elwell Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, beerhouse keeper.
In favour of Henry Jerrams. Filed 10 August 1881, Re-registered 11 January 1886. Amount £48.”

Mrs. Cooksey, ROYAL OAK, New Town, 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.]

1891 Census

41, Elwell Street

- [1] *Charlotte Cooksey* (70), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary A. Hartwell* (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Mrs. *Charlotte Cooksey*, beer retailer, 41, Elwell Street, New Town. [1896]

Charlotte Cooksey died in the 1st quarter of 1898.

1901 Census

41, Elwell Street – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Albert J. Court* (40), beerhouse keeper, born Heathfield, Somerset;
- [2] *Mary Court* (41), wife, born Taunton;
- [3] *William E. Court* (14), son, fitting and tube screw, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Gwendolen M. Court* (10), daughter, born Birmingham:

Albert Court, beer retailer, 41, Elwell Street. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1904

“Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

Eight licenses were objected to by the police.....

MAZEPPA, Elwell Street.

In each instance a conviction was recorded against the house. License renewed.”

1911 Census

41, Elwell Street – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] Annie Garbett (53), unmarried, publican, born Pelsall;

[2] Annie Sarah Garbett (12), daughter, scholar, born Olton, Warwickshire;

[3] Sarah Elmore (22), assists in the business, born Wednesbury:

Mrs. Annie Garbett, beer retailer, 41, Elwell Street. [1912]

Annie Garbett died in the 2nd quarter of 1917.

Annie Sarah Garbett married John Thomas Henderson in the 3rd quarter of 1917.

1921 Census

41, Elwell Street

[1] John Thomas Henderson (31), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Annie Sarah Henderson (22), wife, home duties, born Olton, Warwickshire;

[3] Alice Liddle (22), domestic servant, born Houghton-le-Spring, Durham:

Royal Oak, Elwell St, Wednesbury
Mitchell and Butler's Ales and Stout.
Porter, Ales, Wines, etc. Tobaccos. Proprietor—MRS A. S. HENDERSON

Walsall Observer 5/2/1927

“Objection was raised by the police at the Wednesbury annual licensing sessions yesterday to the renewal of the license of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Stafford Street, and the NOAHS ARK, beerhouse, New Street. The NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, it was explained, had been ill-conducted, while it was said the NOAHS ARK was a house of a disorderly character, and on July 13 there was a conviction for supplying intoxicants during non-permitted hours. These licenses were referred to the adjourned meeting on March 4, together with those of the SMITHS ARMS, beerhouse, Cross Street, and the MAZEPPA, beerhouse, Elwell Street, which were objected to on the ground of redundancy.”

Walsall Observer 5/3/1927

“At the adjourned Wednesbury Licensing sessions yesterday, the license of the SMITHS ARMS, Cross Street, was referred for compensation, but that of the MAZEPPA, Elwell Street, which had also been objected to on the ground of redundancy, was renewed. The licenses of the L.N.W. HOTEL, Stafford Street, and the NOAHS ARK, New Street, which had been objected to on the ground of convictions, were renewed.

In the case of the MAZEPPA beerhouse, Elwell Street, Mr. H. Willison (Birmingham) for Messrs. Mitchell and Butler, and Mr. A. Cartwright, license holder, pressed for a renewal.

Police-sergeant Thorpe admitted that the MUSEUM INN (60 yards away) was opposite a chapel, and not so capable of police supervision. Two houses had access to the backyard.

Mr. Glover, who held a watching brief on behalf of Mr. Tonks, the owner of the MUSEUM, objected to this line of cross-examination. ‘If you have anything to say,’ said Mr. Willison, ‘come on to the field of battle and we will fight it out. Otherwise you have no right to speak.’

The Mayor: I don’t know why you should attack another house in defending yours.

Mr. Willison: The Act says the Bench should consider the other houses in the neighbourhood.

Cecil S. Best, license superintendent for Messrs. Mitchell and Butler, valued the house at £2,500 for compensation.”

Cyril George Harry Reeves – see also WODEN.

Evening Despatch 2/8/1935

"A scene at a Wednesbury public house after closing hours on Sunday night had a sequel at Wednesbury today when a fine of £3 was imposed on Herbert Thomas Arnold, aged 33, of 16, Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, for assaulting *William Powell*, licensee of the MAZEPPA INN, Elwell Street, Newtown, Wednesbury. Arnold's wife attended the court and stated that her husband was ill, but desired to plead guilty.

Mr. Frank Cooper, prosecuting, stated that Arnold lived in the locality of the inn, and he understood had made a considerable amount of money, giving him the impression that he was not subject to the regulations of people not similarly placed.

On Sunday last, said Mr. Cooper, Arnold was in the inn with some friends, with whom he left at 10pm. *Powell*, his wife and a waiter named Stevenson, started cleaning up the glasses, and at 10.40 *Powell* heard a noise in the kitchen. He opened the door and discovered Arnold in the room. *Powell* asked him what brought him there, and Arnold replied that he had come because he wanted a drink. *Powell* told the Bench that the premises had been locked up, and for anyone to gain admission they would have to scale a wall leading to the yard. When refused the drink, Arnold said, 'Give me half a gallon then,' but the landlord refused to supply him with anything. *Powell* again asked him to leave and he tried to push him towards the gate. As *Powell* was closing the gate again Arnold suddenly reached up and struck him two violent blows in the face.

Mr. Cooper said that it was grossly unfair that because a man had money and was of some influence in the locality to feel that he had a right to go and demand a drink at a time out of permitted hours and then strike the landlord when he refused to supply him.

Ald. C. W. D. Joynson, imposing the fine, stated that the Bench were quite satisfied there had been an unprovoked assault.

Arnold's wife asked the court for time to pay."

Rugeley Times 23/7/1938

"Wednesbury Darts News.....

In the semi-final of the darts competition for the Rubin Cup, in aid of the funds of the Mesty Croft Carnival and Children's Peace Treat, the MAZEPPA INN defeated the BRUNSWICK INN by six games to four. There was a large attendance present at the match, which was played at the MAZEPPA and the home side gained an early lead, BRUNSWICK being unable to get on level terms with them. The winners now meet VINE INN in the final match."

1939 Register

41+42, Elwell Street

[1] *William Powell*, date of birth 23/6/1892, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Florence Powell*, dob 21/8/1894, housewife and bar help, married;

[3] *Reginald W. Powell*, dob 7/4/1920, tool maker, single;

[4] *Stanley Lewis Powell*, dob 14/3/1930, school, single:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

[1976]

Closed

It became an office of Wharfedale Steels Ltd.

It was demolished on 28th April 1997 to make way for a car park.



William Powell c1930s

MILLFIELD

Rydding Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Darby's Brewery Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1983]
Admiral Taverns [2013]
Michael James [2001]

LICENSEES

Arthur Edwin Cole **(1936 – 1953)**;
Arthur Hill **(1953 – [])**
James Edward Clewley [] – **1961**);
James Reginald Guest **(1961 – [1966]**
Bird [c.1980]
Alf Mitchell [1980] – [1983]
Chris Millichip [1987] – [1988]
Gerard McDaid [1992]
Ambrose Gaughan **(1994 – [1997]**
Paul Coghlan [1995]
Mike and Pete Boland **(1998 – [])**
Anthony Haddock **(1999 – [])**
Anthony Melia [2008]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1936

“‘There is no opposition as far as the Churches are concerned, and one might almost say my application has their blessing,’ stated Mr. S. W. Smith at Wednesbury annual Licensing Sessions, yesterday, when he made application on behalf of Messrs. Darbys Brewery Co., for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the license of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, to a site at the junction of Rydding Lane and Hall Green Road.

Mr. R. H. Norris, for J. Hanson and Sons Ltd., Dudley, owners of the GOUGH ARMS, nearly half a mile from the new site, opposed the application on the grounds that there was no necessity for another licensed house in the area. Mr. Smith said that the opposing parties’ house was in the borough of West Bromwich, and Mr. Smith alleged they were trying to seize trade from Wednesbury. ‘Is the Bench at West Bromwich coming to rule this Bench?’ he asked. ‘They are in another borough, and we want provision for our own people,’ he said.

The applicants intimated that they would surrender the license of the OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, if the application was granted. ‘We are giving up two houses worth thousands of pounds and are doing excellent trade,’ added Mr. Smith. They would also give the land on which the BLUE BALL INN stood as a gift to the Corporation. The Justices made a provisional order subject to the surrender of the license of the OLD PACK HORSE, and the free conveyance of the other site to the Corporation.”

Walsall Observer 26/6/1937

“At Wednesbury special licensing sessions, yesterday week.....

The justices made a final order sanctioning the removal of the license of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, to premises to be erected in Rydding Lane, to be known as the MILLFIELD.”



1986



2006



2025

Walsall Observer 5/2/1938

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Police Superintendent J. H. Hall stated that there were in the borough 105 houses for the sale of intoxicating liquor – fully licensed 51, beerhouses ‘on’ 38, beerhouse ‘off’ 15, and wines ‘on’ 1. This showed a reduction of one full license from the number given last year, namely, that of the OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, which was closed on July 4 in consideration of the opening of new premises known as the MILLFIELDS, Ridding Lane.”

Walsall Observer 4/2/1939

“How a Walsall man, Bernard Leonard William Shaw, of 59, Reservoir Street, had his cycle stolen, was related at Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, when Joseph Michael Simner (34), a bricklayer, of 109, Booth Road, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing the cycle, valued at £5. He pleaded guilty to that charge, and also to another of stealing a cycle valued at £6, the property of Thomas William Handley, of 11, Jubilee Street, West Bromwich. Shaw stated that on January 28 he left his cycle outside the Wednesbury Bridge Street Social Club which he saw defendant leave. Later, when he went for his cycle it was missing. Handley’s cycle was taken from outside the MILLFIELDS INN, Ridding Lane, Wednesbury, on January 27. Defendant agreed with John Harold Bates, of 116, Dangerfield Lane, Wednesbury, to sell him the cycle for 30s, and Bates paid him a first instalment of 10s. Simner was committed for trial to the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, bail being allowed.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/2/1939

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

‘The Court is anxious to be as lenient as possible, but with a record like the prisoner’s it is impossible,’ said the Chairman when passing sentence of 18 months’ hard labour on Michael Joseph Simner (34), bricklayer, committed from Wednesbury, who pleaded guilty to two charges of cycle stealing. Mr. Gerald Curtler, who prosecuted, stated that accused took one cycle from outside an inn at Wednesbury, and the other from outside a social club. They were later recovered from men to whom he tried to sell them. When seen by the police accused immediately admitted the offences.

PC Mitchell read a long list of previous convictions against accused, including one of three years’ penal servitude for a coining offence. He had had two terms of service in the Army, but on each occasion had been discharged as a result of convictions. It was, however, only fair to say that he had not been in trouble since he last came out of prison in 1934.

Accused told the Justices that after a long term of unemployment he obtained work. This enabled him to buy beer, and it got the better of him.”

1939 Register

Rydding Lane – MILLFIELDS INN

[1] Arthur E. Cole, date of birth 15/6/1881, public house manager, married;

[2] Rachel E. Cole, dob 4/4/1885, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Arthur E. Cole, dob 13/9/1914, centre lathe metal turner, single:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/2/1940

“Latest donations to the West Midlands and *Express and Star* Comforts Fund.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £344 1s 3½d.

Proceeds of Boxes.....

MILLFIELD HOTEL, 1s 6d.”

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

MILLFIELD INN, Wednesbury, 9s.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 26/1/1946

“The first meeting of the Wednesbury No.1 Discussion Group, held at the MILLFIELDS INN on Thursday last, was addressed by Cllr. N. Small, who spoke on local government and administration.....”

A team from here took part in the Hill Top Victory Darts League. [1946]

Evening Despatch 28/11/1952

"A fracas on a Wednesbury public house car park between members of a Darlaston coach party, and three men from Oldbury, in which the wife of a licensee was alleged to have been kissed, kicked and punched had a sequel at Wednesbury today. Leo McGonigle, aged 24, of the National Service Hostel, Oldbury, was fined a total, with damages and costs, of £11; Daniel Meehan, aged 20, of the same address, was fined £8 with costs; Wilfred John Eaton, aged 20, of 21, Salop Street, Warley, Oldbury, was fined £3 for using abusive language, but was found not guilty of wilful damage worth £5 12s 6d to a motor coach window, belonging to Stanton Bros., of Tipton. James Thomas Lloyd, aged 42, of 97, Lawnswood Road, Langley, was found not guilty on both charges and dismissed. Mrs. Hannah Harper, wife of the licensee of the JUNCTION INN, Station Street, Darlaston, said she took a coach party to a concert at the MILLFIELD INN, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury. Lloyd, who was with the other three men in the assembly room, asked her to have a drink but she refused. When the public house closed they were all going to the coach when Mrs. Christina Mountney, wife of the licensee of the ENGINE INN, Bull Street, Darlaston, was kissed by McGonigle. She slapped his face and McGonigle was then alleged to have kicked Mrs. Mountney and used abusive language. The coach driver, George Thomas Woodcock, of 14, Berry Avenue, Darlaston, got the women into the coach and the men before the Court set about him and he received blows. Then there was a free for all and the coach window was smashed. PS Fryer said all four were under the influence of drink. All the women were perfectly sober."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1962

"A bus conductor, *James Edward Clewley* (46), of Earl Street, Walsall, was committed for trial on bail to the next Staffordshire Quarter Sessions at Wednesbury, accused of fraudulently converting to his own use £125 belonging to Millfields Social Club between January and October, 1961.

Prosecuting, Mr. P. Smithson said that while *Clewley* was licensee at the MILLFIELDS INN, Ridding Lane, Wednesbury, he became treasurer of the social club. When he was about to leave the public house the books were checked and the deficit discovered.

Clewley was said to have told the police, 'I just do not know where it went. I am willing to pay it back week by week if I can.'"

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/11/1962

"No evidence was offered by the prosecution at Staffordshire Quarter Sessions yesterday against *James Edward Clewley* (46), of 3, Earl Street, Walsall. *Clewley*, a bus conductor, was accused of fraudulently converting £125 18s 7½d to his own use, the monies of the Millfields Social Club, between January 1 and October 1, 1961. A jury found him not guilty and he was discharged."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/12/1962

"A cheque for £50 was last night presented to the Mayor of Wednesbury, Alderman Mrs. Ethel Price, from customers of the MILLFIELDS INN, Wednesbury. The money has been raised at the inn for the mayor's charity fund."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/10/1965 - Advert

"MILLFIELDS INN, West Bromwich.

Tonight (Friday) The Bowlers.

No.19 and 31 Buses Stop Outside."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/3/1967 - Advert

"MILLFIELD INN, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich. For Your Entertainment.

Mon & Thurs night, Dancing; Fri, Song & Dance; Sat, Free & Easy; Sun morning, Special breakfast trips welcomed; Sun night, Song & Dance; Tues & Wed, Private Parties.

Weddings Catered For."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/3/1967 - Advert

"Male and Female Bar Staff wanted, good pay and conditions. The MILLFIELDS INN, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich."

MALE and Female Bar Staff wanted, good pay and conditions. — The Millfields Inn, Rydding-lane, West Bromwich. Telephone Wednesbury 0438.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/5/1967 - Advert

“Every Thursday. Top Groups!

MILLFIELDS INN, Millfields Estate (Hyde Road-Ryddings Lane, Wednesbury).

Prove It! That’s easy! Just Look!

Herbies People, Dawn-Breakers, The Bostons.

Tonight (Thursday) The Fabulous Choice.

Next Week: Another Top Group – The New Freeman.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/2/1968 - Advert

“You’ve Asked For It! Well Here It Is!!!

Tombola at MILLFIELD INN, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury (by the babbling brook).

Eight Houses. One Flyer. Members Only. Free Entrance.

Wednesday, February 14th. 8 to 10pm.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/9/1968 - Advert

“Bar Staff required; apply in person.

The MILLFIELDS INN, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.”

BAR STAFF required; apply in person.—The Millfields Inn, Rydding-lane, West Bromwich.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/4/1969 - Advert

“MILLFIELDS INN, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich

Tonight and Sunday Night Bob Dudley Combo.

Admission 3/- : Ladies 2/-

Full House Last Week.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/11/1971 - Advert

“The Buccanner. The MILLFIELD, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.

Watch for Details of this New Luxurious Night Spot. Opening this Thursday, December 2nd.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/7/1972 - Advert

“MILLFIELDS INN, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury

Fist-Class entertainment every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Coaches Welcomed.

Come and See the Best Room in the Midlands!

Admission Only 10p.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/4/1975 - Advert

“The MILLFIELD, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich, require Bar Staff, part-time, must be pleasant and presentable.

Also we are now interviewing Cooks, Waitresses for new restaurant which opens shortly.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/5/1975 - Advert

“Two Cleaners required, 6 mornings a week.

Apply, the MILLFIELD, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.”

TWO CLEANERS required, 6 mornings a week — Apply The Millfield, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/9/1975

“Girls, Don’t Miss the Dynamic Jimmy Crawford.

For the first time here in West Bromwich.

See him at the MILLFIELDS, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury.

Tonight, Thursday, 18th September.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/4/1977

“Police are probing alleged under-age drinking offences following a swoop on a Sandwell pub. A team of officers entered the MILLFIELD pub in Rydding Lane, West Bromwich, over the weekend and later interviewed twenty youths. Police today confirmed that the borough’s chief superintendent would be considering a report on the raid and whether the youths should be charged. The pub’s landlord has also been interviewed.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/11/1977

“Police who raided a West Bromwich pub in April because of under-age drinking found more under-age drinking in a second raid only eight weeks later. Four Wednesbury girls, three of them juveniles, admitted consuming malt liquor, lager and shandy at the HILLFIELD [sic] at Rydding Lane while under-age. Two of the girls also admitted buying the drinks, and the others having them bought for them, in the pub’s Pieces of Eight disco lounge.

In evidence one girl said there was nowhere else to go on Saturday night. Her father told West Bromwich magistrates, ‘It’s high time the council provided an alternative to the temptation of teenage drinking.’ The clerk of the court, Mr. Reg Hall, pointed out that it was not an offence to be in a pub while 14 years or older. But he told the girls, ‘Until you are 18 you should stick to lemon and lime.’

They were each given a conditional discharge for consuming intoxicating liquor, but were fined £10 each on the other counts.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/8/1978 - Advert

“Catch Disco Fever Every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday Night!

Dancing to the Best Sounds in Town!

At the MILLFIELD, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich. Admission 40p.

Also for all you Rock ‘n’ Rollers,

Rock ‘n’ Roll Night is Every Friday Night at the MILLFIELD! Admission 40p.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 1/4/1980

“Raiders fled from a Wednesbury pub after smashing pinball machines and a pool table. The thieves stole nearly £250 in ten pence pieces after forcing a pool table, pinball machine and video game at the MILLFIELDS pub in Rydding Lane. But as they started to break open the second pool table, 40-year-old landlord Mr. *Alf Mitchell* came down to the bar and they ran off. The thieves broke into the pub while Mr. *Mitchell* was out. ‘I was out for a while and came back to the pub, but went straight upstairs to watch TV,’ said Mr. *Mitchell*. ‘When I went down to the bar later, I found the machines prised open.’

Detective Inspector Roy Marratt, of Wednesbury CID, today appealed for public help in tracing the raiders. ‘We want to hear from anyone offered a large number of ten pence pieces in change,’ he said.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/6/1982

“Planning Applications.....

Bass, Mitchells and Butlers, Cape Hill Brewery, alterations to the rear, at MILLFIELDS INN, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/7/1982 - Advert

“Auction, every Friday, 7pm at the MILLFIELD, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.

Antiques, repro, bric-a-brac, household goods, etc.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/3/1983

“A Midland brewery has pulled out all the stops in designing West Bromwich’s latest pub bar – and they have hit just the right note with customers. Centrepiece of the Roosters bar at the MILLFIELDS, in Rydding Lane, is a 100-year-old church organ complete with its original pipes, but the antique is tuned into a different style of music these days. For although the organ, from a demolished church in Leeds, is no longer working it provides a platform for the pub disc jockey who has helped to pack in drinkers since the new bar was opened last Friday. The organ is not the only antique piece adorning the Roosters bar, there is also 10 pairs of wrought iron bedsteads, a collection of old manhole covers, military helmets, vintage bottles and old tractor seats.

Landlord *Alf Mitchell*, aged 43, said, ‘When they first started the room I thought ‘oh no’, but now it is finished I think the room is fantastic, there is nothing else like it and everything seems to gel.’

The museum effect is the handiwork of M&B brewery surveyor Mr. Kevin Yates, who spent six months scouring junk shops looking for unusual items to put in the bar.”

Birmingham Mail 13/2/1984 - Advert

“Look What’s on at Your Local.

St. Valentine’s Night Party. Tuesday February 14th.

There’s fun and games at your M&B local tomorrow night.

Super St. Valentine’s Night Prizes to be won. A great atmosphere. Surprises galore.

Don’t miss out on a great St. Valentine’s Night out at the your M&B local. See you tomorrow.....

MILLFIELDS, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/5/1984

“Wednesbury and District Pool League hold their annual meeting on Sunday at the MILLFIELD, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich. Teams interested in joining the League should attend the meeting or contact the secretary.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 31/12/1984 - Advert

“Ken and Shirley of the MILLFIELD Public House (Roosters), Rydding Lane, Wednesbury.

Would like to extend Best Wishes for a very Happy New Year to all customers past, present and future and look forward to seeing them all again in 1985.

The MILLFIELD has a newly redecorated Disco Lounge with brand new Disco light fittings to add to the fun atmosphere. They have a DJ on every night so why not go along and join in the fun.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/3/1985 - Advert

“Roosters Fun Pub, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich, presents

Sunday Lunch with Tony Palmer (Your local comedian) March 24, Admission only 50p.

Also Live DJ 7 nights per week. Free Admission.”

Sandwell Chronicle 18/12/1987 - Advert

“The MILLFIELD, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.

Chris and *Julia* would like to wish all their Customers, old and new, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.”

Sandwell Chronicle 16/12/1988 - Advert

“MILLFIELDS, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury.

This distinctive pre-war building occupies the corner site of Hydes Road and Ryddings Lane. At a cost in excess of £250,000 it has been transformed into a magnificent two room house, incorporating four different styles and features, all traditional and comfortable.

Firstly there is a bar and games area, accommodating the two main in-house sporting activities, pool and darts.

The Cosy Snug has an independent bar servery for those who prefer a quiet drink and a chat. Abundant greenery decorates the standing area making very pleasant surroundings in which to stand and converse.

The Lounge area, beautifully tiled and with patterned timbers has a cottage style food servery.

Food is served at lunchtimes and between 6.00 and 8.00pm in the evenings. There is traditional home cooking with daily specials, a selection of pizzas being a speciality of the house.

For those more interested in the liquid refreshment there is a choice of beers and lagers, including Traditional Highgate Mild and Brew XI. The full range of lagers includes Tenants LA and the MILLFIELDS are introducing Darbys Pale Ale into their range.

There is plenty of opportunity to pay a visit to the MILLFIELDS. The manager and his wife, *Chris* and *Julie Millichip*, will be pleased to welcome you during their opening hours 11.30am-3.00pm and 6.00pm-11pm weekdays, 11-00am-3.30pm and 5.30pm-11.00pm on Saturdays and 12noon-3.00pm and 7.00pm-10.30pm on Sundays.

The rest of the staff will be dressed in traditional costume. The manager said, ‘It is our intention to cater to our customers’ needs and to promote a happy and warm atmosphere.’ The newly refurbished house re-opens on Thursday, 15th December, at 5.30pm. A totally separate lounge/function room is currently being developed and will open early in 1989.”

Sandwell Chronicle 24/3/1989 - Advert

“Come and experience the new enhanced sound to Light Music System at MILLFIELDS, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.

Opening on the evening of Friday, 24th March.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/3/1990 Advert

“Bar Staff Required, mid-week and weekends.
MILLFIELDS, Ryddings Lane, West Bromwich.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/11/1991

“Police and publicans have joined together to launch a scheme aimed at cutting down on trouble in Wednesbury bars. Over 40 licensees and brewery chiefs joined with police at the first meeting of the local Pub Watch scheme at the MILLFIELD pub, in Rydding Lane. Chief Insp. Tony Dyke said the idea behind Pub Watch was to keep tighter checks on troublemakers through increased liaison between licensees and police.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/12/1992 - Advert

“Lounge Now Re-Opened after Extensive Refurbishment, at the MILLFIELDS, Ryddings Lane, West Bromwich. Entertainment through December.

This week: Disco Thursday 3, 8pm. Live entertainment Friday 4, 8pm. Disco Sunday 6, 8pm.

New managers Dave and Lynn look forward to welcoming you.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/6/1993 - Advert

“Fleurets, Chartered Surveyors, Hotel and Licensed Property Valuers.

Want to run your own local? New 10 year leases.

On the instructions of the Bass Lease Company. High volume Public Houses.

Viewings – No Appointment Necessary.....

MILLFIELDS, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury, Thursday 3 June, 11.00-12noon.”

It was renamed CAGNEY’S in September 1994.

Walsall Chronicle 23/9/1994 - Advert

“The old MILLFIELDS INN, now renamed CAGNEY’S, Riddings Lane, Wednesbury, is once again a hive of activity. Since the take over by Licensee *Ambrose Gaughan* and his partner Mike English and Manager Paul Gaughan, trade has actually gone from strength to strength. Since their takeover in June, the pub has been transformed by many internal alterations and a complete re-vamp to the exterior. Inside you will find a first class games room decorated with many sporting features, the bar has been extended to accommodate any more people with new seating and bar room. The lounge is tastefully decorated and all seating has been replaced. To the back is the function room which again has been tastefully transformed to a room accommodating near 200 people.

The intention has always been to accommodate local people and local needs offering a variety of facilities. Licensee Mr. *Ambrose Gaughan* sent out over 3,000 questionnaires to house-holders and clubs in the area and from that has he has tried to initiate and accommodate popular demand. The pub now boasts two very successful football teams, Hilltop Rangers and Bustleholme, along with a local Sunday league side based at the pub; all teams have received sponsorship from the pub and in turn agreed to support the pub for all their events. Also based at the pub are Cagney’s Midland County Darts Federation, Cagney’s pool team, Cagney’s dominoes league and Newtown net ball team.

The social side is also filling up with various events including every Monday over 25s single, divorced and separated evenings. Every Tuesday bingo, all funds being donated to the Cagney’s OAP Christmas fund, plus many private functions including charity days – recently held a marathon with a 12 hour darts charity raising over £1,500. The UK’s No.1 pool champ Keith Brewer recently attended and played over 30 games against regulars at the pub – Keith will again be attending on November 15th – December 13th to take all players – some bookings are still available so if you require any information ring Paul the Manager on 021-505 1290.

Ambrose would like to thank all the teams and clubs who have helped in the rebuilding of the pub. He would also like to thank all regulars and the kind hospitality of the community enabling CAGNEY’S to be a focal point for the residents .

For the future our next step is to see how we can cater for the children. We are at present looking at an adventure playground and the possibility of a room so that children in the are have somewhere to go to instead of wandering about with nothing to do.

Rydding Lane, Wednesbury, West Midlands B71 2EX. Tel. 021-556 0438 or 021-505 1290.

Licensee, Mr. *A. Gaughan*.”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 20/11/1994 - Advert

"CAGNEYS the Club, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich (formerly the MILLFIELD INN)

Proudly Presents on Wednesday 23rd November a special unplugged acoustic evening 'Passing the Same Way Together' Steve Gibbons. Vocals, harmonica, acoustic guitar with the Sensational Guitarist Jake Evans.

Doors Open 7pm. Bar till 11pm. Admission £2.00"

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1995

"A lounge at CAGNEY'S pub in Ryddings Lane, West Bromwich, has been decorated in the colours and memorabilia of Bustlehome Boys FC by landlord Mr. *Ambrose Gaughan* to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the local side."

Birmingham Mail 28/6/1995 - Advert

"CAGNEYS the Pub, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.

Live entertainment.

Pub Grub, Monday to Friday.

12pm-3pm wine and dine in our newly refurbished lounge.

Function room available, licensed for 175.

Completed at the end of July, new children's room and beer gardens."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/11/1995 - Advert

"Bar Staff required for CAGNEYS, Wednesbury. Training will be given.

Call Anne, 0121 505 1290."

BAR STAFF required for
Cagneys, Wednesbury Training
will be given
Call Anne 0121 505 1290

Sandwell Chronicle 15/11/1996 - Advert

"CAGNEY'S, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.

Christmas and New Year Function Room Programme....."

Sandwell Evening Mail 31/1/1997

"A West Bromwich pub which is a champion fundraiser could be in line for a national award. CAGNEYS, in Rydding Lane, has been nominated for Community Pub of the Year 1997. Over the past two years the pub, run by *Ambrose Gaughan*, has raised more than £23,000 for a variety of charities. Projects supported by regulars have included an exchange programme for handicapped children from West Bromwich and Poland, a trust set up in memory of a young leukaemia victim and a children's hospice. Customers have cycled around Ireland and held sponsored swims, car washes and boot sales to raise money. The winner of the title will be announced in April and will receive £10,000 towards its nominated charity or community project."

Birmingham Mail 27/3/1997

"*Ambrose Gaughan*, who runs CAGNEY'S pub and nightclub, West Bromwich, has arranged a boxing gala between Irish boxing club Ardnaree ABC and Wednesbury ABC."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/8/1997 - Advert

"CAGNEYS, Wednesbury, Bar Staff required, evenings and weekends.

Apply, Manager, 0121 505 1290."

Birmingham Mail 11/12/1997

"A prizewinning Black Country pub which provides a host of activities for its local community is in line for a top national award. CAGNEY'S, in Rydding Lane, West Bromwich, has been nominated for the Community Pub of the Year Award, run by the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association in conjunction with *The Licensee* and *Morning Advertiser*. The pub was runner-up in the 1995 contest and was voted the Bass Community Pub of the Year last year. Regulars there have raised £8,000 this year for local causes with a variety of events including a charity darts marathon, car boot sale, dances and duck racing. Beneficiaries have included local hospitals and hospices, Beacon Centre for the Blind and the families of two children stricken by serious illness, Sophie Deakin and Luke Harvey. Licensee *Ambrose Gaughan* said, 'The pub has brought the community to life and the locals are well-known for helping people less fortunate than themselves.'

Each of 11 regional winners in the award scheme receive £1,000 to donate to a chosen local cause while the overall winner receives an additional £10,000 to be presented at a dinner in London early next year."

CAGNEY Club hosted the Midlands Counties Darts Federation men's team championship in 1998, which was won by Tipton.

Black Country Bugle 1/10/1998 - Advert

"CAGNEYS Award Winning Pub.

Now under the new management of *Mike and Pete Boland*.

A warm welcome awaits customers old and new.

Traditional Sunday Lunch £3.90. 12noon-2.30pm. Bookings Only. Last booking taken Saturdays before 1pm.

Families Welcome. Children's Menu Available.

Food Daily. Lunchtimes 12noon-2.30pm. Evenings Mon-Thurs 6pm-8pm, Fri-Sat 6pm-9pm.

Function Room Available. Ideal for private parties. Book now for Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Wide Screen TV for all your Sports Entertainment.

Rydding Lane, Wednesbury. Tel. 0121-505-1290."

Birmingham Mail 7/1/1999 - Advert

"New 123 Success 200 only from Weight Watchers.

The easiest diet ever is now even easier!

No food's a sin. No weighing and measuring. Even easier to stick to. It's easy and it works.....

Friar Park – New Venue.

CAGNEY'S Pub, Ryddings Lane. Wednesday 5.30pm and 7pm."

Black Country Bugle 30/9/1999 - Advert

"New Licensee *Anthony Haddock* welcomes you to CAGNEYS, Ridding Lane, Wednesbury.

Open all day Mon-Sat. Sundays 12-4pm 7-10.30pm.

Entertainment Friday nights 70s and 80s Disco (in the Bar) 7pm till late; Saturday nights Disco and Karaoke (in the Bar) 7pm till late.

Large award-winning pub. The home of sport and entertainment.

Definitely 'A heart of the community' pub, headquarters of many football, darts, dominoes and crib teams.

Free Function Room available, holds 170 people. Refundable £50 Deposit required. Over 18s only.

Ideal for Weddings, Birthdays etc. Book Now.

Weddings Cars Available for Hire. Catering Services Available.

Special Offers. Banks's Mild only £1 pint. Budweiser only £1.58 bottle. Plus other Beer Promotional Offers!

A large enclosed tarmac area for children with small climbing frame and bouncy castle.

Car Park. Big Screen TV for all your Sports Entertainments."

Black Country Bugle 2/12/1999 - Pub of the Month

"Although the CAGNEY'S of today nestles in the well-populated outer reaches of Wednesbury, it was almost out on its own in the countryside just a few short decades ago. As recently as the nineteen-forties. When the pub was called the MILLFIELDS INN, it stood on what was little more than a track through an empty field, with just a couple of houses for company. The MILLFIELDS INN took its name from the old Millfield Colliery, which once stood just yards from where the pub is now. That pit features on maps of the area dating from 1889, and at that time had its own tramway proving a link with the nearby Tame Valley Canal. Records show that the Millfield pit, which was owned by the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, was the last one operating in the whole of this area, eventually closing in 1914.....

The pub, along with the nightclub in the adjoining building, was taken over by *Ambrose Gaghauan*. *Ambrose* was a huge fan of the film star James Cagney, and saw to it that his new pub was named in honour of his idol, hanging a huge photograph of him in the bar on his arrival. These days CAGNEY'S is run by licensee *Anthony Haddock*, a Wednesbury native from nearby Manor Road. *Anthony*, who must be one of the youngest licensees around (he turns twenty-seven this month) has nevertheless gained a fair amount of experience in the trade. He has worked at pubs and clubs in Wednesbury, Kingswinford, Alcester and Wolverhampton for the last seven years or so, and originally came to CAGNEY'S as a barman for the aforementioned *Ambrose*. That was over four years ago, and *Anthony* has since worked his way up through the rank of assistant manager to his present position. Now he finds himself catering for all ages; from pensioners to teenagers and everyone in between. CAGNEY'S is the sort of place where you can find a couple of local characters talking about Wednesbury before the war over a pint of mild, while the younger set play pool in the same room. And meanwhile in the back room, the many members of the local Bustleholme Football

Club get together and discuss tactics. CAGNEY'S has been the base for this remarkable organisation for some time, as the extensive trophy collection which they keep in the pub demonstrates.....

As well as Bustleholme FC, there are also Cagneys FC and Hall Green FC based at the pub, as well as two darts teams, two dominoes teams, a crib and a pool team. About the only thing that the pub doesn't provide is food; perhaps because all the customers are too busy to eat!

There will be a children's room next year, when the old conservatory is converted, with bar football and a bouncy castle on their way; and the pub's front patio will play host to a barbeque by the time the weather begins to warm up again. But the warmth of spring seems a long way off from our standpoint here in the depths of winter, especially when you hear about the pub's several supernatural residents. *Anthony* and the staff have been startled by the unmistakable sound of a crying baby at three o'clock in the morning on various occasions, though none lives anywhere in the pub, and there are no other buildings connected to it. In another incident staff were walking through the pub, well after closing time, and found an old man sitting in the lounge, complete with a freshly pulled pint. When approached, the mystery customer walked straight out to the car park, through locked and bolted doors. And then there was the old woman with old-fashioned pinafore and hair in a bun, who turned up uninvited to watch the pipes being cleaned out at six-thirty in the morning, then vanished without trace."

Black Country Bugle 2/12/1999 - Advert

"New licensee *Anthony Haddock* welcomes you to CAGNEYS, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury.

Open all day Mon-Sat. Sundays 12-4pm 7-10.30pm.

CAGNEY'S welcome you to Club Dèvinè. Thursday Nights Dance, Garage and Hard House.

Friday Nights Disco (in the bar) 7pm till late.

Large Award Winning Pub. The Home of Sport and Entertainment.

Definitely 'A heart of the community' pub, headquarters of many football, darts, dominoes and crib teams.

Free Function Room available, holds 170 people. Refundable £50 Deposit required. Over 18s only.

Ideal for Weddings, Birthdays etc. Book Now. Weddings Cars Available for Hire. Catering Services Available.

Special Offers. Carling £1.75 pint. All bottles only £1.65. Plus other Beer Promotional Offers!

A large enclosed tarmac area for children with small climbing frame and bouncy castle.

Car Park. Big Screen TV for all your Sports Entertainments."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/10/2000 - Advert

"Staff required at the New CAGNEY'S, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich.

Experienced Bar Persons. Smart appearance, lively, friendly personality essential. Full and Part Time.

Glass Collectors."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/4/2001

"Staff at a West Bromwich pub are hosting a fundraising weekend to help buy a specially adapted wheelchair for a young disabled boy. Daniel Lowe, aged 10, from Bromsgrove, suffers with the terminal muscle wasting illness Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, which confines him to a wheelchair. His 16-year-old sister Charlotte launched an appeal in December to raise the £15,000 needed for a specially adapted wheelchair.

CAGNEY'S pub in Rydding Lane, which opens its extension, Lacey's cabaret club, today, is holding a series of events during the Easter weekend, with all proceeds going to the appeal. Michael James, owner of CAGNEY'S, said they have got a Stars in their Eyes concert, pool and darts competitions and bouncy castles....."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/6/2001 - Advert

"The West Midlands Newest Top Entertainment Venue. CAGNEY'S Pub and Restaurant & Lacey's Cabaret Club. Where Something's Going On Every Night....."

Closed

It reopened as the OLD MILL. [2005]

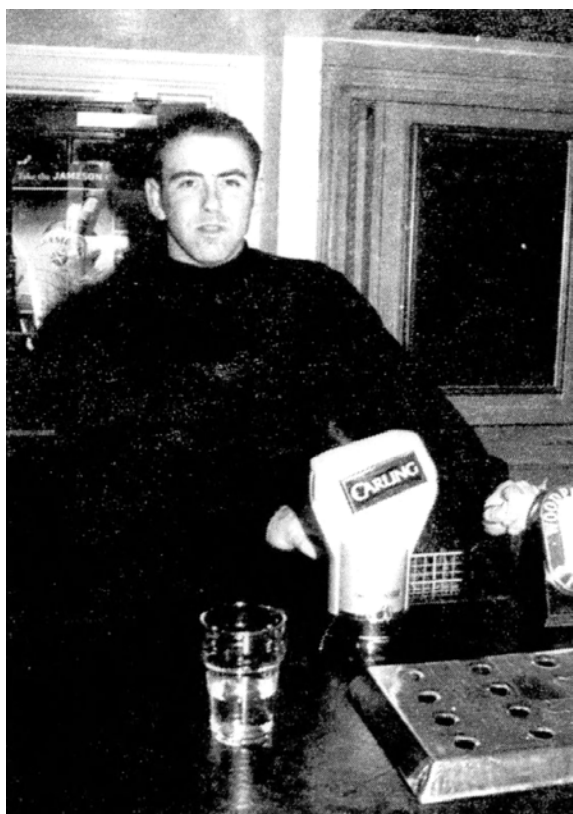
[2021]

It was refurbished and reopened in March 2022 as CAGNEY'S bar and grill.

[2025]



Alf Mitchell



Anthony Haddock

Millfields Inn

WEST BROMWICH

TONIGHT (FRIDAY)

THE BOWLERS

No. 19 and 31 Buses Stop Outside.

1965

Millfield Inn

RYDDING LANE, WEST BROMWICH

For Your Entertainment

Mon. & Thurs. night, Dancing; Fri.,
Song & Dance; Sat., Free & Easy;
Sun. morning, Special, breakfast trips
welcomed; Sun. night, Song & Dance;
Tues. & Wed., Private Parties.

Weddings Catered For.

Telephone : Wednesbury 0438

EVERY THURSDAY TOP GROUPS !

Millfields Inn

Millfields Estate (Hyde Rd.-Ryddings
Lane, Wednesbury).

Prove It ! That's Easy ! Just Look !
Herbies People, Dawn-Brokers, The
Bostons.

TONIGHT (THURSDAY) —

The Fabulous CHOICE

Next Week: Another Top Group —
The New Freeman.

1967

YOU'VE ASKED FOR IT !

WE'LL HERE IT IS !!!

TOMBOLA

AT

MILLFIELD INN

RYDDING LANE - WEDNESBURY

(BY THE BABBLING BROOK)

Eight Houses. One Flyer. Members Only.
Free Entrance

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14th. 8 to 10 p.m.

1968

MILLFIELDS INN
Rydding Lane, West Bromwich

Tonight and Sunday Night
Bob Dudley Combo
Admission 3/- : Ladies 2/-
FULL HOUSE LAST WEEK

1969

The Buccaneer
The Millfield, Rydding Lane, West Bromwich
Watch for Details of this NEW LUXURIOUS
NIGHT SPOT Opening —
This Thursday, Dec. 2nd

1971

MILLFIELDS INN
Rydding Lane, WEDNESBURY

First-Class Entertainment
EVERY THURSDAY, FRIDAY,
SATURDAY and SUNDAY.
Coaches Welcomed. Come and
See the Best Room in the
Midlands! Admission Only 10p

1972

THE MILLFIELD, Rydding Lane,
West Bromwich, require Bar Staff,
part-time, must be pleasant and
presentable. Also we are now in-
terviewing Cooks, Waitresses for
new restaurant which opens
shortly.

1975

**GIRLS, DON'T MISS
THE DYNAMIC**

**JIMMY
CRAWFORD**

For the first time here in West
Bromwich see him at the

MILLFIELDS
Rydding Lane,
Wednesbury.
***Tonight, Thursday,
18th September***

1975

Catch **"DISCO FEVER"**
Every Saturday, Monday
and Wednesday Night!
**DANCING TO THE BEST SOUNDS
IN TOWN!**
at
THE MILLFIELD
RYDDING LANE, WEST BROMWICH
Admission 40p
**ALSO FOR ALL YOU ROCK 'N' ROLLERS
ROCK 'N' ROLL NIGHT IS EVERY FRIDAY
NIGHT AT THE MILLFIELD!**
Admission 40p



1978

AUCTION, every Friday, 7 p.m. at The
Millfield, Rydding Lane, West
Bromwich. Antiques, repro. bric-
a-brac, household goods, etc.

1982

LOOK WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL'S

St. Valentine's Night Party

Tuesday February 14th



There's fun and games at your M&B local tomorrow night.

- ★ Super St. Valentine's Night Prizes to be won.
- ★ A great atmosphere.
- ★ Surprises galore.

Don't miss out on a great St. Valentine's Night out at your M&B local.
See you tomorrow

Toby Jug, Chester Road, Castle Bromwich.
Engines, High Street, Hampton in Arden.
Happy Trooper, Greenlands Road, Chesham Wood.
Capers Wine Bar, High Street, West Bromwich.
Forge Tavern, Franchise Street, Wednesbury.
Millfields, Rydding Lane, Wednesbury.
Four in Hand, Tenscore Street, West Bromwich.
Fourways, 2 Portway Hill, Rowley Regis, Warley.
The Monica, Somerville Road, Small Heath.
Village Arms, Yardley.
Brookhill, Alum Rock Road, Alum Rock.
Crown, Monkspath, Shirley.
Strep Cap, 208 Hornell Road, Sheldon.
Dolphin, Warwick Road, Acocks Green.
Buccaneer, Chester Road, Streetly.
Yards Court, Walsall Road, Perry Barr.
Shades, Sainsbury Centre, Sutton Coldfield.
Hunters Moon, Colehill Road, Castle Bromwich.
Bagot, Eachell Road, Pye Hayes.
Red Lion, Station Road, Erdington.

Gaiety, Crocketts Lane, Smethwick.
Swan, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.
Sacks of Potatoes, 10 Gosta Green, Birmingham 4.
Royal George, 350 Summer Lane, Hockley.
Pig & Whistle, Bissell Street, Birmingham B12.
Castle & Falcon, Moseley Road, Birmingham B12.
Crown, Henley Road, Claverdon.
Hardwicke Arms, Chester Road, Streetly.
Robbie Road, Stratford Road, Hall Green.
Pickwick, Tanworth Lane, Shirley.
Ben Johnson, Corporation Street, Birmingham.
Queens Head, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.
Woodpecker, Turves Green, Northfield.
Cock, Rubery.
Covered Wagon, Yardley Wood Road, Moseley.
Brighton Hotel, Sparkhill.
Court Oak, Court Oak Road, Harborne.
Full Moon, Hurst Green Road, Halesowen.
New Talbot, Hagley Road.
George, George Road, Warley.
King Edward VII, Lichfield Road, Aston.
St. Vincent, St. Vincent Street, Ladywood.



Ken & Shirley of the Millfield Public House (Roosters), Rydding Lane, Wednesbury.

Would like to extend Best Wishes for a very Happy New Year to all customers past, present and future and look forward to seeing them all again in 1985.

The Millfield has a newly redecorated Disco Lounge with brand new Disco light fittings to add to the fun atmosphere. They have a D.J. on every night so why not go along and join in the fun.

1984

ROOSTERS FUN PUB

Rydding Lane
West Bromwich

PRESENTS

Sunday Lunch with Tony Palmer
(Your local comedian)

MARCH 24,

ADMISSION ONLY 50p.

Also Live DJ 7 nights per week.

FREE ADMISSION

1985

THE MILLFIELD

RYDDING LANE
WEST BROMWICH

021 556 0438

Chris and Julia

*Would like to wish all
their Customers, old
and new, a very Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year.*

1987

"MAKING THINGS HAPPEN"

This is the theme and prime objective of the newly formed Bass Worthington Retail Division, under the leadership of Managing Director Bob Jones.

The capital spent on improving and upgrading the two houses in this advertisement is a perfect example of this!

Have a
Happy but Safe
Christmas ...
with

Trinidad 1A
Rose 1A
Barbican

Mitchells & Butlers



MILLFIELDS - RYDDING LANE, WEDNESBURY.
021-556 0438

For those who want to enjoy a special meal in a relaxed atmosphere, the Millfields is the perfect place to go. The restaurant is a charming mix of traditional and modern, with a warm and inviting atmosphere.

The Millfields is a bar and grill, serving a wide range of food and drink. The restaurant is a charming mix of traditional and modern, with a warm and inviting atmosphere.

The Millfields is a bar and grill, serving a wide range of food and drink. The restaurant is a charming mix of traditional and modern, with a warm and inviting atmosphere.



WINE

Complement your meal with a bottle chosen from our Wine List. Every evening we have a special selection of wines to suit your taste.

LIEBFRÄUMLICH
LES ROUTIERS
PIESPORTER MICHEL'S BERG Q6A
LES ROUTIERS
LANBRUSCO BIANCO
TIFFANY
EISBERG



MENU

Select a meal from our menu of traditional home-cooked food.

Assorted Omelettes
Pate
Cheese
Mushrooms
Prawn
Chicken
Custard
Chocolate
Dessert
The above served with a choice of Potatoes, French Fries or Salad. Price in Pounds.

Assorted Sandwiches
Prawn, Chicken, Beef, Pork or Turkey
Assorted Cakes
Prawn, Chicken, Beef, Pork or Turkey
Pudding Selection

Assorted Soups
Prawn, Chicken, Beef, Pork or Turkey
Pudding Selection

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Prawn, Chicken, Beef, Pork or Turkey
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Prawn, Chicken, Beef, Pork or Turkey
Pudding Selection

Assorted Soups
Prawn, Chicken, Beef, Pork or Turkey
Pudding Selection

1988



Come and experience



The new enhanced sound to Light Music System

THE MILLFIELDS

Ryddings Lane, West Bromwich

Opening on the evening of Friday, 24th March

1989

BAR STAFF REQUIRED. mid-week and weekends at Millfields, Ryddings Lane, West Bromwich

021 556 0438.

1990

LOUNGE NOW RE-OPENED
AFTER EXTENSIVE
REFURBISHMENT
at the
MILLFIELDS,
Ryddings Lane,
West Bromwich.
ENTERTAINMENT
THROUGH DECEMBER

This week: Disco Thursday,
3, 8 pm. Live entertainment
Friday 4, 9 pm.


Disco Sunday 6, 8 pm.

New Managers Dave and
Lynn look forward to
welcoming you.

1992

Cagney's Pubs & Clubs

REVIVAL FOR COMMUNITY PUB



The old Millfields Inn - now renamed Cagney's Ryddings Lane, West Bromwich is once again a hive of activity - since the take over by Lessee Andrew Goughan his partner Mike English and Manager Paul Goughan, much has actually gone from memory to memory since their takeover in June. The pub has been transformed by many internal alterations and a complete re-vamp to the exterior. Inside you will find a few live games rooms decorated with many sporting features. The bar has been extended to accommodate any more people with seating and bar stools. The lounge is usually decorated and all seating has been replaced. The lack in the function room which again has been transformed to a *Room* room including over 200 people.

The new bar has been transformed to accommodate local people and local needs offering a variety of facilities. Lessee Mr Andrew Goughan rent out over 2000 questionnaires to houses, schools and clubs as the only and from that he has been able to accommodate regular regular demand. The pub now houses two very successful football teams - Hilling Rangers and Boulders along with a local football league club based in the pub - all teams have received sponsorship from the pub and in turn agreed to support the pub for all their events.

Also based at the pub are Cagney's Midland County Dart Federation - Cagney's pool team, Cagney's dominoes team and Bowmen's metal team.

The social side is also filling up with various events including every Monday over 25's single darts and separated evening. Every Tuesday bingo, all funds being donated to the Cagney's OAP Christmas fund, plus many private functions including charity day - recently held a marathon with a 12 hour darts charity raising over £1,500. The UK's No 1 pool champion Keith Brown recently attended and played over 20 games against regular of the pub - Keith will again be attending on November 15th - December 15th to take all players - some bookings are still available for you require any information ring Paul the Manager on 021-505 1290.

Andrew would like to thank all the teams and clubs who have helped in the rebuilding of the club. He would also like to thank all regulars and the staff for the help of the community rebuilding.

Cagney's to be a local point for those who care for the children. We are a parent looking at an alternative playground and the possibility of a room for the children in the area have been here to go to instead of wandering about with nothing to do.

Ryddings Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands B71 2EX
Tel: 021-556 0438 or 021-505 1290
Licencee - Mr A Goughan

CONGRATULATIONS

To
Cagney's Pubs & Clubs
on the opening of their new premises at
Ryddings Lane, West Bromwich

Bass Lease Company
would like to take this opportunity to wish
CAGNEY'S
every success in their new
business venture.

SPECIAL RATE
STARTS
25th SEPTEMBER

1st Mile £1.50
Enjoy Your Journey With A Cheap Rate
10% OFF FOR OAP's
Very Friendly And Reliable Service

021-505 1900 021-505 2044
STONECROSS & WEDNESBURY TAXIS
021-505 1900 021-505 1900

All the staff at Stonecross Taxis would like to wish
CAGNEY'S all the very best for the future

4 MEN

- Venise
- Valentin
- Armand Jean

4 WOMEN

- Helen Henry
- Vicky Martin
- Horgan

The staff at Cagney's Pubs & Clubs wish every
success to Cagney's and the opening of their
pub and bar and
Call Centre on: 0922 614144

CAGNEY'S COMMUNICATIONS LTD

Would like to wish
CAGNEY'S
every success for the future
From all the staff

All the staff at
THE STATION HOTEL
576 Bristol Road,
Selly Oak, Birmingham
Tel: 021-414 1830
Would like to congratulate
CAGNEY'S
and wish them every success
for the future

CAGNEYS THE CLUB

RYDDING LANE,
WEST BROMWICH. B71 2EX
(FORMERLY THE MILLFIELD INN)
Proudly Presents
ON
WEDNESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
A SPECIAL UNPLUGGED ACOUSTIC EVENING
"PASSING THE SAME WAY TOGETHER"
STEVE GIBBONS
VOCALS, HARMONICA, ACOUSTIC GUITAR WITH
THE SENSATIONAL GUITARIST
JAKE EVANS
DOORS OPEN 7PM - BAR TILL 11PM - ADMISSION £2.00
A-Z PAGE 45/3E



1994

Cagneys the Pub

RYDDING LANE, WEST BROMWICH, B71 2EX
A2 P45-3E, 0121 505 1290
Live entertainment
Pub Grub: Monday to Friday
12pm - 3pm wine and dine in our newly
refurbished lounge
Function room available, licensed for 175.
Completed at the end of July
New childrens room and beer gardens
Telephone 0121 505 1290
for further details

1995

CAGNEY'S RYDDING LANE, WEST BROMWICH
TELEPHONE: 0121-505 1290

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FUNCTION ROOM PROGRAMME

Welcomes you to an award winning pub 1995/1996

Wednesday 11th December - Carling Daily Star Quiz Night
Thursday 12th December - Rock Night Live on Stage - Damage
Friday 13th December - Karaoke
Tuesday 17th December - Brings
Wednesday 18th December - Rebel Red and Artist Act Tilly
Friday 20th December - Evening - Karaoke
Saturday 21st December - Cagney's Charity Fund Raising Dance - Live Band - Sheila and The Spot Lights
Thursday 26th December - Afternoon - Alb Senior - Comedian
Evening and Guest Artist - Mel Day
Thursday 26th December - Night - Sons of Eric
Friday 27th December - Karaoke
Sunday 29th December - Doreen Maggs - Live on Stage
Thursday 2nd January - Damage Roadband
Friday 3rd January - Karaoke
Saturday 4th January - Cagney's Angling Club and Christmas Dance

Sunday 5th January - Iron Night - The Two Pits
On all other dates and above shows, our function room is booked priority.

Cagney's New Year Special Offer
Book our function room now for 1997 and our unbeatable offer to you is our function room and D.J. is free of charge.
Offer finishes 31st December.



1996

CAGNEYS, Wednesbury, Bar
Staff required, evenings and weekends.
Apply Manager, 0121 505 1290.

1997

CAGNEYS
Award Winning Pub



NOW UNDER THE NEW MANAGEMENT OF:
MIKE & PETE BOLAND

A warm welcome awaits customers old & new

TRADITIONAL SUNDAY LUNCH
£3.90 12 noon - 2.30pm BOOKINGS ONLY
Last booking taken Saturdays before 1pm
FAMILIES WELCOME - CHILDREN'S MENU AVAILABLE

FOOD DAILY
Lunchtimes 12 noon - 2.30pm
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Mon-Thurs 6pm - 8pm
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FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE
Ideal for private parties
Book now for Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

*** WIDE SCREEN T.V. FOR ALL YOUR SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT**

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1998

New Licensee Anthony Haddock welcomes you to

CAGNEYS
Rydding Lane, Wednesbury
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Open all day Mon-Sat. Sundays 12-4pm 7-10.30pm

ENTERTAINMENT

Friday nights -
70's & 80's
Disco (in the Bar)
7pm till late

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Disco & Karaoke
(in the Bar)
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LARGE AWARD WINNING PUB - THE HOME OF SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT

Definitely
'A heart of the community' pub,
headquarters of many football,
darts, dominoes and crib teams

FREE Function Room available holds 170 people.
Refundable £50 Deposit required - Over 150 only
Ideal for Weddings, Birthdays etc.

BOOK NOW

- WEDDING CARS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
- CATERING SERVICES AVAILABLE

Special Offers
Banks's Mild Only £1 pint
Budweiser only £1.58 bottle
Plus other Beer Promotional Offers!



A large enclosed tarmac area for children with small climbing frame and bouncy castle.
Car Park (A-Z Grid Ref 3E-4S)
Big Screen TV for all your Sports Entertainments

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Tel: 0121-505 1290 or 0121-556 0438

Open all day Mon-Sat. Sundays 12-4pm 7-10.30pm

ENTERTAINMENT

Cagney's welcome you to
Club DèVinè
Thursday Nights
Dance, Garage & Hard House

Friday Nights
Disco
(in the bar) 7pm till late

LADIES DRINK FREE
between 7.30 & 9pm
Tuesday & Sunday Nights in the Disco Bar
PLUS DJ • OPEN TILL LATE

LARGE AWARD WINNING PUB - THE HOME OF SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT

Definitely 'A heart of the community' pub,
headquarters of many football, darts, dominoes and crib teams

FREE Function Room available holds 170 people.
Refundable £50 Deposit required - Over 150 only
Ideal for Weddings, Birthdays etc.

BOOK NOW

- WEDDING CARS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
- CATERING SERVICES AVAILABLE

Special Offers
Carling
£1.75 pint
All bottles only
£1.65
Plus other Beer Promotional Offers!

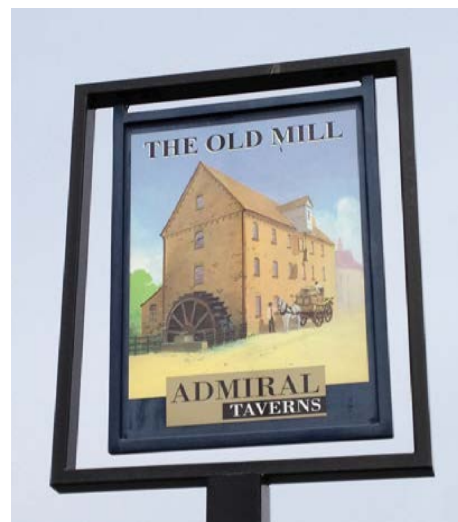
A large enclosed tarmac area for children with small climbing frame and bouncy castle.
Car Park (A-Z Grid Ref 3E-4S)
Big Screen TV for all your Sports Entertainments

COMING SOON

1999

Staff required at: **The New
CAGNEY'S
Rydding Lane
West Bromwich
EXPERIENCED
BAR PERSONS**
Smart appearance, lively,
friendly personality
essential.
Full and Part Time.
GLASS COLLECTORS
Office: 0121 556 0438

2000



NEWEST **The West Midlands
Top Entertainment Venue**
CAGNEY'S & LACEY'S
PUB & RESTAURANT & CABARET CLUB
Where Something's Going On Every Night
THURSDAY
'Karaoke Summer Star Search' - **£500** in prizes
FRIDAY
Cagney's Party Night - DJ & Cocktails (Lacey's Open Soon til 2 am)
SATURDAY
Star Cabaret Night & Prizes etc.
SUNDAY
Day Time - Our Now Famous Carvery
Night Time - Suzy Dee DJ & Drinks Promotions at Lacey's
(Bottles **£1.50**, Slammers **75p!!**)
MONDAY
Inter-House Pool Tournament - Cash & Prizes
(Phone to put your name down)
TUESDAY
Fun Cash Quiz & Cash Bingo Night
WEDNESDAY
BRILLIANT LIVE BANDS NIGHT
'Back Beat Beatles' June 13th **Only £5!!** then
Soul Survivors, Killer Queen, Mark Bros, Atomic Jones, Rang-
O-Tang, Commandments, Ballroom Glitz and many more.
Tickets only available behind the bar
Rydding Lane, West Bromwich
0121-556 0438

**FOOD
AVAILABLE
EVERY DAY**

2001

MINERS ARMS

Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Taylor [1859] – **1870**;
George Perry (**1870** – []
Thomas Stevens [1884]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1859

“Between one and five o’clock on Wednesday morning, the house of *Joseph Taylor*, MINERS ARMS beer-shop, Wednesbury, was broken into, and sundry articles of wearing apparel were stolen therefrom. The thieves had evidently been disturbed, as there was other property ready to be carried away, but it is supposed was in the hurry left behind. Entrance was obtained by taking out a pane of glass from the back kitchen window, and opening the sash, through which the depredators got into the house.”

1861 Census

Portway Road – MINERS ARMS

- [1] *Joseph Taylor* (45), coal miner and beer retailer, born Tipton;
- [2] *Rebecca Taylor* (44), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ellen Taylor* (13), daughter, general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Rebecca Taylor* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1869 - Advert

“To be Let, MINERS ARMS, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Middle of Ironworks. Coming-in about £40. Apply on Premises.”

TO be LET, MINERS' ARMS, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Middle of Ironworks. Coming-in about £40.—Apply on Premises.

George Perry, beer retailer, Portway Road. [1870]

Midland Examiner 26/8/1876

“*Elijah Davies* was charged with leaving his cart on the highway for twenty minutes, being a longer time than necessary and calculated to cause an obstruction.

Police-constable *Hodgetts* said he watched the defendant’s cart for twenty minutes outside the MINERS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the 17th inst. He then went into the public house, and saw the defendant, and told him of it.

Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Sporting Life 21/5/1884

“The concluding rounds of the 200 yards dog handicap, projected by Mr. *Thomas Stevens* (mine host of the MINERS ARMS INN, Wednesbury), were brought to a conclusion at the Robin Hood Grounds, Willenhall, on Monday night last.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/8/1885

“William Wheeler, grinder, Pickhelve Street, Wednesbury, was charged on remand with unlawfully cutting and wounding Samuel Savage, a smith’s striker, of Potters Lane, Wednesbury. Mr. Sheldon defended.

Complainant stated that on Monday, the 3rd inst, he went into the MINERS ARMS INN, Wednesbury, and saw prisoner there, who shortly after insulted him, and challenged him to fight. When they came out and near the railway bridge prisoner took prosecutor behind a pit mound, and asked him to pull his jacket off. Whilst he was pulling off his jacket prisoner ran at him with a pocket knife, stabbed him in the nose and forehead, and drew it across his throat twice. Other cuts were also inflicted about the face. Two men, named William Pitt and William Wiggin, came up, took him to the brook, and tried to stop the bleeding, but were unable to do so. He was afterwards taken to the West Bromwich Hospital, and the doctor attended to him.

Upon the application of Mr. Sheldon, the further hearing of the case was adjourned to West Bromwich for Saturday, in order that defendant could be examined by the doctor. Bail was allowed.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 17/8/1885

“At the West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, William Wheeler, of Pikehelve Street, Hill Top, was charged with unlawfully wounding Samuel Savage, at Wednesbury, on the 3rd inst.

Mr. Sheldon, who appeared for the defence, stated that with the consent of the Bench the prosecutor would withdraw the charge. Prisoner had agreed to recompense the prosecutor for the injuries he had sustained, and for loss of time. Prosecutor, whose face was completely covered with plasters, stated that in consequence of the injuries he had received he had been unable to follow his employment for a fortnight. He was willing to accept prisoner’s offer of compensation.

Mr. Farley said the Bench reluctantly allowed the charge to be withdrawn, as the use of the knife must be checked. It was understood that the prisoner agreed to pay the prosecutor £2 6s, and 10s 6d medical fee.”

MOULDERS ARMS

102, Holyhead Road / Chapel Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

W. Butler and Co. [1906]

LICENSEES

James Yates [1855] – [1861]
William Smith [1865] – [1876]
Miss Mary Ann Turner [1879]
William Townsend [1881]
Benjamin Barrett [1887] – [1896]
William Woodward [1901]
Martin Dyer [1906]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *J. Yates*, MOULDERS ARMS, Holyhead Road.”

1861 Census

Holyhead Road – MOULDERS ARMS

- [1] *James Yates* (65), iron puddler and beer retailer, born Tipton;
- [2] *Clara Yates* (52), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Reuben Yates* (20), son, iron puddler, born Smethwick;
- [4] *Clara Yates* (14), daughter, general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William Yates* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Caroline Stubbs* (30), visitor, born West Bromwich:

Illustrated Sporting News 14/10/1865

“The Britannia Grounds, Tipton, on Monday were in fine condition after the late showers.....

Race between *J. Kirkham*, of Westbromwich, and *Tom Hayes*, of Wednesbury, 120yds, for £20.

From the numbers present it soon became a patent fact that a thorough sporting affair was on. Even betting was the quotation at starting; *Mr. T. Ince*, TURF TAVERN, Westbromwich, referee. *Kirkham* trained under *Brushey*, of Oldbury, brought on the mark by young *Hodgson*; *Hayes* under *W. Smith*, MOULDERS ARMS, Wednesbury. Fifteen minutes allowed on scratch, during which every ‘move on the board’ was tried, and at last they got away, *Kirkham* with a good yard and a half start; a fine race ensued, every nerve being strained to the utmost. *Kirkham* at length won by a yard and a half, the start he obtained.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/2/1867

“W. Hunston of Acker Hill and T. Steadham of Darlaston have signed articles to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, at Britannia Grounds, Tipton, on Monday, March 4; £1 a side is down in the hands of Mr. *Smith*, of the MOULDERS ARMS, Wednesbury, to whom a further deposit must be made on Monday.”

William Smith, beer retailer, Holyhead Road. [1868]

William Smith, beer retailer, 102, Holyhead Road. [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

102, Holyhead Road – MOULDERS ARMS

[1] *William Smith* (45), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Selena Smith* (46), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Selena Gould* (24), daughter, widow, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Lois Smith* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Eliza Smith* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Laura Smith* (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1872 - Advert

“Found, on Tuesday, March 5, between Bilston and Moxley, a Liver-coloured Spaniel, with white breast. Will be Sold in Five Days if not claimed.

Apply, the MOULDERS ARMS, Wednesbury.”

FOUND, on Tuesday, March 5, between Bilston and Moxley, a Liver-coloured SPANIEL, with white breast. Will be Sold in Five Days if not claimed.—Apply, the Moulders' Arms, Wednesbury.

Dudley Herald 2/9/1876

“On Wednesday the Annual Licensing Sessions for the parishes of West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton, &c, was held at the Public Office, West Bromwich.....

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston presented the following ‘black’ list of offences against publicans and beersellers which had been committed during the year ending 30th August last.....

William Smith, MOULDERS ARMS, beerhouse, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, refusing to admit police, to pay the costs The offending publicans were ordered to appear at the adjourned licensing meeting before their licenses could be renewed.”

AND

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“West Bromwich Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The magistrates granted the renewal of the licenses of ten public houses and twenty beerhouses that had been adjourned from the general licensing day in consequence of the non-appearance of the applicants, or from convictions.”

Wednesbury Herald 23/8/1879 - Advert

“.....Auction Lot 2. All that valuable Freehold Beerhouse known by the sign of the MOULDERS ARMS INN, situate in the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, aforesaid, and at the top of Chapel Street, containing Two Bedrooms, Club Room, Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, Kitchen and Cellar. There are also the usual Outbuildings and good Yard, with drawing in gateway from Chapel Street. The premises are now in the occupation of Miss *Mary Ann Turner*.

The area of this Lot is 263 square yards, with a frontage to Holyhead Road of 8 yards and 1 foot.”

Lot 2.
All that Valuable FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE
known by the sign of the “Moulders’ Arms Inn,”
situate in the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury aforesaid,
and at the top of Chapel Street, containing Two Bedrooms, Club Room, Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, Kitchen and Cellar. There are also the usual Outbuildings and good Yard, with drawing in gateway from Chapel Street. The premises are now in the occupation of Miss *Mary Ann Turner*.

The area of this Lot is 263 square yards, with a frontage to the Holyhead Road of 8 yards and 1 foot.

1881 Census

102, Holyhead Road – MOULDERS ARMS

- [1] William Townsend (37), general blacksmith and publican, born Rothwell, Yorkshire;
- [2] Sebra Townsend (33), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] William R. Townsend (14), son, coal miner, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Laura Townsend (12), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Selina Townsend (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Kezia Townsend (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Lora Townsend (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Alfred Townsend (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] David Townsend (1 month), son, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Charlotte Yates (18), general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [11] George Ansell (24), lodger, coal miner, born Wednesbury;

Lichfield Mercury 3/6/1887

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday Eliza Richardson (27), Lea Brook, was charged with stealing a shawl, the property of Diana Wright, of Ocker Hill.

On the 25th ult the prisoner went to the prosecutrix’s house and asked her to lend her a shawl, and being refused she seized the shawl and made off with it.

Prisoner was further charged with obtaining a quantity of beer from *Benjamin Barrett*, landlord of the MOULDERS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, by false pretences, but the charge was not pressed.

The Magistrates inflicted a fine of 10s and costs.”

1891 Census

102, Holyhead Road

- [1] Benjamin Barrett (59), publican, born Penn;
- [2] Ann Barrett (58), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] William Barrett (29), son, iron worker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Eliza Barrett (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Stephen Alexander (36), boarder, widower, collier, born Brailes, Warwickshire;
- [6] Joseph Alexander (13), boarder, errand boy, born Wednesbury;
- [7] George Alexander (11), boarder, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Mary Alexander (6), boarder, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

“The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

Mr. Silvester (Birmingham) applied on behalf of *Benjamin Barratt* for the renewal of the license of the MOULDERS ARMS beerhouse, Holyhead Road which had been withheld on account of a conviction for permitting drunkenness, and the house being of disorderly character. Granted.”

Benjamin Barrett, beer retailer, 102, Holyhead Road. [1896]

1901 Census

102, Holyhead Road

- [1] William Woodward (51), beer retailer, born Ilmington, Warwickshire;
- [2] Agnes Woodward (39), wife, born Alderminster, Worcestershire;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1906

“The adjourned licensing sessions at Wednesbury were held yesterday.....

Superintendent Salt opposed the licenses of MOULDERS ARMS, Holyhead Road.

The magistrates after private deliberation sent all the cases to the quarter sessions for compensation.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1906

“The members of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee met again yesterday, at the Shire Hall, Stafford, to resume the consideration of the licenses houses referred to them under the compensation clauses of the Licensing Act..... The license of the MOULDERS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was refused, there being no opposition.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/7/1906 - 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 11th day of June, 1906, and by several Adjournments thereof on the 18th, 25th, and 30th of June, 1906, 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 30th day of July, 1906, 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.....

MOULDERS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse ‘on’ (ante 1869). Licensee, *Martin Dyer*. Registered Owners, W. Butler and Co.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/8/1906

“Staffordshire Licensing Committee. Compensation Awards.....

MOULDERS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, amended claim £977, sum offered and accepted £500; £475 to the owners (W. Butler and Co.) and £25 to the tenant (*Martin Dyer*).

The Chairman announced that the committee had fixed September 12 as the date for payment of compensation in all the cases which had been agreed upon.”

MOUNT

30, The Mount, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Elizabeth Guest [1868]
Barnabas Bowen [1870] – [1871]

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/4/1868

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, the following publicans were summoned for offences against the tenour of their licenses.....

A charge against *Elizabeth Guest*, of MOUNTS TAVERN, was dismissed, for want of proof that the person drinking in the house was not a traveller.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1870

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

Barnabas Bowen, MOUNT INN, The Mount, Wednesbury. Applicant said his license had lapsed in consequence of omission to apply The Bench granted the application of *Barnabas Bowen* for a beer license.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1871

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Barnabas Bowen*, beerhouse keeper, The Mount, was charged with having, on Sunday morning, refused to admit the police into his house. Mr. Sheldon defended.

The evidence of Police-constables Sheldon and Hill was to the effect that, at about ten o’clock in the morning of the 5th inst, they went to the defendant’s house, and knocked at the door. After they had waited three or four minutes, without calling ‘police,’ the landlord came from a garden at the back, and they announced themselves as police officers. He replied, ‘Police or no police, you are not coming in here,’ and turned back, calling out, ‘Police!’ In the yard they found three or four men and women, and one man in the brewhouse.

In cross-examination they admitted that they were dressed as miners, and one said he had never been to the house before.

The Stipendiary said it might be right for constables to go dressed in this way, but in his opinion it was wrong, quite wrong. He then said there was no evidence that the defendant knew the men were constables, and dismissed the case.”

1871 Census

30, Mounts

- [1] *Barnabas Bowen* (45), miner, born Norfolk;
- [2] *Martha Bowen* (47), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *James Bowen* (19), son, gas tube screw, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Samuel Bowen* (16), son, gas tube screw, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *George Bowen* (10), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *John Bowen* (6), son, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Joseph Guest* (27), boarder, puddler, born Birmingham”

MUSEUM

28, Elwell Street / Sampson Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Tonks [1927]
Thomas Booth [1952]
Hope and Anchor Breweries Ltd., Sheffield

LICENSEES

Philip Eades [1862] – **1872**;
Amos Tonks (**1872** – []
Mrs. Jane Phoebe Tonks [1881] – [1904]
Alfred Ernest Woodcock [1911] – [1936]
James Arthur Harper [1939] – [1940]
George Edward Reeves [1961] – [1966]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

It was a home brew house.



c1968

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1866

“Licensing Day applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

Mr. J. T. Bayley (in the absence of Mr. Sheldon) applied on behalf of *Philip Eades*, MUSEUM TAVERN, Elwell Street, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury. House situated 200 yards from the nearest licensed house. Mr. Duignan opposed for the proprietor of the HOP POLE INN Refused.”

Philip Eades, beer retailer, Elwell Street. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/11/1868

“Wednesbury Election.

On Friday last Mr. Walker attended meetings in Wednesbury at the ROYAL OAK, King Street, at half-past one; at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Kings Hill, at seven; at the FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, at eight; and at the MUSEUM TAVERN, Elwell Street, at nine. At each he was most enthusiastically received, and his addresses and replies to questions gave the greatest satisfaction. At the FORESTERS ARMS the harmony of the proceedings were somewhat interrupted by an attack by Mr. Benjamin Danks and a few other Brogdenites on the chairman, Mr. Cullis, an ex-member of the late Liberal Committee, who now supports Mr. Walker, and by an attempt afterwards by the same party to pass a vote in favour of Mr. Brogden, but which was most vociferously negatived, Mr. Walker securing the support of his audience at each meeting.”

[Alexander Brogden was Liberal MP for Wednesbury from 1868 to 1885.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/12/1868

“*Philip Eades*, of Mestycroft, was charged with having had his house open at an improper hour. Police-constable Hume said he was on duty in New Town on the 16th inst, and on visiting the house, at twenty-five minutes past eleven, he found three men and one woman in the house. This being the first conviction, defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

1871 Census

28, Elwell Street – MUSEUM

- [1] *Phillip Eades* (42), widower, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary A. Eades* (18), daughter, housekeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Emily Eades* (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Charles Eades* (12), son, boy in factory, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *George Eades* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Henry Eades* (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Charlotte Eades* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Philip Eades – see also ROYAL OAK, Daw End, Walsall.

Birmingham Daily Post 30/10/1873 - Advert

“For Sale, a bay Pony, 12 hands high, and harness. Price £10 10s.

Apply, MUSEUM TAVERN, New Town, Wednesbury.”

FOR Sale, a bay Pony, 12 hands high, and harness. Price £10. 10s.—Apply, Museum Tavern, New Town, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/8/1875

“On Wednesday evening a well-attended meeting of Conservatives was held at the MUSEUM TAVERN, New Town, Wednesbury, for the purpose of forming a district committee to act in conjunction with the Wednesbury Association.....”

Amos Tonks died in the 2nd quarter of 1880.

Mrs. Jane Phoebe Tonks = *Phoebe Tonks*

Mrs. Jane Phoebe Tonks was the widow of *Amos Tonks*.

1881 Census

28, Elwell Street – MUSEUM INN

- [1] *Phoebe Tonks* (53), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Daniel Tonks* (27), son, clerk at tube manufacturers, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Thomas Tonks* (22), son, blacksmith, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Sarah Tonks* (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Eliza Tonks* (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Samuel Tonks* (17), son, saddler, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Sarah Warr* (72), grand-mother, widow, born Wednesbury;

Samuel Tonks (23), bachelor, traveller, married *Edith Jennie Ross Wilson* (21), spinster, on 27th August 1887.

1891 Census

28, Elwell Street – MUSEUM INN

- [1] *Jane Phoebe Tonks* (63), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Samuel Tonks* (27), son, commercial traveller, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Edith J. R. Tonks* (24), daughter-in-law, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *John W. Tonks* (3), grand-son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Ada Maria Tonks* (2), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Jane Tranter* (5), grand-daughter, born Tipton;
- [7] *Eliza A. Fletcher* (20), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill;

Wednesbury Herald 24/8/1895

“An inquest was held on Tuesday morning, before Mr. Hooper (coroner), at the MUSEUM INN, Elwell Street, New Town, Wednesbury, on the body of Emma Cartwright, widow, aged 60, of 8, Sampson Street, New Town, Wednesbury, who died suddenly on Friday evening.

William Cartwright, son of the deceased, said she was sitting outside the house adjoining an entry talking to him when she became excited. In consequence of that an endeavour was made to get her into the house, and assistance was rendered her. Before that could be accomplished, however, she was seized with a fainting fit and expired immediately.

Dr. Crew, of Wednesbury, had been attending deceased for some time till the last week or so.

Henry Cartwright, another son of the deceased, said that his mother had for some time complained of pains in the head.

Emmanuel Hartshorn, a neighbour, was also called to speak of the facts, and Dr. Crew also gave evidence, stating that he was called in after death had taken place, and that the deceased had suffered from an affection of the brain and apoplexy, which latter ailment accounted for death.

Verdict returned, Death from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1895

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, resumed an enquiry, at the MUSEUM INN, New Town, Wednesbury, touching the death of Thomas James Oldbury (10), son of parents living in Friar Street, New Town, and who was drowned in the brook in that locality. The enquiry had been adjourned for the attendance of Councillor I. Griffiths and Mr. W. Yoxall, between whom the responsibility for the bad condition of a wall bounding the brook was shown to rest, and both those gentlemen were present, there being also in attendance Mr. S. M. Slater for the former, and Mr. J. H. Stockdale for the latter.

Mr. Yoxall was sworn. He said he had been the owner of the property where the death occurred for fourteen years. He had been in the habit of visiting it twice or thrice a week, and sometimes oftener, but had never had any complaint made to him of the insecure state of the wall which bounded the property towards the brook. If he had been satisfied that the wall belonged to him he should have had it repaired long since, although he had not considered it dangerous. It rested with the two legal gentlemen present to decide the point, and if they said it belonged to him he would have it put right at once. He bought the property from the trustees of the late Mr. I. Griffiths.

The Coroner said this question of disputed liability was rather outside the scope of the enquiry, but he must have an undertaking from someone or other to have the place repaired within forty-eight hours, or he should adjourn the enquiry again and again. Unless something was done to satisfy his jury, and for the protection of the public, there would be a verdict of manslaughter against someone or other.

The deeds relating to the property were then produced and examined, showing that the ownership of the wall was not clearly set forth; and in the end, Mr. Griffiths relinquishing all claim to the wall, Mr. Yoxall undertook to assume the rights of ownership and to have the wall repaired forthwith.

A verdict of Accidental Death was then returned.”

Mrs. Jane Phoebe Tonks, beer retailer, 28, Elwell Street, Mesty Croft. [1896], [1904]

1901 Census

28, Elwell Street – MUSEUM INN

[1] Jane P. Tonks (73), widow, beer retailer, born Wednesbury;

[2] Sarah A. Davis (21), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

AND

[1] Samuel Tonks (37), brown saddler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Edith J. R. Tonks (34), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] John W. Tonks (13), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] Rada M. Tonks (12), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 25/1/1902

“The death of Isaiah Wilkes (11), son of a furnaceman, living at 25, Friar Street, Newtown, Wednesbury, was the subject of an inquiry on Friday, the 17th inst, before Mr. A. A. Beetham, deputy-coroner, at the MUSEUM INN, Elwell Street, Newtown. Deceased died almost immediately after receiving his injuries. The deceased, on the previous Sunday afternoon, left home to go for a walk with some companions. Altogether there were nearly a dozen of them. Later on they were returning home through Butlers field, Bescot, as it was getting dark, when deceased remarked to William Madeley (15), a companion, ‘I’m going home to get some tea,’ and started off running. Just afterwards Madeley came upon the deceased, lying on the footpath, which went through the field, bleeding about the head, and to all appearances dead. A horse was at that time galloping away along the footpath, kicking out with its hind legs as it galloped off. Neither Madeley nor two other companions named Joseph Johnson and Ernest Rowis, who saw the horse galloping away, had ever seen deceased tease the horse, though Johnson had seen other boys tease it.

Dr. H. C. Crew spoke to having examined deceased after the latter’s death, and to finding a contused wound at the back of the right ear. Deceased also had a fracture of the skull. The wound was the cause of death. It was quite possible for the wound to have been caused by a kick from a horse, and witness expressed the opinion that the deceased received the full force of the blow, though he would not be quite close to the horse at the time.

Police-constable Rixon, who had passed through the field in question by day and night, understood from inquiries he had made that the horses were not dangerous. He had been told of boys running the horses, though he had not seen it himself.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1911 Census

Elwell Street – MUSEUM INN

- [1] Alfred Woodcock (43), public house manager, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Ada Woodcock (44), wife, married 20 years, born Walsall;
- [3] Ernest Woodcock (19), son, assistant brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Annie Woodcock (17), daughter, laundress, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Alice Woodcock (15), daughter, general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Henry Woodcock (12), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Florence Woodcock (10), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [8] John Woodcock (7), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Frederick Woodcock (1 month), son, born Wednesbury;

AND

19, Wood Green Road

- [1] Samuel Tonks (47), brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Edith Tonks (44), wife, married 24 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Rada Maria Tonks (22), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Betsy Amos (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Alfred Woodcock, beer retailer, 28, Elwell Street. [1912]

Samuel Tonks, brewer, 28, Elwell Street. [1912]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/10/1912

“An inquest was held this (Wednesday) morning at the MUSEUM INN, Newtown, Wednesbury, concerning the death of Elizabeth Swinwood (78), of Brookside, Newtown.

Evidence was given that after being up for a short time on Monday morning the woman was taken ill, and was compelled to return to bed. At 4.45 her married daughter took her a cup of tea, and the woman then said she felt better. Shortly after, however, the daughter found her mother dead.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/11/1912

“Samuel Arthur Wheatley (25), horse driver, 62, Elwell Street, Newtown, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a parcel containing three yards of serge, one waistcoat, and two books of patterns.

George Smith, a tailor, of 95, Moncrieffe Street, Walsall, stated that he visited the MUSEUM INN, Newtown, on November 25th, and left his bicycle, on which was a parcel containing the above, in the passage of the public house. When in Brunswick Park Road he missed the parcel, and next day he gave information to the police. He valued the articles at £1.

Sergeant Harris stated that he visited prisoner's home on November 26th, and in a boxroom found the articles referred to. Prisoner admitted taking them off the bicycle, and said he had had some beer.

Taking into account the fact that this was prisoner's first offence of the kind, the Bench only fined him 20s and costs, or fourteen days in default.”

1921 Census

28, Elwell Street – MUSEUM INN

[1] *Alfred Ernest Woodcock* (53), manager of public house for Mr. Tonks, brewer, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Ada Woodcock* (53), wife, household duties, born Walsall;

[3] *Henry Woodcock* (22), son, setting, edge tool, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Florence May Woodcock* (20), daughter, cutter, tube trade, born Wednesbury;

[5] *John Thomas Woodcock* (17), son, iron tube screw, out of work, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Frederick Woodcock* (10), son, school, born Wednesbury:

AND

Wood Green

[1] *Samuel Tonks* (57), married, brewer, 28 Elwell Street, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Rada Maria Tonks* (32), daughter, household duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Mary Harvey* (15), domestic servant, born Hednesford, Staffordshire:

Walsall Observer 5/3/1927

“At the adjourned Wednesbury Licensing sessions yesterday, the license of the SMITHS ARMS, Cross Street, was referred for compensation, but that of the MAZEPPA, Elwell Street, which had also been objected to on the ground of redundancy, was renewed. The licenses of the L.N.W. HOTEL, Stafford Street, and the NOAHS ARK, New Street, which had been objected to on the ground of convictions, were renewed.

In the case of the MAZEPPA beerhouse, Elwell Street, Mr. H. Willison (Birmingham) for Messrs. Mitchell and Butler, and Mr. A. Cartwright, license holder, pressed for a renewal.

Police-sergeant Thorpe admitted that the MUSEUM INN (60 yards away) was opposite a chapel, and not so capable of police supervision. Two houses had access to the backyard.

Mr. Glover, who held a watching brief on behalf of Mr. Tonks, the owner of the MUSEUM, objected to this line of cross-examination. ‘If you have anything to say,’ said Mr. Willison, ‘come on to the field of battle and we will fight it out. Otherwise you have no right to speak.’

The Mayor: I don't know why you should attack another house in defending yours.

Mr. Willison: The Act says the Bench should consider the other houses in the neighbourhood.

Cecil S. Best, license superintendent for Messrs. Mitchell and Butler, valued the house at £2,500 for compensation.”

Walsall Observer 9/7/1927

“Monday's meeting of the Wednesbury Town Council Plans approved include.....

Alterations to the MUSEUM INN, Elwell Street, for Mr. S. Tonks.”

Samuel Tonks died in the 4th quarter of 1927.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/11/1928 - Advert

“Re Samuel Tonks, Deceased.

Wednesbury. Sale of Two Valuable Freehold Licensed Houses, &c.

Lot 1. The Free, Seven Days, Ante '69, On Beerhouse, known as the UNION INN, situate and being Nos.63 and 64 in Union Street, in the Borough of Wednesbury.

These Premises have a frontage of 22ft 6in to a main business thoroughfare and occupy what is undoubtedly one of the most Valuable Trading Positions in the heart of the Principal Shopping Centre of the important industrial Borough of Wednesbury, being very near to the convergence of the main roads and transport services from Walsall, West Bromwich, Dudley and Darlaston.

Vacant Possession will be given on completion.

Lot 2. The Free, Seven Days, Ante '69, On Beerhouse, known as the MUSEUM INN, situate and being No.28 in Elwell Street, New Town, Wednesbury, aforesaid, together with Two Dwelling Houses and Premises adjoining, being Nos.29 and 30 in Elwell Street.

This Lot occupies a prominent corner site in a populous neighbourhood, with several large works in the near vicinity. The Licensed House has a frontage of 34 feet to Elwell Street, and a return frontage of 99 feet to Sampson Street.

Vacant Possession of the MUSEUM INN will be given on completion.

The Licensed Houses, which are both under management, have been in the ownership of the late Mr. Samuel Tonks for many years, and a lucrative trade has been effected with Beers brewed at the MUSEUM INN.

In addition to the purchase price, the respective buyers will have to pay for the Fixtures, Fittings, and Effects at the Licensed Houses (also the Brewing Plant in the case of the MUSEUM INN) at amounts stated in the particulars of sale. The Consumable Stocks, Brewing Materials, Jugs, Glassware, Apportionments of Excise License Duties, Rates, and other usual outgoings shall also be taken over at valuation in the usual way.

Belcher & Son have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. Samuel Tonks to submit the above for Sale by Public Auction, at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday November 12, 1928, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read.”

1939 Register

28, Elwell Street

[1] James A. Harper, date of birth 18/3/1886, publican, married;

[2] Arthur S. Harper, dob 18/3/1921, assembling and distributing boards, heavy work, single;

[3] Millicent Harper, dob 18/8/1886, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/5/1945 - Advert

“Lost: Small Brown Pomeranian Bitch; good reward.

Return Police Station, or MUSEUM INN, Elwell Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1952 - Advert

“By direction of Mr. Thomas Booth, who is retiring from the business.

Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Six Freehold Licensed Properties, the Brewery Premises, Dwelling Houses and Land, at Kinver, Dudley, Lower Gornal, Princes End, Wednesbury, Sedgley and Pensnett.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions from Mr. Thomas Booth to Sell by Auction at the STAR AND GARTER HOTEL, Wolverhampton, on Monday, March 17, 1952, at 3.30 o'clock.....

Lot 4. The MUSEUM INN, corner of Sampson Street and Elwell Street, Wednesbury. (Beerhouse on, 7 Days License) together with the adjoining two Dwelling Houses Nos.29 and 30, Elwell Street.”

Evening Despatch 7/1/1955

“A fine of £5 with 15s costs was imposed at Wednesbury Magistrates Court today on William Gordon Rosewarne, aged 25, of 21, Kilvert Road, Wednesbury, charged with stealing by finding last June a watch valued at £8 10s in the MUSEUM INN.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1965]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/12/1965

"A turkey dinner and 10s each is being given to 200 old-age pensioners this evening by the tote committee and licensee, Mrs. A. Reeves, of the MUSEUM INN, Newtown, Wednesbury. The dinner is being held at the Memorial Hall, Newtown."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1965

"Wednesbury Borough Council agreed last night to make a clearance area in Mesty Croft, one of the oldest parts of the town, which involves nearly 300 houses and nearly 900 people. A report by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector said that the most satisfactory way of dealing with existing conditions was to demolish the buildings in the area. The area includes Elwell Street, Alma Street, Oxford Street and Piercy Street, where many of the houses are more than 100 years old. People who have lost their homes will be rehoused by the council....."

[1968]

Closed

Demolished

RE SAMUEL TONKS, DECEASED.

WEDNESBURY.

SALE OF TWO VALUABLE

FREEHOLD LICENSED HOUSES, &c.

LOT 1.

THE FREE, SEVEN-DAYS, ANTE-69, ON-BEERHOUSE,
Known as the

"UNION" INN,

Situate and being Nos. 63 and 64, in 'UNION STREET, in
the BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

These Premises have a frontage of 22ft. 6in. to a main
business thoroughfare, and occupy what is undoubtedly one
of the most Valuable Trading Positions in the heart of the
Principal Shopping Centre of the important industrial
Borough of Wednesbury, being very near to the convergence
of the main roads and transport services from Walsall, West
Bromwich, Dudley and Darlaston.

VACANT POSSESSION WILL BE GIVEN ON
COMPLETION.

LOT 2.

THE FREE, SEVEN-DAYS, ANTE-69, ON-BEERHOUSE,
Known as the

"MUSEUM" INN,

Situate and being No. 28 in ELWELL STREET, NEW
TOWN, WEDNESBURY, aforesaid, together with TWO
DWELLING HOUSES and PREMISES adjoining, being
Nos. 29 and 30 in ELWELL STREET.

This Lot occupies a prominent corner site in a populous
neighbourhood, with several large works in the near vicinity.
The Licensed House has a frontage of 34 feet to Elwell
Street and a return frontage of 99 feet to Sampson Street.

VACANT POSSESSION OF THE 'MUSEUM' INN WILL
BE GIVEN ON COMPLETION.

The Licensed Houses, which are both under management,
have been in the ownership of the late Mr. Samuel Tonks
for many years, and a lucrative trade has been effected with
Beers brewed at the "Museum" Inn.

In addition to the purchase price, the respective buyers will
have to pay for the Fixtures Fittings, and Effects at the
Licensed Houses (also the Brewing Plant in the case of
the "Museum" Inn) at amounts stated in the particulars
of sale. The Consumable Stocks, Brewing Materials, Jugs,
Glassware, Apportionments of Excise Licence Duties, Rates,
and other usual outgoings shall also be taken over at
valuation in the usual way.

BELCHER & SON have received instructions
from the Executors of the late Mr. Samuel Tonks
to submit the above for Sale by Public Auction, at the White
Horse Hotel Wednesbury, on MONDAY November 12, 1928,
at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale
to be then produced and read.

Detailed particulars, further information and cards to
view may be obtained from the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers,
Wednesbury, and Darlaston (Tel.: 151 two lines); or from
the Vendors' Solicitors, Messrs. Thursfield, Messiter and
Shirlaw, Wednesbury (Tel.: 45).

1928

LOST: Small Brown
Pomeranian Bitch; good re-
ward.—Return Police Station, or
Museum Inn, Elwell Street,
Wednesbury.

1945

LOT 4.

The "MUSEUM" INN,
corner of SAMPSON STREET and
ELWELL STREET WEDNESBURY.

(Beerhouse on—7 Days License)

together with the adjoining two DWELLING-
HOUSES Nos. 29 and 30, ELWELL
STREET.

1952

MYVOD

62, Park Lane / Myvod Road, Wood Green, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1975]
Sizzling Pub Co. [2011], [2025]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Higgs []
Archibald Cross [1938]
Kenneth William Prentice Roberts [1938] – [1940]
William Edward Herbert Barker [1961] – [1966]
John Tew [1993]
Steve and Julie Wood [1995]
Sarah Jayne Ellis [] – **2011** manager

NOTES



1998

Wednesbury Town Council advertised for tenders to build the Myvod Estate in 1933.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/3/1934

“Wednesbury Licensing Committee yesterday, after nearly four hours’ consideration, adjourned for a fortnight an application made by H. A. Tucker (barrister) on behalf of W. Butler and Co., Springfield Brewery, Wolverhampton, for a provisional order sanctioning removal of the (full) license of the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of Park Lane and Myvod Road. Three minsters objected to the proposal.”

Evening Despatch 23/3/1934

“Wednesbury Licensing Magistrates today heard the adjourned application of Butlers Brewery, Wolverhampton, for the removal of the license of the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, to premises to be built at the corner of Park Lane and Myvod Road. The company gave an undertaking to surrender three licenses, but objection was made by the Rev. A. S. Langley (Baptist), who said that the surrender of six would be a fairer proposition. The magistrates provisionally approved the removal, which will be submitted to a meeting of the confirming authority in a month’s time.”

Walsall Observer 21/4/1934

“An interesting position arose at Wednesbury Licensing Justices sitting as a Confirming Authority, yesterday, when W. Butler and Co. Ltd., of Springfield Brewery, Wolverhampton, applied for a provisional order sanctioning removal of the license from the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, Wednesbury, to a house and premises to be erected at the corner of Park Lane and Myvod Road, Wednesbury.

The Clerk (Mr. E. E. Brown) asked the Rev. W. Christie, who, along with the Revs. A. S. Langley and E. Holt, objected to the removal of the license at the previous hearing and who were now present, if he still objected to the removal, and Mr. Christie said he did.

The Clerk: Are you prepared to pay the costs?

Mr. Christie: I had no idea this would arise.

The Clerk: You have not studied the provisions of the Act. Are you still prepared to persist in your objection knowing that you may be asked to pay the costs?

Mr. Christie: I must leave myself if the hands of the magistrates.

The Clerk: You must answer my question, 'yes' or 'no.'

Mr. Christie: I am not prepared to pay the costs. If they were a reasonable amount I would pay them, even if they fell on me personally. I will leave it to the magistrates, and you can rule me out if I can't give you an affirmative or negative answer. I have not had the opportunity of consulting with the other objectors, and I am acting on my own responsibility.

The Clerk: Their Worships hold that you must decide if you are prepared to stand the responsibility of paying the costs if they require it, or you must withdraw your objection.

Mr. Christie: The position has changed. There are no other objectors to stand beside me. If my colleagues had been here we might have shared the responsibility. I am not prepared to take the responsibility of being the only objector.

Mr. Christie accordingly withdrew his objection.

The Bench confirmed the granting of the application."

The license of the CROWN AND CUSHION was transferred to the MYVOD.

Benjamin Higgs – see also SIR TATTON SYKES, Wolverhampton, BUSHBURY ARMS, Wolverhampton, and BELLWETHER, Wednesbury.

He was born in 1881. He died in 1970.

Walsall Observer 9/1/1937

"Wednesbury Town Council meeting.....

A letter was read from the Birmingham and Midland Motor Omnibus Company stating that the Corporation's request for an alteration in the fares and services on the James Bridge 'bus route had been considered and whilst the company could not agree to a 1½d single fare between James Bridge and Wednesbury they were prepared to introduce a special penny fare between High Bullen and the MYVOD HOTEL, to be put into operation on January 11....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/2/1938

"A fine of 40s, with 16s costs, was imposed at Walsall yesterday on *Archibald Cross*, aged 37, publican, of Park Lane, Wednesbury, for having driven a motor-car without due care. His license was endorsed. When *Cross* was taking a bend in the road at Bescot Crescent, Walsall, on 23 January, at a fast speed, his car hit the kerb and crashed into a tree, it was stated. A tyre burst, and the car then ran across the road and knocked down another tree. *Cross's* defence was that the accident was due to the bursting of a tyre when the car was being driven at a reasonable speed."

Walsall Observer 24/12/1938

"An alleged Walsall cat burglar was charged at a special court at Wednesbury, on Wednesday. He was Walter Norman Hayward (23), a labourer, of Beacon View, Wednesbury Road, and there were two charges against him. One was breaking and entering the house of *Kenneth William Prentice Roberts*, licensee of the MYVOD INN, Park Lane, Wednesbury, on December 13, and stealing 13s 7¾d; the other of burglarious breaking out of the house of George James Dale, of Portland House, Wood Green, Wednesbury, after entering and stealing £2 17s 6d, on December 12. Accused was committed for trial at Stafford Quarter Sessions, bail being allowed, himself in £40 and two sureties of £20 each.

Nellie Roberts, wife of the licensee of the MYVOD INN, said that at 8-5pm on December 13 she left her handbag on the kitchen table in the living quarters, containing a small purse in which was 13s 7¾d.

Kenneth W. P. Roberts, the licensee, said that as he was walking upstairs he heard a sound like 'silver coins or coins' being dropped on the kitchen table. Knowing there should be no one in the kitchen (on the first floor) he ran up the remaining stairs, and saw Hayward run out of the kitchen with a cycle lamp in his hand. In reply to witness, Hayward said, 'I have just followed someone in,' and added, 'It's quite all quite all right; I'll get off now.' Hayward then made off towards a veranda, but witness caught hold of him and took him downstairs, where he was detained until arrival of the police. Later witness found that the corridor leading to the veranda roof was open, the door leading to the private quarters always being locked when the house was open. He found the purse and money lying on the kitchen table beside the handbag.

Detective-sergeant Lockley said he went to the MYVOD INN, where in the assembly rooms he saw accused detained by *Roberts*, and several customers. He arrested Hayward and took him to the police station. On examining the premises, witness found that a drain pipe at the rear was marked in a way consistent with someone having scaled it. By this means, easy access could be gained to the veranda roof and from there to a door leading to the private quarters. He also found accused's pedal cycle....."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1939

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Stated to be making his third appearance before the Court within a period of two years, Walter Norman Hayward (23), labourer, committed from Wednesbury, pleaded guilty to two charges of house-breaking at Wednesbury on December 12 and 13.

Mr. Colin Coley (prosecuting) stated that on December 13 prisoner broke into the MYVOD INN, Wednesbury, by climbing a drain pipe and entering a door on the flat roof. He was surprised by the licensee as he was leaving the kitchen, and in his possession was 13/7³/₄, which he had taken from a handbag. While prisoner was in custody another offence was traced to him through some shoe marks found in another house.

DS Lockley stated that in 1932 prisoner was sent to Borstal for three years. He had been several times convicted, and in April, 1937, was bound over for two years.

Remarking that it was the tenth occasion on which prisoner had been before a Court for serious offences, the Chairman passed sentence of 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour.]

1939 Register

62, Park Lane

[1] Kenneth W. P. Roberts, date of birth 7/9/1911, hotel manager, married;

[2] Nelly Roberts, dob 21/3/1909, hotel manageress, married;

[3] Ina A. (Rawcliffe) Stoway, dob 8/7/1914, barmaid, single;

[4] Ethel (Charles) Cowling, dob 12/2/1915, barmaid, single:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/2/1940

“Latest donations to the West Midlands and *Express and Star* Comforts Fund.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £344 1s 3¹/₂d.

Proceeds of Boxes.....

MYVOD INN, 8s 3d.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1946]

Walsall Observer 9/4/1954

“Hayes Motorways Walsall Luxury Tours have pleasure in announcing to the travelling public that they have now been licensed by the West Midland Traffic Commissioners to carry Private Parties to Blackpool for the Illuminations (day or two-day tours).

Parties can be picked up at.....

MYVOD INN, Myvod Road, Wood Green.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/9/1962 - Advert

“Part-Time Barman or Barmaid or learner.

The MYVOD, Park Lane, Wednesbury.”

**PART-TIME Barman or Barmaid or learner
—The Myvod, Park-lane, Wednesbury.**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/6/1965

“A Midland Red bus knocked down a lamp standard and then struck a car which was parked on the forecourt of the MYVOD public house, Wednesbury, last night. No one was injured. The driver was Mr. Robert John Roberts (33), of 59, Skidmore Avenue, Wolverhampton. Another victim of the collision was the public house illuminated sign, the wooden column of which was cracked almost in half.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/7/1967 - Advert

“Part-Time Barman/Barmaid, learners considered.

MYVOD, Park Lane, Wednesbury.”

**PART-TIME Barman/Barmaid, learners
considered.—Myvod. Park-lane, Wed-
nesbury.**

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Darts League in the 1960s and 1970s.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/4/1974 - Advert

"Bar Staff required, evenings and weekends.

Apply Manager, the MYVOD, Park Lane, Wednesbury."

BAR STAFF required, evenings and weekends. — Apply Manager, The Myvod, Park Lane, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/12/1975

"A Sandwell councillor today called for repair work to be carried out to fencing and brickwork around land adjoining a Wednesbury pub. Councillor Bill Archer said the broken-down wall and fencing at the MYVOD pub in Myvod Road had become an eyesore and a source of complaints. 'The brewery could spend some of the profits made over the Christmas period on this work,' said Councillor Archer. A spokesman for Mitchells and Butlers said today, 'We have a continuous programme of alterations and repairs to our houses, and we will look into this complaint.'"

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/4/1978

"A youth who took a car from a Wolverhampton pub was stopped after police gave chase, a court heard. The police spotted the car being driven past while talking to the vehicle's owner, Mr. John Pierce, in the car park of the FIGHTING COCKS pub on April 7. Martin Charles Pitcock, aged 17, was arrested after the short chase, Mr. Roger Smallman, prosecuting, told West Bromwich magistrates yesterday. Pitcock, of The Crescent, Wednesbury, admitted taking the car without consent, stealing £2 and two bankers cards from the car and driving without insurance. He also admitted stealing 400 cigarettes from the MYVOD pub, Wednesbury, on February 9. Pitcock asked for three other offences to be taken into consideration. He was sent to a detention centre for six months. He was also given a conditional discharge for two years for driving without insurance and banned from driving for a year."

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/12/1978 - Advert

"Ivan, Mavis, Stephen and Julie from the MYVOD INN, Park Lane, Wednesbury, would like to wish all their Customers and Staff a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/6/1981 - Advert

"MYVOD, Park Lane, Wednesbury, bar staff, lunchtime, evenings and weekends, no experience required."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/12/1981

"Regulars at the MYVOD INN, Wednesbury, have given £433 to the Darlaston day centre for the physically handicapped. Some of their charity-appeal cash will be used to buy a special wheelchair for John Lewis, of Stonehouse Avenue, Willenhall. Most of the money will provide Christmas gift vouchers for people attending the centre."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/6/1988 - Advert

"Jumble Sale, Saturday, June 11, 2pm.
MYVOD Pub, Wednesbury."

**JUMBLE SALE, Saturday, June
11, 2 pm, Myvod Pub, Wednesbury**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/8/1988

"Two Wednesbury youngsters splashed their way to a 50-length sponsored swim for charity. Ten-year-old Martyn Guy of Myvod Road and his friend Marie Osbourne, aged 11, of Crewe Road, swam at Wednesbury baths last night. Today they were counting up the total cash raised for the MYVOD pub fund for hospital charities. The Wednesbury pub has organised a series of events to raise money."

Sandwell Chronicle 23/3/1990 - Advert

"MYVOD Public House.

Alan and Barbara welcome you all for a cosy atmosphere and good beer.

Brand new refurbished lounge.

Meals from 12.00noon-2.00pm and 6.00pm-8.00pm.

62 Park Lane, Wednesbury. Tel. 021-556 0021."

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/7/1993

“Housewife Julie Hickman collared a prize after her husband entered her into a Wednesbury pub’s dog show. Mother-of-two Julie lined up to compete with several dogs in front of a startled Kennel Clun judge and dozens of laughing spectators. Then sporting Julie had to parade on her hands and knees, sit on a table with a collar and lead on, have her teeth checked and follow orders to sit. And Julie, 27, from Lowe Avenue, Darlaston, ended up impressing the judge so much that he awarded her a rosette. It happened after her 38-year-old common-law husband, Colin, paid £1 to enter her into the charity show at his local, the MYVOD, in Park Lane, Wednesbury.

Unemployed scaffolder Colin said today, ‘I filled in a form to enter Julie into the show as a bit of fun. But I thought she would go through with it because the event was for charity and she’s got a good sense of humour. She’s that sort of girl; she would do anything for charity and I’m proud of her.’

Mrs. Carol Tew, the wife of pub landlord *John*, said, ‘Julie was a really good sport.’

The dog show was part of a fun day at the pub which raised more than £1,200 for cancer research.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/12/1995 - Advert

“The MYVOD INN, Park Lane, Wednesbury, WS10 9PS.

The MYVOD has undergone major refurbishment and is set to become a centre for the local community for entertainment, good food and drink.

Saturday 9th (opening night) Charlene and Skinflint of ‘Stars In Their Eyes’.....

Our two course Christmas menu is priced at just £5.95 or why not try something off our sizzler and specials menu.....

Steve and Julie Wood.”

Birmingham Mail 11/3/1996 - Advert

“Psychic Night. MYVOD, Wednesbury. Tonight. 449 5175.”

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.....

MYVOD INN, Park Lane, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/11/1998

“What’s On Pop/Rock.....

The Junies (MYVOD, Wednesbury).”

The pub had a major refurbishment in 2000, creating a new façade and interior.

Express & Star 28/9/2011

“A pub manager in the Black Country who stole more than £26,000 to fund her gambling habit has been jailed for 16 months. *Sarah-Jayne Ellis*, aged 29, left a note in the safe of the MYVOD pub in Park Lane, Wednesbury, saying sorry before she later handed herself into police. Yesterday she sobbed in the dock as her sentence was passed. Ellis, of Arps Road, Codsall, ‘panicked’ when she realised how much money she had taken and left a letter to a colleague in the safe before taking the train to Brighton, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard yesterday.....”

[2025]



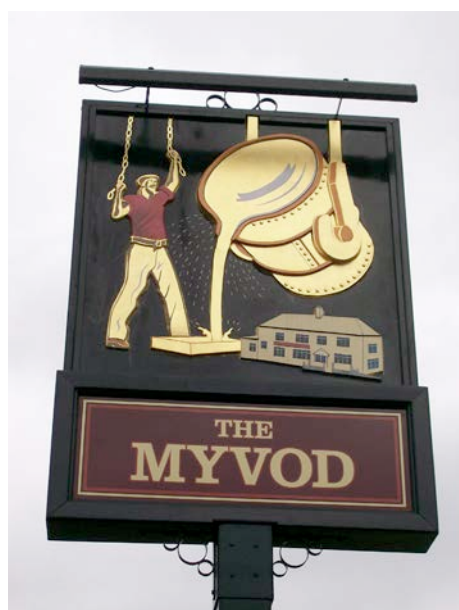
2014



1978

MYVOD PARK LANE, Wednesbury,
bar staff, lunchtime, evenings and
weekends, no experience required.

1981



MYVOD PUBLIC HOUSE

*Alan and Barbara
welcome you all*

for a cosy atmosphere and
good beer

Brand new refurbished
lounge

Meals from
12.00 noon-2.00 pm and
6.00 pm-8.00 pm

**62 PARK LANE,
WEDNESBURY**

TEL: 021-556 0021

1990

**THE
MYVOD INN**
PARK LANE, WEDNESBURY
WS10 9PS
Telephone: **0121 505 2613**

The Myvod has undergone major refurbishment and is set to become a center for the local community for entertainment, good food and drink.

**SATURDAY 9th
(OPENING NIGHT)
CHARLENE & SKINFLINT**
of "Stars In Their Eyes".

SUNDAY 10th	SIMON LEES
MONDAY 11th	CHESTER RIGGON
TUESDAY 12th	SUZANNE JADE
WEDNESDAY 13th	NICOLE
THURSDAY 14th	RHETT BUTLER
FRIDAY 15th	JON ALLEN
SATURDAY 16th	HEIDI
SUNDAY 17th	CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT
MONDAY 18th & WEDNESDAY 20th	CHRISTMAS DISCO PARTY NIGHTS
THURSDAY 21st	QUIZ NIGHT (with free beer rounds)
FRIDAY 22nd	STEVE DOWNS
SATURDAY 23rd	AZURA

SUNDAY 24th CHRISTMAS EVE
with RHETT BUTLER

WEDNESDAY 27th	LEE SILVER
THURSDAY 28th	GAYNOR
FRIDAY 29th	MICK J BRENDON
SATURDAY 30th	BILLY ROYALE

**NEW YEARS EVE FANCY
DRESS PARTY NIGHT -
ST. TRINIANS VS
THE BASH STREET KIDS**

Our two course Christmas menu is priced
at just £5.95 or why not try something off
our sizzler and specials menu.

For further enquiries or for a booking form please
telephone. To make your booking, please call in
(We require a deposit of £3.00 per person).

STEVE AND JULIE WOOD

1995

NAGS HEAD

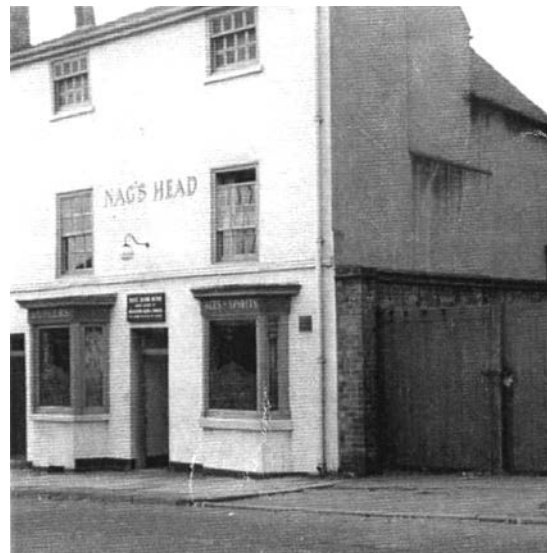
5, (4+5+6), (5+6), (6), (Lower) High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Michells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Simeon Russell* [1834]
Simeon Bissell* [1835] – [1842]
Thomas Parker [1845] – **1852**;
Thomas Bullock **(1852 – [1855])**
Mrs. Sarah Bullock [1860] – **1866**;
Thomas Young **(1866 – 1870)**;
Thomas James Lees **(1870 – 1874)**
Joseph Parsons [1881]
Arthur Wright [1890]
Richard Slater [1891] – [1892]
Maria Butler [1895] – [1896]
Henry Causer [1901]
Anthony Robinson [1904]
E Salloway [1908]
Henry Lloyd [1911] – [1928]
James Tyler [1932] – [1934]
William Wood [1939] – [1940]
Jones [1943]
Bruce Joseph Acton [1961] – [1966]
Mrs. Joan Whiting [1969] – [1971];
Alan Norton [];
Sydney Parkes []



1962

NOTES

High Street [1849], [1850]
6, Lower High Street [1871], [1872], [1873]
5+6, Lower High Street [1881]
4+5+6, Lower High Street [1911]
5, Lower High Street [1892], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1932], [1940]

It was situated next to St. John's churchyard.

* possibly the same person

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/2/1836

“A. Hedes, of Walsall, is anxious to fight Tass Parker; he is ready to make a match with him for any sum from £25 to £500 a side. His money will be at the NAGS HEAD, Wednesbury, tomorrow.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/9/1836

“Commitments to Stafford County Gaol (during the last fortnight).....

Charles Price and James Welch, charged with stealing a quantity of wearing apparel, the property of *Simeon Bissell*, at Wednesbury.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/10/1836

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions To be Transported Seven Years.....

Charles Price and James Welch, for stealing from the dwelling house of *Simeon Bissell*, at Wednesbury, a quantity of wearing apparel, his property.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/9/1837

“John Gurbit, of Wednesbury, desires to run Isaac Bissell, for any sum he thinks proper, between ten and twenty-five pounds, his own length, within ten miles of Wednesbury or West Bromwich, but not nearer. If Isaac Bussell refuses running, he will run Charles Evans, of Sutton Coldfield, for five or ten pounds, eight score yards, if he will give him five yards; his money is always ready at the NAGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/5/1840

“John Garbett, of Wednesbury, is prepared to make a match with James Stewart, of Wolverhampton, to run seven score and ten yards, for £10 a side; and if Stewart will not accept this, he will run Wilson, of Westbromwich, or Griffiths, of Birmingham, the latter’s own weight, for £10 a side. His money is ready at the NAGS HEAD, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/7/1840

“Insolvent Debtors, to be heard at the Court House, at Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, on the 18th day of August, 1840, at the hour of ten in the forenoon precisely.....

Simeon Bissell, late of High Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, licensed victualler.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 15/11/1841 - Advert

“NAGS HEAD INN, High Street, Wednesbury.

Most desirable opportunity of entering into the Public Business with a limited capital, in one of the most public thoroughfares in the town.

Taylor and Bills are commissioned to Dispose Of by private Treaty, the Licenses and Possession of the above Inn, in consequence of the present occupier relinquishing that line of business.

The Premises are convenient and well adapted for carrying on a good trade.

No charge will be made for Goodwill, and persons of respectability will be liberally treated with.

For particulars and to treat apply at the offices of the Auctioneers, High Street, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/8/1845

“Wednesbury Petty Sessions.....

Thomas Parker, publican, of Wednesbury, charged by Major M’Knight with allowing drunkenness in his house on Sunday morning, the 17th of August, was fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 14/2/1846

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday.....

Thomas Parker, a licensed victualler, keeping the MAIDS [sic] HEAD, at Wednesbury, was charged with refusing to admit the police into his house, on the 3rd of February, and was fined 10s and costs.”

1851 Census

High Street

- [1] *Thomas Parker* (45), victualler and coal miner, born Bilston;
- [2] *Hannah Parker* (44), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *John Parker* (21), son, shingler, iron works, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Isaiah Parker* (19), son, coal miner, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Sarah Parker* (16), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Zechariah Parker* (14), son, coal miner, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Selina Parker* (11), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [8] *Ann Jane Parker* (9), daughter, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1853

“Annual Licensing Day.....

The whole of the renewals were duly granted, with the following exceptions of parties convicted and fined.

The following were cautioned, and the same entered on the back of their respective licenses.....

Thomas Bullock, NAGS HEAD, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/6/1855

“Joseph Tonks of Wednesbury will run Silvester of Westbromwich 120 yards, if he will give him two yards start, or he will run him 100 yards level, for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Thomas Bullock*’s, NAGS HEAD, High Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.”

1861 Census

High Street

- [1] *Sarah Bullock* (70), widow, victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Richard Tonks* (54), brother, widower, coach smith, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Mary Tonks* (29), niece, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Nancy Waldron* (10), grand-daughter, scholar, born Pelsall;
- [5] *James Hoyd* (38), lodger, general labourer, born Shropshire:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/1/1864

“Tom Tonks of Wednesbury will run C. Mills of the same place 100 yards, for £5 a side, in one month from signing articles. Money ready any night next week at *Sarah Bullock*’s, NAGS HEAD, High Street, Wednesbury.”

1871 Census

6, Lower High Street

- [1] *Thomas Lees* (29), unmarried, licensed victualler, blind from accident, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Eliza Lees* (33), sister, milliner, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ellen A. Lees* (10), niece, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *John Archer* (24), visitor, iron turner, born West Bromwich:

Midland Examiner 30/1/1875 - Advert

“Notice. Public Appeal.

In consequence of trade depression and other consequences over which he has no control, *Thomas James Lees*, late of NAGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, has become involved in serious pecuniary difficulties. Being totally blind, and having no means of extricating himself from his unfortunate position, a few friends have formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of making an appeal to the public on his behalf, feeling confident that the facts of the case have only to be made known to secure a hearty and generous response.

Persons who have kindly undertaken to collect subscriptions for the above object will greatly oblige by forwarding their cards, together with the amounts subscribed, on or before Tuesday, February 2, 1875, either to Mr. Daniel Lockett (LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN HOTEL), Chairman of Committee; Mr. George Lloyd (ROYAL EXCHANGE), Treasurer; Mr. Rogers, Secretary; or to *Thomas J. Lees*, New Town, Wednesbury.

NB. Any subscription, however small, will be thankfully received.”

Wednesbury Herald 13/9/1879

“Thomas Harrison and Lucy Harrison, brother and sister, were charged with assaulting George Henry Potts in the NAGS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, on Saturday night.

The complainant stated that on the night in question a raffle took place at a house adjoining the NAGS HEAD public house, for a silver watch, and he was present to superintend it. After the raffle was over, the persons present at the raffle adjourned to the public house, and a general quarrel took place, in the course of which complainant alleged that the two defendants beat him and knocked him down.

William Artello gave corroborative evidence.

Defendants alleged that the complainant was the aggressor, and that they only struck him in self defence.

George Henry Potts was afterwards charged with assaulting Lucy Harrison at the same time and place.

The complainant stated that in consequence of her winning the watch, the defendant was much annoyed and struck her a violent blow in the mouth.

The Stipendiary dismissed the latter case, and in the former, fined each of the defendants 9s, or in default seven days imprisonment.”

1881 Census

5+6, Lower High Street – NAGS HEAD INN

[1] Joseph Parsons (40), publican, born Bradley;

[2] Elizabeth Parsons (34), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Elizabeth Parsons (1), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 6/8/1881

“Joseph and John Addison, ironworkers, were charged with refusing to quit the NAGS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, when requested to do so.

The wife of the complainant stated that the defendants came into the house and created a disturbance, and upon being requested to leave they refused to do so.

As Joseph Addison did not appear a warrant was issued for his apprehension, and John was fined 5s and costs, or in default seven days imprisonment.”

1891 Census

Lower High Street – NAGS HEAD

[1] Richard Slater (58), widower, publican, born Kingston, Surrey;

[2] Florence Jones (24), housekeeper, born Wednesbury;

[3] William I. Jones (1), son, born Bilston;

[4] Clara E. Moffat (17), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Wednesbury Herald 12/1/1895

“Charles Brown, mechanic, Potters Lane, was fined 10s and costs after refusing to quit the NAGS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, on Tuesday night. He used vulgar language to *Maria Butler*, the landlady, and had to be forcibly ejected.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/1/1895

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Joseph Addison (32), Lower High Street, was charged with assaulting Robert Thickett, 60, Church Street.

The complainant’s statement was that he was at the NAGS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, on the night of the 19th inst, and, without provocation, was knocked down by the defendant, the violence of the blow causing him to become insensible.

The defence was that Addison merely turned the complainant out by the request of his sister, who was being abused by him.

A fine of 20s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment, was imposed.

Shortly after the complainant returned, and said the defendant had threatened to give him some more. He appealed to Police-constable Green, who said the defendant’s remark, as he understood it, was that he had not given the complainant enough for what he had had to pay.

The magistrates told the defendant it was an extraordinary speech for him to make after he had been convicted of such a cowardly assault, and they warned him as to his behaviour, but on this occasion would let the matter drop.”

AND

Wednesbury Herald 2/2/1895

“Robert Thickett, of 61, Church Street, charged Joseph Addison, of Lower High Street, with assaulting him in the NAGS HEAD INN, on the evening of the 19th inst.

The complaint was that for merely denying the truth of an assertion made by the landlady, defendant's sister, Addison came behind him, struck him on the back of the head, and knocked him senseless.

For the defence, *Maria Butler*, the landlady, said that Thickett was drunk and she asked Addison to turn him out. This he did, but used no violence.....”

1901 Census

Lower High Street – NAGS HEAD INN

[1] *Henry Causer* (44), manager of public house, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Matilda Causer* (43), wife, dressmaker, born Tipton;

[3] *Florence Causer* (12), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Louie Whitehouse* (22), visitor, no occupation, born Tipton:

1911 Census

4+5+6, Lower High Street – NAGS HEAD

[1] *Henry Lloyd* (36), licensed victualler, born Wrottesley, Staffordshire;

[2] *Jane Lloyd* (40), wife, married 6 years, born Calf Heath, Staffordshire;

[3] *Dorothy Turner* (12), step-daughter, born Tettenhall:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/4/1911

“At a Special Court at Wednesbury this (Saturday) afternoon, Charles Dawson of Drew's court, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a bottle of whisky, the property of *Henry Lloyd*, licensee of the NAGS HEAD INN, Lower High Street.

The landlord, it was alleged, left the prisoner in the house whilst he went into the back to have his tea. When he returned the prisoner had gone, and the landlord found a bottle of whisky missing.

Accused was remanded until Friday next.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/12/1919

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, several prosecutions were taken at the instance of the Ministry of Food against publicans for charging more than the maximum price for spirits in a public bar.....

Henry Lloyd, NAGS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, was fined £14, with £3 3s special costs, and also fined for failing to properly mark the receptacle from which the spirits were drawn.”

South Staffordshire Times 6/3/1920

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The NAGS HEAD.

The next case was that of *Henry Lloyd*, the renewal of whose license was objected to on the grounds of the house being ill-conducted. It was situated in Lower High Street, Wednesbury. Superintendent Salt cited a summons against applicant for selling spirits at excessive prices, and was fined.

Mr. Glover defended, and said applicant had been in house eleven years, and was never summoned before. Applicant's general character was excellent.

Mr. Wright on behalf of the owners, also gave the applicant a good past record. *Lloyd* was under notice to quit, and that would rest on the magisterial decision.....

The magistrates retired to consider their decision in all the forgoing cases.

The Chairman subsequently announced the licenses of NAGS HEAD would all be renewed.”

1921 Census

6, Lower High Street

[1] *Henry Lloyd* (47), licensed victualler, born Wrottesley, Staffordshire;

[2] *Jane Lloyd* (50), wife, licensed victualler's assistant, born Sharesill, Staffordshire;

[3] *Dorothy Jane Turner* (22), step-daughter, born Tettenhall:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 7/3/1925

“In the first round of the Birmingham Licensed Victuallers Billiards Handicap, Mr. Sid Harrold, of the NAGS HEAD, Wednesbury, was given a walk over. In the handicap he is receiving a 70 start.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 21/3/1925

“Playing in the second round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiard handicap at Birmingham on Friday, Mr. S. Harrold, of the NAGS HEAD, Wednesbury (rec.70), defeated P. H. Crockett, of Birmingham (rec.185) by 400 to 289.”

[Harrold was eliminated in the fourth round.]

Walsall Observer 31/3/1934

“Mr. *James Tyler* (43), licensee of the NAGS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, fell from a ladder at his premises on Tuesday. He was removed to the West Bromwich General Hospital, where he was treated for a compound fracture of the leg.”

1939 Register

Lower High Street

[2] *Charlotte L. Wood*, date of birth 8/3/1912, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *William Wood*, dob 11/12/1906, publican, married:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/3/1940

“Penny-A-Week way to put Comforts Fund on a permanent basis.

Nearly £500 has been added to the lists of the funds in the West Midland and *Express and Star* federation since the last list, indicating the enthusiasm of people is still on the increase.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged £380 18s 9½d.

Proceeds of boxes.....

NAGS HEAD, Lower High Street, 3s 4d.”

Walsall Observer 30/10/1943

“Fines and costs totalling £10 were imposed on Winifred Jones (36), wife of the licensee of the NAGS HEAD, Lower High Street, who had been summoned on three counts of failing to perform fire watching duties.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1963]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1969 - Advert

“*Joan and George Whiting* (late of BRITISH OAK, Hawkes Lane, Hill Top),

NAGS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury,

wish all their customers and friends, both old and new, a merry Christmas and a bright New Year.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Cribbage League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1971 - Advert

“George and *Joan*, of the NAGS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, wish all their Friends and Customers a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.”

[1976]

Closed

It was demolished in 1980.

NAG'S HEAD INN.

HIGH-STREET, WEDNESBURY.

Most desirable opportunity of entering into the Public Business with a limited capital, in one of the most public thoroughfares in the town.

TAYLOR and BILLS are commissioned to **DISPOSE** OF by private Treaty the Licences and Possession of the above INN, in consequence of the present occupier relinquishing that line of business.

The Premises are convenient and well adapted for carrying on a good trade.

No charge will be made for Goodwill, and persons of respectability will be liberally treated with.

For particulars and to treat apply at the offices of the Auctioneers, High-street, Wednesbury.

1841

JOAN AND GEORGE WHITING

(late of British Oak, Hawkes-lane, Hill Top),

**NAGS HEAD,
LOWER HIGH-STREET,
WEDNESBURY,**

wish all their customers and friends, both old and new, a merry Christmas and a bright New Year.

1969

NOTICE.—PUBLIC APPEAL.

In consequence of trade depression and other consequences over which he has no control, **THOMAS JAMES LEES**, late of Nag's Head Inn, Wednesbury, has become involved in serious pecuniary difficulties. Being totally blind, and having no means extricating himself from his unfortunate position, a committee of friends have formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of making an appeal to the public on his behalf, feeling confident that the facts of the case are only to be made known to secure a hearty and generous response.

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P.S.—Any subscription, however small, will be thankfully received.

1875

GEORGE AND JOAN,

of

THE NAGS HEAD,

Lower High-street,

Wednesbury.

wish all their Friends and Customers a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

1971

NELSON

Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Robinson [1834] – [1835]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

John Robinson, beer retailer, Dudley Street. [1835]

Check Portway Road.

NELSON

62, Portway Road, Leabrook, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1904], [1961]

LICENSEES

Joseph Taylor [1841] – [1842]
Simeon Constable [1845]
John Ashmore [1846]
William Goss [1847] – **1860**;
Mrs. Sophia Goss **(1860)**;
James Farley **(1860 – 1880)**;
Mrs. Emma Farley **(1880 – 1881)**;
Edward Powell **(1881 – [])**
Richard Burgess [1885]
Mrs. Mary Ann Lloyd [1891] – [1892]
Mrs. Mary Ann Mills [1896]
Peter Monaghan [1901]
Charles Griffiths [1904] – [1908]
Frederick John Astbury **(1908 – 1933)**
George Rose [1939] – [1966]
Ken J Russell [1970] – [1983]
John Houghton [1988]
Colin White [1990]
Linda Phillips [1991]
Eileen Ellis [1994]
Jayne Ann Wilson [2002]



2014

NOTES

LORD NELSON [1860], [1863], [1869]

1841 Census

Portway Road

- [1] Joseph Taylor (35), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Mary Taylor (35), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Charles Taylor (17), apprentice to engineer, born Staffordshire;
- [4] Joseph Taylor (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] George Taylor (12), born Staffordshire;
- [6] James Taylor (10), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Elizabeth Taylor (9), born Staffordshire;
- [8] Henry Taylor (7), born Staffordshire;
- [9] Mary Taylor (5), born Staffordshire;
- [10] John Taylor (3), born Staffordshire;
- [11] Sarah Taylor (2 months), born Staffordshire;
- [12] Sarah Ash (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

Birmingham Journal 18/7/1846

"An inquest was held on Saturday last, at Mr. *Ashmore's*, the NELSON INN, Wednesbury, on the body of a boy named David Woolley, who lost his life by an explosion of fire damp, in a coal pit belonging to Messrs. Lloyd.

It appeared from the evidence, that about half-past seven on the evening of Friday, the 3rd instant, a man named Richard Cooper asked the lad to accompany him to a gate road in another part of the mine, in order to obtain some 'pikes' of a particular sort. The lad carried a candle, and on their return, Cooper being a few yards in advance, the candle which the poor boy had in his hand ignited a quantity of sulphur, which exploded, burning him so dreadfully that he died of the injuries he received.

In consequence of a remark made by the father of the boy, that Cooper had sent his son into a part of the mine which he knew at the time to be dangerous, the inquest was adjourned in order to afford time for the investigation of this serious charge.

At the adjourned investigation, Joseph Ensor, the 'doggy' or overseer of the pit, said that the very day which the accident occurred he had cautioned all the men not to venture into that part of the pit without the safety lamp, but added that Cooper was not present at the time.

The Coroner, George Hinchliffe, Esq, severely reprimanded Cooper for his want of care, but as it did not appear there was any foundation for the serious charge made by the father of the deceased, and as it was also shown that he was only six yards from the poor boy when the explosion took place, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/10/1846

"Wednesbury Public Office. Tuesday, October 27.....

James Starkey was charged by *John Ashmore*, landlord of the NELSON INN, with stealing a window shutter, on the 19th instant, at Wednesbury. Committed for trial at the Sessions."

AND

Birmingham Journal 31/10/1846

"On Tuesday last, *John Ashmore*, licensed victualler, of Wednesbury, appeared before the Bench to charge William Starkey with stealing a shutter, his property.

From the evidence of George Newton, it appeared that on Monday night last he observed the prisoner come from near Mr. *Ashmore's* house with a shutter over his shoulder. He asked him if the shutter was not one belonging to Mr. *Ashmore*, and he impudently replied, 'What is that to you – does it belong to you?' He then went on, and the witness informed Mr. *Ashmore's* family of the circumstance, when it was found that one of the shutters had been carried off. Information was given to Inspector McCree, who took the prisoner into custody. On being charged with the robbery, he denied it, but the shutter was afterwards found concealed under a hedge in the Workhouse Lane.

The prisoner was committed."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1847

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

William Starkey was acquitted on a charge of stealing a window-shutter, at Wednesbury, belonging to *John Ashmore*."

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/7/1847

"*William Goss* was fined 5s and costs for permitting persons to become drunk in his house, at Wednesbury, on the 14th of June last."

Birmingham Journal 26/2/1848

"An inquest was held yesterday, at the NELSON INN, Wednesbury, on the body of a child named Jane Bennett, two years of age, who died in consequence of injuries received by her clothes having taken fire on Monday. The occurrence being quite accidental, a verdict to that effect was returned."

1851 Census

Portway Road

[1] *William Goss* (43), victualler, born Dunnington Wood, Shropshire;

[2] *Jane Goss* (43), wife, born Dunnington Wood, Shropshire;

[3] *Sarah Lewis* (15), niece, servant, born Dunnington Wood, Shropshire;

[4] *Margaret Lewis* (17), niece, servant, born Dunnington Wood, Shropshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/10/1851

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

On Monday last, at the NELSON INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Patrick Darland, aged 8 years, who on the previous Friday was discovered lying on a burning cinder bank quite dead. Verdict accordingly."

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/6/1853 - Advert

"Sale of valuable Freehold Buildings and Building Land, at Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, on Monday, July 4th, 1853, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, Wednesbury, at six o'clock in the evening, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, the undermentioned very desirable Property.

Lot 1. All that well-known, convenient, and commodious, Public House, with the Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, called the NELSON, fronting the Portway Road and Hobbins Street, Wednesbury, one of the best situations in the parish, being in the midst of several extensive ironworks, now in the occupation of Mr. *William Goss*, who is doing a good business. These premises have a plentiful supply of hard and soft water."

Birmingham Journal 14/11/1857 - Advert

"Wanted, a young Person as Barmaid.

Apply to Mr. *W. Goss*, NELSON TAVERN, Portway Road, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a young Person as BARMAID—
Apply to Mr. W. Goss, Nelson Tavern, Portway Road,
Wednesbury.

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.....

Mary Evans, Portway Road, Wednesbury, supported by Mr. Duignan, and opposed by Mr. Bailey, for Mr. Cross [sic], of the NELSON INN Refused."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/1/1860 - Died

"On the 21st inst, suddenly, aged 55 years, Mr. *William Goss*, of the LORD NELSON INN, Wednesbury; deeply regretted."

Birmingham Journal 4/2/1860 - Advert

"An Opportunity Seldom to be Met With.

The NELSON INN, situated in the Portway Road, Wednesbury.

To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty (by the direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. *William Goss*).

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of all that long-established and well-accustomed Public House, known by the name of the NELSON INN, situated in the Portway Road, Wednesbury, a short distance from the stations of the Great Western and South Staffordshire Railways. The House is situated in the midst of a thickly-populated district, and surrounded by large and extensive iron works, and doing at the present time a very lucrative and extensive businesses. The House and Premises comprise a good Stable, and an entire Yard, Piggeries, &c, and combine every convenience for extending the business almost to any extent.

To treat for the purchase, and for any further information, apply to Mr. William Tompson, Three Tuns Inn, Snow Hill, Birmingham; or to Mr. Duesbury, No.80, Bloomsbury, Birmingham."

Birmingham Journal 14/4/1860

"Transfer of licenses.....

NELSON INN, Wednesbury, from Mrs. *Sophia Goss* (administratrix of Mr. *William Goss*) to Mr. *James Farley*."

1861 Census

Portway Road

[1] *James Farley* (47), publican, born Darlaston;

[2] *Hannah Farley* (44), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Elizabeth Hughes* (12), visitor, born Worcester:

Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1862

“Yesterday an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *James Farley*, the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a man unknown, who was found dead on a cinder heap in Portway Lane, on Sunday morning. The medical evidence showed that death was caused by the fumes of the smouldering cinders, and a verdict to that effect was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1862 - Advert

“Capital Investment.

Joseph Whitehouse has received instructions to Let, with immediate possession, one of the best Old-licensed Houses in Wednesbury, known as the NELSON INN, situated in the Portway Road, surrounded by tube and ironworks, commanding an excellent in and out door business. Ill health of the proprietor's wife is the sole cause of leaving. The Premises are convenient and low rented. Coming-in about £200 to £300.

For particulars and to treat, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Hannah Farley died in the 4th quarter of 1862.

British Miner and General Newsman 25/4/1863

“A meeting of the puddlers and mill-furnacemen was held at Mr. *James Farley*'s, the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening last, when the following resolution was unanimously agreed to.

That in consequence of the average price of sheet iron being £8 12s 6d at the works, according to the ‘list of prices’ in the *Mining Journal*, this meeting feel themselves justified in demanding an advance of one shilling per ton on the present rate of wages, and are resolved to use their best exertions to obtain it. This meeting also considers that puddlers do not receive adequate remuneration for their excessive labour, when compared with the reward that other trades receive in the iron manufacturing department; also, that their employers would readily accede to the request to give the advance required, if it rested with the puddlers alone. It was also further resolved, that as all persons employed in the manufacture of iron require to be advanced in the same ratio as puddlers, yet as they still continue to follow their avocation without showing their dissatisfaction, by co-operating with them to obtain it is an infringement on their rights, and an act of injustice on the part of such persons. They (the puddlers) therefore hope that their employers will place their wages on a level with others in the iron manufactory.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/12/1863

“About nine o'clock on Sunday night a daring burglary was committed at the dwelling house of Mr. *James Farley*, landlord of the LORD NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

It appears that at the hour mentioned a man now in custody, named George Sidney, who resides in Wolverhampton, together with two of his companions, it is supposed, succeeded in effecting a forcible entrance into the house, by rearing an iron ladder to one of the back room windows in the rear of the premises, cutting out a portion of a window frame by means of a glazier's diamond, lifting the sash, and walking in to ‘rifle, rob, and plunder.’ While there the thief, or more probably thieves, helped themselves to a cash-box containing £129 in gold, and £25 in £5 notes, a silver watch, one pair of plated bracelets, a bag containing £35 in silver, a shawl and cloak, and two gold brooches, valued in all at £200.

During the time these gentlemen of the light-fingered profession were assisting themselves the inmates of the house by some means or other became sensible of their danger, and a sentinel was quickly posted at the bottom of the ladder at the foot of the back room window, armed with a good stout bludgeon, a similar person stood at the bottom of the staircase with an iron poker for a defensive and offensive weapon, and other persons were stationed at various positions to prevent the escape of the daring intruders.

Suddenly the party upstairs became aware of his danger, and looking through the window saw escape was impossible in that direction. He therefore made determined rush down the staircase into the kitchen, where he beheld a formidable antagonist wielding a poker. Upstairs the unfortunate housebreaker returned, and becoming desperate made a desperate leap through the front window into the street. He alighted on the pavement, rather the worse for the shaking, but not otherwise seriously injured, as far as we could learn, and was handed over by his careful captors into the hands of Police-sergeant Gasson, who conveyed him to the station.

All the articles and money were recovered, we believe, with the exception of the pair of gold bracelets, which are still missing. About the room and on the person of the burglar Sidney was discovered a complete set of housebreakers' implements, including wax matches, files, picklocks, skeleton keys, a small saw, a large and a small jemmy, &c.

The police are instituting careful inquiries into the prisoner's connections, and endeavouring to ascertain the whereabouts of his accomplices, as it appears evident he must have had assistance in the matter, it scarcely seeming probable that the burglar would proceed single-handed in a robbery involving the seizure and abstraction of so much valuable booty. The man will be brought before the Stipendiary Magistrate today (Tuesday) at Wednesbury, where doubtless some additional information will be elicited.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1863

“The man George Sidney, charged with breaking into the house of Mr. *James Farley*, LORD NELSON INN, Portway Road, on Wednesday, made a determined attempt to break out of the police station. Police-sergeant Gasson instantly detected the effort, and at once took measures to secure the safe custody of the prisoner, who has been recognised by one of the Birmingham detectives as a convicted thief.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/3/1864

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

George Sidney, alias George Sinclair, 24, no occupation, pleaded guilty to a charge of having burglariously broken and entered the dwelling house of *James Farley*, on the 6th of December, at the parish of Wednesbury, and stolen therefrom one cash box, one bag, one silver watch, two gold brooches, one pair of bracelets, and one belt, his property. Prisoner had been previously convicted, and he was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1864

“An inquest was held yesterday, at the house of Mr. *James Farley*, the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, by Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, on the body of Bridget Fanagher, aged twenty-five, a young Irishwoman, who had died shortly after her confinement.

Catherine Rowland deposed that she and her husband had resided in the same house with the deceased, the wife of Thomas Fanagher, a labourer. For some time past, and before her marriage, the deceased had been subject to inflammation of the chest. On the 5th inst she was taken in labour, but there was no time to call in a medical man or a midwife. Deceased went on nicely until Saturday, the 14th inst, when she complained that her chest was becoming worse. On Sunday witness sent for the Rev. Mr. Montgomery, the Roman Catholic clergyman, who called in the afternoon. Witness called on Mr. Horton, surgeon, at half-past two o'clock the same day, and he gave her a couple of pills and a bottle of medicine, which the deceased took. She slept badly on Sunday night, and on Monday morning she was worse. Her husband on that morning obtained a note from Mr. Gittoes, the relieving officer, which was taken to the surgery of Mr. Horton, one of the parish surgeons, who did not call for two hours, at which time the woman was dead.

Thomas Fanagher, the husband of the deceased, said that he had been married for better than eleven months. The child was still-born. After the birth the deceased got worse on Sunday last, and witness obtained a note from Mr. Gittoes on Monday morning, and took it to Mr. Horton, who attended within two hours.

The Coroner left it to the Jury to say whether they desired any medical evidence, but they stated that they were satisfied.

The Coroner observed that he had been anxious to ascertain, firstly, whether medical relief had been applied for in due time; and secondly, whether medical aid had been received in proper time. It appeared that Mr. Gittoes and Mr. Horton had both performed their duties.

The Jury entirely coincided with the remarks of the Coroner, and found a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/7/1864

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Martin Clarke, aged two years eight months, the son of a watchman, whose death had been caused through his clothes having caught fire on Tuesday last. The parents of the child had gone from home, leaving a child of nine years of age in charge of the deceased and a still younger child. The boy went down to the cellar about four o'clock in the afternoon to fetch some coal, and in a couple of minutes, hearing screams, ran up into the kitchen, and found the deceased with his clothes in a blaze. The child was severely burned, and died the same night. The deceased told his brother that he was hanging up the pothooks when his dress became ignited. The Coroner administered, by the request of the Jury, a severe reprimand to the father of the deceased for not having provided some protection from the fire, as well as for having left his children to the care of a boy only nine years of age; and told him that, if he did not provide a 'bow' for the grate within a fortnight, he would be summoned before the Magistrates. A verdict of Accidental Death was then returned.”

James Farley married Emma Mooney on 20th September 1865.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/10/1868

"The inquest on the body of Leonard Cook, aged 52, who had lived in 5 Court, 1 House, Portway Road, who was injured in the explosion at Moxley, and who died on Friday morning last from the injuries he received, as reported in the *Gazette* of Saturday, was held yesterday afternoon before Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner for South Staffordshire, at the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury; and the jury, at the suggestion of the Coroner returned a verdict that the deceased died from scorching and burning, but how such scorching and burning were caused there is no evidence to show."

[See the SWAN, Moxley, Darlaston, for the main inquest.]

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1869

"Within the past few days no fewer than three children have died in Wednesbury from the effect of injuries sustained through their clothes having taken fire.....

John Conoly, aged five years and five months. On the 6th instant he was standing by the fire in his parents' house, in the Portway Lane, when his clothes ignited, and he was severely burned on the face and body. He was placed under the care of Dr. Blackwood, but death put an end to his sufferings on the following day."

[The inquest, held at the LORD NELSON, Portway Road, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/4/1869 - Advert

"The NELSON INN, Wednesbury.

To Let, this well-accustomed Old-licensed House, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Monway, the Imperial, the Axletree Company, and Messrs. Lloyd's Forges. Successfully carried on by the proprietor during the past ten years. Apply, E. B. Scholefield, Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury."

THE NELSON INN, Wednesbury.—To Let, this well-accustomed Old-licensed House, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Monway, the Imperial, the Axletree Company, and Messrs. Lloyd's Forges. Successfully carried on by the proprietor during the past ten years. — Apply, E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

62, Portway Road – NELSON INN

- [1] James Farley (57), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Emma Farley (42), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] William Edward Farley (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Minnie Emma Farley (11 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Clara Agnes Mooney (19), step-daughter, born Dudley;
- [6] Harry Edward Mooney (17), step-son, iron worker, born Dudley;
- [7] Margaret E. Mooney (15), step-daughter, born Dudley;
- [8] Isabella Painter (12), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1878

"Distress in the Black Country.....

On Saturday, by the kindness of Mr. Farley, of the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, and other friends, upwards of 100 poor people were supplied with a 4lb loaf and half a pound of bacon each."

James Farley died in the 1st quarter of 1880.

1881 Census

62, Portway Road – NELSON INN

- [1] Edward Powell (39), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Sarah Powell (38), wife, born Leabrook;
- [3] Mary A. Powell (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Tipton;
- [4] Isabella Powell (15), daughter, pupil teacher, born Tipton;
- [5] Edward Powell (13), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [6] Eliza Powell (9), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [7] Alice Powell (5), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [8] Lottie Powell (2), daughter, born Tipton;
- [9] Florence B. Powell (1), daughter, born Tipton;
- [10] Ellen Freeman (17), general servant, born Tipton;

Commercial Gazette 6/8/1885

“Bills of Sale.....

Richard Burgess, the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, victualler, in favour of John Buglass, dated 22 July 1885, filed 27 July 1885, for £153 6s 3d purchase money.”

1891 Census

62, Portway Road

- [1] *Mary Ann Lloyd* (42), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ann Brittle* (67), mother, born Stone Stanton, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Thomas Brittle* (63), step-father, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Sarah Right* (48), servant, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Sarah Brownsword* (18), visitor, born Wednesbury;

1901 Census

62, Portway Road

- [1] *Thomas Monaghan* (65), widower, bricklayer's labourer, born Mayo, Ireland;
- [2] *Peter Monaghan* (29), son, unmarried, publican and steel smelter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *James Miller* (42), son-in-law, gas stoker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Mary Miller* (34), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *M. H. Miller* (10), niece, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *F. J. Miller* (7), born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Cecelia Miller* (4), niece, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Elizabeth Miller* (2), born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Florence Thickett* (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Walsall Observer 3/12/1904

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Friday, the 25th ult.....

Mr. A. J. Glover made an application on behalf of the Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery Company for permission to carry out some important alterations and renovations at the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury. He pointed out that the application was made chiefly in order to put the premises in a better sanitary condition.

Mr. A. I. Scott, architect, presented plans of the proposed alterations and improvements, which, he explained, would entail an outlay of about £200.

The Mayor calculated from the plans he had before him that whilst the house was only worth £1,000 now it would be worth £3,000 if the alterations were made, and he thought the present was a most inopportune time to consent to such extensive improvements of licensed premises. Besides, he and his colleagues were of opinion that this was one of the houses that might possibly be dispensed with under the Compensation Act. In that case, if they granted the application it would considerably increase the value of the property and consequently add to the amount payable by the County Council under the Act in the event of the house being done away with in June next. They therefore preferred not to grant the application that day, and they suggested that as they did not desire to refuse it altogether the matter should be deferred until the new Act came into operation.

Under these circumstances Mr. Glover withdrew the application.”

1921 Census

62, Portway Road

- [1] *Frederick John Astbury* (52), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Theresa Caroline Astbury* (53), wife, home duties, born Leicester;
- [3] *Frederick Arthur Astbury* (21), son, electrician, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Margaret Williams* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Midland Advertiser 22/2/1930

“A verdict of Death from Cerebral Embolism was returned at an inquest, held on Wednesday, on Mrs. Theresa Caroline Astbury (50), wife of Mr. *Frederick John Astbury*, licensee of the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

The husband of the deceased stated that his wife had had a stroke in 1917, and had sustained a further attack since. On Monday she seemed in her usual health, but after coming back from a walk, complained that she felt the cold. She sat before the fire with a shawl on, and was assisted to bed at 7 o'clock. She died before medical assistance arrived. Dr. W. E. Coleman deposed that Mrs. Astbury had suffered from cerebral embolism, to which death was due.”

Evening Despatch 14/6/1935

“The disappearance of a cycle after two men strangers had met and got into conversation in a public house, was described at Wednesbury today, when Benjamin Anderson, aged 29, 63a, Hall Green Street, Bradley, Bilston, was fined £1 for stealing the machine.

Joseph Fereday, 15, Bickhill Street, Portobello, Willenhall, said that at 8.30pm on 24 May, he was in the NELSON INN, Portway, Wednesbury, when he met Anderson, a stranger. They had three or four drinks together, and at closing time they walked away, witness pushing his cycle. He alleged that Anderson said, ‘I bet you a packet of cigarettes that you don’t ride your bicycle.’ Witness mounted his bicycle, but fell off near the canal bridge. He was unconscious, but when he recovered both the bicycle and Anderson had gone.

In a statement to a policeman, Anderson admitted he had the bicycle, but he did not know what he did with it. Anderson said that Fereday had had plenty of drink but he would not say that he was drunk. After leaving the public house Fereday asked him to wait a minute while he went towards the canal. ‘I walked on a bit pushing the cycle and waited, but the man never came, so I went back but could not find him,’ Anderson added. He took the bicycle home and left it in the yard.”

1939 Register

Portway Road – NELSON INN (5 of 7)

- [1] George Rose, date of birth 4/3/1896, aluminium dresser, married;
- [2] Esther Ann Rose, dob 8/5/1903, business manager, married;
- [3] Harry Rose, dob 16/11/1919, aluminium moulder, ARP, AFS, single;
- [5] Ronald Perry, dob 5/4/1927, school, single;
- [6] George E. Rose, dob 5/5/1934, school, single;

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1948]

A team from here were winners of the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1948]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/2/1952

“Draw for the quarter finals of the Dudley Town FC darts cup competition is as follows: CALIFORNIA INN B (Blackheath) v GPO (Wolverhampton) or NELSON INN A (Wednesbury), VICTORY INN A (Tipton) v BUSH INN A (Lower Gornal), Belgrave Sports A (Blackheath) v CALIFORNIA INN A (Blackheath), Vono Sports (Tipton) v Ex-Servicemen’s Club (Bradley). These matches must be completed by Saturday March 8.”

[NELSON did not progress to the semi-finals.]

Bridgnorth Journal 14/10/1955

"The wedding took place on Saturday at St. Mary's Church of Miss Patricia Massey, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Oliver, of 12 Lodge Lane, The Grove, Bridgnorth, and Mr. George Rose, only son of Mr. and Mrs. *G. Rose*, of the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Given away by her uncle, Mr. H. Massey, the bride wore nylon lace over tulle and satin, and a diamante coronet with a veil. She carried a bouquet of white roses, pink carnations and Lily of the Valley.

Bridesmaids were Miss June Corfield (cousin of the bride), Miss Hilda Leath (friend of the bride), Misses Barbara and Sheila Rose (sisters of the bridegroom) and Miss Glenis Perry. Master David Oliver (brother of the bride) was a page boy.

A reception, attended by 64 guests, was held at the Swan Hotel, Bridgnorth, and afterwards the couple left for a honeymoon at Blackpool, the bride travelling in a blue costume with tan accessories."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/12/1962 - Deaths

"Anthony Edward Rose, passed away December 3, 1962, aged 13 years. Only child of Harry and Muriel and eldest grand-child of Mr. and Mrs. *Rose*, the NELSON, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Funeral service to take place at St. Paul's, Wood Green, 3pm, on Monday, December 10, 1962, afterwards at Fallings Heath Cemetery."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/2/1963 - Employment Wanted

"Experienced Typist requires work at home, quick, confidential service, own typewriter.

Apply, Mrs. Beards, NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury."

EXPERIENCED Typist requires work at home, quick, confidential service, own typewriter; apply—Mrs. Beards, Nelson Inn, Portway-road, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/10/1965 - Advert

"Johnny V, Tattooist, at the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Open all day Saturday, Sunday."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Cribbage League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1970 - Advert

"*Ken and Marge Russell*, of the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury,

Wish all Customers and Friends a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/5/1981

"Thieves who took a 34-year-old Tipton man's van and then set fire to it, may also have wrecked his chance of a job. For he has been made redundant from his job as a floor layer, and feels he may not be able to get another job without transport. Father-of-three Mr. Derek Cowley, of Oakley Avenue, was in the NELSON pub in Portway Road, Wednesbury, last night when the thieves struck. He was playing dominoes for his pub team, the BUSH, of Tipton, and when he came out his van had gone. A short while after it was taken the van was set on fire in Brickhouse Lane, Great Bridge, and the flames gutted it. Wednesbury detectives are investigating the incident, and have appealed for information."

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/4/1988

"Darts players at a Wednesbury pub scored half a million points and raised £1,000 for the cancer unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital. More than 20 men and women players from three darts teams at the NELSON INN, Portway Road, raised the money with a sponsored 24-hour marathon. Pub landlady, Mrs. Mary Houghton, said it was agreed to send the money to the unit because the six-year-old son of one of the players had received treatment there for cancer. They presented the cheque to Dr. Gillian Mann, head of the hospital's cancer unit at the pub last night."

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/8/1988

"Two Wednesbury drinkers had a hair raising experience when they called into their local. Jim Burke and Ian Phillips had their heads shaved for charity in front of other regulars at the NELSON pub, Portway Road. Their decision to 'bare all' has raised almost £100 and marks the launch of a series of fund-raising events by the pub. Licensee Mr. *John Houghton* said the next major event will be a sponsored cycle ride to Rhyl at the August Bank Holiday.

Earlier this year the pub raised £1,000 for charities through a series of fund-raising events. This latest effort is to raise money for the children's ward at Sandwell District General Hospital, the Birmingham Children's Hospital and the Intensive Care Unit at the Manor Hospital, Walsall."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/6/1990 - Advert

“The NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Now Offers Lunchtime Meals Every Day excluding Sunday.

Basket Meals evenings only, every night, excluding Wednesday.

Banks's Ales and Beers. Homely pub, comfortable surroundings, small parties catered for.

Tuesday Evenings, 7pm-11pm, Mild Ale 75p a Pint.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/3/1991

“Around 50 possible descendants of Britain's most famous mariner are being invited to a charity ‘do’ at a Black Country pub. Organisers are hoping to attract as many people called Nelson as possible to the reunion at the NELSON pub in Portway Road, Wednesbury, on Easter Monday. The charity night is aimed at raising hundreds of pounds for cystic fibrosis and the Heart Foundation at Birmingham Children's Hospital.”

“Sandwell Evening Mail 2/4/1991

“Regulars at a Wednesbury pub roped in more that £200 for two charities with fund-raising events including a lorry pull. About a dozen customers at the NELSON pub in Portway Road pulled the lorry 200 yards across the nearby Bilston Road Industrial Estate to raise funds for cystic fibrosis work and the Heart Foundation at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Other regulars paid to enter darts and domino tournaments while a raffle raised more cash. Licensee *Linda Phillips* said, ‘We raised just over £200 and the money is still coming in.’”

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 18/10/1992

“He's drunk more pints of beer than anyone at his local. But regulars still call Albert Ford ‘Teapot.’ The name was coined because as a baby his mother kept him warm by lying him next to a teapot. And the name has stuck, even though 76 year-old Albert hates tea. Now regulars at the NELSON pub in Wednesbury have presented him with his very own teapot to commemorate his 60 years drinking at the pub. Albert, who drinks four pints every lunchtime, said, ‘I was very thrilled with the gift, it was very funny.’”

Walsall Chronicle 8/7/1994

“Charity darts team Bloxwich Friends of the Mentally Handicapped were on target when they raised over £100 during their last two matches. The team raised a total of £74.05 when they beat Pelsall Social Club 11-4, and last week the Friends were beaten 10-6 by the JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS in Dudley, raising £40.55. Tomorrow (Saturday) the Friends hold their annual presentation evening at the THATCH in Bloxwich. They take up the fund raising trail again on July 17 at the NELSON in Wednesbury.”

[£45 was raised at the NELSON.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/6/1994

“Seasoned drinkers at a Wednesbury pub will be trying to drink a ‘boot’ of ale tonight to raise money for charity. The regulars will be trying to drink a boot-shaped glass of beer – like a yard of ale – at the NELSON pub in Portway Road. Licensee *Eileen Ellis* said the drinker who manages to down the beer the quickest would win a golden boot. The event is part of National Pub Week.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1994

“Mr. Jack Horton was given a treat when his regular, the NELSON in Wednesbury, put on a party to mark his 80th birthday – a surprise appearance by 83-year-old kissagram French Maid Kitty Lyons, from Walsall.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/9/1996 - Advert

“Banks's Pubshop. Tenancies available this month.....

NELSON, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Extensively refurbished in 1994. Consists of one bar with pool area and catering facilities.”

London Gazette 29/10/2002

"Jayne Ann Wilson, 2 Ezekiel Lane, Shortheath, Willenhall, West Mids, WV12 5QU and carrying on business as the NELSON INN, 62 Portway Rd, Wednesbury, West Mids, WS10 5EQ.

Court - Walsall.

Date of Filing Petition - 24th October 2002.

Date of Bankruptcy Order - 24th October 2002.

Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition - Debtor's."

Bond Wolfe Auction 31/3/2021

"NELSON INN, 62 Portway Road, Wednesbury.

A substantial detached two storey fully rendered property of traditional brick and tile construction with an adjoining side car park and yard and a well presented beer patio to the rear. The property currently trades as a community pub but offers excellent scope for future conversion to apartment or an HMO.

The property is in a well populated mixed residential and commercial area fronting Portway Road, approximately 0.5 miles from Wednesbury Town Centre and just off the Black Country New Road. The pub benefits from an adjoining housing estate and easy access to other local amenities.

Basement: Beer Cellar and Barrel Drop.

Ground Floor: Front Entrance Lobby, Carpeted Snug, Public Bar, adjoining Games Area with internal barrel drop to Cellar, Ladies and Gents WCs, General Store, Catering Kitchen.

First Floor: Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Office/Single Bedroom, Bathroom, Kitchen.

Outside: Smoking Shelter, Beer Patio, Car Park and Side Yard.

The property is held on a long lease for a term of 1,000 years from 20th March 1681 (660 years to expiry) and is subject to a tenancy expiring in November 2021, at a current rental of £7,200 per annum."

[2023]

Check Dudley Street.

SALE of valuable FREEHOLD BUILDINGS and BUILDING LAND, at WEDNESBURY, Staffordshire.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOSEPH DAWES, on Monday, July 4th, 1853, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, WEDNESBURY, at six o'clock in the evening, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, the undermentioned very desirable PROPERTY:—

LOT 1.—All that well-known, convenient, and commodious, PUBLIC HOUSE, with the Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, called "The Nelson," fronting the Portway Road and Hobbins-street, Wednesbury, one of the best situations in the parish, being in the midst of several extensive ironworks, now in the occupation of Mr. William Goss, who is doing a good business. These premises have a plentiful supply of hard and soft water.

1853

AN OPPORTUNITY SELDOM TO BE MET WITH.
"THE NELSON INN,"

SITUATED IN THE PORTWAY ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

TO be DISPOSED OF by PRIVATE TREATY, (by the direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. William Goss) — the LICENCES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of all that long-established and well-accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the name of the "NELSON INN," situated in the Portway Road, Wednesbury, a short distance from the stations of the Great Western and South Staffordshire Railways. The House is situated in the midst of a thickly-populated district, and surrounded by large and extensive iron works, and going at the present time a very lucrative and extensive business. The House and Premises comprise a good Stable, and an entire Yard, Piggeries, &c., and combine every convenience for extending the business almost to any extent.

To treat for the purchase, and for any further information, apply to Mr. William Tompson, Three Tuns Inn, Snow Hill, Birmingham; or to Mr. William Duesbury, No. 8, Bloomsbury, Birmingham.

1860

CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE has received instructions to LET, with immediate possession, one of the best Old-licensed Houses in Wednesbury, known as the NELSON INN, situated in the Portway Road, surrounded by tube and ironworks, commanding an excellent in and out door business. Ill health of the proprietor's wife is the sole cause of leaving. The Premises are convenient and low rented. Coming-in about £200. to £300.—For particulars and to treat, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

162

JOHNNY V, TATTOOIST, at the NELSON INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Open all day Saturday, Sunday.

1965

KEN AND MARGE RUSSELL,
of
THE NELSON INN,
PORTWAY-ROAD,
WEDNESBURY,

Wish all Customers and Friends
a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

1970

THE NELSON INN

**Portway Road,
Wednesbury**

**NOW OFFERS LUNCHTIME
MEALS EVERY DAY EXCL SUN**

Basket Meals evenings only, every night
excl Wed. Banks's Ales and Beers.
Homely pub, comfortable surroundings,
small parties catered for

**Tues Evenings, 7 pm - 11 pm
MILD ALE 75P A PINT**

1990



Nelson, Portway Road, Wednesbury

Extensively refurbished in 1994. Consists of
one bar with pool area and catering facilities.

1996

NOAHS ARK

26, New Street, (Shentons Lane), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Addison

LICENSEES

Peter Ellis [1849] – [1851]
Abner Ellis [1860] – [1861]
Mrs. Ann Ellis [1865] – [1871]
George Glover [1880] – [1881]
Mrs. Fanny Glover [1891]
George Wood Till [1896] – [1912]
Mrs. Martha Wood Till [1916] – **1921**):

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Peter Ellis, beer retailer, New Street. [1849]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/4/1850 - Advert

“Important Sale at Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

Valuable Freehold Land, Gardens, and Houses, situate in Wednesbury and West Bromwich.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph Dawes (by direction of the Trustees of Samuel Addison, Esq, deceased), at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Monday the 6th of May next, at five o'clock in the evening.....

Lot VI. All that Freehold Dwelling House, known by the sign of the NOAHS ARK, situate in Shentons Lane, Wednesbury, and used as a Retail Beerhouse, with the Yard, Brewhouse, and Outbuildings thereto belonging, and having the premises of Mrs. Oldacre on one side, and the lands and buildings of the Representatives of Mrs. Shenton on the other; also the large Shopping at the back, now used as Coach Smiths Shops; all which premises are now in the occupation of Mr. *Peter Ellis*.”

LOT VI.—All that FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE, known by the sign of “The Noah's Ark,” situate in Shenton's-lane, Wednesbury, and used as a Retail Beerhouse, with the Yard, Brewhouse, and Outbuildings thereto belonging, and having the premises of Mrs. Oldacre on one side, and the lands and buildings of the Representatives of Mrs. Shenton on the other; also the large Shopping at the back, now used as Coachsmiths' Shops; all which premises are now in the occupation of Mr. Peter Ellis.

1851 Census

New Street

- [1] *Peter Ellis* (46), coach smith, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Ann Ellis* (43), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Peter Ellis* (13), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ann Ellis* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Fanny Ellis* (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Joseph Crofts Ellis* (2), son, born Wednesbury:

Peter Ellis died in the 3rd quarter of 1851.

Ann Ellis (44), widow, father William Crofts, married *Abner Ellis* (42), widower, coach smith, on 26th September 1852.

Abner Ellis, beer retailer, New Street. [1860]

1861 Census

New Street

- [1] Abner Ellis (50), beerseller and coach smith, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Ann Ellis (52), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Samuel Ellis (24), son, coach axle smith, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Ann Ellis (21), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Fanny Ellis (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Joseph Ellis (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Abner Ellis died in the 3rd quarter of 1862.

Ann Ellis, beer retailer, New Street. [1865]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/2/1865

“Ann Ellis, a beerhouse keeper, New Street, Wednesbury, was charged with keeping her house open and selling beer during prohibited hours on the 5th instant. Defendant said she admitted the charge, but with one extenuating circumstance – the men were stupid persons, and she could not get them out. As this was the first time defendant was known to have infringed the Act, a fine of 6d and costs was inflicted, 10s in all.”

Mrs. Ann Ellis, beer retailer, New Street. [1868]

1871 Census

26, New Street

- [1] Ann Ellis (62), widow, beerseller, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Fanny Ellis (24), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Joseph C. Ellis (22), son, coach axle turner, born Wednesbury;

Ann Ellis died in the 1st quarter of 1874.

Fanny Ellis married George Glover on 11th December 1877.

George Glover, beer retailer, 26, New Street. [1880]

1881 Census

New Street – NOAHS ARK INN

- [1] George Glover (53), beerhouse keeper, born Walsall;
- [2] Fanny Glover (33), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Emma Hammond (20), domestic servant, born Hill Top;

1891 Census

26, New Street

- [1] Fanny Glover (43), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Matilda Morris (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1894

“At Wednesbury Town Hall, yesterday, Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Charles Thomas Davis, otherwise Charles Berry (36), wagoner, 33, Pleasant Street, Hill Top, whose lifeless body was found just outside the Hill Top Tunnel, on the Great Western Railway, at daybreak on Saturday morning. The evidence showed that the deceased was at the NOAHS ARK INN, Wednesbury, on Friday night, from five o'clock until a quarter past nine, when he left quite sober, having had only four half-pints of ‘fourpenny’ in the course of the evening. He had been accustomed to walk home along the line, which was conveniently reached from his place of work, the Brunswick Tube Works, and it was supposed that he was doing so, when he was run down by a passing train, and apparently dragged along twenty-five or thirty yards. The dead dog found near him did not belong to him. The engines which passed during the night were examined after the body was found, but no trace of blood could be discovered on any of them. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

George Till, beer retailer, 26, New Street. [1896]

1901 Census

26, New Street

- [1] *George W. Till* (58), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Martha Till* (53), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Annie Till* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Bertie J. Bailey* (9), grand-son, born Wednesbury:

1911 Census

26, New Street

- [1] *George Wood Till* (68), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Martha Till* (63), wife, married 43 years, assisting in business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Samuel H. Till* (43), son, brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Herbert J. Bailey* (19), grand-son, clerk, railway, born Wednesbury:

George Wood Till, beer retailer, 26, New Street. [1912]

George Wood Till died in the 1st quarter of 1916.

Mrs. Martha Till, beer retailer, 26, New Street. [1916]

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions NOAHS ARK and WHY NOT.

Mr. Graham Millward (barrister) made application for the transfer of the license of the NOAHS ARK to the WHY NOT. Both were situated in New Street, Wednesbury. These houses came up last year for redundancy, and the magistrates refused the WHY NOT and retained the NOAHS ARK, but application was now made to transfer one to the other as the WHY NOT was a better structure and more suitable. There would only be one licensed house in the street, and there was a little haven of peace reigning in the neighbourhood, for there was no opposition whatever. Mr. Ernest Brown said he was watching the interests of the present licensee of the NOAHS ARK (*Mrs. M. Till*), who was perfectly willing to go and live at the WHY NOT.

Evidence was called in support.

The magistrates granted the application.”

South Staffordshire Times 9/4/1921

“Mr. Graham Millward applied to the magistrates for the confirmation of the removal of the license of the NOAHS ARK to the WHY NOT licensed premises. The license of the WHY NOT had gone, by previous decision, and now the application was for the transfer of the NOAHS ARK license to a better place and more modern, the WHY NOT. There was no opposition, said Mr. Millward, and he trusted the application would be granted.

The Mayor said the magistrates had decided that there was no need to call all the witnesses mentioned in support, and the transfer of the license was now confirmed.”

Subsequent to the transfer of the license, the WHY NOT was renamed NOAHS ARK.

OAKESWELL END TAVERN

9+10, (9), Terrace Street, Oakeswell End, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Richards [1860] – [1861]
James Talbot [1868] – [1871]
Sarah Talbot [] – **1872**);
Edward Blakemore (**1872** – []
Thomas Russell [1880] – [1881]
Samuel A. Wood [1891] – [1898]
Thomas Challinor [1901]
Mrs. Ada Challinor [1908] – [1912]
George Challinor [1911]
Mrs. Ada Self [1916] – [1921]
G Cartwright [1924]
Georgina Hawley [] – **1927**);
Joseph Tate Hawley (**1927** – []
Henry Noran [] – **1931**);
Silas Dunn (**1931** – [1932]
Edward Percy Harley [] – **1934**);



Token

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Thomas Richards, beer retailer, Terrace Street. [1860]

1861 Census

Terrace Street – Oakeswell Terrace [OAKESWELL TAVERN?]
[1] *Thomas Richards* (36), beershop keeper, born Wednesbury;
[2] *Elizabeth Richards* (36), wife, born Wednesbury;
[3] *John Jackson* (35), lodger, mechanical draughtsman, born Dumfries:

Thomas Richards issued tokens from here.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/10/1863 - Advert

“Important Notice. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. T. Ault will Sell by Auction, upon the premises at the OAKES WELL END TAVERN, Terry Street, Wednesbury, on Tuesday Next, October 6th.

The whole of the Household Furniture and Brewing Plant, upwards of thirty Ale Casks, from 36 to 96 gallons, sweet, and in good condition; described in catalogues to be had of the Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich, and at the place of sale.

Sale to commence in the morning at half-past Ten o'clock.”

James Talbot, beer retailer, Terrace Street. [1868]

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.
MR. T. AULT will SELL by AUCTION, upon the premises at the Oakes Well End Tavern, Terry Street, Wednesbury, on TUESDAY NEXT, October 6th—the whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Brewing Plant, upwards of thirty Ale Casks, from 36 to 96 gallons, sweet, and in good condition; described in catalogues to be had of the Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich, and at the place of sale.
Sale to commence in the morning at half-past Ten o'clock.

1871 Census

9+10, Terrace Street

- [1] *James Talbot* (47), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Sarah Talbot* (45), wife, born Shifnal, Shropshire;
- [3] *Edward Blakemore* (23), joint occupier, moulder, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Jane Blakemore* (22), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Eliza Talbot Blakemore* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Alice Blakemore* (8 months), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Thomas Russell (45), bachelor, married *Sarah Talbot* (46), widow, on 2nd January 1876.

Thomas Russell, beer retailer, Terrace Street. [1880]

1881 Census

9, Terrace Street – OAKSWELL END TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Russell* (50), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Sarah Russell* (50), wife, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [3] *John Russell* (45), brother, unemployed, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Sarah Hodson* (20), servant, born Wednesbury:

1891 Census

9, Terrace Street – OAKESWELL END TAVERN

- [1] *Samuel A. Wood* (29), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Annie Wood* (28), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Samuel Wood* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Phoebe Holyhead* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/7/1898

“The annual supper of the Church Hill Gardeners Protection Society took place on Saturday night at Mr. *S. Wood*’s, OAKSWELL TAVERN, Terrace Street. After doing full justice to the good things provided, Mr. *J. Barnsley* was voted to the chair, and *W. Whitehouse* to the vice-chair. The report of the secretary (which showed that the society is still in a prosperous condition, both in numbers and financially, and that the members are determined to protect each other’s crops from the hands of uninvited visitors) was read and adopted. An excellent programme was gone through.”

1901 Census

9+10, Terrace Street – OAKESWELL TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Challinor* (23), single, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Harriett Higgitt* (21), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Nellie Woodhall* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

George Challinor married *Ada Blakemore* in the 3rd quarter of 1905.

Mrs. Ada Challinor, beer retailer, 10, Terrace Street. [1908], [1912]

1911 Census

9+10, Terrace Street

- [1] *George Challinor* (70), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ada Challinor* (60), wife, married 7 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Harry Blakemore* (29), son, barman, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elijah Challinor* (29), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Lily Blakemore* (19), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Rowland Blakemore* (17), son, born Wednesbury:

Ada Blakemore married Arthur Self in the 3rd quarter of 1908.

Mrs. Ada Self, beer retailer, 9, Terrace Street. [1916]

Mrs. Ada Self, beer retailer, 9+10, Terrace Street. [1921]

1921 Census

9+10, Terrace Street

[1] Arthur Self (40), nut and bolt turner, born Bradford, Yorkshire;

[2] Ada Self (36), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] Mary Self (7), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Walsall Observer 17/6/1922 - Advert

“Distraint for Beer Duty.

A Sale by Public Auction, at the OAKESWELL TAVERN, Terrace Street, Wednesbury, will take place on Friday, 23rd June, 1922, at 3.0pm, of Brewing Vessels and Utensils, including One Mash Tub (160 gallons), Two 130-gallon Steel Beer Boilers, One Wooden Cooling Vessel and Refrigerator and Piping, One 120-gallon Fermenting Cask, One 50-gallon Fermenting Cask, One 54-gallon Beer Cask, and Sundry Effects.

By Order of the Commissioners of Customs Excise.

Customs and Excise, Walsall, June, 1922.”

South Staffordshire Times 12/7/1924

“A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Society was held on Tuesday afternoon at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury.....

Two new members were made, Mr. G. Westall, GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, and Mr. G. Cartwright, OAKESWELL TAVERN, Wednesbury.

Dudley Chronicle 27/10/1927

“Temporary transfers were granted to the OAKESWELL END TAVERN, Terrace Street, Wednesbury, from Georgina Hawley to Joseph Tate Hawley.”

Walsall Observer 11/4/1931

“The Wednesbury magistrates yesterday granted the temporary transfer of the license of the OAKESWELL END TAVERN, Terrace Street, Wednesbury, from Henry Noran to Silas Dunn.”

Silas Dunn, beer retailer, 9+10, Terrace Street. [1932]

Evening Despatch 9/3/1934

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions today.....

The OAKESWELL END TAVERN, Terrace Street, was referred for compensation.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/6/1934

“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 Monday, the 18th day of June, 1934, at 12 o'clock noon.

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.....

OAKESWELL END TAVERN, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, Edward Percy Harley.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/6/1934

"There were only three licenses for consideration at the principal meeting of the Staffordshire Compensation Authority under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, held at the Shire Hall Stafford, on Monday.....

The committee also decided to support the closure of the OAKESWELL END TAVERN, Wednesbury.

Mr. W. Field Hunt appeared for the renewal justices and Mr. F. W. Green for the owners of the property, who made formal application for the renewal of the license.

Mr. Hunt said the Tavern, which was situate in Terry Street, Wednesbury, was an ante-1869 beerhouse. There were 14 other licensed houses within an area of 500 yards.

After details of the barrelage had been given, Mr. Green intimated that he offered no serious opposition to the license being referred."

Staffordshire Sentinel 1/1/1935

"At the Stafford Quarter Sessions at Stafford today, the County Licensing Committee in their report for 1934 stated they had fixed compensation as follows.....

OAKESWELL END TAVERN, Wednesbury, £1,025."

DISTRAINT FOR BEER DUTY.

G.



R.

A SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the
OAKESWELL TAVERN, TERRACE
STREET, WEDNESBURY, will take place on
FRIDAY, 23rd June, 1922, at 3.0 p.m., of
BREWING VESSELS AND UTENSILS,

Including :—

One Mash Tub (160 gallons),
Two 130-gallon Steel Beer Boilers,
One Wooden Cooling Vessel and Refrigerator
and Piping,
One 120-gallon Fermenting Cask,
One 50-gallon Fermenting Cask,
One 54-gallon Beer Cask,
and Sundry Effects.

By Order of the Commissioners of
Customs Excise.

Customs and Excise,
Walsall, June, 1922.

OCEAN HOUSE

117+118, Holyhead Road / Meeting Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Tatton [1861] – [1872]
Mary Ann Tatton [1881]
George Peters [1891] – [1901]
Elizabeth Horton [1911]
Thomas Horton [1912]
Ernest Woodhall [1920]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Joseph Tatton, beer retailer, 117, Holyhead Road. [1861], [1864], [1872]

1861 Census

Holyhead Road

- [1] *Joseph Tatton* (38), beer seller, forge hammer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Tatton* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Mary Jane Tatton* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Parker* (22), house servant, born Wednesbury;

Joseph Tatton, retailer of beer, Holyhead Road. [1862]

1871 Census

Holyhead Road

- [1] *Joseph Tatton* (48), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Tatton* (51), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Mary Jane Tatton* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Jane Copland* (23), general servant, born West Bromwich;

Birmingham Daily Mail 29/5/1877

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, today, Mr. *Tatton*, publican, of Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was summoned at the instance of the Inland Revenue for having in his possession quantity of grains of paradise, which he had used as a substitute for malt. The case was proved by the Inspector for Somerset House, who visited the defendant’s brewery on the 13th of April, and the Bench fined the defendant £50.”

Joseph Tatton died in the 2nd quarter of 1878.

1881 Census

117+118, Holyhead Road – OCEAN HOUSE

- [1] Mary Ann Tatton (61), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Mary Jane Tatton (21), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sarah Ellen Jenkins (23), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] James Harrison (23), visitor, printer compositor, born Walsall;
- [5] Rosetta Harrison (21), wife, born Fallings Heath;
- [6] Emma Jane Highway (16), visitor, dressmaker, born Darlaston:

1891 Census

117, Holyhead Road – OCEAN HOUSE

- [1] George Peters (29), iron worker and publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Sylvia Peters (31), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] George J. Peters (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Sylvia Read (12), step-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Kate E. Read (11), step-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Ethel M. Read (9), step-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Pamela Page (39), sister-in-law, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Caroline Page (37), sister-in-law, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1892

“Yesterday, at West Bromwich Police Court, William Williams, alias ‘Polisher,’ of Holborn Hill, Aston, was charged with stealing two fowls, of the value of 5s, and nine pigeons, valued at 4d 6d, the property of Thomas Dyke, of New Street, Hill Top.

On Saturday the fowls were missed, and the police found that they had been sold to Mr. *Peters*, landlord of the OCEAN INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, for 3s. Three pigeons were recovered at the OCEAN INN, and four were also found to have been sold to Mr. Cartwright, of the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and two were sold to the landlord of the WHY NOT INN, Wednesbury.

Prisoner was sent to gaol for one month, with hard labour.”

George Peters, beer retailer, 117, Holyhead Road. [1896]

1901 Census

117, Holyhead Road

- [1] George Peters (39), iron worker and publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Sylvia Peters (41), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sylvia Read (22), step-daughter, teacher, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Kate Read (21), step-daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Ethel Read (19), step-daughter, teacher, born Wednesbury;
- [6] George Peters (11), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Pamela Page (49), sister-in-law, born Wednesbury:

George Peters – see also GREYHOUND, Wednesbury.

1911 Census

Holyhead Road – OCEAN HOUSE

- [1] Thomas Horton (39), born Tipton;
- [2] Elizabeth Horton (39), wife, married 17 years, innkeeper, born Darlaston;
- [3] Elizabeth Horton (17), servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Alice Horton (16), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Miriam Horton (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Lizzie Horton (11), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Samuel Horton (9), son, born Wednesbury:

Thomas Horton, beer retailer, 117, Holyhead Road. [1912]

South Staffordshire Times 6/3/1920

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The OCEAN INN. *Ernest Woodhall*, licensee of this house, situated at the corner of Meeting Street and Holyhead Road, was also opposed on the ground of redundancy.

Mr. A. K. Glover defended, and Supt. Salt gave his report.

Mr. Glover: They sell home brewed beer? – Yes.

So if a person preferred home brewed quality to the present excellent quality of beer now sold by brewers at other houses, that person would have to go some distance away? – I suppose so. (Laughter.)

Mr. Glover was for the owners, Misses Jones, and Messrs. Millward the licensees and also the tenant, Mr. *Woodhall*. The owners were very anxious that the license should be renewed. The license had been in the family for many years. It was called ‘The OCEAN’ but it was a long way from even Dudley Port. It was the only home brewed house in the neighbourhood.

Evidence in support was called by Mr. Millward and Mr. *Woodhall* (lessee and tenant).....

The magistrates retired to consider their decision in all the forgoing cases.

The Chairman subsequently announced the OCEAN INN would be referred for compensation.”

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.....

OCEAN INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

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 licenses have not been renewed.....

OCEAN INN, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,150.”

It closed in 1920.

ODDFELLOWS ARMS

139+140, (140), Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Albert Henry Hughes
Mrs. Louisa Hughes [1929]

LICENSEES

John Dee [] - **1870**);
James Longmore (**1870** - [1872]
William Doran [1880] - **1881**);
Eli Deeley (**1881** - []
Clara Deeley and Susan Turley [1881] managers
John Reeves [1881] manager
Thomas Nicholls [1888]
James Hickin [1889] - [1891]
Albert Henry Hughes [1896] - [1912]
Mrs. Louisa Hughes [1921]
Samuel Ernest Padgett [1923] - **1924**);
George Frederick Dunn (**1924** - []
Mrs. Louisa Hughes [] - **1925**);
Albert Henry Owen (**1925** - **1927**);
George Marsh (**1927** - **1929**);



Tokens

NOTES

140, Darlaston Road [1871], [1881]
139+140, Darlaston Road [1880], [1921]
139+140 Kings Hill [1891], [1911]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

It was originally the TERRACE TAVERN.

1871 Census

140, Darlaston Road – TERRACE TAVERN

- [1] James Longmore (46), fitter and beer shop, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Mary Ann Longmore (39), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sarah Ann Longmore (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] James Longmore (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Susannah Longmore (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Clara Longmore (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] William H. Longmore (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Florence Longmore (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Levina Mansell (18), domestic servant, born Ketley, Shropshire:

James Longmore, beer retailer, 140, Darlaston Road. [1872]

William Doran, beer retailer and shopkeeper, 139+140 Darlaston Road, Kings Hill. [1880]

1881 Census

140, Darlaston Road

[1] Clara Deeley (18), unmarried, manager, keeping public house, born Walsall Wood;

[2] Susan Turley (21), unmarried, manager, keeping public house, born Willenhall:

Wednesbury Herald 14/5/1881

“*John Reeves*, landlord of the ODD FELLOWS INN, Kings Hill, was summoned by Mr. Superintendent Holland for selling ale without a license.

Police-constable Steele stated that on the 3rd inst he visited the ODD FELLOWS ARMS INN, Kings Hill, and stayed about a quarter of an hour, and saw defendant supply a man with a pint of ale which was not paid for. He afterwards saw him supply a woman with a pint of ale and a man with a pint of ale both of which were paid for. He asked defendant if the license had been transferred to him and he replied that it had not been. Defendant had been selling ale for the last month although he had no license to sell. He had cautioned defendant several times not to sell intoxicating drinks.

Mr. Carter of Walsall, who appeared for the defence said the house virtually belonged to a man named *Eli Deeley*, of Walsall, who had appointed the defendant as the manager of the house. He had placed the defendant's name over the door, but as he did not think it necessary he did not take steps to have the license transferred. As the offence had been committed through ignorance he trusted the Bench would only impose a small penalty.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said he had warned Mr. *Deeley* and the defendant therefore there was no reasonable excuse to make.

The Bench imposed a fine of 40s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1888

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Thomas Nicholls*, keeper of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, beerhouse, Kings Hill, was summoned for having had his house open for the sale of liquors on the morning of Sunday, the 20th ult. Two constables deposed to watching the house on the morning named, and to seeing seven men go in. Afterwards they entered themselves, and found three men named Grice, Taylor, and Hitch, there. After hearing witnesses for the defence the Stipendiary dismissed the summons, and one against the men for being there during unlawful hours.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1888

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Thomas Nicholls*, publican, Kings Hill, was summoned for releasing cattle from the pound, and also for breach of pound. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared in support the charges.

It seemed that three cows belonging to the defendant were found trespassing upon land belonging to Mrs. E. Adams, a neighbour, and were taken to the pound. The defendant followed soon after, and having broken the chain which fastened the gate, released the cows and sent them home. His only defence was that the land upon which the animals were said to have trespassed was not properly fenced, even if it was not land which he himself rented.

He was ordered to pay a fine of 40s and costs in the one case, and one of 2s 6d and costs in the other, making £3 6s 6d altogether.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1888

“At the Walsall County Court, yesterday, before his Honour Judge Griffiths, *Elon Adams*, publican, Portway Road, Wednesbury, sued *Thomas Nicholls*, Kings Hill, publican and cowkeeper, for the sum of £10 13s, made up of £1 for illegal impounding cows belonging to the plaintiff, £6 for injuries caused to one of the cows by such impounding, £2 for loss of milk during the time the cow was ill and under treatment by a veterinary surgeon, £1 fee to a veterinary surgeon, and 8s 9d for release of the cows from pound. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. H. Jackson for the defendant.

The plaintiff's case was that on the 14th June, as his son was driving two of his cows along the road to his field, the defendant and a man in the employment of the defendant appeared, took possession of the cows, and drove them off and impounded them, remarking that the plaintiff had ‘had’ him, and he would retaliate. Whilst in the pound the cows were not allowed to be milked, and in consequence one of them suffered from inflammation, and had to be attended to by a veterinary surgeon.

The defence was that the cows were not taken from off the road, but from off the defendant's field, and that they were properly attended to and fed; and a counter-claim for £11 19s was made, arising out of the alleged illegal impounding by the plaintiff of some of defendant's cows on the 25th April.

His Honour, after a protracted hearing, found for the plaintiff on the claim and the counter-claim.”

London Gazette 23/11/1888

"*Thomas Nicholls*, of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, 138 and 139, Darlaston-road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Beerhouse Keeper, Farmer and Blacksmith."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/12/1888

"Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Thomas Nicholls*, ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, publican, cowkeeper, and smith.

The public examination of this debtor took place at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, before Mr. Registrar Clarke; Mr. Newman (Messrs. Loxton and Newman) appearing on his behalf, and Mr. W. S. Smith for a creditor, Mr. Eton Adams; Mr. J. Corbett also representing a creditor.

His statement of affairs showed liabilities, £352 10s 2d, of which £322 11s 5d was estimated to rank for dividend, and assets (after preferential payments, £7 8s 9d) £104 2s 8d, leaving a deficiency of £218 8s 9d. He attributed his failure to bad debts, loss on farming, and costs of litigation.

In course of his examination, the debtor said he married his present wife six weeks ago, borrowing £6 odd from her daughter towards the wedding expenses. That money he had repaid. His wife had removed the furniture and things which belonged to her before he married her. They had been taken to the house of her brother, William Bayley.

The examination was adjourned till the 7th January for the debtor to furnish a financial statement for the three months before the filing of the petition."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1889

"Re *Thomas Nicholls*, the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, publican and blacksmith.

This debtor appeared at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court yesterday for his adjourned public examination, before Mr. Registrar Clarke. Mr. Newman attended on his behalf, and Mr. W. S. Smith for a creditor.

The bankrupt was further examined on an amended statement of accounts which he had filed, and the examination was then further adjourned till the 23rd inst, to close."

Express and Star 16/10/1889

"*London Gazette* Notices. The Bankruptcy Act, 1883 Notices of Dividends.....

Thomas Nicholls, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, beerhouse keeper, farmer, and blacksmith. First and final dividend, 3s 6d in the pound; payable October 18, at the Official Receiver's, Wolverhampton."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/10/1889

"*James Hickin*, ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill, was charged with selling during prohibited hours. Defendant pleaded guilty, but said that the beer was drawn in ignorance by his wife. Fined 10s and costs."

1891 Census

139+140 Kings Hill

[1] *James Hickin* (35), grocer and publican, born Erdington, Warwickshire;

[2] *Sarah A. Hickin* (29), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] *James E. Hickin* (8), son, scholar, born Willenhall;

[4] *William T. Hickin* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Florrie D. Hickin* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Mercy Blanlon* (27), sister, married, dressmaker, born Willenhall;

[7] *Margaret Pallett* (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Ethel Blanlon* (2), niece, born Willenhall;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/6/1892

"Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers and the Election.

Last evening a meeting of the Licensed Victuallers Association was held at the ODDFELLOWS ARMS INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, Mr. George Lloyd presiding. The Chairman said Mr. Wilson Lloyd's views were favourable to the trade, whereas Mr. Stanhope was opposed to their interests. After discussion it was decided to adopt Mr. Wilson Lloyd as the trade candidate."

Albert Henry Hughes, beer retailer, 140, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill. [1896]
He issued tokens from here.

1901 Census

Darlaston Road – ODD FELLOWS ARMS

- [1] *Albert Hughes* (39), grocer and publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Martha Hughes* (32), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Albert Hughes* (7), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Horace N. Hughes* (5), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Gladys M. Hughes* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *William S. Hughes* (6 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Annie Cooper* (18), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Wednesbury Leader 28/12/1901

“Mr. James Miller, secretary of the Kings Hill Sick and Dividend Society, which is held at the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, has just issued his annual report, a glance at which will show the utility of working men becoming members of such societies. It is shown by the report that the society, both numerically and financially, is in a very flourishing condition, the total number of members being 77, with a total income for the past year of £108 17s 7½d. There have been two death claims on behalf of members’ children, for which £4 has been paid. Sick pay to the aggregate of 38 weeks, divided among eleven members, and amounting to £15 4s, has also been paid, whilst the incidental expenses, including surgeon and secretary, are £11 12s 6½d; the sum of £4 has been carried forward for the next year, making a total on the expenditure side of £34 16s 6½d, thus leaving the sum of £74 1s 1d available for dividend, which amounts to 19s 9d for each full member.”

Albert Henry Hughes, shopkeeper and beer retailer, 140, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill. [1904]

Tipton Herald 3/1/1903

“Mr. James Miller, secretary of the Kings Hill Sick and Dividend Society, which is held in the ODDFELLOWS ARMS INN, has just issued his annual report. From it we glean that the society is in a very flourishing condition, and the figures given speak volumes in praise of these societies among the working classes. The total income is given as £118 12s 6d; total of members on books, 78. The expenditure is, paid by death claims (7 children), £13; the sick claims amount to £17 4s 0d; doctor and secretary £9 5s 6d; incidental expenses £1 3s 3d; £3 19s 2d is carried forward to next year’s account, thus leaving £74 0s 7d available for dividend, which is worked out as follows, 74 full members, 15s 3½d each; 3 threequarters members 14s 5½d each, and 1 half member 9s 7½d.”

Walsall Advertiser 23/7/1904

“Quoits. ROYAL OAK (Pleck) v ODDFELLOWS ARMS (Kings Hill). These teams met under the auspices of the Wednesbury and District League on Saturday. Scores, ODDFELLOWS ARMS 70; ROYAL OAK 64.”

1911 Census

139+140, Kings Hill – ODDFELLOWS ARMS

- [1] *Albert Henry Hughes* (50), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Martha Hughes* (44), wife, married 19 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Albert H. Hughes* (17), son, apprentice to furnishing, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Horace N. Hughes* (15), son, template maker’s assistant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Gladys M. Hughes* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *William S. Hughes* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Joseph A. Hughes* (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Irene A. Hughes* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Frederick T. Hughes* (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Edwin H. Hughes* (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [11] *Ethel Barrows* (26), niece, born America, British subject:

Albert Henry Hughes, beer retailer, 140, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill. [1912]

1921 Census

139+140, Darlaston Road

- [1] *Louisa Hughes* (60), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Sydney William Hughes* (20), step-son, electrician, wireman, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Archibald J. Hughes* (18), step-son, apprentice electrical crane fitter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Irene Adelaide Hughes* (16), step-daughter, home duties, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Frederick Thomas Hughes* (14), step-son, drawing office, out of work, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Harold Edwin Hughes* (13) step-son, school, born Wednesbury;

London Gazette 22/2/1924

“*Samuel Ernest Padgett*, 92a Guns Lane, Carters Green, West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, lately residing and carrying on business at the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, and 139, Darlaston-road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford. Beerhouse Keeper.

Court - Walsall.

Date of Filing Petition - February 20, 1924.

Date of Receiving Order - February 20, 1924.

Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition - Debtor's.”

South Staffordshire Times 1/3/1924

“Opposition was offered to the renewal of three licenses on the grounds of redundancy at the Wednesbury Adjourned Brewster Sessions, yesterday.....

The ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill, was being objected to on grounds that it was structurally deficient as well as redundancy.

Mr. Ernest E. Brown appeared for the owners and mortgagees, and said the owners were prepared to give an undertaking that the sanitary arrangements would be put in proper order and to the satisfaction of the Bench as soon as possible. He therefore asked them to renew the license. It had been in the same family for 35 years. Mrs. *Hughes*, the widow of the former licensee did not feel she was able to carry on the business. Since then they seemed to have had nothing but trouble. The house did not belong to a brewery but to a widow, and she looked to the income from it for her support and that of her children.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared for the present licensee, Mr. *G. F. Dunn*, and applied for a renewal of the license.

After the magistrates had had a private consultation, the Mayor announced.....

The license of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS would also be renewed, subject to an undertaking being given to provide proper sanitary accommodation and to put the premises in a proper state of repair before the next annual Licensing Committee.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1924

“At the Wednesbury yesterday, before the Stipendiary, *Samuel Ernest Padgett* (aged 42), Guns Lane, West Bromwich, was charged with fraudulently converting £100 to his own use between November 27, 1923, and February 20, 1924. The prosecutor was *George Frederick Dunn*, licensee of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury. He said he was offered a position as manager of a beerhouse by the defendant in November of last year, the defendant at that time being the licensee of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS. *Padgett* wanted £100 deposit as security for honesty. When asked for a security for the return of the money *Padgett* said he had plenty of money in stock, and the money would be returned at the expiration of a month's notice on either side. An agreement was signed to this effect, and on February 1 *Dunn* obtained the transfer of the license of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS from *Padgett*. On the same day he received a month's notice from *Padgett*, who, when consulted by a solicitor, said the money would be paid on the expiration of the notice. The money was not paid, and on February 20 defendant filed his petition in bankruptcy, but *Dunn* was not scheduled as a creditor. *Padgett*, who reserved his defence, was committed to the Staffordshire Assizes, bail being allowed.”

AND

Dudley Chronicle 10/7/1924

“The story of a fraudulent conversion of a £100 was told at the Stafford Assizes last Friday, when *Samuel Ernest Padgett* (44), brewer, formerly a Wednesbury licensee, committed from Wednesbury, was indicted for fraudulently converting to his own use the sum of £100 entrusted to him by *George F. Dunn*, licensee of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Wednesbury, between November 27th, 1923, and February 20th, 1924. Mr. J. Wylie was for the prosecution, and Mr. Rowlatt defended.

For the prosecution it was alleged that prisoner acquired the lease of the OLD ODDFELLOWS ARMS at Wednesbury, and advertised for a manager. *Dunn* replied, and was offered the appointment at £2 a week, and 5 per cent on all the takings over £26. *Dunn* was also required to deposit £100, as a guarantee of the due performance of his duties as manager. Shortly after the appointment *Dunn* was given a month's notice, and he had been unable to secure the return of his £100.

In cross-examination *Dunn* denied that he had committed any breach of the agreement, but admitted that the day before prisoner filed his petition he told prisoner that he was prepared to accept £50 if he could have it 'there and then,' because he knew he would not get it afterwards.

Further evidence was given to the effect that prisoner filed his petition, and that *Dunn*'s name did not appear in the list of creditors. The total liabilities were £541 19s 8d and the assets £263.

Police-constable Jones said when he served prisoner with the summons he said, 'I had his money and put it in the bank. I have not defrauded him.'

Prisoner went into the witness box and asserted that *Dunn* was indebted to him to the extent of over £80.

Cross-examined by Mr. Wylie, he stated that at the time he engaged *Dunn* he was carrying on a successful business.

Mr. Wylie: Had you borrowed money at the time from moneylenders? – Yes, in May and June in order to take over the business.

Did you repay the money? – Some part of it.

Have you repaid them in full? – Not in full.

What interest were you paying? – That was the trouble; I should say about half.

And yet you ask the members of the jury to believe you were in a good financial position? – I was carrying on all right.

In further evidence, prisoner said he had had an offer of £500 for the place as a going concern, and when pressed by Mr. Wylie to say who made the offer prisoner replied that it was some business bureau at the back of the Town Hall in Birmingham. The offer was not made in writing, he added.

The Judge: It is a curious thing that these glittering, golden offers are never reduced to writing.

Prisoner further stated that if *Dunn* had squared up with him he would have squared up with *Dunn*.

The jury found prisoner guilty, and the Judge said he was in complete agreement with the verdict. It was very sad to see prisoner in that position, but he ought not to have done what he had and deprive a poor man of his £100.

Sentence of twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour was passed."

George Frederick Dunn – see also QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road.

Bilston & Willenhall Times 10/1/1925

"The magistrates sanctioned plans for structural alterations to the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill; the OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, and the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street."

Walsall Observer 2/3/1929

"Two licensed houses, the FOX AND DOGS, Albert Street, and the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill, objected to on the ground of redundancy were referred for compensation at the adjourned Brewster Sessions at Wednesbury yesterday.....

The ODDFELLOWS ARMS, said Police-sergeant Gillman, was badly in need of renovation and repair. There were seven licensed houses within 500 yards.

Mr. E. E. Brown, applying for renewal on behalf of the owner, Mrs. *Louisa Hughes*, said she was a widow. Her late husband acquired the house 39 years ago. Subsequent to his death she leased it to a man who became bankrupt. Owing to various calls on the estate she had not obtained much benefit, but was hoping that the house would be allowed to remain in order to recoup herself. There had been a steady increase in the trade."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/5/1929

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Clara Meak, 44, Kings Hill, and Clara Paddock, 6, New Cross Street, were fined 10s each for consuming intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours. Elizabeth Marsh, wife of the licensee of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill, was fined £5 and £5 5s special costs for aiding and abetting."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/6/1929

“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 Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, the 30th day of July, 1929, 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.....

ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *George Marsh*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/8/1929

“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 30th day of July, 1929, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *George Marsh*. Owner, Mrs. Louisa Hughes.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/1/1930

“The Epiphany Quarter Sessions for the county began at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Tuesday.....

Report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1929.....

Compensation was awarded as follows.....

ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,800.

The money had been apportioned amongst the interested parties and paid.”

Closed

ODDFELLOWS ARMS

Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Eliza Price [] – 1857)

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 2/5/1857 - Advert

“Wednesbury is the Town for Business.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that noted House of Business, the ODD FELLOWS ARMS, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, brewing twelve bushels per week. Cause of its disposal, the Proprietress having taken to the FOX INN, Bilston.

Apply on the Premises; or to F. Altree, Auctioneer and General Valuer, 73, Wolverhampton Street, Bilston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1859 - Advert

“By Joseph Whitehouse, This Day (Monday), at Eleven o’clock.

All the Brewing Plant, Two Copper Boilers, and Stock-in-Trade, at the ODD FELLOWS ARMS, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, under a Bill of Sale.”

BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, THIS DAY
(Monday), at Eleven o'clock—all the BREWING PLANT, Two Copper BOILERS, and STOCK-IN-TRADE, at the Odd Fellows' Arms, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, under a Bill of Sale.

OLD BARREL

102, (136), Darlaston Road / Barrel Street, (136, Kings Hill), Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinsons Brewery Ltd. [1922], [1932]

LICENSEES

Daniel Griffiths [1861] – **1871**);
William Watson (**1871** – []
William Dawes [1881]
William Odom [1891] – [1904]
Joseph Plant [1908]
Alfred Blakemore [1911] – [1921]
George Golcher (**1923** – **1947**);
Alfred Adams (**1947** – [1948]
George Alfred Stanley [] – **1961**);
John Nettleton Orr (**1961** – **1962**);
George Thomas Huckerby (**1962**):

NOTES

136, Darlaston Road [1881], [1891], [1896], [1904], [1912], [1932]
136, Kings Hill [1900], [1908], [1911]
102, Darlaston Road [1940]

Daniel Griffiths = Daniel Griffith

Birmingham Daily Post 23/2/1859

“Yesterday a meeting of colliers on strike was held in the yard adjoining the OLD BARREL public house, Kingshill, between Wednesbury and Darlaston. The meeting was almost confined to the men in the employ of the Messrs. Lloyd, and numbered between 250 and 300, out of the 800 who are said to have left Messrs. Lloyd’s pits for an advance of 6d a day; namely, from 2s 9d to 3s 3d. Their notice expired on Saturday night. A number of Messrs. Addenbrook’s men and those also employed by Mr. Mills, both of Darlaston, are also on strike. Joseph Linney presided, and addresses were delivered by Messrs. McCaffery, Miller, and Jackson. A resolution was then put from the body of the meeting pledging the meeting to stand out till they obtained their demand, and it was unanimously carried.”

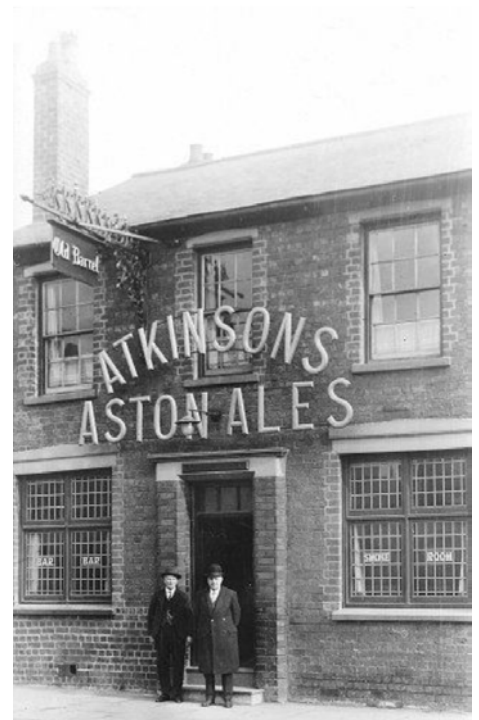
1861 Census

Darlaston Road

- [1] *Daniel Griffith* (41), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Griffith* (31), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Harriet Griffith* (4), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Charlotte Ponale* (22), servant, born Sussex:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/10/1861

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions were held on Thursday last.....
The following is a list of applicants for wine and spirit licenses.....
Mr. D. Griffiths, Kings Hill Fields, Wednesbury Refused.”



1922

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1862

“Annual Licensing Day The following is a list of the applicants for spirit licenses.....

Daniel Griffiths, Kings Hill.

These will be taken into consideration by the Magistrates on the 28th of September at a special Sessions.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1862

“On Thursday the following applications for spirit licenses were heard.....

Daniel Griffiths, Kings Hill Fields, Wednesbury, granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/11/1863

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, the district Coroner, resumed, at the house of Mr. *D. Griffiths*, the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, the enquiry into the death of William Dolphin, aged sixty-two, a carpenter, residing at Walsall, but who had been recently employed at the Kings Hill Works, of Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co.

From the testimony adduced at the preliminary enquiry, on the 4th instant, it was shown that on Sunday, the 1st of this month, the deceased went over to Walsall to pass the day with his wife and family. He returned on the evening of the following day to his lodgings, at the house of Mr. Richard Jones, a clerk in the employment of Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co, complained of exhaustion from profuse perspiration, sat down in a chair, and almost immediately expired. Mr. S. Partridge, surgeon, of Darlaston, was instantly sent for, but on his arrival life was extinct. The deceased has left a widow and six children.

At the inquest yesterday, the only evidence taken was that of Mr. S. Partridge, surgeon, Darlaston, who said that he had made a post mortem examination of the body on the 5th instant, and found no external marks of violence whatever. Witness had been sent for on the 2nd instant, but found the deceased dead. The brain was much congested, but there was no rupture of any blood-vessel or effusion. The lungs were congested, and the heart was unnaturally large and flabby; the cavities were much dilated, and the walls thin and weak; and there was likewise ossification of the valves, which rendered it too weak to perform its functions. This was the cause of death.

The Coroner having briefly summed up, the Jury at once returned a verdict of Died from Disease of the Heart.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/12/1863

“On Wednesday, Mr. Hooper, Coroner, resumed his enquiry into the circumstances attending the deaths of James Severn and Benjamin Bayley, at the BARREL INN, Kings Hill. On the 17th November last an explosion of gas took place at the Hateley Heath Colliery, Westbromwich, through which the deceased met with their deaths, by being precipitated down the pit shaft, the skip in which they with two others were descending being blown out of the shaft. Severn was the buttly at the pit, and his son was one of those at work when the gas was fired, and he and the others were much burnt.

Mr. Young (Oxford circuit) had been instructed by the Miners Association to watch the case on behalf of the friends of the deceased; Mr. Jackson, of Westbromwich, represented the proprietor of the colliery, Mr. Millership; and Mr. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, was also present.

The accumulation of gas appeared to have arisen from a ‘swag,’ or sinking in the floor of the mine, caused, Mr. Baker thought, by mining operations in lower measures. It was elicited that the workings were not examined with a lamp previous to work beginning, as is required by the rules, and it appeared that the deceased buttly had never provided a lamp for that purpose, and one of the men said he had never seen a lamp in the pit.

Edward Severn, son of the buttly who was killed, deposed that when he got down the pit on the morning of the accident, he went through the doors for about twenty yards, and undressed for work. Chilton was going down another road, the farthest way to his work, in consequence of the water which had accumulated, when witness shouted to him, and asked if he had shut the doors after him. He answered with an oath, ‘He’d be d—— if he knew.’ Witness then went back and shut one door, telling Chilton to stop there, but he moved forward with his candle, and fired the sulphur. Witness was badly burnt. He knew it was his duty to examine the pit in the absence of his father, but there was no lamp provided for the purpose. Mr. Baker pointed out that if safety lamps had been used, and the pit regularly examined, the accident would not have occurred.

The Coroner, in summing up, attributed the blame to the deceased buttly, James Severn, whose duty it was to examine the pit every morning before the men commenced work.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, coupling with it some recommendations to the proprietor of the pit, for improved ventilation, &c, to which Mr. Millership promised to attend.’

Birmingham Daily Post 18/2/1864

"Yesterday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an enquiry at the house of Mr. *D. Griffiths*, the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, touching the death of Sarah Turner, a woman supposed to be about seventy years of age, who died somewhat suddenly on Saturday last.

The first witness called was Mary Horton; but her evidence merely went to show that the husband of the deceased called her into his house shortly after two o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and that she went, and saw his wife die about four minutes afterwards.

Jane Wright said she had known the deceased for several years. When the deceased's husband was at work, she always received money for the support of the house. Witness had heard the deceased's son Levi quarrelling in the house, but not for three months previous to the death of his mother. There was a quarrel on Sunday night between the son and his father. Witness went into the house to make up a bed for the old man, when the son interfered and pushed her down. Feeling afraid of him, she went away to get assistance, and on her return found the old man on the floor. Witness had missed the deceased for a few days before her death, and, upon enquiring for her, was told that she was ill.

Mr. Partridge, surgeon, who was called in after death, said the deceased's age was sufficient to account for her decease.

David Turner, the husband of the deceased, said he was a moulder by trade, and earned sufficient to keep himself and his wife when his son Levi was not with them. This son had been staying with them lately, and had generally agreed very well with his mother; but witness had had great trouble with him. The deceased had been in bad health for many years; but for about a month previous to her death was worse than usual. She had taken medicine almost daily, which she had got from 'Coffin's doctor,' and she had procured some the day before her death. She took this kind of medicine regularly, and said it did her good. Deceased got up early on the morning on which she died, but afterwards went to bed again, and witness left her alone in the house when he went to the works. On his return, shortly after two o'clock, he called to her; but finding she did not answer he went to her, and found she was dead. He then called the previous witnesses. There was food in the house at the time, but not such as the deceased could take. On the following night Levi got drunk as usual, but said nothing about his mother.

The learned Coroner left it with the Jury to say whether they considered an adjournment necessary, and remarked that they might probably like to know the nature of the medicine which the deceased had been taking. An adjournment, however, was not deemed necessary, and the Jury returned a verdict of Died by the Visitation of God, and expressed an opinion that the son's conduct merited the severest reprobation."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/3/1864

"On Thursday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *Daniel Griffiths*, the OLD GUN BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of Jane Clarke, a child, aged two months, whose death occurred suddenly at an early hour on Sunday morning.

John Clarke, a labourer, and father of the deceased, stated that the latter had been ailing from her birth. She had a 'running' from her eyes and nose, and could scarcely breathe until a week before her decease, when, having been prescribed for by Mr. Johnson, chemist, of Darlaston, who had attended the mother in her confinement, she appeared to improve up to half-past eleven o'clock on Saturday night, when witness went to bed with her and he mother. About five o'clock the next morning he heard the infant gasping and, having obtained a light, he found that she was dead.

The Coroner reproved the witness for not having employed a regularly qualified medical man.

Mary Ann Clarke, mother of the child, confirmed the testimony of her husband, and said that Mr. Johnson had received 10s for her confinement, and had given her a bottle of medicine for the deceased, besides ordering fomentation with poppy heads and an application of goose grease to the parts affected. Witness produced the bottle which had contained the medicine, and added that Mr. Johnson had told her to give the deceased a spoonful when she cried. She had since asked Mr. Johnson for a certificate of death, but he had declined to grant it, and had referred her to the police.

The Coroner put it to the Jury whether they desired to have medical evidence. If they saw any necessity for it, he would willingly adjourn the inquest. The Jury said they were satisfied, and returned a verdict of Found Dead."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1864

“An adjourned inquest was held on Monday, by Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of a boy named George Taylor, aged fourteen, who had been killed by a fall of sand on the Saturday week previously. On the day mentioned it appeared the deceased was standing near a large heap of sand which was used by the moulders for the purpose of casting steel bars, and in which employment the boy assisted. The sand fell on the poor little fellow and crushed him so badly that he died almost instantaneously. The reason the inquest had been adjourned was in consequence of some alleged neglect on the part of the police in not obtaining the necessary evidence. Police-sergeant Gasson, who it was affirmed had been most blameable in the transaction, was present at yesterday’s inquest, and after apologising to the Coroner and Jury for his seeming neglect, tendered a satisfactory explanation. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/5/1864

“A largely attended meeting of the men now on strike in the Bilston and Bradley district was held yesterday, in a piece of ground at the rear of the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill. Many speakers contested the right of the masters to reduce the wages of the miners by threepence a day, and contended that at a time when the price of the manufactured article was being raised their masters had not the slightest grounds for decreasing the wages of the workmen. A resolution intimating the determination of the men to strenuously resist the proposed reduction was unanimously passed.

Colonel Hogg, Chief Constable of the county, with Major McKnight, the Deputy-Chief Constable, were in attendance with a strong body of men, but their services were not required.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1865

“On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, touching the death of Daniel Darby, six years of age, who, early on Friday morning, was burnt to death during the temporary absence of his mother, who is the wife of a miner living in the locality.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and, at the suggestion of the learned Coroner, censured the mother for having left the child undressed, and also for having omitted to provide a proper fire-guard.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1865

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an enquiry at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, touching the death of William Willams, thirty-three years of age.

On the 5th inst the deceased was engaged in the manufacture of a wheel, at the works of Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co., when the head of a hammer which he was using flew off, and caused him to lose his balance and fall to the ground. He hurt his knee severely in falling, but after going home for short period he returned to the manufactory, and continued at work until the close of the day. He then went home and returned to bed, where he remained until his death, which took place on the 15th inst, from the effects of the injury to his knee. Mr. W. C. Garman attended him in the interim.

Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/7/1866

“On Thursday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquiry at the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, touching the death of Richard Wardman, a miner, who was killed on Tuesday, at one of Messrs. Lloyds, Fosters and Co.’s pits, by being struck on the head by a large stone, which had been detached by blasting operations. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/11/1866

“Mr. Edwin Hooper held an inquest yesterday, at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, concerning the death of William Williams, 56 years of age, a labourer, late in the employ of Messrs. Lloyd, Fosters, and Co.

On Monday evening last the deceased was engaged at the works of the above firm loading a wagon with railway wheels. Whilst so engaged he asked for a bar for the purpose of placing the wheels, and one having been supplied him, he was about to place them when a pair fell, and he was caught between them. Aid was immediately procured, and the deceased was extricated, and being badly injured was conveyed to his home, where he died about an hour after the occurrence.

There was no blame attached to any person, and the jury returned verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 21/9/1867 - Advert

"New and Substantially-Built Freehold Public House and Two Dwelling Houses Adjoining, situate in Darlington Street, Kingshill, Wednesbury,
Messrs. Powell and Son will Selly by Auction, at the House of Mr. *Daniel Griffiths*, the OLD BARREL INN, Kingshill, on Tuesday, the 1st day of October next, at Six o'clock in the evening....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/5/1868

"Early on Friday morning last, a labourer named Thomas Shaw, a native of Stafford, shot himself dead under the following circumstances.

The deceased was about twenty-five years of age, he was employed at the Old Park Works, and he usually lived with his sister and her husband at Kings Hill. Since Tuesday he had been absent from work, drinking excessively, and on returning on Thursday last his employer informed him that he should decline to take him on again in consequence of his neglect. At between one and two o'clock on the following morning, the watchman and the night foreman met with the deceased near Kings Hill Gate, and as he was in a very tipsy state they took him safely to his lodgings. The occupants were in bed at this time and the deceased burst the latch off the front door before they could come down stairs to let him into the house. When inside a candle was lit for him by his sister and the deceased then went upstairs to his bedroom. His sister also retired; but after a lapse of some time she went to that in which the deceased slept – doubtless for the purpose of seeing all was safe – and called to him to know if he was in bed. He replied, 'No, not quite,' and in about a minute afterwards she was electrified by hearing the report of a pistol. She immediately, together with her husband who had sprung from the bed on hearing the explosion, went into the deceased's room, and they there found him in a dying state, with his shirt on fire, and a wound about the size of half-a-crown on his chest over the region of the heart. Police-constable Richards was called to the house, and Mr. Worthington, surgeon's assistant, was also fetched, but the deceased expired almost immediately after firing the shot. The deceased was in the habit of keeping the pistol found by his side to shoot small birds with, and the ignition of his shirt was no doubt caused by his having placed the muzzle close to his chest when he fired it.

On Saturday, Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, upon the body, and the Jury found that the deceased committed Suicide while in an Unsound State of Mind."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1868

"Wednesbury Borough Election.....

Last night a large and enthusiastic meeting of the friends of Mr. Walker, the Conservative candidate for the borough of Wednesbury, was held at the OLD BARREL INN, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury....."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/2/1869

"Yesterday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill, touching the death of Sarah Humphries, aged 5 years, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Humphries, a couple living in a cottage in Mayes Buildings, Hills Entry, in that neighbourhood.

It seemed that at about five o'clock on Saturday afternoon, the child went to the foot of the stairs, and asked her mother, who was in one of the upper rooms, for a little water. Her mother told her to wait for a short time, but, on coming downstairs a few minutes later found that she had not done so, and that she was not in the house. Failing to find the child, she became alarmed, and spoke to Mrs. Dawkes, one of her neighbours, who took a lighted candle, and went to a brewhouse in the yard, in which is a large cistern, reached through an opening in the floor. On holding the candle over the opening she saw bubbles rising to the surface of the water, and at once ran for assistance. Among those who responded to the call was James Brien, a miner, who made a drag, and after casting it into the water four times, drew the child's body to the surface, and got it out. It was taken into the house and rubbed with salt and water, and Mr. Parkridge, surgeon, was fetched, but all the efforts to restore animation proved unavailing.

Witnesses deposed that there had been a lid to the opening of the cistern, but on Saturday morning it disappeared, and Mrs. Dawkes remarked, when it was known, that one of the children would certainly get drowned, and shut the door of the brewhouse. Mrs. Dawkes also stated that on Monday last she went to Mr. Mayes and told him of the fatality, but he said he could not do anything in the matter, and had not had a new cover put on the opening. She further stated that the cover was loose some time before it was lost, and that Mr. Mayes knew of it.

The Coroner said there was not the slightest doubt that blame attached to the landlord, and he should have to see that he replaced the cover, and made the place secure. If he did not do so, he (the Coroner) should hold him responsible for the consequences.

The Jury returned an open verdict, and endorsed the Coroner's strictures on the landlord."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/11/1869

"Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, Coroner, at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of Thomas Worton, of the same place, aged 42 years, who was killed by putting his foot upon the cage used at the pit belonging to the Patent Shaft Company, on the 22nd, when it slipped, and he fell down the pit. Mr. Smallman, agent to the pit, and Mr. Baker, Inspector of Mines for the district, were present.

A lad named John Smith, aged 13, said he was a hanger-on at the pit in question, which was situated in that parish. Mr. Smallman said it was quite unknown to him that the lad occupied that position.

Witness proceeded to state that the deceased was not getting into the skip, but he was playing with his foot upon the skip when he slipped and fell down the pit.

Mr. Baker said he was much astonished to hear of a child like the witness being employed to hang on full skips. He was very glad that Mr. Smallman, the agent to the colliery, was present, for no boy should be so employed under 15. William Rea, banksman, said the driver always hung on, and he was sure the lad never did. A pikeman named Millington gave similar evidence. Another pikeman named Knight said the lad and the horse-driver were the hangers-on. From the cross-examination of the witnesses it certainly appeared very clear that the boy had been thus employed.

Mr. Baker said this was an open pit mouth where the accident had occurred. He had written and said a great deal about pit mouths being fenced, and he was sorry to say that there was no law on the question which he could enforce. He could point to many pits where an accident of this sort was impossible. An accident of this kind could not occur where there was a travelling fence. Mr. Smallman said there were many difficulties in the way of having such a fence at the mouth of the pit; such a fence would make a material difference in the work done in an hour. Mr. Baker: That is more important than a man's life. Mr. Smallman said he would not put the case in that way. Mr. Baker said he had written on the subject several times in his annual report. He certainly must say that Mr. Smallman was first gentleman who had made such a remark to him, as an objection to the fence.

The Coroner said he was inclined to believe that the boy has acted in the capacity of hanger-on at times. He hoped the inspector would ascertain the fact and deal with it.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/11/1870

"Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, respecting the death of William Shale (40), forgerman, who lived at Kings Hill. As stated in Monday's *Gazette*, the deceased went to the OLD PARK INN, Kings Hill, on Sunday night, in company with his wife, and having ordered a quart of ale, they went into the tap-room to drink it. They had not been in the room many minutes, when deceased was observed to turn pale and shiver very much, and in a few seconds he expired. The jury returned a verdict of Died by the Visitation of God."

[Regarding this gap in dates, there may have been a temporary change of name to HOPE AND ANCHOR, but no confirmation of this has come to light.]

1881 Census

136, Darlaston Road

[1] William Dawes (65), licensed victualler, born Knowle, Warwickshire;

[2] Emily Dawes (57), wife, born Penkridge;

[3] Elizabeth Dawes (23), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;

[4] William Dawes (21), son, carpenter, born Oldbury;

[5] Alfred Dawes (17), son, carpenter, born Smethwick:

William Dawes – see also ROSE.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/7/1889 - Advert

"52in Bicycle, with all accessories, splendid condition, sold cheap.

Apply, BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury."

52in. Bicycle, with all accessories, splendid condition,
sold cheap. - Apply, Barrel Inn, King's Hill, Wednes-
bury.

1891 Census

136, Kings Hill

[1] William Odom (49), licensed victualler, born Swinshead, Lincolnshire;

[2] Ann Odom (52), wife, born Bottesford, Leicestershire;

[3] John H. Odom (19), son, brown saddler, born Burton-on-Trent;

[4] Mary A. Odom (18), domestic servant, born Bottesford, Leicestershire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/11/1894

“At a meeting of the Wednesbury branch of the Boilermakers and Shipbuilders Society, held at the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, on Wednesday night, Mr. Walford Green (the Unionist candidate), Councillor Spittle, and Mr. G. Gill were elected honorary members. Mr. Walford Green in returning thanks, said he appreciated the honour conferred upon him in electing him a member of a society of about 40,000 members. Such a powerful society was certain to have influence in the control of the future destinies of the trade. The question of foreign competition and the difficulties manufacturers had to contend with at home should be seriously considered by Trade Unions, and useful information should be circulated by the leaders amongst the workmen.”

Wednesbury Herald 19/1/1895

“The reopening of the RAOB Grand Surrey Lodge, Grand Lodge of Staffordshire, took place the other evening, at the OLD BARREL, Kings Hill (Prime Host *Odom's*).”

Wednesbury Herald 30/11/1895

“On Saturday night an interesting presentation to Mr. R. Wilson, foreman for Messrs. Keay and Co, of Darlaston, took place at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill. The employees of the firm and other gentlemen has subscribed and purchased a handsome timepiece and two equestrian ornaments to match for presentation to Mr. Wilson, and also a ring for presentation to Mrs. Wilson.”

Walsall Advertiser 6/3/1897

“At Wednesbury George Richard Baker James Bridge, tradesman, who has only recently been married, was charged with feloniously assaulting a barmaid named Sarah Reynolds. Prisoner visited the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, and prosecutrix supplied him with refreshments. Subsequently, it was alleged, the prisoner attacked her and subjected her to gross indignities, and an alarm being raised he ran away. He was subsequently arrested. Remanded.”

Walsall Observer 28/10/1899

“Foresters Dinner. The annual dinner of Court Perseverance was held on Monday night at the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, when about forty members met to partake of the good things provided. After the cloth had been withdrawn, Bro. Wyatt was voted to the chair, and he was faced by Bro. Small. Early in the evening Bro. T. Jones, of Wolverhampton, was called upon to present to Bro. Woods a marble timepiece, which had been given by Bro. Mansey to the member making the most members during the past year. Bro. Jones, in making the presentation, gave the members some good advice, after which his health was proposed and acknowledged.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Quoits League. [1900], [1901]

1901 Census

Darlaston Road – OLD BARRELL INN

[1] William Odom (58), publican, born Swinshead, Lincolnshire;

[2] Ann Odom (62), wife, born Bottesford, Leicestershire;

[3] Agnes Mallery (22), domestic servant, born Bottesford, Leicestershire:

Wednesbury Leader 8/6/1901

“Wednesbury and District Quoits League ELEPHANT AND CASTLE v OLD BARREL, Kings Hill.

The present champions of the League paid a visit to the Kings Hill Grounds to play off their fixture with the Barrelites. A good number of spectators were present, who witnessed a very pleasant game The Castleites won by 34. The homesters took their defeat in true sportsmanlike manner, and had a pleasant hour together with their victors at the conclusion of the game.”

[ELEPHANT AND CASTLE won by 77-43.]

Walsall Observer 11/10/1902

"The member of Court Perseverance (2989) of the Ancient Order of Foresters held their annual dinner on Saturday night, at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury. A first-rate repast was provided by Bro *Odom*, the host, to which the members did ample justice. After the cloth was drawn, District Chief Ranger W. Small was elected chairman, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Bros. G. Elcock, Wilson, Small, Smart, F. Oaken, J. and W. Constable, and G. Hill provided the musical part of the proceedings. In the course of the evening Bro. J. Harper presented to the trustees of the Court a large oak-framed portrait of the 'Tree-planting Committee,' the brothers appointed by Courts Perseverance, Woodman's Shelter, and Herbert's Park Royal Rangers to plant in Darlaston Park on Coronation Day an oak tree (grown from an acorn from the famous Boscobel oak) as the Foresters memorial of the crowning of Edward VII. A toast to the host and hostess, given with Foresters fire, brought a very pleasant evening to a close."

Walsall Advertiser 14/11/1908

"Society of Miniature Rifles Clubs. Walsall and District League.....

A meeting of the Willenhall League was held on Wednesday at the KINGS HEAD, Willenhall, and the local representative of the S.M.R.C. (Mr. T. Sadler) attended to give an address on the advantages of the S.M.R.C. and air-rifle shooting. Mr. G. Hall was also present, and it was ultimately decided that should the League at any time affiliate itself to an association, it would be to the S.M.R.C.

A meeting of the Moxley and Wednesbury League was held on Thursday under similar circumstances at the OLD BARREL, Kings Hill, when a similar decision was arrived at."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun League. [1909]

Walsall Observer 17/4/1909

"Shooting Hospital Cup and Medals Competition.

A match in aid of the Medal Fund for the above was shot between S. J. Bird, WALSALL ARMS, Walsall, and T. Platt, OLD BARREL, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on Thursday, when some splendid shooting was witnessed. The match was shot on the NEWPORT ARMS target. The highest possible was 300, and Mr. Bird's score of 283 constitutes a record made on a Dreadnought target. Mr. Platt totalled 277, the Walsall and District League representative winning by six points; but every credit is due to Mr. Platt for the splendid fight that he made."

A quoits team from here took part in the West Bromwich and Tipton League. [1909]

1911 Census

136, Kings Hill

[1] Alfred Blakemore (32), licensed victualler, born Grimesthorpe, Yorkshire;

[2] Selina Blakemore (29), wife, married 10 years, born Wednesbury;

[3] Alfred Leslie Blakemore (6), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] George Albert Blakemore (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] Emma Leavesley (17), domestic servant, born Bloxwich;



Token

Walsall Observer 6/4/1912

"At a meeting of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association held at the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, on Tuesday, it was decided to send delegates (Councillor J. Lacey and Mr. W. Edwards, the secretary) to the conference of the Licensed Victuallers Defence League to be held at Sheffield on May 15th and 16th, when the question of direct taxation will be raised by Mr. G. Hardy, of Birmingham. Councillor Lacey and Mr. W. Richards spoke strongly in favour of direct taxation at Tuesday's meeting, both urging that clubs, beer hawkers, and exporters would then be made to pay a proportionate share. Mr. A. Blakemore expressed the opinion that it would not benefit the publicans in smaller towns, who had to give over measure.

At a subsequent meeting Councillor J. H. Sheldon presided, and the provisions of the Shop Hours Act as they would affect publicans were explained."

Alfred Blakemore was a committee member of the Wednesbury and District Friendly and Protection Association. [1918]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/9/1918 - Advert

“Wanted, Bar General, references required.
The OLD BARREL, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, Bar-General; references required.
—The Old Barrel, King's Hill, Wednesbury.

Alfred Blakemore – see also DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Ridding Lane, Wednesbury, SWAN, Victoria Road, Darlaston, and WOODMAN, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

South Staffordshire Times 16/8/1924

“A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Society was held on Tuesday afternoon at the BARREL INN, Kings Hill Wednesbury, when Alderman J. H. Sheldon presided.....”

George Golcher was known as ‘the landlord who never called time’ because at closing time he merely put on his hat.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 14/7/1928

“A case of considerable interest to local publicans was heard by the Stipendiary (Mr. B. G. Grimley) at Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday.

George Golcher, licensee of the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor from unlicensed premises, while Thomas Foley, 43, Darlington Street, Kings Hill, was summoned for aiding and abetting.

Mr. E. E. Brown prosecuted, Mr. Frank Cooper defended, and Mr. A. J. Glover held a watching brief on behalf of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association.

Mr. Brown, in outlining the case for the prosecution, said that on May 20th, at 7.30am, there was a party going from the BARREL INN to Meriden by motor buses. PS Pardoe and PCs Lockley and Rock went to Darlington Street, and there saw Golcher in Foley’s house. He was standing behind a table on which were cups of tea, and he was pouring whiskey out of four bottles, serving it by means of a pewter measure. The cups of tea were handed to those members of the party who required one. The tea was carried across from the BARREL INN in enameled jugs, and on the footpath were cases of beer and stout, but none of this was touched in the house. Golcher and Foley were spoken to by PS Pardoe, who said the facts would be reported to the Chief Constable. Mr. Brown submitted there had been an offence under Section 65 of the 1910 Act. Each member of the party made a contract with Golcher for certain intoxicating liquor, but there was no clear appropriation of the whiskey until it was placed in the tea.

PS Pardoe, in his evidence, said he went to Darlington Street with the two other officers at 7.30am. There were a number of people standing about, and he ascertained they were going on a trip to Meriden. He deposed to seeing Golcher pour out the whiskey into a pewter measure, and then put into the tea. Foley was assisting Mr. Golcher with the six cups and saucers which were on the table, the tea being brought from the BARREL INN, the whole of the four bottles of whiskey being consumed before the party left. Witness said he spoke to Foley, and asked him, ‘Are you the occupier of these premises?’ and he replied, ‘Yes.’ He then said, ‘Have you a license to retail intoxicants?’ and the reply was, ‘No.’ When told the facts would be reported to the Chief Constable, Foley replied, ‘I am not doing any harm. I have only obliged Mr. Golcher by letting him have the use of my room. The stuff was paid for before, and brought to my premises last night from the BARREL INN. The men are not paying for it now.’ Witness then spoke to Golcher, who said, ‘I have made arrangements with Mr. Foley to have the stuff on his premises, knowing very well I could not have it on mine. The stuff had been paid for previously by the party. It has been purchased from me previously by the party at 5s per head, which includes a trip to Meriden.

Cross examined by Mr. Cooper, witness said operations of pouring the whiskey out had already commenced when he arrived on the scene. There was no secrecy at all about it, and the party was a respectable one. He saw some food and pickles put into the buses, and the cases of beer and stout also placed inside. There was no suggestion that any beer had been partaken of before the party started. In answer to a further suggestion, he said he was not aware that there was an Outing Club held at the BARREL INN, and the members paid weekly contributions. When Mr. Golcher told him that the stuff had been paid for and removed the previous night, he had no reason to doubt his word. Everything was being done open and above board, and there was no stampede when the officers arrived on the scene. PC Lockley gave corroborative evidence, and said there were four whiskey bottles on the table. Three had been opened, and the fourth was opened in his presence.

PC Rock also corroborated.

Mr. Cooper submitted he had no prima facie case to answer, as there had not been any contravention. The case from the point of view of the legal position was an interesting one, but from Mr. Golcher’s point of view one could not imagine a more serious case against him.

Mr. Brown said he would have to take it that the goods were taken and paid for the previous night, and it was only a question of appropriation.

Mr. Cooper said it was quite clear that appropriation did take place on the Saturday night, as the goods were sold to the Outing Club and nothing was being paid for on the Sunday morning. The sale was made to the party as a whole, and the goods were taken off the licensed premises on the Saturday night to prevent any offence being committed.

Mr. Cooper suggested that *Golcher* was entitled by law to do what he did. Of course, whatever the legal aspect may be, if the police expressed a wish that the practice should not continue this would be carried out.

There was further legal argument, after which the Stipendiary said that Mr. Cooper had suggested that as the police objected, whatever the law might be on the subject, an undertaking would be given that there should be no repetition. Eventually it was agreed to withdraw the summonses on payment of costs. *Golcher* £5 9s and *Foley* 4s, and giving an undertaking that the practice should not be repeated.

Mr. Glover stated that the president of the Licensed Victuallers Association had also intimated that he would advise the members that such a practice should not be carried out."

OLD BARRELL [1932]

Walsall Observer 22/7/1933

"A social organised by the ladies committee of the Kings Hill Ward of the Wednesbury Conservative Association was held on Tuesday at the BARRELL INN, Kings Hill, about a hundred attending....."

1939 Register

Darlaston Road – BARRELL INN (3 of 4)

[1] *George Golcher*, date of birth 30/11/1871, innkeeper, widowed;

[2] *Alfred Adams*, dob 9/10/1896, vehicle builder's fitter and repairer, heavy work, married;

[3] *Lucy Adams*, dob 2/2/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married;

George Golcher died in the 2nd quarter of 1947.

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1958]

Wolverhampton Express ad Star 12/9/1962

"Candidates from Wolverhampton and Oldswinford, near Stourbridge, have been awarded credits in an innkeeping examination held at Birmingham.....

Pass *J. N. Orr*, OLD BARREL, Kings Hill, Wednesbury."

George Thomas Huckerby – see also BELLWETHER.

The license was suspended at 10.30pm on 4th November 1962.

Closed



George Golcher

OLD BARREL

115, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Charles Anslow [1888] – [1896]

Mrs. Mary Ann Anslow [1893] – [1912]

NOTES

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/12/1872

“At Wednesbury Local Board meeting on Monday, the Medical Officer reported.....

The BARREL beerhouse, Holyhead Road, was in a very dilapidated condition, and should be closed at once as unfit for habitation Notices were ordered to be served upon the owner of the property reported by the Medical Officer.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1889

“Wednesbury, Darlaston, and Tipton. The first licensing session of this newly created district, which is now severed from West Bromwich, was held yesterday, at Wednesbury.....

The magistrates clerk read the report of Superintendent Holland, which showed that the district contains a population of 68,142. There were in the district 172 licensed victuallers, 250 beerhouse keepers (on), 41 beerhouse keepers (off), and 13 holders of wine and grocers licenses. During the year there had been proceeded against 8 licensed victuallers, 7 of whom had been fined, and one dismissed; 14 beerhouse keepers (on), 7 of whom had been fined, and 7 dismissed; and 1 beerhouse keeper (off) who was fined.....

Several of the principal defaulters had left the houses since their conviction. Notice had been served upon *Charles Anslow*, beerhouse keeper, the OLD BARREL INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, that the renewal of his license would be opposed The Mayor said all the applications would be passed, with the exception of that of *Charles Anslow*, which would be adjourned till the adjourned licensing sessions.”

[In the reports we have found of the adjourned licensing session there was no outcome for this.]

1891 Census

115, Holyhead Road

[1] *Charles Anslow* (49), iron worker, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Ann Anslow* (43), wife, born Dudley Port;

[3] *George Henry Anslow* (17), son, iron worker, born Wednesbury;

[4] *John Thomas Anslow* (16), son, iron worker, born Wednesbury;

[5] *John Wilson* (45), lodger, widower, labourer, born Cavan, Ireland;

[6] *William Wilson* (11), son, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1893

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Charles Anslow*, beerhouse keeper, Holyhead Road, was summoned for selling ale during prohibited hours. The evidence of Police-sergeant Wallace and Police-constable Barrow was to the effect that on Sunday morning, the 5th inst, they saw *George Anslow*, the defendant’s son, pass down the yard and hand a stone bottle containing a quart of ale over a wall to a man named *Philp Aston*. He returned at a later hour and saw the defendant, who said, ‘It’s that son of mine; he’ll ruin me.’

Mr. Sharp, who appeared for the defence, said the question was how far the landlord was to be held responsible for a wrongful act done not only against the licensing laws but against the defendant himself. In this case the defendant’s son, unknown to his father and mother – the former, in fact, being ill and unconscious at the time – supplied the ale and pocketed the money. He called witnesses to bear out this statement.

The Stipendiary said the license ought to be transferred to someone else, the defendant being incapable of looking after the business. But taking his condition into consideration he would be fined £2 and costs.

Philip Aston, Foster Street, the man named above, was fined 2s 6d and costs for aiding and abetting George Anslow.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

“The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday.... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of William Bird, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.

The renewals to be opposed were....

Mary Ann Anslow, the BARREL, beerhouse, Holyhead Road.

The Mayor commented with regret upon the increase in the numbers of offences and convictions shown by the returns; and the contentious business was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day, the 29th inst.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions.”

Charles Anslow, beer retailer, 115, Holyhead Road. [1896]

1901 Census

115, Holyhead Road

[1] *Mary Ann Anslow* (51), widow, beer retailer (out), born Dudley Port;

[2] *John T. Anslow* (26), son, ironworks labourer, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Dora Teague* (14), general servant, born Wednesbury;

[4] *John Wilson* (61), boarder, widower, born Ireland;

[5] *William Wilson* (21), boarder, steel dresser, born Wednesbury:

Mrs. Mary Ann Anslow, beer retailer, 115, Holyhead Road. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

115, Holyhead Road

[1] *Mrs. M. A. Anslow* (62), widow, license holder, born Dudley Port;

[2] *Samuel Jones* (60), boarder, general labourer, born Wednesbury;

[3] *F. M. Anslow* (10), visitor, no occupation, born Wednesbury:

OLD BEEHIVE

Walsall Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Jackson [1870] – [1870]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

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

Applications for new spirit licenses.....

Mr. Sheldon applied on behalf of *James Jackson*, OLD BEEHIVE, Walsall Street, Wednesbury. Mr. Ebsworth opposed the application. Refused.”

OLD BIRD IN HAND

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Smith [1818]

NOTES

Samuel Smith was also a shoemaker. [1818]

OLD BLUE BALL

19, Hall End, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Terry Dicken (acquired in 1991)

LICENSEES

Mrs. Martha Hawe [1766] – [1767]

Thomas Hawe [1784] – [1786]

Jonah Spittle [1786] – **1843**;

Edward Hughes [1841] – [1842]

Thomas Anthony Ellis (**1843** – []

James Plant [1844] – [1850]

Thomas Anthony Ellis [1849] – [1851]

Joseph Brittain [1860] – [1870]

John Booth [] – **1869**;

Thomas Watson (**1869**)

William Watson (**1869**);

Thomas Watson (**1869** – [1873]

Alexander Watson [] – **1881**;

Thomas Watson (**1881**);

Mrs. Ruth Watson (**1881** – [1892]

Jesse Newman [1896]

Edward Danks []

Mrs. Harriet Elizabeth Danks [1901]

Arthur Robert Harding [1911] – [1912]

Fred Platt [1916] – [1940]

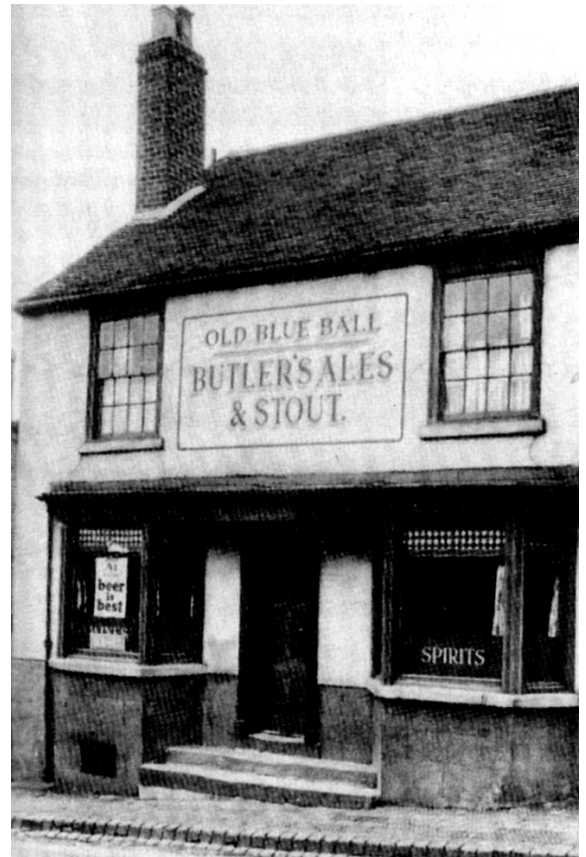
James Ernest Plant [1961] – [1966]

Mrs. Phylis Bradshaw [1979]

Chris and Pete (**1981** – []

Terry Dicken (**1984** – [1994]

Jonathan R Bradley [2008]



2014

NOTES

All End [1818]

19, Hall End [1871], [1872], [1881], [1911], [1921], [1939], [2017]

OLD BLUE BALL [1845], [1849], [1892]

BLUE BALL [1828], [1830], [1850]

OLD BLUE BELL [1862]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/6/1766 - Advert

“To be Sold to the best Bidder, at the House of *Martha Hawe*, Widow, known by the Sign of the BLUE BALL in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, upon Wednesday the 25th Day of June instant.....

Lot 1. A Freehold Messuage or Tenement, with a Stable, Brewhouse, and intire Yard, situate in the High Bullen, in Wednesbury aforesaid, known by the Sign of the CROSS GUNS, and in the Holding of Joyce Burkitt.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/11/1767 - Advert

"To be Sold to the best Bidder, at the House of Mrs. *Martha Hawe*, known by the Sign of the BLUE BALL, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, upon Wednesday the 2nd Day of December next....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/4/1784 - Advert

".....Notice is hereby given, That next General Meeting of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Road, will be held at the House of *Thomas Hawe*, the BLUE BALL, in Wednesbury, on Monday the 12th Day of April Instant....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/2/1786 - Advert

"Turnpike Tolls to be Let....."

At the House of *Thomas Hawe*, the BLUE BALL, in Wednesbury....."

Thomas Howe – see also TALBOT, Market Place.

Blackcountryman (Winter 1982)

'Some Literary and Historical Reflections on Wednesbury Cocking'

".....'Wedgbury Cocking' is a poem about cock-fighting in the vicinity of the BLUE BALL in Wednesbury during the latter years of the 18th century. Its protagonist, 'Old Spittle,' was *Jonah Spittle* who kept the BLUE BALL which still stands in Hall End, Wednesbury, within a stone's throw of the parish church where *Jonah* was baptized on 28 May 1765, the last of eight children born to John and Sarah Spittle. *Jonah* married Eleanor Brighton on 9 October 1786.

It is not known when *Jonah*, who survived all the dangers and temptations of his trade until he died in 1844, took over the management of the BLUE BALL; it is perhaps more likely than not that he found the practice of cocking already in being there rather than initiating it himself. He was certainly well aware of the fact that it was good for business.....

In 1843 the BLUE BALL came under the management of *Thomas Anthony Ellis*, who conducted the house on entirely new principles. A concert hall was opened for ballad concerts and light entertainments, while the grounds were converted into a miniature copy of Cremorne Gardens for holding al fresco dances, firework displays and balloon ascents, thus making it the resort of the giddy youth of the town."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/4/1798 - Advert

"Continuation of Voluntary Contributions of the Parish of Wednesbury....."

Jonah Spittle £0 10s 6d."

Jonah Spittle was also a gun lock filer. [1818]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/9/1835 - Advert

"Excellent Freehold Investments, at Bilston and Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Corbett (by directions of the devisees in trust for sale), on Monday, the 14th of September 1835, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the BLUE BOAR INN, New Town, Bilston.....

Lot II. All that Old Established Public House, known by the sign of the BLUE BALL, Church Road, Hall End, Wednesbury aforesaid; with the brewhouse, shopping, piggeries, and other outbuildings to the same belonging; now in the occupation of Mr. *Jonah Spittle*, as tenant at will; likewise the adjoining Dwelling House and premises occupied by William Baker, and also the two old workshops at the end thereof and fronting to the said road, together with a large plot of garden ground (in which is a well of excellent water) behind the same, as now staked out and delineated upon lithographic plans, which may be seen at Mr. *Spittle*'s, and will be produced at the time of sale."

1841 Census

Church Street

[1] *Jonah Spittle* (75), gunlock etc, born Staffordshire;

[2] William Spittle (50), gunlock etc, born Staffordshire;

[3] Joseph Spittle (45), gunlock etc, born Staffordshire;

[4] Ellen Spittle (20), born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/1/1843 - Advert

“OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, the Ale and Spirit Licenses of the above highly respectable and good-accustomed Public House, situated in the midst of numerous coal and iron works, and for many years past the resort of a large portion of the workmen and others engaged therein.

The premises, which are in a healthy situation, consist of large commodious cellars, tap-room, bar, kitchen, two parlours, brewhouse, malt-room, cooking kitchen, club-room, and three bed-rooms, with very large Garden, and an abundant supply of soft water.

As the present proprietor has other engagements, the Stock and Fixtures will be reduced to suit the convenience of the purchaser. Rent only £30 a-year.

For further particulars apply to Mr. James Plant, Black Lake, West Bromwich.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/9/1844 - Advert

“Freehold Dwelling House, Land, and Premises, at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, on Monday, the 30th of September inst, at the sign of the BLUE BALL, Church Hill, Wednesbury, at six o'clock in the evening.....

Particulars in catalogues, to be had at Mr. *Plant*'s, the BLUE BALL INN, and the Auctioneer's offices, Market Place, Wednesbury, and at West Bromwich.”

James Plant was also a maltster. [1845]

Birmingham Journal 12/8/1848

“An inquest was held on Friday last, at the house of Mr. *T. Ellis*, the BLUE BALL, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of a little boy named James Connop, nine years of age, who came to his death by being drowned in Mr. Russell's reservoir, on the previous day. He resided with his grand-mother, not far from Mr. Russell's works, and it appeared that having been sent by a neighbour to fetch some water from the reservoir, and not returning at the time expected, search was made and his body recovered from the water. It is supposed he had accidentally fallen in, as his pitcher was found floating on the surface, but as there was no evidence directly leading to that supposition, the Jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

Thomas A. Ellis, OLD BLUE BALL and Vauxhall pleasure gardens, Hall End. [1849], [1850]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/2/1849

“Henry Jackson was charged with passing a counterfeit half-crown to Mrs. Joice Glover, of the ANGEL INN, on the Bilston Road, in the parish of Wednesbury, on Friday, the 2nd instant. The prisoner came to the house and asked if a man he described had been there. He was told he had not. Afterwards he came again and had a pint of ale and some bread and cheese. No man came to him, and he offered in payment for what he had had a counterfeit half-crown. After it had been examined it was refused, and he gave Mrs. Glover a good one. He then went away.

Thomas Antony Ellis, licensed victualler, living at the BLUE BALL INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, said that subsequently on the same day, the prisoner, with another man, who said his name was Clancey, came to his house, and he showed them into the back kitchen; one of them called for a pint of ale, which was served by his wife. The prisoner Jackson offered in payment a counterfeit half-crown, which he took from among others in his breeches pocket. The half-crown being refused, the man in company with the prisoner said, ‘If that's bad, give another; you know where you had it from.’ Jackson then gave another half-crown, and received 2s 3d in change. The prisoner then said to the man in his company, ‘Let's have another pint.’ The man said, ‘No, let us go and take that half-crown where you had it from.’ They then went out, and Harrison, a constable, and Mr. *Ellis*, followed them, and saw Jackson putting money into Clancey's hand. They afterwards pursued them on the Darlaston road, and saw Jackson leave his companion in the road and go up a yard. He came out of it as Mr. *Ellis* and Harrison got opposite to it. Harrison then apprehended the prisoner soon after he came out of the entry. In his mouth was found a bad half-crown, and in the yard, under some dirt, three other half-crowns of the same date and dye as that offered at Mr. *Ellis*'s were found. The prisoner was committed.”

[At the Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions Jackson was found guilty and sentenced to be imprisoned 12 calendar months with hard labour.]

1851 Census

Hall End

- [1] *Thomas Ellis* (32), innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ann Ellis* (31), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Thomas Cooper* (30), singer, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Emma Cooper* (29), singer, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Thomas Jones* (25), lodger, musician, born Worcester;
- [6] *William Cox* (21), lodger, boot closer, born Wolverhampton;

Birmingham Journal 11/12/1852 - Advert

"To Parties wishing to enter into Business.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that Old-licensed Public House, known as the OLD BLUE BALL INN, situate on Church Hill, Wednesbury, in the middle of the Iron District, and near to several large Ironworks. Address to the Proprietor, who is leaving on account of other engagements."

1861 Census

Hall End – BLUE BALL

- [1] *Joseph Brittain* (49), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ann Brittain* (48), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *John Brittain* (23), son, gas tube maker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William Brittain* (21), son, brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Ann Maria Brittain* (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Joseph Brittain* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *James Brittain* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Ellen Spooner* (20), general servant, born Wednesbury;

TO PARTIES WISHING TO ENTER INTO BUSINESS.
TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, that Old-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, known as the "OLD BLUE BALL INN," situate on Church Hill, Wednesbury, in the middle of the Iron District, and near to several large Ironworks.—Address to the Proprietor, who is leaving on account of other engagements.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1863

"Wednesbury Mutual Friendly Society Festival.

The annual festival of this old-established society took place on Monday last. The members mustered at the Old Church Schoolroom, and from thence proceeded in procession to the Parish Church where an excellent sermon was preached by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Lyons. The members afterwards separated into three sections, and partook of dinner at the houses of Mr. Henry Spittell, the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane; Mr. *Joseph Brittain*, the OLD BLUE BALL, Church Hill; and Mr. William Brittain, the ROYAL OAK. The annual balance sheet shows that the society numbers 372 members, and possesses a balance in hand of £3,498 13s 3d."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/8/1863

"Yesterday a united demonstration of the four Wednesbury lodges comprised in the Bescot Bridge District Branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, M.U., took place. The members of the several lodges having first mustered at their respective lodge houses, the Good Samaritan Lodge, No.2888, proceeded from the BLUE BALL, Church Hill, to the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, and there joined the St. George's Lodge, No.1980. From thence the two lodges moved on to the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, and took up the Widows Relief Lodge, No.1181, and the Tradesmens Refuge Lodge, No.3035. At this point the lodges, headed by the Rifle Corps Band, were arranged according to numerical order, and the members being decked out with gay-coloured scarfs, and carrying flags, banners, and the regalia of the order (the latter kindly lent by the Birmingham district), a procession of imposing length and attractive appearance was formed....."

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/10/1863

"Last Wednesday morning, about six o'clock, a charcoal burner named James Cook, aged 86 years, was found dead near a charcoal hearth belonging to Messrs. Lloyds, Foster, and Co, at Hobb's Hole. The inquest was held on Thursday at the BLUE BALL, Hall End, and an Open Verdict was returned. There were no marks of violence on the body. It is supposed that death occurred from natural causes, as there was no fire burning at the time."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/7/1864

“Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, yesterday morning resumed an inquiry at the OLD BLUE BALL INN, Hall End, Wednesbury, concerning the death of an infant named John Greenfield, aged two months, the son of a miner residing at Butcroft. The father, it was rumoured, had sadly ill-treated his wife and child, and the former had parted from him in consequence, and the latter died on the 1st inst from neglect and starvation. The Coroner, under these circumstances, ordered a post mortem examination of the body to be made, and the truth or falsehood of the report might be ascertained, that the inquest was adjourned for that purpose.

Mr. H. E. Proctor described the appearance of the body, which presented no external marks of violence, but was unusually pale. The deceased had evidently been suffering from a scrofulus disease of the left gland of the neck, which had probably been inherited from the parents. This ailment might have existed from birth. The sore discharged its contents into the mouth. From the appearance of the body witness was of opinion that the child had received sufficient nourishment, but it had not been appropriated in a proper manner. He did not think disease had been accelerated by any neglect, and the immediate cause was effusion of blood on the brain, which caused an irregular action of the heart, and as far as witness was able to judge, he did not think that if a medical man had been called in, he would of been of any avail.

The Coroner left it to the jury whether or not they would have any further evidence, the inquest having been adjourned for the purpose of ascertaining whether the child had died of neglect, and the evidence went to show that she had not died from such cause. The conduct of the father had undoubtedly been very bad both to mother and child, but in the case before them, though there could be no doubt that he was morally guilty, he had not rendered himself criminally responsible. The jury expressed themselves satisfied, and found a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1864

“The anniversary of the Wednesbury Mutual Friendly Society, better known, perhaps, as the Old Church Club, was celebrated on Monday, when the members mustered at the Old Church School Room, and marched thence to the Church, where a sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Maurice. About 100 of the members subsequently sat down to dinner at the NEW BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, and the OLD BLUE BALL INN, Church Hill. The annual statement of accounts shows the affairs of the society to be in a prosperous state, there being a balance of £3,519 15s 4d standing to the credit of the society, and 371 members belonging to it. The income during the past year, from all sources, has amounted to £552 19s.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/3/1868

“An inquest was held on Saturday last, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner for South Staffordshire, at the BLUE BALL INN, Hall End, Wednesbury, concerning the death of Ada Meek, aged 30, who had lived at Hall End. The deceased on Friday night last retired to rest apparently well, and on the following morning she was found dead in her bed. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1869

“A murder of the most revolting character was perpetrated at Wednesbury during Saturday night.....

It appears that on Sunday morning, about seven o'clock, an ostler named John Turner was going to his stables, and when in Mud Lane, a road which leads from Hall End into the Darlaston turnpike, he found the body of a woman named Eliza Bowen, 50 years of age The body was removed to the BLUE BALL INN.....

The inquest was held on Monday afternoon by Mr. Hooper, Coroner, at the BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.....”

[The inquest was adjourned for a post mortem examination to be made.]

[For more on this see HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen.]

1871 Census

19, Hall End

[1] Thomas Watson (46), licensed victualler, born Burton on Trent;

[2] Ruth Watson (43), wife, born Ashby de la Zouch;

[3] William Watson (22), son, timekeeper at ironworks, born Wednesbury;

[4] Elizabeth Watson (16), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] Samuel Watson (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[6] Ellen Watson (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[7] Annie Watson (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Thomas Watson – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON, Walsall Street.

Walsall Observer 27/9/1873

“On Saturday afternoon a young man, 17 years of age, named Samuel Edward Lloyd, was killed through the bursting of a boiler belonging to Enoch Cattel. Cattel and the deceased were employed at Mr. Blakemore’s foundry, and in an out-house at the back of his house Cattel had erected a diminutive engine, for the purpose of working a lathe, with which he was accustomed to pass his spare time. Deceased was making for himself a small engine, and has been in the habit of going to Cattel’s to assist on the lathes, in which he took great delight. On Saturday afternoon, about three o’clock, Lloyd went to Cattel’s for the purpose of turning a small cylinder rod for the engine he was making. About a quarter to four, just as they were about to commence work, and whilst Cattel was standing about three feet from Lloyd, who was stirring the boiler fire, the boiler burst, blowing the end out, demolishing the out-house, and covering the two men with bricks and debris. As soon as possible the men were extricated, and it was then found that Cattel was very much burnt and scalded about the face. A brick had struck him on the chest, and he was also otherwise injured about the body. At first it was thought that he would lose his sight, but we are happy to say that this will not be the case. Lloyd was at once removed to the residence of his father, at Church Hill, and Drs. Kerr and Collins called in. When they arrived, it was discovered that his injuries were of a very serious character, as, standing close to the boiler, he had met the full force of the explosion. His left leg was nearly cut off, his arms and body were very much cut and bruised, and he was also injured internally. The medical gentlemen, after examining him, found that it would be necessary to amputate his leg, but the shock had been too severe for him, and he died the same afternoon at five o’clock.....

An inquest was held on Tuesday afternoon, at the OLD BLUE BALL INN, Hall End.....

The coroner said there could be no question that such a boiler ought never to have been allowed to work, but Cattel seemed to have acted in ignorance, and he did not see that anything could be done with him. He therefore suggested that the jury should return a verdict of Accidental Death. The jury adopted the suggestion.”

Dudley Guardian 1/8/1874

“On Saturday last, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the BLUE BALL INN, Wednesbury, on the body of John Stamps Lloyd, 20 years of age, who was drowned whilst bathing on Friday morning week.

The evidence of John Pemberton Stubbs, a young man, who was with the deceased at the time of the sad occurrence, showed that deceased and two other young men, named Fawcett and Dougall, engaged a boat at Elwell’s Pool about six o’clock on the morning in question, for the purpose of bathing. Witness accompanied them, but as he could not swim, did not intend to bathe. Fawcett and Dougall dived from the boat first, and deceased followed about ten minutes afterwards. He dived with great force, and came up about twelve yards away, and as he appeared to be very much exhausted, witness told Fawcett to swim to his assistance. Both Fawcett and Dougall swam towards him, and witness threw an oar to him, but he did not notice it. Every effort was made to render him assistance, but before the said two bathers could reach him he sank. In answer to the Coroner, witness could not say whether the water was muddy after deceased dived.

Mr. William Lloyd, father of deceased, said his son could only swim a few yards. He had made enquiries with reference to his death, and believed it was accidental.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wednesbury Herald 5/6/1880

“On Saturday Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), held an inquiry at the BLUE BALL INN, Churchill, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Ann Taylor, aged 18 months, the daughter of Henry and Eliza Taylor, who had died under circumstances already reported in the *Herald*.

The mother of the deceased said that when she awoke on Thursday morning at about five o’clock she missed the child, and upon looking towards the bottom of the bedstead was terrified to find that the child was hanging by her head, having in some way become wedged between the bars of the bedstead, her feet touching the floor. She was quite dead, and the body was nearly cold.

The Coroner: Was it customary for the child to get in and out of bed?

Witness: She would sometimes get out of bed for the purpose of getting into another bed to her sister.

The Coroner: I suppose she was strangled?

Witness: Yes.

The Coroner said it was one of the most peculiar accidents he had ever heard of.

Witness said that directly she had found out she sent for Mr. Garman, surgeon, and upon his arriving he said that he could not render any assistance, as the child had been dead some time.

Evidence having been given showing that the parents were respectable people, and had taken every care possible of their children, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wednesbury Herald 29/1/1881 - Death

“On the 16th instant, at the BLUE BALL INN, Wednesbury, Mr. *Alexander Watson*, aged 56 years; deeply regretted.”

1881 Census

19, Hall End – BLUE BALL

[1] *Ruth Watson* (52), widow, licensed victualler, born Ashby de la Zouch;

[2] *Samuel Watson* (22), son, engine fitter, unemployed, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Ellen Watson* (20), daughter, teacher of music, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Anne Watson* (15), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Mary A. Pritchard* (9), grand-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 23/12/1882

“Amalgamated Society of Engineers. On Saturday afternoon, the officers of the above branch met at their club house, the OLD BLUE BALL INN, Wednesbury, for the purpose of presenting the account benefit for their society, £100, to Mr. H. Hughes, a smith of the Old Park Works, who is permanently disabled from following his employment through paralysis. Mr. Alex. Peters (one of the oldest members) in making the presentation said, ‘Brother Humphry Hughes it affords me great pleasure indeed to present you with this benefit, not as a charity, but as a just reward of your own prudent investment of regular subscriptions.....’”

London Gazette 11/10/1889

“Notice is hereby given, that the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has, pursuant to 38 and 39 Vic., c.60, s.12, by writing under his hand, dated the 8th day of October, 1889, suspended for three months the Registry of the Prince of Wales Lodge, Wolverhampton Order of Odd Fellows Friendly Society (improperly called the Blue Violet Lodge, National United Order of Free Gardeners), held at the BLUE BALL INN, Hall End, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on the ground that the Society has wilfully, and after notice from a Registrar, violated the provisions of the above-mentioned Act, in respect of the valuation of its assets and liabilities. The Society ceases to enjoy during such suspension the privileges of a registered Society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the Society, which may be enforced against it as if such suspension had not taken place. J. M. Ludlow, Chief Registrar.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1889

“Yesterday Mr. Topham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the OLD BLUE BALL INN, Hall End, Wednesbury, on the body of *Elizabeth Sargeant* (64), a widow. The evidence showed that the deceased was a charwoman, and that on the morning of Wednesday, the 11th inst, she was at the house of *Henry Dixon*, 95, Franchise Street. In the afternoon *Dixon* went with her to the COTTAGE SPRING beerhouse, and had a pint of ale with her; and between nine and ten o’clock, at night – she having been at home in the meanwhile – she returned to *Dixon’s* to fetch something she had left behind, and *Dixon* went with her to the BLACK HORSE INN, where they had more ale. When they left that house he parted from her at the end of Franchise Street at about twenty minutes to eleven, declining to go with her past the Old Park Works on the ground that he was ill and lame. More than an hour afterwards a neighbour, named *Eliza Bayley*, heard her moving about in her own home and talking; and a tumbling noise was also heard, but no importance was attached to that. The next morning *Mrs. Bayley* went to the house to fetch a shawl which she had lent to *Mrs. Sargeant*, and finding the door ajar she went into the house, and there saw *Mrs. Sargeant* lying on the floor and bleeding profusely from a wound at the back of the head. *Mrs. Bayley* had her removed from her own house into the next one, and there nursed her until Thursday last, when she died, *Dr. W. Garman* and his assistant attending her in the meanwhile. Her skull was fractured, and her arms and body were bruised, and from the first it was seen to be a hopeless case. She mumbled something once or twice after *Mrs. Bayley* took charge of her, but never said anything intelligible. The opinion of Police-sergeant *Betts*, was, however, that she had fallen downstairs.

The Coroner advised the jury to return an Open Verdict, there being no evidence to show how the deceased met with the injuries which caused her death, and they did so,”

1891 Census

Hall End – BLUE BALL INN

- [1] *Ruth Watson* (61), widow, licensed victualler, born Ashby de la Zouch;
- [2] *Elizabeth R. Watson* (16), grand-daughter, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *William E. Watson* (11), grand-son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ellen Eccleston* (9), grand-daughter, born Sheffield:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

The application of *Ruth Watson*, the BLUE BALL, alehouse, Hall End, had been opposed on the ground of structural defect, the yard communicating with other houses. Mr. G. Rose put in a plan showing that the defect had been remedied, a boundary wall having been erected Granted, subject to the wall being completed, and no door being in it.”

Wednesbury Herald 16/3/1895

“At a meeting of the Blue Violet Lodge, NUOFG, held at the BLUE BALL INN, Hall End, on Monday evening, Bro. Thomas Waldron (Master) made a presentation of an emblem of the order to Bro. T. Smith, for the services he had rendered as Master of the Lodge during the past year.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1901

“*Danks v New Era Assurance Corporation Limited*.

Hearing was resumed in this case, in which *Harriet Elizabeth Danks*, of 19, Hall End, Wednesbury, as administratrix of the estate of her late husband, *Edward Danks*, sought to recover £400 on her two insurance policies.....

The defendants denied their liability on the ground that various mis-statements were made by the deceased on his proposal form, and the policies were thus rendered void. Their evidence went to prove that deceased gave his age wrongly, stated that he was a sheet-iron roller, whereas he was a publican, and that he was of temperate habits, whereas he was an excessive drinker, and suffered from diabetes. Yesterday the defendants continued to call evidence.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, of NAVIGATION INN, Bradley, the latter of whom was the sister of deceased, stated that deceased was a man who was in the habit of drinking excessively. She had frequently chastised him on the point. Her husband stated that the plaintiff had on several occasions complained that deceased drank, and that he was sometimes incapable of looking after the licensed house. It was a considerable time since deceased did any sheet-rolling, witness said. In cross-examination Wilcox admitted that when deceased wanted to transfer to another licensed house he signed his papers certifying to the police that deceased was a sober and steady man. Witness said he did this because deceased promised to reform his habits.

Somewhat similar evidence was given by Mr. and Mrs. Danks, of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Bradley, the brother and sister-in law of deceased. Mrs. Danks said that plaintiff told her that just before her husband died she gave him a bottle of brandy because he prayed for it.

Sarah Pearson, a woman who lived with Mr. and Mrs. *Edward Danks* as servant for three years, stated that the deceased, almost every morning, used to start drinking whisky and coffee or whiskey and tea very early, and he was often drunk by the time his wife got down for breakfast. Then he would go to bed again until dinner time. He used to eat very little, and would often get drunk twice a day.....

The case was not concluded when the court rose.”

[Upon conclusion of the case the jury could not agree on a verdict and were discharged.]

1901 Census

Hall End

- [1] *Harriett E. Danks* (36), widow, licensed victualler, born Douglas, Isle of Man;
- [2] *Edith M. Danks* (14), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Frederick Danks* (13), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Kate Danks* (11), daughter, born Walsall;
- [5] *Bertie Danks* (9), son, born Bradley;
- [6] *Norah Tinsley* (15), domestic servant, born Ladymoor:

Walsall Observer 11/3/1905

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the OLD BLUE BALL INN, Hall End, Wednesbury, concerning the death of Annie Jones, aged 15 months, an illegitimate child residing with a Mrs. Crouch at Hobbs Hole, who died from the effects of scalds received on the 1st inst. On the 3rd inst, a youth named Harold Crouch was nursing deceased. He was in the act of putting himself a cup of boiling tea when he accidentally upset the teapot, and the contents went over the child, who was badly scalded. The child expired from the scalds two days later. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1911 Census

19, Hall End – OLD BLUE BALL

[1] *Arthur Robert Harding* (37), licensed victualler, born Smethwick;

[2] *Marion Harding* (34), wife, married 14 years, born Handsworth;

[3] *Teresa Bullock* (59), boarder, born Handsworth:

1921 Census

19, Hall End

[1] *Fred Platt* (41), innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Catherine Louise Platt* (44), wife, home duties, born Darlaston;

[3] *Winifred Mary Platt* (18), daughter, clerk, edge tool manufacturer, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Monica Eva Platt* (14), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Louise Rose Platt* (7) daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Catherine Mary Scott* (7), niece, school, born Newcastle on Tyne:

South Staffordshire Times 5/4/1924

“The Deputy District Coroner (Mr. W. C. Checkley) conducted an inquest at the BLUE BALL INN, Hall End, Wednesbury, on Wednesday evening, relative to the death of Beatrice Martha Gibson (24), a married woman, of Shilton, near Coventry.

The husband, William S. Gibson, a collier, stated his wife left home on Saturday to visit her sister at West Bromwich Hospital, and to stay with her brother at Hall End. She had suffered for many years from chronic bronchial asthma. Joseph Samuel Moseley, 18, Hall End, Wednesbury, brother of deceased, said that while his sister was staying with him she said she felt better than she had felt for a long time. He last saw her alive at 7.30am on Monday morning when he left for work, and when he came home at 5.15 in the evening he was told by a little boy that she was asleep on the floor. Upon going into the house he found his sister lying dead on the front room floor downstairs.

Dr. Frost said death was due to heart failure, and the Coroner recorded a verdict accordingly.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 10/1/1925

“The magistrates sanctioned plans for structural alterations to the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill; the OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, and the MIDLAND VAULTS, Upper High Street.”

It had a bowling green. [1928]

1939 Register

19, Hall End

[1] *Fred Platt*, date of birth 16/7/1879, publican, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Catherine Louise Platt*, dob 17/4/1877, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Louise R. (Platt) Weare*, dob 26/10/1913, typist and clerk, single:

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

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

OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.”

It was Grade II listed in 1979.

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/11/1979

“A Wednesbury man took a short cut for charity to raise £200. Twenty-six-year-old Steve Wildman was coaxed by regular at the OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury, to have his shoulder-length hair cut off to help raise fund for the Sandwell scanner appeal. Now Steve, of Beech Road, Wednesbury looks a new man. Regulars sponsored him for every inch of hair he lost. Landlady Mrs. *Phylis Bradshaw*, said, ‘Steve was tremendous. He was very proud of his hair, but he did not mind having it cut off if he managed to raise some money for the appeal.’ Policeman, Mr. Peter Blick, of Bloxwich, cut Steve’s locks. And when they were laid end to end, they stretched six feet. Mrs. *Bradshaw* said, ‘We reckoned that Peter would be able to get five feet from his hair, but we are gladly paying up for every inch of hair Steve lost.’ The money will be presented to the scanner appeal early next year.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/12/1981 - Advert

“Under New Management.

The OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.

Chris and Pete send Seasonal Greetings to customers old and new.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/7/1993

“Down Your Local. OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.

Should he, or shouldn’t he? That was the question facing license *Terry Dicken* after seven years looking after a small back street pub in Wednesbury. Two years after the question was posed and *Terry* decided he should, he is still behind the bar with his wife Edyll – but now as owners of the property. *Terry*, who says he is the wrong side of 47, used to work in the building and engineering industries before he took over the OLD BLUE BALL in Hall End. The brewers, Bass, Mitchells and Butler had offered him a lease or the right to buy. As *Terry* said, ‘I didn’t fancy leaving. I was born in Great Bridge but have lived in Wednesbury since I was two. We know all the locals and the pub was home to us, so we took a chance and bought it. It was a bit hairy for the first few months, but things are now settling down well.....

Price of a Pint: Worthington best bitter £1 15, Stones best bitter £1.20, Highgate mild £1.05, Draught Guinness £1.45, Carling Black Label £1.30, Tennents Pilsner £1.30.

Nosh: Cheese or ham with salad sarnies at 70p, sausage egg and chips at £1.80 and home made chilli with rice or chips. Fridays and Saturdays only, hot pork sandwiches with stuffing and gravy at £1. Friday, Saturday and Sunday barbies in the large garden during summer months only, weather permitting.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/1/1994

“The licensee of a Wednesbury pub is pleading with Sandwell Council for more time to carry out landscaping work. *Terry Dicken*, of the OLD BLUE BALL in Hall End, said he had been quoted up to £20,000 for the work, including new boundary walls and fences. The pub, which is a listed building, was allowed by the council to retain its existing beer garden which was created without planning permission. Mr. *Dicken* was also given the go-ahead to build a private garden on condition that boundary walls and fences, landscaping and planting were all completed within 12 months. He has now applied to the council for the conditions to be lifted so the work can be carried out over the next two years. A spokesman for the licensee said, ‘Due to the recession over the past two years, Mr. *Dicken* finds he is unable to meet this cost and is finding it very difficult to survive at present. An application is made for a time extension so that we can get everyone involved in finding a way of cutting the cost. It is impossible for the development to proceed if Mr. *Dicken* has to finance it himself.’ The spokesman said Mr. *Dicken* had cleared an area of land and turned it into a beer garden without knowing that planning permission was needed. He had since demolished an old garage at the front of the pub and landscaped the area, but had been quoted between £18,000 and £20,000 by a contractor to do the walls and fences.

A report to Sandwell’s development control committee on January 7 said they had costed the work at no more than £5,000. Sandwell’s acting director of technical and development services, Malcom Hinks, said, ‘The applicant had more than doubled the size of the beer garden, which has been a source of complaint by residents. I consider that the provision of the landscaping walls and fencing should be carried out as soon as possible.’”

[2025]

LOT II.

All that that Old Established PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the Blue Ball, Church-road, Hall End, Wednesbury aforesaid; with the brewhouse, shopping, piggeries, and other outbuildings to the same belonging; now in the occupation of Mr. Jonah Spittle, as tenant at will: likewise the adjoining DWELLING HOUSE and premises occupied by William Baker, and also the two old workshops at the end thereof and fronting to the said road, together with a large plot of garden ground (in which is a well of excellent water), behind the same, as now staked out and delineated upon lithographic plans, which may be seen at Mr. Spittle's, and will be produced at the time of sale.

1835

OLD BLUE BALL,

HALL END, WEDNESBURY.

TO be Sold by Private Treaty, the ALE and SPIRIT LICENSES of the above highly respectable and good-accustomed Public House, situated in the midst of numerous coal and iron works, and for many years past the resort of a large portion of the workmen and others engaged therein.

The premises, which are in a healthy situation, consist of large commodious cellars, tap-room, bar, kitchen, two parlours, brewhouse, malt-room, cooking kitchen, club-room, and three bed-rooms, with very large Garden, and an abundant supply of soft water.

As the present proprietor has other engagements, the Stock and Fixtures will be reduced to suit the convenience of the purchaser. Rent only *30*l.** a-year.

For further particulars apply to Mr. JAMES PLANT, Black Lake, West Bromwich.

1843



ATTENTION! all MILD drinkers

HIGHGATE MILD is now available in the following BUTLERS and ATKINSONS houses:—

BRIDGE HOUSE, Blaxwich Road, Walsall.	RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge, Darlaston.
NEW NAVIGATION, Birchills, Walsall.	RISING SUN, Piercy Street, Newtown, Wednesbury.
WALSALL ARMS, Bank Street, Walsall.	FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, Wednesbury.
FALCON, Lichfield Street, Walsall.	OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.
FITTERS ARMS, Matherton St., Walsall.	PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street, Wednesbury.
FORGE HAMMER, Rolling Mill Street, Pkch., Walsall.	COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury.
FOUNTAIN, Lower Forster Street, Walsall.	SPRING COTTAGE, The Paddock, Walsall.
NEW INN, Green Lane, Walsall.	HARDEN, Coalpool Lane, Walsall.
PRINCE OF WALES, Queen St., Walsall.	NEWPORT ARMS, Pkch. Road, Walsall.
BEAR & RAGGED STAFF, High Street, Walsall.	VINE, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall.
COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridgeman St., Walsall.	KINGS ARMS, High Street, Blaxwich.
TANNERS ARMS, Day Street, Walsall.	FOUNTAIN, Portland Street, Walsall.
DUKE OF YORK, Mexley Rd., Darlaston.	STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.
BLACK HORSE, Pinfold St., Darlaston.	BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.
NELSON, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.	HORSE & JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury.
WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.	GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.
KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.	
DARTMOUTH INN, High St., Darlaston.	
RAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.	
OLD BUSH, The Green, Darlaston.	
STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge, Darlaston.	



Pride of the Midlands

1962

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

THE OLD BLUE BALL

Hall End,

Wednesbury.

Chris and Pete send Seasonal Greetings to customers old and new.

1981

THE OLD BLUE BALL

19 Hall End, Wednesbury WS10 9ED Tel: 0121 556 0197

- ☐ 4 Real Ales
- ☐ Live TV Sports
- ☐ Traditional Pub Games
- ☐ Hot Sandwiches Fri/Sat
- ☐ Dog Friendly
- ☐ Local Bus Service



2016

OLD BULLS HEAD

WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Cannock Chase Examiner 17/4/1875

“The quarterly meeting of the members belonging to the South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire, and Warwickshire district of the National Federation of Engineers Protection Association of Great Britain and Ireland was held a few days ago, at the OLD BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury.....”

Shropshire Examiner 29/12/1876

“The South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire District of the National Federation of Enginemmen held their quarterly delegate meeting at the OLD BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury, on Wednesday.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/6/1878

“An official paper which has just been issued gives the names of the registered trade unions, showing those which have, and those which have not, made returns according to law, and, with regard to the former, the amount of their funds on the 31st December, 1876, their income for that year, and the number of their members.....

South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire, and Warwickshire District of the National Federation of Engineers Protection Association, OLD BULLS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, established July 28, 1874; funds, £174; annual income, £397; number of members, 215.

United Brothers Branch (No.2) of the National Federation of Engineers Protection Association of Great Britain and Ireland, OLD BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury, established June 30, 1875; funds not stated; annual income, £27; number of members, 15.”

OLD CHURCH

Church Lane, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Danks [1855]

Mrs. Sarah Baker [1861] – [1870]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Peoples Paper 10/3/1855

“The Chartist of Wednesbury will meet on Monday evening, March 12th, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Danks*, the sign of the OLD CHURCH, Church Hill. T. Fletcher, Secretary.”

1861 Census

Church Hill

- [1] *Sarah Baker* (39), married, retail brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *John Baker* (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Samuel A. Baker* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Joseph Williams* (36), lodger, tailor, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Matilda Williams* (30), lodger, born Penn;
- [6] *Edward Newell* (20), lodger, gunlock filer, born Perry Barr;
- [7] *Edward Daniels* (19), lodger, gunlock filer, born Birmingham;
- [8] *Thomas Blakemore* (22), lodger, gunlock filer, born West Bromwich;
- [9] *Jane Blakemore* (20), lodger, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1864

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday.....

Sarah Baker, of the CHURCH HILL TAVERN [sic], Church Hill, Wednesbury, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for having her house open during prohibited hours on the night of Sunday week.”

Sarah Baker, beer retailer, Church Hill. [1865]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/3/1866

“Yesterday at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, before Mr. I. Spooner (Stipendiary), a man named William Smith, gas-fitter, was charged, on a summons, with assaulting his wife. It seems that the complainant and defendant did not live together, but the defendant had agreed to pay the complainant so much a week for her maintenance. On the 19th inst, she went into the OLD CHURCH INN, Church Hill, where she found the defendant in company with an unfortunate. She asked him why he did not pay her what he had promised, whereupon he assaulted her in a very savage manner. The complainant, although the assault had been committed a week, appeared in court with two black eyes, and had a bad bruise on her arm caused by the defendant’s violence. The defendant when asked by Mr. Spooner what he had to say for himself, coolly replied he had nothing to say. The Stipendiary fined him £2 and costs, or in default three weeks’ imprisonment. The defendant was locked up.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/1/1868

“A youth named Charles Bagley was yesterday charged at Wednesbury Police Court with stealing a pair of boots belonging to *Sarah Baker*. The prosecutrix is a beerhouse keeper, living at Wednesbury, and the prisoner had lodged with her for two or three weeks. On Sunday last she placed a pair of new boots under a screen in the bar, but on the following morning they were gone. The prisoner was suspected and information having been given to the police, it was ascertained that he had sold the boots to Caroline Linax, of the Pleck, Walsall, for 4s 6d. When charged with stealing them he did not deny it, but remarked that he would rather pay for a new pair than have any bother about the matter. He was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1868

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, a man named Charles Beesley was charged with having stolen a pair of boots, the property of *Sarah Baker*, beerhouse keeper, Church Hill. The prisoner had lodged at the prosecutrix’s for a short time. On Monday morning, when he got up, he went out, taking away a pair of boots, belonging to the prosecutrix, and left a pair of his own in their stead. The stolen pair he took to the Pleck, and sold for 4s 6d. Soon afterwards he was apprehended by Police-constable Walters. He was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/6/1868

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday.....

Sarah Baker, who keeps the OLD CHURCH INN beerhouse, Church Lane, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours on the 8th inst. Police-constable Walker said he visited the defendant’s house at twenty-five minutes past eleven o’clock on the evening in question, and found seven men there drinking. He told the defendant he should report her, and her answer was, ‘I don’t care if you do.’ She was fined 1s and costs; in all 10s 6d.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/6/1869

“The usual fortnightly meeting of Wednesbury Local Board took place yesterday.....

The report of Mr. Holland, Superintendent of police (Nuisance Inspector) stated.....

There was an open well at the OLD CHURCH beerhouse, in the occupation of *Sarah Baker*, and anyone going up the entry was liable to tumble in.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/7/1869

“The fortnightly meeting of Wednesbury Local Board was held yesterday evening.....

The Nuisance Inspector’s report stated that the well was still open at the OLD CHURCH beerhouse, kept by *Sarah Baker*.”

Sarah Baker, beer retailer, Church Hill. [1870]

OLD CROSS KEYS

152, (153), Holyhead Road (Row), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Bayley [1849] – [1852]
John Stevenson [1861]
John Stringer [1855] – **1865**;
John Savage (**1865** – [1871]
Mrs. Eliza Savage []
John Stringer [1878] – [1881]
John James Butler [1881] – [1882]
George Whittle [1891] – [1892]
Charles Twigg (**1893** – [1896]
Walter John Sealey [1900]
Mrs. Emma A Sealey [1901]
Edward Young [1904]
George Sturgess [1907]
Walsh [1910]
Leonard Smith [1911] – [1921]
George Peters [] – **1925**;
John Palmer (**1925** – []
Arthur Hill [1929]
Ernest Walker (**1930** – [1932]
Robert Lilley [] – **1933**;
Edith Lilley (**1933** – []
Mrs. Amelia D Bird [1939]
Noah Wilkinson [1940]

A very desirable and well-situated FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE and valuable BUILDING LAND, at WEDNESBURY, Staffordshire.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOSEPH T. DAWES, on Friday, the 18th day of June, 1852, at the RISING SUN INN, WEDNESBURY, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced :

LOT 1.—All that desirable piece of freehold BUILDING LAND, situated in Camphill-lane, in Wednesbury aforesaid, with a frontage of 31 feet 6 inches, and containing in the whole 290 square yards, or thereabouts.

LOT 2.—All that substantial and old-established freehold retail BEERHOUSE, with the Warehouse, Stable, Outbuildings, large Yard, and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in the Holyhead-road, in Wednesbury aforesaid, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Bayley, and known as the Cross Keys, having a frontage to the said road of 51 feet, and containing, with the site of the buildings erected thereon, 575 square yards, or thereabouts.

To view the premises, apply to Mr. BAYLEY; and further particulars may be had on application to FREDERICK WHITMORE, Esq., Official Assignee, Waterloo-street, Birmingham; to Messrs. DEAKIN and DENT, Attorneys-at-Law, Wolverhampton; or to the AUCTIONEER, Wednesbury.

1852

NOTES

153, Holyhead Road [1871], [1881], [1896], [1912]
152, Holyhead Road [1932], [1939], [1940]

CROSS KEYS [1849], [1850], [1868], [1869], [1870], [1940]
OLD CROSS KEYS [1864], [1892], [1932]

1851 Census

Holyhead Road

- [1] Thomas Bayley (59), retail brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Ann Bayley (53), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Joseph Bayley (35), son, smith, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Amos Bayley (21), son, gas tube maker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Elizabeth Bayley (18), daughter, housekeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Harriet Moore (18), general servant, born Hanbury, Worcestershire;

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/6/1852 - Advert

"A very desirable and well-situated Freehold Public House and valuable Building Land, at Wednesbury, Staffordshire. To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, on Friday, the 18th day of June, 1852, at the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.....

Lot 2. All that substantial and old-established freehold retail Beerhouse, with the Warehouse, Stable, Outbuildings, large Yard, and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in the Holyhead Road, in Wednesbury aforesaid, in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Bayley*, and known as the CROSS KEYS, having a frontage to the said road of 51 feet, and containing, with the site of the buildings erected thereon, 575 square yards, or thereabouts.

To view the premises, apply to Mr. *Bayley*; and further particulars may be had on application to Frederick Whitmore, Esq, Official Assignee, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; to Messrs. Deakin and Dent, Attorneys-at-Law, Wolverhampton; or to the Auctioneer, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

"Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *J. Stringer*, CROSS KEYS, Holyhead Road."

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.....

John Stringer, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, supported by Mr. Duignan, not opposed.....

The application of Mr. *John Stringer*, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was refused, his solicitor, Mr. Duignan, stating that the premises were not in a finished state."

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 Stringer, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

[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.....

John Stringer, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, 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.....

John Stringer, Holyhead Road, supported by Mr. Duignan, and opposed by Mr. Palmer 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.....

John Stringer, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury Granted."

1861 Census

Holyhead Road

[1] *John Stringer* (50), licensed victualler, born Madeley, Shropshire;

[2] *Mary Stringer* (49), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Mary Collins* (21), niece, barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Emma Hackett* (21), house servant, born Birmingham:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/12/1861

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last, before Edwin Hooper, Esq, Coroner, at the OLD CROSS KEYS, Wednesbury, on the body of a man named Isaac Swain, aged seventy-nine years. About a week since a man was summoned before Mr. Partridge at Wednesbury, to answer the charge of an alleged assault on the deceased, and the case was adjourned for a fortnight. Rumours gained currency that deceased died from injuries received at the time of the alleged assault. In consequence of this rumour the Coroner instructed Mr. W. C. Garman, surgeon, to make a post mortem examination of the body. Mr. Garman, in his evidence at the inquest, stated that as a parish doctor he had attended deceased on and off for two years, he having during that time suffered from asthma and disease of the heart; that on examining the body of deceased since his death he could trace no marks of violence on any portion of the body; and that he was clearly of opinion that deceased had died from deceased heart and lungs, and not by any violent means. A verdict in accordance with the evidence of Mr. Garman was immediately returned. The Coroner having been kept waiting more than half-an-hour through the non-attendance of Mr. Richard Harvey and Mr. Joseph Eccleston, both of whom had been summoned to serve on the jury, he fined each defaulter in the sum of £1 for non-attendance, or not sending any excuse for their absence.”

John Stringer, retailer of beer, Holyhead Road. [1862]

Birmingham Journal 22/8/1863 - Advert

“Important Freehold Property, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by James Taylor, on Wednesday Next, August 26, at the house of Mr. *J. Stringer*, OLD CROSS KEYS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, at Seven o’clock in the evening.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/1/1864

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *John Stringer*, CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, touching the death of James Farmer, aged 18, one of the men who was so seriously injured by the accident which occurred at the works of Messrs. Job and Henry Haines on the 30th of December last. Deceased had suffered from the effects of injuries received, and gradually sank and died on Saturday morning last. The evidence adduced in the case of John Ryan, another victim of the catastrophe, and which was duly reported in the *Daily Gazette* of Thursday last, was precisely the same as that given at the present inquest, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

During the inquiry it transpired that, immediately after the accident, the proprietors of the works had been unremitting in their attention to the unfortunate men who had suffered from the calamity, and had commanded their agents to spare neither time nor expense in their endeavours to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate fellows.”

[For the inquest on John Ryan see under FORTUNE OF WAR.]

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1864

“On Monday last, the Adelaide No.1 Lodge of the Loyal Wolverhampton Reformed Order of Odd Fellows held their anniversary at the house of Host *Stringer*, the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, when the members sat down to an excellent dinner. Brother Thomas Smith presided, and Brother Thomas Barton officiated as vice-chairman. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly given, the chairman congratulated the members present upon the prosperous condition of the society. The day was spent in the most convivial manner.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1864

“Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an enquiry, on Thursday at the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, concerning the death of Sarah Hodson, the daughter of a labourer, living in the neighbourhood of the inn where the inquest was conducted.

The evidence of the parents of the deceased was to the effect that the child, at the time of her death, was two years and five months old, and had always enjoyed good health, with the exception of a slight cold, from which she suffered during the few days preceding her decease. On Sunday morning the mother prepared a decoction of senna, from leaves which she had bought at the shop of a chemist in Holyhead Road, and administered a small portion of it to the deceased and another of her children. During the day the children were more thirsty than usual, but at night they were put to bed apparently in their ordinary health, and they slept until six o’clock on the following morning when the deceased awoke and called to her parents, who occupied another bed in the same room, for something to

drink. The mother gave the child a little cold tea, and for a short time after the deceased was heard talking to her brother. She then became quiet, the parents supposing her to have fallen asleep, but on rising at seven o'clock they found her a corpse.

Mr. J. Garman, surgeon, was called in, but he declined to give a certificate. The enquiry was adjourned until Monday next, before which a post mortem examination will be made."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/12/1864

"The adjourned inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Sarah Hodson, aged two and a half years, who died in a very sudden manner on the morning of Monday week, was held yesterday by Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, at the CROSS KEYS INN, Wednesbury. The inquest had been adjourned for the production of medical evidence. Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon, made a post mortem examination of the body, and stated that in his opinion the child had died from a fit of convulsions produced by natural causes. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1865

"On Saturday, the following licenses were temporarily transferred by the West Bromwich Magistrates..... CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, from *John Stringer* to *John Savage*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/7/1866

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Ann Mooney was charged with taking two 2s pieces from a drawer at the CROSS KEYS INN, on Monday, the property of *John Savage*. Sarah Savage, prosecutor's daughter, stated that at about half-past one o'clock on Monday last she was in the bar of her father's house, the prisoner being also there. Immediately before the prisoner came in she received two florins, and placed them in the till. She left the room to go into the kitchen, and on her return, a few minutes after, found the florins were gone. She charged the prisoner with the theft, but it was denied, and she refused to prove her innocence by turning out her pockets. Soon afterwards prisoner went to the back door, and handed some money to another woman, and, in doing so, dropped a few coppers. After this she went into the garden, and on her return she willingly offered to show the contents of her pocket. A police-constable, however, had been sent for in the meantime, and she was removed in custody. The charge was now denied, and the Bench, thinking the evidence insufficient, discharged the prisoner."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1869

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, a man named John Murrin was charged with having assaulted *John Savage*, landlord of the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road. On Sunday night the complainant turned the defendant into the street for creating a disturbance in his house; but he afterwards returned with a brick in his hand, and was about to be turned out a second time, when he threw the brick at the complainant, cutting his head badly in the region of the left temple. Fined 21s and costs, with the option of one month's imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/3/1870

"On Saturday evening, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the OLD CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, touching the death of Thomas Goodwin, aged 50, a labourer at the Crown Tube Works. Mr. B. L. Brown, the manager of the works, attended on behalf of the proprietors.

On Wednesday afternoon the deceased was engaged in the works in getting a tube out of stock, and while Mr. R. Brown turned away for a moment, for the purpose of calling assistance, he pulled a light tube towards him, and overbalancing, fell head foremost into some machinery used for straightening tubes. The machinery was stopped in less than a minute, and the unfortunate man, who was dreadfully cut and bruised, was taken to his home in Queen Street, where he was immediately attended by Mr. Collins, surgeon. Before his death, which took place on Friday evening, he stated that no blame attached to anyone.

Mr. B. L. Brown, in reply to the Coroner, said the machinery was fenced in except at that part where the accident occurred; but, in accordance with a recommendation which the Inspector of Factories had made since the mishap, a fence would also be put up at that part.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1870

"Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, *John Savage*, of the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, was fined 40s and costs for permitting drunkenness in his house, one drunken man having robbed another in the house."

1871 Census

153, Holyhead Road

- [1] John Savage (62), publican, born Slimbridge, Gloucestershire;
- [2] Eliza Savage (60), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Samson Savage (27), son, shingler, born Wednesbury;
- [4] George Savage (23), son, fitter and turner, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Sarah Savage (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Rachel J. Savage (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Emma Savage (11), grand-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] William H. Blakemore (2), grand-son, born Wednesbury;

John Savage died in the 4th quarter of 1872.

John Savage – see also BUSH, Leabrook Road, Tipton.

Dudley Guardian 22/8/1874

“On Monday, at the OLD CROSS KEYS, Holyhead Road, Mr. Topham, deputy coroner, held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of William Henry Fowler, aged six and a half years, who was found dead in the canal at Leabrook, on Friday evening. There was no suspicion of foul play, but in the absence of direct evidence as to how the child got into the water, an open verdict was returned.”

Cannock Chase Examiner 6/3/1875 - Advert

“*Eliza Savage*, Deceased.

All Creditors and other persons having any claim or demands against *Eliza Savage*, formerly of the CROSS KEYS INN, Wednesbury, who died on the 31st day of January last, are hereby requested to send particulars thereof to *John Stringer*, of Wednesbury aforesaid, gentleman, or James Simkins, of the same place, plumber and glazier, and all persons indebted to the said *Eliza Savage* at her decease, are requested to pay the amount of their respective debts forthwith to the said *John Stringer* or James Simkin, or to the undersigned.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1875.

James Slater, Solicitor, Darlaston.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1878 - Advert

TO Let, a good Shop; suitable for grocery or provisions. Good position, and low rent.—Apply to John Stringer, Cross Keys Inn, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

“To Let, a good Shop; suitable for grocery or provisions. Good position, and low rent.
Apply to *John Stringer*, CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

1881 Census

153, Holyhead Road

- [1] John Stringer (71), licensed victualler, born Lightmore, Shropshire;
 - [2] Mary Stringer (69), wife, born Wednesbury;
 - [3] Maria Maddikin (19), general servant, born Wednesbury;
- AND
- [1] John James Butler (41), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
 - [2] Emma Butler (41), wife, born Wednesbury;
 - [3] Mary Stringer (18), daughter, barmaid, born Birmingham;

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/12/1882

“James Morris, alias Sweeney, Portway Road, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a shoulder of mutton, the property of *John Butler*, CROSS KEYS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

On Tuesday morning prisoner came into the vaults, and after he left, the shoulder of mutton, which was hanging up in the kitchen, was missing. The prosecutor followed the prisoner to his own house, where he found the mutton. The prisoner was remanded for a week, for inquiries to be made.”

AND

Darlaston Weekly Times 16/12/1882

“James Morris, alias Sweeney, was charged with stealing a shoulder of mutton, the property of *John Butler*, landlord of the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

On the 5th inst the prisoner entered the prosecutor’s kitchen, took a shoulder of mutton off the table, and afterwards proceeded with it to his lodgings. Prosecutor having missed the mutton, followed the prisoner and captured him.

The prisoner was an old offender, and was committed to the Session.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1883

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions...

The following prisoners, who had pleaded guilty the previous evening, were sentenced.....

James Morris, 30, fish hawk, stealing on the 15th of December, at Wednesbury, a piece of mutton, the property of *John James Butler*, nine months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1887

“Yesterday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest, at the CROSS KEYS INN Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the body of William Smith, aged 20, of 9, Brick-kiln Street, a seller of sand and dealer in rags and bones, who died on Sunday, after a few days illness, from diarrhoea and pains in the head and bowels, but who was said to have been seriously kicked at Stone Cross, West Bromwich, by some youths whom he had offended.

Dr. Dingley stated that on Saturday night he was called in to see the deceased, who was then in a very serious state. Death took place on the following day, and he had since made a post mortem examination, in accordance with the coroner’s precept. There were no external marks of violence. The left lung was solid through inflammation, which was comparatively recent; and from this and other indications, he was satisfied that death had arisen from acute pneumonia. This sometimes arose from violence, but more frequently from cold; and, as there were no signs of violence in this case, he concluded that cold was the cause in this instance. Verdict accordingly.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/6/1888 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Important Sale of Old-established Full-Licensed Inn, with Brewery and private Dwelling House. Tuesday, July 3, 1888.

Messrs. Belcher & Son are instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the above date, at 7 o’clock in the evening precisely.

All that Valuable Freehold Old-established and Full-Licensed Inn, known as the CROSS KEYS INN, situate as above, with a Newly-erected Four-quarter Brewery and Private Dwelling House adjoining and fronting the Holyhead Road aforesaid.

For further particulars and cards to view, apply to the Auctioneers, Loxdale Street, Wednesbury and Darlaston; or Messrs. Slater and Cox, Solicitors, Darlaston.”

Walsall Observer 7/7/1888 - Advert

“Wanted, a Young Lady as Pianist; one who can sing preferred. Apply, CROSS KEYS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a Young Lady as Pianist; one who can sing preferred. — Apply, Cross Keys, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/10/1889

“On Saturday evening a meeting of brassworkers was held under the auspices of the National Society of Amalgamated Brassworkers, at the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, to take into consideration the question of a lock-out at Messrs. Danks’s Works, Great Western Street, Wednesbury.

Mr. James Rooke (president of the society) presided over a good attendance.

It was stated that in the course of twelve months the manager had called upon the men to submit to three reductions on certain classes of work. The manager alleged as the cause of these reductions that he could not compete with other manufacturers at the existing list. Reports were submitted to the Birmingham Society, and the leaders sought an interview with the manager in order to discuss the question, but he refused to meet them. He intimated to the workmen that they must either leave the factory or the society.

In the course of a long discussion, it was stated that the manager had behaved in a very arbitrary manner, and a resolution was carried unanimously to the effect that the workmen were justified in refusing to work at reduced wages, and acted like Englishmen in refusing to comply with the manager’s request to leave the trade society.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1890

“On Saturday night a large meeting of the workmen employed in the Brunswick Wheelworks of the Patent Shaft and Axle-tree Company took place at the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, under the auspices of the Midland Counties Trades Federation, for the purpose of supporting an agitation for weekly ‘pays’ in the department named above.

Mr. T. Jones (Tube-makers Society, Wolverhampton), who was voted to the chair, said, as he understood, the matter which had called them together was that the men engaged in the Brunswick Works received their wages once a fortnight, but – unlike the men in the other departments – had no draw on the intermediate Saturdays. If they were in that exceptional position, a great wrong was being perpetrated upon them. (Loud applause.) The men had a right to demand their money when they had earned it, and no firm, whatever its position, had a right to retain it when it had been worked for; nor could he see what objection there could be to the men at the Brunswick Wheelworks being paid as the men in the other departments were paid. (Applause.) He was satisfied that if there should be a contest the men would have the support, not only of the members of the Federation and the working men in the district, but of the working men throughout the entire kingdom. (Cheers.)....”

1891 Census

Holyhead Road – CROSS KEYS INN

[1] George Whittle (52), public house manager, born Tipton;

[2] Ann Whittle (55), wife, born Tipton;

[3] James E. Whittle (23), son, wheel dresser, born Sedgley;

[4] Anne Whittle (7), grand-daughter, scholar, born Walsall;

[5] Bridget Fierney (18), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Mail 6/1/1894

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Charles Twigg*, landlord of the CROSS KEYS, INN, Holyhead Road, was summoned for selling during prohibited hours on Christman Day. Mr. Thursfield defended.

Police-constable Wright stated that at 3.30 on the afternoon of the 25th ult he met a woman named Martha Farmer leaving the defendant’s house, with something bulky under her apron. She admitted that it was a bottle of ale, which was paid for before closing time. He accompanied her back to the public house, and defendant, after some hesitation, said the woman had been employed by him as a charwoman, and he had given her the ale as a Christan box.

The defendant was called, and stated that the ale was given to the woman as a Christmas box. It was a free gift, and was not paid for in any shape or form.

A barmaid was called, and stated that defendant gave her instructions to give Mrs. Farmer a half-gallon bottle of ale as a Christman box, which she did. No sale took place and no money passed. The woman had cooked the Christmas dinner at the house.

The Bench considered the offence had been proved, and imposed a fine of 20s and costs.

Martha Farmer was afterwards charged with aiding and abetting *Twigg* to commit the offence.

The magistrates fined defendant 2s 6d and costs.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1894

“Last night a meeting of the Licensed Victuallers Association was held at the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Mr. C. Jackson presiding. The Secretary (Mr. Plant) reported that it had been decided to appeal at the next Staffordshire Quarter Sessions against the conviction of Mr. *Twigg*, of the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on Christmas Day.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/4/1894

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Charles Twigg, licensed victualler, of Wednesbury, appealed against a conviction under the Licensing Acts for keeping his licensed premises open during prohibited hours.....

The appellant, *Charles Twigg*, was sworn. He said he had kept the CROSS KEYS for about eight months, and during that time the woman Farmer had done cleaning and washing at the house. She came there on the morning of Christmas Day, to do some housework, as his wife was ill. He asked her what she would like for a Christmas box and she chose beer, a half-gallon of which was drawn and given to her. No money passed either before or after the beer was taken away. After cross-examination of the witness, the Chairman said the Court did not wish to hear any more evidence. They agreed that the case was one of suspicion, and the conviction would be quashed with costs.”

Birmingham Weekly Post 24/11/1900 - Deaths

“On the 20th inst, at CROSS KEYS, Wednesbury, *Walter John Sealey*, aged 53.”

Walter John Sealey – see also OLDE WINE SHOPPE, West Bromwich.

1901 Census

Holyhead Road – CROSS KEYS

- [1] *Emma A. Sealey* (47), widow, publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Albert W. Sealey* (21), son, barman, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Mabel Sealey* (19), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Edmund Sealey* (15), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Ethel Sealey* (13), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Edith Sealey* (8), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Annie Wootton* (17), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Walsall Observer 4/5/1907

“At Wednesbury Police Court *George Sturgess*, landlord of the CROSS KEYS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was summoned for, as alleged, keeping his premises open during prohibited hours on the 18th ult. *Frank Barker*, hairdresser, also of Holyhead Road, was charged with being on the premises.

Early on the morning of the 18th ult, Police-constable Sleath heard a whistle blown, and went to the CROSS KEYS. He found the landlord in a very excited state, and inside the house *Barker*, in a semi-dazed condition, and apparently the worse for drink. *Barker* was lying in the fireplace with his head near the grate. He was bleeding from the face, and he had received a bad blow on one eye. The landlord’s explanation was that *Barker* was a guest, and he had been in the house prior to eleven o’clock, but left, and after he (the landlord) had closed, after 11.20 he invited *Barker* into the house to have something to drink. *Barker* came in, and he (the landlord) went to fetch a small bottle of champagne. Afterwards he struck *Barker* and thrashed him well, and then he went on the step and whistled for the police.

The defence set up by Mr. Glover was that the parties were on intimate terms of friendship, and that this justified the landlord regarding *Barker* was a guest.

The Stipendiary, after a lengthy hearing, considered the *Barker* was a guest, and he dismissed both charges.”

Tipton Herald 2/1/1909

“Mr. W. A. Lewis (Deputy Coroner) held an inquest of Wednesday afternoon at the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, concerning the death of *Ellen Moran*, aged 10 years and 11 months, of Portway Road, who died on Monday from the effects of burns received the same day. The evidence showed that the little girl was stooping down when the fringe of a shawl she was wearing caught fire, and great difficulty was experienced in extinguishing the flames.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Bridgnorth Journal 19/2/1910

“At Wednesbury, on Saturday, *Ada Mary Walsh*, wife of the licensee of the CROSS KEYS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with attempting to commit suicide.

William Burton, who had been employed by prisoner’s husband, said that on the 5th inst he heard screams, and on rushing to the stairs saw Mrs. Walsh with a cut in her throat. He placed the woman on a bed and applied a bandage to the wound. Dr. Morris arrived shortly afterwards and attended to her injuries. A razor was found in her bedroom. *Burton* added that prisoner had recently given way to habits of intemperance. She told Police-constable *Harris* that she was under the influence of drink at the time. She was discharged with a caution.”

1911 Census

Holyhead Road – CROSS KEYS

- [1] *Leonard Smith* (45), publican, born Bushbury;
- [2] *Frances Smith* (59), wife, married 20 years, born Shuttington, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Thomas Edward Atkins* (36), nephew, assisting in business, born Essington:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/11/1916

“Silver Weddings.....

Leonard Smith CROSS KEYS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

1921 Census

Holyhead Road – CROSS KEYS

[1] *Leonard Smith* (55), publican and smallholder, born Bushbury;

[2] *Frances Smith* (70), wife, home duties, born Shuttington, Warwickshire;

[3] *Thomas E. Atkins* (46), nephew, working on smallholding, born Bushbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/1/1927 - Advert

“Lost, Toy Pom (black); reward; detainer prosecuted.

CROSS KEYS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

LOST, Toy Pom (black); reward; detainer prosecuted. — Cross Keys, Holyhead-rd., Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 14/9/1929

“A father’s objection to his daughter’s suitor was at the root of a bother which was described to the magistrates, when Joseph William Hill, and his son, Joseph William Hill, both of 137, Alexandra Road, were summoned for assaulting Frank Ellis, 23, Wood Lane, West Bromwich. The son was also summoned for assaulting his uncle, *Arthur Hill*, licensee of the CROSS KEYS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Ellis, a barman at the CROSS KEYS, was represented by Mr. C. L. Hodgkinson, and stated that he was courting the elder defendant’s daughter, who was assisting her uncle at nights at the CROSS KEYS. Witness was seeing her home on the night of September 2 when he was met in Wallows Lane by the defendants. The men caught hold of him by the neck, and the father struck at him, although witness dodged the blows. Cross-examined by Mr. A. F. Griffin, who defended, complainant denied that it was nearly midnight when the girl was reaching home. The time was 10.30.

Edith Kate Hill (23), the daughter, also stated that the time was only just after 10.30. Witness said she had now left her father’s home and was living at the CROSS KEYS.

Miss Hill’s father, giving evidence, declared that for about a fortnight she returned home very late, and on the night in question he waited in the street with the idea of seeing the young man and telling him what he thought about him. Witness denied that he attempted to strike complainant.

Mr. Hodgkinson: What right do you think you have got to interfere in this way?

Defendant: My daughter was under my control while she was living at home.

Mr. Hodgkinson: Are you prepared to mind your own business and keep away from Mr. Ellis now?

Defendant: Certainly; I don’t want anything to do with him.

The other defendant told the Bench that he only caught hold of complainant until his father could get at him.

The Bench dismissed the case against the father, and bound the son over for six months, also ordering the latter to pay 5s costs.

In the second case against the younger Hill, his uncle stated that on the morning of September 5 he took Miss Hill in his motor-car to her day work in Walsall, and after she had left the car, defendant, who was waiting for them, struck him on the head and nose with some instrument.

Mr. Griffin: The daughter has gone to your place and you want to keep her from her father’s?

Complainant: She is at liberty to go back whenever she wants to.

Defendant’s case was that he was merely waiting to tell his sister her father wanted to see her, and that his uncle attacked him. Witness then struck him two blows in self-defence.

On the second summons also the son was bound over for six months, and ordered to pay 5s costs.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Table Tennis League. [1932]

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/1/1932

“Staffordshire Epiphany Quarter Sessions.....

Ernest Walker (38), pattern filer and publican, pleaded guilty to having on or about November 5, 1931, at Wednesbury, fraudulently converted to his own use or benefit the sum of £131 10s 5d received by him from John Moran for or on account of the CROSS KEYS Male and Female Death and Dividend Society.

Mr. Max Holdsworth, who prosecuted, said the defendant was formerly tenant of the CROSS KEYS INN, Wednesbury, he having taken over the license in March 1930. Almost ex-officio he became the treasurer of the Sick Club attached to the house, the members of which paid in a certain amount at fixed intervals. In the event of sickness or death the member who was sick, or the relatives in the case of death, were entitled to payment of a certain amount. On November 9 last he had received by way of weekly payments during 1931 a sum of £163 odd, and he had paid out in sickness dividends £31, leaving a balance of £131 10s 5d, for which he should have been able to account. On November 9, however, he left the house without saying a word to anyone and disappeared. On November 11 a warrant was issued for his arrest, and on the following day he reported to the secretary of the club and gave himself up. He expressed sorrow for what had happened and offered to make full restitution. As his Lordship was aware these cases happened not infrequently, but in this case the prosecutor did not desire to press unduly if, in the opinion of his Lordship, this was a genuine desire to make restitution, and there was a reasonable chance of his doing that. The Chairman: Had it become his duty to make any payments out of this fund which he failed to make? – No, my Lord.

The Chairman: Up to the time he disappeared he faithfully honoured all calls made upon him as treasurer? – I understand so.

Counsel went on to say that the accused had promised to sell his home and pay £50 down, and repay the balance by periodic instalments. The prosecution at the moment had £12 in hand belonging to the defendant.

Detective-constable H. F. Bennett stated that accused served in the Army during the war and was wounded. He had held a good character, but had lived beyond his means and had indulged in betting. He was in receipt of a disability pension of 15s per week.

Mr. Donald Hurst (defending): Do you know that he was losing trade badly at the public house? – I should say he was.

Counsel went on to say that when he took the license defendant paid the brewery company £70 as security, and that his subsequent losses had been deducted from that amount. From the start he had been unable to make the house pay. There appeared to have been no system in regard to the Sick Club; there was no separate account and no audit was taken. He had never run such a club before and he used part of the club funds, which he had placed in his account with the ordinary business takings, with the result that in got in an inexplicable mix up. When he left his home in November it was to try and raise the money, and when he failed he admitted the shortage to the Secretary of the club. He had also tried to get his Army pension commuted in order that he could make good the deficiency, but he had been unsuccessful. *Walker* told him there was no truth in the suggestion that he gambled.

Counsel added that if the Court decided to take a certain course the accused could sell up his home and pay £50 down, and repay the balance by periodical instalments.

In binding accused over for two years, the Chairman said he had acted wrongly, but the Court doubted whether there was any real intention in the defendant's mind to cheat these people. The Bench, therefore, had decided to treat him leniently, but he hoped that other people who found themselves in a similar position would not take any encouragement from the fact that the Court was taking a lenient view in this particular case. He wished, on behalf of the Court, to say that they thought, in the circumstances, that the brewery company might well consider whether they should not make some contribution to the club towards making good the loss that those poor people had sustained.”

Walsall Observer 7/1/1933

“At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday the following temporary transfers of licenses were made permanent.....

CROSS KEYS, Holyhead Road, from *Robert Lilley* (deceased) to *Edith Lilley*.”

1939 Register

152, Holyhead Road

[1] *Amelia D. Bird*, date of birth 8/6/1893, manageress of public house, widowed;

[2] *Amelia F. M. (Bird) Scotts*, dob 23/1/1919, unpaid domestic duties, single;

[3] *Horace Scotts*, dob 26/12/1914, railway worker, single:

"The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

CROSS KEYS, Wednesbury, £2 3s."

ELIZA SAVAGE, DECEASED.

ALL CREDITORS and other persons having any claim or demands against ELIZA SAVAGE, formerly of the Cross Keys Inn, Wednesbury, who died on the 31st day of January last, are hereby requested to send particulars thereof to John Stringer, of Wednesbury, aforesaid gentleman, or James Simkins, of the same place, plumber and glazier, and all persons indebted to the said Eliza Savage at her decease, are requested to pay the amount of their respective debts forthwith to the said John Stringer or James Simkin, or to the undersigned. Dated this 15th day of February, 1875.

JAMES SLATER, Solicitor.
Darlaston.

1875

Wednesbury. — Important Sale of Old-established FULL-LICENSED INN, with Brewery and private Dwelling House. — TUESDAY, July 3, 1888.

MESSRS. BELCHER & SON are instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at the Cross Keys Inn, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the above date, at 7 o'clock in the evening precisely — a most Valuable FREEHOLD Old-established and FULL-LICENSED INN, known as

"THE CROSS KEYS INN," situate as above, with a Newly-erected Four-quarter BREWERY and Private DWELLING HOUSE adjoining and fronting the Holyhead Road aforesaid.

For further particulars and cards to view, apply to the Auctioneers, Levensall Street, Wednesbury and Darlaston, or Messrs. Slater and Co., Solicitors, Darlaston.

1888

TO BREWERS, PUBLICANS, AND OTHERS.

THREE FREEHOLD LICENSED HOUSES, WOLVERHAMPTON, WEDNESBURY, AND BILSTON, FOR SALE, WITH POSSESSION.

THOMAS J. BARNETT & SON are instructed to offer for Sale by Auction, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 27, 1888, at half-past six o'clock prompt time, at the Auction Mart, 25, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton, subject to conditions of sale, the following LICENSED HOUSES and PROPERTIES adjoining, viz:—

MONMORE GREEN, BILSTON ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON.

LOT 1.—The Old-established FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as "THE ODDFELLOWS' ARMS," situate fronting the Bilston Road, at Monmore Green, Wolverhampton, with the Yard, Out-houses, and Appurtenances at the rear; and also the adjoining HOUSE and SHOP, being No. 45, Monmore Green, and the Out-offices thereto.

Possession of the Licensed House will be given on the completion of purchase.

THE CROSS KEYS INN, EARP'S LANE, WEDNESBURY.

LOT 2.—The Old-established Three-storey LICENSED BEER-HOUSE, known as the "CROSS KEYS INN," situated amongst a dense population in Earp's Lane, off High Street, in the town of Wednesbury, with the Two-storey DWELLING HOUSE adjoining, and the Yard and Out-offices belonging to both houses at the rear. The small House is occupied by a weekly tenant at a gross rental of £11. 14s. per annum, and possession of the Beerhouse will be given on completion of the purchase.

THE CALIFORNIA INN, BRADLEY, BILSTON.

LOT 3.—The Old-established FREEHOLD LICENSED BEER-HOUSE, known as the "CALIFORNIA INN," situate fronting to Hatton Street, Bradley, with enclosed Yard and Wash-house at the rear, and a gateway at the side; and also a Two-storey DWELLING HOUSE adjoining another at the rear thereof, and Four Two-storey HOUSES, with Out-offices, in the Yard at the back. The Houses are let to weekly tenants, and produce a gross rental of £37. 1s. per annum. Possession of the Beerhouse may be had on completion of purchase.

N.B.—Purchasers of the above Houses will be required to take to, at a valuation in the usual way, the Public-house Fixtures, Fittings, Licenses, and Effects as per Schedule, which may be seen on application to the Auctioneers.

For further information, apply to Mr. H. C. Owen, Solicitor; or to the Auctioneers, all of Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.

There are other FREEHOLD PROPERTIES for Sale on the same Evening, after the above, which are described in separate announcements.

1898

OLD DRAGON

Church Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Banks [1851]

OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE

40, (19), (12), Vicarage Road, (Vicarage), (Terrace Street), Church Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mrs. Wood [1891]
Henry Wood
A. Williamson [1912], [1921]
Atkinsons Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1976]

LICENSEES

Joseph Elcock [1828] – [1842]
Mrs. Sarah Elcock [1845] – [1847]
Joseph Elcock [1849] – [1851]
John Savage [] – **1855**;
Thomas Billingsley (**1855 – 1860**);
Marcus Holroyd (**1860 –** [1861]
George Granger [1862]
Charles William Gazer [] – **1862**);
John Waite (**1862 –** []
Samuel William Ganger (**1863**);
Samuel Brown (**1863 –** [1865]
John Thomas Gibbs [] – **1865**);
George Tisdell (**1865 – 1866**);
Benjamin Owen (**1866 – 1869**);
Thomas Spear (**1869 –** []
John Williams [] – **1871**);
Joseph Thickett (**1871 –** [1874]
John Smith [1881]
Joseph Middleton [1884] – [1896]
Joseph Dewis [1899]
Samuel Williams [1901] – [1908]
William Samuel McGill [1909] – [1911]
John Brown [1912]
Arthur Brown [1916] – [1921]
William Wright [1932]
William Henry 'Bill' Hawkes [1939] – **1961**);
Alfred Hyde (**1961 – 1962**);
James Russon (**1962 – 1963**);
William Stephen Hulme (**1963 –** [1966]
Billy Piper (**1973 – 1982**)
Mrs. Georgina Wells (**1982 –** []
Jack Lewis (**1983 –** [1990]
Paul Wooldridge and Christine MacFarlane (**1991 –** [1993]
John Tew (**1994 –** []
Derek 'Dek' Cooksey [1998] – [2010]
Karl Silvester (**2019 –** [2023]



c1899



2013



2025

NOTES

Vicarage [1828], [1842], [1850], [1860], [1865]

Vicarage, Church Hill [1849]

Terrace Street [1873]

12, Vicarage [1871]

12, Vicarage Road [1881], [1891]

19, Vicarage Road [1911], [1916], [1921], [1921], [1932],[1939], [1940]

40, Vicarage Road [1993], [2024]

BOTTLE [1828]

LEATHER BOTTLE [1834], [1842], [1850], [1851], [1862], [1867], [1868]

OLD LEATHER BOTTLE [1835], [1849], [1861], [1884], [1896], [1904], [1908]

LEATHERN BOTTLE [1864], [1865]

LEATHERN BOTTEL [1881]

OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE [1940]

It was reputedly established in 1510.

Coaching inn.

It was reputedly patronised by Dick Turpin.

The snug is reportedly haunted by an old man who fell victim to the 1917 Zeppelin raid on Wednesbury.

It was used as a magistrates court.

It had a domino set into the bar.

1841 Census

Vicarage

[1] Joseph Elcock (68), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] Sarah Elcock (47), born Staffordshire;

[3] William Elcock (17), pattern maker's apprentice, born Staffordshire;

[4] Richard Elcock (15), fitter's apprentice, born Staffordshire;

[5] George Elcock (2), born Staffordshire;

[6] William Farmer (29), cabinet maker, born Staffordshire;

[7] Mary Farmer (27), born Staffordshire;

[8] n/k Farmer (1 month), born Staffordshire:

Joseph Elcock died on 17th April 1845.

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/5/1847

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

On Tuesday, at the LEATHERN BOTTLE, Wednesbury, on the body of John Whitbrook, aged 15 years. It appeared that on Monday night last, the deceased was getting some dirt away from the railroad at the works of Messrs. Lloyd, at Wednesbury, and whilst he was doing so, one of the waggons, which was loaded, was going up the railroad to the top of the blast furnace, when the deceased laid down upon the railroad, and the carriage passed over his body, cutting it to pieces. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Sarah Elcock died on 20th December 1847.

Birmingham Journal 19/2/1848 - Advert

“Sale by Auction, at the LEATHER BOTTLE Public House, The Vicarage, Wednesbury.

Septimus Davis is instructed by the Executors of the late Mrs. *Sarah Elcock*, deceased, according to Will, to Sell by Public Auction, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the 28th and 29th days of February, and March the 1st, on the Premises.

All the neat and useful Household Furniture, Linen, Plate, and Watches, capital Ale Machine; also all the excellent Brewing Vessels, Ale Barrels, square Backs, and Washing Tubs, 700 Gallons of old and fresh Ale, 100 Gallons of Beer, Porter, and Vinegar, with a variety of other Effects.

Full particulars will appear in catalogues, to be had at the Public House; of Mr. William Downing, one of the Executors, Maltster, Smethwick; and of the Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Journal 29/3/1851 - Advert

“Old Licensed Inn to Let.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the old-established Public House, known by the sign of the LEATHER BOTTLE INN, situated at the Vicarage, in Wednesbury.

The House is roomy and convenient, situated within ten minutes’ walk of the Market Place, and in a densely-populated neighbourhood, and which has done a very extensive business, which also may be very considerably increased.

The expense of taking to the above Inn would be very moderate.

To treat for the same, and for further particulars, apply to the Proprietor, upon the Premises.”

1851 Census

Vicarage

[1] *Joseph Elcock* (58), moulder, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Harriot Elcock* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *William Elcock* (12), son, labourer, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Emily Elcock* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1858

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, George Baugh was charged by William Ward with stealing from his pocket £2 5s. The prosecutor said that on that day week he had been at Walsall to sell a pig. On his return he called at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Wood Green, where he met the prisoner and a man named Adams, who asked him for a quart of ale, which he gave them. He then left the HORSE AND JOCKEY in company with the two men, and the three then went into the LEATHER BOTTLE, where he paid for another quart, and fell asleep. During his slumbers his companions ‘Robbed him quite bare of the price of his pig.’ The landlady of the LEATHER BOTTLE deposed to having seen Adams take the money out of Ward’s pocket and hand it to Baugh. He, however, maintained his innocence, and was committed for trial.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/3/1858

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

George Brough, 30, shoemaker, was found guilty of stealing £2 5s from the person of a companion named William Warr, at Wednesbury, and was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment. Mr. Warren conducted the prosecution. Elijah Adams, who had pleaded guilty to being concerned in the robbery, was also sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/12/1859

“Wednesbury Petty Sessions.....

George Cobb was charged with having, on Monday night, assaulted police-constable Hatthaway. The policeman stated that at ten o’clock on that night he was sent for to the LEATHER BOTTLE INN, where the defendant was drunk, and making a disturbance. He was so unruly that he (the constable) was obliged to take him into custody, and as he was doing so the defendant commenced the assault complained of.

In defence the prisoner said he was drunk.

Fined 40s 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 Wednesbury 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.....

Marcus Holroyd, of the OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, was charged with allowing dominoe playing for ale on the 16th ult. Police-constables Hollis and Beard proved the case. A man named Charles Ball was called for the defence, and he swore that though he was one of the players on the night in question, yet there was neither money nor money's worth played for. James Davis gave similar testimony, and said that they were his dominoes. This witness was advised to burn his dominoes, *Holroyd* was 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.....”

1861 Census

Vicarage

- [1] *Marcus Holroyd* (28), engineer at iron works, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ann Holroyd* (26), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Mary Holroyd* (65), mother, widow, born Saddleworth, Yorkshire;
- [4] *Benton Holroyd* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Thersa Holroyd* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Betsy Morris* (15), nurse, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Thomas Morris* (23), lodger, coal miner, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Samuel Reece* (24), lodger, coal miner, born Wednesbury;

Marcus Holroyd – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1862

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, the following beerhouse keepers were summoned for offences against their licenses, Mr. Travis, of West Bromwich, prosecuting in each case.....

Charles William Gazer, of the LEATHERN BOTTLE, the Vicarage, was fined 10s and costs for having five men drinking in an upstairs room of his house during prohibited hours on the afternoon of the 2nd inst.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1863

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Samuel Brown*, the landlord of the LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, the Vicarage, appeared to answer a charge of having kept his house open during unlawful hours on the night of the 14th inst. Police-constable Willis stated that at thirty-five minutes past twelve on the night named, hearing a noise in the defendant's house, he entered, and found nine men and a glass of rum in the front room. The lights on the premises were at once extinguished, but after a time he procured a candle from the defendant's wife, and went into the parlour, where he found two men seated on a sofa with a woman of bad character. He asked them to rise, and when they complied found that they had concealed a glass of rum behind them.

Mr. Ebsworth, who appeared for the defendant, addressed the Bench on behalf of his client, and called witnesses to disprove the constable's statement; but, after hearing their evidence, the learned Stipendiary remarked that he never heard a clearer case, and Superintendent Holland having spoken to a previous conviction of the defendant, and also to the bad character of the house, a fine of £5 and costs was imposed. Upon the defendant's license being enquired for, for the purpose of endorsement, it was not forthcoming, and the defendant was despatched for it, under a threat of a second fine of £5 if it was not immediately produced.”

Birmingham Journal 5/12/1863 - Advert

"To Be Let, an Old-licensed Road-Side Inn, known by the sign of the OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage, near Wednesbury, on the main road to Walsall. The Coming-in can be reduced to about £40. Apply on the Premises."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1865

"On Saturday, the following licenses were temporarily transferred by the West Bromwich Magistrates.....
LEATHER BOTTLE INN, Vicarage, from *John Thomas Gibbs* to *George Tisdell*."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/6/1865

"At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, John Dowd, a miner, was charged with highway robbery, with violence, from the person of Joseph Gaza, a fellow workman. On Saturday night, the men had been playing at dominoes at the LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, the Vicarage, and had quarrelled about money, which the prosecutor had won from the prisoner, and which he held in his hand. On their way home the prisoner kicked the prosecutor on the head and face with shocking brutality, and left him insensible on the ground. When he recovered he found that 3s were missing from his hand. The charge of highway robbery was dismissed. For the assault, a fine of £5 was imposed, with the option of two months' imprisonment with hard labour."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/10/1865 - Advert

"LEATHER BOTTLE INN, Wednesbury.

By E. B. Scholefield, This Day (Monday), at half-past Ten o'clock.

The Licenses and Possession, Brewing Vessels, Ale Casks, 160-gallon wrought-iron Boiler, Mash Tub, Coolers, Ale Machine, Household Furniture, and Miscellaneous Effects.

Auctioneer's Office, Church Street Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/5/1866

"Yesterday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, *Benjamin Owen* of the LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, the Vicarage, was summoned for selling beer on Sunday, the 6th inst, at prohibited hours, and was fined 10s and costs."

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.....

Benjamin Owen, LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage, Wednesbury, keeping open on Sunday."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/4/1868

"Young Mace of Walsall will make a match to walk any lad in England, fair heel and toe, for from £10 to £100 a side. A deposit forwarded to *Bells Life* and articles to *B. Owen*'s LEATHER BOTTLE, Wednesbury, will ensure a match."

1871 Census

12, Vicarage - Public House - uninhabited

Joseph Thickett = Joseph Thicket

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/2/1874

"E. Smith of Wednesbury will shoot a match with J. Fenn of Westbromwich, for £10 a side, at 11 sparrows each (or pigeons if preferred), on the usual conditions, to find and trap against each other. A match can be made at any time at Mr. *Thickett*'s, the BOTTLE INN, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/5/1880 - Advert

"For Sale. Dark Brown Mare, Polly, by Dagabott; quiet ride or drive in harness. Dark Filly at side, by Consternation. Bay Yearling Filly, black points, out of Polly, by Consternation; Consternation, by Blair Athol.

Apply, OLD LEATHER BOTTLE INN, Vicarage, Wednesbury."

1881 Census

12, Vicarage Road – LEATHERN BOTTLE INN

- [1] *John Smith* (50), ironworker, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Mary Smith* (43), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Betsey Smith* (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Mary Ann Smith* (17), general servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1890

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Joseph Middleton*, of the LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, the Vicarage, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises.

The case was proved by Police-constable Williams, who said he saw a man named Felton leave the house in a drunken condition, and helped him home. He then returned to the defendant, who said he thought that Felton had left some time before. In cross-examination, the officer admitted that he went to the house in consequence of what Mrs. Felton had told him.

The defence was that Felton had had only a bottle of ginger-beer in the house, and that, whatever he had elsewhere, he did not appear to be the worse for liquor until he attempted to walk.

The Bench imposed a fine of 20s and costs.”

1891 Census

12, Vicarage Road – LEATHERN BOTTLE

- [1] *Joseph Middleton* (67), licensed victualler, born Brownhills, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Maria Middleton* (66), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Emily Middleton* (23), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Harry H. Middleton* (21), son, student for school master, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *John Eagar* (50), lodger, licensed hawker, born Wigton, Cumberland;
- [6] *Alfred Whittaker* (21), lodger, assistant hawker, born Macclesfield;

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

Mr. W. S. Smith, for the owner of the premises (Mrs. Wood), applied for the renewal of the license of *Joseph Middleton*, the LEATHER BOTTLE, the Vicarage, Wednesbury, which had been opposed on the ground of a conviction last year of permitting drunkenness. He said *Middleton* had kept the house for many years, and this was the only conviction against him Granted, with a serious caution.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/11/1894 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Properties, Wednesbury.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold by Auction (by direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. Henry Wood), at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday, November 27, 1894.....

Lot 5. A very Old-established Full-Licensed Freehold Public House, well known as the LEATHERN BOTTLE, in The Vicarage, at Wednesbury, now let to Mr. *Middleton* as annual tenant, at a rent of £30; also Three Cottages, Nos.10, 11, and 13, in The Vicarage adjoining, let to Mr. Baker, Mr. Dunn, and Mr. Sutton, at rents amounting to £22 2s per annum.

The LEATHERN BOTTLE is supposed to be one of the very oldest Public-houses in Wednesbury, and is a well-known house of good business. It is free from lease or tie, and deserves the especial attention of brewers.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1898 - Advert

“Wanted, young Lady, Assist in Household Duties; must be musical; enclose photo.
OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, young Lady, Assist in Household Duties; must be musical; enclose photo.—Old Leathern Bottle, Vicarage, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1898 - Advert

“Fully-Licensed, known as the OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, The Vicarage, Wednesbury; rapidly-growing neighbourhood; tied for ales only. Ingoing £130; valuable inventory.

Apply to L. C. Cutler, Summer House Hotel, Boningale, near Albrighton, Wolverhampton.”

Walsall Advertiser 29/12/1900

“At Rushall Police Court, on Monday, Alfred Bird, of Elwell Street, Wednesbury, and John Frankham Bailey, barman at the LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, Wednesbury, were summoned for trespassing in pursuit of game on land off the Newton Road, Great Barr. Mr. Peace, of Wednesbury, defended.

Police-constable Shirley stated that on the afternoon of December 14th he saw the defendants on land at Great Barr which was rented for shooting purposes by Dr. Garman. Each carried a gun, loaded and cocked, and they had a dog with them. The acknowledged they were looking after rabbits, but both gave witness false names and addresses.

Dr. Garman said that both men had, since the service of summonses, seen witness and had endeavoured to get him to look the matter over.

Bird had previously been convicted of a similar offence and he was fined 20s and costs and the other defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

1901 Census

Vicarage Road – LEATHER BOTTLE INN

[1] *Samuel Williams* (27), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *May Williams* (26), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Sydney Williams* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Owen Williams* (6 months), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Lilian Ingram* (13), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 18/5/1907

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary, *Samuel Williams*, licensee of the LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, The Vicarage, was summoned under the Child Messenger Act with selling beer to a child under the age of 14 years in a vessel not corked and sealed. Police-constable Walkenden proved the offence, and said when he saw the landlady she admitted that they had no sealing wax or labels in the house. Defendant now expressed regret for the offence, and he was fined 10s and costs, in all £1 6s.”

County Express 16/7/1910

”On Tuesday, a singular story of an alleged burglary was told at a special sitting of the Wednesbury magistrates, when Harry Shade (25), planer, of 149, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury, and Joseph Edwards (29), carter, of 21, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury, were charged with burglary at the OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury, and stealing £3 in money, belonging to *William McGill*, the landlord, formerly of Brierley Hill.

It was stated that on Sunday night the landlord closed at 10pm, and went with his housekeeper, Mrs. Williams, to the house of a neighbour named Craven, a grocer. When he returned he found the window of a back ‘snug’ had been left open, and somebody had been through. Three sovereigns were missing from a shelf. The till was fastened with a spring.

A woman, named Martha Cockbill, who was at her bed room window at 10pm, saw the landlord leave the house, and afterwards saw Edwards and Shade come on the scene. Edwards went up the entry at the side of the public house, and there was immediately a sound of a barrel being rolled out of the way at the back of the house, and some bottles breaking. He returned down the entry with two bottles in his hand, and he and Shade went into his (Edwards) home.

Detective Day next day visited the public house, and saw Edwards drinking there. Edwards said, ‘I would not get in here for any money when the bitch is about,’ (meaning the dog). The detective was suspicious, and questioned him about his boots. He then found at the man’s home a pair of dancing boot, which exactly corresponded with the marks on the seat. When arrested the prisoner said, ‘I can’t get out of that, but I have not been in the house.’ He also said, ‘I shouted through the window, but the dog fled at me, and then I went to bed.’

Prisoners were remanded till yesterday.”

AND

County Express 22/10/1910

“At Staffordshire Assizes, on Tuesday, the Grand Jury found ‘no true bill’ in the case of Joseph Edwards, charged with stealing £3, the moneys of *William Samuel McGill*, at Wednesbury.”

1911 Census

19, Vicarage Road – LEATHERN BOTTLE

[1] *William Samuel McGill* (35), married, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Florence Williams* (38), widow, domestic housekeeper, born Wednesbury:

William Samuel McGill – see also THREE FURNACES, Brierley Hill; BELL, High Street, Brierley Hill; STAR, Brierley Hill; BLUE BALL, Wednesbury; and GEORGE AND DRAGON, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.

Alterations for domestic convenience were sanctioned in 1912. It was agreed to give up the adjoining cottages, which allowed for a footpath from Handley Street into Vicarage Road.

Walsall Observer 6/7/1912

“At a special sitting of the licensing justices at Wednesbury yesterday week, the Mayor (Alderman A. E. Pritchard) presided, and sanction was given for certain alterations to be made at the LEATHERN BOTTLE INN, Wednesbury. On behalf of the owner (Mr. Williamson) it was stated by Mr. A. J. Glover that the house was one of the oldest in the town, dating back some four or five hundred years. The old-fashioned character of the house would be preserved, and the suggested alterations would make the house more in keeping with the style of when it was built. The Mayor: Would the owner agree to give up the cottages abutting on the public house for the purpose of a public improvement in Handley Street? Mr. A. I. Scott (architect) said his client would agree to take down the boundary wall, and place the out-offices on the other side of the building. His client thought, however, that as the cottages were let at five shillings per week, the Town Council might allow them some compensation. The Mayor said they would allow the application on the lines recommended that the land be given up for a footpath.”

1921 Census

19, Vicarage Road

[1] *Arthur Brown* (45), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Minnie Brown* (45), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Elsie Brown* (23), daughter, post office clerk, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Hilda Brown* (13), daughter, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Ida Brown* (7), daughter, school, born Wednesbury:

1939 Register

19, Vicarage Road

[1] *William Hawkes*, date of birth 13/7/1890, publican, married;

[2] *Eliza Ann Hawkes*, dob 28/6/1892, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Mary G. (Hawkes) Dixon*, dob 19/4/1917, laundry hand, single;

[4] *Eileen Clara (Hawkes) Simkins*, dob 20/2/1919, laundry hand, single:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/3/1943 - Advert

“War Charities Act, 1940.

Notice is Hereby Given that it is proposed to apply to the Wednesbury Town Council for the registration under the above-mentioned Act of OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL Forces Fund, the objects of which are shortly as follows. To provide Gifts for Customers and Customers’ Sons and Daughters serving in the Forces, and the administrative centre of which is situate at OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury. Any objections to the proposed registration should be sent in writing to the above-named Council within fourteen days from the date of this notice. Sec. T. Hadley. Dated March 13, 1943.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Darts League, Division One. [1946]

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.....

W. Hawkes, OLD LEATHERN BOTTEL, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/8/1950

"Over 10,000 people attended Wednesbury's third horticultural show at Brunswick Park. The 1,500 entries for the produce show was double last year's number. The *Birmingham Daily Gazette* Cup for licensed houses vegetable collections went to the Baggeridge Miners Welfare, The Straits, Lower Gornal, closely followed by OLD PARK HOTEL, Wednesbury; ROYAL EXCHANGE, Walsall; and OLD LEATHERN BOTTEL, Wednesbury....."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/1/1963

"For the next six months smoke-room customers at YE OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL, Wednesbury, will be able to drink and enjoy art at the same time. Reproductions of six Impressionist paintings were hung in the room last night and customers were invited to write in a book their names, addresses, occupations and observations. The paintings will be replaced every month.

The exhibition is being run by the Workers Educational Association, and is the idea of Dr. John Fletcher 'The difficulty with pictures,' he said, 'is that often people will not go into an art gallery to see them, so we decided to take them where they will be seen. We believe that art should be a part of peoples' lives.'

Mr. Christopher Welsh, aged 22, a student of painting at the Wolverhampton College of Art, will visit the public house at least once a week to discuss the pictures with the customers.

Mr. *J. Russon*, the licensee, commented last night, 'I am no art expert, but I like the pictures and I think my customers will like them too.'"

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1965

"Two unexploded hand grenades and a three-inch mortar bomb have been found in the cellar of the OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE in Wednesbury. They were taken to Wednesbury Police Station and have since been removed by an Army bomb disposal unit. It is not known how they came to be in the public house."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/4/1965

"A three-inch mortar bomb and a hand grenade which caused a scare when they were found in a cellar at the OLD LEATHERN BOTTEL INN, Wednesbury, in February, were 'duds.' Mr. *Bill Hawkes*, a former licensee of the inn, received a letter from the Army telling him that the ammunition was not filled."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1965]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/12/1965 - Advert

"Barmaid required.

Apply Manager, LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury."

BARMAID required; apply—Manager, Leathern Bottle, Vicarage-road, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/3/1969 - Advert

"Barman or Barmaid, part-time.

OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury."

BARMAN or Barmaid, part-time — Old Leathern Bottle, Vicarage-road, Wednesbury

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/1/1970 - Advert

"Wanted, 2 part-time Barmaids.

OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury."

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/5/1976 - Advert

".....Other M&B pubs of historical interest.....

OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/3/1979 - Advert

"Evenings and Weekend Bar Staff required.

OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury."

EVENINGS AND WEEKEND BAR STAFF required. — Old Leathern Bottle, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury 021 556 2597.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/6/1979

"Here's health to the real-ale brewers, from nine Yorkshiremen on a nationwide beer-sampling pilgrimage. The lads, members of the Campaign for Real Ale branch in Richmond, North Yorkshire, are traveling the length and breadth of England, Scotland and Wales sampling every real-ale brew in the country. They stopped off at the PARK INN, Woodsetton, yesterday lunchtime to drink a toast to Holden's head brewer Cliff Garner. Their Black Country leg also included the COTTAGE SPRING, WATERLOO, FOLEY ARMS, BULL AND BLADDER in Brierley Hill, the HEN AND CHICKENS in Dudley and the OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE in Wednesbury.

The trip, which the lads say is the first of its kind, covers 2,000 miles using a 12-seat minibus. On the way they are visiting 119 pubs representing 141 breweries and drinking no less than 225 brews. With two days to go, they have already raised more than £100 in collections for a Richmond hospital."

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/8/1979

"Dale Dingley is a swimmer with a heart of gold. She has made a £111 splash for Sandwell's scanner appeal. Dale, aged six, of Rachel Gardens, Wednesbury, swam a mile for the appeal only a year after learning to swim. Dale asked her grand-father, Mr. *Bill Piper*, landlord of the OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury, for help in organising sponsorship for the swim. She decided to launch her effort for the scanner. Mr. *Piper* handed sponsorship forms among regulars at the pub and the event snowballed as sponsors flooded in. 'Some of them had to pay out as much as £6,' said Mr. *Piper*. 'I had to fork out £15 because I bought her a new dress.' Now Dale wants to try two miles but is a little short of the distance because she has not enough stamina yet. She swims regularly at Wednesbury Baths and was helped to learn by her mother, Mrs. George Dingley. Mr. *Piper* said, 'She has loved water since she was two or three years old. She has always wanted to swim, we are very proud of her'."

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/10/1979

"Jingle bells thieves have come early to Sandwell – they snatched nearly £500 worth of Christmas trees from local gardens.....

On Friday night, 23 trees – maturing ones standing 3ft 6ins tall and worth £25 each – vanished from the gardens of the LEATHER BOTTLE pub in Vicarage Road, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/11/1981 - Advert

"Lunch-Time Kitchen Help and Evening Bar Staff required.
OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, Wednesbury."

**LUNCH-TIME KITCHEN HELP and
Evening Bar Staff required. — Old
Leathern Bottle, Wednesbury. 021
556 2597 / 8772.**

Billy Piper was married to Irene.

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1982

"Fourteen Wednesbury pubs have failed in a bid to cash in on the Bank Holiday beer trade by applying for license extensions. West Bromwich magistrates refused to allow an extra hour's drinking time on August Bank Holiday..... After the hearing, the Licensed Victuallers Association secretary, Mrs. *Georgina Wells*, said she was very disappointed by the verdict. Mrs. *Wells*, the licensee of the OLD LEATHER AND BOTTLE in Vicarage Road, Wednesbury, had hoped to bring in more block applications for Bank Holidays if they had succeeded.

The 14 pubs which have been denied the extra hour's drinking are.....

OLD LEATHER AND BOTTLE, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury."

Jack Lewis was born in Bloxwich.

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/10/1983

"Wednesbury licensee and ex-Crystal Palace footballer *Jack Lewis* has scored quite a success with his regulars, by giving his pub 'lotta bottle.' *Jack*, who runs YE OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE, with his wife Hazel, has given the pub a £10,000 facelift which he paid for himself. Regulars and M&B representatives popped in for a celebration drink to wish him well. The new-look pub in Vicarage Road has been refurbished, decorated and recarpeted, and an authentic-looking leathern bottle made by bridle-maker George Westley is now in display in the lounge. There is also a bottle design in the carpet.

Jack, who played for Crystal Palace and Bournemouth in the 1950s, moved to the pub from the FOUR SEASONS, Pelsall, seven months ago."

[*Jack and Hazel Lewis* with children Jackie (15) and Jonathan (14) were pictured.]

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1987

“Staff and customers at a Black Country pub raised their glasses in celebration – to mark its inclusion in a glossy tourist guide published by Sandwell Council. YE OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL in Vicarage Road, Wednesbury, is among 11 favourite Sandwell haunts of the beer connoisseur to be featured in the guide.....”

Birmingham Mail 8/9/1987 - Advert

“Paris 3 day, 2 night excursion for Le Prix De L’Arc Triomphe. City Centre hotel, personal stand seat for race day. 4 places remaining.

Apply now to Mr. *J. Lewis*, YE OLDE LEATHERN BOTTLE, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/1/1988

“A surprise party was held at the OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE pub in Vicarage Road, Wednesbury, to mark the 65th birthday of Coun. Sid Wright, market trader and former Mayor of Walsall.”

Walsall Observer 14/4/1989

“.....Mine host of the LEATHERN BOTTLE, at Wednesbury, *Jack Lewis*, played for Crystal Palace for many years.”

Walsall Observer 16/8/1990

“Although never under contract to Walsall, *Jack Lewis* is still remembered as a popular guest player for the Saddlers for three seasons. He first appeared for the club in 1942. The talented right-half’s most memorable match was the game in which Nottingham Forest beat Walsall 7-6; *Jack* ironically turned out for Forest that day. But his play obviously impressed the Saddlers management team for the following week he was playing in the Walsall side! Now he is publican at the LEATHERN BOTTLE in Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/5/1993

Down Your Local. Ye Olde Leathern Bottel, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury.

“.....Surprisingly, the building is not listed, presumably on the grounds that Sandwell Council claims it was rebuilt in 1913. ‘I can’t understand it,’ says joint licensee *Paul Wooldridge*. ‘When some work was being done here, craftsmen discovered what were found to be handmade Wednesbury tiles from the Victorian era. *Paul*, 39, and his partner *Christine McFarlane* moved to the pub two years ago after previously keeping the Joker at Hamstead in Birmingham and the Beacon at Great Barr.

Night-time and weekend trade is usually for the locals, but many astute businessmen have found the pub just the job for lunchtime refreshment and food.....

Scuttling through with money on his mind is Ralph Stanyer. Wanted is money for the draw for the pub’s football team. ‘We’ve had two cracking seasons,’ says Ralph, the club’s manager and just about everything else, so it seems. ‘We’ve just won Division 2 of the Cornhill Insurance Sunday League and the District 2 Cup. Last season, we won the District 5 League; we were runners-up in the District 5 Cup and then won the Sandwell District Cup.’ He pauses. ‘In Sandwell, you know, that’s like winning the FA Cup.’

YE OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL is currently raising money for a guide dog for a blind person, and recently they supported the Save the Children Fund.

One former licensee who pops in occasionally is *Jack Lewis*, the ex-Baggies, Crystal Palace, Bournemouth and Reading soccer star.

Pub Facts.

Price of a Pint (Bar): Bass Bitter £1.28, Worthington Best Bitter £1.13, Highgate Mild £1.04, Tennents Extra £1.47, Tennents Pilsner £1.28, Carling Black Label £1.28.

Nosh: Rolls and sarnies from 90p, cooked meals from about £2 up to £5.25 for an 8oz sirloin steak with all the trimmings. Specialities include home-made steak and kidney pie or home-made cheese and potato pie at £3. Available Mondays to Saturdays, 12 noon to 2pm.”

A team from here took part in the Birmingham County FA Sunday Challenge Vase in 1994.

Sandwell Evening Mail 25/8/1994

“A Black Country crib team had to drop a player from a crucial match after the opposing team complained he could not shuffle or deal the cards because of a missing thumb. Now George Ttofa, captain of the Wednesbury team, YE OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL, which made the complaint, has resigned in protest against the move. The BOTTEL players complained that Harry Staley, aged 55, of Ripon Drive, West Bromwich, who lost his thumb in a works accident earlier this year, could not shuffle or deal the cards as he prepared to play for the QUEENS HEAD pub in Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury. Mr. Staley who was substituted by another player said, ‘I felt awful. No one complained when I played two matches last week.’ QUEENS HEAD captain Frank Crumps said he was disgusted by the attitude of the BOTTEL players. Mr. Ttofa, of Hanley Street, West Bromwich, said, ‘I was under pressure from some of my players to request Mr. Staley’s withdrawal, although I personally was against it. I have now resigned from the team in protest against the complaint. I want to apologise. What happened was morally wrong. The QUEENS HEAD won the match 3-1.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/11/1994

“They say that out of adversity come triumph – and that is exactly what happened to *John Tew*. *John*, aged 56, left the pub trade in the mid-70s because it was his ambition to own his own business. But both *John* and the grocery business he launched fell victim to the recession and he was forced to sell the business. That was five years ago, but *John* bounced back and returned to the pub trade. Now he and his wife Carol have been rewarded with a glittering prize – the chance to run the renowned Black Country watering hole, the OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL in Wednesbury.

John, who has been at the pub just eight months, recalls, ‘I tried to hang on to the grocery business for as long as possible, but in the end I had to admit defeat. It would have been nice to have kept the business going. I must admit I quite enjoyed being my own boss. But I am glad I returned to the pub game. It’s the trade I now best and the company I’m working for now is great. One of the new things I plan to introduce is live entertainment. We’ve already got an artist lined up.’ *John* also aims to show the televised national lottery on TV on Saturday nights, starting next month.

The BOTTEL has retained much of its original character, with its lay-out of small rooms which include a gem of a bar and a plush little smoke room. A full range of meals is provided at lunchtimes, Monday to Saturday, ranging from sandwiches to grills and steaks.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/11/1997

“A planning row is brewing between owners Bass and locals at a historic Black Country pub over a bid to create a children’s play area. Bass, which owns the OLD LEATHERN BOTTEL in Vicarage Road, Wednesbury, has tabled plans to Sandwell Council development control committee for the playground and a beer garden. But people living near the pub have opposed the scheme with eight letters of objection and a 27-signature petition already handed in. They fear the moves would cause parking problems and the risk of traffic accidents. Nearby families also claim the beer garden would cause extra disturbance.

Councillors have been recommended to reject the scheme tomorrow. A council officer said in a report, ‘I remain unconvinced that there is sufficient room at the rear of the building to provide both a beer garden and play equipment. There appears to be no gate or barrier between the car park and the beer garden and I would foresee a danger of children being able to wander in and out.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/3/1998

“A Midland pub-goer is celebrating after scooping £1,000 in a competition at his local. Jeff Charlton won the jackpot in the Be In To Win lottery at YE OLDE LEATHERN BOTTLE, in Vicarage Road, Wednesbury.

The competition is an inter-pub promotion organised throughout the Midlands by Bass Taverns. Customers choose a number and are automatically entered in a free draw. A winning customer and a winning pub are then pulled out of the hat. Winners get £10 if their number is drawn, and the £1,000 maximum prize if their number and the number of the pub are pulled out together.”

Express & Star 31/5/2010

"A pub thought to be one of the oldest in the Black Country is celebrating its 500th anniversary. While the exact origins of YE OLDE LEATHERN BOTTLE in Wednesbury are unknown, landlord *Derek Cooksey* is getting the celebrations under way.

The Tudor frontage is a landmark in the town. It is believed the building may have been developed from a row of tiny nailers cottages, before turning into a coach house and then into the pub – which would at one time have had horses tied up outside while their owners drank inside. Legend has it that notorious highwayman Dick Turpin called in to water his horse at the pub as he made his way from London to York in the early 18th century. To reinforce the point, a silhouette of a man dangling from a rope is used to illustrate a sign asking people not to 'hang about' in the tiny bar area.

All this year landlord Mr. *Cooksey*, who has worked the bar for 13 years, is hosting a series of events to celebrate its milestone. This bank holiday weekend there is a beer festival taking place, and Mr. *Cooksey* says it is the first of many. 'It's a big deal. This pub is really a big part of local history,' said the 53-year-old. It's an interesting building and I would like to know more about it. There is the Dick Turpin story, which is quite exciting.'

The date 1510 is inscribed above the front door for all to see, and the rickety building boasts all the charm of the 16th century, but the finer details of its history have been unfortunately lost through time.

Mr. *Cooksey* lives next door to the pub and his youngest daughter, 21-year-old Samantha, works with him pouring the pints. His 24-year-old daughter Clare helps out with the advertising. He added, 'I think you would be hard pushed to find an older pub, it must be the oldest around here, certainly in Sandwell. It's great to think of it years ago when all the horses would have been tied up outside. It's very 'olde worlde.'"

Express & Star 18/6/2023

"As pubs continue to battle the cost of living crisis, the *Express & Star* continues its Love Your Local series which celebrates our local inns. YE OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL is a pub in Wednesbury that has been around since the 1500s. Firmly placed on the outside of the building, a sign states that the pub was established in 1510, and is said to be the oldest pub in the town. The landlord and licensee of the establishment is *Karl Silvester* and he has been there since taking over in 2019. *Karl*, 33, from Wednesbury, runs it with the support of Dean Peasley, 43, also from Wednesbury, who helps run the place as needed. *Karl* says he has run pubs for a while, and has worked in bars since he was younger, starting behind the bar.

Sharing about what it was like taking over in 2019, *Karl* said, 'When we first took over it was really quiet. It needed a lot of work to bring people back to the pub, but thankfully it is now doing really well, and it has become a popular place now. Covid was a difficult time for us of course and now the cost of living crisis, but I can say that luckily, because the pub is trading well, we are doing okay. If we were trading at the level as when we took over, then we wouldn't be here. The work we put in when taking over has helped, laying those foundations has benefitted us long-term, and now we are about to extend our tenancy for another five years.'

Often, landlords and ladies say it takes time to build new relationships with the locals and regulars when they are new to the pub, but it also worth the work they put in as it is those locals and regulars that keep the business afloat and their trade keeps them running. Sharing about those relationships, *Karl* added, 'It was quiet when the previous tenant left and so we had to build those relationships with the locals and we have definitely done that now. This has been done by having regular entertainment running in the pub, dominoes nights which are really popular and we get a regular groups playing dominoes here every day. We have Sky Sports and BT Sport here too, and so the live sports along with the live entertainment we have on has gained attention and brought people in.'"

[2025]

SALE BY AUCTION, AT THE LEATHER BOTTLE PUBLIC HOUSE, THE VICARAGE, WEDNESBURY.

SEPTIMUS DAVIS is instructed by the Executors of the late Mrs. Sarah Elcock, deceased, according to Will, to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, on MONDAY, TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY, the 28th and 29th days of February, and March the 1st, on the Premises—all the neat and useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Linen, Plate, and Watches, capital Ale Machine; also all the excellent Brewing Vessels, Ale Barrels, square Backs, and Washing Tubs, 700 Gallons of old and fresh ALE, 100 Gallons of BEER, PORTER, and VINEGAR, with a variety of other Effects.

Full particulars will appear in catalogues, to be had at the Public House; of Mr. William Downing, one of the Executors, Maltster, Smethwick; and of the Auctioneer, West Bromwich.

OLD LICENSED INN TO LET.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, the old-established PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of "THE LEATHER BOTTLE INN," situated at the Vicarage, in Wednesbury.

The House is roomy and convenient, situated within ten minutes' walk of the Market Place, and in a densely-populated neighbourhood, and which has done a very extensive business, which also may be very considerably increased.

The expense of taking to the above Inn would be very moderate. To treat for the same, and for further particulars, apply to the Proprietor, upon the Premises.

1851

TO be LET, an Old-licensed ROAD-SIDE INN, known by the sign of the "OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE," Vicarage, near Wednesbury, on the main road to Walsall. The Coming-in can be reduced to about £40.—Apply on the Premises.

1863

LEATHER BOTTLE INN, WEDNESBURY.

BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, THIS DAY (Monday), at half-past Ten o'clock—the LICENSES and POSSESSION, Brewing Vessels, Ale Casks, 160-gallon wrought-iron Boiler, Mash Tub, Coolers, Ale Machine, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and Miscellaneous Effects.

Auctioneer's Office, Church Street, Wednesbury.

1865

FOR Sale.—Dark Brown MARE, Polly, by Dagabott; quiet ride or drive in harness. Dark Filly at side, by Consternation. Bay Yearling Filly, black points, out of Polly, by Consternation; Consternation, by Blair Athol.—Apply, Old Leather Bottle Inn, Vicarage, Wednesbury.

1880

Lot 5.—A very Old-established Full-Licensed FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE, well known as

"THE LEATHERN BOTTLE,"

in The Vicarage, at Wednesbury, with Brewhouse, Yard, and Stable, now let to Mr. Middleton as annual tenant, at a rent of £30; also Three COTTAGES, Nos. 10, 11, and 13, in The Vicarage adjoining, let to Mr. Baker, Mr. Dunn, and Mr. Sutton, at rents amounting to £22 2s. per annum.

The Leathern Bottle is supposed to be one of the very oldest Public-houses in Wednesbury, and is a well-known house of good business. It is free from lease or tie, and deserves the especial attention of brewers.

1894

FULLY-LICENSED, known as the Old Leathern Bottle, The Vicarage, Wednesbury; rapidly-growing neighbourhood; tied for ales only. Ingoing £150; valuable inventory.—Apply to L. O. Cutler, Summer House Hotel, Boningale, near Alibrighton, Wolverhampton.

1898

WAR CHARITIES ACT, 1940.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is proposed to apply to the Wednesbury Town Council for the registration under the above-mentioned Act of "OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL" FORCES FUND, the objects of which are shortly as follows:—To provide Gifts for Customers and Customers' Sons and Daughters serving in the Forces, and the administrative centre of which is situate at "Olde Leathern Bottel," Vicarage-road, Wednesbury. Any objections to the proposed registration should be sent in writing to the above-named Council within 14 days from the date of this notice.

Sec., T. HADLEY.

Dated March 13, 1943.

1943

PARIS 3 day, 2 night excursion for Le Prix De L'Arc Triomphe. City Centre hotel, personal stand seat for race day. 4 places remaining. Apply now to Mr J Lewis, Ye Olde Leathern Bottle, Vicarage Road, Wednesbury. — Tel. 556 7214.

1987

OLD PACK HORSE

74, (Lower) Dudley Street, (Dudley Road), Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Showell's Brewery Co. Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

Thomas Hale [1805] – [1830]
Thomas Rolinson [1834] – [1850]
Mrs. Ann Rolinson [1851]
Miss Mary Rolinson [1861]
Mrs. Rollinson [1863]
Miss Ann Rolinson [1864] – **1866**);
Miss Martha Rolinson (**1866 – 1867**);
John Jones (**1867 – 1868**);
James Peake (**1868 – 1875**);
John Baugh (**1875 – []**)
Edwin Jones []
James Gregory [1881]
W Atkiss [1882]
Edwin Rees [1892]
Whittle* [1895]
James Whittall* [1896]
E Hales [1900]
Joseph Walleth [] – **1901**) manager
Edward Newbold [1901]
Albert Newbould [1901]
John Palmer [1904]
Beckett [1906]
William H Webster [1908]
Alfred Hoggins [1911]
John Thomas Jackson [1914]
Henry Shutt [1912]
Frank Barnsley [1916]
Albert A Clark [1921] – [1921]
John Henry Harcourt [1932]

NOTES

Dudley Road [1828], [1830]
Dudley Street [1865]
74, Dudley Street [1881]
74, Lower Dudley Street [1896], [1908], [1912], [1932]
74, Lea Brook Road [1901], [1921]

STOLEN or Strayed, from West-bromwich, on Monday Night last, July 21, A Dark Brown Mare, about fifteen Hands and a Half high, has a Blemish on the Knee of the Far Leg before, and likewise a Blemish on the Far Hock behind; and has lost the Near Eye.—Also a strong Black Mare, about fifteen Hands high, a Star on the Forehead, has a Blemish on the Rump, and likewise a Blemish above the Knee of the Far Leg before; they have both Swift Tails.—If strayed, whoever will bring them, or either of them, to the Pack-horse, in Wednesbury, shall be well rewarded, and have all reasonable Charges paid.

1783

TWO MARES LOST.

STOLEN or STRAYED, from Wednesbury, on Tuesday the 23d of March, 1805, a bay aged Mare, 13 Hands high, with an A on the left Hip; and on Tuesday the 7th of May, from the same Place, an Iron-grey five Years old Mare, 11 Hands high, without Shoes, cut Tail, and had on an Iron Lock Logger. Whoever has found the said Mares, and will bring them, or either of them, to Thomas Hale, Packhorse, Wednesbury, shall receive a handsome Reward; but, if stolen, whoever will convict the Offender or Offenders, shall receive TWO GUINEAS Reward from the said Thomas Hale.

1805

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/7/1783 - Advert

"Stolen or Strayed, from West Bromwich, on Monday Night last, July 21, A Dark Brown Mare, about fifteen Hands and a Half high, has a Blemish on the Knee of the Far Leg before, and likewise a Blemish on the Far Hock behind; and has lost the Near Eye.

Also a strong Black Mare, about fifteen Hands high, a Star on the Forehead, has a Blemish on the Rump, and likewise a Blemish above the Knee of the Far Leg before; they have both Swish Tails.

If strayed, whoever will bring them, or either of them, to the PACK HORSE, in Wednesbury, shall be well rewarded, and have all reasonable Charges paid."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/5/1805 - Advert

"Two Mares Lost.

Stolen or Strayed, from Wednesbury, on Tuesday the 23rd of March, 1805, a bay aged Mare, 13 Hands high, with an A on the left Hip; and on Tuesday the 7th of May, from the same Place, an Iron-grey five Years old Mare, 11 Hands high, without Shoes, cut Tail, and had on an Iron Lock Logger. Whoever has found the said Mares, and will bring them, or either of them, to *Thomas Hale*, PACKHORSE, Wednesbury, shall receive a handsome Reward; but, if stolen, whoever will convict the Offender or Offenders, shall receive Two Guineas Reward from the said *Thomas Hale*."

Thomas Hale was also a blacksmith. [1818]

Thomas Rolinson = *Thomas Rollinson* = *Thomas Rowlinson* = *Thomas Robinson*

1841 Census

Lea Brook

[1] *Thomas Rowlinson* (48), lock filer, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Ann Rowlinson* (48), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Mary Rowlinson* (25), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Ann Rowlinson* (13), born Staffordshire:

Thomas Rollinson, beer retailer, Lea Brook. [1849], [1850]

Ann Rolinson = *Ann Rowlinson* – *Ann Robinson*

1851 Census

Lea Brook

[1] *Ann Rolinson* (57), widow, retail brewer, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Rolinson* (34), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Ann Rolinson* (22), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/1/1853 - Advert

"Building Materials, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, on Monday next the 24th day of January.....

By order of the Directors of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Railway Company.

Several lots of valuable Building Materials; consisting of Houses, Workshops, and other Outbuildings, situated at Lea Brook, Wednesbury, on both sides of the Turnpike Road to Tipton and Dudley, required to be taken down and immediately removed for the Line and Works of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Railway.....

Lot 8. Public House, known by the sign of the OLD PACK HORSE, lately belonging to Mrs. *Robinson*, together with Workshops, Brewhouse, Cow-house, Pigsties, and other Outbuildings."

1861 Census

Dudley Street

[1] *Mary Rowlinson* (43), unmarried, retail brewer, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Martha Rowlinson* (37), sister, retail brewer, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Ann Rowlinson* (31), sister, retail brewer, born Wednesbury:

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 on behalf of Mrs. *Rollinson*, of the OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, and this license was granted.”

1866 Probate

“Letters of Administration of the Personal estate and effects of *Mary Rolinson*, late of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Spinster, deceased, who died 4 February 1866 at Wednesbury aforesaid, were granted 8 March at Lichfield to *Martha Rolinson*, of Wednesbury aforesaid, Spinster, the Sister and only Next of Kin of the said Deceased, she having first been sworn. Effects under £100.”

Ann Rolinson = Ann Robinson

1866 Probate

“The Will of *Ann Rolinson*, late of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Spinster, deceased, who died 8 February 1866 at Wednesbury aforesaid, was proved 8 March at Lichfield by the oath of *Martha Rolinson*, of Wednesbury aforesaid, Spinster, the Sister, the surviving Executrix. Effects under £100.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/4/1866

“Transfer of Licenses OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, Wednesbury (temporary), from *Ann Rowlinson* (deceased) to her sister *Martha*.”

Martha Rolinson = Martha Rowlinson = Martha Rollaston

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/4/1870

“Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, at the OLD PACK HORSE INN, Wednesbury, on the body of George Fox, aged 25, of Dudley Street, who died on Tuesday last, owing to injuries received at the Midland Goods Station on the previous Saturday. Mr. Allard, inspector, from Derby, and Mr. Halford, goods agent, Wednesbury, were present on behalf of the London and North-Western Railway.

William Stevenson, porter and signalman, said deceased was yard foreman, and on Saturday was employed with him in shunting some goods trucks. There were nine trucks, and the four next to the engine were empty. When the train had gone over the points he showed deceased a red light to stop the train, when he called out to him to let the train go to the shed. He then gave the boxman orders for a shed, and he saw deceased come from under the wagon. Deceased said to him, ‘Are you right, Bill?’ when he replied, ‘Yes, let him go on.’ Immediately afterwards deceased said he had made a mistake, as he wanted some other wagon off. At this time the train was in motion, going quietly back, and deceased went under the buffers to unhook the other wagon. Before he (witness) had time to give any signal, deceased stepped backwards and slipped off the rail. Having given the signal to stop, the train was stopped at once. He listened to hear what Fox said, when he told him that he had broken one of his legs. If he had not caused the train to be stopped, he believed deceased would have been cut to pieces.

Three surgeons attended deceased, who was found to have both his legs broken. One of his legs was amputated on Sunday by Mr. Collins, and he died on Tuesday morning. Deceased admitted that no one was to blame, and said that the accident happened owing to his foot slipping.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Edwin Jones issued tokens from here.

1881 Census

74, Dudley Street – PACK HORSE

[1] *James Gregory* (34), sheriff’s officer in charge, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Eliza Gregory* (28), wife, born Oswestry, Wales;

[3] *Joseph Potts* (26), sheriff’s officer, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1881 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, the 29th of August at 6 for 7 o’clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

The very valuable and well-accustomed Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, known as the OLD PACK HORSE, and Four adjoining Freehold Messuages, situate in Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

The Inn adjoins the main entrance to the Brunswick Works of the Patent Shaft and Axle Tree Company Limited, and comprises large Tap Room, Bar, Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, three Bed Rooms, large Club Room, two Ale Cellars, Liquor Cellar, and Wine Cellar; also, Gateway Entrance, Coach-house, Stable, Piggery, Yard, and the usual Out-buildings. It is occupied by the owner, and a purchaser can have immediate possession.

The four adjoining Messuages form two separate lots.

For further particulars and to inspect the sale plan, apply to the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury; Messrs. Horton and Scott, Surveyors, Wednesbury; or to Messrs. Slater and Marshall, Solicitors, Darlaston.”

Wednesbury Herald 23/9/1882

“On Tuesday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner held an inquest at the QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, touching the death of Lucy Hall (26), of St. James Street, wife of William Hall, labourer.

At the time appointed the coroner called out the names of the jurymen, but one of them, Mr. *W. Atkiss*, licensed victualler, of the PACK HORSE INN, Lower Dudley Street, was absent. In reply to the coroner, the police officer in charge said that *Atkiss* was summoned to attend on Monday, and promised to be present. After waiting some time the officer, in obedience to the coroner, called out *Atkiss*’s name three times, but there was no answer, and another jurymen was obtained.

The Coroner: Unless he can give me some good reason for his absence he is fined 40s.

The evidence showed that the deceased retired to bed with her husband about 9.30 on Thursday evening last in apparently good health, but about five o’clock the next morning was found to be cold and still when spoken to by her husband. Dr. Sherwood attended and pronounced life to be extinct. A neighbour who was called in at that said she had known the deceased three years, and had heard her complain of coldness about the heart and stomach.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1889 - Advert

“General (experienced) Wanted. Must have good character from last situation.

Apply, OLD PACK HORSE, Lower Dudley Street, Wednesbury.”

GENERAL (experienced) Wanted. Must have good character from last situation.—Apply, Old Pack Horse, Lower Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 23/1/1892

“The balance sheet of Court Excelsior, 4756, of the Ancient Order of Foresters for the past year has been published. This lodge is held at the OLD PACK HORSE INN, Dudley Street, and Mr. Thomas Warwick of 66, Portway Road is the secretary. It appears that during the year the receipts on sick and funeral fund account, including a balance of £490 9s 9½d brought forward, amounted to £611 16s 5d, no less than £101 9s 9½d having been paid in contributions. The expenditure during the same period in sick money amounted to £75 3s 4d, 31 members having benefitted. The total worth of all funds is set down at £543 14s 10½d, which is invested, £103 10s 5d in the post office bank, and £414 in the investment association, while £26 4s 5½d remains in the treasurer’s hands. Compared with twelve months ago the worth of the Lodge has increased by £29 10s 11d.”

Wednesbury Herald 26/1/1895

“On Saturday evening, the employees of the G. W. R. Goods Department held their annual dinner at the OLD PACK HORSE INN, where an excellent repast was served by the host and Mrs. *Whittle*.....”

* possibly the same person

Sporting Life 13/1/1900

“Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiard League.

The following are the entries and starts for the third billiard tournament, open to the beer and wine trade, promoted by Messrs. Burroughes and Watts.....

E. Hales, OLD PACK HORSE, Wednesbury, 150.”

Wednesbury Leader 16/3/1901

"At the Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, Richard Holden, furnaceman, of 63, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was charged that on the 2nd of March he was drunk on the premises of the OLD PACK HORSE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, and *Joseph Wallett*, the landlord, was charged with selling drink to Holden while drunken, and with permitting drunkenness to take place. The landlord was further charged that on the same date he was drunk on his own premises.

Mr. J. Clark (West Bromwich) prosecuted on behalf of the police and Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

Mr. Clarke's opening statement was that on the 2nd March at 9-20pm, PC O'Hara visited the house and saw Holden in the back smoke room, drunk. The landlord was sitting in another room, unmistakably drunk. The officer left the house and returned accompanied by PS O'Leary. Holden was still in the house, deeper in drink than before, and with drink before him. The officers were told that the landlord was ill, and had gone to bed, and on proceeding upstairs found him drunk on a bed. He was dressed, and had his sleeves rolled up, as if he had just left the bar.

PS O'Leary and PC O'Hara gave evidence, which closely bore out the statement.

Mr. Sharpe said he would not endeavour to cast any doubt on the evidence, knowing PS O'Leary was an experienced and truthful officer. He did not combat the evidence. On behalf of the owners, he would say *Wallett* had been in the house only ten days, and had gone there with the best credentials. He had kept public houses in the town for a number of years, and had had a good reputation. He thought the magistrates would agree that the owners were exculpated from any collusion in the matter.

Holden was fined 10s and costs, or 14 days; *Wallett* 10s and costs, or 14 days for being drunk on his premises, and £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness. The other charge would be dismissed."

Wednesbury Leader 21/9/1901

"Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. C. H. Darby appeared to support the renewal of the license of the OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, to which objection was taken by the police on the ground, among others, that a former landlord named *Wallet* was convicted of drunkenness on the premises.

Mr. Darby said the manager *Wallet* came to the house with a good reputation, but his character did not bear this out and they dismissed him in a fortnight, and before he was summoned for drunkenness License renewed."

1901 Census

74, Lea Brook Road – PACK HORSE INN

[1] *Edward Newbold* (46), hoe plater, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Eliza Newbold* (41), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Edward Newbold* (22), son, puddler, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Austin Newbold* (14), son, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

"At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, before Aldermen R. Williams, I. Oldbury, and Mr. F. W. Hackwood, a man named Edwin Hudson (50), of no fixed abode, but who has been living in apartments at Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, and with intent to defraud, between the 17th September and 3rd October.

The evidence showed that prisoner represented himself to be in the employ of the Midland Advertising Company, Wolverhampton, and canvassed for advertisements for the Wolverhampton Wanderers Fixture Card. He secured 2s 6d from Frank Turbot, manager of the South Staffordshire Coffee House, Market Place; 4s 6d from Benjamin E. Pewtriss, tobacconist, Market Place; 5s from Herbert E. Kent, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN; 5s from William H. Hadley, GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place; 2s 6d from James Faulkner, BULLS HEAD INN; 2s from William Macdonald, THREE SWANS INN; 5s from Frank Bateman, licensed victualler, High Street; 2s 6d from Edward Phillips, BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane; 2s 6d from John Jones, FORRESTERS ARMS, Portway Road; and 2s 6d from *Albert Newbould*, OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street.

Frederick L. Hodgetts, of the Penn Road, Wolverhampton, said he was a partner in the Midland Advertising Company. Prisoner had been in their employ, but left on the 27th April. He had not been connected with the company since, and was not authorised to canvass for advertisements.

Detective Truswell deposed to effecting the arrest of prisoner.

Alderman Oldbury (to prisoner): Didn't you consider you had a lot of 'flats' to deal with in Wednesbury? I am surprised that tradesmen should give their money away without even asking for a receipt. They must be very confiding.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Sessions, which commence on Tuesday next."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1901

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Edwin Hudson, 50, traveller, pleaded guilty to having obtained various sums of money by false pretences at Wednesbury, on September 17. There were previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sentenced to three years' penal servitude."

Walsall Observer 21/7/1906

"At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Harold Nicholls (13), of Great Western Street, Wednesbury, employed by Mr. Percy Davis, a Wednesbury cab proprietor, was summoned for driving a cab without having proper lights attached, on Sunday, the 8th inst.

Police-constable Tagg said he saw defendant driving a cab in Catherines Cross, Darlaston. He only had one light, whereas he should have had two. There were six people in the cab.

Defendant said he was engaged by Mr. *Beckett*, of the OLD PACK HORSE INN, Dudley Street, who led him to understand that he only wanted the cab until seven o'clock. He drove his fare to Cannock, and he was out much longer than he expected, and as he thought he should be back before dark he took no candles with him.

Dr. Garman, presiding magistrate, said defendant seemed to have got into an unfortunate position through no fault of his own. The case would be dismissed on defendant paying the costs, 6s."

1911 Census

74, Lea Brook Road (Dudley Street crossed out)

[1] *Alfred Hoggins* (27), steel smelter, born Wrockwardine Wood, Shropshire;

[2] *Hannah Hoggins* (26), wife, married 4 years, born Priorslee, Shropshire;

[3] *Edith Hoggins* (21), sister, domestic servant, born Priorslee, Shropshire;

[4] *John Raymond Hoggins* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Florence May Hoggins* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Minnie Jackson* (20), domestic servant, born Donnington, Shropshire:

Walsall Observer 31/1/1914

"At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *John Thomas Jackson* (49), licensee of the OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for being drunk on January 12th.

Evidence was given by Sergeant Robinson and Police-constable Small that defendant was seen lying on the footpath in Dudley Street, and was assisted into the house by two persons. When inside the house Sergeant Robinson said, 'You ae drunk, Mr. *Jackson*,' and the latter replied, 'Hello, Robinson, is that you, you ——' Mrs. *Jackson* was advised to take her husband to bed.

Mr. A. J. Glover, who defended, stated that defendant had been suffering from gout, and on this particular day on the way back from Walsall he stumbled and fell. Evidence was given by several witnesses bearing this out.

The Stipendiary: Case dismissed; I don't think the man was drunk."

1921 Census

74, Lea Brook Road

[1] *Albert Clark* (52), manager, born Bilston;

[2] *Jane Clark* (48), wife, manager's assistant, born Moxley;

[3] *Charles Clark* (19), son, welder, born Moxley;

[4] *Arthur Clark* (14), son, labourer, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Ronald Clark* (5), son, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Harry Shaw* (21), boarder, son-in-law, screw turner, born Darlaston;

[7] *Rena Shaw* (23), boarder, wife, general servant, born Moxley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1935

“The Wednesbury Licensing Bench yesterday.....

All licenses were renewed except OLD PACK HORSE. Lower Dudley Street.....

Application for renewal of these, it was stated would be heard at the adjourned sessions.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/3/1935

“Wednesbury justices renewed the license of the OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1936

“‘There is no opposition as far as the Churches are concerned, and one might almost say my application has their blessing,’ stated Mr. S. W. Smith at Wednesbury annual Licensing Sessions, yesterday, when he made application on behalf of Messrs. Darbys Brewery Co., for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the license of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, to a site at the junction of Rydding Lane and Hall Green Road.

Mr. R. H. Norris, for J. Hanson and Sons Ltd., Dudley, owners of the GOUGH ARMS, nearly half a mile from the new site, opposed the application on the grounds that there was no necessity for another licensed house in the area. Mr. Smith said that the opposing parties’ house was in the borough of West Bromwich, and Mr. Smith alleged they were trying to seize trade from Wednesbury. ‘Is the Bench at West Bromwich coming to rule this Bench?’ he asked. ‘They are in another borough, and we want provision for our own people,’ he said.

The applicants intimated that they would surrender the license of the OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, if the application was granted. ‘We are giving up two houses worth thousands of pounds and are doing excellent trade,’ added Mr. Smith. They would also give the land on which the BLUE BALL INN stood as a gift to the Corporation. The Justices made a provisional order subject to the surrender of the license of the OLD PACK HORSE, and the free conveyance of the other site to the Corporation.”

Walsall Observer 5/2/1938

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Police Superintendent J. H. Hall stated that there were in the borough 105 houses for the sale of intoxicating liquor – fully licensed 51, beerhouses ‘on’ 38, beerhouse ‘off’ 15, and wines ‘on’ 1. This showed a reduction of one full license from the number given last year, namely, that of the OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, which was closed on July 4 in consideration of the opening of new premises known as the MILLFIELDS, Ridding Lane.”

**Lot 8.—PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the
“ OLD PACK HORSE,” lately belonging to Mrs. Robinson,
together with Workshops, Brewhouse, Cow-house, Pigsties,
and other Outbuildings.**

1853

Wednesbury, Staffordshire --To be Sold by Auction,
BY Mr. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, at the Green Dragon
Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury, on MONDAY NEXT, the
25th of August, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to
conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of
the Birmingham Law Society—the very valuable and well-accustomed
FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED INN, known as “THE OLD PACK
HORSE,” and Four adjoining FREEHOLD MESSUAGES, situate
in Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

The Inn adjoins the main entrance to the Brunswick Works of the
Patent Shaft and Axle-tree Company (Limited), and comprises large
Tap Room, Bar, Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, three Bed
Rooms, large Club Room, two Ale Cellars, Liquor Cellar, and Wine
Cellar; also, Gateway Entrance, Coach-house, Stable, Piggery,
Yard, and the usual Out-buildings. It is occupied by the owner, and
a purchaser can have immediate possession.

The four adjoining Messuages form two separate lots.

For further particulars and to inspect the sale plan, apply to the
Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury; Messrs. Horton and Scott,
Surveyors, Wednesbury; or to Messrs. Slater and Marshall, Solic-
itors, Darlaston.

1881

OLD PARK

16, (17), (35), Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1910], [1950]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Cartwright [1866] – [1882]
William Perry [1884]
William Curnan [1888] – [1912]
Walter Woolley [1916] – [1921]
Ralph David Johnson [1927] – [1934]
Geoffrey Grimley [1939] – [1940]
Samuel Dibble [1950]
William James 'Bill' Warden [1961] – [1975]



1965

NOTES

16, Darlaston Road [1871], [1873], [1881], [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]
17, Darlaston Road [1921]
35, Darlaston Road [1939]

OLD PARK INN [1870], [1872], [1873]
OLD PARK HOTEL [1884], [1911]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/2/1866

“On Saturday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquiry at the OLD PARK INN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, touching the death of Samuel Webb, six years old, whose death took place from an explosion of blasting powder. Mr. E. Smallman attended the inquiry on behalf of Messrs. Lloyds, Fosters, and Co., the proprietors of the Old Park Colliery.

The evidence went to show that, on Thursday evening, a man named Hill and the father of the deceased were engaged in cutting chaff in a loft above a stable, at the Old Park Colliery, when the deceased went to the place with his father's tea, and was set to clear away the chaff from the hole through which it fell into the stable from the loft. About ten minutes afterwards – the lad having, during some part of the intervening time, been engaged in removing the chaff – a loud explosion was heard, and the boy shrieked ‘Father,’ two or three times. On hastening down the steps into the stable, Webb and Hill found the lad's clothes on fire, and the lad himself badly injured on the head and face, his eyes being completely calcined. He was conveyed home at once, but died almost immediately on his arrival there, without having given any account of the occurrence.

A subsequent examination of the stable showed that a barrel, containing about 11b of blasting powder had been taken down from a high shelf, on which it was when the boy entered the place, inasmuch as a part of a lucifer match was found on the floor, and no one but the boy had been on the premises, it was conjectured that he must have got the powder down by some unexplained means, and set it on fire.

The Coroner remarked that this being the second case of the kind which had occurred in the district within a short period, it became important that steps should be taken to secure the placing of powder in safe places. Information had been sent to him of several persons at collieries who were careless with powder, and he should feel it his duty to write them on the subject, and recommend that powder should be kept in iron boxes or safes, as had been

suggested by Mr. Smallman. Mr. Smallman undertook to see this arrangement carried out at all the collieries under his control, and Mr. Millington, the chartermaster of the pit where the lad lost his life, promised not to have more than from four to five pounds of powder at the colliery at one time. A verdict of Accidental Death was then returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1866

"Licensing Day applications for new [spirit] licenses.....

Mr. Young applied on behalf of *Thomas Cartwright*, OLD PARK INN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury. House situated 300 yards from the nearest licensed house. No opposition Granted."

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 Post 21/9/1867

“Yesterday, the Coroner, at the OLD PARK TAVERN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, enquired into the circumstances of the death of George Johnston. The deceased was a wagoner, in the employ of Messrs. Hodgkins and Packer, Lea Brook Colliery. On the previous Friday evening he was riding to the stables on his horse from the colliery; when under the Great Western Railway Bridge, Potters Lane, the animal took fright at a passing train. The deceased was thrown violently to the ground upon his head and shoulder. He was quickly conveyed home to Darlaston Road, and placed under the care of Mr. Blackwood, surgeon, but he died from concussion of the brain on the following Monday. Witnesses were examined who could refer to no other circumstances affecting the deceased than what were purely accidental, and the Jury immediately returned a verdict in accordance.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/6/1868

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, two men named Richard and Frederic Porter were charged with stealing two fowls belonging to *Thomas Cartwright*.

The prosecutor, it appeared, is the landlord of the OLD PARK INN, Darlaston Road, and on Saturday night last the prisoners, with others, were drinking at his house. During the evening one of them was seen by a woman named Careless to go to the fowl pen at the back and take out the fowls; and the other prisoner it was stated stood in the passage at the time and saw what was going on.

The Magistrates, after hearing the evidence, committed the prisoner Richard Porter to prison for three months; but as there was a doubt in the case against the other prisoner he was discharged.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/7/1868

“Walker for Wednesbury.

At a meeting of the supporters of Mr. Thomas Eades Walker.....

The following gentlemen have consented to act as a committee for securing the return of Mr. Thomas E. Walker as Member of Parliament for the Borough.....

Mr. *T. Cartwright*, OLD PARK TAVERN.”

[Thomas Eades Walker stood as a Conservative candidate but was unsuccessful.]

Thomas Cartwright, OLD PARK INN, Darlaston Road, wine and spirit merchant and wholesale brewer, and NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE, Upper Rushall Street, Walsall. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/11/1870

“Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, at the OLD BARREL INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, respecting the death of William Shale (40), forgerman, who lived at Kings Hill. As stated in Monday’s *Gazette*, the deceased went to the OLD PARK INN, Kings Hill, on Sunday night, in company with his wife, and having ordered a quart of ale, they went into the tap-room to drink it. They had not been in the room many minutes, when deceased was observed to turn pale and shiver very much, and in a few seconds he expired. The jury returned a verdict of Died by the Visitation of God.”

1871 Census

16, Darlaston Road – OLD PARK INN

[1] *Thomas Cartwright* (48), licensed victualler, born Darlaston;

[2] Sarah Cartwright (47), wife, born Tipton;

[3] Thomas Cartwright (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] Catherine Thompson (24), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

Thomas Cartwright, OLD PARK INN, wholesale and retail wine and spirit merchant, bonder of wines and spirits, brewer and dealer in foreign cigars, and at NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE, Rushall Street, Walsall, OLD CROWN, Bilston Street, Camp Hill and Pinfold Street, Darlaston. [1872]

Midland Examiner 19/12/1874

“William Whately was summoned for being disorderly in the house of Mr. *Cartwright*, OLD PARK INN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday afternoon, about half-past two o’clock. Defendant went into the house and asked to be supplied with some drink, but as on the 29th ult he had assaulted both complainant and his wife, and given them both a black eye, he was refused. Whately thereupon became abusive and would not leave when requested. Complainant called in a man to assist him, and then defendant left. A fine of 20s and costs was imposed, in default 21 days’ imprisonment.”

Midland Examiner 24/4/1875

“Thomas Parker and James Harvey, ironworkers, were charged with the commission of a breach of the peace by fighting in the Darlaston Road, on Saturday evening. Mr. *Thomas Cartwright*, landlord of the OLD PARK TAVERN, was called by the police to give evidence. He deposed to seeing the men fighting in the street near to his house. Police-constable Sewell deposed to seeing the defendants with their clothes off fighting a stand-up fight. Defendants pleaded guilty and expressed regret, and the magistrates bound the prisoners over to keep the peace for three months in their own recognizances and to pay costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1875 - Advert

“Lost or Stolen, on Friday, November 5, a white Fox-terrier Dog; brown eyes and nose. Anyone returning it to Mr. *Cartwright*, OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, will be rewarded.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1877

“The monthly meeting of the Wednesbury Trades Council was held on Wednesday evening, at the OLD PARK TAVERN, Wednesbury, Mr. Juggins, president, in the chair. There was a large attendance of delegates present.”

Midland Examiner 3/3/1877

“A dinner, in connection with the Wednesbury Trades Council, took place on Saturday evening, at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Wednesbury, between seventy and eighty members and friends sitting down under the presidency of Mr. R. Juggins.....”

Shropshire Examiner 18/5/1877

“On Monday evening, the annual dinner of the Wednesbury Conservative Association was given at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road. More than eighty gentlemen sat down to dinner. After the withdrawal of the cloth Mr. Wilson Lloyd, president of the Association, took the chair.....”

Bee-Hive 2/6/1877

“Trades Union Directory.
Branches belonging to the Iron Moulders Society.....
OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

Bee-Hive 28/7/1877

“Trades Union Directory.
Amalgamated Engineers Society.....
Wednesbury Branch, Meeting House OLD PARK HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Midland Examiner 1/9/1877

“On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, before E. Hooper, Esq, District Coroner, touching the death of Emma Harris, aged eight months. Emma Harris, the mother of the deceased, stated that she resided in Old Union Street, Wednesbury, and on Wednesday morning the deceased was taken ill with sickness and diarrhoea, and several hours afterwards she took the child to the shop of Mr. S. R. Smith, herbalist, Trowse Lane. Smith said the child appeared to be ill, and having asked what the symptoms were, gave witness a bottle of medicine, for which he charged sixpence. After taking the first dose of medicine the child appeared to be better, but on Thursday morning she was taken worse, and Dr. Blackwood was sent for, but the child died before his arrival.

Mr. Blackwood, surgeon, stated that on Thursday morning he was sent for to see the deceased, and upon his arrival at the house he found that the child was dead. A bottle of medicine was handed to him, and as it was prescribed by an unqualified man he refused to give a certificate for the burial of the deceased. The lives of infants were trifled with to such an alarming extent in Wednesbury that he thought it was high time it was shown up, and such a system abolished. Many of the people were in the habit of procuring prescriptions that were of no earthly use for diseases from which children were suffering, and at the last minute a rush was made for a surgeon.

The Coroner: I know it is not quite a fair question that I am going to ask you, but do you think the child's life might have been saved if a surgeon had been called in at the first stage of the illness?

Witness replied that it was the child's first attack, and there was a probability that her life would have been saved if a surgeon had been called in. The liquid in the bottle consisted of extracts of caraway seed and liquorice root.

The Coroner: Would the medicine have an injurious effect?

Witness replied that it would not be positively injurious, but was calculated to do more harm than good. Syrups always increased purging. He believed that the child died from natural causes, although he had not made a post mortem examination. Death had been accelerated by the child not receiving proper medical treatment.

The Coroner said there was no town throughout his large district where so much indifference was displayed on the part of parents towards their sick children as in Wednesbury. Very often the plea of having no money to pay a doctor was set up, but those people who made such excuses never thought of seeking advice from the parish surgeons, who were paid by the ratepayers. The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict that the deceased died from Natural Causes, and that death was accelerated by medical aid not being procured by the parents.

The mother of the deceased was then called into the room, and the Coroner informed her of the verdict of the jury. He said that the child's death had been accelerated by her neglect in not applying to a properly qualified medical man. She had applied to a herbalist, who prescribed for the child, which was totally an illegal act, and probably proceedings would be instituted against him. The Coroner then informed Mrs. Harris that she was guilty of great neglect, and he hoped that the present inquiry would be a caution to her, for undoubtedly the child's death lay at her door, which would be a serious reflection for her as long as she lived."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/10/1877

"A painful occurrence took place at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday morning. At about half-past six o'clock Henry Lane (50), of Kings Hill, who was engaged as a carpenter at the Patent Shaft and Axle Tree Works, was seized with violent pains in his stomach, and left his work for the purpose of obtaining a stimulant which would have a tendency to remove the pain. On arriving at the OLD PARK HOTEL Lane asked for fourpennyworth of brandy, and having been supplied he took the glass, and was about to drink, when he fell down, and died before medical assistance could be obtained. The deceased was greatly respected by his fellow-workmen."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/10/1877

"Yesterday morning Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the BLACK HORSE INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, touching the death of Henry Lane (56), who died under circumstances already recorded in the *Daily Gazette*. Mr. W. C. Garman, surgeon, said, after examining the deceased, he was of opinion the death had been caused by heart disease. A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned."

Wednesbury Herald 22/11/1879

"An inquest was held on Saturday, at the OLD PARK HOTEL, by Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), relative to the death of John Thomas Roun (55), iron worker, Darlaston Road, who died suddenly on the 12th inst.

The evidence was to the effect that whilst the deceased was out for a walk with a companion, he was seized with violent pains, and was unable to walk. He was carried home, where he died the same evening. Death was supposed to have been caused by heart disease, and the jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/11/1879

"Two women, named Ellen Leech (53), charwoman, and Sarah Hampton (40), domestic servant, were brought up on remand charged with stealing a large quantity of wearing apparel, of the value of £20, the property of *Thomas Cartwright*, of the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury. Hampton had been in the employ of the prosecutor, and on a pair of boots belonging to his son being missing, and enquiries made for them, Hampton admitted having given them to Leech, who pledged them. Further inquiries by the prosecutor elicited the statement that many articles of clothing had been stolen out of the house and pledged at various shops in Wednesbury. Prisoners were committed for trial at the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions."

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 7/1/1880

“Staffordshire Epiphany Quarter Sessions Plead Guilty.....

Sarah Hampton, 40, charwoman, and Ellen Leach, 53, of no occupation, twelve months’ imprisonment each for stealing, on August 15th, 1879, at Wednesbury, two pairs of boots, one ring, and other articles, the property of *Thomas Cartwright*.”

Wednesbury Herald 3/4/1880

“On Tuesday evening a large and influential meeting in support of Mr. Isaacson, the Conservative candidate for the borough of Wednesbury, was held at Mr. *Cartwright*’s, the OLD PARK HOTEL.....”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 11/9/1880

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquiry at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Francis Thomas McGee (14), of Old Union Street, who was drowned whilst bathing in the Birmingham Canal, near the Monway pits, on the previous day.

The evidence showed that whilst deceased was bathing in the canal he got out of his depth, and was drowned in the presence of several persons who stood at the side of the canal, but were unable to render assistance in consequence of being afraid to get into the water. Thomas Edwards, an engineer, said he heard of a boy being in the canal, and upon going to the scene of the occurrence plunged into the water, and with difficulty brought the boy to the surface, but life was extinct. In reply to the Coroner witness said he had saved the lives of two boys in the same canal.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

Dudley Herald 13/11/1880

“Charles Harvey was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 6th inst, in the Darlaston Road, Wednesbury. PC Steel proved the charge, and said that defendant had been fighting.

Defendant denied the charge, and called Ann Siviter, who said she was in Mr. *Cartwright*’s OLD PARK TAVERN, and saw the defendant come in. He was neither drunk nor sober. Directly a man named Wakefield came in, he struck the defendant and told him to come outside.

Ann Holmes said two men began to quarrel, and Wakefield struck the defendant. He was not drunk. When he got outside, Wakefield struck him again. Defendant did not strike Wakefield.

He was also charged with assaulting PC Steel.

Steel said when he took defendant into custody he was very violent, and kicked him. He was obliged to put the handcuffs on him. Defendant knocked him down and got a number of roughs around him.

Ann Holmes, re-called, said she saw the defendant and the police officer on the ground. He was very violent, but did not kick the officer.

Defendant was fined, for being drunk, 2s 6d and costs, or in default seven days; and for the assault on the police, 5s and costs, or in default fourteen days.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/12/1880 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Premises, known by the Sign of the OLD PARK HOTEL, in the Darlaston Road, Wednesbury; and the Lease, Goodwill, and Possession of Old-Licensed Premises on Cramp Hill, in Darlaston.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, the 13th day of December, at Seven o’clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. The Desirable and Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Business Premises, known by the Sign of the OLD PARK HOTEL, situate in the Darlaston Road, in Wednesbury, with the Brewery and Offices thereto. The Hotel comprises large Liquor Vault, small Liquor Vault, Bar, Smoke Room, Assembly Room, Club Room, China Closets, five Bed Chambers, Bath Room, extensive Cellars, Store Rooms, Coach-houses, Stable, Pigstyes, Yard, draw-in Gate Road, and Out-buildings, the Premises being now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Cartwright*.

Also, the Two Dwelling House or Cottages adjoining the foregoing Property, and fronting and being Nos.14 and 15 in the Darlaston Road aforesaid; let to weekly tenants at rents amounting to £26 a year.”

Wednesbury Herald 5/2/1881

“On Tuesday afternoon Mr. z E. Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquiry at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Abraham Dyke (9), of Old Union Street, who was found dead on a pit mound at Ball’s Hill on Saturday last.

Abraham Dyke, a colliery engineer, and father of the deceased, said that on Thursday night about eight o’clock the deceased brought his supper to the colliery at Ball’s Hill, after which he left the colliery for the purpose of returning home.

The Coroner: I think the deceased was too young a boy to send to a colliery at night.

Witness: He knew every inch of the road.

The Coroner: He might in the day time, but not on a dark night I should think.

Witness (continuing) said that upon his going home on the following morning his wife informed him that the deceased had not returned home. He accordingly went to the colliery and found the deceased’s cap in the brook and was able to trace the footprints of the deceased in the snow. He, however, could not find the deceased, and came to the conclusion that he had fallen into the brook and had been carried away by the current.

The Coroner: The body of the deceased was afterwards found?

Witness: Yes; at a distance of about 140 yards from the brook.

The Coroner: Do you think he has met with his death by foul play?

Witness: No, sir; I do not.

A boy named John Elwell said that on Saturday morning he had occasion to go on a pit mound at Ball’s Hill, and at a distance of about 15 yards from the brook he found the body of the deceased. The face was downwards, and in the hands were some gleads. Underneath the face was a stone which had caused an indentation. He gave information to some men, and the body was removed.

The Coroner observed that from the appearance of the face of the deceased it was quite evident that it had been attacked by vermin, for a portion of one of the ears and also one of the eyelids had been bitten. He was of opinion that the unfortunate boy missed his way, fell down on the pit mound and there died from cold and exposure.

Police-constable Lytle said that judging from the appearance of the body when it was found, he was of opinion that the boy stumbled over a stone and fell on the other stones which rendered him insensible; and that he afterwards died from the effects of the cold.

The Coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of death from cold and exposure.”

1881 Census

16, Darlaston Road – OLD PARK INN

[1] *Thomas Cartwright* (57), innkeeper, born Darlaston;

[2] *Sarah Cartwright* (56), wife, born Princes End;

[3] *Thomas George Cartwright* (20), son, architect and surveyor apprentice, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Sarah Elizabeth Clark* (14), grand-daughter, scholar, born Walsall;

[5] *William Wilson* (34), barman, born Liverpool;

[6] *Anne Oldbury* (36), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/1/1882 - Marriage

“On the 4th instant, at St. Bartholomew’s, by the Rev. J. Eckersley, Thomas, youngest son of *Thomas Cartwright*, of the OLD PARK, to Harriet, second daughter of the late Andrew Dawes, Wednesbury.”

Thomas Cartwright – see also OLD CROWN, Darlaston.

Lichfield Mercury 14/8/1885

“At the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, Edward Eagles, ironworker, was charged with refusing to quit the OLD PARK HOTEL, with wilfully damaging glass and also with assaulting Shadrach Farnell.

On Saturday night defendant went into the hotel and created a disturbance, and refused to leave when requested to do so by Farnell, who was employed as a waiter. Upon Farnell attempting to eject him defendant kicked him in the groin, causing him to sustain bad injuries, and for several hours he was insensible. When being ejected defendant broke a glass valued at 3s.

Defendant said he was drunk when he committed the offences. This statement was, however, denied.

The Bench fined the defendant 5s and costs for refusing to quit, 5s and costs and 3s damage for breaking the glass, and sentenced him to one month’s imprisonment with hard labour for the assault.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1885 - Advert

"General Servant (good) Wanted. Good character required. Apply, OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury."

GENERAL Servant (good) Wanted. Good character required. — Apply, Old Park Hotel, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.

William Curnan = William Curnam = William Kernan

Birmingham Daily Post 15/4/1892

"The strike on the part of the workpeople in the bridge and boiler yard at the Old Park Works of the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company against an obnoxious foreman riveter is apparently no nearer settlement than at the end of last week. A meeting of the workpeople was held yesterday, at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, when Mr. Shorrock, the South Staffordshire delegate of the Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders Society, handed over the cheque for £50 promised by that society, and, amid loud applause, stated that that was not the only grant that would be made if the strike continued. Promises of contributions from other quarters were also announced.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Boilermakers Society and Mr. Shorrock, and a resolution was enthusiastically carried to continue the strike, the men being especially warned not to yield to any appeals to them to do the usual cleansing and scurfing of the boilers during the holidays."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1892

"Last night a meeting of the Skilled and Unskilled Workmen's Union, Wednesbury, was held at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, to consider the discharge of the secretary (Mr. W. Lees Wood) from the Old Park Works of the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company. A workman presided.

A letter was read which Mr. Juggins (secretary of the Midland Counties Trades Federation) had addressed to Mr. J. Hay, head fireman in the boiler yard, asking for an interview, and stating that although the reason given for Mr. Wood's discharge was that he had lost time, a report was current that he had been sent away because of his connection with the union and the late strike...."

Wednesbury Herald 18/5/1895

"A public meeting, under the auspices of the Wednesbury branch of the Society of Ironfounders, was held at the OLD PARK HOTEL, on Saturday last. Mr. G. Cranage of Wolverhampton, presiding over a fair attendance. Addresses were delivered by the Chairman, Councillor Joynson, JP, Councillor Spittle, and Mr. H. Flavel, of Birmingham, and a resolution approving the aims and objects of the society, and expressing determination on the part of those present to extend its influence, was unanimously carried. Votes of thanks to the speakers and chairman brought the meeting to a close."

Wednesbury Observer 24/3/1900

"On Tuesday, Mr. H. A. Pearson, coroner, held an inquest at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, concerning the death of John Pitt (68), marine store dealer, formerly residing in Old Union Street, who committed suicide by hanging himself on Sunday night last.

Elizabeth Pitt, deceased's wife, stated that for some time past he had been very strange in his manner. He had been in very bad health for several years. A short time ago deceased suffered from influenza and bronchitis, and for this he was attended by Dr. Dingley for eight weeks. Deceased also had a weak heart. Of late deceased had been so strange in his manner that witness had deemed it necessary to watch him night and day. Her husband had been in the habit of carrying bits of rope and string about with him. During the last month deceased had been much worse, and witness had had to sit up and watch him regularly whilst in bed. On Sunday night deceased retired to rest about 9.15, and took a candle with him. He then wished witness 'Good night,' remarking that he was going to bed.

Elizabeth Madeley, grand-daughter, said she went to bed about 10.15 on Sunday night. She noticed that deceased's bedroom door was open, which was unusual. On going into the room she saw him hanging from the bedpost by means of a rope. Witness called for assistance, and her father came upstairs and cut the deceased down. Dr. Matheson and the police were sent for, the former pronouncing life to be extinct.

Police-sergeant O'Leary said that when he saw deceased he had his two wrists tied together with a piece of string. From what he could ascertain deceased had been very ill of late, and this had made him very strange.

A verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane was returned."

1901 Census

16, Darlaston Road

[1] William Curnan (40), licensed victualler, born Leitrim, Ireland;

[2] Kate Curnan (36), wife, born London;

[3] Elizabeth Curnan (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Kate Curnan (11), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] Bridget Curnan (10), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] Hugh Curnan (6), son, born Wednesbury;

[7] Mary Curnan (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Leader 28/12/1901

“A most pleasant gathering took place on Monday evening at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, the occasion being the fourth annual dinner and social gathering of the Old Park Sick and Dividend Society. About 60 members sat down to an excellent repast, the catering of which reflected great credit on the genial host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Curnan*. After the good things provided had been done full justice to, and the cloths removed, Mr. A. Breakles was elected to the chair, and in a very neat speech, complimented the members on the flourishing condition of their society.....”

Tipton Herald 19/12/1903

“Mr. William Danks, secretary of the Old Park Sick and Dividend Society, which is held at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, has just issued his sixth annual report, which shows the society to be, both financially and numerically, in a sound and flourishing condition.”

William Curnan served on the Grand Jury at Staffordshire Quarter Sessions in 1908.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/8/1908

“A meeting of the men out on strike from the Old Park Works, Wednesbury, was held at the Lodge Holes yesterday afternoon, when there were about 2,000 people present. The secretary read the following letter, which the committee intend to send to Mr. Dudley Docker, the chairman of directors.

‘We are requested by the men and boys recently employed at the Old Park Works, Wednesbury, to respectfully call your attention to the dissensions which are now existing between the management and the employees, and to assure you they are not of our seeking. Our energies have been devoted to the best interests of the firm, but the provocation and unjust treatment we have received, and the systematic reductions which were being continually forced on us, and the indignity and the indecency we have to undergo when being medically examined, leaves us no alternative but to respectfully ask you to receive a deputation.....’

It was subsequently announced that about 200 workmen were asked to present themselves at the OLD PARK HOTEL today, when the committee intend to give out collection boxes.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/8/1908

“The Wednesbury strike was advanced another stage yesterday, when the secretary to the committee acting for the men received a letter from Mr. Dudley Docker, chairman of the directors of the Old Park Works, consenting to meet a further deputation of employees at the company’s chief offices in the town tomorrow morning. At noon yesterday four members of the committee waited upon the Mayor, who consented to interview the chairman of the company and lay before him the terms upon which the men would be prepared to resume work.....

The strike fund now amounted to £231 12s 3d. The expenses to date amounted to £11 15s 6d, leaving a balance in hand of £219 16s 9d. The committee had requested that the married men should attend at the OLD PARK HOTEL (headquarters) at twelve o’clock, and the single men at three o’clock, to receive their allowances. The allowances would be married men, 5s 3d; single men, 3s 4d; youths under 18 years old, 2s 6d. The distribution would absorb about £200, and there would remain a balance of some £19.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/8/1908

“Work will be resumed today at the Old Park Works, Wednesbury.....

The secretary announced a list of subscriptions, including £5 from Mr. Pat Collins; £5 Mr. Kendrick, builder; £4 4s from the glee party; £3 12s 1d proceeds of open-air concert at Toll End; £2 Amalgamated Society of Engineers; £2 2s Mr. Frank Myatt, Bilston; £2 12s collected by secretary; £4 2s power station; £4 2s foremen of the Old Park Works; £1 19s 6½d Brunswick offices; and 15s Mr. *Kernan*, OLD PARK HOTEL. Commenting on the list presented, the chairman said they would forgive him if he especially referred to the amounts received from the foremen, and from the Brunswick offices. He thought these showed what good feeling there was towards the men Respecting the subscription from Mr. *Kernan*, it did not represent anything like what he had given, as he had been giving and giving ever since the dispute commenced.....”

Walsall Advertiser 20/3/1909

“At the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, on Monday evening, Mr. John J. Steward, who for seventeen years has been foreman in the bridge-building department at the Old Park Works, and who recently left that situation, was made the recipient of a testimonial, subscribed for by his former fellow foremen and the work men in the bridge-building department. Mr. George Brazier, an old employee, made the presentation, which consisted of a handsome marble clock, suitably inscribed, and a set of bronzes to match.”

Evening Despatch 15/1/1910

“*William Curnan*, OLD PARK HOTEL, Wednesbury, was summoned at Wednesbury yesterday for selling whiskey which had 15.2 per cent of water added to it. Mr. Van Tromp, inspector, prosecuted, and Mr. A. J. Glover defended. It was stated that an inspector who called at defendant’s house was served with half-a-pint of whiskey which was found to have 15.2 per cent of added water in it.

Mr. A. J. Glover, in defending, said *Curnan* had kept this hotel for twenty-five years under Messrs. Butler, of Wolverhampton, and what had occurred was a pure accident. He followed the custom which most licensed victuallers did of swilling out their casks and using the water for breaking up the spirits. He had been in the habit of putting these swillings in bottles in the vaults because it was too dark in the cellar to properly see the figures on the instrument when he broke the spirits up. A daughter of his, who had been warned that the contents of these bottles were only swillings, had inadvertently served the inspector from one of these bottles when the whiskey had run out.

Mr. *Curnan* and his wife and daughter gave evidence. In cross-examination it was admitted that the whiskey supply had run out, and that the daughter who served the witness did not take the precaution to inquire what she was serving from the bottle.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed.”

1911 Census

Darlaston Road – OLD PARK HOTEL

- [1] Kate Elizabeth Curnan (46), wife, married 25 years, assisting in public house business, born London;
- [2] Elizabeth Anne Curnan (23), daughter, teacher, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Kate Curnan (21), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Bridget Cecelia Curnan (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Mary Curnan (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Feargus O’Reilly (25), visitor, wood template maker, born Darlington:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/5/1913

“The Walsall and Wednesbury tube trade strike, through which 6,000 employees are idle, was extended yesterday to the Great Bridge district of West Bromwich, where there are several tube-making concerns.....

A conference representing trades councils, strike committee and trade unions involved or likely to be affected was held at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, on Sunday, when it was decided to form a central strike committee for the purpose of securing a minimum wage of 23s a week for men and 12s for women, and other proportionate advances.”

1921 Census

17, Darlaston Road – OLD PARK HOTEL

- [1] Walter Woolley (38), house proprietor, born Lanesfield;
- [2] Mary Elizabeth Woolley (32), wife, assistant house proprietor, born Bilston;
- [3] Denis Silvester Woolley (9), son, school, born Bilston;
- [4] Edna Woolley (6), daughter, school, born Bilston;
- [5] Dorothy May Hubble (22), barmaid, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/10/1926

“Cross-Country Runs.....

Wednesbury Harriers had a good pack out on Saturday over the Bird End and Newton course. No serious racing was indulged in, although the runners in charge have a difficult task in holding members from racing now that more serious work is contemplated in the very near future. The start and finish was the OLD PARK HOTEL, where the host gave a most cordial welcome to the club. The race home was very keen, with members well together at the finish. The brothers W. and G. Fowell were first and second, with Victor Burkett a very close third. The latter is a splendid little runner, with youth on his side, and should prove a very useful acquisition to the club.”

Rugeley Times 22/4/1927

“On Saturday, in ideal weather, the bowling green at the HORSE AND JOCKEY HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, was opened. The president (Mr. H. F. Johnson) played the first game with Mr. *R. Johnson* (the popular host of the OLD PARK HOTEL). The president won by 7 points to 5. The captain of the club (Mr. J. Wright) welcomed the players and reference to the loss the club had sustained by the death of Mr. Taylor, was made during the proceedings.”

Walsall Observer 5/5/1928

“At a meeting of the Kings Hill No.5 Men’s Committee of the Conservative Association, held at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Kings Hill, last week, Mr. Arblaster, who presided over a large attendance, gave an address on national affairs and the responsibilities of all true citizens.....”

Ralph David Johnson – see also WOODMAN, Dale Street, and CORONATION.

Evening Despatch 27/9/1938 - Advert

“Bar General; references; good wages.
OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

BAR-GENERAL; references; good wages.—Old Park Hotel, Darlaston-road, Wednesbury.

1939 Register

35, Darlaston Road (2 of 3)

- [1] Geoffrey Grimley, date of birth 16/5/1894, public house licensee, married;
- [2] Jessie Grimley, dob 15/10/1901, public house assistant licensee;

Geoffrey Grimley was the adopted son of Thomas Wood of the RED LION, Bridge Street.

Walsall Observer 25/11/1939 - Advert

“Bar General, good wage.
OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

BAR-GENERAL, good wage.—Old Park Hotel, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 17/2/1940 - Advert

“Bar General, experience not necessary; top wages.
OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

BAR-GENERAL, experience not necessary; top wages.—Old Park Hotel, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.

Local boxers, including Joe Logan and Alex Highfield, trained here in the 1940s.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League, Section A. [1949/50]

Evening Despatch 23/1/1950 - Advert

“Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers. Series of Special Meetings. Full Time Officers will Speak. Tuesday, January 24th.....
Wednesbury: OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road.....
All meetings commence at 7.45pm. All members, and non-union Foundry Workers invited.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/8/1950

“Over 10,000 people attended Wednesbury’s third horticultural show at Brunswick Park. The 1,500 entries for the produce show was double last year’s number. The *Birmingham Daily Gazette* Cup for licensed houses vegetable collections went to the Baggeridge Miners Welfare, The Straits, Lower Gornal, closely followed by OLD PARK HOTEL, Wednesbury; ROYAL EXCHANGE, Walsall; and OLD LEATHERN BOTTEL, Wednesbury.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/12/1950 - Deaths

“On December 19, at OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, *Samuel Dibble*, beloved husband of Ethel and loving father of Sam, Gordon, Ethel and Dennis. Funeral 2.15pm, Friday, December 22, Parish Church, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1950 - Notices of Thanks

“The Wife and Family of the late *Samuel Dibble* wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours, directors of W. Butler and Co. Ltd., the Licensed Victuallers Association and doctor for their sympathy and beautiful floral tributes in their sad loss; special word of thanks to Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Broom and customers of the OLD PARK HOTEL.”

William James Warden was married to Edie.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/11/1962 - Advert

“Amalgamated Engineering Union.
Wolverhampton District Committee.
New Branch – Wednesbury.
This is to inform interested members the above will be opened Friday next, November 30, 7.30pm, at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Darts League. [1960s], [1970s]

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1965]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/7/1965

“Wednesbury Football League still have vacancies for a number of clubs for the coming season in both Divisions I and II. A general meeting of the league will be held at the OLD PARK HOTEL, Wednesbury, next Tuesday.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/5/1967 - Advert

“High Pressure Welders, Boiler Erection Fitters, Riggers/Erectors.
Evening interviews in Bilston, Tipton, Wednesbury.
We require a limited number of men in each of these trades for the construction of high pressure power station boilers at Ironbridge, Shropshire.....
OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, on Thursday, May 18.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/8/1967

“A Walsall widow, whose husband died in a works accident at Wednesbury in January 1965, is to get a cheque for almost £600 in a special ceremony on Thursday. The cheque forms part of £11,920 damages awarded to the woman, Mrs. Doreen Higham, of Hawthorn Road, Shelfield, and her four children, in December last year.
Mr. Reg Ward, a member of the executive of the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers, which fought the case for Mrs. Higham, is to hand over the cheque at the OLD PARK public house, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury. The remainder of the cash has been invested for Mrs. Higham and her family.”

Birmingham Mail 15/3/1969

“Cage Bird Society Officials Wednesbury Aviculture Society..... Meetings, OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, alternate Thursdays.”

Birmingham Mail 5/7/1969

“West Bromwich Magistrates were told how plain clothes policemen watched in a public house where bets were being illegally collected. Before the court was William Garratt (56) of 30 Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, who pleaded guilty to three charges of unlawfully using the OLD PARK HOTEL, Wednesbury, for betting transactions. He also pleaded guilty to three charges of frequenting the OLD PARK HOTEL for receiving bets. He was fined a total of £45 with £5 costs.

Appearing with him was Patrick Killeen (55), a lodger at the OLD PARK HOTEL, who pleaded guilty to two charges of using the hotel for betting transactions and guilty to a charge of using the hotel for purposes connected with betting transactions. He was fined a total of £15 and £5 costs.

George Henry Simms (67), of Flat 17, Thorn Close, Wednesbury, and Ronald Morran (49), of 9 Lloyd Street, Wednesbury, each pleaded guilty to a charge of using the hotel for betting transactions. Simms and Morran were fined £3 each.

Mr. R. A. Crabb, prosecuting, said that on three occasions plain clothes police officers visited the OLD PARK HOTEL and on each occasion saw betting slips being written out and passed together with money to Garratt. On two of the occasions Killeen was handed betting slips and money and on the third occasion he was seen to pass betting slips and money on to Garratt. All four men were arrested, but did not want to make statements.

Garratt told police officers that he was trying to increase the commission he received for bets by collecting in public houses. Killeen said that he did not keep the bets but always gave them to Garratt. Simms said it was only the second time he had placed a bet, and Morran told police officers that he normally telephoned his bets but on this occasion had been asked to place a bet by a neighbour.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/3/1970 - Advert

“Racing Pigeon Club. Clock Setter wanted for Wednesbury F/C, OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury. 1/6 per clock.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/11/1983 - Advert

“Auction, 8.30pm, Friday, November 11.
OLD PARK HOTEL, Wednesbury.
Master Clock, Clocks and accessories.”

**AUCTION, 8.30 pm, Friday, November
11, Old Park Hotel, Wednesbury,
Master Clock, Clocks and
accessories.**

A team from here took part in the *Express and Star* West Midland five-man open Pool Classic. [1984]

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/6/1984

“More than 80 Sandwell pub licensees who were bitter about a slump in trade have won their battle for a rates cut OLD PARK HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

Closed

It was demolished in January 1990.

Sandwell Evening Mail 1/2/1991

“Two houses are planned for the site of the former OLD PARK HOTEL pub in Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

Housing was built on the site.

**LOST or Stolen, on Friday, November 5, a white Fox-terrier Dog ;
brown eyes and nose.—Anyone returning it to Mr. Cart-
wright, Old Park Hotel, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, will be re-
warded.**

LOT 1.—The Desirable and Valuable FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED BUSINESS PREMISES, known by the Sign of "THE OLD PARK HOTEL," situate in the Darlaston Road, in Wednesbury, with the Brewery and Offices thereto. The Hotel comprises large Liquor Vault, small Liquor Vault, Bar, Smoke Room, Assembly Room, Club Room, China Closets, five Bed Chambers, Bath Room, extensive Cellars, Store Rooms, Coach-houses, Stable, Pigstyes, Yard, draw-in Gate Road, and Out-buildings, the Premises being now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Cartwright.

1880

A MALGAMATED ENGINEER- ING UNION.

WOLVERHAMPTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

NEW BRANCH—WEDNESBURY

This is to inform interested members the above will be opened Friday next, November 30, 7.30 p.m., at the Old Park Hotel, Darlaston-road, Wednesbury.

F. CLAPHAM,
District Secretary.

1962

RACING PIGEON CLUB. Clock Setter
wanted for **Wednesbury Central F/C**
Old Park Hotel, Darlaston road,
Wednesbury. 1/6 per clock.

1970

OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Charles Bamford [1850] – [1851]
Edwin Clayton [] – **1854**;
George Wooliscroft (**1854 – 1860**);
Henry Madley (**1860 – 1861**);
Marcus Holroyd (**1861 – []**)
William George Keight [1862] – **1862**)
George Vickers (**1862**);
John Hand (**1862 – 1863**);
James Rowley (**1863 – []**)

NOTES

1851 Census

High Street East

- [1] Charles Bamford (35), victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Elenor Bamford (38), wife, born Chorley, Staffordshire;
- [3] Charles Bamford (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Elenor Bamford (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Mary Smith (35), visitor, born Shenton, Staffordshire;

Birmingham Journal 4/12/1852 - Advert

“OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, close to the Market Place, Wednesbury.
To be Disposed Of, with immediate possession.
For further particulars, apply on the Premises.”

Birmingham Journal 3/12/1853 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

To be Let, that old-established and well-known Public House, called the OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE, situate in High Street, Wednesbury, now doing an excellent Ale and Spirit Trade, 800 Bushels of Malt having been consumed there since Christmas last.

The House is situated in a densely populated neighbourhood, near the Market Place, and at which large Clubs are held. This Establishment presents a rare opportunity seldom to be met with, for any party to enter in the Public Business.

Apply on the Premises; or to Mr. W. Ashcroft, Appraiser, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Journal 7/1/1854 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

To be Disposed Of by Private Contract, that excellent Public House, called the OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE, situated in High Street, Wednesbury, now doing a first-rate business both in Ale and Spirituous Liquors. The House is situated near the Market Place, and at which large Clubs are held, consequently it presents an opportunity seldom to be met with. Satisfactory information will be given to a bona fide Purchaser as to the Business done at this Establishment, and why the present Proprietor wishes to leave. Incoming about £300. Rent low.

Apply on the Premises, or to Mr. W. Ashcroft, Auctioneer, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.”

OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE,
HIGH STREET, close to the Market Place, WEDNESBURY.
TO be DISPOSED OF, with immediate possession.
—For further particulars, apply on the Premises.

1852

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.
TO be LET, that old-established and well-known PUBLIC HOUSE, called the “OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE,” situate in High Street, Wednesbury, now doing an excellent Ale and Spirit Trade, 800 Bushels of Malt having been consumed there since Christmas last.
The House is situated in a densely populated neighbourhood, near the Market Place, and at which large Clubs are held. This Establishment presents a rare opportunity seldom to be met with, for any party to enter in the Public Business.
Apply on the Premises; or to Mr. W. Ashcroft, Appraiser, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.

1853

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.
TO be DISPOSED OF by PRIVATE CONTRACT, that excellent PUBLIC HOUSE, called “THE OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE,” situated in High Street, Wednesbury, now doing a first-rate business both in Ale and Spirituous Liquors. The House is situated near the Market Place, and at which large Clubs are held, consequently it presents an opportunity seldom to be met with. Satisfactory information will be given to a bona fide Purchaser, as to the Business done at this Establishment, and why the present Proprietor wishes to leave. Incoming about £300. Rent low.
Apply on the Premises, or to Mr. W. Ashcroft, Auctioneer, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.

1854

George Wooliscroft = George Woollascroft

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/3/1855

"George Wooliscroft, licensed victualler of the EXCHANGE INN, Wednesbury, was fined £5 and costs for keeping a disorderly house."

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

"Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. Woollascroft, ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street."

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/5/1856

"George Wooliscroft, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Wednesbury, was, on Tuesday, charged by the police with permitting drunkenness in his house on the previous Saturday night. The police found about seventy persons in the house, many of whom were tipsy, and two fights were going on in one room. The defendant did not ask the police to interfere, and never attempted to prevent the fights. He called his son, brother, a waiter, and another person, according to whom the house was quite a model of decorum, but the magistrates evidently did not believe their evidence. It appeared that, a year ago, he was fined £5 for a similar offence. He was now fined 40s and costs."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1857 - Advert

"To Publicans and Others.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that old licensed Public House, known as the OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury.

For particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. Joseph Whitehouse, TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1860

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Leigh and Mr. Davies, Mr. Bayley appeared on behalf of the police to ask that certain wax models seized last week, and considered of an immoral and filthy character, might be destroyed. Mr. Bayley stated that he appeared at the instance of the Chief Constable, who wished that the law on the case might be properly laid before the Bench. The models were seized at the OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE, a public house kept by Mr. Wooliscroft, and what was necessary, according to the Act of Parliament, was to show that the models were exhibited for gain or hire, and then it was for the Magistrates to decide whether they were of such a character as to justify an order for their destruction. Mr. Hemmant, of Birmingham, appeared for the defence.

Mr. Leigh, after inspecting the models in company with Mr. Davies, referred to the statute, and then said that it was a question with him as to whether the case came under the Act, and he would, if Mr. Bayley thought proper, give a case for the consideration of the superior Courts. Mr. Bayley replied that before consenting to take the case to the Court above, he must consult those who had instructed him. Mr. Leigh therefore consented to adjourn the enquiry for a fortnight. Mr. Hemmant, who stated that the models belonged to a man named Bagshaw, asked that the Magistrates would order them to be given up. They had never been seized before, and he submitted that they should be at once handed over to the owner. Mr. Leigh declined to make such an order, remarking that the case stood altogether adjourned."

Birmingham Journal 11/2/1860

".....Mr. Bayley said he was not prepared to go into a superior court with the case, and Mr. Leigh remarked that the statute apparently only applied to pictorial representations, and while it was highly objectionable that the models seized should be exhibited in public, yet all the Magistrates could do was to advise that they be not exhibited again. Mr. Hemmant agreed with the remarks of the learned Magistrate, and said he would certainly advise his client not to exhibit the models again. He, however, applied that they might be given up. An order was made accordingly, and the case was dismissed."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1860

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before Philip Williams and Thomas Davies, Esqrs, *George Wooliscroft* was summoned at the instance of Mr. Inspector Blayney on a charge of profane swearing. Mr. Blayney prosecuted, and Mr. Hemmant defended.

Defendant keeps the OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street; and it will be remembered that some wax models, which have already been the subject of enquiry before the Magistrates, were exhibited in the house. The Bench, a week ago, advised that the said models should not again be exhibited, but contrary to this the exhibition was again opened, and Mr. Blayney sent up a constable to ask why this was so, when defendant used the language complained of, intimating in the grossest terms that magistrates and police might go to a distant and warmer clime. The Bench ordered a fine of 2s and costs, and Mr. Williams expressed an opinion that this circumstance should be mentioned before the Magistrates at the annual Licensing Sessions.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/6/1860 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Properties at Wednesbury.

Fereday and Evans will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Wolliscroft*, the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury, on Monday, the 4th day of June, 1860, at seven o’clock in the evening.....”

George Wooliscroft, and *Henry Madley* appear in the same 1861 Directory.

Henry Madley = *Henry Madeley*

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1861 - Advert

“Wednesbury. The OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street. By H. Farrington.

To be Disposed of, the Licenses and Possession of the above old and well-established Inn, situated in one of the principal thoroughfares of Wednesbury, and now doing a good business by Mr. *Henry Madeley*, who is giving up on account of ill health.

To parties in search of a good House, the above presents an eligible opportunity, from its situation being near to the Market Place. Coming-in about £200.

For particulars, apply to H. Farrington, Appraiser, 1, St. George’s Buildings, Walsall.”

Marcus Holroyd – see also OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1862

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Edwards, Charles Hampson, and Samuel Ward, were severally charged with having stolen a padlock, the property of Mr. *Keight*, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street. From the evidence it appeared that the three prisoners were, on Friday last, at the prosecutor’s house, drinking, and that Hampson was seen to go to the back premises and take a padlock off the door of a fowl pen. They were detected, and Parish-constable Hackwood took them into custody. Hampson, against whom the conviction was recorded, was sentenced to imprisonment for a month. The other two prisoners were fined 10s each, and costs, for the assault on the constable. Edwards was defended by Mr. Bayley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/5/1862 - Advert

“Wednesbury. The OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE INN.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the above Old Licensed House, situated close to the Market Place and in the best thoroughfare in the town.

Apply on the premises, or to Mr. E. B. Scholefield, Church Street.”

WEDNESBURY.
THE OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE INN.
TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately,
the above OLD LICENSED HOUSE, situated close to the
Market Place and in the best thoroughfare in the town.—Apply on
the premises, or to Mr. E. B. Scholefield, Church Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1862 - Advert

“Important Unreserved Sale, at the OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. B. Scholefield, on Monday and Tuesday Next, June 16th and 17th.

The Licenses and Possession (if not previously disposed of by Private Treaty), Stock-in-Trade, Brewing Vessels, Ale Casks, Modern Household Furniture, and Effects, at the above desirable Old-licensed Premises; comprising Stock of Liquors, Ale, Porter, Copper Furnace, Iron Furnaces, Ale Machine, Ale Coolers, Mash Tub, 11ft Slate-bottomed Bagatelle Board, with Pockets, &c, complete, and Miscellaneous Effects; belonging to Mr. *G. Vickers*, who is leaving the neighbourhood.

Catalogues may be had on application at the Auctioneer's Offices, Church Street, Wednesbury.

Sale to commence each day at half-past Ten o'clock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1863

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions.....

John Hand, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, was charged with keeping a disorderly house on the 26th ult.

The Bench, taking into account the festive season of the year, dismissed both cases.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1863

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions.....

John Hand, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, was charged with keeping his house open during unlawful hours, on the 15th instant, and also with having refused admittance to Police-constable Birch. A fine of 10s and costs were imposed in each case.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/3/1863

“Birmingham County Court *Rushton v Hands*.

In this case the plaintiff, for whom Mr. Walford appeared, is a maltster, residing in the Aston Road, and the defendant, for whom Mr. Duke appeared, is the proprietor of the OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Wednesbury. The action was brought to recover a sum of £3, the value of a pocket of hops.

From the evidence of the plaintiff it appeared that some time ago the defendant purchased two pockets of hops, one of which had been paid for but not the one now sued for. These facts were not denied on the part of the defendant, the ground of defence being that the hops were not according to the sample, and were useless. Defendant said when he purchased the two pockets of hops they were to be of 1860 growth, but on reference to the sacks he found the figures ‘60’ had been marked over other figures. The hops that he had paid for were not fit for use; there were some good ones at the top of the sack, but as he worked it down he found the hops were very bad, and not fit for use. He told plaintiff (when he called for the money for the hops) of their bad quality, and that he had tried to sell one pocket to Mr. James Gough, of Wolverhampton, but that gentleman would not use them. He (defendant) wrote to plaintiff, and complained of the quality, as the hops were not usable.

Mr. Gough, of Wolverhampton, was called to speak as to the worthlessness of the hops, and said he had told plaintiff they were worthless, and he said he would see the defendant about them.

Mr. Golding, another publican of Wolverhampton, also spoke to the bad quality of the hops, and said that he had a pocket of the hops, but found he could not use them when he got to the middle of the pocket.

The plaintiff was recalled, and said the figures 60 were marked through when the duty was taken off last year.

Mr. Edwin Mason, of the White Swan, Church Street, was also called for the defence, and stated that he would not either purchase or use such hops.

His Honour having reviewed the evidence gave a verdict for the defendant; the plaintiff to have back the hops that had not been used.”

Birmingham Journal 11/7/1863 - Advert

"To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

J. Whitehouse has been favoured with instructions from Mr. *John Hand* to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, July 14, at the OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury, in consequence of extensive alterations on the Premises.

The whole of the Brewing Plant, Fixtures, Household Furniture, &c; comprising fifteen Ale Casks, twenty bushel Mash Tub, two large Ale Coolers, Working and other Tubs, Patent Malt Crusher, six-pull Ale Machine, Gas Fittings, Swing Sign in front, Lamp, 160 gallon Copper Boiler, two Iron ditto, Tables, Sofa, eight-day and other Clocks, three Pockets of Hops, and other Effects, according to catalogue. Also, about 500 Gallons of prime Herefordshire Cider and Perry.

Sale to commence punctually at Eleven o'clock.

Catalogues to be had at the ROYAL EXCHANGE; or at the Auctioneer's Office, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury."

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 Rowley, ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury, two convictions – open house on Good Friday, fined 1s and costs; June 28, disorderly conduct, fined 40s and costs. Notice of appeal given on the first conviction.....

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.

Licenses suspended until 29th September *James Rowley*, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Wednesbury."

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 stated below, whose licenses were suspended, all conducted their houses since the several convictions in a very orderly manner.....

James Rowley, ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury (two convictions, application adjourned for a month at request of Mr. *Rowley*)."

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.
TO BE LET, and may be entered upon immediately, that old licensed PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the "Old Royal Exchange," High-street, WEDNESBURY. —For particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury.

1857

WEDNESBURY.
"THE OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE,"
HIGH STREET.
BY H. FARRINGTON.—To be DISPOSED OF, the LICENSES and POSSESSION of the above old and well-established Inn, situated in one of the principal thoroughfares of Wednesbury, and now doing a good business by Mr. Henry Madeley, who is giving up on account of ill health.
To parties in search of a good House, the above presents an eligible opportunity, from its situation being near to the Market Place. Coning-in about £200.
For particulars, apply to H. Farrington, Appraiser, 1, St. George's Buildings, Walsall.

1861

IMPORTANT UNRESERVED SALE,
AT THE OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE INN,
HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, on MONDAY and TUESDAY NEXT, June 16th and 17th—the LICENSES and POSSESSION (if not previously disposed of by Private Treaty), STOCK-in-TRADE, Brewing Vessels, Ale Casks, Modern HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and Effects, at the above desirable Old-licensed Premises; comprising Stock of Liquors, Ale, Porter, Copper Furnace, Iron Furnaces, Ale Machine, Ale Coolers, Mash Tub, 11ft. Slate-bottomed BAGATELLE BOARD, with Pockets, &c., complete, and Miscellaneous Effects; belonging to Mr. G. Vickers, who is leaving the neighbourhood.

Catalogues may be had on application at the Auctioneer's Offices, Church Street, Wednesbury.

Sale to commence each day at half-past Ten o'clock.

1862

TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.
J. WHITEHOUSE has been favoured with instructions from Mr. John Hand, to SELL by AUCTION, on TUESDAY NEXT, July 14, at the Old Royal Exchange, High Street, Wednesbury, in consequence of extensive alterations on the Premises—the whole of the BREWING PLANT, FIXTURES, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.; comprising fifteen Ale Casks, twenty bushel Mash Tub, two large Ale Coolers, Working and other Tubs, Patent Malt Crusher, six-pull Ale Machine, Gas Fittings, Swing Sign in front, Lamp, 160 gallon Copper Boiler, two Iron ditto, Tables, Sofa, eight-day and other Clocks, three Pockets of Hops, and other Effects, according to catalogue. Also, about 500 Gallons of prime Herefordshire CIDER and PERRY.
Sale to commence punctually at Eleven o'clock.
Catalogues to be had at the Royal Exchange; or at the Auctioneer's Office, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

1863

OLD ROYAL OAK

4, Meeting Street, (Meetinghouse Lane), (Old Meeting Street), (Workhouse Lane), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Reuben Turner, Smithfield Brewery, Wolverhampton

James J. Tate

Edgar Evans, Wellhead Brewery, Perry Barr [1902], [1904] (leased)

Samuel Woodhall Ltd. [1921]

Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd. [1961]

Black Country Traditional Inns (acquired in 2009) [2015]

LICENSEES

Mary Danks [1818]

Thomas Danks [1828] – [1834]

William Turner [1841] – [1842]

Thomas Bailey [1845]

William Brittain [1849] – [1870]

John Connolly **(1870 – [1873]**

Francis Lloyd [1877] – [1878]

Samuel James Green [1881]

John McNolty [1891] manager

James J Tate [1891] – [1896]

Thomas Collins [1901]

James Miller [1904] – [1905]

Edward Timmins [1908] – [1908]

Phoebe Lowe [1908] manager

William Henry James Jones [1911] – [1912]

Mrs. Sarah Jones [1916] – [1921]

James Jones [1932] – [1940]

Arthur Elwell **(1949 – 1953)**

Edward Harris [1961] – [1966]

Mrs. Jennifer 'Jenny' Flagherty [1982] – [1985]

Ronald J Truslove [2008]



NOTES

Old Meeting Street [1818], [1849]

Workhouse Lane [1828], [1830], [1842], [1850]

Meetinghouse Lane

4, Meeting Street [1872], [1881], [1911], [1921], [1932]

ROYAL OAK [1818], [1828], [1830], [1834], [1845], [1849], [1850], [1860], [1862], [1868], [1870], [1872]

OLD ROYAL OAK [1864], [1873], [1892], [1908], [1916], [1921], [1932]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/8/1836 - Advert

"ROYAL OAK Public House, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.

To be Let or Sold, with immediate possession, the above-named old established Public House, with Brewhouse, convenient Outbuildings, Yard, Garden, &c. If let, rent moderate. The house is situate in an improving neighbourhood, and near to extensive Iron Works and Collieries. The present proprietor is leaving entirely on account of other engagements.

The Stock, Brewing Vessels, Iron-bound Casks, and other articles used in the Public Business, with or without part of the Household Furniture, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to the Landlord, on the premises, or to D. Taylor, Auctioneer, &c, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

1841 Census

Meeting Street

[1] William Turner (30), born Staffordshire;

[2] Sarah Turner (30), born Staffordshire;

[3] Emma Turner (5), born Staffordshire;

[4] William Turner (2), born Staffordshire;

[5] Mary Turner (1 month), born Staffordshire;

[6] E. Wheatly (8), born Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/3/1848

"Inquests held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner.....

On Tuesday last, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Wednesbury, on the body of James Marlow, aged 63 years, who was killed by falling from a scaffold while repairing a coal pit shaft at Lea Brook, Wednesbury, on Saturday last, belonging to Messrs. Darby and Whitehouse. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/9/1848

"On Tuesday an inquest was held at the ROYAL OAK, Workhouse Lane, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of James Cloherty, a boy only eight years of age, who was found on the previous day at the bottom of the shaft of an old coal pit, situated at Lea Brook, and belonging to Mr. Henry Pitt.

One morning, about a month ago, the mother of the poor little fellow sent him with his father's breakfast to the Patent Shaft Works, where he was employed, but he never reached his destination, and nothing was known as to what had come of him. The canal was dragged, and every inquiry and search made, but without avail. On Monday, however, something like a human body was perceived floating on the surface of the water in the pit in question, which is fifteen yards from the top of the shaft, and a miner, named Richard Longmore, having been lowered by means of a rope, he succeeded in bringing up the body of the unfortunate boy, which was much decomposed, having evidently been in the water for some time. The deceased was in the habit of going through the field in which the pit was situated, in consequence of it being a 'short cut' to the works where his father was employed, and it is supposed that he had gone through this field on the morning in question, but under what circumstances he got into the pit is likely to remain a mystery. The pit was open at the top, and there was no fence to prevent any person falling in. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was found at the bottom of a pit, but how or by what means he got there, they had no evidence before them by which to determine."

William Brittain = William Britton = William Britten

1851 Census

Meeting Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] William Brittain (42), victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Sarah Brittain (46), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Mary Brittain (21), daughter, 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.....

William Britton, Wednesbury, cautioned.....

Those cautioned had that remark written on the back of their license.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/3/1856

“The United Society of Bellringers, of Wednesbury, Burton, Dudley (junior ringers), and Westbromwich, assembled on Easter Monday, in the tower of St. Bartholomew’s Church, Wednesbury, and rang a peal of bells consisting of 5,291 changes, in three hours and four minutes. The performance was conducted by Mr. Micklewright. A dinner, excellently served, was provided at the ROYAL OAK INN, by Mr. *William Brittain*; Mr. Edward Blakemore occupied the chair.”

County Advertiser 8/8/1857

“About three weeks ago the body of a full-grown female child was found in Wednesbury Old Church yard by a man named Griffiths, who took it to the Police Station. It was afterwards removed to the Workhouse, and an autopsy made by Mr. Proctor, surgeon, who found a piece of cloth wedged in its throat. He found that the child had been born alive, and gave his opinion that it had probably lived seven or eight hours. The cloth in its throat and a cord which was round its neck when found left no doubt regarding the manner in which it had been done to death.

At the adjourned inquest on Friday last, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Workhouse Lane, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, the Jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against some person or persons unknown.”

1861 Census

Meeting Street – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *William Britten* (52), innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] Sarah Britten (54), wife, born Stourbridge;

[3] Mary Ann Britten (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Catherine Speake (15), house servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1863

“Wednesbury Mutual Friendly Society Festival.

The annual festival of this old-established society took place on Monday last. The members mustered at the Old Church Schoolroom, and from thence proceeded in procession to the Parish Church where an excellent sermon was preached by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Lyons. The members afterwards separated into three sections, and partook of dinner at the houses of Mr. Henry Spittell, the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane; Mr. Joseph Brittain, the OLD BLUE BALL, Church Hill; and Mr. *William Brittain*, the ROYAL OAK. The annual balance sheet shows that the society numbers 372 members, and possesses a balance in hand of £3,498 13s 3d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1864 - Advert

“Public Notice. South Staffordshire Charter Masters Benefit and Protection Association.

The Members of the above Association are hereby informed that at a General Meeting, held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Old Meeting Street, Wednesbury, on Monday, March 7, 1864, it was unanimously Resolved,

‘That on and after Monday, March 14, 1864, Charter Masters require and obtain a Certificate of Character from every Servant before giving them employment, and grant them the same when honourably discharged.’

The Co-operation of all Mine Agents and Charter Masters is respectfully invited.

By order of the Committee. J. Thomas, Secretary. Willenhall.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/5/1864

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *William Brittain*, the ROYAL OAK INN, on view of the body of Patrick Gaynard, aged fifty-three, who was so much injured whilst in the employment of Mr. John Trow, timber merchant, on the 9th ult, that he died on the morning of the 12th instant.

Before the evidence was taken, the Coroner, addressing Mr. Andrew Dawes, one of the Jurors, said that his summoning officer had stated that he had been grossly insulted by that person when serving the summons on him.....

Mary Gaynard, the widow of the deceased, said that her husband had been a labourer, and that a little girl came to her on the 9th of April, and told her that her husband wanted her. She went to Mr. Trow’s house, and found the

deceased sitting down outside, and ascertained that his leg had been fractured. Witness obtained assistance, and the deceased was carried home on a door. Mr. Horton, surgeon, was sent for, but, through illness, he could not attend, and Mr. Morgan, Mr. Proctor's assistant, attended on Saturday. On the Sunday Mr. Horton saw the deceased, and continued to attend him to the witness's satisfaction. The deceased had been well up to the time of the accident, and told witness, after he had received the injuries, that he had slipped down on the footpath. On Saturday, witness asked Mr. Horton for a certificate, which he gave, and told a lad to take it to Mr. Parks, the registrar. Mr. Parks sent word to Superintendent Holland that he could not act upon Mr. Horton's certificate. The deceased was perfectly sober, and witness had no doubt that the occurrence was purely accidental.

There was no other evidence forthcoming, and the Coroner, in summing up, observed that an unusual time had elapsed in holding the inquest, but it had been simply occasioned by Mr. Horton having given an improper certificate, and he would feel it his duty to communicate with that gentleman on the subject. Mr. Parks, the registrar, had acted perfectly right in declining to receive a certificate where it was evident that death had resulted from an accident. The law was imperative in cases of accidents and sudden deaths, and it was his (the Coroner's) duty to carry it out. However, should the Jury desire it he would adjourn the inquest for medical evidence. But he must remind them that if medical men were called in in every case, the county rates would be materially increased. The Jury expressed themselves perfectly satisfied, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/7/1864

"Wednesbury Board of Health.....

The medical officer drew attention to a nuisance caused by frequenters of the house of Mr. *Britten*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Workhouse Lane. After some discussion, the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. *Britten* on the subject of the nuisance on his premises."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 9/8/1864

"Wednesbury Board of Health Meeting.....

The Clerk had written as directed to Mr. *Britten*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, and had received in reply a note, asking what he could do to abate the nuisance. The Inspector of Nuisances was ordered to see him."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/1/1865

"An inquest was held, on Wednesday morning last, by Mr. E Hooper, at the house of Mr. *Brittain*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, touching the death of Francis Longmore, a butty collier, 59 years of age, who fell from a bridge over the Great Western Railway, at Spon Lane Station, on Saturday night last, and sustained such injuries as resulted in his death on the following evening. Mr. Slater, solicitor, attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of the relatives of the deceased.

The only witness called was Louisa Longmore, wife of the deceased's brother. She identified the body, and stated that her brother-in-law was taken home late on Saturday night, was put to bed, and attended by Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon, and died between five and six o'clock on the following evening, from the effects of severe injuries at the back of his neck. His health was good up to the time of the accident.

The learned Coroner then accompanied the Jury to Spon Lane, to view the bridge from which the deceased fell; and, to give the railway company an opportunity of being represented at the inquest, an adjournment until the following Wednesday took place."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/1/1865

"Yesterday morning Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, resumed the inquiry at the OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, touching the death of Francis Longmore.....

The Coroner, in summing up, observed that there was no doubt but that deceased had come to his death by falling from the bridge. They would have to consider whether or not due caution had been exercised by the Great Western Railway Company to prevent accidents. The jury had seen the bridge and could judge for themselves, and whether a man would fall through if he exercised ordinary care. Did no think, whatever the opinion of the jury might be, there would be any criminal culpability on the part of the railway company, but at the same time if they thought that there was any negligence they could make any suggestion they thought proper, and he was sure the suggestions would be attended to. The question of compensation was not for the jury to decide.

The jury found a verdict to the effect that deceased had died from injuries received by falling from a bridge at the Swan Village Station. They were also of opinion that he was capable of taking care of himself, and that the sides of the bridge ought to have further protection."

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/3/1865

"Railway Companies and the Safety of Passengers.

Collision and running off the line are not the only accidents to which railway passengers are liable. The want of a few boards and the absence of a light may cause a man to lose his life before he sets foot in a train. From this kind of danger, however, he may at least expect railway companies to guard him, and we are glad to find from the verdict in Longmore v The Great Western Railway Company, a case tried last Monday at the Staffordshire Assizes, that Lord Campbell's Act enables the family of a victim to obtain some compensation for the loss occasioned by his death.

On the 7th of January last Francis Longmore, a chartermaster residing at Wednesbury, was about to return home from Swan Village by the train leaving that station at five minutes to ten, when in going up some steps leading to a wooden bridge, constructed purposely for crossing the line, he fell through a large unprotected triangular opening between the junction of the upper and lower platforms of the bridge. Had there been a light at this point, he must have seen the opening, and would not have walked through it; had there been a handrail to this portion of the steps, he might have saved himself from falling; had the opening been boarded up, he could not have fallen through it; but none of these precautions having been taken, he fell on the platform below, and his neck being dislocated by the accident he died on the following day.

For the defence it was urged that as there was a legitimate crossing at the distance of a hundred yards from the wooden bridge, although the latter had been erected for the accommodation of passengers, they crossed it at their own risk; that there had been no application to the company to place lights on the bridge; and that the deceased, who it was insinuated was not sober, had contributed to the accident by his own lack of caution. The jury, however, took a commonsense view of the case, and returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with £500 damages, apportioned according to the Act, £300 to the widow, and £200 to six of the children, who are unable to provide for themselves. This is rather more than the cost of a handrail and a lamp, or of a few boards and nails, which we should imagine the company, for their own sake if not for that of their passengers, will no longer delay to provide."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/12/1866

"An inquest was held yesterday afternoon at the OLD ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, respecting the death of Mary Aston, wife of Joseph Aston, who resides in Workhouse Lane. The deceased on Saturday night last, about half-past eleven o'clock, retired to bed with her husband in her usual health, and about three o'clock on the following morning was found by him dead in bed. The deceased had for some time past suffered from a pain in her side, and it was stated at the inquest that she was addicted to drinking. There was no suspicion connected with the case, and the jury returned a verdict of Found Dead."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1868 - Advert

"Wednesbury Wakes, Monday and Tuesday, 7th and 8th September.

Grand Brass Band Contest and Fetes.

The Ground for three Refreshment Booths will be offered for Sale by Auction, at the ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, on Friday Evening Next, the 28th instant, at 7.30pm."

Birmingham Journal 14/11/1868

"The Workmen's Protection Society and Sustentation Fund.

On Saturday evening, a meeting was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, for the purpose of forming a society to protect working men in the free exercise of their votes in the coming election. Owing to several other political and semi-political meetings in the neighbourhood at the same time, the attendance was not as good as it could have been wished. The subject which the meeting had met to consider was, however, discussed with much earnestness. It was explained that the promoters of the meeting suggested that a society should be formed to embrace the whole borough, that the members should pay an entrance fee of one shilling each, and twopence per week afterwards; and that in the event of any of them being discharged from their situations as a penalty for voting in accordance with their principles, they and their families should be maintained by the society until other situations could be obtained for them. The necessity for such a defence was admitted on all hands, and it was estimated that at least 3,000 persons out of the constituency of 15,000 would be found willing to join. It was also stated that without doubt there would be a considerable number of honorary members, and it was announced that already one gentleman had promised £5 towards the funds, and two others £1 each. Eventually a committee, treasurer, and secretary, all pro tem, were appointed. The names of persons willing to become members were then received, and one of those present, who gave in his name, promised 10s towards the funds. The meeting then ended."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1869

“Within the past few days no fewer than three children have died in Wednesbury from the effect of injuries sustained through their clothes having taken fire.....

Sophia Noakes, aged 5 years and 10 months old. Her clothes took fire on the 7th instant, while she was playing with her sister, in her parents' house, in Meeting Street, and she was so severely burned on the arms, face, and breast, that she expired on the following day, Mr. Kerr, surgeon, having in the meantime attended her.”

[The inquest, held at the ROYAL OAK, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/1/1870

“On Thursday two inquests were held at Wednesbury, by Mr. Hooper.....

At the ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, on the body of Eliza Hocknall, aged nine years, who was severely burnt on the 28th ult, and died on the 4th inst. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/5/1870 - Advert

“Important Clearing-Out Sale, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.

By E. B. Scholefield, Tomorrow (Tuesday), at 11.

The Brewing Vessels, Portion of the Furniture, capital iron Safe, &c, &c, comprising Sussex and Worcester Hops, Malt Crusher, Bushel Measure, 20-bushel Mash Tub, twenty well-bound English oak Ale Casks, forty Brewers Casks, Tubs, neat, well-built Gig; iron Pumps, lead Piping, a 220-gallon Copper Boiler, Stuffed Birds, Tables, Chairs, Bedsteads, Fire-proof Safe, 28in by 22in, with ‘Cotterell's Climax Lock;’ massive four-post Bedsteads, with O G Cornice, &c; iron Bedsteads, prime Feather Bed, quantity of curled Horse Hair, Crockery Ware, Glass, and numerous other Effects, which will be Sold without reserve .”

John Connolly = John Conolly

1871 Census

Meeting Street – OLD ROYAL OAK

[1] *John Connolly* (51), licensed victualler, born Drogheda, Ireland;

[2] *Phebe Connolly* (48), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Joseph Connolly* (13), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

[4] *Mary J. Connolly* (13), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;

[5] *John Connolly* (11), son, scholar, born Sedgley;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/5/1871

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Thomas [sic] *Connolly*, of the ROYAL OAK beerhouse, Meeting Street, was summoned for neglecting to abate a nuisance on his premises. Mr. Bayley (for the Board of Health) prosecuted, and Mr. Brevitt defended.

Defendant kept a number of pigs on his back premises, so as to cause a nuisance, and notice was given on the 28th of April for an abatement, but on Mr. Superintendent Holland going to the place on the 8th of May, the pigs were found to be still in a filthy condition.

An order was made for the abatement of the nuisance, the defendant to pay costs.”

Walsall Observer 24/5/1873

“*John Connolly*, publican, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, sued William Pengally, chemist's assistant, Wednesbury, for the sum of £1 6s for damage sustained through defendant's dog having broken a gin bottle. The dog formerly belonged to plaintiff, who had given it to defendant. The dog, however, was in the habit of visiting plaintiff's house. One day a noise was heard in the storeroom, and the dog was seen to come out. On examining the room the gin bottle was found.

Mr. Ebsworth, for the defence, called the defendant, who deposed that he gave the dog away on the same day he received it; and William Simmons, the present owner of the dog, swore that it was given to him six days before the damage was done. The license was put in, and corroborated the last witness's evidence. Non-suited.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1874 - Advert

“OLD ROYAL OAK SPIRIT VAULTS, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, with capital counter trade. In-coming £250. Apply, Roderick and Son.”

OLD Royal Oak Spirit Vaults, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, with capital counter trade.—In-coming £250.—Apply, Roderick and Son.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/6/1874

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *John Conolly*, treasurer of a women’s death and burial society, was charged with forging and uttering an undertaking for the payment of money. The prisoner was lately landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury. His brother-in-law, Mr. Reuben Turner, of Wolverhampton, had been in the habit of giving a guarantee to the secretary of the society for the repayment of the money handed over to the prisoner, during the then current year, as treasurer, and it was alleged that the prisoner had forged such guarantee and handed it to the secretary. It was said that the prisoner absconded when the matter was discovered, but in answer to this it was stated that he went on a wedding tour. The prisoner was remanded till next Wednesday, at Wolverhampton, and bail was not allowed.”

AND

Dudley Guardian 27/6/1874

“Alleged Forgery by the Treasurer of a Wednesbury Death Society.

.....the society had been held for many years at the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, and it had been the practise to make the landlord the treasurer. The defendant came to the house in the year 1870, as the manager for Mr. Reuben Turner, brewer, of Wolverhampton, who was desirous that the meeting should continue to be held at the house and when the defendant was appointed treasurer, Turner guaranteed the payment of the money received from the members. He did so in 1871 and 1872. In 1873 Mr. Martin, the secretary of the society, went to Wolverhampton to get the guarantee from Mr. Turner, but could not see him. He then asked the defendant to do so, and he afterwards handed to Martin the document, which Mr. Turner said he had not signed. Defendant absconded at the time, when the sum of £92 2s 8d should have been divided among the members.”

AND


Staffordshire Sentinel 26/6/1874

“At Wolverhampton, *John Connolly*, a publican of Wednesbury, and treasurer to the Wednesbury Female Death Society, has been committed for trial at the next assizes for forging a document, by which he had obtained £97 on the credit of that society.”

[At the Staffordshire Summer Assizes, *John Conolly* was found guilty and sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.]

Birmingham Daily Post 22/7/1874 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted, for Saturday and Monday evenings.
Apply, ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.”

PIANIST Wanted, for Saturday and Monday evenings.—Apply,
Royal Oak Inn, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1877

“A special meeting of the members of the Wednesbury Amalgamated Friendly Society was held on Saturday, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, for the purpose of amending the rules. Mr. John Moses presided. Mr. H. T. Finch, the secretary, read the rules, as amended, and said he regretted there was not a much larger meeting to discuss the rules, as a good deal of interest had been taken in this matter. He believed the present course was one in the right direction, and would prove beneficial to the society, the present rules not meeting the views of the members, and were drawn up when the society was in its infancy. It was in no way connected with any other society in the district; and as it was growing, now numbering from 400 to 500 members, the rules must be amended to meet the requirements of the members. After some discussion the amendment, as proposed, was agreed to.

Mr. H. T. Finch then read the balance-sheet for the past year, showing a balance of £24 15s 9d; and with such patrons as Mr. S. C. Allsopp, MP, Mr. M. A. Bass, MP, Mr. A. Brogden, MP, and Mr. R. Williams, who had always been ready to help them, he was sure the society could not help but prosper. He also informed the meeting that he was in communication with the Earl of Dartmouth and Mr. Wilson Lloyd, who, he had reason to believe, would also become patrons; and urged upon members to band together and pull one way, and he was sure the society would be double the number next year.

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/10/1877

“The first annual supper in connection with the Wednesbury Amalgamated Friendly Societies Association was held at Mr. *Francis Lloyd*’s, ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street.....

It was four years ago that day when the society had started, with a good capital of 11½d, but the society had thriven well, having saved about £30. It had met all just demands, and was still able to do so.....

After votes of thanks had been passed to the officers and host, a pleasant evening was brought to a close by songs and readings.”

Sporting Life 9/3/1878

“Alexandra Running Grounds, Bloxwich.

Mr. T. Marshall, junior, 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.....

Mr. *F. Lloyd's*, OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.”

London Gazette 15/3/1878

“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 *Francis Lloyd*, of the OLD ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Victualler.

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 Joseph Edward Sheldon, 51, High-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on the 29th day of March, 1878, at a quarter-past ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 12th day of March, 1878.

Joseph E. Sheldon, 51, High-St, Wednesbury, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/3/1878

“A meeting of the creditors of *Francis Lloyd*, of the OLD ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, was held yesterday at the office of Mr. J. E. Sheldon, Mr. T. Jones, also of this town, presiding. The statement of accounts showed liabilities, £525 9s 7d; assets, £51 7s 11d. It was resolved to liquidate the estate under the private arrangement clauses, Mr. W. J. Dixon being appointed trustee, and Mr. Sheldon being empowered to register the resolutions.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/4/1878 - Advert

“In Liquidation. Re *Francis Lloyd*. ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.

Mr. Edward Ellis has received instructions from the Trustee under the above Estate, to Sell by Auction, This Day, April 20.

The Household Furniture and Effects, including the Licenses, Public-house Fixtures, part of the Brewing Plant, and other Trade Requisites.

Sale to commence at 10 o'clock prompt.

Auctioneer's Office, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

The Era 25/5/1879 - Advert

“OLD ROYAL OAK Music Room, Wednesbury.

Wanted, to open June 2nd, Three Nights per Week, Lady Pianist and Vocalist. Must be respectable and well up in her business. Address, Proprietor. (No vault.)”

OLD ROYAL OAK MUSIC ROOM, WEDNESBURY.
WANTED, to open June 2d, Three Nights per Week, Lady PIANIST and VOCALIST. Must be respectable and well up in her business. Address, PROPRIETOR. (No vault.)

Wednesbury Herald 31/5/1879 - Advert

“The OLD ROYAL OAK Music Room, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.

Great Attractions for Whit Week.

On Whit Monday, June 2nd first appearance in Wednesbury of Miss Marie Warner, Serio-comic and Ballad Vocalist, of the Theatre Royal, Bath; first appearance also of Pat Osin, Irish Comedian and Dancer; also of Master George Pee, who will play a Grand Overture on the English Concertina and Dulcimer.

On Whit Tuesday, June 3rd first appearance of Yankee Connor, the celebrated Negro Comedian, Instrumentalist, and Dancer; and on this night only, Mr. Frank Hughes, of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham.

Charge of Admission, Threepence.

During Whit Week the Hall will be open each Evening.”

Wednesbury Herald 15/11/1879

“On Monday evening last, at the OLD ROYAL OAK Music Hall of amusement, an entertainment was given for the benefit of Mr. D. E. Barton, of Day's Concert Hall, Birmingham, when the clever impersonations, songs, &c, of the Brothers Richardson gave great satisfaction to a large and respectable audience. Mr. J. Shorthouse presided at the pianoforte with his accustomed ability.”

Wednesbury Herald 9/10/1880

"Yesterday, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquiry at the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Mary Ann Burkett, aged 59 years, who died suddenly on Monday.

The evidence showed that the deceased was suddenly seized with a fit on Monday evening at five o'clock, and immediately afterwards expired.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

1881 Census

4, Meeting Street

[1] Samuel James Green (51), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] Catherine Green (40), wife, born Newton Solney, Derbyshire;

[3] Ada Kate Green (6 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Eliza Humphries (26), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 26/8/1882

"On Wednesday, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquiry at the OLD ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, respecting the death of Sarah Ellen Woodcock (23), who had died from the result of shocking injuries received on the 13th inst, in Meeting Street.

Phoebe Woodcock, the mother of the deceased, deposed that her husband was named Samuel Woodcock, and was a pattern maker. For some days previous to the occurrence deceased complained of the headache, but she did not have medical treatment. On the 11th inst, she spoke to deceased about her headache, and recommended her to go to Dr. Blackwood's surgery on the morning of the 13th inst. She, however, did not go. At about half past ten o'clock deceased complained of violent pains in her head, and witness recommended her to leave the work and go to Dr. Blackwood's. Deceased afterwards went upstairs. About five minutes afterwards she heard screams, and on going into Mr. Trow's yard she saw deceased lying at full length. She was carried upstairs, and was attended by Dr. Blackwood. Her lower jaw was broken, and also her left thigh. She went to open the side window in her brother's bedroom, and upon opening the window she fainted, and she did not remember anything further. She (the witness) believed the occurrence was the result of an accident. She did not think the deceased had any occasion to be troubled. The deceased had no acquaintance. She had always been a good daughter.

Emma Hall, a married woman, said that on the morning of the 13th inst, she saw the deceased open a side window, which was about seven yards from the ground. She stood a moment and afterwards sat on the window sill in a very dangerous way. She appeared to be very pale, and immediately afterwards she balanced over and fell on to the ground. Witness raised an alarm, and subsequently found her in a pool of blood. She asked her if she had done it on purpose, and she replied that she did not. She afterwards stated that she fainted and she did not feel the effects of the fall. She had no reason to believe that the deceased had committed suicide. She was a very respectable young woman.

Betsy Fannings said the deceased had complained of giddiness of the head. There was nothing further the matter with her. There was no foundation for the rumours that had been prevalent that deceased was suffering from other causes.

The Coroner: I think that it is a cruel rumour.

Witness: She had no acquaintances.

The Coroner in summing up, said there was no evidence to justify the rumours that had been prevalent that the deceased had destroyed herself, as the whole of the evidence showed that the lamentable occurrence was the result of an accident.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/3/1883

"On Monday, Mr. Hooper, district coroner, held an enquiry at the ROYAL OAK INN, Wednesbury, touching the death of James Madden (50), a boiler maker, of Meeting Street, Wednesbury, who died suddenly on the night of the 7th inst.

Evidence was given showing that the deceased returned home from work on the night in question, and complained of pains in the chest. Medical aid was sought, but the man died before a doctor could be brought to see him. He had been drinking heavily while suffering from bronchitis.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Wednesbury Herald 19/1/1884

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquiry on Tuesday, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, respecting the death of a child named Samuel Morgan, aged five months, who was suddenly seized with convulsions, and died before medical aid could be obtained.

A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/1/1885

“On Saturday, Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at Wednesbury, at the OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, on the body of Ann Ray (82), of Dale Street. The evidence showed that, whilst alone in the house on the 14th inst, Mrs. Ray fell downstairs, receiving injuries to the head, which resulted in her death on the 21st. A verdict of Accidental Death 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.....”

1891 Census

4, Meeting Street – OLD ROYAL OAK

[1] John McNolty (48), public house manager, born Mayo, Ireland;

[2] Bridget McNolty (57), wife, born Mayo, Ireland;

[3] Catherine Smith (18), barmaid and domestic servant, born Bilston:

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.....

James Tate, ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.”

Wednesbury Herald 12/10/1895

“On Monday evening Mr. Edwin Hooper (district coroner) held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, concerning the death of Ann Gladys Stokes, aged five weeks, the daughter of George and Eliza Stokes, of 19, Meeting Street.

The deceased had been weakly from birth, and a fortnight ago Dr. Dingley, who attended her, gave the parents directions to send to his surgery for some medicine. They had neglected to carry out the doctor’s instructions, with the result that the child grew worse, and on the 5th inst it was found dead in the cradle. The parents afterwards applied to Dr. Dingley for a certificate, but he refused to give one, and directed them to communicate with the police. Jane Pixton, who stated that she was an uncertificated midwife, admitted that she advised the mother to send for a clergyman to baptise the child before sending for a surgeon.

The Coroner: And as a matter of fact no surgeon was sent for?

Witness: No, not that I know of.

In reply to further questions, it was decided that Mrs. Stokes was in a club, and upon the death of a baptized child she was entitled to receive 50s.

The Coroner strongly condemned the conduct of both Mrs. Stokes and also that of the midwife. Both women, he said, had disregarded the directions of the surgeon in neglecting to send for medicine, and the child was allowed to waste away and die. They, however, realised the importance of the child being baptised, in order to enable them to claim the club money. Mrs. Pixton had been a midwife 32 years, consequently she was very much to blame, and deserved to be placed on her trial for manslaughter. The mother was also very much to blame, and was really guilty of culpable negligence in not sending for the medicine. The public would not be surprised at the increase of infantile mortality when parents systematically neglected their children.

A juryman said he thought all midwives ought to be certificated before being allowed to follow their occupations. The Coroner said the question was one of importance, and he had long thought that only certificated midwives should be allowed to attend cases.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, accelerated by neglect and want of proper medical attention.

The Coroner severely censured Mrs. Stokes and Mrs. Pixton, and disallowed their expenses, remarking that both of them had narrowly escaped being committed for manslaughter.”

Walsall Observer 31/12/1898

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest on Wednesday, at the OLD ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, touching the death of Ethel Powell, aged seven years, residing in Dale Street, Wednesbury, who had died from burns. During the temporary absence of her mother on Christmas night, the deceased, at the request of her brother, got on to the top of a fire-guard to reach a candlestick. A strong wind caused the flames from the fire to reach her clothing, and she was quickly enveloped in flames. A neighbour named Martin heard the girl’s screams, and extinguished the flames; but not before the unfortunate girl had sustained terrible injuries, which caused her death on the 27th inst. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1899

“At the London Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, the first meeting of creditors was held before Mr. Pope, assistant receiver, under the failure of *J. J. Tate*, of Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi, Strand and of the Tivoli Restaurant, Strand, late of OLD ROYAL OAK, Wednesbury, and residing at Carlton Villa, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton. The debtor, who presented his own petition, states that for many years he travelled for his father, a wine and spirit merchant, of Wolverhampton. In February, 1896, he purchased as a going concern the Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi, for £1,800, of which £1,200 was borrowed from his father upon the mortgage of the lease of the hotel, and £1,000 from Messrs. Bass and Co., on the mortgage of the OLD ROYAL OAK, Wednesbury, the freehold of which had been given him by his father He states that the OLD ROYAL OAK is mortgaged for £4,750 in all to Lloyds Bank, and that the house is let on lease at a rental of £45 a year.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/10/1899

“This morning Mr. H. A. Pearson, coroner, held an inquest at the OLD ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Richard Townsend, aged two years and nine months, whose parents reside in King Street, who was run over and killed on Tuesday last. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1901 Census

Meeting Street – OLD ROYAL OAK TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Collins* (38), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Priscilla Collins* (35), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Thomas Collins* (15), son, ironworks labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *James S. Collins* (13), son, screw of iron pipes, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Samuel Collins* (11), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Annie Collins* (9), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *John Collins* (7), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Francis Collins* (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Agnes Collins* (6 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Mary Tonks* (18), domestic servant, born Parkgate, Yorkshire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1904

“Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

Eight licenses were objected to by the police.....

ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street.

In each instance a conviction was recorded against the house. License renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/4/1904 - Advert

"To Brewers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Victuallers and Others.

Important Sale of Old-Established Fully-Licensed Inn, at Wednesbury. Monday, April 25, 1904.

Belcher & Son, FAI, have received instructions from the Mortgagees to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, upon the above Date, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, to be then produced, in One Lot.

All that Old-established Full-Licensed Inn, known as the OLD ROYAL OAK INN, situate in Meeting Street, Wednesbury, containing Entrance Hall, capacious Vaults, two Smoke Rooms, capital Club Room, Sitting Room, six Bed Rooms, Kitchen, three Cellars, Rolling-in Way, Brewery with Room over, Shed, Piggery, Coalhouse, two Privies, paved Yard and Gateway Entrance, now let on lease to Mr. Edgar Evans, at a net annual rental of £45.

The Premises, which are situate in close proximity to large and important Works, are well and substantially built, and the Rooms are large and lofty.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. Edgar Evans, the Tenant, for possession to be given on completion of the purchase.

Further particulars, with lithographed plans, may be had on application to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston; or to Messrs. Wragge and Co., Solicitors, 4, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham."

Walsall Observer 25/2/1905

"At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *James Miller*, the licensee of the OLD ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, was charged with selling adulterated rum, whisky, and gin, on January 17th.

From the evidence brought forward by Mr. Harold Van Tromp, it appeared that an inspector purchased samples of the spirits, which, upon being analysed, were found to be beyond the statutory limit, as follows, rum, 6.9 per cent; whisky, 14.1 per cent; and gin, 20.0 percent. Mr. Van Tromp stated that those articles, thus adulterated, brought in large profits when sold in small quantities.

The defendant and his wife denied having added water to the spirits, and had sold them in the condition received from the wine merchants.

The Stipendiary said it was necessary to impose a severe penalty in order that people should have their liquors supplied to them in the proper strength. A fine of 40s and costs was imposed in each case."

Birmingham Mail 15/12/1905

"At Walsall today, John Thomas Howley, a respectably-dressed young man, whose address was given as the OLD ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for assaulting his wife, Mary Elizabeth Howley, of Kingsley Street, Pleck. It was stated that the parties had been married two years, but had never lived together. Defendant had allowed his wife 8s a week.

On Saturday night last she had been with some friends to Wednesbury, and was apparently followed about by her husband, as when she was returning home he made his appearance and struck her a violent blow on the nose. He afterwards took hold of her by the throat, twisted her arm until it was nearly broken, and eventually threw her on the ground and punched her so violently that she was found by her mother in a fainting condition covered with blood.

Complainant said her husband was sober at the time.

Defendant: I must have been, seeing that I have never tasted drink in my life.

Defendant's contention was that his wife had been to a dancing class against his wish, as he objected to dancing classes.

Defendant was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, without the option of a fine."

Walsall Observer 13/6/1908

"At the Stipendiary Court, at Wednesbury, on Tuesday, *Edward Timmins*, ROYAL OAK INN, Dale Street, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 22nd ult. Mr. A. J. Glover prosecuted and Mr. C. H. Darby defended.

Evidence was given for the prosecution to the effect that a man named Taylor visited the public house about seven o'clock in the morning, and was then quite sober. He was supplied with drink, and stayed for a short time. He was still sober when he left, but on returning after an interval of about half an hour his condition had altered, and *Phoebe Lowe*, the manageress, refused to supply him, and told him to leave. He did so, but came back, and remained on the premises about twenty minutes, during which time the manageress was endeavouring to induce him to go away

quietly again. Eventually he left the house, but fell down in the street, and was locked up by Police-sergeant Sims, who described his condition as one of helpless drunkenness.

The defence was that there had been no breach of the law, and Mr. Darby contended that the evidence clearly showed there had been no permission of drunkenness.

The Stipendiary, Mr. Neville, said the only point to be answered was whether a drunken man should have been allowed to stay on licensed premises for twenty minutes.

Mr. Darby urged that where there was no rowdy behaviour a licensee was entitled to a little latitude, and was justified in trying to get a drunken man to leave quietly, rather than by the application of force. He contended that the justice of the case would be met without a conviction.

The Stipendiary said he agreed up to a certain stage the conduct of the manageress was commendable. She, however, made a mistake in allowing a drunken man to stay on the premises for twenty minutes. Licensees must understand that they must not keep drunken men on their premises at all. The summons was dismissed on payment of £2 16s 6d costs."

1911 Census

4, Meeting Street

[1] William Henry James Jones (52), manager hotel, born West Bromwich;

[2] Sarah Jones (52), wife, married 28 years, assistant, born Wednesbury;

[3] Harry Jones (22), son, bridge erector, born Wednesbury;

[4] James Jones (20), son, bender of tube, born Wednesbury;

[5] William Jones (18), son, metal turner, nut and bolt works, born Wednesbury;

[6] Bertha Jones (16), daughter, apprentice tailoress, born Wednesbury;

[7] Clarence Jones (15), son apprentice hairdresser, born Wednesbury;

[8] Clifford Jones (13), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[9] Baden Jones (11), son, school, born Wednesbury:

William Henry James Jones – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen.

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/7/1913

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

John Cooksey, 39, furnaceman, was indicted for feloniously wounding Elizabeth Platt, at Wednesbury, on May 18, with intent to do her some grievous bodily harm. Mr. E. G. Carmichael prosecuted, and Mr Rochfort F. Blakiston defended at the request of the Judge.

Mr. Carmichael said that the prosecutrix was a married woman who had been living with prisoner for the last five years. On May 10 the parties quarrelled and the woman left her husband, going to live with her sister, Mrs. Hackett. On May 10 the parties quarrelled, and the woman left her husband, going to live with her sister, Mrs. Hackett. On May 18 prisoner went to the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, and saw the woman, who was talking to a friend. Saying, 'You are just the woman I want to see,' prisoner rushed at her and she felt something sharp pierce her shoulder. It was afterwards found that she had been stabbed in three places in the shoulder. She went into the smoke-room followed by prisoner, and a man named Jones took a knife from him. The prosecution alleged that on May 12, the day after the woman left him, the prisoner went to the house where she was staying and said he should not go away until he had seen her, and that when he did see her he should kill her.

Prosecutrix gave evidence in a low tone of voice, and the Judge threatened to disallow her expenses if she did not speak up. She asked prisoner after the affair what he had done it for, and he said he was sorry; he would not have had it happen for £1,000.

Dr. Garman, of Wednesbury, described the wounds, and said that one penetrated the fleshy part of the arm several inches.

Police-constable Hall said that when he went to the house prisoner said, 'It's me that has done it, but she has since forgiven me.' When charged, prisoner said, 'I can't say no more than it was jealousy and my seeing her with another man.'

By the Judge: Prisoner appeared to have had some beer.

Prisoner handed in a written statement, in which he said, 'I am very sorry it happened. I must have been off my head.'

Mr. Blakiston, for the defence, submitted that if the prisoner was in such a condition of drunkenness that he did not really realise the effect of what he did, it would be open to the jury to find a verdict of unlawful wounding. It was not a case where prisoner had shown any vindictive attitude towards the woman.

Prisoner was found guilty of wounding with intent.

His Lordship observed that the use of the knife was a wicked thing, and sentenced prisoner to 12 months' hard labour."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1914

"An inquest was held at Wednesbury yesterday on Edward Haire (45), Foster Street. Evidence was given that Haire had been a heavy drinker, and on Saturday night called at the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street. The licensee said deceased was sober when he left, but on getting out into the street Haire fainted and fell into the gutter. He was carried home, where he died shortly afterwards. Dr. Dingley attributed death to heart trouble, accelerated by alcoholism, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence."

1921 Census

4, Meeting Street

[1] Sarah Jones (62), widow, manageress public house, born Wednesbury;

[2] George Jones (37), son, electrician, armature winder, born Wednesbury;

[3] Harry Jones (32), son, plater, coach and waggon, out of work, born Wednesbury;

[4] James Jones (30), son, assisting mother, with business, born Wednesbury;

[5] Clifford Jones (23), son, driller and machinist, out of work, born Wednesbury;

[6] Baden Jones (21), son, driller and machinist, out of work, born Wednesbury;

South Staffordshire Times 3/2/1923

"Wednesbury Licensing Sessions....

All the licenses would be renewed except the ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, and TOWN HALL, Russell Street, both of which were referred for compensation on the ground of redundancy."

Walsall Observer 1/1/1938

"What was described as an 'ugly situation' was referred to at Wednesbury Police Court yesterday week when *James Jones* (47), licensee of the OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, was remanded for a fortnight on a charge of fraudulently converting to his own use £1 1s, the money of Samuel Holloway, of 72, Meeting Street. *Jones* was allowed bail, himself in £25 and one surety of £25.

Detective-sergeant Lockley stated that as a result of a number of complaints received at the police station, about 8-45pm on Wednesday, December 22nd, he visited the OLD ROYAL OAK, where a pay-out should have been held by the death and dividend society. There were about 100 people present and for a time the situation looked ugly. *Jones* was not there and could not be found. The following morning, the detective said he took possession of the books of the society and a warrant was issued. At 8-15pm on December 23, *Jones* went to the police station where he was told a warrant had been issued for his arrest. He made a statement and later he was cautioned and charged by Detective Bennett."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/1/1938

"Money belonging to a dividend club was the subject of a charge at Wednesbury yesterday against a local licensee. He was *James Jones*, aged 47, licensee of the OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, charged with stealing one guinea belonging to Samuel Holloway, of 72, Meeting Street. The charge, to which *Jones* pleaded not guilty, had been amended from one of fraudulent conversion on the suggestion of Mr. A. A. Millichip (defending). *Jones* was bound over for 12 months in the sum of £10, the Mayor (Councillor Charles Collins) observing that there should be more supervision over the accounts of such clubs in licensed houses.

Adam Fitzgerald, of 5, Park Street Terrace, Wednesbury, said that he was secretary of the OLD ROYAL OAK Death and Dividend Society. *Jones* was the treasurer and received the money each Saturday night. During the last year they had 197 members, and the dividend to be paid out on 22 December was a guinea per member. *Jones* was not there at the time of the pay-out, and could not be found. More than £221 should have been paid out, but no members were paid that day, and a complaint was made to the police. Afterwards he learned that *Jones* had gone to his brother's house at Coventry. In consequence of the Christmas rush *Jones* missed his train, and could not get back until the following Thursday. When he returned he found that proceedings had been taken, and went to the police

station. Unfortunately he was kept there, and could not then pay out. When he was released by the police the whole of the money was paid out.

Mr. Millichip: Did you ever think this man intended to take this money?

Mr. Fitzgerald: I don't think so. He has always been honest and fair while he has been licensee.

Det-Sergt Lockley said that he visited the public house at 8.45pm on 22 December and there saw about 100 people. On the following day *Jones* visited the police station and witness told him he had a warrant for his arrest. When cautioned *Jones* made a statement, which, it was alleged, read, 'Owing to the bad state of trade and illness, I was not able to meet my liabilities and pay out dividends due to members last night. I have used the money in small amounts from time to time, and I was about £137 short. The slum-clearance scheme has hit my business very hard indeed, but if given an opportunity I can meet my liabilities.'

Jones, in the witness box, affirmed that on the day of the intended pay-out he went to Coventry to get money from his brother. When he got back to Birmingham he missed his train connection, otherwise the moneys would have been paid out. 'It was never my intention to deprive anyone of the moneys due to them,' he said. After he had missed his train he spent the night at the Salvation Army hostel in Birmingham.

Supt. Hall: When you came back on the evening of the following day I suggest that you wanted enough to make up £137? – No, I didn't want any more.

Is it not a fact that since you have been bailed your good friends have come to your aid and helped you out of this difficulty? – Yes, my own family."

Walsall Observer 5/2/1938

"Wednesbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Police Superintendent J. H. Hall stated during the year the licensee of the ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street, was proceeded against, and was bound over in the sum of £10 He had served notice opposing the renewal of the license.....

The Mayor announced that all the licenses, including the two objected to by the Superintendent, would be renewed."

1939 Register

4, Meeting Street – OLD ROYAL OAK

[1] *James Jones*, date of birth 9/11/1890, millwright, machinery maintenance, married;

[2] *Louisa Jones*, dob 12/6/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Mollie (Jones) Lloyd*, dob 14/9/1923, clerk and typist, single;

[4] *Patricia (Jones) Garbett*, dob 23/7/1930, school, single:

Walsall Observer 9/9/1939

"Wednesbury's Raid Shelters.

Following is list of the air raid shelters which are now ready or will be available shortly, with the accommodation provided.....

ROYAL OAK INN, Meeting Street (75)."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1950/51], [1951/52]

Tipton Herald 8/10/1960

"Connected with the licensing trade in Dudley and Wednesbury districts for the last 20 years, Mrs. Millicent Elwell, wife of the licensee of the CROSS KEYS INN, New Rowley Road, Dudley, died in the Guest Hospital, on Monday. She was 55.

Mr. and Mrs. *Elwell* kept the NEW INNS in Flood Street, from 1940-44. Later they moved to the OLD ROYAL OAK, Wednesbury, where they stayed for four years, and then kept the WOODMAN INN, Lower Gornal for five years. They returned to Dudley in September 1957, to take charge of the CROSS KEYS, one of the newly built licensed premises in the town.

Mrs. *Elwell* had been a member of the ladies' section of the Licensed Victuallers Association in the Wednesbury, Wolverhampton and Dudley branches.

Married for 33 years, Mrs. *Elwell* leaves two daughters and two sons. A married daughter lives at Horseley Heath and a married son resides at Millfields, West Bromwich.

The funeral service took place at St. John's Parish Church, Kates Hill, on Thursday morning, followed by cremation at Perry Barr."

Birmingham Mail 14/10/1955

"There has always been keen rivalry between the neighbouring towns of Darlaston and Wednesbury. That competition is likely to be carried into the sporting world. Darlaston women's soccer team recently played in a match that attracted an attendance of some 3,000. Not to be outdone, Mrs. E. M. Warden, of Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, at once got to work to organise a similar team in Wednesbury. The response was surprising, and when the Mayor of Wednesbury (Alderman Arthur Bissell) was confronted with nine athletic young women, all keen on the idea, he readily gave them permission to use the Bilston Road playing fields for training purposes. Mr. J. Harris, of the OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, will be trainer to the team, who, by the way, are in urgent need of a goalkeeper, playing kit – and finance!"

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/3/1962 - Advert

"Carpet Sale. Damaged and Perfect Sale held at OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, Thursday, March 15, 11am to 4pm. Three hundred Carpets including well-known Axminster, all sizes, only slightly damaged by water, dealers not supplied, these Carpets must be sold, no reasonable offer refused, the entire stock to be sold regardless of cost....."

A team from here took part in the Butlers (Wolverhampton) Domino League. [1963/64]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/3/1970 - Advert

"Carpet Sale of misfit and reject carpets at OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, on Friday March 13, 1970, 5.30-7.30. This is a private sale, not by auction, these carpets are in beautiful colours and designs, not in correct pattern but the quality is there. Such as 3 x 2½, 3 x 3, 3½ x 3, 4 x 4, 5 x 4 and 6 x 4. We are making a special offer of 20 of these carpets having been made in wrong sizes in rich designs. They are suitable for dining rooms, sitting rooms, bedrooms, kitchens, etc, 6 x 4 yards and 5 x 4 yards carpets, 4 x 3 yards, £9 10/-; 3 yards x 2½ yards, £6 10/-. A free hearth rug with every large carpet.

B. Finney, 43, Samson Road, Birmingham."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/5/1973 - Advert

"Cleaner required, six mornings weekly.

Apply, OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury."

CLEANER required, six mornings weekly, Apply — Old Royal Oak, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/4/1974 - Advert

"Bar Staff required lunch times and evenings, learners considered.

Apply, OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury."

A team from here took part in the *Express and Star* Midland darts championship. [1974]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/10/1977

"Star Darts.....

The second annual Ludlow Open Fours is to be held in Ludlow on November 12.

Last year the tournament was won by the ROYAL OAK, Wednesbury."

A team from here took part in the Banks and Hansons seven-a-side darts tournament. [1978]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/12/1982 - Advert

"OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury.

John, Jenny and Family wish all customers and friends a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/3/1984

"Pool players in Sandwell pubs are being asked to join in a sponsored knockout competition to raise money for charity. Regulars from the OLD ROYAL OAK, in Meeting Street, Wednesbury, are organising the contest with a top prize of £50 and a holiday in Spain. Players in pub teams who compete in the West Bromwich pool league have the chance to enter and money raised will go towards cancer research and to help handicapped children in Wednesbury. Mrs. *Jennifer Flaherty*, licensee of the OLD ROYAL OAK, said that final arrangements for the competition were still to be made, but it was hoped that several hundred pounds could be raised."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/4/1984

“The first-round draw for a charity pool tournament to help a hospital and a Wednesbury school will be held on May 10. About 400 amateur players are expected to compete for the first prize of a week’s holiday for two in Spain, plus £50 cash and a trophy. Mr. Kenneth Follows of Viking Joinery is sponsoring the event so that all the money raised can go to Glenvale School, Wednesbury, and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. The organiser, Mr. John Flaherty, said the draw would take place at the OLD ROYAL OAK pub in Meeting Street, Wednesbury, at 8pm on May 10. First-round matches will be played on May 17.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/12/1985 - Advert

“OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury, from John and *Jenny*.

To all our Customers, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a Very Prosperous New Year.”

Sandwell Chronicle 1/11/1996 - Advert

“OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury. 0121-556 4417.

Tuesday 5th November Bonfire Party. Bonfire, Fireworks and BBQ. Everyone Welcome.
Weekly Events.

Tuesday Pool Competition. £1 entry, free Hot Dogs. 9pm-11pm.

Thursday Quiz Night. Teams of Four, £2 per team. 9pm-10.30pm.

Friday Topless Barmaids. 1pm-2pm; 9pm-11pm.

Saturday Reggae and Soul Disco. 7pm-11pm.

Bar Snacks Served All Day, Every Day.

Children’s Room, Play Area, Pool and Darts.”

Sandwell Chronicle 15/11/1996 - Advert

“OLD ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, Wednesbury. 0121-556 4417.

Sunday 17th November Eddie Black, Live Vocalist. 8pm-10.30pm. Free Admission.

Saturday 23rd November Sheryl, Live Vocalist. 8pm-11pm. Free Admission.

Tuesday 26th November Gentleman’s Evening. Phone for Ticket Details. (Everybody welcome; Ladies Night to follow).

Every Friday Topless Barmaids. 3.30-4.30pm; 9pm-11pm.

Mon-Sat Lunchtimes Caribbean Style Buffet. 12pm-2pm. £3.50 per person. Eat as much as you like.”

Closed

It reopened in December 2009.

It was renamed THE OAK. [2022]

[2025]



2013



2025

ROYAL OAK PUBLIC HOUSE,

MEETING-STREET, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET or SOLD, with immediate possession, the above-named old established Public House, with Brewhouse, convenient Outbuildings, Yard, Garden, &c. If let, rent moderate. The house is situate in an improving neighbourhood, and near to extensive Iron Works and Collieries. The present proprietor is leaving entirely on account of other engagements.

The Stock, Brewing Vessels, Iron-bound Casks, and other articles used in the Public Business, with or without part of the Household Furniture, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to the Landlord, on the premises, or to D. Taylor, Auctioneer, &c. Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

1836

PUBLIC NOTICE.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE CHARTER MASTERS' BENEFIT AND PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

THE Members of the above Association are hereby informed that at a General Meeting, held at the Royal Oak Inn, Old Meeting Street, Wednesbury, on MONDAY, March 7, 1864—

It was unanimously Resolved—

"That on and after Monday, March 14, 1864, Charter Masters require and obtain a Certificate of Character from every Servant before giving employment, and grant them the same when honourably discharged."

The Co-operation of all Mine Agents and Charter Masters is respectfully invited.

By order of the Committee.

J. THOMAS, Secretary.

Willenhall,

1864

WEDNESBURY WAKES,

MONDAY and TUESDAY, 7th and 8th September.

GRAND BRASS BAND CONTEST AND FETES.

THE GROUND for three Refreshment Booths will be offered for SALE by AUCTION, at the Royal Oak, Meeting Street, on FRIDAY EVENING NEXT, the 28th instant, at 7 30 p.m.

1868

IMPORTANT CLEARING-OUT SALE,

At the ROYAL OAK INN, MEETING STREET, WEDNESBURY.

BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, TO-MORROW (TUESDAY), at 11—the BREWING VESSELS, Portion of the FURNITURE, capital iron Safe, &c., &c., comprising Sussex and Worcester Hops, Malt Crusher, Bushel Measure, 20-bushel Mash Tub, twenty well-bound English oak Ale Casks, forty Brewers' Casks, Tubs, neat, well-built Gig; iron Pumps, lead Piping, a 220-gallon Copper Boiler, Stuffed Birds, Tables, Chairs, Bedsteads, Fire-proof SAFE, 28in. by 22in. by 22in., with "Cotterell's Climax Lock;" massive four-post Bedsteads, with O G Cornice, &c.; iron Bedsteads, prime Feather Bed, quantity of curled Horse Hair, Crockery Ware, Glass, and numerous other Effects, which will be Sold without reserve.

1870

IN LIQUIDATION.—RE FRANCIS LLOYD.

ROYAL OAK INN,

MEETING STREET, WEDNESBURY.

MR. EDWARD ELLIS has received instructions from the Trustee under the above Estate, to Sell by Auction, THIS DAY, April 20—The HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects, including the Licences, Public-house Fixtures, part of the Brewing Plant, and other Trade Requisites.

Sale to commence at 10 o'clock prompt.

Auctioneer's Office, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

1876

TO BREWERS, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, VICTUALLERS, AND OTHERS.

IMPORTANT SALE OF

OLD-ESTABLISHED FULL-LICENSED INN, AT WEDNESBURY.

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1904.

BELCHER & SON, F.A.I., have received instructions from the Mortgagees to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, upon the above Date, at the Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, to be then produced, in One Lot—all that Old-established FULL-LICENSED INN, known as

"THE OLD ROYAL OAK INN,"

Situate in Meeting Street, Wednesbury, containing Entrance Hall, capacious Vault, two Smoke Rooms, capital Club Room, Sitting Room, six Bed Rooms, Kitchen, three Cellars, Backing-in Way, Brewery with Room over, Shed, Figgery, Comminous, two Privies, paved Yard and Gateway Entrance, now let on lease to Mr. Edgar Evans, at a net annual rental of £45.

The Premises, which are situate in close proximity to large and important Works, are well and substantially built, and the Rooms are large and lofty.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. Edgar Evans, the Tenant, for possession to be given on completion of the purchase.

Further particulars, with lithographed plans, may be had on application to the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston; or to Messrs. Wragge and Co., Solicitors, 4, Bennett's Hill, Birmingham.

1904

OLD ROYAL OAK

Meeting Street,

Wednesbury

JOHN, JENNY AND FAMILY

wish all customers and friends a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

1982

OLD ROYAL OAK

Meeting street, Wednesbury

from JOHN and JENNY

To all our Customers, we wish you a Happy Christmas and a Very Prosperous New Year.



1985

OLD ROYAL OAK

Meeting Street, Wednesbury
0121-556 4417



TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER- BONFIRE PARTY
Bonfire, Fireworks and BBQ, Everyone Welcome

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday - Pool Competition - £1 entry, free Hot dogs 9 pm-11 pm
Thursday - Quiz Night - Teams of Four - £2 per team 9 pm-10.30 pm
Friday - Topless Barmaids - 1 pm-2pm; 9 pm-11 pm
Saturday - Reggae and Soul Disco - 7 pm-11 pm
Bar Snacks Served All Day, Every Day
Childrens Room, Play Area, Pool and Darts

OLD ROYAL OAK

Meeting Street, Wednesbury
0121-556 4417



Sunday 17th November Eddie Black - Live Vocalist
8 pm-10.30 pm Free Admission
Saturday 23rd November Sheryl - Live Vocalist
8 pm-11 pm Free Admission
Tuesday 26th November Gentleman's Evening (Phone for
Ticket Details (Everybody welcome - Ladies Night to follow)
Every Friday Topless Barmaids
3.30-4.30 pm; 9 pm-11 pm
Mon-Sat Lunchtimes
Caribbean Style Buffet
12 pm-2 pm £3.50 per person "Eat As Much As You Like"

PACK HORSE

13, (Lower) Dudley Street / St. James Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1891], [1921]

LICENSEES

Moses Houghton Howl [1841] – [1851]
Mrs. Mary Howl [1860] – **1870**;
Thomas Howl (**1870** – [1873]
Mrs. Rosannah Howl [1881]
William Edward/Edwin Jones [1890] – [1891]
Mrs. Augusta Jones [1892] – [1896]
Henry E Chamberlain [] – **1899**;
James Roberts (**1899** – [1916]
Mrs. Fanny Florence (Coates) Banks [1919] – [1943]



Ex-pub

NOTES

NEW PACK HORSE [1911], [1916], [1920], [1940], [1943], [1946]

Moses Houghton Howl = Moses Horton Howl = Moses Houghton Howell

1841 Census

Dudley Street

- [1] *Moses Howl* (40), victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Mary Howl* (35), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Thomas Howl* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Mary Howl* (14), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Edward Howl* (11), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Martha Howl* (9), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Elizabeth Howl* (7), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *Sarah Howl* (5), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *Deborah Howl* (8 months), born Staffordshire;
- [10] *Sarah Hale* (15), servant, born Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/4/1847

“On Wednesday last, at the PACK [sic] INN, Wednesbury, an inquest was held on the body of Peter Price, aged 69 years. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased was found bleeding at one of Messrs. Adams’ and Richards’ coke hearths, situated in Dudley Street, Wednesbury, on Tuesday afternoon, when he was removed to the PACK HORSE INN, and Mr. Russell, surgeon, was called in to the deceased, whom he found in a very dangerous state, being quite insensible; but after administering some restorative, he revived for a time, when Mr. Russell went to prepare some medicine for him, but he died before it could be given to him. It further appeared that the deceased had been affected with a disease of the heart for the last two years and a half, and had gone begging about the country, and at night sleeping in the open air, or outbuildings. The opinion of Mr. Russell was that the deceased had died from a disease of the heart. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/10/1847

“The following inquests have been held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner.....

On Monday, the 11th instant, at the PACK HORSE INN, Wednesbury, on view of the body of William Holland, aged 65, who was found lying on the floor in his dwelling-house, and shortly afterwards suddenly died. It was proved that the deceased had a cancer in his head, and the jury found a verdict that the deceased died suddenly, and that his death was caused by a cancer in his head.”

1851 Census

Dudley Street

- [1] Moses H. Howl (50), victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Mary Howl (44), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Thomas Howl (25), son, agricultural labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary Howl (23), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Edward Howl (20), son, warehouse man, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Martha Howl (18), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [7] Elizabeth Howl (16), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Sarah Howl (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Deborah Howl (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Emma Howl (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [11] Alice Howl (3), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Moses Haughton Howl died on 13th February 1855.

Mary Howl = Mary Howle

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/4/1860 - Deaths

“On the 5th instant, aged 26 years, Betsey, wife of Mr. William Perry, of Marlborough Place, Wednesbury, and second daughter of the late Mr. *Moses Howl*, much respected by a large circle of friends.”

1861 Census

Dudley Street – PACK HORSE INN

- [1] Mary Howl (54), widow, victualler, born Sedgley;
- [2] Thomas Howl (34), son, carter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Edward Howl (31), son, barman, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Deborah Howl (20), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Emma Howl (18), daughter, general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Alice Howl (12), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1863

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, Edward Mansfield was charged with being drunk and disorderly, at the house of Mrs. *Howle*, the PACK HORSE INN, Lee Brook. From the evidence of Edward Howle, a son of the complainant, it appeared that on Monday, the second of February, the defendant entered his mother’s house much the worse for drink, went into the room in which she was sitting, and behaved in a very violent and abusive manner. He was turned into the street, but subsequently returned, and beat in the panels of the front door. Witness’s mother was so frightened by the defendant’s conduct that she had to obtain medical assistance. Fined 5s and costs.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/2/1863

"Richard Mansforth, an elderly man, was charged with refusing to leave the PACK HORSE INN, Wednesbury, when requested, and behaving disorderly. Mr. Bayley prosecuted.

Mr. *Howl* proved that on the 3rd instant the defendant came into their house and began to complain about the rooms, saying there was not a room there fit for a gentleman to sit in. He then abused Mrs. *Howl* and cursed and swore at witness. With the assistance of some men witness ejected him from the house. In about ten minutes after he returned and split a panel of the door with his foot. He came to Mrs. *Howl* and struck at her with the poker, but she avoided the blow. The shock had so affected Mrs. *Howl* that Mr. Garman, surgeon, had to attend her. Witness said that Mansforth was the worse for liquor at the time.

The defendant expressed sorrow for his conduct, and the bench fined him the nominal sum of 5s and costs."

Thomas Howl married *Rosanna* Smith in the 3rd quarter of 1866.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/6/1869

"Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, at the PACK HORSE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, on the body of a child named Catherine Rowen, aged two years and nine months, daughter of Frederick Rowen, shoemaker, of the same street. The evidence showed that about a fortnight ago the child was sitting in a chair, when she fell against the fire-grate, and burnt herself severely. Mr. D. L. Mills, assistant to Mr. Garman, was called in just before death. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased Died from the Visitation of God, she having continued ill since the accident occurred."

Mary Howl died in the 1st quarter of 1870.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/7/1871 - Advert

"Staffordshire. Freehold Dwelling Houses and very Eligible Building Land, situate in Dudley Street, in the Town of Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Powell and Son (by order of the Trustees under the will of the late Mrs. *Mary Howl*), on Tuesday, the 11th day of July inst.....

Lot 1. All those Two Messuages or Dwelling Houses, occupied by George Bott and Benjamin Grove, being Nos.1 and 2, situate in Dudley Street and at the corner of Portway Road, with the Yards, Stables, and other Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, producing a rental of £26 per annum.

The Property has a frontage of 9½ yards to Dudley Street, and a frontage of 28 yards 2 feet 9 inches to Portway Road, also a frontage of 20 yards to a road at the end leading into Court No.1, and contains an area, including the site of the Buildings, of 423½ square yards.

Lot 2. A very desirable Corner Plot of Building Land, eligible for business purposes, having a frontage of 17½ yards to Dudley Street, and a frontage of 21 yards 1 foot 9 inches to Stafford Street, also a frontage of 19½ yards to Albert Street, and containing 548 square yards, or thereabouts.

This Land is situate in a very populous and increasing district, and is near to various extensive works, and to the Railway Stations. The three Streets are all curbed and channelled, and the Land presents a very eligible site for business purposes."

1871 Census

13, Dudley Street

[1] *Thomas Howl* (45), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Rosannah Howl* (46), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Moses Howl* (23), son, waggoner, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Mary Howl* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Emma Howl* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Edward Howl* (3), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

STAFFORDSHIRE. FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES AND VERY ELIGIBLE BUILDING LAND,

Situate in DUDLEY STREET, in the Town of Wednesbury.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY Messrs. POWELL and SON (by order of the Trustees under the will of the late Mrs. *Mary Howl*), on TUESDAY, the 11th day of July inst., at the Dartmouth Arms Inn, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.

LOT 1.—All those Two MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, occupied by George Bott and Benjamin Grove, being Nos. 1 and 2, situate in Dudley Street and at the corner of Portway Road, in the town of Wednesbury, with the Yards, Stables, and other Outbuildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, producing a rental of £26 per annum.

The Property has a frontage of 9½ yards to Dudley Street, and a frontage of 28 yards 2 feet 9 inches to Portway Road, also a frontage of 20 yards to a road at the end leading into Court No. 1, and contains an area, including the site of the Buildings, of 423½ square yards.

LOT 2.—A very desirable Corner Plot of BUILDING LAND, eligible for business purposes, having a frontage of 17½ yards to Dudley Street aforesaid, and a frontage of 21 yards 1 foot 9 inches to Stafford Street, also a frontage of 19½ yards to Albert Street, and containing 548 square yards, or thereabouts.

This Land is situate in a very populous and increasing district, and is near to various extensive works, and to the Railway Stations. The three Streets are all curbed and channelled, and the Land presents a very eligible site for business purposes.

Further particulars may be had on application to Messrs. Colclitt and Canning, Solicitors, Dudley, or the Auctioneers, Tipton.

Walsall Observer 20/2/1875

"On the 12th inst, at the PACK HORSE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, Mr. Hooper held an inquest on the body of Margaret Joyce (36), wife of Patrick Joyce, No.1 Court, Dudley Street. It appeared that deceased was taken in labour on Sunday, and was attended by a midwife from eight o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon, when Dr. Blackwood was called in. The deceased was then in an exhausted state, and soon after the birth of a still-born child she expired. Dr. Blackwood gave a certificate which was not satisfactory to the registrar, and hence the inquiry. The jury found that the deceased died from exhaustion during confinement."

Thomas Howl died in the 1st quarter of 1879.

1881 Census

13, Dudley Street – PACK HORSE INN

- [1] Rosehannah Howl (56), widow, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Emma Howl (16), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Edward Howl (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Alice Howl (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] John Nutt (21), boarder, wheelwright, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Mary Nutt (19), boarder, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 16/11/1883 - Advert

"PACK HORSE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

The Lease and Possession of this genuine well-frequented Old-licensed Inn, free home-brewing, with handsomely fitted up liquor vault, smoke room, parlour, kitchen, brewhouse, capital cellars, stabling, &c. Brewing every week, and doing a good business.

E. B. Scholefield, Hotel and Publicans Valuer, Church Street, Wednesbury."

PACKHORSE Inn, Dadley Street, Wednesbury.—The Lease and Possession of this genuine well-frequented Old-licensed Inn, free home brewing, with handsomely fitted up liquor vault, smoke room, parlour, kitchen, brewhouse, capital cellars, stabling, &c. Brewing every week, and doing a good business.—E. B. Scholefield, Hotel and Publicans' Valuer, Church Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1890

"At Wolverhampton Police Court, yesterday, John Ratchford, employed on the fairground, Wednesbury, and living in Canal Street, Wolverhampton, was charged with assaulting *William Edward Jones*, landlord of the PACK HORSE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, on Wake Sunday. Mr. Willcock defended.

On the date named prisoner was drinking at the PACK HORSE, and on becoming disorderly was ordered out by the landlady. Prosecutor went outside to get them to go away peaceably, when, it was alleged, prisoner struck him in the face, knocking him down and rendering him insensible.

For the defence it was contended that it was a case of mistaken identity, and that the person who knocked prosecutor down was a man named Durken.

The Stipendiary remarked that prisoner was a very bad character, and had 'a terribly long list' against him. A fine was imposed of 40s and costs, or one month's imprisonment."

1891 Census

13, Dudley Street – PACK HORSE INN

- [1] *William E. Jones* (37), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Augusta Jones* (38), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Gertrude Jones (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Thomas Jones (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Annie A. Jones (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Millicent A. Jones (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Elizabeth Jones (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Harold Jones (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Sarah Davies (16), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 23/9/1891

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *William Edwin Jones*, the PACKHORSE INN, Dudley Street, was summoned for supplying drink to John Ruff, draper, Milton Street, Birmingham, whilst the latter was drunk. Mr. Willcock, Wolverhampton, defended.

Police-constable Barrow deposed to finding Ruff so helplessly drunk in the defendant's house that the services of five or six persons were needed to get him to the police station.

Other witnesses said Ruff had three drinks in the house.

The defence was that Ruff had but one glass of drink – port wine and brandy – in the house, and Ruff himself said that so far as his memory went that was correct; but he admitted that he knew nothing whatever of anything that occurred until he awoke at four o'clock in the morning in the police cells and heard the church clock strike.

A fine of 10s and costs, or fourteen days imprisonment, was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

William Edwin Jones, the PACKHORSE INN, Wednesbury, applied for a renewal of his license, against which there was an objection on the ground of permitting drunkenness. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the applicant. Mr. Lawrence, for Mr. Butler, Wolverhampton, the owner, said that notice had been given to the applicant *William Edward Jones*, granted, subject to transfer to Butler and Co, Wolverhampton.”

1901 Census

13, Dudley Street

- [1] *James Roberts* (68), licensed victualler, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Esther Roberts* (57), wife, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [3] *William Roberts* (28), son, plate shearer, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [4] *Florence Roberts* (23), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Rosannah Woolgar* (16), domestic servant, born Manchester;
- [6] *Elizabeth Martin* (68), visitor, widow, born Oldbury;

1911 Census

13, Lower Dudley Street

- [1] *James Roberts* (77), licensed victualler, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Esther Roberts* (67), wife, married 47 years, assisting in the business, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Florence Roberts* (33), daughter, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 14/6/1916

“*James Roberts* (81), licensee of the NEW PACK HORSE, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was proceeded against under the Liquor Control Regulations at Wednesbury yesterday. He was summoned for supplying port wine during prohibited hours, and with permitting it to be consumed on his premises. Summonses for consuming port wine during prohibited hours had been issued against *William Wilson Hall* (45), Windmill Street, and *Rosannah Partridge* (36), Albert Street.

Police-sergeant Harris said Miss Roberts, daughter of the defendant, who was in charge of the house, told him it was only cheap port wine, for which she charged threepence per glass. She thought it was allowed. It was Tarragona port, which cost 1s 4d per quart bottle. She said she never sold best port during closing hours.

For the defence Mr. J. S. Sharpe submitted that Miss Roberts had made a genuine mistake. The percentage of alcohol in this kind of port was very small. The two customers asked for dry gingers, but she had none in stock, and so supplied the port.

The Stipendiary thought a mistake had been made, and dismissed the summonses on payment of costs, together with £3 3s special costs.”

Fanny S. F. Roberts married *Thomas W. Coates* in the 1st quarter of 1917.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/12/1919

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, several prosecutions were taken at the instance of the Ministry of Food against publicans for charging more than the maximum price for spirits in a public bar.....

Florence Coates, PACK HORSE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was fined £5 in each of two cases, with £3 3s special costs.”

South Staffordshire Times 6/3/1920

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The PACK HORSE.

Mrs. *Fanny Florence Coates* was the next case, her license being objected to on similar grounds, namely, selling spirits at prices beyond the Order. The house is situated in Dudley Street.

Mr. J. A. Sharpe defended, and stated that applicant had held the license for some time past, and her father held it for many years previous.

Mr. Sharpe related that two inspectors came into the public bar, ordered spirits and were charged 7d each, it being thought that they were ‘respectable smoke-room customers’ but they ‘did not turn out to be so respectable.’ The charge in the bar should be 6d.....

The magistrates retired to consider their decision in all the forgoing cases.

The Chairman subsequently announced the licenses of PACK HORSE INN would all be renewed.”

1921 Census

13, Dudley Street

[1] *Florence Coates* (44), married, publican, manageress, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Thomas Coates* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Esther Roberts* (77), mother, widow, home duties, born Dawley, Shropshire:

1939 Register

13, Lower Dudley Street

[1] *Fanny F. (Coates) Banks*, date of birth 8/4/1877, unpaid domestic duties and managing public house, married;

[2] *Thomas W. Coates*, dob 15/2/1865, assists in above, married:

Florence Coates was president of the Ladies Auxiliary League. [1943]

Florence Coates married *William Banks* in October 1943.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1948], [1949].

Closed

‘Wednesbury Revisited’ by Ian M. Bott

“The Armourite Metal Company produced copper jugs, posthorns and coaching lamps from 1960 until demolition in the 1980s at the former NEW PACK HORSE INN, Dudley Street, which was built in 1837.”

PARK

78, Walsall Street / Oakeswell Street, (55, Oakeswell End), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Frederick John Haskew, George Whitwell and Thomas Hand, maltsters, Stourbridge. (until 23rd March 1901)
Cheshire's Brewery (acquired on 23rd March 1901)
Thomas Purslow, baker and confectioner (acquired in 1920)
Charles Archie Clarke, Darlaston (acquired in 1944)
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1921], [1965]
Stuart and Carol James (acquired in 1996) [1999]

LICENSEES

William Stevenson [] – **1870**);
William P Barnett (**1870 – 1872**);
John Strawbridge (**1872 – []**)
Joseph Darlington [1880] – [1881]
Thomas Gorton [1888] – [1896]
Mrs. Sarah Ann Price (**1901 – []**)
Benjamin Paul Ludlow [1901] – **1905**);
George H Keeley [1904] manager?
Walter Adams (**1905 – [1912]**)
Harry Bailey [1916]
Ernest Higgins [1921]
Brendel Anstey [1932] – [1933]
William Cassidy [1939] – [1940]
George Henry Green [1961] – [1966]
Benjamin Morgan [1978]
Denis Westwood [1983] – [1984]
Stuart James (**1996 – [2007]**)

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Black Country Bugle 8/4/1999 - Pub of the Month

“Like so many Black Country pubs, the PARK INN, on Wednesbury's Walsall Street, is an old establishment with a long and varied history. Unlike many of those pubs, the PARK INN's well-documented past has survived, in the form of a bundle of old papers and deeds, which date back as far as the 1850s.

Current owners *Stuart* and *Carol James* have a boxful of printed and handwritten papers dating back to the turn of the century, and are in the process of acquiring some of the documents from the time, in the middle of the last century, when their now thriving pub was a humble confectionery store. ‘It opened as the STOCKPORT ARMS,’ *Stuart* told the Bugle, ‘and we think it was changed to the PARK INN very early this century, when Wednesbury Park was officially opened. All of these documents had been left with the solicitors over the years, and we were given them when we bought the pub.’

.....In 1920 a baker and confectioner, Mr. Thomas Purslow, took out a mortgage on the pub and the seven accompanying houses in the adjacent Oakeswell Street. Another document, dated May 1944, shows Mr. T. Purslow and business partner Mrs. Hilda Louisa Williams selling the pub and its accompanying buildings to Charles Archie Clarke, of 91 Pinfold Street, Darlaston, for the bargain price of £1,600.”



1965



2008

1871 Census

55, Oakswell End – STOCKPORT ARMS

- [1] William P. Barnett (42), assurance agent, born Stockport, Cheshire;
- [2] Harriet Barnett (43), wife, born Marple, Cheshire;
- [3] Mary Barnett (18), daughter, housekeeper, born Stockport, Cheshire;
- [4] John Barnett (13), son, agent's assistant, born Heaton Morris, Lancashire;

Birmingham Daily Post 16/6/1871 - Advert

"To be Let, with immediate possession, a First-rate Beerhouse, where two good Lodges are held, and otherwise doing a good Business, in a public thoroughfare. Other engagements the sole cause for leaving. In-coming low. Address, *W. P. Barnett*, STOCKPORT ARMS, Wednesbury."

TO be LET, with immediate possession, a First-rate BEERHOUSE, where two good Lodges are held, and otherwise doing a good Business, in a public thoroughfare. Other engagements the sole cause for leaving. In-coming low.—Address, *W. P. Barnett*, Stockport Arms, Wednesbury.

Joseph Darlington, beer retailer, Oakeswell End. [1880]

1881 Census

Oakswell End – STOCKPORT ARMS

- [1] *Joseph Darlington* (53), engine driver and publican, born Walsall;
- [2] Sarah Darlington (48), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] Henry Lort (33), son-in-law, gas fitting server, born Walsall;
- [4] Ann Lort (29), daughter, born Cannock;
- [5] Sarah Lort (8), grand-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Samuel Henry Lort (5), grand-son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Florance Lort (3), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Sarah Ann James (15), niece, born Walsall;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/11/1881

"A petition has been filed in the Walsall County Court on behalf of *Joseph Darlington*, of the STOCKPORT ARMS, Oakswell End, Wednesbury, beerhouse keeper and engineer. The liabilities are estimated at £500; assets not yet ascertained. Mr. J. E. Sheldon, Wednesbury, is the solicitor acting in the matter."

Liverpool Mercury 3/12/1881

"From the *London Gazette* of last night Petitions for Liquidation by Arrangement.....

Joseph Darlington, of the STOCKPORT ARMS, Oaks Well End, Wednesbury, beerhouse keeper and engineer."

1891 Census

Oakeswell End – PARK INN

- [1] *Thomas Gorton* (33), beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Mary Gorton (34), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Samuel Gorton (12), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Ellen Gorton (7), daughter, scholar, born New South Wales, Australia;
- [5] Alice Gorton (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Thomas Gorton (2), son, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/11/1895

"At Wednesbury Borough Police Court yesterday the magistrates were occupied for a considerable time in hearing a number of cases of betting on licensed premises.....

Thomas Gorton, landlord of the PARK INN, Oakeswell End, was charged with three offences alleged to have been committed on October 8, 9, and 11. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. Alfred Young (instructed by Mr. J. G. Thursfield) defended.

For the prosecution it was shown that on the 8th ult 24 men and boys and four women went on to the defendant's premises, and having consulted a sporting newspaper gave slips of paper and in some instances money. On the other two dates, the house was visited by a large number of persons, and offences were committed with the full knowledge of the defendant. Mr. Sharpe explained that proceedings had been instituted under the Licensing Act, and defendant had rendered himself liable to a heavy penalty in each case.

Mr. Alfred Young said he was not in a position to rebut the evidence for the prosecution, as the only witness he could call was the defendant. It was only fair that he should state that the defendant had kept the house nine years, during which period no complaint had been made with respect to his conduct. Under the circumstances he trusted the magistrates would deal leniently with the defendant, as he would never allow any further irregularities.

Mr. Sharpe said as the defendant had admitted the offences, and had apologised for the irregularities, he would not press for the maximum penalties.

The magistrates said publicans well knew that it was wrong to permit betting on their licensed premises, and that being so, defendant would be fined £10 and costs for the first offence, and £5 and costs for each of the other offences. The total amount of the fines and costs was £25 5s."

Thomas Gorton, beer retailer, 55 Oakeswell End. [1896]

Thomas Gorton – see also MARKET HOUSE.

Mary Gorton – see CROSS KEYS.

1901 Census

Walsall Street

- [1] *Benjamin P. Ludlow* (41), retail brewer, born Walsall;
- [2] *Elizabeth R. Ludlow* (45), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Benjamin P. Ludlow* (15), son, learner, steel coach spring, born Walsall;
- [4] *Elizabeth R. Ludlow* (14), daughter, milliner's apprentice, born Walsall;
- [5] *George R. Ludlow* (13), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] *Ernest F. Ludlow* (11), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Roland P. Ludlow* (9), son, born Walsall;
- [8] *Louie Ludlow* (6), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Sarah A. Whitton* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Benjamin Ludlow – see also UNICORN, Bell Street, Darlaston.

George H. Keeley, PARK, Walsall Street. [1904]

Wednesbury Leader 21/9/1906

"On Wake Monday the last fly of the season took place in connection with the Oakeswell End Homing Society, the place chosen being Fairford, the club house, the PARK INN, being the headquarters, and Mr. *W. Adams*, the host, being in charge of the arrangements. Twenty-one members took part, and the fly was perfectly satisfactory, good form being shown by some of the birds....."

1911 Census

78, Walsall Street

- [1] *Walter Adams* (40), beerhouse keeper, born Harts Hill;
- [2] *Eliza Louise Adams* (40), wife, married 14 years, born Walsall Wood;
- [3] *Lavina Yates* (17), domestic servant, born Bloxwich;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/11/1912 - Advert

"Wanted, strong Girl, about 16.
Apply, *Adams*, PARK INN, Wednesbury."

WANTED. strong Girl, about 16.—Apply,
Adams, Park Inn, Wednesbury.

1921 Census

Walsall Street – PARK INN

- [1] *Ernest Higgins* (33), manager, public house, born Walsall;
- [2] *Laura Higgins* (37), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;

Evening Despatch 9/12/1933

“*Brendel Anstey*, the old Aston Villa goalkeeper, died this morning at his home at PARK INN, Wednesbury. He joined the Villa on 10 February, 1911, from Bristol Rovers, and played for Villa, either in the first eleven or the Central League side up to the 1914-18 season. After the war he made four more appearances for Villa.”

Dudley Chronicle 21/12/1933 - Thanks

“Mrs. *B. Anstey*, PARK INN, Wednesbury, wishes to thank relatives, friends and customers for the kind expressions of sympathy tendered to her in her bereavement, Mitchells and Butlers Limited, for their kind consideration, and for the many floral tributes sent, including one from the Aston Villa directors.”

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.”

1939 Register

78, Walsall Street (2 of 4)

[1] *William Cassidy*, date of birth 21/8/1908, manager, licensed beerhouse, married;

[2] *Rosannah Cassidy*, dob 10/2/1909, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

PARK INN, Wednesbury, 11s.”

Local boxers trained here in the 1940s.

1979 Probate

“*Benjamin Morgan* of the PARK INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, West Midlands, died 2 November 1978. Probate Birmingham 19 October. Effects £8,055.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1982

“Fourteen Wednesbury pubs have failed in a bid to cash in on the Bank Holiday beer trade by applying for license extensions. West Bromwich magistrates refused to allow an extra hour’s drinking time on August Bank Holiday

The 14 pubs which have been denied the extra hour’s drinking are.....

PARK INN, Walsall Road, Wednesbury.”

London Gazette 27/3/1984

“*Denis Westwood*, unemployed formerly carrying on business as the Tenant Publican at the PARK INN, Walsall Street Date of Filing Petition – 19th March 1984.”

Stuart James was married to Carol.

Black Country Bugle 8/4/1999 - Pub of the Month

“PARK INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.....

‘In 1996 the PARK INN had been closed for about nine months; we thought we’d give it a go, and we bought it freehold,’ said *Stuart*.

Stuart, who hails originally from West Bromwich, and Carol, who is Wednesbury born and bred, have now lived and worked in the pub for the last three years, along with their children Georgina, four, and Samantha, aged three; keeping watch for them are faithful hounds Rosie and Charlie.

Since moving in the *James*’s have thrown themselves whole-heartedly into bringing the pub up to date, making it as comfortable and entertaining as possible. The couple have taken the time to seek out old photographs of the pub. One of those shows the PARK INN in 1965, in its days as an M&B outlet. Built on to the side of the pub back then was a small shop, and further to the left is the old Wednesbury Co-op. Both buildings have since been demolished, and the pub now stands alone.

But for those who are more interested in the here and now, there are big screens in the games room and in the lounge, offering sports, music and entertainment. There is also a popular karaoke every Saturday night, and *Stuart* and Carol’s full entertainments license also allows them to put on live acts, who appear on a Sunday afternoon, but they are planning to extend their range of attractions even further. ‘We’ll hopefully be doing food by September,’ said Carol. ‘The idea is to offer meals during the day time, using the kitchen at the back of the pub, which used to be part of No.1 Oakeswell Street; one of the houses that belonged to the pub in the old days.’

George is the pub ghost; he’s an ex-landlord who had a heart attack in the cellar. Quite a few people have seen him in the cellar, and he’s been spotted sitting in the corner in his flat cap.....”

A football team from here took part in the Black Country Alliance Premier Division. [1996/7]

Black Country Bugle 19/11/1998 - Advert

“Carol and *Stuart* welcome customers old and new to the PARK INN, 78 Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

Thursday 19th November Live Entertainment with Just Bev. Live Entertainment every Thursday.

A good selection of fine ales.

2 Big screen TVs for all your sports entertainment.

Darts. Dominoes. Crib.”

Black Country Bugle 8/4/1999 - Advert

“Carol and *Stuart* welcome customers old and new and invite you to come and enjoy a relaxing friendly atmosphere.

PARK INN, 78 Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

Mon-Thurs 3pm-5pm Mild only 99p per pint.

Carling, Stones, Worthington, Guinness, Ciders all at Very Competitive Prices.

Spirits from £1.80 Double.

Live Entertainment every Saturday night - Karaoke.

Live Music every Sunday afternoon.

2 large big screen TVs for all your Sports Entertainment. Security Cameras. Crib. Dominoes. 8 Dart teams, new players welcome. Team mini Bus.”

Black Country Bugle 29/7/1999 - Advert

“Carol and *Stuart* welcome customers old and new and invite you to come and enjoy a relaxing friendly atmosphere.

PARK INN, 78 Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

Live Entertainment every Saturday night.

2 large big screen TVs for all your Sports Entertainment.

Security Cameras. Crib. Dominoes. 8 Dart teams, new players welcome. Team mini Bus.”

Stuart James – see also ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury.

[2020]

Closed [2024]

CAROL & STUART WELCOME CUSTOMERS OLD & NEW TO THE

PARK INN

78 WALSALL STREET, WENDESBURY.
TEL; 0121 556 4803

Thursday 19th November

Live Entertainment

with

JUST BEV

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY THURSDAY

- A good selection of fine ales
- 2 Big screen TVs for all your sports entertainment
- DARTS • DOMINOES • CRIB

1998



Carol and Stuart James 1999

CAROL & STUART WELCOME CUSTOMERS OLD AND NEW AND
INVITE YOU TO COME AND ENJOY A RELAXING FRIENDLY
ATMOSPHERE

PARK INN

78 WALSALL STREET, WEDNESBURY. TEL; 0121 556 4803

Mon. - Thurs. 3pm - 5pm
Mild only 99p per pint

Carling, Stones, Worthington, Guinness
Ciders all at Very Competitive Prices
Spirits from £1.80 Double

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Every Saturday Night - **KARAOKE**

Live Music Every Sunday
afternoon

2 large big screen TVs for all your Sports
Entertainment - Security Cameras - Crib
Dominoes - 8 Dart teams, new players
welcome . Team mini Bus

CAROL & STUART WELCOME CUSTOMERS
OLD AND NEW AND INVITE YOU TO COME AND ENJOY
A RELAXING FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

PARK INN

78 WALSALL STREET, WEDNESBURY
TEL: 0121 556 4803

LIVE

ENTERTAINMENT

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT



2 large big screen TVs
for all your Sports
Entertainment
Security Cameras • Crib
Dominoes • 8 Dart teams,
new players welcome
Team mini Bus

1999

PARKVILLE TAVERN

Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Lawton [1860] – [1868]

NOTES

Tokens were issued from here.

William Lawton, beer retailer, Mesty Croft. [1860]

1861 Census

Mesty Croft – Public House

- [1] *William Lawton* (37), gas fitter and beer retailer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Selina Lawton* (37), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Edward Lawton* (14), son, ironworks labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ann Lawton* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William Lawton* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Joseph Lawton* (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Rebecca Lawton* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Julyanah Lawton* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Titus Lawton* (1), son, born Wednesbury;



Token

Birmingham Daily Post 4/12/1862

“At a meeting of the members of Court Parkville, Ancient Order of Foresters, held at Mr. *Lawton*’s, PARKVILLE TAVERN, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury, it was voted to subscribe £3 from the funds, for the relief of the distressed Foresters in the cotton districts.”

William Lawton, retailer of beer, Mesty Croft. [1868]

PLOUGH AND HARROW

58, Lea Brook Road, (58, (Lower) Dudley Street), Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. [1891], [1921]
Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Fawlkes [1860]
John Faulkes [1861]
James Faulks [1861] – **1863**;
Charles McGuigan **(1863 – [1875]**
Francis Dicken [1876] – [1883]
Edward Norton [1891]
George David Welding [1891] – [1892]
Daniel Eccleston **(1894 – [1916]**
Arthur Harvey [1921] – [1921]
Frank J Wilkinson [1929] – [1932]
Charles Shaw [1935] – [1939]
Ronald Cooling [1961] – [1966]



c1930s

NOTES

58, Dudley Street [1881], [1896]
58, Lower Dudley Street [1871], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]
58, Lea Brook Road [1911], [1921], [1939]

It was situated next to the Patent Shaft Steelworks.

PLOUGH [1864], [1865]
PLOUGH AND HARROW [1874], [1904], [1908], [1932], [1940]

James Faulks = James Foulks = James Foulkes

1861 Census

Dudley Street

- [1] *James Faulks* (34), licensed victualler, born Oxfordshire;
- [2] Hannah Faulks (40), wife, born Gloucester;
- [3] William Walter Faulks (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Sarah Browning (17), domestic servant, born Terrington, Gloucestershire;
- [5] Jane Newnham (14), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1862

“At about five o’clock yesterday morning, as a man, named William Spooner, a miner, residing in Dale Street, Wednesbury, was on his way to work, he discovered a man, insensible, and apparently in a dying condition, lying on a heap of stones, near Lee Brook Bridge. He immediately raised an alarm, and gave information to the police, and the wounded man was promptly conveyed to the house of Mr. *Foulks*, the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN. Mr. Proctor, surgeon, was speedily in attendance, and, on examination, found that the man’s skull was fractured; that there was a contused wound at the back of the head, and another large and deep punctured wound underneath the

right jaw. Mr. Underhill, surgeon, was also in attendance during the morning, and Mr. Proctor continued his visits throughout the day; but the nature of the injuries sustained are said to render the man's recovery quite hopeless. During the morning a man named Baggott came forward and identified the man as John Hughes, a hinge-maker, residing at Tipton. He further volunteered a statement to the effect that he and the deceased spent the previous day (Monday) at Darlaston Wake; that when they left Darlaston, late at night, they were both very drunk, and he supposed they reached Lee Brook between eleven and twelve o'clock. At that time Hughes was very helpless, and finding he could not get him along, Baggott went to the house of a person named Morris, and endeavoured to induce Mrs. Morris to take Hughes in. Failing in his efforts, they again started on their way homewards, and had not gone far when Hughes fell down on the heap of stones where he was found on the following morning. Baggott sat down by his side and remained there about half an hour, when he removed Hughes's outer clothing and left him. When found by Spooner, Hughes's knife and tobacco box were found lying on the stones beside him, but as he had spent all his money before leaving Darlaston, of course none was found in his possession. As, up to the time our parcel left, Hughes had not manifested any signs of consciousness, the manner in which he received his wounds remains a mystery; but it is thought highly probable that the injuries at the back of the head were received when he fell on the stones, and that the gash in the throat was caused by a piece of broken glass, which abounds on the spot where he was found."

[The inquest was held at the PLOUGH AND HARROW, and was twice adjourned. Eventually, due to lack of evidence, the coroner recommended that the jury return an Open Verdict, which they did.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/3/1863

"The Coroner (Mr. Hooper) held an inquest, on Saturday, at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook, on the body of George Philips, who was caught by the train while crossing the Great Western Railway, and instantly killed, on the 12th instant. After hearing the evidence, the jury returned the usual verdict, Accidental Death, at the same time exonerating the engineer from blame."

Charles McGuigan = Charles M'Guigan = Charles M'Guiggan = Charles M'Gwiggan = Charles M'Gingham = Charles M'Gingam = Charles McGregan

Birmingham Daily Post 16/9/1863

"Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, a tall, stout Irishman, named William Farraty, was brought up on a warrant, charged with having, on the 10th of August, wilfully damaged a door and window at the house of *Charles M'Gwiggan*, the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook. It appeared that the defendant on the evening of the day named, after having been turned out of the complainant's house, because of his disorderly conduct, deliberately kicked and smashed a door and pane of glass, the damage to the door being estimated at 8s, and the value of the glass set down at 6s. A summons was taken out, but the defendant absconded, and was not seen again until a few days ago, when he was taken into custody on a warrant. He was ordered to make good the damage, and pay a fine of 1s and costs, making altogether £1 12s, or in default submit to two months' imprisonment."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/11/1866

"On the night of Wednesday last a daring robbery was perpetrated at the house of Mr. *M'Gingham*, the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook, by a respectably-dressed man, apparently of Irish extraction, whose description is in the hands of the police. This individual stayed at the house on the preceding Thursday week, and induced Mr. *M'Gingam* to take £10 worth of silver from him in exchange for gold, his object, so it is supposed, being to find out where the cash-box was kept. Nothing, however, was lost on that occasion. On Tuesday he returned to the house, slept there that night, spent some part of the next day on the premises, and intimated his intention to sleep there again. At about ten o'clock Mr. *M'Gingham* lighted him to his room, and a few minutes later Mrs. *M'Gingham* proceeded to hers, but finding the door locked she communicated with her husband, who, suspecting that something was amiss, burst open the door, and at once missed his cash box, which contained a £5 Bank of England note, and about £45 in gold and silver, and also a gold Albert chain, snake pattern, with pendant and locket attached. The thief had evidently made his escape into the street by way of the window, which was open; but the cash-box, which was now empty, was found beneath a sofa in the room he had occupied, where also he left a large satchel bag. He is supposed to have been assisted by a confederate, a second stranger having called at the house each night that the principal operator was there."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/12/1868

“On Friday morning the body of a boy named John Lloyd was found in the canal near the Brunswick Works, Wednesbury. About four o’clock that morning the father rose to go to work, and as there was no clock in the house, he called his son to go to the works and see what time it was. The boy left the house at Lea Brook, and it is supposed he crossed the canal by a plank, and, missing his footing, fell into the canal, and was drowned.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/12/1868

“On Monday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, at the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Wednesbury, on the body of John Lloyd, a lad about 14 years of age, who was found drowned in the canal on Thursday last. We have previously given the particulars in our columns. Richard Lloyd, father of deceased, and Ann Bevan were examined, but no evidence could be brought forward to show how the lad fell into the water. The supposition, however, was that he fell into the canal when he was going to the works at which his father worked, at an early hour in the morning, in order to see what time it was. The jury returned an open verdict of Found Drowned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/4/1869 - Advert

“Found, at Wednesbury, on Friday last, a Pointer Dog; Brown Head and Ears. Can be had by paying all expenses. If not owned within a few days, will be Sold.
Apply at PLOUGH AND HARROW, Lea Brook.”

FOUND, at Wednesbury, on Friday last, a Pointer DOG; Brown Head and Ears. Can be had by paying all expenses. If not owned within a few days, will be Sold.—Apply at Plough and Harrow, Lea Brook.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/5/1869 - Advert

“To be Let, a House and Shop, No.57, Lea Brook, Wednesbury. Good situation. Terms moderate. May be entered upon immediately.
Apply, PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Wednesbury.”

TO be Let, a HOUSE and Shop, No. 57, Lea Brook, Wednesbury. Good situation. Terms moderate. May be entered upon immediately.—Apply, Plough and Harrow Inn, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/5/1869 - Advert

“.....The Licensed Victuallers Tea Association, founded in 1867, and owing its origin to the irregular competition of the Grocers in the sale of Wine, is now supplying through the following appointed Agents in this county its unequalled Teas.....
C. M’Guigan, PLOUGH AND HARROW, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/6/1869

“On Friday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, opened an inquest at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook, on the bodies of John Mann, aged about forty-five, and his son George, aged about twelve or thirteen, both of whom were killed on the line of the Great Western Railway, on the preceding night. It seems that the elder deceased, who is supposed to have followed the calling of a boatman, and to have lived at Tewkesbury, was at the BUSH INN, on Thursday evening, with his son; and it is conjectured that after having left the house both father and son were making their way across the line, when they were overtaken by the 10.30 train from Wolverhampton, and cut down and killed on the spot. The dead body of the elder deceased, with his head severed from the trunk, was found about at about a quarter to twelve, by a shunter, named Richard Walton, but the corpse of the lad, whose right arm and leg were broken, was not discovered until four o’clock yesterday morning. The bodies of the hapless pair were conveyed to the inn where the inquiry was held. On the elder deceased was found £2 18s 1¾d in money, two pieces of gutta percha piping, knife, key, and some other small articles. The inquiry was adjourned until two o’clock on Monday, for the attendance of witnesses connected with the railway company.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 22/6/1869

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, resumed an inquiry at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, touching the death of John Mann, aged 44, and George Mann, aged 18, whose lifeless bodies were found on the Great Western line during the night of Thursday last, under circumstances already reported in the *Post*. The Company was represented by Mr. Andrews, divisional superintendent; Mr. Gibbs, station master; and some other of the Company’s officials.

The first witness examined was Thomas Powell, a fireman in the Great Western Railway Company’s employ. He deposed that on Thursday night, as he was passing over the line near to Messrs. Hunt’s Chemical Works, with the 10.25 goods train from Birmingham, he saw something lying on the opposite or up-set of rails. He pointed it out to the driver, who pulled up, and he then went back with the brakesman, and found that what he saw was the dead, but still warm, body of a man. The top of the head of the deceased was cut off, and lying about two feet away; one foot

was cut off, and the other foot and one arm were smashed. A train from Wolverhampton had passed along while witness was in the station, but he heard nothing unusual as it passed. The body was about 10 or 15 yards from the bridge, near the Chemical Works. He had frequently passed over the line, but had never seen persons crossing it to go to the works.

Richard Walton, shunter, corroborated Powell as to the finding of the body of the elder deceased, and said that he found the body of the boy at about half-past three o'clock on Friday morning, some 25 yards away from the spot where the corpse of the father was discovered. The top of the lad's skull was knocked in, and the body was otherwise injured. There was no path across the line where the bodies were found, but he had seen people going across, and had stopped them.

John Cowley, engine driver, deposed that he drove the 10.30 train from Wolverhampton on Thursday night, and arrived in Wednesbury at the proper time, without having noticed anything unusual or peculiar on the way. The next morning, while at Bordesley, he heard of the deaths, and by direction of the foreman he examined his engine, and found blood and brains on the cocks beneath the boiler, but none on the wheels. He had seen persons crossing the line at the spot where the accidents occurred. There were cautions boards there, which, to the best of his knowledge, had been up for eight years.

Mr. Andrews, in reply to an observation made by the Coroner, said the company, after the last inquest arising out of a death at this part of the line, raised the two lengths of the fencing next the bridge, and had always been careful to keep it in a good state of repair. It had been brought under the notice of the company that people trespassed there, and one man had been prosecuted.

The Coroner said he could not see that the company could do more than they had done. At the last inquest it was suggested that the company should raise the fencing, and prosecute any person found on the line, and both suggestions, it seemed, had been adopted. If people would trespass they must take the consequences.

The Jurors generally concurred in the Coroner's remarks that the company had done all that could be expected of them; but the Foreman suggested that each driver should be instructed to sound the whistle on approaching the station. Mr. Andrews replied that it was a standing rule for them to do so when another train was in the station, but not otherwise.

Another Juror suggested that the company should apprehend all persons found on the line. It was a very common thing for persons to cross the line by the bridge. Mr. Andrews said the orders were to caution people the first time, and prosecute them if they were found trespassing a second time. The company would take every possible precaution, and would promise to summon all persons found trespassing.

The Coroner said he did not see that the company could do more than that. Although three or four persons had been run over before at this particular spot, he did not see that blame attached to the company.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/11/1869

"About three years ago a daring robbery of a cash-box, containing £50, and other valuables, was effected at the house of Mr. *M'Guigan*, PLOUGH AND HARROW, Lea Brook, near Wednesbury, by a man who had taken a bed in the house. Superintendent Holland always suspected that the lodger was assisted by a notorious thief named Barraclough; and noting the other day that this worthy had been captured at Chester, with other desperadoes, one of whom corresponded in description with the thief, he and Mr. *M'Guigan* proceeded to Chester, where the latter picked out the thief from about sixteen others who were shown to him. The result is, that when the term of imprisonment which he is at present undergoing is finished, the thief will be taken to Wednesbury and put upon his trial for the robbery at the PLOUGH AND HARROW."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1870

"At Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary (Mr. Isaac Spooner), John Clarke (55), was charged with stealing £50, a gold Albert chain, and locket, on the 31st October, 1866, from the house of *Charles McGregan*, PLOUGH AND HARROW, Wednesbury. Complainant stated that on the day in question prisoner came to his house, and pretended to go to bed at night; but instead of doing so he took a cash box, containing the stolen property, jumped out of the window, and went away. Three months ago he was taken into custody at Chester, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, and was brought from prison to the Bilston Police Court. Prisoner was committed for trial at the Assizes."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/3/1870

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

James Clark, 55, no occupation, was indicted for stealing £50, the property of *Charles M'Guigan*, from his dwelling house at Wednesbury. Mr. T. B. Rose appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Underhill for the defence.

The prosecutor keeps the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, at Wednesbury. On the 30th of October, 1866, a person, who he and his wife swore was the prisoner, went to the house. On the following day he went there again, and asked to be allowed to sleep there. His request was granted, and he was shown upstairs. Shortly afterwards, on the prosecutor's wife going upstairs to bed, she found her room fastened. The room of the prisoner was then entered, and he was found to have gone. The prosecutor's bedroom was then burst open, and it was found that the chest of drawers had been broken into, a cashbox containing upwards of £50 and a box containing an Albert chain and a locket taken, and an exit obtained into the street through the window, which was open. The cashbox was found empty in the missing man's bedroom, along with his satchel, in which was a long knife used for the purpose of breaking open drawers, &c.

Last October, when the Prince of Wales was at Chester, the prisoner was apprehended at that city, and, as he answered the description of the person who committed the robbery at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, the prosecutor went down to Chester City Gaol, and there selected the prisoner from about fifteen persons as being the person who had robbed him. In cross-examination the prosecutor said he took two persons to identify the prisoner, but neither of them were called to give evidence; and Mr. Underhill argued that the inference to be drawn was that neither of these persons could identify the man.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty. The Chairman expressed concurrence with the verdict, and the prisoner was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.”

1871 Census

58, Lower Dudley Steet

- [1] *Charles McGuigan* (39), licensed victualler, born Scotland;
- [2] *Hannah McGuigan* (40), wife, born Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire;
- [3] *Henrietta McGuigan* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Caroline McGuigan* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Caroline Smith* (22), barmaid, born Tipton;
- [6] *Mary A. Davis* (18), general servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [7] *Sidney Truss* (29), lodger, inspecting engineer, born Chester:

Dudley Guardian 21/11/1874

“On Saturday, Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury, on the body of *Frederick Thorley* (47), a wagoner, living at Ocker Hill.

The evidence bore out the statement of the circumstances of his death already reported, that on Thursday morning he was sent by Mr. Smith, manager for his employer, Mr. Blakemore, to the Great Western Goods Station, to enquire about some iron. Soon after he had left the goods station, a brakesman attached to a goods train which had just passed into the station, discovered his body in a dreadfully mutilated condition on the line, he having evidently been run over by the train, which had passed this point at a rate of not more than two miles an hour.

Police-sergeant Curtis, who was present, said in answer to the Coroner, that there was no level crossing over the line at this point, but in order to shorten his walk by about twenty yards the deceased had trespassed upon the company's property. A warning against trespassing was posted close by the spot where the accident happened.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Midland Examiner 9/1/1875

“On Thursday evening, being Christmas Eve, Wednesbury townsman, Mr. Thomas Longmore, the proprietor of the Lea Brook colliery, near Wednesbury, gave a supper at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook, to between fifty and sixty of the men and boys employed by him at the colliery. The supper consisted of the old English fare, roast beef and plum pudding, which was served in capital style by the worthy host and hostess. The supper was served at six o'clock, and after a blessing had been asked by Mr. Longmore, who took the head of the table, the assembled guests began with a hearty good will to discuss the good things provided by the liberality of their kind employer. After the cloth was withdrawn, thanks were returned in the usual manner, an old custom amongst colliers, by all rising and singing.

We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food,
But most of all for Jesus blood;
Let manna to our souls be given,
The bread of life, sent down from Heaven.

A very pleasant evening was spent by many of the members singing various carols, some of them real curiosities, on account of their antiquity, and the original and effective way in which they were rendered. The health of the founder of the feast, Mr. Longmore, as also that of his wife and son, was proposed by Mr. Nightingale, vice-chairman. It was heartily responded to in musical honours with three times three and one cheer more. Mr. Longmore, in a very feeling and appropriate speech, returned thanks on behalf of himself, wife, and son, for the hearty manner in which the toast was received. A vote of thanks was returned to the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *M'Guigan*, for the efficient manner in which they catered and supplied for the wants of the assembly. The host replied in brief and appropriate terms. After a very pleasant evening, spent in a friendly and rational way, the party separated about eleven o'clock, wishing each other the angel's message, 'Peace and goodwill from henceforth to men begin and never cease.'"

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: *C. McGuigan*, PLOUGH AND HARROW; J. Jones, HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen; J. Taylor, GREEN DRAGON INN."

Charles McGuigan – see also SWAN, Swan Village, West Bromwich, and WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury.

Dudley Herald 12/8/1876 - Advert

"Freehold Property at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Jabez Bywater, at Mr. *Francis Dicken's*, PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Leabrook Road, Wednesbury, on Tuesday Evening, August 22nd, 1876....."

Wednesbury Herald 12/4/1879

"The monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held at Mr. *Dicken's*, the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, on Tuesday afternoon. The President, Mr. *McGuigan*, occupied the chair, and the Vice President, Mr. *Dicken*, the vice chair....."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/6/1880 - Advert

"Bicycle (50in), roller bearings and alarum; splendidly made, capital roadster. Price £5.
PLOUGH AND HARROW, Lea Brook, Wednesbury."

BICYCLE (50in), roller bearings and alarum; splendidly made, capital roadster. Price £5.—Plough and Harrow, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1880 - Advert

"Cabinet-Maker's Benches (several good) Wanted, at once.
Apply, PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook, Wednesbury."

CABINET-MAKER'S Benches (several good) Wanted, at once.
—Apply, Plough and Harrow Inn, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/7/1880 - Advert

“Polisher (good Female) Wanted at once. Constant employment.
Apply, *Dicken*, PLOUGH AND HARROW, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.”

POLISHER (good Female) Wanted, at once. Constant employment.—Apply, *Dicken*, Plough and Harrow, Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

1881 Census

58, Dudley Street – PLOUGH AND HARROW

- [1] *Francis Dicken* (47), licensed victualler, born Deepfields;
- [2] *Ann Dicken* (49), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Joseph Dicken* (21), son, no occupation, born Tipton;
- [4] *Samuel Dicken* (19), son, no occupation, born Tipton;
- [5] *Francis Dicken* (17), son, no occupation, born Tipton;
- [6] *Rosehannah Dicken* (12), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [7] *James Dicken* (6), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [8] *Mary Ann Carline* (23), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Francis Dicken was the father of *Francis Dicken* of the STAR, Wednesbury.

Francis Dicken was the father of *Samuel Dicken* of the COACH AND HORSES, Wednesbury.

Francis Dicken was president of the Licensed Victuallers Society.

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.....

F. Dicken, PLOUGH AND HARROW, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/5/1885 - Advert

“Lost, on 24th inst, a white Bull-and-Terrier Dog; a little hair off his face; anyone detaining him after this notice will be prosecuted.

Apply at PLOUGH AND HARROW, Wednesbury.”

LOST, on 24th inst., a white Bull-and-Terrier Dog; a little hair off his face; anyone detaining him after this notice will be prosecuted.—Apply at Plough and Harrow, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

58, Lower Dudley Street – PLOUGH AND HARROW

- [1] *Edward Norton* (48), fitter and turner, born Lydney, Gloucestershire;
- [2] *Ann M. Norton* (46), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *James H. Norton* (21), son, fitter and turner, born Sedgley;
- [4] *John E. Norton* (18), son, dresser, born Sedgley;
- [5] *George Norton* (16), son, riveter, born Sedgley;
- [6] *Albert Norton* (14), son, clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Leonard Norton* (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Alice Clarke* (20), domestic servant, born Pattingham, Staffordshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

George David Welding, the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Lea Brook, applied for the renewal of his license, and Mr. A. Whitehouse, who supported the application, said the applicant was one of the chief managers of the Holt Brewery Company, to which the license belonged Granted, subject to transfer to the Holt Brewery Company.”

1901 Census

Lea Brook Road – PLOUGH AND HARROW

- [1] *Daniel Eccleston* (56), licensed victualler, born Moxley;
- [2] *Harriet Eccleston* (55), wife, born Derby;
- [3] *Rose Cox* (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

County Express 4/10/1902

"Albert Wilkes (19), of Lower Bradley, Bilston, was charged with cruelty to a horse on the 11th ult; and his employer, David [sic] *Eccleston*, saw mills owner at Bilston, and landlord of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Wednesbury, was charged with causing the cruelty.

PC O'Leary stopped Wilkes in High Street, Brierley Hill, driving a horse attached to a load of wood. The animal was lame on both fore feet. Wilkes said it had been lame about a year, and that *Eccleston* saw it leave the saw mill yard that morning.

Inspector Baker APCA, and Mr. J. Lewis Green, veterinary surgeon, spoke as to the lameness.

Eccleston denied that it was lame when it left the yard.

Wilkes was fined 1s and costs, and *Eccleston* 10s and costs."

Walsall Observer 20/6/1903

"On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Police Court, before the Stipendiary (Mr. N. C. A. Neville), *Daniel Eccleston*, landlord of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was charged with permitting drunkenness and with selling intoxicating liquor to a drunken person on the 22nd of May. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared to prosecute, and Mr. T. W. Clulow defended.

On the date in question a man named Edward Morren was found sitting in the taproom at the defendant's house in a drunken condition. He had been in the house for about an hour, and when the attention of the landlady was called to the man's condition she admitted that he was drunk.

For the defence, the charge was admitted, but Mr. Clulow urged that the landlady did not notice Morren's condition until her attention was called to it. Morren and two other men only had a pint of ale between them, and he contended that the dangerous occupation in which the man Morren was engaged, which sometimes rendered him unconscious, had something to do with his condition.

Defendant bore a good character, he having kept this particular house without a complaint for nine years.

The Stipendiary dealt leniently with defendant under the circumstances, and only fined him 10s and costs for permitting drunkenness, in all £2 6s. The charge of supplying ale to a drunken person was dismissed."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1904

"Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

Eight licenses were objected to by the police.....

PLOUGH AND HARROW, Dudley Street.

In each instance a conviction was recorded against the house. License renewed."

1911 Census

58, Lea Brook Road – PLOUGH AND HARROW (Lower Dudley Street crossed out)

[1] *Daniel Eccleston* (66), innkeeper, born Moxley;

[2] *Harriet Eccleston* (65), wife, married 46 years, innkeeper, born Dudley;

[3] *E. Ann Paul* (30), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Daniel Eccleston – see also SWAN, Bank Street, FOX, Bilston Street and ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, all Bradley, Bilston.

South Staffordshire Times 25/9/1920

"Wednesbury Police Court.....

Mr. Sharpe (West Bromwich) submitted plans respecting the PLOUGH AND ANCHOR [sic], Dudley Street, for suggested improvements, and the magistrates accepted them, the Mayor stating he had privately seen what was being done and was satisfied."

1921 Census

58, Lea Brook Road

[1] *Arthur Harvey* (32), public house manager, born Worcestershire;

[2] *Martha Harvey* (33), wife, born Worcestershire;

[3] *Arthur Harvey* (13), son, school, born Worcestershire;

[4] *Annie Hemmings* (23), domestic servant, born Birmingham;

[5] *Joseph Bates* (43), brother-in-law, process man, out of work, born Worcestershire:

Arthur Harvey – see also OLDE BULLS HEAD, Oldbury.

Walsall Observer 16/2/1929

“Incidents at a Christmas Eve dance in Wednesbury Town Hall were recalled before the Mayor (Councillor W. H. Wesson), Mr. J. Mark, and Mr. T. J. Withers, when an application was made by Mr. *F. J. Wilkinson*, of the PLOUGH AND HARROW, for an occasional license for a Harriers dance in the Town Hall on February 16th (today).

Police Superintendent Adams said there had been a lot of drunkenness at the last Harriers dance, and the Mayor said the Town Hall had been left in an abominably filthy condition.

The Superintendent said he would oppose the application until a representative of the club attended with the licensee to give a guarantee that the affair should be well conducted. Later a representative attended and the Superintendent asked him if he had anything to do with the dance there on Christmas Eve. The man said he was M.C.

The Superintendent: How do you account for being so much drunkenness?

‘I think it was the time of year,’ the man replied.

The Mayor: That is no excuse for leaving the hall in such a disgusting state.

The Superintendent, opposing the application, said that quite apart from the intoxicants supplied by the licensee at this dance a number of youths took bottles of port, etc, there

The application was refused. It was explained that Mr. *Wilkinson* was not the licensee on the occasion complained of.”

Walsall Observer 14/2/1931

“Two licenses, those of the CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, and the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Dudley Street, were objected to on the grounds of redundancy at the Wednesbury Brewster Sessions yesterday, and consideration was deferred to the adjourned sessions on March 13.”

Evening Despatch 3/1/1935

“Two people who were involved in a gas explosion at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, are making satisfactory progress.

As Mr. *Charles Shaw*, the landlord, and his wife were going downstairs they noticed a strong smell of gas. They immediately opened the door and windows, and in the passage a light was struck, followed suddenly by a terrific explosion and burst of flame.

All the windows in the back smoke-room were blown out, and the explosion also shattered windows on the ground floor. Mr. and Mrs. *Shaw* were flung to the floor. Mrs. *Shaw* was cut by flying glass and her neck burned. Mr. *Shaw* was slightly burned on the hand.

A defective gas bracket is stated to have been the cause.”

Evening Despatch 5/2/1937

“Four licenses were objected to by Supt. J. H. Hall at the annual Licensing Sessions at Wednesbury today. In his report, Supt. Hall said that the town contained 106 licensed premises, one to every 297 of the inhabitants.....

Objection was taken to the renewal of the licenses of PLOUGH AND HARROW, Dudley Street.

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the four objected to, which were put back for consideration at the adjourned meeting.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1937

“The licenses of houses referred to the adjourned licensing sessions were renewed at Wednesbury yesterday.

They were PLOUGH AND HARROW, Dudley Street.

The renewal of the license of the PLOUGH AND HARROW was objected to on grounds of redundancy, but after an appeal by Mr. Frank Cooper, for the owners, the justices agreed to its renewal.”

1939 Register

58, Lea Brook Road – Public House

[1] *Charles Shaw*, date of birth 23/2/1877, public house manager, married;

[2] *A. Shaw*, dob 21/8/1875, unpaid domestic duties, married:

[1976]

PORTWAY

45, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

James Wright [1870]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Mary Evans [1850] – [1859]
George Jackson [1861] – [1862]
Jeremiah Cartwright [1869] – [1871]
Thomas Collins [1881]
John Hand [1883]
Thomas Roberts [1886]
Adam Keay (1886 – [1887]
William Turner [1889]
Thomas William Harrison [1889]
William Horton [1891]
Thomas Bray [1893]
Joseph Wallott [1894]
Edward Forrest [] – 1899);
Winifred Bonser (1899 – []
Thomas Lacy [1901]

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
In PORTWAY ROAD and FALLINGSHEATH, Wednesbury.
MR. JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE has been
favoured with instructions from Mr. James Wright to
SELL by AUCTION, on FRIDAY NEXT, January 21, at the
Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the evening,
subject to conditions then to be read—
LOT 1.—All that Valuable PUBLIC-HOUSE and PREMISES,
known as "THE PORTWAY INN," comprising large Parlour, Tap
Room, Bar, three Chambers, and good Cellaring, Brewhouse, with
Malt Room over. Stable, and other Out-offices, with large enclosed
Yard, and a good supply of hard and soft Water, and in the occu-
pation of Mr. Jeremiah Cartwright, at the low rental of £26. per
year.
LOT 2.—All that Piece of BUILDING LAND, adjoining lot 1,
having a frontage to Portway Road of 25 feet, and containing 283
square yards, or thereabouts. The above Properties are centrally
situated, and near the principal Iron and other Works in the neigh-
bourhood.
LOT 3.—An excellent Piece or Plot of BUILDING LAND,
adjoining the property of Mr. E. Stackhouse, of Fallingsheath,
having a frontage to Franchise Street of 30 feet, and containing 610
square yards, or thereabouts.
For further particulars or information, apply to Mr. W. Shake-
speare, Solicitor, Oldbury; or the Auctioneer, Spring Vale House,
Wednesbury.

1870

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 2/11/1850 - Advert

"To Builders, Cabinet Makers, Timber Dealers, and Others. To be Sold by Auction.....

The Oak Timber is now lying near the Monway Arm of the Birmingham Canal, and by the side of the Portway Road, leading from Wednesbury to Wolverhampton.

To view the same, apply to Mr. E. Wright, WHITE SWAN, Wednesbury Bridge; or to Mrs. Evans, PORTWAY HOUSE, Portway Road, Wednesbury."

1851 Census

Portway Road – PORTWAY HOUSE

- [1] Mary Evans (58), widow, publican, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [2] John Smith (58), lodger, widower, miner, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Mary Thursfield (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] William Wright (19), lodger, engine fitter, born Dudley;

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/4/1854

"At Evans's, the PORTWAY INN, Wednesbury, on Monday, a double gun, valued at £7, was shot for by 14 members, 5 birds each, when, after some close shooting and a number of ties, Mr. Holland of Wednesbury and Harvey of Oldbury shot off bird for bird, each killing all, and agreed to divide. Afterwards a sweepstakes for £5 was shot for by 10 members, at 3 sparrows each, when Mr. Curtis of Birmingham won, killing all."

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.....

Mary Evans, Portway Road, Wednesbury, supported by Mr. Duignan, not opposed Refused.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/1/1857

“At Mrs. *Evans*’s, PORTWAY INN, Wednesbury, on Monday last, the match for the three fat pigs came off, by 30 members, at 10s each, 5 birds each. After some close and excellent shooting they were won by Messrs. Williams of Birmingham and Brown of Walsall, both killing all their birds and dividing. Afterwards a sweepstakes was shot, by 15 members, at 10s each, 3 birds, and won by Mr. Nurse of Wednesbury, killing all. Afterwards 50 gentlemen sat down to dinner, which was served up by Mrs. *Evans* in first-rate style.”

Walsall Free Press 25/4/1857

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the PORTWAY INN, the house of Mrs. *Mary Evans*, Portway Road, on the body of William Wilson, a labourer employed at the works of the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company at Wednesbury. The deceased was employed in sawing rails, and on Saturday evening, while catching the rails after coming from the rolls, he suddenly fell, grasped at the strap of the machinery, and then fell into the hole, the back of his head being injured by the flange of the pulley. He was thrown with much violence against the flange, and dropped into the hole. He was quite sober when the accident happened. His head was much cut. He breathed until taken into his house, but expired a few minutes after his arrival there.

The Coroner summed up, and the jury found a verdict of Accidental Death. The Coroner said he would write to the proprietors of the works, expressing his own and the jury’s opinion that a proper guard should be put up to protect the workmen against the machinery. The deceased was about thirty years of age, and has left a widow, but no family.”

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.....

Mary Evans, Portway Road, Wednesbury.”

[Refused at the adjourned sessions.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/10/1857

“George Brown was charged with stealing the contents of a drawer, amounting to about £5, in the till of a beerhouse, in Portway Road, Wednesbury, kept by Mrs. *Evans*. He had been left on Saturday night by Mrs. *Evans* to take charge of the bar whilst she went upstairs. A man who was waiting for a bottle of ale to be filled was in the bar at the time, and on Mrs. *Evans* returning he was gone and the money missing from the till, and it was supposed by Mrs. *Evans* that the prisoner had been an accomplice in the theft. The prisoner had given false references as to character. He was remanded for a week for further enquiries.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1858

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

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

Mary Evans, Portway Lane, Wednesbury, was supported by Mr. Duignan 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.....

Mary Evans, Portway Road, Wednesbury, supported by Mr. Duignan, and opposed by Mr. Bailey, for Mr. Cross, of the NELSON INN Refused.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/12/1859

“To be shot for, at Mrs. *Mary Evans*’s, PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on Monday, December 12, a piece of music, value £3 10s, by 14 members, at 5s each, 1½oz shot, 19 yards rise, 3 sparrows each. The second best shot to receive 5s. Several sweepstakes will follow.”

George Jackson, beer retailer, Portway Road. [1861]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/2/1861

"To be shot for, at Mr. G. Jackson's, PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on the 11th inst, a case of stuffed birds, value £7 10s. 25 tickets at 6s each, the putter-up to spend £1, single guns 19 yards rise, double 18 yards, 1½oz of shot, 3 sparrows each. Shooting at twelve o'clock."

1861 Census

Portway Road – PORTWAY INN

- [1] George Jackson (29), beer retailer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Emma Jackson (32), wife, born Kings Bromley, Staffordshire;
- [3] George Jackson (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Louisa Sanders (17), visitor, born Kings Bromley, Staffordshire;
- [5] Mary A. Rudge (16), general servant, born Bilston:

George Jackson, retailer of beer, Portway Road. [1862]

Birmingham Journal 9/8/1862 - Advert

"PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

To be Let, that convenient and well-situated New Licensed Public House, known as the PORTWAY INN. Disposed of in consequence of the present proprietor having other engagements. The Coming-in will be about £70.

Enquire at R. L. Courtney's, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich."

PORTWAY INN, PORTWAY ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.
TO be LET, that convenient and well-situated New
LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE, known as the "PORTWAY
INN." Disposed of in consequence of the present proprietor having
other engagements. The Coming-in will be about £70.
Enquire at R. L. Courtney's, Auctioneer, High Street, West
Bromwich.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/6/1869

"Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, opened an inquiry at the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, touching the death of Mark Cooper, whose lifeless remains were found on the Great Western Railway, early on Sunday morning.....

John Price, a driver, spoke to seeing the deceased at nine o'clock on Saturday night at the beerhouse kept by Jeremiah Cartwright, Portway Road....."

[This inquest was adjourned, an open verdict then being returned.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/1/1870 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property, in Portway Road and Fallings Heath, Wednesbury.

Mr. Joseph Whitehouse has been favoured with instructions from Mr. James Wright to Sell by Auction, on Friday Next, January 21, at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury.....

Lot 1. All that Valuable Public House and Premises, known as the PORTWAY INN, comprising large Parlour, Tap Room, Bar, three Chambers, and good Cellaring, Brewhouse, with Malt Room over, Stable, and other Out-offices, with large enclosed Yard, and a good supply of hard and soft Water, and in the occupation of Mr. Jeremiah Cartwright, at the low rental of £26 per year.

Lot 2. All that Piece of Building Land, adjoining lot 1, having a frontage to Portway Road of 25 feet, and containing 283 square yards, or thereabouts.

The above Properties are centrally situated, and near the principal Iron and other Works in the neighbourhood."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/2/1871 - Advert

"To be Let, the House and Premises, known by the sign of the PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, situate in the midst of extensive ironworks, and doing a good business; satisfactory reasons for leaving. Immediate possession can be had.

Apply to Mr. Joseph E. Sheldon, Solicitor, Wednesbury."

TO be Let, the HOUSE and Premises, known by the sign of
the Portway Inn, Portway Road, Wednesbury, situate in
the midst of extensive ironworks, and doing a good business;
satisfactory reasons for leaving. Immediate possession can be
had,—Apply to Mr. Joseph E. Sheldon, Solicitor, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

45, Portway Road – PORTWAY INN

- [1] Jeremiah Cartwright (32), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Cartwright (32), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Joshua Cartwright (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary Cartwright (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Richard Cartwright (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Elizabeth Wright (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Daniel Maney (18), boarder, puddler, iron works, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Thomas Maney (14), boarder, iron worker, born Wednesbury;

1881 Census

45, Portway Road – PORTWAY INN

- [1] Thomas Collins (40), publican, born Ireland;
- [2] Maria Collins (40), wife, born Ireland;
- [3] Mary A. Collins (24), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] John Collins (16), son, brass caster, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Thomas Collins (18), son, brass caster, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Patrick Wonan (30), lodger, puddler, iron work, born Ireland;

Evening Express 15/5/1881 - Advert

“PORTWAY INN, Wednesbury.

Splendid Brewing Plant, large yard, stabling, and pig-styes; would suit corn dealer or coal yard; incoming reasonable; rent very low.

Apply on premises.”

PORTWAY Inn, Wednesbury.—Splendid Brewing Plant, large yard, stabling, and pig-styes; would suit corn dealer or coal yard; incoming reasonable; rent very low.—Apply on premises.

Commercial Gazette 25/10/1883

“Extracts from the Register of County Courts Judgements.....

John Hand, PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, publican, 15 September 1883, £15 9s 8d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1883 - Advert

“PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Well-situated Beerhouse, in the midst of extensive works; good brewing plant, to be Let, upon very advantageous terms. Low rented. Immediate possession.

Apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/11/1883 - Advert

“PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Well-situated Beerhouse, good brewing plant. Low rented premises; will be put in thorough repair. In-coming low; part can remain.

W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public House Valuer, Smethwick.”

PORTWAY Inn, Portway Road, Wednesbury.—Well-situated Beerhouse, in the midst of extensive works; good brewing plant, to be Let, upon very advantageous terms. Low rented. Immediate possession.—Apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.

PORTWAY Inn, Portway Road, Wednesbury.—Well-situated Beerhouse, good brewing plant. Low rented premises; will be put in thorough repair. In-coming low; part can remain.—W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, Smethwick.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1886

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Thomas Roberts*, keeper of the PORTWAY INN, was convicted of creating a disturbance in the house of Joseph Dicken, the GLADSTONE INN, in the same locality, and was fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.

It seemed that whilst in the house on the 6th instant he used offensive language, and on being told to leave he gave another customer three smacks in the face, broke a jug, and threatened the landlord.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/12/1886

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Adam Keay*, Wednesbury and Pelsall, beerhouse keeper and ironworker.

A petition was filed in the Walsall Bankruptcy Court, yesterday, on behalf of the above, of PORTWAY HOUSE, Portway Road, Wednesbury, and of Pelsall Common, beerhouse keeper and ironworker, formerly carrying on business at Mouse Hill, Pelsall, grocer and beerhouse keeper. The 19th January was fixed for the public examination.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/1/1887

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Adam Keay*, PORTWAY INN beerhouse, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

This bankrupt appeared for his public examination at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. Registrar Clarke. His statement of affairs showed liabilities £112 10s 1d, of which £104 19s 4d was expected to rank for dividend, and assets £27 13s 1d, leaving a deficiency of £77 0s 3d.

The examination showed that the debtor was an ironworker, at Pelsall, until October, 1884, when he married and took to his wife’s business of a grocer and beerseller, at Mouse Hill, Pelsall, which he continued until April 1886. In September last he took the PORTWAY INN beerhouse, Wednesbury, but also continued to work at his trade as a shingler. His wife claimed all the furniture at his house as her separate estate and her property before her marriage. The examination was adjourned till Wednesday, the 26th inst.”

Walsall Observer 22/1/1887

“Bankruptcy Case *Adam Keay* appeared for public examination.

The statement of accounts showed gross liabilities £122 10s 1d, of which £104 19s 4d was expected to rank for dividend. The assets were estimated at £34 1s 4d out of which £6 8s 3d had to be paid for preferential payments.

Messrs. Beard Brothers levied an execution upon the bankrupt’s effects on the 21st December, and the sheriff was proceeding for sale when the receiving order was made. The bankrupt has returned all his book debts as ‘good.’ They will not realise the amount at which he estimates them.

The causes of the insolvency were stated to be loss in carrying on the PORTWAY INN, and insufficient work, through bad trade.

Debtor was examined by the Official Receiver, and the examination was adjourned until Wednesday next.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1889

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Michael Varley, Portway Road, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises, with refusing to quit, and with doing damage at the house of *William Turner*, the PORTWAY INN, Portway Road. It seemed that he was creating a disturbance in the house, and that before he could be turned out he smashed a fender with a brick, and with the same missile afterwards broke two panes of glass. He was ordered to pay £1 17s 6d, including 7s damage, or fourteen days imprisonment in default.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/6/1889

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Thomas William Harrison*, keeper of the PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours. Mr. Foster (Sedgley) appeared for the defence. The evidence of Police-constables Mullagh and Williams was to the effect that they went to the defendant’s house at 10.45 on the night of Whit Sunday, and found a woman named Varley there, talking to the landlord. The latter said she must have got over the wall; but the woman said she had come in by the front door for some beer, and should have had it if the policemen had not come.

A fine of 5s and costs was imposed, making £1 0s 6d altogether.”

1891 Census

45, Portway Road

[1] *William Horton* (24), coal dealer, born Tipton;

[2] *Mary Horton* (22), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Emma Horton* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Edith Hampton* (11), sister-in-law, scholar, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1891

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, *Thomas Swift* and *John Kennelly*, both of Portway Road, were, on the evidence of Police-constables Colclough and Carter, fined 1s and costs, or seven days’ imprisonment, for being drunk on the premises of *William Horton*, PORTWAY INN, Portway Road. *Horton* was also summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises.

Mr. Foster, Wolverhampton, appeared for the accused, and called evidence to the effect that the men were not served with drink in the house, though Swift partook of some with his father-in-law, who was in the house; and that when

the constables said the men were not fit to be in the house the landlord requested them to leave, and Kennelly did so at once, but Swift lingered for a little while – ten minutes according to the defendant, and fifteen minutes according to the police.....

The Stipendiary The defendant, on hearing from the police that they objected to the people in the house on the ground that they were drunk, acted as a publican ought to act, and turned Kennelly out of the house, but he was not as expeditious as he ought to have been with regard to the other. It would not be fair to convict on the one case, though the defendant ought to have been more expeditious, and the case would be dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

“The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday..... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of William Bird, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.

The renewals to be opposed were....

Thomas Bray, PORTWAY INN, Portway Road,

The Mayor commented with regret upon the increase in the numbers of offences and convictions shown by the returns; and the contentious business was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day, the 29th inst.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday.....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1894

“The annual licensing session for the borough of Wednesbury took place at the Police Court yesterday.....

The licenses that were not objected to would be renewed, with the exception of the PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, which would be suspended until the place was put into a better condition.....

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.....

Joseph Wallott, the PORTWAY INN, applied for a renewal of his license. Superintendent Salt opposed, on the ground of the insanitary condition of the house, and Mr. J. N. Cotterell undertook that the place should be put into a proper state to the satisfaction of the authorities.....

The Bench, after deliberating in private, renewed all the adjourned licenses.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1894

“Wednesbury adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Mr. W. A. Foster applied for the renewal of the license of the PORTWAY INN, Portway Road. Mr. Cotterill, of Walsall, as representing the owner of the house, gave an undertaking that the house should be restored.”

[The application was granted.]

Walsall Observer 24/6/1899

“On the 16th inst, at the Borough Police Court, three young men, named Benjamin Tonks, Great Western Street; John Henry Wood, Brickkiln Croft; and George Hooper, Dudley Street, all of Wednesbury, were charged with breaking into the PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, between 11-30pm on the 6th inst and 8am on the 7th, and stealing a bottle of aniseed, a bottle of peppermint, and a quantity of cigars and cigarettes, value £1 15s 6d, the property of *Edward Forrest*, the landlord. Police-constable Truswell arrested Tonks at Bilston, and the other two prisoners at Wednesbury, on the 13th inst, when neither made any answer to the charges. They were each committed for trial at the next Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.”

AND

Walsall Observer 1/7/1899

“At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, on Tuesday, Benjamin Tonks (23), labourer; John Henry Wood (27), labourer; and George Hooper (27), labourer, pleaded guilty to breaking and entering the dwelling house of *Edward Forrest*, at Wednesbury, and stealing a quantity of cigars, a bottle of peppermint, and a bottle of aniseed.

Lord Hatherton said that Tonks appeared to be the ringleader, and would be sentenced to three months’ hard labour. The other two prisoners were sentenced to one month’s hard labour each.”

1901 Census

44, Portway Road

[1] *Thomas Lacy* (44), beerhouse manager, born Tipton;

[2] *Elizabeth Lacy* (44), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Alice Lacy* (21), daughter, born Tipton;

[4] *Ernest Lacy* (17), son, general labourer, born Tipton;

[5] *Thomas Lacy* (15), son, forge worker, born Tipton;

[6] *George Lacy* (12), son, born Tipton;

[7] *Joseph Follows* (29), uncle, iron worker, born Tipton:

Wednesbury Leader 20/4/1901

“*Thomas Lacy*, landlord of the PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, was charged with opening his premises during prohibited hours, for permitting gaming, and for failing to admit the police when called upon to do so. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted, and Mr. R. A. Willcock appeared for the defence.

The case for the police was that on the night of April 5th (Good Friday), defendant and three men were playing cards and being served with drink after 11pm. When PS Simms and PCs Wallis and Smith asked for admittance it was denied for some time.

A fine of £1 and costs or 14 days was imposed for the gaming, 10s and costs or 7 days for refusing admittance to the police, and the charge of opening was dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1901

“Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt objected to the renewal of the licenses, in consequence of convictions, of the following houses.....
PORTWAY INN, Portway Road.....

The magistrates renewed all the licenses but Mr. Joynson pointed out that if any of the applicants were again convicted they would in all probability lose the licenses.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1904

“Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

Eight licenses were objected to by the police.....

PORTWAY INN, Portway Road.

In each instance a conviction was recorded against the house.

The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of the PORTWAY INN, Portway Road, which was refused, the Mayor observing that he felt sure the time had come when steps would have to be taken to reduce the number of licenses in Wednesbury.”

[1911]

POSTBOY

Market Place, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

[1996]

POTTERS ARMS

Potters Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

London and North Western Railway Company [1909]

LICENSEES

Solomon Perry snr [1861]

Solomon Perry jnr [1881]

John Anslow [1909]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Potters Lane

- [1] Solomon Perry (43), beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Mary Perry (42), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Richard Perry (20), son, fitter of engine wheels, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Solomon Perry (17), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Mary Perry (15), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Ann Perry (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Charlotte Perry (5), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] John Rigby (25), visitor, puddler, born West Bromwich:

Solomon Perry snr – see also FULLBROOK TAVERN, Walsall.

1881 Census

Potters Lane – POTTERS ARMS

- [1] Solomon Perry (37), unmarried, beer seller, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Edward Beasley (38), lodger, edge tool maker, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Ann Beasley (32), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [4] John Beasley (13), son, born Walsall;
- [5] Mary Beasley (8), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;
- [6] Edward Beasley (6), son, scholar, born Walsall;
- [7] Sarah Beasley (4), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;
- [8] Solomon Beasley (2), son, born Tipton;
- [9] Hannah Beasley (11 months), daughter, born Walsall:

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1909 - Notice

“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 Licenses 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.....

POTTERS ARMS, Potters Lane, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *John Anslow*.”

The License renewal was refused by the Compensation Authority on 11th June 1909.

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1909 - 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 11th, 12th, and 17th days of June, 1909, 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 12th day of July, 1909, 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.....

POTTERS ARMS, Potters Lane, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *John Anslow*. Registered Owners, London and North Western Railway Company.”

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.....

POTTERS ARMS, Potters Lane, Wednesbury, £430.

.....the money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1910

“The licensing sessions for Wednesbury borough were held yesterday.....

In regard to the POTTERS ARMS beerhouse, Potters Lane, referred for compensation and extinction last year, compensation would be paid to the parties on the 5th inst, and the license provisionally renewed in respect of the premises would expire on the 12th inst.”

PRINCE OF WALES

23, King Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Beard
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Garmston [1870] – **1871**;
Thomas Beard (**1871** – [1872]
Henry S Whitehall [1881]
Mrs. Eliza Hall [1889] – [1896]
John Owen [1901]
Thomas Richardson [1904]
Frank George Cox [1911] – [1913]
Zillah Hartshorne [1913]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

23, King Street

- [1] *Thomas Garmston* (64), beerhouse keeper, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Sarah Garmston* (53), wife, born Brewood, Staffordshire;
- [3] *George Garmston* (21), son, ironworker, puddler, born Brewood, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Fanny Garmston* (17), daughter, born Brewood, Staffordshire;
- [5] *Kate Birch* (30), visitor, married, born Brewood, Staffordshire;
- [6] *George Birch* (3), visitor, born Liverpool;
- [7] *Arthur Birch* (1), visitor, born Liverpool:

Thomas Garmston – see also LAMB AND FLAG.

Thomas Beard, beer retailer, 23, King Street. [1872]

1881 Census

23, King Street – PRINCE OF WALES INN

- [1] *Henry S. Whitehall* (37), innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Whitehall* (39), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Elizabeth Whitehall* (12), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Clara Whitehall* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Joseph Spittle* (49), visitor, gas fitting maker, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1889 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Investors, Property Buyers, and Others.

Messrs. Thomas Harford and Son have received instructions from the Representatives of the late *Thomas Beard*, deceased, to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the ANCHOR HOTEL Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, This Day (Monday), the 3rd day of June, at Seven o'clock (for 7.30 prompt) in the evening.....

Lot 3. All that Well-known Freehold Beerhouse and Premises, called the PRINCE OF WALES INN, situate in King Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mrs. *Eliza Hall*, as a yearly tenant, at a rental of £25 per annum. The House and Premises contain large Club Room, Sleeping Rooms, Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, Cellarage, Brewhouse, Stabling, and enclosed Yard. These Premises are admirably situated for carrying on a large and remunerative trade, being in a thickly populated district, and close to large manufactories.”

1891 Census

23, King Street – PRINCE OF WALES

- [1] *Eliza Hall* (44), widow, publican, born Cradley;
- [2] *Thomas Hall* (10), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [3] *Eliza Hall* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Daisy M. Hall* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Sarah Hall* (74), mother-in-law, widow, born Stourport;
- [6] *Mary Ann Bennett* (22), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

LOT 3.—All that Well-known FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE and Premises, called “THE PRINCE OF WALES INN,” situate in King Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mrs. *Eliza Hall*, as a yearly tenant, at a rental of £25. per annum. The House and Premises contain large Club Room, Sleeping Rooms, Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, Cellarage, Brewhouse, Stabling, and enclosed Yard. These Premises are admirably situated for carrying on a large and remunerative trade, being in a thickly populated district, and close to large manufactories.

Mrs. Eliza Hall, beer retailer, 23, King Street. [1896]

1901 Census

23, King Street – PRINCE OF WALES

- [1] *John Owen* (57), publican, born Dawley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Annie Owen* (41), wife, born Rushton, Shropshire;
- [3] *Lucy Owen* (3), daughter, born Horton, Shropshire;
- [4] *John Owen* (1), son, born Horton, Shropshire;
- [5] *Eliza Owen* (6 months), daughter, born Trench, Shropshire:

Thomas Richardson, beer retailer, 23, King Street. [1904]

1911 Census

23, King Street – PRINCE OF WALES

- [1] *Frank G. Cox* (49), beerhouse keeper, born Andover, Hampshire;
- [2] *Emily Cox* (49), wife, married 27 years, born London;
- [3] *Bertha Daisy Cox* (25), daughter, born Dudley;
- [4] *Dorothy May Cox* (17), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Frank George Cox, beer retailer, 23, King Street. [1912]

Walsall Observer 15/2/1913

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions.....

The whole of the licenses would be renewed except the FORESTERS ARMS, Portway Road, and the PRINCE OF WALES, King Street, and notice had given to the superintendent to oppose them on the ground of redundancy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/3/1913

“Wednesbury. Thursday.....

Mr. Pritchard (Bilston) formally applied for the renewal of the license of the PRINCE OF WALES beerhouse for the Wolverhampton Breweries, but intimated that he did not contest the application that the license should be dealt with on the ground of redundancy. The license was referred to the Compensation Authority.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/6/1913 - 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 10.45 o'clock am, on Thursday, the 24th day of July, 1913.

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.....

PRINCE OF WALES, King Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee *Frank George Cox*.”

Frank George Cox – see also GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wednesbury.

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.....

PRINCE OF WALES, King Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licensee, *Zillah Hartshorne*. Registered Owner, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1914

“The annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

At the principal meeting of the compensation authority the committee refused to renew 31 licenses. At the supplemental meeting 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 were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. In the following 27 cases the committee fixed the compensation.....

PRINCE OF WALES, King Street, Wednesbury, £650.”

Closed

PRINCE OF WALES

74, (36), Walsall Road, (Butcroft), Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Steatham, gunlock manufacturer, Wednesbury [1876]
Joseph Steatham [1894]
Harriet Steatham
Richard Wilson (acquired in May 1912)
Emily Lashford (acquired in July 1915 for £880) [1921]
Truman, Hanbury, Buxton and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1930)
Courage Ltd. (acquired in 1971)
Holdens Brewery (leased from 1980) [2019]



LICENSEES

Samuel Steatham [1858]
C Cotteral [1861]
Samuel Steatham [1871] – [1881]
Joseph Steatham [1891]
Samuel Steatham [1901]
John Henry Beddow [1911] – [1912]
Thomas Edward 'Tom' Burfoot **(1912 – 1976);**
George Bishop **(1976 – [1977])**
Michael 'Mick' Bowker [1985] – [1989]
Christine Neath and Val Dingley [1994]
Kathleen 'Kath' Jean Abley **(2000 – [2007])**



2007

NOTES

36, Walsall Road [1871], [1881], [1891]
74, Walsall Road [1901], [1912], [1939]

It had a beer and wine license.

Samuel Steatham was a gunlock manufacturer of Wednesbury.
He was also a grocer and a brewer.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1858 - Advert

“Darlaston Wake. No Monopoly!

The Public are most respectfully informed that a Piece of Land, containing about Eight Acres, called Bull Piece, will be thrown open Free of Expense during the Wake; when Theatres, Museums, Stands, Booths, Fancy Bazaars, &c, may be erected.

The above Piece of Land is pleasantly situated on the main road, and close to the centre of the town.

All Parties who intend coming into the above Ground must make application to Mr. *Samuel Steatham*, PRINCE OF WALES, Butcroft, Darlaston.

NB. The Ground will be thrown open Tomorrow (Thursday) August 19th, and will remain so for ten days.

Free! Free! Free!”

DARLASTON WAKE. NO MONOPOLY!

THE Public are most respectfully informed that a PIECE of LAND, containing about Eight Acres, called “Bull Piece,” will be thrown open FREE of EXPENSE during the Wake; when Theatres, Museums, Stands, Booths, Fancy Bazaars, &c., may be erected.

The above Piece of Land is pleasantly situated on the main road, and close to the centre of the town.

All Parties who intend coming into the above Ground must make application to Mr. Samuel Steatham, Prince of Wales, Butcroft, Darlaston.

N.B.—The Ground will be thrown open TO-MORROW, (Thursday,) August 19th, and will remain so for ten days.

FREE! FREE! FREE!

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1858

“Mr. Harper; Mr. William Coates, of the Bulls Head, Kidderminster; Mr. William Ashcroft, of Bilston; Mr. Aaron Stokes, of Walsall; Mr. Francis Jones, of West Bromwich; Mr. William Grattage, of Wolverhampton; and Mr. Joseph Archer, of Walsall, were severally charged at Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, with having, on Sunday, the 22nd current – ‘the opening day’ of Darlaston wake – unlawfully sold, by retail, quantities of exciseable liquors (spirits or ale) to be drunk and consumed on their premises there situate – the said parties not being then and there licensed so to do, and not being then and there the heirs, executors, administrators, or assignees, of the parties duly licensed so to do The whole defendants were fined each in the mitigated penalty of £5.”

[*Samuel Steatham's* advert is mentioned in the case.]

1861 Census

Butcroft – PRINCE OF WALES Public House

- [1] C. Cotteral (48), miner, born Darlaston;
 - [2] Mariah Cotteral (47), wife, born Darlaston;
 - [3] Phebe Cotteral (20), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
 - [4] William Cotteral (14), son, carpenter's apprentice, born Darlaston;
 - [5] Hannah Cotteral (11), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
 - [6] John Cotteral (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
 - [7] Mariah Cotteral (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
 - [8] Sarah Jane Cotteral (2), daughter, born Wednesbury:
- [*Samuel Steatham*, gun lock filer, is the next entry.]

1871 Census

36, Walsall Road – Public House

- [1] *Samuel Steatham* (54), widower, gun lock filer, born Darlaston;
- [2] William Steatham (21), son, labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Samuel Steatham* (6), grand-son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Ann Pitt (13), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

1881 Census

36, Walsall Road

- [1] *Samuel Steatham* (66), widower, publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Samuel Steatham* (15), grand-son, scholar, born Darlaston:

Samuel Steatham died in the 2nd quarter of 1884.

Joseph Steatham was the son of *Samuel Steatham*.

1891 Census

36, Walsall Road – PRINCE OF WALES INN

- [1] *Joseph Steatham* (49), widower, publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Samuel Steatham* (27), son, blacksmith, born Darlaston;
- [3] Thomas Steatham (23), son, boiler rivetter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Hannah Steatham (18), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Minnie Steatham (9), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] Henry Bullock (23), boarder, engine driver, born Walsall:

Walsall Advertiser 21/10/1893

“On Tuesday night the Prince of Wales Lodge of the Staffordshire Conservative League, at Darlaston, was formally inaugurated by the Grand Master (Brother J. Frakes, Walsall) at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Darlaston. The Grand Master, having briefly explained that the object of the League was to spread Conservative principles amongst all classes, especially the working class, expressed the pleasure it gave him on behalf of the Grand Lodge to present them with a certificate of enrolment.”

Walsall Observer 11/8/1900

“The anniversary dinner of Victoria Lodge, No.1540, of the National United Order of Free Gardeners, took place on Saturday at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Butcroft, Darlaston.....”

1901 Census

74, Walsall Road – PRINCE OF WALES INN

- [1] *Samuel Steatham* (35), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Harriet Steatham* (38), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Annie Corns* (16), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Wednesbury Leader 10/8/1901

“The members of the Victoria Lodge N.U.O.F.G. (1540) held their annual dinner at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Kings Hill, on Saturday. After the cloth was withdrawn, Bro. T. Harper, Grand Master, was elected chairman, and Bro. H. T. Finch, Grand Secretary, vice chairman.....”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

1911 Census

Walsall Road – PRINCE OF WALES

- [1] *John Henry Beddow* (42), publican, tenant of beerhouse, born Bilston;
- [2] *Alice Maud Beddow* (40), wife, married 21 years, assisting in the business, born Bilston;
- [3] *Alice Maud Beddow* (20), daughter, assisting in the business, born Bilston;
- [4] *Leslie John Beddow* (8), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Mary Roper* (26), domestic servant, born Bilston:

John H. Beddow, 74, Walsall Road, Kings Hill. [1912]

It had a Judge and Jury Club. [1913]

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-Beerhouses, 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."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/5/1915 - Advert

"Under A Deed Of Assignment.

Re Richard Sidney Wilson, trading as R. S. Wilson & Son.

Preliminary Announcement Of Sale By Auction of Eleven Freehold, Fully-Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, Brewery Premises & Dwelling Houses in and around Darlaston, Sedgley, Coseley, Bilston, Tipton, Ackleton, and Bridgnorth.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions from R. H. Jonson, Esq. (Messrs. Muras and Co., Chartered Accountants, Wolverhampton), the Trustees as above, to Sell by Auction early in June, the following Properties.

The PRINCE OF WALES INN, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-On).

The MINERS ARMS INN, Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal (Fully Licensed), and Two Cottages.

The SWAN INN, Darkhouse Lane, Deepfields, Coseley (Fully Licensed), and Two Dwelling Houses.

The BARLEY MOW INN, Oxford Street, Bilston (Beerhouse-On).

The ROLLING MILL INN, Millfield Road, Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and Two Cottages.

The CALIFORNIA INN, Hatton Street, Bradley, near Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and five Dwelling Houses.

The BOAT INN, Boat Row, off Park Lane West, Tipton (Fully Licensed).

The RED LION INN, Castle Street, Coseley, (Beerhouse-On).

The SUMMER HOUSE INN, School Street, Roseville, Coseley (Beerhouse-On).

The CABIN INN, Kent Street, Upper Gornal (Beerhouse-On).

The Folly Inn, Ackleton, 5½ miles from Bridgnorth and Albrighton, and about 10 miles from Wolverhampton (Beerhouse-On), with Cottage Residence.

The Castle Brewery, Bridgnorth, with Fixed Plant.

Further particulars will appear in future announcements.

Auctioneer's Offices, 193, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley. (Tele.56)."

Catalogue for Auction on 2/6/1915

"Under a Deed of Assignment. Re Richard Sidney Wilson, trading as R. S. Wilson & Son.

Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Eleven Freehold Fully Licensed and On-Beerhouse Properties, Brewery Premises and Dwelling Houses.....

The following Eleven Licensed Houses, Three of which are Fully-Licensed and Eight On-Beerhouses, together with the Brewery, 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 some of the largest works in Staffordshire, and as they are being offered by direction of the Trustee under a Deed of Assignment, a fine opportunity presents itself to Brewers wishing to increase their barrelage or to private individuals desiring to embark in the trade, of acquiring houses which as a whole are in good order, commodious, well arranged, doing genuine trades, and possession of which may be obtained in most cases upon completion and otherwise at early dates afterwards.....

Lot 1. The PRINCE OF WALES INN, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-On).
Let on short tenancy at a rental of £35 0s 0d per annum. A well-arranged and most desirable Public House in a good working class district, containing Front Tap Room 15' x 12', Entrance Passage, Bar Smoke Room 12' x 11', Small Serving Bar, Private Sitting Room, Living Kitchen, Club Room 30' x 20', Four Bedrooms, and Cellars together with Brewhouse, large Yard with Double Gateway approach, pleasant Garden and the usual Outbuildings being entirely walled in and undoubtedly one of the best Houses in the district."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1915

"At Wolverhampton on Wednesday Messrs. W. Dando and Co. of Dudley offered for sale a number of licensed houses in the Black Country, and the lots disposed of realised a total of £6,835.....

A sum of £880 was obtained for the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Walsall Road, between Darlaston and Wednesbury, an on-beerhouse, let at a rental of £35 per annum."

Richard Wilson was a maltster of Ackleton.
He was killed in action in July 1915.

Thomas Edward Burfoot = Thomas Edward Burford

Thomas Edward Burfoot was a teetotaler.

1921 Census

Walsall Road – PRINCE OF WALES INN

- [1] *Thomas Burfoot* (43), license holder, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Mary Burfoot* (41), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *John Burfoot* (16), son, assisting father, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Thomas Burfoot* (10), son, school, born Darlaston:

South Staffordshire Times 2/8/1924

"The customers of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Butcroft, Darlaston, had their annual outing last Saturday afternoon, when (thanks to the hospitality of the landlord, Mr. *Tom Burford*), upwards of 50 had had a pleasurable char-a-banc tour. The route lay through some lovely country – Coven, Gailey, Stetton, Ivesly Bank, Weston Hall, Tong, and Albrighton, to Kingswood Common. Here a halt was made, and tea partaken of in picnic fashion, the weather being ideal. Sports were arranged, the chief item being an 80 yards dash handicap. There were ten heats, and the ages of the competitors ranged from 25 to 74 years. There was some keen racing, and in the final Mr. A. Turner won, Mr. T. Bates being second, and Mr. J. Jones third. At the conclusion of the sports, the journey was resumed, home being reached about 9 o'clock, via Tettenhall and Wolverhampton. The evening closed with a smoking concert."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 27/6/1925

"With no fewer than seventeen convictions against him, Arthur Handley, of 12, Thirteen Row, Cobden Street, Wednesbury, was charged before the local County magistrates, on Tuesday, with being drunk and disorderly in the Walsall Road, Kings Hill, the previous evening.

PC Jones told the Bench that he was in Walsall Road about 9.45pm, when he saw the defendant, who was drunk, going towards the PRINCE OF WALES INN. He asked where he was going, and he replied that he was going to pay his debts. It appeared, added the officer, that he had been in the public house and had been ejected. The man refused to go home, and he became so disorderly that assistance had to be obtained to take him to the Darlaston police station.

Handley admitted being drunk. He expressed his regret at coming before the Court again, and said he had been trying to go straight for the last three years. He had buried his youngest child about two months previously and that had upset him. It did not take much to get over him, and he thought it would be better if he abstained altogether. A fine of 20s was imposed."

1939 Register

74, Walsall Road – PRINCE OF WALES

- [1] Thomas E. Burfoot, date of birth 1/8/1878, manager of public, retired tool maker, married;
- [2] Mary Burfoot, dob 1/4/1879, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Thomas E. Burfoot, dob 14/10/1910, turner, tool room, married;
- [4] Edith H. Burfoot, dob 28/8/1911, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] Iris D. (Burfoot) Walker, dob 17/5/1930, school, single:

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/8/1978

“Thieves who broke into a storeroom at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Walsall Road, Darlaston, stole two sets of fishing rods and a fishing umbrella.”

Walsall Observer 3/4/1981

“A few days of fine weather, and the increase in petrol prices, have driven many people to pedal power. And that includes the thieves, with pedal cycles becoming a prime target throughout the borough a lady’s cycle went from outside the PRINCE OF WALES pub in Darlaston.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/2/1985

“Sandwell and Dudley, already suffering some of the worse effects of the recession in the UK, are now feeling the pinch in the pubs.....

In the unemployment blackspot of Wednesbury, *Mick Bowker* says more than 50 per cent of his regulars at the PRINCE OF WALES in Walsall Road are on the dole. ‘People who used to drink four or five pints every night of the week are now just drinking a couple of pints at the weekend. And where they used to drink cider and spirits they now tend to go for the cheapest drinks possible such as mild.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/11/1985

“Mr. *Michael Bowker*, licensee of the PRINCE OF WALES, Walsall Road, Darlaston, has objected to council plans to put a waiting restriction on the street outside his pub, claiming it will ruin his trade. The council’s highways department wants to introduce the restriction as a road safety measure to try to improve the traffic flow along the busy road. Walsall Highways Committee meets tonight.”

Walsall Observer 8/8/1986

“A 32-mile trek on foot is bad enough, but when you’re pushing a bath as well it’s doubly hard! But the regulars of the PRINCE OF WALES pub, Darlaston, didn’t mind – it was to raise money for the Clifford House Appeal – and they all had a good time doing it.

The bath push, which took them round all the pubs owned by Holdens Brewery, was the brainwave of Joanna Warner, who works at Clifford House, Wolverhampton, and pub regular Pat Taylor.

Mrs. Jean Bowker, landlady of the PRINCE OF WALES, said, ‘You often see the bad side of life in a pub so it is nice to see someone do some good for a change. They really are a smashing bunch of kids.’

The regulars reckon they have raised around £1,000 which will go towards buying a minibus to transport mentally handicapped children.”

Kath Abley was married to Joe.

A conservatory was opened in 2003.

[2014]

Express & Star 18/3/2019

“A popular pub in Darlaston is being auctioned off, much to the dismay of locals. PRINCE OF WALES in Walsall Road is set to go under the hammer early next month for a guide price of £168,000 – unless a new landlord can be found.....”

Express & Star 30/3/2019

“Angry campaigners are planning to stage a protest at a brewery’s headquarters over a decision to sell off a landmark pub. The PRINCE OF WALES, in Walsall Road, Darlaston, has been entered into an auction next month by owners Holden’s. But the decision has sparked anger locally among those who want to see it re-opened. The pub has been closed for about two years but Darlaston councillor Doug James said he believes there is enough support for the business to have a viable future. The PRINCE OF WALES has a rich history in the area and has been featured in several Good Pub Guides. However, Holden’s said the pub had been struggling for years before the decision was taken to sell up. Councillor James said requests for a meeting with the firm had been turned down and that there were now plans to stage a protest. The pub is set to go under the hammer early next month and has a guide price of £168,000. It is feared new owners will either convert the pub into housing or knock it down.

Councillor James said, ‘Various local people and representatives from Camra (Campaign for Real Ale) said they would like to attend a meeting. I contacted Holden’s to do that but they said they weren’t going to meet. It was disappointing. I didn’t just want to talk about the PRINCE OF WALES, I wanted to sit down and talk about their strategies for pubs in the area. The pub is in good condition, there was investment in it about five years ago. If it was in a dilapidated condition I could understand them wanting to sell it off.’

Councillor James said protesters with placards were planning to visit the brewery HQ. He added, ‘We have lost that many pubs in Darlaston – we lost the VINE and now we are going to lose the PRINCE OF WALES. Local people are fed up of losing landmarks.’

Holden’s director Abigail Kent said, ‘The decision to sell the PRINCE OF WALES has been neither quick nor easy and we have tried for several years with different operators to make the pub financially viable again. From a business perspective, sadly, it is no longer practicable to keep the pub open and trading. Being both directly and indirectly responsible for the jobs of over 150 people across the entire business, the board’s responsibility is to ensure the financial stability of the company and in turn the future of Holden’s Brewery. We must all ultimately consider the bigger and wider ranging picture rather than on a pub by pub basis.’”

Express & Star 20/8/2020

“A former Darlaston pub is to be converted into apartments after planners gave the thumbs up to a proposal. Jacob Asset Management’s scheme will see the old PRINCE OF WALES, on Walsall Road, turned into flats – with two on the ground floor and three on the first. The pub, built in the 19th Century, was put on the market last year after efforts to lease it to a new tenant had failed. Developers said declining pub business – not least because of nearby competition from other venues – and a need for more residential property in the area were the main reasons behind the new scheme. This proposal was submitted in October last year before Walsall Council planning officers finally granted permission earlier this week. In their application, the developers said, ‘The property was previously used as a pub, however previous years have seen decrease in trade and increase in brewery and business rates. It is therefore not a viable option to keep the pub open due to its operating at a loss. Due to the close proximity of Darlaston town centre, which in previous years has seen an increase in development, many of the customers now visit pubs there. The pub is also located within a residential estate but doesn’t get much local trade. Previous owners have tried to refurbish and lease the pub out for a number of years, but only minimal interest was received with no offers coming forward. Following this the brewery decided to dispose of the site. The new vendor is seeking a longer-term solution for the building and it’s felt meeting the demand for local housing will secure the future of the building. The local area is growing, with student intake increasing on a yearly basis and smaller studio apartments required within the local area.’”

Express & Star 4/8/2022

“Communities across Walsall have been forced to endure the depressing sight of once-thriving boozers calling time for good for a number of years. Factors such as high beer taxes, supermarkets selling cheaper alcohol and changing habits are among reasons cited why so many pubs are forced to close permanently. For those buildings not brought back into use as pubs, bars or restaurants, developers have seized the opportunity to re-imagine them as housing schemes which will change the landscape of the streets they sit in. Here are a few old pubs which are set to be converted into apartments or houses, having secured planning permission in the past several years.....

The 19th Century PRINCE OF WALES pub was put on the market in 2019 after efforts to lease it to a new tenant had failed. But the following year saw an application by Jacob Asset Management to convert it into flats given the go-ahead by Walsall Council planners. Once completed, the building will feature two apartments on the ground floor and three above it.”

HIGHLY-IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE BY
AUCTION OF
ELEVEN FREEHOLD FULLY-LICENSED AND
ON-BEERHOUSE PROPERTIES,
BREWERY PREMISES & DWELLING HOUSES
in and around
DARLASTON, SEDGLEY, COSELEY, BILSTON, TIPTON,
ACKLETON, AND BRIDGNORTH.

ALFRED W. DANDO & CO. have received instructions from R. H. Johnston, Esq. (Messrs. Muras and Co., Chartered Accountants, Wolverhampton), the Trustee as above, to Sell by Auction, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton, on WEDNESDAY, June 2, 1915, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows:—

Lot 1.

"THE PRINCE OF WALES INN," WALSALL ROAD, between Darlaston and Wednesbury (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 2.

"THE MINERS' ARMS INN," RUITON STREET, LOWER GORNAL (Fully Licensed), together with the Two COTTAGES adjoining.

Lot 3.

"THE SWAN INN," DARKHOUSE LANE, DEEPFIELDS COSELEY (Fully Licensed), and Two DWELLING HOUSES adjoining.

Lot 4.

"THE BARLEY MOW INN," OXFORD STREET, BILSTON (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 5.

"THE ROLLING MILL INN," MILLFIELD ROAD, BILSTON (Beerhouse-On), and Two COTTAGES adjoining.

Lot 6.

"THE CALIFORNIA INN," HATTON STREET, BRADLEY near Bilston (Beerhouse-On), and Five DWELLING HOUSES.

Lot 7.

"THE BOAT INN," BOAT ROW, off Park Lane West, TIPTON (Fully Licensed).

Lot 8.

"THE RED LION INN," CASTLE STREET, COSELEY (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 9.

"THE SUMMER HOUSE INN," SCHOOL STREET, ROSEVILLE, COSELEY (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 10.

"THE CABIN INN," KENT STREET, UPPER GORNAL (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 11.

"THE FOLLY INN," ACKLETON (Beerhouse-On), situate five and a half miles from Bridgnorth and Albrighton, and about ten miles from Wolverhampton.

Lot 12.

An Excellent COTTAGE RESIDENCE, adjoining the above, as lot to Mr. Davies.

Lot 13.

THE CASTLE BREWERY, BRIDGNORTH, together with the whole of the FIXED PLANT.

Further particulars may be obtained—as to Lot 1, of Messrs. Slater and Co., Solicitors, Darlaston; as to Lots 2, 3, and 7, of Messrs. W. A. and H. M. Foster, Solicitors, Wolverhampton; as to Lot 12, of Messrs. Tildesley and Harris, Solicitors, Walsall; and as to the whole of the Lots of Messrs. Hall, Pratt, and Pritchard, Solicitors, Bilston; or of the Auctioneers, Dudley.

PARTICULARS.


The "Prince of Wales" Inn, Walsall Road,

Between DARLASTON and WEDNESBURY
(Beerhouse-On).

Let on short tenancy at a rental of **£35 : 0s. : 0d.** per annum. A well-arranged and most desirable Public-House in a good working class district, containing Front Tap Room 15' x 12', Entrance Passage, Bar Smoke Room 12' x 11', Small Serving Bar, Private Sitting Room, Living Kitchen, Club Room 30' x 20', Four Bedrooms, and Cellars together with Brewhouse, large Yard with Double Gateway approach, pleasant Garden and the usual Outbuildings being entirely walled in and undoubtedly one of the best Houses in the district.

1915

**Prince of
Wales**
74 Walsall Road
Darlaston
0121 526 6244



**Holden's Bitter,
Golden Glow
plus seasonal beer**
Real Food
Children welcome
A warm friendly atmosphere

**New conservatory
now open**
Sunday Lunches: 1-5:00 p.m.
Small parties catered for
Competitive prices for
outside catering

2003

**Prince of
Wales**
74 Walsall Road
Darlaston
0121 526 6244



**Holden's Bitter,
Holden's Golden Glow
Changing Guest Beer**
Real Food
Children welcome
A warm friendly atmosphere

Conservatory now open
Sunday Lunches: 1-5:00 p.m.
Small parties catered for
Competitive prices for
outside catering

2005

Prince of Wales

74 Walsall Road
Darlaston
0121 526 6244



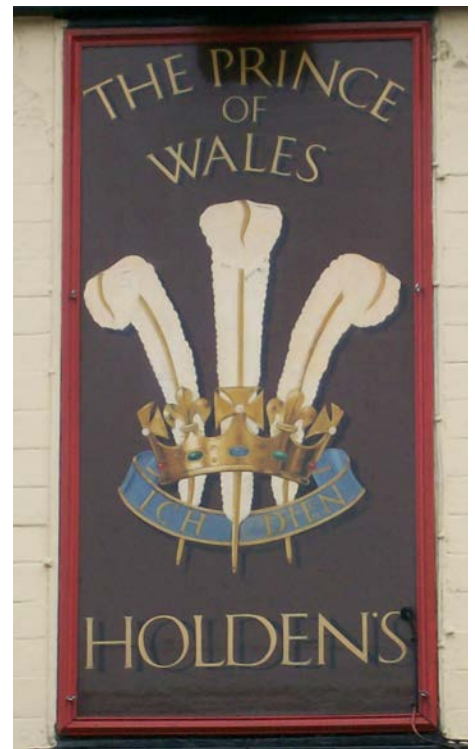
Holden's Bitter, Holden's Golden Glow Changing Guest Beer

Real Food
Children welcome
A warm friendly atmosphere

Conservatory now open

Sunday Lunches: 1-5:00 p.m.
Small parties catered for
Competitive prices for
outside catering

2008



Prince of Wales

74 Walsall Road
Darlaston
0121 526 6244



Holden's Bitter, Holden's Golden Glow Changing Guest Beer

Real Food
Children welcome
A warm friendly atmosphere

Conservatory now open

Sunday Lunches: 1-5:00 p.m.
Small parties catered for
Competitive prices for
outside catering

2010

PRINCE REGENT

8, Victoria Street / Albert Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1934], [1968]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd

LICENSEES

John Male [] – **1870**);
Mrs. Harriet Nicholls (**1870 – 1872**);
Benjamin Nicholls (**1872 – [1896]**)
Joseph Fullwood [1901] – [1912]
Mrs. Phoebe Thomas Evans [1921]
Harry Short [1932] – [1935]
Alfred William Gobsill [1939] – [1940]
John Edward Pincher [1961] – **1963**);
William Henry Hornby (**1963 – [1968]**)



NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

It was built by Benjamin and Eliza Nicholls.

[1860]

John Male – see also BRUNSWICK, Great Western Street.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/7/1870

“Henry Maybury and Thomas Bradbury, both of Bilston, were charged, on remand, with uttering base coin. Miss *Harriet Nichols*, of the PRINCE REGENT beerhouse, Victoria Street, Wednesbury, said that on the 18th inst, between twelve and one o’clock, the prisoner Maybury came into the house and called for a glass of ale and a postage stamp. He left the house in order to get a stamp at the Post office, and on his return waited until three o’clock for the other prisoner. Maybury gave her a florin in payment for a jug of beer, and paid her two others for some more liquor. She told him that she would rather he would pay her out of the change she gave him, but he pressed her to change the coins. Finding that she had not sufficient change left in the drawer, after having taken two other half-crowns, she sent out to a Mrs. Griffiths, shopkeeper, for change. Mrs. Griffiths sent back the coin, saying that it was bad; and she asked Maybury to change it, but he would not. She showed the three coins to a gentleman who was in the house, and he said they were all bad. Sergeant Steele was then sent for and took the prisoners into custody. Bradbury took no part in the matter beyond drinking the beer.

Clara Nichols and Mrs. Emma Griffiths gave corroborative evidence.

Sergeant Steele produced the three counterfeit florins. Maybury said he had the coins from Bradbury, who said he did not know he had given him any which were not good. Bradbury said he had got more money on him if those were bad. He searched Bradbury, and found upon him £1 7s 3d, which was good coin, and a loaded pistol. Maybury said he could see he had been made ‘the mug on,’ for that morning the prisoner had called for him at Bilston.

Mr. Haderer, of High Street, West Bromwich, proved that the coins were only cast ones, electro-plated.

Mr. Sheldon appeared for the prisoner Bradbury, who was discharged.

Maybury afterwards said that he had the three two-shilling pieces from Bradbury, who told him he had changed a sovereign with a man who was selling potatoes.

Maybury was committed for trial.”

[At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Maybury was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for twelve months. The prosecution considered that Bradbury should also have stood trial.]

Birmingham Daily Post 21/10/1870

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Baker (26), forgerman, was indicted for uttering, on the 20th August, 1870, at Wednesbury, one piece of false and counterfeit coin, intended to represent a florin. Mr. Motteram prosecuted.

Prisoner paid the bad coin referred to at the GEORGE INN, in Wednesbury, on the day named. He had already offered it at another public house, the landlord of which followed him, and caused him to be taken into custody.

Mrs. Nicholls, whose daughter keeps a beerhouse in Wednesbury, gave evidence to the effect that he had tried to pass a bad 2s piece in her house about half an hour before the occurrence already related. He was told it was bad, when he produced another florin also bad.

Found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment for six months.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/10/1870

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Baker, 26, was charged with putting off a counterfeit florin at Wednesbury.

The prosecutor, James Whitehouse, occupant of the UNION TAVERN, Wednesbury, deposed that the prisoner came to his house on the 20th of August, and called for a glass of ale, for which he paid with a bad florin. The prosecutor immediately told him that the coin was counterfeit, upon which the prisoner stated that he must have received it in wages from his master to whom he should return it. The prisoner then left, and was followed to the GEORGE INN by the prosecutor, who saw him order some refreshment there and receive some change, upon which he communicated with the police, by whom he was apprehended.

Mr. Motteram, for the prosecution, called witnesses to prove that the prisoner had uttered more than one counterfeit coin.

Eliza Nicholls, occupying a public house in Victoria Road, Wednesbury, said that the prisoner came to her house a few days previous to his apprehension and demanded a glass of beer, to pay for which he offered a false florin. Witness's husband inquired whether he was aware that the florin was a bad one, and the prisoner replied, ‘Oh, is it?’ and produced another, which was also found to be a bad one; and he then stated that he had received them from his master, at the same time paying for the beer with a good half-crown.

He was found guilty, and having been several times previously convicted, was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

1871 Census

8, Victoria Street

[1] *Benjamin Nichols* (44), engineer, born Princes End;

[2] *Eliza Nichols* (41), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Harriet Nichols* (22), daughter, no occupation, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Mary Jane Nichols* (19), daughter, no occupation, born Wednesbury;

[5] *George Nichols* (16), son, messenger, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Clara Nichols* (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Matilda Nichols* (12), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Lizzie Nichols* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[9] *William B. Nichols* (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[10] *John Henry Nichols* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[11] *Francis T. Nichols* (3), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[12] *Alice M. Nichols* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Mrs. Harriet Nicholls, beer retailer, 8, Victoria Street [1872]

1881 Census

8, Victoria Street – REGENT INN

- [1] Benjamin Nichols (54), engine driver, born Princes End;
- [2] Eliza Nichols (51), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] George Nichols (26), son, clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Clara Nichols (24), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Matilda Nichols (24), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Lizzie Nichols (19), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] William D. Nichols (17), son, errand boy, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Francis T. Nichols (14), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Alfred H. Nichols (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

1891 Census

8, Victoria Street – PRINCE REGENT INN

- [1] Benjamin Nicholls (64), stationary engine driver, born Tipton;
- [2] Eliza Nicholls (61), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Clara Nicholls (34), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Matilda Nicholls (31), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Lizzie Nicholls (29), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Francis T. Nicholls (24), son, stationary engine driver, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Alfred H. D. Nicholls (19), son, wheelwright, born Wednesbury;

Benjamin Nicholls, beer retailer, 8, Victoria Street. [1896]

1901 Census

8, Victoria Street

- [1] Joseph Fullwood (53), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Phoebe A. Fullwood (57), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Phoebe J. Fullwood (29), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Lily Buist (16), visitor, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Alfred Evans (28), boarder, brewers traveller, born Wolverhampton;

Joseph Fullwood, beer retailer, 8, Victoria Street. [1904]

Evening Despatch 20/5/1907 - Advert

“Wanted, a Smart General, also assist in smoke-room; pianist preferred; good wage; character required.

Fullwood, PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a Smart General, also assist in smoke-room;
pianist preferred; good wage; character required.—
Fullwood, Prince Regent, Victoria-street. Wednesbury.

Phoebe A. Fullwood died in the 1st quarter of 1911.

1911 Census

Victoria Street – PRINCE REGENT

- [1] Joseph Fullwood (64), widower, publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Phoebe Evans (38), daughter, married 9 years, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Vera Evans (8), grand-daughter, born Bilston;
- [4] Sylvier Evans (2), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Sarah Jones (22), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Joseph Fullwood, beer retailer, 8, Victoria Street. [1912], [1916]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1916 - Advert

“Bar General (superior), to Assist in Smoke Room.

Mrs. Evans, PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street, Wednesbury.”

BAR-GENERAL (superior), to Assist in Smoke Room.—Mrs.
Evans, Prince Regent, Victoria St., Wednesbury.

1921 Census

8, Victoria Street – PRINCE REGENT

- [1] Alfred Evans (49), brewers chemist, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Phoebe Thomas Evans (49), wife, innkeeper, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Vera Maybell Evans (18), daughter, barmaid, born Bilston;
- [4] Sylvia Christine Evans (12), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Nancy Pugh (23), boarder, barmaid and assists in housework, born Wolverhampton:

H. Short, beer retailer, 8, Victoria Street. [1932]

Evening Despatch 9/3/1934

“‘This house is not superfluous because of the trade it has been doing,’ stated Mr. H. A. Tucker, for the owners (W. Butler and Co, Springfield Works, Wolverhampton) in an application at Wednesbury Licensing Sessions today for the renewal of the license of the PRINCE REGENT beerhouse (on), Victoria Street, Wednesbury, which had been deferred on the ground of redundancy. It was stated that within a radius of 500 yards there were 33 fully licensed houses, 15 on and two off.

Mr. Tucker said that for the past five years an average of 230 barrels were sold per year, and 409 dozen of bottled goods. Now that business was improving the trade of the house would go up, for in spite of the depression the house was doing 4½ barrels per week.

The Justices renewed the license.”

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.”

1939 Register

8, Victoria Street

- [1] *Alfred William Gobsill*, date of birth 22/6/1904, anti-aircraft guns moulder, heavy work, and licensee public house, married;
- [2] *Florence Gobsill*, dob 21/4/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Frederick James Gobsill*, dob 25/5/1922, miller, bolts and nuts machinist, single;
- [4] *Alan Gobsill*, dob 24/3/1938, under school age, single:

Alfred William Gobsill – see also OLD CROWN, Darlaston.

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

PRINCE REGENT, Wednesbury, £1 19s.”

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

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

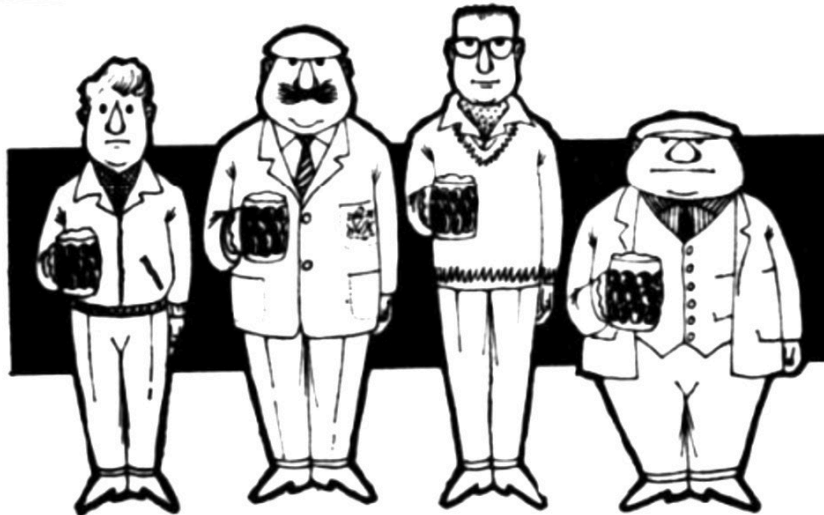
PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street, Wednesbury.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Table Tennis League. [1932]

"At the annual meeting of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Ladies Licensed Victuallers Association officers elected were.....

Mrs. N. Hornby, PRINCE REGENT, Wednesbury, president."

Closed



ATTENTION! all MILD drinkers

HIGHGATE MILD is now available in the
following BUTLERS and ATKINSONS houses:—

BRIDGE HOUSE, Bloxwich Road, Walsall.
NEW NAVIGATION, Birchills, Walsall.
WALSALL ARMS, Bank Street, Walsall.
FALCON, Lichfield Street, Walsall.
FITTERS ARMS, Hatherton St., Walsall.
FORGE HAMMER, Rolling Mill Street,
Pleck, Walsall.
FOUNTAIN, Lower Forster Street, Walsall.
NEW INN, Green Lane, Walsall.
PRINCE OF WALES, Queen St., Walsall.
BEAR & RAGGED STAFF, High Street,
Walsall.
COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridgeman St.,
Walsall.
TANNERS ARMS, Day Street, Walsall.
DUKE OF YORK, Moxley Rd., Darlaston.
BLACK HORSE, Pinfold St., Darlaston.
NELSON, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.
WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.
KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road,
Wednesbury.
DARTMOUTH INN, High St., Darlaston.
HAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.
OLD BUSH, The Green, Darlaston.
STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge,
Darlaston.

RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge,
Darlaston.
RISING SUN, Piercy Street, Newtown,
Wednesbury.
FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street,
Wednesbury.
OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.
PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street,
Wednesbury.
COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury.
SPRING COTTAGE, The Paddock,
Walsall.
HARDEN, Coalpool Lane, Walsall.
NEWPORT ARMS, Pleck Road, Walsall.
VINE, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall.
KINGS ARMS, High Street, Bloxwich.
FOUNTAIN, Portland Street, Walsall.
STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherine's
Cross, Darlaston.
BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.
HORSE & JOCKEY, High Bullen,
Wednesbury.
GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wed-
nesbury.



Pride of the Midlands

QUEENS ARMS

81, Holyhead Road / St. James Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Lichfield Brewery Company (acquired in April 1886) [1897]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1961]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Brevitt Palmer [1848] – **1852**);
Henry Clinton (**1852** – [1853]
Elizabeth White [1861]
William Eardley [1857] – [1862]
Mrs. Catherine Eardley [1864] – **1866**);
John Heyes (**1866** – [1870]
Joseph Whitehouse [] – **1869**);
Arthur Simmonds (**1869** – []
Mrs. Mary Cannell [1872] – [1873]
Job Jones [1881]
Mrs. Elizabeth Jones [1882] – [1884]
William R Emery [1891]
David Adams [1892]
Elon Adams [1896]
Edward Cope Clarke (**1897** – []
Albert Scoffham [1901]
William Perry [1904]
Alfred Purcell [1911] – [1912]
Leonard James Bright [1915] – **1927**);
Ernest Charles Lee (**1927** – [1940]
Berwick (**1957** – []
Thomas Hawthorn [1961] – [1966]
Evans [1970]
Mrs. Janet Weaver []
Wells [1981]
Sarah Davidson (**1982** – []



Ex-pub 2014

NOTES

QUEENS HEAD [1862], [1879], [1884]

Tokens were issued from here bearing
"QUEENS ARMS INN, Wednesbury, 3d" on obverse, and "J. B. Palmer, Gun, Pistol, & Implement Maker to Her Majesty's Honourable Board of Ordnance" on reverse.
and
"QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury" on obverse, and "Foreign Wines and Spirits, 3d" on reverse.

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1848

"Annual Licensing Day Applications for Spirit Licenses.

Licenses were granted to *Joseph B. Palmer*, QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/10/1849 - Deaths

“On the 9th instant, Sarah, fourth daughter of Mr. *J. B. Palmer*, QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, after a few hours illness.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1850

“On Monday last, the members of Wednesbury Cricket Club met on their ground at Wood Green, to play their last friendly match of the season. The playing was very good, especially considering that it is a young club. From the progress the club has made in their second season, we have no doubt that during the next season they will match, if not rival, some of the established clubs of the neighbourhood.

After the game was over, the members retired to partake of a sumptuous dinner provided at the house of Mr. *J. B. Palmer*, QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, and to whom great credit is due for the arrangements made on the occasion.....”

Birmingham Journal 26/10/1850 - Advert

“QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above first-rate House, eligibly situated, and surrounded by numerous Manufactories and Iron Works, in a pleasant and densely populated district, and near the South Staffordshire and intended Birmingham and Wolverhampton Railway Station.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to the Landlord.”

Birmingham Journal 14/9/1850

“On Tuesday last an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Palmer*, the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the body of a collier named Thomas Atkins, thirty-eight years age, who came by his death in the following melancholy manner. He was employed in a pit belonging to Mr. Thomas Walker, and was at work on Saturday evening, along with two men and a boy. They had been engaged in putting up some doors to be used for promoting a current of air in the pit, so that the sulphur, which existed in considerable quantities, might be carried out of the workings, and the deceased persisted in going further along the pit than Henry Mason, a fellow-workman, considered to be safe. Mason accompanied him for some time, but the sulphur became so overpowering that he drew back, and advised the deceased to do the same. In a moment or two, however, deceased called out, ‘Henry, I’m down,’ and on Mason trying to reach him, he also fell, but managed to crawl back on his hands and knees. The other man came to the rescue, and was likewise overpowered by the sulphur, but Mason went towards him on all fours, and succeeded in dragging him nearer the bottom of the shaft, where the air was comparatively pure. Assistance was obtained from the pit bank, and a man named Eli Fletcher having had a rope attached to his waist by way of precaution, at length managed to drag out the body of the unfortunate man Atkins. He was quite dead. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Holyhead Road

- [1] Joseph Palmer (26), gun implement maker employing 3 men, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Ann Palmer (27), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Joseph Palmer (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Maria Palmer (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Maryann Davis (17), general servant, born Wednesbury:



Token

Birmingham Journal 14/8/1852 - Advert

“QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Joseph B. Palmer (relinquishing the Public Business), returns his sincere thanks for the liberal patronage he has received and respectfully informs his Friends and the Public in general that he has Disposed of the above-named Business to Mr. *Henry Clinton*, for whom he solicits a continuation of their favours.”

AND

“*Henry Clinton*, having entered upon the above old-established Inn, respectfully solicits the favours of his Friends and the Public generally, assuring them that every exertion, combined with moderate charges, shall be made to render this Inn replete with every convenience, comfort, and accommodation.

Spirits and Wines of first-rate quality.”

Birmingham Journal 14/8/1852 - Advert

“To Manufacturers, Gun Dealers, Sportsmen, Brokers, and Others.

Sale near to the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Dawes, on the Premises, on Monday Next, August 16th.

A capital Steam Engine and Boiler, three-horse power, complete, and nearly new; about Thirty very superior Double and Single-barrel Fowling Pieces; Two Pockets of excellent Hops; a variety of useful Household Furniture and Ale Casks; a quantity of Shop Tools; a useful Brown Horse, aged five years; a neat-built Trap; a Set of neat Gig Harness, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Joseph Brevitt Palmer*, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, who is leaving the neighbourhood.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock in the afternoon, with the usual conditions.”

Birmingham Journal 26/2/1853 - Advert

“Important Sale, QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. England, on Monday Next, February 28th.

All the Stock, Fixtures, Brewing Utensils, a portion of the neat and useful Household Furniture of the above Hotel, brilliant-toned Cabinet Pianoforte, in rosewood case, with O.G. fall, &c; all the new and elegant Fittings of the Spirit Shop, handsome Counter, with metal and bracket top; Brass Taps, Shelves, and Drawers; ornamented Spirit Casks and Shelves, Metal Measures, two Hydrometers, one by Dring and Fage; Thermometer, excellent Beer Machine, Taps and Piping into Cellar; Stove and Piping, very superior Bagatelle Board, fitted with portable mahogany top, to form a dining table; large Copper Boilers, Grate and Fixing, three substantial Vats, lined with lead; Piping and Brass Tap, about thirty Store and other Casks, from 18 to 500 gallons, nearly new, and in good condition; large Mash Tub, and a variety of Gathering and other Tubs, and Brewing Requisites; Malt Mill, Corn Bin, mahogany Centre, Parlour, Smoke Room, and other Tables; Bed Room and other Chairs, mahogany Beaufet and Corner Cupboard, Screens, Benches, mahogany Cheffionere, Bedsteads, China, Glass, Earthenware, and Kitchen Requisites; Gas Fittings through the house, handsome mahogany and other Signs, Ale, Wines, Spirits, &c, the property of Mr. *Clinton*, who has purchased another business.

All Persons having any Demands against Mr. *Clinton*, are requested to send in the same, that they may be examined and discharged.

The Auctioneer respectfully directs attention to the articles enumerated in this Sale, all of which are of a superior description, and deserving the attention of Purchasers.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock in the morning, and a punctual attendance is requested.”

Birmingham Journal 11/7/1857

“The Sessions at West Bromwich Public Office Poor Rate Appeals.....

Mr. *W. Eardley*, landlord of the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, appealed against his house and premises assessment of £35 a year. Mr. John Griffiths, assistant overseer of the parish, attended to support the rate, and stated that the assessed value of complainant's premises was £40 per annum. In the course of the enquiry which ensued, Mr. *Eardley*, producing his lease, by the terms of which the rent stood at twenty-eight guineas, admitted that for a term of one year and a half preceding the granting of such lease he paid £40 a year. After some consideration, and after hearing Mr. Griffiths, who said that the new parish survey was nearly completed, and then there must be a new assessment, the Bench reduced the assessment to £26. Finding that he had to pay costs to the amount of 14s, Mr. Griffiths asked would the parish auditor allow such charge. Mr. Hebbert: Of course he will. Thus the matter ended.”

Birmingham Journal 22/5/1858 - Married

“On the 19th of March last, at Handsworth Old Church, Mr. J. G. Palmer, architect, of the Villa Road, Handsworth, to Kate, only daughter of Mr. *William Eardley*, of the QUEENS ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Elizabeth White and *William Eardley* appear in the same 1861 directory.

1861 Census

Holyhead Road – QUEENS ARMS INN

- [1] William Eardley (67), victualler, born Wistaston, Cheshire;
- [2] Catherine Eardley (58), wife, born Hanley, Staffordshire;
- [3] Maria Heaton (62), visitor, widow, born Hanley, Staffordshire;
- [4] Jane Sherwood (17), general servant, born Wednesbury;

William Eardley died in the 2nd quarter of 1862.

TO be LET, the "QUEENS ARMS," Holyhead Road, Wednesbury (Old-licensed House). Stock taken at valuation. **MANUFACTORY**, with Engine, adjoining. Let separately, if required.—Apply on the Premises; or to Job Jones, Pawnbroker, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1864 - Advert

"To be Let, the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury (Old-licensed House). Stock taken at valuation. Manufactory, with Engine, adjoining. Let separately, if required. Apply on the Premises; or to Job Jones, Pawnbroker, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 16/9/1865 - Advert

"Clearing-Out Sale, at the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Whitehouse, on Tuesday Next, September 19.

All the Brewing Plant, Household Furniture, and Effects, belonging to Mrs. C. Eardley, who is giving up the house; consisting of mahogany dining, centre, and other Tables; Chests of Drawers, Washstands, Swing and Pier Glasses, iron and wood Bedsteads, feather Beds, Glass, China, Carpets, four-pull Beer Machine, 16 Ale Casks, 16-bushel Mash Tub, two copper Boilers, one iron Ditto, patent Malt Crusher, handsome Gilt, with nine strong Pigs.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock am.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale, or at the Auctioneer's Office, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/12/1865 - Advert

"First-Rate Bagatelle Table, with Balls and Cues &c; also, a Counter, with Spirit Rail, for Sale, cheap, at the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

FIRST-RATE BAGATELLE TABLE, with Balls and Cues, &c.; also, a **COUNTER**, with Spirit Rail, for **SALE**, cheap, at the Queen's Arms, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

John Heyes = John Hayes

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/1/1866

"On Saturday, at West Bromwich Police Court, a Special Sessions for the temporary transfer of public licenses was held.....

QUEENS ARMS, Wednesbury, from Mrs. Eardley to Mr. John Hayes."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1866 - Advert

TO be LET, a Two-stalled **STABLE**, and Two **WORKSHOPS**, suitable for the light Iron Trade. Rent low.—Apply at the Queen's Arms Inn, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

"To be Let, a Two-stalled Stable, and Two Workshops, suitable for the light Iron Trade. Rent low.

Apply at the QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1867 - Advert

"Notice. Alfred Weston is no longer in my Employ.

John Heyes, Proprietor.

QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

NOTICE.—**ALFRED WESTON** is NO LONGER IN MY EMPLOY.
JOHN HEYES, Proprietor.
Queen's Arms Inn, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/1/1868 - Advert

"Wanted, a General Servant; one from the Country preferred.

Apply, QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a General **SERVANT**; one from the Country preferred.—Apply, Queen's Arms, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/4/1868

"Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, before I. Spooner, Esq, *John Hayes*, landlord of the QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, was summoned for permitting disorderly conduct in his house on the 17th of March last. Mr. Bayley appeared on behalf of the defendant. This charge had arisen out of a serious case of assault on an Irishman, which was adjudicated upon about a month since.

Patrick James Gallagher, the man who was assaulted, stated that he went to the defendant's house on the above day, and whilst he was there a row ensued between three men named Osborne, Shorthouse, and Oakley, and on his interfering he was pitched upon and badly hurt.

In reply to the charge, Mr. Bayley said the defendant, although the landlord of the house, resided at Liverpool; but kept a young man there who had strict instructions to see the business properly carried on. The house had been well-conducted for about twenty-two years, and he believed that never since the license had been granted to the house had a single information been laid against it by the police.

Mr. Spooner said the row spoken of was of a disgraceful a character as had ever been brought before a court of justice but taking into consideration the fact of its being the first complaint made against the defendant he should only impose a fine of a shilling and costs.

In reply to an observation by Mr. Bayley, Mr. Spooner said he thought the great fault lay in the law that allowed public houses to be kept by persons who resided elsewhere."

1871 Census

81, Holyhead Road – QUEENS ARMS

[1] Duncan Fillman (41), barman, liquor vaults, born Argyle, Scotland;

[2] Betsey Bradshaw Fillman (29), wife, born Staffordshire;

[3] Mary Hannah Fillman (10 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] Mary Ann Halford (30), sister-in-law, unmarried, visitor;

[5] Ede Davis (13), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

QUEEN'S ARMS HOTEL and Liquor Vaults, and seven Houses and Shops adjoining, in one lot, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury; also, the "Mazeppa" Retail Beerhouse, Church Street, Market Place, Wednesbury.—Enquire, 62, Villa Road, Handsworth.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1872 - Advert

"QUEENS ARMS HOTEL and Liquor Vaults, and seven Houses and Shops adjoining, in one lot, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury; also, the MAZEPPA Retail Beerhouse, Church Street, Market Place, Wednesbury. Enquire, 62, Villa Road, Handsworth."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/6/1878

"The quarterly meeting of the newly-formed No.2 District of the South Staffordshire Engineers Protective Association of the National Federation was held at the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening. After the appointment of the various district officers, it was unanimously decided to join the Wednesbury Trades Council; and the two following resolutions were passed. (1) That, in the opinion of this district meeting, no person should be allowed to take charge of either beam-engine or boilers until he has been examined by a properly-constituted Board of Examiners, and obtained a certificate of competency from the same. (2) That this meeting wishes to express their devout thanks to God that this country has been preserved from an unjust war, and record their conviction that this result was largely attributable to the enlightened and patriotic efforts of Mr. Gladstone."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1879

"The quarterly meeting of No.2 District of the South Staffordshire Engineers Protective Association of the National Federation was held at the QUEENS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening; Mr. Mason in the chair. The meeting, which was largely attended, was called for the purpose of taking into consideration the action of certain employers, who are attempting to increase the hours of labour...."

[A resolution was passed supporting the movement for a nine hour day.]

Wednesbury Herald 22/11/1879

"On Saturday, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquiry at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Holyhead Road, relative to the death of John Broughton, aged 15 weeks, the son of John and Elizabeth Broughton, who reside in St. James Street. The evidence showed that the child was suddenly seized with convulsions, and before medical assistance could be obtained it expired.

The jury did not think there was any blame to be attached to the parents and returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

1881 Census

78+79 Holyhead Road

- [1] *Job Jones* (54), pawnbroker, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Elizabeth Jones* (48), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *William Jones* (23), son, banker's clerk, born Canada;
- [4] *Annie Jones* (21), daughter, born Canada;
- [5] *George Jones* (18), son, clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Amy Flowers* (18), visitor, born Banbury, Oxfordshire;
- [7] *Mary Wright* (18), general servant, born Hill Top:

AND

81, Holyhead Road – QUEENS ARMS

- [1] *Oliver Curtis* (23), barman, born Gloucester:

Evening Express 7/6/1881

"Edward Rodgers, Portway Road, Wednesbury, was brought up in custody charged with stealing the sum of 6s, from the person of *James Jones*, tube welder, Dudley Street,

On Saturday, the 22nd of January, the prosecutor was in the QUEENS ARMS public house, and besides having several glasses of whisky himself he paid for two or three pints of beer for the prisoner. The prosecutor and his son left the public house at half-past ten o'clock, and on his way home the prisoner came up, caught hold of one of prosecutor's arms, and took 6s from a ticket pocket in his jacket, and then ran away. A few days afterwards he called upon the prosecutor, and asked him to 'make it up,' but the police declined to agree to this, and the prisoner was consequently apprehended on the information laid against him.

Police-constable Lytle deposed that he apprehended the prisoner at Whittington Militia Barracks, and when charged with the offence he said he should not have absconded only he thought the magistrates would give him three months. The prisoner, who admitted that he took 3s 4d, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/12/1881

"On Tuesday evening, Mr. *Job Jones*, pawnbroker and innkeeper, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, an old and respected inhabitant of the town, was suddenly taken ill, and he died in a few minutes. He had been in an unsatisfactory state of health for some time previously."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/12/1881 - Deaths

"On the 27th instant, suddenly, at his residence, 79, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, *Job Jones*, aged 54 years."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/12/1881

"This afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper held an inquest at the QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Mr. *Job Jones* (54), pawnbroker and publican, Holyhead Road, who died suddenly on Tuesday night. The evidence showed that during the past few weeks the deceased had been attended by Dr. Blackwood for a nervous complaint. On Tuesday deceased went to Birmingham and consulted Dr. Baker, who gave him a prescription, after which he obtained some medicine from Mr. Southall's, chemist, Bull Street. On reaching home he complained of being ill, and took a dose of the medicine as prescribed. He subsequently became very ill and expired. In reply to the Coroner, Dr. Blackwood said the medicine prescribed by Dr. Baker was similar to that he (Dr Blackwood) had given the deceased, the only difference being that the ingredients were in less proportion. He regretted to say that Mr. *Jones* did not consult him about going to Birmingham, for had he done so he would willingly have gone with him.

A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned."

Wednesbury Herald 29/4/1882

".....To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, the 16th day of May, 1882.....

Lot 4. All that Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, known by the sign of the QUEENS ARMS, situate in the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, containing Liquor Vaults, Smoke Room, Bar, Club Room, Kitchen, eight Bed Rooms, large Cellar; Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable and Loft over, draw-in Gateroad, Yard, and Outbuildings belonging thereto, and now in the occupation of Mrs. *Job Jones*, and held under a repairing lease for an unexpired term of eighteen years from 29th September next, at a yearly ground rent of £50."

Wednesbury Herald 23/9/1882

"On Tuesday morning, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner held an inquest at the QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, touching the death of Lucy Hall (26), of St. James Street, wife of William Hall, labourer.

At the time appointed the coroner called out the names of the jurymen, but one of them, Mr. W. Atkiss, licensed victualler, of the PACK HORSE INN, Lower Dudley Street, was absent. In reply to the coroner, the police officer in charge said that Atkiss was summoned to attend on Monday, and promised to be present. After waiting some time the officer, in obedience to the coroner, called out Atkiss's name three times, but there was no answer, and another jurymen was obtained.

The Coroner: Unless he can give me some good reason for his absence he is fined 40s.

The evidence showed that the deceased retired to bed with her husband about 9.30 on Thursday evening last in apparently good health, but about five o'clock the next morning was found to be cold and still when spoken to by her husband. Dr. Sherwood attended and pronounced life to be extinct. A neighbour who was called in at that said she had known the deceased three years, and had heard her complain of coldness about the heart and stomach.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1884

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Elizabeth Jones*, of the QUEENS HEAD INN, High Bullen, was summoned for keeping her house open during illegal hours on the 18th inst, and refusing to admit Police-sergeant Lytle. The officer stated that when he did get into the house he found several men there. On the application of Mr. Boycott, of Wolverhampton, the case was adjourned for a fortnight."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1884

"In our issue yesterday Mrs. *Elizabeth Jones*, of the QUEENS HEAD INN, who was summoned at Wednesbury for breach of the Licensing Act, was erroneously described as of High Bullen, instead of Holyhead Road."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1884

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Elizabeth Jones*, owner of the QUEENS ARMS INN, St. James Street, was summoned for keeping open her house for the sale of beer during illegal hours, on the 18th August, also with refusing to admit the police to the licensed premises on that date. Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft (Wolverhampton) appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Chief Constable, and Mr. R. A. Wilcock defended. The first summons was dismissed, and defendant was fined 20s and costs on the second summons."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/8/1886

"Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, Benjamin Wilkes, of the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, was charged with selling liquors without a license. Mr. Jones appeared on behalf of the accused, and pleaded guilty, stating that the house was bought in April by the Lichfield Brewery Company, who had since been endeavouring to obtain a tenant, and not having succeeded, they had from time to time postponed having the license transferred to the defendant, who was their manager. A fine of 40s and costs was imposed."

1891 Census

81, Holyhead Road – QUEENS ARMS

[1] *William R. Emery* (45), licensed victualler, born Cumberford, Staffordshire;

[2] *Alice E. Emery* (32), wife, born Yardley, Worcestershire:

Elon Adams – see also GRAPES, Portway Road.

Walsall Observer 1/5/1897 - Advert

"QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, to be Let, with early possession.

Apply, The Lichfield Brewery Company Limited."

QUEEN'S Arms Inn, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, to be Let, with early possession.—Apply, The Lichfield Brewery Co., Limited.

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/5/1897 - Advert

"The QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, to be Let. Very convenient Premises and good situation. Early possession can be arranged.

Apply, the Lichfield Brewery Company Limited, Lichfield."

THE QUEEN'S ARMS INN, Holyhead-road, WEDNESBURY, TO BE LET. Very convenient Premises and good situation. Early possession can be arranged.—Apply, The LICHFIELD BREWERY COMPANY (Limited), Lichfield.

Walsall Observer 13/11/1897 - Advert

“QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Edward C. Clarke, formerly of the SPRING COTTAGE, Shelfield, and lately of the COACH AND HORSES, Walsall, begs to inform his friends that he is now established in the above well-known house, which has just been entirely re-decorated, and where every attention will be given to their requirements.

The Lichfield Brewery Co's Noted Ales and Stouts on draught and in bottle.

Wines and Spirits of the finest quality. Choice Cigars.”

1901 Census

81, Holyhead Road

[1] *Albert Scoffham* (32), publican, born Lichfield;

[2] *Esther Scoffham* (34), wife, born Lichfield;

[3] *Fred Aldreg* (21), boarder, bricklayer, born London;

[4] *Esther Mathews* (9), visitor, born Staffordshire:

In 1891 and 1901 censuses *Alfred Purcell* is employed at the DARTMOUTH ARMS.

1911 Census

81, Holyhead Road

[1] *Alfred Purcell* (41), licensed victualler, born Bushbury;

[2] *Mary Ann Purcell* (40), wife, married 9 years, born Essington;

[3] *Alfred Roland Purcell* (8), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Frank William Purcell* (7), son, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1915

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

Alice Green (35), gipsy, was indicted for having obtained £7 15s from *Jane Elizabeth Bright* by false pretences, at Wednesbury, on February 3.

Prosecutrix is the wife of the licensee of the QUEENS ARMS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Prisoner and another woman, who was unknown, went into the house and had some refreshment. In conversation with Mr. and Mrs. *Bright*, prisoner said she belonged to a gipsy party which had come to Wednesbury and intended staying there six weeks while the vans and roundabouts were being painted and decorated. She said 36 men were employed on the work, and they had collected £13 10s to expend on liquors, cigarettes, and tobacco, which sum would be left with the landlord to meet the orders. Prisoner placed the money on a table, and said that as she was going to do business with the house Mrs. *Bright* ought to do some business with her. She left the house, leaving the other woman in the room, and the money lying on the table. Prisoner returned with two rugs and a baby. She sold one of the rugs to Mrs. *Bright* for £4 5s, and the money was handed to her. The other woman said they were going to have the baby christened at St. James's Church, and that the men had subscribed £5 to be spent in the christening celebrations. This money was to be added to the £13 10s, but the woman said she had not sufficient money with her, and asked prisoner to lend her some. Prisoner said she could not, and appealed to Mrs. *Bright*, who agreed to lend £3 10s, and the money was handed over. Subsequently the women left the house, taking all the money with them.

The case for the prosecution broke down, the Judge holding that the indictment was bad, and the jury acquitted the prisoner.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1915

“.....Mr *Milward*, defending, said these people never had a chance to carry out the offers they made with regard to the future consumption of beer. Mr. *Milward* said the accused's offer was still open, namely, that she would pay back Mrs. *Bright* the £4 5s and £3 10s on the return of the rug.

The Judge directed the jury that the indictment could not be supported, and that they should return a verdict of not guilty. The gist of the matter was that Mrs. *Bright* bought the rug for £4 5s and afterwards was very sorry she did so. It might be a case of these people going about, as one knew they did, selling cheap articles at exorbitant prices, if they could only get people to buy them. The jury might think there had been some trickery, and some talk to induce the woman to buy the rug, but these things could not be converted into a criminal offence.”

1921 Census

81, Holyhead Road

- [1] Leonard James Bright (41), publican, born Stourbridge;
- [2] Jane E. Bright (41), wife, home duties, born Birmingham;
- [3] Bernard O. Bright (8), son, school, born Birmingham;
- [4] Godfrey Henry Bright (6), son, school, born Birmingham;
- [5] Monica Betty Bright (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] May Carter (17), servant, born Wednesbury;

1939 Register

81, Holyhead Road

- [1] Ernest C. Lee, date of birth 21/12/1876, publican, married;
- [2] Lilian Lee, dob 26/5/1882, helps in business, married;
- [3] Elsie (Lee) (Cooper) Clay, dob 1/4/1929, school, single;

Ernest Charles Lee – see also WAGGON AND HORSES, Spon Lane, West Bromwich.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1946], [1952]

Birmingham Daily Post 1/11/1957

“Agricultural college students taking part in their annual ‘Rag’ at Newport (Salop) ‘kidnapped’ a 17-year-old ATV cameraman, Mike Berwick, of Wednesbury, and held him captive for five hours in a derelict cottage believed to be in the Lichfield area. Berwick had been sent on contract work for independent television to film the students ‘Rag’ on Wednesday night. After completing his job he walked to his van, but was ‘tricked into getting into a car which was driven away.’

Last night, at the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, where he lives with his father, who recently took over the license, Berwick said, ‘I got into the car under a false impression. There were four students, aged about 21, who said the college Principal had sent a message saying he would like me to go for a drink at a private party they were holding. I thought it was genuine, got in the car, and was driven away They told me their idea was to claim a ransom for their funds from ATV for my release.’ Berwick said there was plenty of food. The students prepared a meal of soup, sandwiches and coffee. He slept for a time, and about five o’clock yesterday morning they left the cottage after he had told them he had to get to Loughborough for a job and must get to his van by 6.30. They left him about 200 yards from his van.....”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1963]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/7/1966 - Advert

“General Help required to live in, good position offered to suitable middle aged woman. Apply, QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

Birmingham Mail 12/8/1970

“Three Midland anglers who dived into the swollen and fast-flowing River Teme to rescue an elderly man and his two grand-sons were praised by the Worcester Coroner Mr. Robinson recorded a verdict of Accidental Death on Mr. John Birch, aged 61, licensee of the Yellow Lion Inn, Powick, near Worcester, who died from acute heart failure after falling in the river last Sunday.

Mr. Birch had taken his two grand-children, Trevor Evans, aged 14, and his brother Ian, aged nine, of the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on an early morning fishing expedition in the river as a holiday treat. Trevor told the Coroner that his brother caught a fish and his grand-father asked him to move a rod rest. As Ian did so he overbalanced and slipped on the steep and wet bank, falling into the river. ‘Grandad leaned forward to try to pull him out, but he slipped in as well. I tried to put my hand out but I fell in,’ he said An ambulance was called for and the crew had to run half-a-mile across the fields with oxygen equipment to reach Mr. Birch. He was taken to Worcester Royal Infirmary where he was found to be dead.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/4/1971

"Customers at the QUEENS ARMS public house, Wednesbury, have formed a darts team – but they are struggling to find opposition. Strange, it might seem, in an area where the game is so popular – but the customers are women! Linda Baker, a member of the seven strong team, explained, 'Although many women play darts because they can compete on an equal basis with men they don't usually bother about competitions. We felt, however, it would be a good idea to get organised, and now we are anxious for any other women's teams to contact us so that we can arrange some matches.'

The QUEENS ARMS staged their first game against opposition from the BOAT public house, Leabrook recently, and a return fixture is planned. But Mrs. Baker added, 'It would be nice if other pubs organised women's teams and we could run a league just like the men.'"

London Gazette 22/8/1980

"*Janet Weaver* (married woman), residing and carrying on business at the QUEENS ARMS, 81 Holyhead Road, Wednesbury in the metropolitan county of West Midlands as a Tenant Publican lately residing and carrying on business at the WOODMAN, Dale Street, Wednesbury, aforesaid as a Tenant Publican.

Court - Dudley.

Date of Filing Petition - 14th August 1980.

Date of Receiving Order - 14th August 1980.

Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition – Debtor's."

Sandwell Evening Mail 1/12/1981

"Ooh-la-la. Sisters Debbie and Sarah Wells show a leg for charity. Sarah, dressed as a French waitress, and Debbie, as a schoolgirl, led a group of collectors from the QUEENS ARMS pub, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on a fancy dress pub crawl. The band of 14 called at 12 pubs in the Wednesbury area, collecting £90 for a special guide dogs for the blind fund. Licensee's wife, Mrs. Betty Wells, said they hoped to raise £1,000 to buy and train a guide dog."

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/4/1982

"Raise your glasses to *Sarah Davidson*, who has been called to the bar at the tender age of 18 – and taken over a popular Wednesbury pub yesterday. *Sarah*, pictured with her 23-year-old husband Colin, officially took on the QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, after two months as bar-room minder. And that crown's a right royal family calling, for *Sarah's* parents run the KINGS HILL TAVERN in nearby Darlaston Road. For the young couple – they are one of the youngest publican teams in the area – it is a dream come true. They married last Saturday after a whirlwind romance, and both of them had at the same ambition to run their own pub.

Sarah said, 'Ever since my parents took over the KINGS HILL TAVERN and I helped on the bar I decided I wanted to be a landlady. You meet so many people in a pub and there is always something different going on.' When *Sarah* helped out behind the bar at another local pub she met Colin. Said *Sarah*, 'Colin has been acting manager at the QUEENS so we already know the locals.'"

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1982

"Fourteen Wednesbury pubs have failed in a bid to cash in on the Bank Holiday beer trade by applying for license extensions. West Bromwich magistrates refused to allow an extra hour's drinking time on August Bank Holiday The 14 pubs which have been denied the extra hour's drinking are..... QUEENS ARMS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

Closed

It was converted into a licensed restaurant. [2004]

QUEEN'S ARMS INN,
HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.
TO be DISPOSED OF by PRIVATE TREATY,
the LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION
of the above first-rate House, eligibly situated, and surrounded
by numerous Manufactories and Iron Works, in a pleasant and
densely populated district, and near the South Staffordshire and
intended Birmingham and Wolverhampton Railway Station.
For particulars, and to treat, apply to the Landlord.

1850

QUEEN'S ARMS INN,
HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.
JOSEPH B. PALMER (relinquishing the Public
Business,) returns his sincere thanks for the liberal patronage he
has received, and respectfully informs his Friends and the Public in
general that he has Disposed of the above-named Business to Mr.
HENRY CLINTON, for whom he solicits a continuation of their
favours.

HENRY CLINTON, having entered upon the
above old established Inn, respectfully solicits the favours of his
Friends and the Public generally, assuring them that every exertion,
combined with moderate charges, shall be made to render this Inn
replete with every convenience, comfort, and accommodation.
SPIRITS and WINES of first-rate quality.

1852

TO MANUFACTURERS, GUN DEALERS, SPORTSMEN,
BROKERS, AND OTHERS.
SALE NEAR TO THE QUEEN'S ARMS, HOLYHEAD
ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY J. DAWES, on the Premises, on MONDAY
NEXT, August 16th, a capital STEAM ENGINE and
BOILER, three-horse power, complete, and nearly new; about Thirty
very superior Double and Single-barrel FOWLING PIECES; Two
Pockets of excellent HOPS; a variety of useful HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE and ALE CASKS; a quantity of SHOP TOOLS; a
useful Brown HORSE, aged five years; a neat-built TRAP; a Set of
neat GIG HARNESS, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. Joseph
Brevitt Palmer, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, who is leaving the
neighbourhood.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock in the afternoon, with the usual
conditions.

1852

IMPORTANT SALE,
QUEEN'S ARMS HOTEL, HOLYHEAD ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. ENGLAND, on MONDAY NEXT,
February 28th—all the STOCK, FIXTURES, BREWING
UTENSILS, a portion of the neat and useful HOUSEHOLD FUR-
NITURE of the above Hotel, brilliant-toned CABINET PIANO-
FORTE, in rosewood case, with O G fall, &c.; all the new and elegant
FITTINGS of the SPIRIT SHOP, handsome Counter, with metal
and bracket top; Brass Taps, Shelves, and Drawers; ornamented Spirit
Casks and Shelves, Metal Measures, two Hydrometers, one by Dring
and Fage; Thermometer, excellent Beer Machine, Taps and Piping
into Cellar; Stove and Piping, very superior BAGATELLE BOARD,
fitted with portable mahogany top, to form a dining table; large
COPPER BOILERS, Grate and Fixing, three substantial Vats, lined
with lead; Piping and Brass Tap, about thirty Store and other CASKS,
from 18 to 500 gallons, nearly new, and in good condition; large Mash
Tub, and a variety of Gathering and other Tubs, and Brewing Requi-
sites; Malt Mill, Corn Bin, mahogany Centre, Parlour, Smoke Room,
and other Tables; Bed Room and other Chairs, mahogany Beaufet
and Corner Cupboard, Screens, Benches, mahogany Cheffonere, Bed-
steads, China, Glass, Earthenware, and Kitchen Requisites; Gas
Fittings through the house, handsome mahogany and other Signs, Ale,
Wines, Spirits, &c., the property of Mr. Clinton, who has purchased
another business.

All Persons having any Demands against Mr. CLINTON, are requested
to send in the same, that they may be examined and discharged.

The Auctioneer respectfully directs attention to the articles enu-
merated in this Sale, all of which are of a superior description, and
deserving the attention of Purchasers.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock in the morning, and
punctual attendance is requested.

1853

CLEARING-OUT SALE,
At the QUEEN'S ARMS, HOLYHEAD ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, on TUESDAY NEXT,
September 19—all the BREWING PLANT, HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE, and EFFECTS, belonging to Mrs. C. Eardley, who is
giving up the house; consisting of mahogany dining, centre, and
other Tables; Chests of Drawers, Washstands, Swing and Pier
Glasses, iron and wood Bedsteads, feather Beds, Glass, China, Car-
pets, four-pull Beer Machine, 16 Ale Casks, 16-bushel Mash Tub, two
copper Boilers, one iron Ditto, patent Malt Crusher, handsome Gilt,
with nine strong Pigs.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale; or at the Auctioneer's
Office, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

1865

Lot 4.—All that Valuable FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED INN,
known by the sign of the "QUEEN'S ARMS," situate in the Holyhead
Road, Wednesbury, containing Liquor Vaults, Smoke Room, Bar,
Club Room, Kitchen, eight Bed Rooms, large Cellar; Brewhouse,
Malt Room, Stable and Loft over, draw-in Gateroad, Yard, and Out-
buildings belonging thereto, and now in the occupation of Mrs. Job
Jones, and held under a repairing lease for an unexpired term of
eighteen years from 29th September next, at a yearly ground rent of
£50.

1882

QUEEN'S ARMS INN, HOLYHEAD ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.

EDWARD C. CLARKE,

Formerly of the "Spring Cottage," Shelfield, and
lately of the "Coach and Horses," Walsall, begs
to inform his friends that he is now established in
the above well-known house, which has just been
entirely re-decorat d, and where every attention
will be given to their requirements.

THE LICHFIELD BREWERY Co's NOTED
ALES & STOUTS on draught and in bottle.

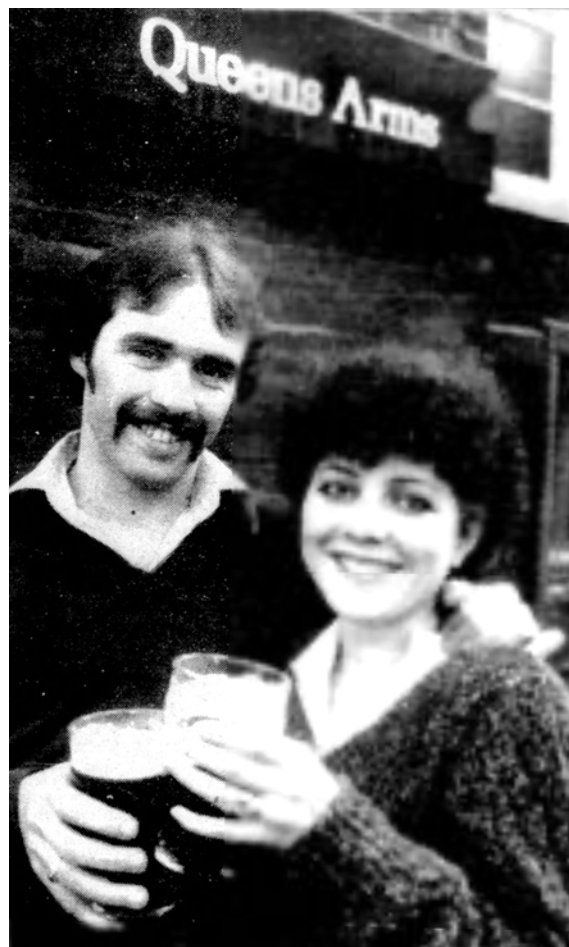
WINES & SPIRITS of the finest quality.

CHOICE CIGARS.

1897

GENERAL Help required to live in, good
position offered to suitable middle aged
woman. Apply — Queens Arms, Holy-
head-road, Wednesbury. Telephone
WED 1750.

1966



Colin and Sarah Davidson 1982

QUEENS HEAD

102, Brunswick Park Road, (62, Crankhall Lane), (62, Woodgreen), Wood Green, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1979]

Heineken Star Pubs [2025]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Jane Spittle [1851] – [1854]

Mrs. Mary Wood [1860] – [1872]

Henry Gretton [1881]

Mrs. Ann Gretton [1885]

George Martin [1891] – [1894]

Mrs. Ellen Elizabeth Martin [1901] – [1921]

George Frederick 'Freddie' Dunn [1927] – [1940]

John Ernest Mathews [1944]

William Henry 'Bill' Piper **(1956 – 1973)**

Malcolm S Davies **(1973 – [1974])**

Peter Goddard **(1975 – 1979);**

Howard Sanderson **(1979 – [1987])**

Neil Baldwyn [2013]

Karen and Michael Cooper [2025]



1987



2007

NOTES

62, Woodgreen [1864], [1870], [1872], [1881]

62, Crankhall Lane [1871]

102, Brunswick Park Road [1911]

It had a beerhouse license.

The original pub's tap room had pumps fitted on the wall.

1851 Census

Wood Green

[1] Jane Spittle (48), widow, retail brewer, born Wednesbury;

[2] Joseph Spittle (19), son, edge tool maker, born Wood Green;

[3] Samuel Spittle (15), son, edge tool maker, born Wood Green;

[4] Sarah Spittle (12), daughter, scholar, born Wood Green;

[5] Elizabeth H. Spittle (10), daughter, scholar, born Wood Green;

[6] Carey Spittle (6), daughter, scholar, born Wood Green;

[7] Maria Spittle (2), daughter, born Wood Green:



2013

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/2/1854 - Advert

"To Publicans and Others. Sale of Freehold Property, at Wood Green, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, on Wednesday next the 22nd of February, at the house of Mr. John Dudley, ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House, Garden, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Wood Green, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mrs. *Jane Spittle*, Retail Brewer, and known as the QUEENS HEAD.

The House, which is in good repair, is pleasantly situated, and contains a large cellar, front kitchen, and parlour, bar, pantry, brewhouse, and three bed-rooms.

The Outbuildings comprise a Workshop, Pigsty, and Privy.

The Garden contains a well, with Pump of superior spring Water, and with the site of the Buildings, about 620 square yards of Land, more or less.

To view the property apply on the premises; and for further particulars at the offices of Geo. Hayes Hinchliffe, Esq, Solicitor, West Bromwich; or to the Auctioneer, Wednesbury."

Mrs. *Jane Spittle* – see also MALT SHOVEL, Wednesbury.

Mrs. *Mary Wood*, beer retailer, Wood Green. [1860], [1865]

1861 Census

Wood Green

[1] *Mary Wood* (45), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Jane Barber* (22), house servant, born Walsall:

Mrs. *Mary Wood*, beer retailer, 62, Woodgreen. [1864], [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

62, Crankhall Lane – QUEENS HEAD/ARMS INN

[1] *Mary Wood* (55), widow, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Rebecca Taylor* (18), general servant, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Mary Newbold* (12), niece, scholar, born Burton on Trent;

[4] *Hannah Beesley* (81), mother, widow, born Tettenhall:

1881 Census

62, Woodgreen – QUEENS HEAD

[1] *Henry Gretton* (55), beer seller, born Derbyshire;

[2] *Ann Gretton* (54), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Thomas Gretton* (27), son, clerk, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Elizabeth Gretton* (25), daughter, domestic, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Samuel Gretton* (17), son, labourer in ironworks, born Wednesbury:

Henry Gretton died in the 3rd quarter of 1881.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/10/1885

"*Ann Gretton*, of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, was charged with having unjust weights in her possession. Mr. Horder, Inspector of Weights and Measures, appeared to prosecute. Mr. Toy, assistant-inspector, stated that he found a 2lb weight in the shop kept by the defendant to be seven drachms against the purchaser. Defendant was further charged with having in her possession an unjust scale. Mr. Horder proved that the scale was three quarters of an ounce against the purchaser. Defendant said she did not know the scales were wrong. Fined 2s 6d and costs in each case."

1891 Census

Brunswick Park Road – QUEENS HEAD

- [1] *George Martin* (31) beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ellen E. Martin* (32), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *George H. Martin* (5), son, born West Bromwich;

Birmingham Daily Post 23/5/1894

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, the adjourned case of Charles Pridden, baker, Bridge Street, charged with refusing to quit the QUEENS HEAD INN, Wood Green, was heard.

On the 21st ult the defendant went to the house to deliver bread, and had a glass of stout. He used filthy language to Mrs. *Martin*, wife of the landlord, who went upstairs to get away from him; but he followed, and was knocked down by her. Even then he refused to leave, and was at last turned out by force. His mother appeared on his behalf and put in a doctor’s certificate that her son was epileptic, with a tendency to insanity.

Taking into account the peculiar circumstances of the case, the Bench imposed a fine of 5s and costs only.”

George Martin died in the 1st quarter of 1896.

1901 Census

Brunswick Park Road – QUEENS HEAD INN

- [1] *Ellen E. Martin* (43), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *George H. Martin* (15), son, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Nellie D. Martin* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Charles Beesley* (42), boarder, manager, edge tool works, born Wednesbury;

Mrs. *Ellen E. Martin*, beer retailer, Brunswick Park Road. [1904], [1912]

1911 Census

102, Brunswick Park Road – QUEENS HEAD INN

- [1] *Ellen Elizabeth Martin* (53), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *George Hampson Martin* (25), son, railway clerk, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Nellie Deborah Martin* (18), daughter, shorthand typist, born Wednesbury;

1921 Census

Brunswick Park Road – QUEENS HEAD INN

- [1] *Ellen Elizabeth Martin* (63), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Nellie Deborah Martin* (28), daughter, shorthand typist, out of work, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *George Hampson Martin* (35), visitor, married, locomotive accounts clerk, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Edith Catherine Martin* (34), visitor, married, home duties, born Bushbury;

Dudley Chronicle 18/8/1927

“At Brierley Hill Police Court on August 8th, *Thomas Vickers* (23), of QUEENS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, was summoned for riding a motor cycle without a license, and *Percy Frederick Dunn* (19), of the same address, was summoned for aiding and abetting *Vickers* in the offence.

PC Masters stated that at about 4.30pm on July 10th a collision occurred between *Vickers’* machine and a Ford commercial van. Witness asked *Vickers* for his license, and he produced one issued to *George Frederick Dunn*. Witness told *Vickers* the license did not belong to him, and then *Dunn* said *Vickers* had asked him to lend him his license in order that he could go a ride. Witness explained that the license was not even *Dunn’s*, but belonged to his father. *Vickers* alleged that following the accident he was in a dazed condition, and the license was taken from his wallet. He had applied for a license at Walsall, and was told he would receive it in three days, but that in the meantime he would be ‘alright.’ He did not think he as doing anything wrong.

A Wednesbury police officer said in consequence of enquiries he learned that the license was taken out of Mr. *Dunn’s* pocket by his son and lent to *Vickers*. Mr. *Dunn*, senior, said he had no ‘earthly idea’ his license had gone. Defendants were each fined £1.”

Freddie Dunn [1934], [1936]

It was rebuilt on a neighbouring site.
The new building opened on 15th January 1937.

Walsall Observer 24/4/1937

“Wednesbury Licensing Justices yesterday confirmed the granting of wine licenses to....
QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury.”

1939 Register

Brunswick Park Road – QUEENS HEAD INN (3 of 4)

[1] George F. Dunn, date of birth 6/8/1884, beer retailer, married;

[2] Charlotta Dunn, dob 30/9/1892, housewife, married;

[3] Leonard J. Smart, dob 22/3/1921, assistant electrical engineer, single;

George F. Dunn issued tokens from here.

George Frederick Dunn – see also ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Kings Hill.

Walsall Observer 4/3/1944

“Two Wednesbury vicars and a Roman Catholic priest were among a number of Wednesbury people who were ordered by the Stipendiary (Mr. B. G. Grimley) at Wednesbury on Tuesday to pay fines for obtaining more coal than they were entitled to. Defending Mr. Walter Randle, trading as F. C. Randle and Co., coal merchants, of Wednesbury, summoned for supplying the coal, Mr. O. L. Bergendorf said their stocks of coal were so plentiful that they requested the colliery company not to send any more supplies for the time being; but the colliery company replied that they could not suspend the supplies and that his clients must have the coal. Those summoned for unlawfully obtaining coal they were not entitled to were.....

John Ernest Mathews, QUEENS HEAD, Park Road.....

Randle was fined £5 for each of the twelve offence, 4s costs on two delivery note offences, and £16 5s 6d costs, making a total of £76 9s 6d.....”

[*John Ernest Mathews* was fined £2.]

William Henry Piper was married to Irene.

Permission was granted to make minor alterations to the bar and bar servery on 24th July 1964.

Birmingham Mail 19/9/1964 - Advert

“Barmaid or Barman Required, evenings or weekends.

Apply, QUEEN HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wood Green, Wednesbury.”

BARMAID or Barman Required, evenings or weekends. — Apply Queens Head, Brunswick Park Road, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 16/2/1968

“At the annual meeting of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Ladies Licensed Victuallers Association officers elected were.....

Mrs. R. Piper, QUEENS HEAD, Wednesbury, treasurer.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Birmingham Mail 4/3/1971 - Advert

“Bar Staff Wanted, mornings, nights and weekends; also Cleaner Wanted.

QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wood Green, Wednesbury.”

BAR STAFF Wanted, mornings, nights and weekends; also Cleaner Wanted.—The Queen's Head, Brunswick Park Road, Wood Green, Wednesbury

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/5/1972

“Mr. *William Piper*, licensee of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, was elected for a third term as president of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association at the annual meeting last night.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/4/1973 - Advert

"Margaret and *Malcolm*, new tenants of the QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, wish all the customers, old and new, a very happy time there. We also need a young lady Barmaid for evenings."

Birmingham Mail 28/3/1974

"The CORONATION INN at Friar Park, Wednesbury, is to receive the K. Russell Cup for winning the annual charity open knock-out dominoes competition organised by the Wednesbury St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Wednesbury Fellowship of the Disabled. The team and runners-up, the QUEENS HEAD at Wood Green, Wednesbury, who have won the Wednesbury Shield, will receive the prizes from the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Stan Harris, on May 9."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/8/1974 - Advert

"1971 4-5 Berth Ace Courier, 15ft 7in x 6ft 8in. Excellent condition, fitted carpet, stainless steel sink, water pump, strip lighting, full gas cooker, TV plug, two fire extinguishers, £550. Also 14ft Poulard awning, £75, together £600. *M. S. Davies*, QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury."

A beer garden was opened in 1975.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1975 - Advert

"Ann and *Pete* of the QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, wish to extend the Season's Greetings and best wishes for a Prosperous New Year to all customers, friends and staff."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/1/1979 - Letters

"It never fails to amaze me how quickly the majority of us in this wonderful country of ours become involved in panic buying. We seem to stumble from one threatened shortage to another, snapping up everything in sight. In recent weeks sugar, salt, bread, and now petrol have been the targets. The slightest hint, it seems, is enough to spark off another onslaught.

On very good authority I have learned that supplies of beer and spirits are rapidly drying up and one of the very few outlets in the country with unlimited supplies will be the QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury.

Peter Goddard, Proud M&B traditional ale tenant.

QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury."

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/9/1979

"A Wednesbury landlord, given the bird after his pet pea-hen kept the neighbours awake, has sold up and flown to Wales. Licensee *Peter Goddard* has quit the QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, after being told to get rid of Blue by Sandwell Council. Blue was part of the pub's private menagerie, but soon had the neighbours in a flap with her nocturnal singing. After the council told *Peter* to let his bird fly the coop he gave it to a friend, and moved to a £100,000 new pub in Tenby called the Hunters Moon. Said *Peter* today, 'It was always my ambition to run a pub down that way, and all the aggravation has helped me to make up my mind. We had goats, ponies, rabbits and birds at the QUEENS and we thought it would be something special for Wednesbury. We were told to get rid of Blue, and because we didn't plan to stay any longer, we didn't fight it.'"

Peter Goddard – see also DOVECOTE, West Bromwich, and NAGS HEAD, Great Bridge, Tipton.

Howard Sanderson was married to Jill.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/5/1980 - Advert

"QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury. Under new management. Pleasure gardens are now open. Full menu available. Ample car parking."

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/3/1981

"The latest planning applications being considered by Sandwell Council include....

Bass, Mitchells and Butlers Limited, Estates Department, Cape Hill Brewery, Birmingham, provision of three strip lights in Pleasure Garden outbuilding at the QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury."

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1982

“Fourteen Wednesbury pubs have failed in a bid to cash in on the Bank Holiday beer trade by applying for license extensions. West Bromwich magistrates refused to allow an extra hour’s drinking time on August Bank Holiday The 14 pubs which have been denied the extra hour’s drinking are.....
QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/12/1982 - Advert

“Jill and *Howard* of the QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, wish their customers, friends and staff a Very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Prosperous New Year.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/1/1986 - Advert

“Evening Bar Staff required, some weekend work essential.
QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road.”

EVENING BAR STAFF required.
some weekend work essential.
**The Queens Head, Brunswick
Park Road, 021 556 1436.**

Walsall Observer 13/12/1991 - Advert

“The QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury.
Winter Special, Monday-Saturday, Evening Meal for 2 £10.00.
Includes choice of starter and main course.
Egg Mayonnaise or Minestrone Soup.
8oz Sirloin or Plaice Stuffed with Prawns and Mushrooms or Chicken Chasseur.
Served with chips or jacket potatoes and salad.
This special menu changes weekly.
Traditional Sunday Lunch £3.95.
Bookings now being taken for New Years Day.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/3/1993

“Bon Appetit Pub Grub.....
QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/6/1993 - Advert

“Fleurets, Chartered Surveyors, Hotel and Licensed Property Valuers.
Want to run your own local? New 10 year leases.
On the instructions of the Bass Lease Company. High volume Public Houses.
Viewings – No Appointment Necessary.....
QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, Friday 4 June, 2.00-3.00pm.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/4/1994 - Advert

“QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury.
Family Garden Now Open.
Bar-B-Que, Weather Permitting, Saturday Night Only.
Over 25s Disco, Sunday 24th (smart dress) 8pm.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 25/8/1994

“A Black Country crib team had to drop a player from a crucial match after the opposing team complained he could not shuffle or deal the cards because of a missing thumb. Now George Ttofa, captain of the Wednesbury team, YE OLDE LEATHERN BOTTEL, which made the complaint, has resigned in protest against the move. The BOTTEL players complained that Harry Staley, aged 55, of Ripon Drive, West Bromwich, who lost his thumb in a works accident earlier this year, could not shuffle or deal the cards as he prepared to play for the QUEENS HEAD pub in Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury. Mr. Staley who was substituted by another player said, ‘I felt awful. No one complained when I played two matches last week.’ QUEENS HEAD captain Frank Crumps said he was disgusted by the attitude of the BOTTEL players. Mr. Ttofa, of Hanley Street, West Bromwich, said, ‘I was under pressure from some of my players to request Mr. Staley’s withdrawal, although I personally was against it. I have now resigned from the team in protest against the complaint. I want to apologise. What happened was morally wrong. The QUEENS HEAD won the match 3-1.”

Birmingham Mail 22/1/1996 - Advert

“Public Notice

I, Martin Waite give notice that I have applied to Sandwell Council for the grant of a Public Entertainments License for the use at the premises known as QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands.”

Sandwell Chronicle 1/11/1996 - Advert

“The QUEENS HEAD. A Great British Pub with great food.

Christmas Fayre Menu available from 11th December. 3 course meal at only £7.25.

Book Now for your office party. Book early to avoid disappointment. Phone for more details.

Sizzling menu available at £3.45. Chicken in Lemongrass, Sweet and Sour Chicken, Beef in Tamarind Sauce, Steak in Black Bean Sauce, Vegetarian Stir Fry.

Also 10oz Sirloin Steak at £4.50, 10oz T-Bone Steak at £4.25, 16oz Rump Steak at £5.50.

Served Mon-Fri 5-9pm, Saturday 1-3pm; 6-9pm.

Sunday lunch available 12noon-3pm from £3.95.

Starters and sweets available.

Don't miss our Spectacular Firework Display on Sunday 3rd November from 6pm. Barbeque. Free Admission.

Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands. Tel. 0121-556 1436.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/5/1999 - Advert

“QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury.

Now open every Saturday, Bouncy Castle/Barbecue.”

**QUEENS HEAD Brunswick Park
Road, Wednesbury. Now open
every Saturday. Bouncy Castle
Barbecue — 0121 556 1436**

London Gazette 16/1/2014

“The QUEENS HEAD Wednesbury Ltd. (Company number 08351326)

Registered Office c/o Bytheway and Co. Accountants Ltd, October House, 17, Dudley Street, Sedgley.....

Principal Trading Address: The QUEENS HEAD, Brunswick Park Road.....

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at 40, Warner Road, Wednesbury on 27 January 2014.....”

Express & Star 7/3/2025

“A popular Wednesbury pub is set to be given a new lease of life as it undergoes a substantial refurbishment. The QUEENS HEAD on Brunswick Park Road closes next week for a £210,000 refurbishment by Heineken-owned Star Pubs and new licensees *Karen and Michael Cooper*, who also run the PLOUGH at Oldbury. The Black Country born-and-bred duo took over the QUEENS HEAD in October with the aim of reviving its fortunes after five years without a permanent publican. The pub will close after last orders on Saturday and reopen in mid-April.

The outside works will revamp the front of the QUEENS HEAD with a new look, including new signage and lighting, while a new 50-seater patio will be developed on the carpark behind the pub opening onto the existing garden, which will be transformed with a major makeover. Fully fenced, the garden will have a large lawn and a covered all-weather alfresco area seating an additional 40 people, as well as a pizza oven and servery selling drinks and ice creams. New furniture, festoon lighting, colourful parasols and planters will complete the look.”

[2025]



2025

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.
SALE OF FREEHOLD PROPERTY, AT WOOD GREEN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOSEPH DAWES, on Wednesday next the 22d of February, at the house of Mr. John Dudley, Royal Exchange, High-street, Wednesbury, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced—all that FREEHOLD MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, GARDEN, OUTBUILDINGS, and APPURTENANCES thereto belonging, situated at Wood Green, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mrs. Jane Spittle, Retail Brewer, and known as the "QUEEN'S HEAD."

The House, which is in good repair, is pleasantly situated, and contains a large cellar, front kitchen, and parlour, bar, pantry, brewhouse, and three bed-rooms.

The Outbuildings comprise a Workshop, Pigsty, and Privy.

The Garden contains a well, with Pump of superior spring Water, and with the site of the Buildings, about 620 square yards of Land, more or less.

To view the property apply on the premises; and for further particulars at the offices of Geo. Hayes Hinchliffe, Esq., Solicitor, West Bromwich; or to the Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

1854

MARGARET AND MALCOLM, new tenants of the Queen's Head, Brunswick Park Road, wish all the customers, old and new, a very happy time there. We also need a young lady Barmaid for evenings.

1973

1971 4-5 BERTH Ace Courier, 15ft 7in x 6ft 8in. Excellent condition, fitted carpet, stainless steel sink, water pump, strip lighting, full gas cooker, TV plug, two fire extinguishers, £550. Also 14ft Poulard awning, £75, together £600. — M. S. Davies, Queens Head, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury. 021 556 1436.

1974

ANN AND PETE
of

THE QUEENS HEAD,
Brunswick Park Road,
Wednesbury,

wish to extend the Season's Greetings and best wishes for a Prosperous New Year to all customers, friends and staff.

1975

THE QUEEN'S HEAD, Brunswick Park Road. 021 556 1436. Under new management. Pleasure gardens are now open. Full menu available. Ample car parking.

1980

JILL AND HOWARD
of THE QUEENS HEAD
Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury
Wish their customers, friends and staff
a Very Merry Christmas and Best
Wishes for a Prosperous New Year

1982

The Queens Head

*Brunswick Park Road,
 Wednesbury*

☎ 021 556 1436

★ WINTER SPECIAL ★

Monday-Saturday
Evening Meal for 2
£10.00

*Includes choice of starter and
 main course*

Egg Mayonnaise or Minestrone Soup
 8oz Sirlion or Plaice Stuffed with Prawns
 and Mushrooms or Chicken Chasseur
 Served with chips or jacket
 potatoes & salad

**THIS SPECIAL MENU CHANGES
 WEEKLY**

**TRADITIONAL SUNDAY
 LUNCH - £3.95**

**BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN
 FOR NEW YEARS DAY.**

1998

QUEEN'S HEAD
Brunswick Park Road.
Wednesbury
021-556 1436

**FAMILY
GARDEN
NOW OPEN**
Bar-B-Que
Weather Permitting
Saturday Night Only

OVER 25s Disco
Sunday, 24th (smart dress)
8 pm

1994

Ian & Julie welcome you to
The Queens Head

2 regular cask ales -
Salopian 'Shropshire Gold'
& Wye Valley 'HPA'
plus rotating guest ales

BEER FESTIVAL -
21st September to 1st October 2017

Home Cooked Food
(see website for mealtimes)

Beer Garden with Bouncy Castle

Dog Friendly Bar



Find us at: Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, WS10 9QR
Tel: 07713-756570

Ian & Julie welcome you to
The Queens Head

Now in
2018 Good Beer Guide
With Permanent
Wye Valley 'HPA'
Plus two rotating guest ales.

No. 1 rated food in Wednesbury
Home Cooked Food
See website for mealtimes.

Look out for our
Gin, Whisky & Rum Nights.

Dog Friendly Bar.



Find us at: 100 Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, WS10 9QR
Tel: 07713 756 570

2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Martin Waite give notice that I have applied to Sandwell Council for the grant of a Public Entertainments Licence for the use at the premises known as Queens Head, Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands.

The Queen's Head
A Great British Pub
with great food



Christmas Fayre Menu available from 11th December
3 course meal at only £7.25
BOOK NOW for your office party
Book early to avoid disappointment
Phone for more details

Sizzling menu available at £3.45

• Chicken in Lemon & Herb	• Also
• Roast and Sour Chicken	• 10oz Sirloin Steak at £4.95
• Beef or Sausage Casserole	• 10oz T Bone Steak at £4.95
• Steak in Black Beer Sauce	• 10oz Rump Steak at £3.95
• Vegetarian 50p fry	

Served Mon-Fri 5-9 pm, Saturday 1-3 pm, 6-9 pm
Sunday lunch available 12 noon-3 pm from £3.95
Starters and desserts available

**BRUNSWICK PARK ROAD,
WEDNESBURY, WEST MIDLANDS
Tel: 0121-556 1436**

DON'T MISS OUR SPECTACULAR FIREWORK DISPLAY ON
Sunday 3rd November
From 6 pm

1996

QUEENS HEAD

38, Queen Street / Queens Place, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1926]

LICENSEES

William Poxon [1872]

John Coxon [] – **1881**;

William Woodhall (**1881** – []

William King Townend [1889] – [1905]

George H Mason [1911] – [1912]

Albert Astbury [1921] – [1926]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

William Poxon, beer retailer, 38, Queen Street. [1872]

1881 Census

38, Queen Street – QUEENS HEAD

[1] William Woodhall (21), socket maker and publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] Alice Eleanor Woodhall (21), wife, born Walsall:

Birmingham Mail 7/2/1889

“At the West Bromwich (Borough) Police Court today, Abraham Lovesey (31), Church Street, was charged with embezzling 11s, the property of Isaac Wones and Co., of Pitt Street, West Bromwich, brewers chemists.

John Wones stated that prisoner entered the firm’s service in March, 1886, and was engaged to deliver goods and solicit orders. In August defendant received 4s, but had not accounted for that amount. On the 5th of December he received from Mr. H. King 2s, which he had not accounted for. On the 12th of December he received 5s from Laura Townend, of Wednesbury, which he had also not accounted for. George Davies, landlord of the of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Bilston, said he paid the prisoner 4s, for which he gave him the receipt produced. Henry King, of Leveretts Inn, Handsworth, stated that his wife received a receipt for 2s, which was paid to the prisoner. Laura Townend of the QUEENS HEAD, Wednesbury, said that she paid prisoner 5s, for which he gave her a receipt.

Police-sergeant Ainsworth said that on the 4th he arrested prisoner upon a warrant, when he said he had nothing to say at present. Mr. F. W. Topham defended.

Mr. Wones, recalled, said that they had discovered defalcations amounting to between £30 and £40.

The Bench fined prisoner £5 and costs, or in default two months’ imprisonment.”



c1900

1891 Census

38, Meeting Street

- [1] William King Townend (46), blacksmith, born Yorkshire;
- [2] Seka Townend (44), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] William King Townend (24), son, blacksmith, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Laura Townend (22), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Selina Townend (16), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Kezia Townend (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Lois Townend (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] David Townend (10), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Edith Townend (5), daughter, born Wednesbury:

William King Townend, beer retailer, 38, Queen Street. [1896], [1904]

1901 Census

38, Queen Street

- [1] William King Townend (56), widower, publican, born Yorkshire;
- [2] Keziah Townend (24), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Edith Townend (15), daughter, born Wednesbury:

William King Townend – see also COTTAGE, Wood Green Road.

1911 Census

Queen Street – QUEENS HEAD

- [1] George H. Mason (34), publican and brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Phoebe Mason (29), wife, married 6 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] George W. Mason (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Evelyn Mason (2), daughter, born Wednesbury:

George H. Mason, beer retailer, 38, Queen Street. [1912]

1921 Census

38, Queen Street

- [1] Albert Astbury (58), widower, wheel turner, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Ada Astbury (52), sister, housekeeper, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/7/1926 - 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 June and the 12th day of July, 1926, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

QUEENS HEAD, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Albert Astbury*. Registered Owner, Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/12/1926

“The Licensing Committee for the County have fixed the following sums as compensation.....

QUEENS HEAD, Wednesbury, ante '69 beerhouse, £1,600.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 3/3/1928

“William Pearson, FSI, FAI, has received instructions to Sell By Auction.....

Lot 2. The corner property formerly the QUEENS HEAD INN (now delicensed), Queen Street, Wednesbury.....”

RAILWAY

1, (Lower) Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Job Edwards Limited [1907]

LICENSEES

Edward Hale [1861]

Jane Nicholl [] - **1871**;

Thomas Lowe (**1871** - [1872])

William Mason [1881] - [1896]

Isaac Morris [1901]

John Robinson [1904]

Elijah Stott [1907]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1861 - Advert

"To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Whitehouse, This Day (Monday), March 25th.

The excellent Brewing Plant and sundry other Effects, according to catalogue, the property of Mr. *Edward Hale*, of the NEW RAILWAY INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

Auctioneer's Offices, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury."

TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS,
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY J. WHITEHOUSE, THIS DAY (Monday),
March 25th—the excellent BREWING PLANT and sundry
other Effects, according to catalogue, the property of Mr. Edward
Hale, of the New Railway Inn, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.
Auctioneer's Offices, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

Thomas Lowe, beer retailer, 1, Lower Dudley Street. [1872]

1881 Census

1, Dudley Street – RAILWAY INN

[1] *William Mason* (50), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah Mason* (46), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Jane Mason* (26), daughter, domestic, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Ann Mason* (24), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Mary Mason* (22), daughter, domestic, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Samuel Mason* (20), son, works labourer, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Richard Mason* (18), son, works labourer, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Sarah Mason* (16), daughter, domestic, born Wednesbury;

[9] *Ellen Mason* (14), daughter, domestic, born Wednesbury;

[10] *Joseph Richards* (19), boarder, smith's striker, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/11/1881 - Advert

"Lost, Black Retriever, about 11 months old; finder rewarded.

Apply, *Mason's*, RAILWAY INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury."

LOST. Black Retriever, about 11 months old; finder rewarded.
—Apply, *Masons*, Railway Inn, Dudley-street, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

1, Dudley Street

- [1] William Mason (60), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Sarah Mason (56), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Jane Mason (36), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Annie Mason (34), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Samuel Mason (30), son, furnaceman, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Richard Mason (28), son, furnaceman, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Sarah Mason (25), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Ellen Mason (24), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury:

William Mason, beer retailer, 1, Lower Dudley Street. [1896]

1897 Probate

"William Mason of the RAILWAY INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, beerhouse keeper, died 20 October 1896. Administration London 9 February to Sarah Mason, widow. Effects £86 2s 6d."

1901 Census

1, Lower Dudley Street

- [1] Isaac Morris (59), married, publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] George Morris (31), son, brewer, born Moxley:

John Robinson, beer retailer, 1, Lower Dudley Street. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1907

"The adjourned annual Licensing Sessions took place at Wednesbury yesterday.

Applications were heard for the renewal of licenses which had been objected to under the compensation clause.... In the case of the RAILWAY INN, Dudley Street, Superintendent Salt gave evidence as to a redundancy of licenses in the locality, and in cross-examination admitted that during the fifteen years he had been in Wednesbury there had been no conviction against the house.

Mr. R. A. Willcock, for the licensee, urged that a respectable artisan trade was done, and Mr. J. S. Sharpe, for the lessees, contended that a mistake was made in closing beerhouses and driving people into places where they might get things much worse.

The Bench referred all the licenses to the Compensation Authority at Stafford."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1907

"County Licensing Compensation Authority.

The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1904, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford on Tuesday....

Mr. Disturnal stated that the following houses had been reported by the justices from Wednesbury borough.... RAILWAY INN, Dudley Street, beerhouse, wine (licensee *Elijah Stott*). No opposition. Renewal refused."

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/7/1907

"A supplemental meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday and Thursday, to consider the amount of compensation to be awarded in the case of licenses the renewal of which was refused at the principal meeting....

In cases where the amount of compensation approved by the committee was not accepted by the parties concerned, these were referred to the Inland Revenue Commissioners to determine the sum to be awarded....

RAILWAY INN, Dudley Street (owner Job Edwards Limited), referred to Inland Revenue Commissioners."

Lichfield Mercury 8/1/1909

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions....

The Licensing Committee presented a report for the year 1908....

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue gave their decisions in the cases referred to them last year....

RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury, £975."

Closed

RAILWAY

4, Great Western Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Griffiths [] – **1870**);
Joseph Grainger (**1870 – 1881**);
Mrs. Sarah Grainger (**1881 – []**)
John Grainger [1888] – [1891]
Reuben Cockbill [1901] – [1912]
Walter William Wyer [1921] – [1925]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

It was described as having no sign in 1870.



Ex-pub

1871 Census

4, Great Western Street

- [1] *Joseph Grainger* (38), roller, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Sarah Grainger* (36), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *John Grainger* (15), son, roller, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Mary Grainger* (10), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *James Grainger* (5), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Agnes Grainger* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Mary Ann Lloyd* (14), general servant, born Wednesbury;

Joseph Grainger, beer retailer, 4, Great Western Street. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/10/1880

“*Joseph Grainger*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Great Western Street, Wednesbury, committed suicide yesterday morning by hanging himself to a beam in the malt room of his house. Mental aberration is said to be the cause of the suicide.”

Wednesbury Herald 16/10/1880

“At the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, on Tuesday afternoon, Edwin Hooper, Esq, South Staffordshire Coroner, held an enquiry as to the death of *Joseph Grainger* (47), landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Great Western Street, who committed suicide on Monday morning.

Sarah Grainger, the widow of the deceased, said that she had been married to the deceased 27 years, during which time he had had fair health. Of late, however, he had appeared to be greatly troubled, and at times very desponding. He had also had restless nights, and frequently jumped up in bed. Sometimes he would leave the bedroom during the night and go down stairs, and several times she had followed him, but he had requested her to return to bed. On Sunday night he was very restless, and at times appeared to be like a man that was insane. She did everything possible to comfort him, but her efforts appeared to be of no avail. He left the bedroom at about seven o'clock on Monday morning and walked about the house in a melancholy state. He persisted in wringing his hands, and when walking about the premises he appeared to be distracted. Shortly after eight o'clock she requested deceased to have

breakfast, but he refused to have any, he stating at the time 'that he felt he could not eat any.' For some time afterwards she was engaged in supplying customers with barm, and at about a quarter past nine o'clock she missed deceased. She made search for him about the house but could not find him. She subsequently went into the malt room and was horrified to find her husband hanging from a beam by means of a boat line. She screamed out, and her son immediately came into the place and cut his father down.

The Coroner: Can you account for him being depressed?

Witness: He had been put about over the ale.

The Coroner: Why?

Witness: Because it was not good.

The Coroner: I suppose you believe that your husband has met with his death by his own hand?

Witness: I do.

John Grainger, the son of the deceased, said that on Monday morning last about half past nine o'clock he heard his mother screaming in the malt room, and upon going into the place he found his father hanging, and his mother endeavouring to hold him up so as to release his neck as much as possible. He immediately cut him down, but unfortunately life was extinct. His father and mother had always lived happily together. Lately his father had been very strange, and in fact had been greatly troubled over his ale not been right, and had declared more than once that he should go mad.

The Coroner: In what way was the ale bad?

Witness: It was flat.

The Coroner: What was the cause of the ale being bad?

Witness: The malt was not good.

A Juryman: Customers have brought the ale back to the house have they not?

Witness: Yes, and have complained, and my father has been consequently 'put about.'

The Coroner said he did not see any necessity of taking further evidence, and the jury returned a verdict that deceased committed Suicide when in a state of Temporary Insanity."

Wednesbury Herald 15/1/1881

"On Tuesday evening last the employees of the Great Western Railway Company, at the passenger department, Wednesbury, held their thirteenth annual dinner at the RAILWAY INN, when a capital spread was served by Mrs. *Grainger*. After dinner Mr. Fiddian occupied the chair, and Mr. R. Price the vice-chair....."

1881 Census

4, Great Western Street – RAILWAY INN

[1] *Sarah Grainger* (46), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *John Grainger* (25), son, coal agent, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Lois Grainger* (21), daughter, domestic, born Swan Village;

[4] *Joshua Grainger* (15), son, railway servant, born Wednesbury;

[5] *A. Maud Grainger* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Ada Grainger* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[7] *A. Henry Grainger* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Sarah Grainger died in the 1st quarter of 1885.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/2/1885

"On Thursday evening the annual dinner of the Great Western Railway Company's employees in the passenger department was held at the RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury. A bountiful spread was supplied by Mr. *Grainger*, and after the cloth was drawn, Mr. R. Price was voted to the chair, and Mr. W. Andrews to the vice-chair. The usual and patriotic toasts having been duly honoured, Mr. H. Preece proposed 'Success to the Great Western Railway and their Officials,' and in doing so spoke in high terms of the courtesy and civility of the staff generally, and coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Gibbs, station master. Mr. Price proposed 'Success to the Town and Trade of Wednesbury,' thanking heartily the tradesmen and gentry of the town for their kindness to the railway servants. Selections on the pianoforte by Mr. Job Hickman, and songs by Messrs. Price, Prophet, Andrews, Kent, and Woodhall, made up a most enjoyable evening."

1891 Census

4, Great Western Street

- [1] John Grainger (34), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Fanny Grainger (34), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sarah Fanny Grainger (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Arthur Henry Grainger (15), brother, commercial clerk, born Wednesbury;

1901 Census

4, Great Western Street

- [1] Reuben Cockbill (32), publican, born Hook Norton, Oxfordshire;
- [2] Jane M. Cockbill (27), wife, born Alderminster, Worcestershire;
- [3] Florry Cockbill (6), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Reuben Cockbill (4), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] Sidney Cockbill (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] George F. Cockbill (8 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Emily Phipps (39), unmarried, general servant, born Hook Norton, Oxfordshire;

Reuben Cockbill, beer retailer, 4, Great Western Street. [1904], [1912]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1904

“Joseph McLean, belonging to the Garrison Artillery, stationed at Portsmouth, was fined 1s and costs at Wednesbury yesterday for being drunk on the licensed premises of the RAILWAY INN, Great Western Street.

The prisoner said he had no money, whereupon Col. Smith, the presiding magistrate, intimated that he would pay the fine, in order that the prisoner might return to his regiment, as he had to leave for India on Friday.”

1911 Census

4, Great Western Street – RAILWAY INN

- [1] Reuben Cockbill (42), landlord, born Birmingham;
- [2] Jane Maria Cockbill (38), wife, married 18 years, housewife, born Oldbury, Worcestershire;
- [3] Florance Hilda Cockbill (16), daughter, shop assistant, born Darlaston;
- [4] Reuben Cockbill (15), son, out porter, railway, born Darlaston;
- [5] Sidney Cockbill (12), son, school, born Moxley;
- [6] George Frederick Cockbill (11), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Arthur Cockbill (9), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Elizabeth Whiting (46), unmarried, sister, born Oldbury, Worcestershire;

1921 Census

4, Great Western Street

- [1] Walter William Wyer (38), born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [2] Alice Elizabeth Wyer (39), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Walter Dennis Wyer (18), son, railway porter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Arthur Wyer (16), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Irene Wyer (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Evelyn Wyer (12), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Bernard Wyer (8), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [8] George Ernest Wyer (5), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Harold Francis Wyer (3), son, born Wednesbury;

Bilston & Willenhall Times 17/1/1925

“Wednesbury Police Court.....

Walter William Wyer (42), RAILWAY INN, Great Western Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for using indecent language, and pleaded not guilty, being defended by Mr. Ernest E. Brown.

PC Shaw stated that on January 13th, he was outside RAILWAY INN, when he heard defendant using bad language. Witness asked a man what was the matter, and he said it was ‘only old Walter having a row with his wife.’ Witness got into the house, and asked defendant why he was using bad language. He replied, ‘There was no bad language.’

Mr. Brown asked witness whether he would write down all that was said while he was outside, good, bad, or indifferent. Superintendent Sault objected to having a report written down in Court. In all his 27 years' experience he had never known it done. Mr. Brown then asked witness whether he had written all down that what was said, and he replied there were some other words used. Mr. Brown: Now write it down then? Superintendent Sault said he should still object. The magistrates could dismiss the case if they liked, but he should not allow any report to be written down in Court.

Mr. Brown asked that a note should be made of his point, and the fact that the superintendent objected.

PC Slack also gave corroborating evidence.

Mr. Brown submitted that technically there was no case to answer. The bye-laws were quite clear and unambiguous, and laid it down that the language used must be to the annoyance of residents or passengers. The magistrates held that in the present case, the police were passengers, while in the case quoted by Mr. Brown, the constable was in the public house.

Giving evidence the defendant stated that after closing time he attended to his cellar work, and helped in the washing up. A bucket had been placed in the bar, over which he fell and he did not swear to his wife.

The Bench ordered defendant to pay the costs, and expressed an opinion that it was a proper case to be brought."

Closed

Delicensed

Dudley Chronicle 21/2/1935 - Advert

"Wednesbury. Belcher and Son will offer for Sale by Public Auction at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, February 25th, at 7 o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions, the following Freehold Investment Properties.....

Lot 5. The de-licensed premises, being the late RAILWAY INN, No.4 Great Western Street."

It became housing.

**LOT 5.—The de-licensed premises, being
the late "Railway". Inn. No. 4, Great
Western Street**

RAILWAY

20, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Holt Brewery Company [1891]
F. W. Paddey, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Wolverhampton [1919]
Atkinsons Ltd [1921]

LICENSEES

John Butler [1851] – **1854**
Robert Butler [1854] – [1855]
Robert Boulton [] – **1856**;
William Bird **(1856 – 1859)**;
Miss Ann Bird **(1859 – [])**
Mrs. Amelia Bird [1860]
Mary Ann Bird [1861] – **1865**;
Jephtha Parkes **(1865 – [1872])**
Richard Bateman [1873] – **1875**;
Thomas William Price **(1875)**
Henry Bishop **(1875 – 1876)**
Felix Fairn [1876] – [1878]
Henry James 'Harry' Anderson [1880] – [1880]
Henry J Wilkinson [1881] manager
Richard Hill [1884]
Joseph James Sims [1889] – [1892]
William Daniel Thomas [1891]
Mrs. Elizabeth Jones [1896]
Frederick J Astbury [1901]
Frederick Leek [1904] – [1908]
Alfred James Clay* [1911] – [1912]
James Clay* [1912]
Alfred John Clay [1916]
Arthur Wesson [1921] – [1921]
W Hobbis [1934]
Arthur George Roberts [1939] – [1940]

NOTES

RAILWAY [1862], [1880], [1896]
STATION INN SPIRIT VAULTS [1904], [1908], [1912]
STATION SPIRIT VAULTS [1916]
STATION [1921]
RAILWAY INN SPIRIT VAULTS [1932], [1940]

It was known locally as "The Silent".

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT WALSALL.
The 18th day of May, 1865.
IN the Matter of the Petition of JOHN BUTLER,
at present and for eleven weeks now last past residing in lodgings
at the house of John Terry, situated in Portway Road, in the parish
of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, working as a Miner, and
for six months and eleven days previously thereto residing in lodgings
at the house of Robert Butler, known by the sign of the Railway Inn,
in the Holyhead Road, in the parish of Wednesbury aforesaid, and
working also as a Miner, and for four years previously thereto residing
at and keeping the Railway Inn, in the Holyhead Road, in the parish
of Wednesbury aforesaid, and carrying on the trades or businesses of
Licensed Victualler and Butty Collier, an Insolvent Debtor.—*Notice*
is hereby given, that the Court will proceed to make a FINAL
ORDER thereon, on FRIDAY, the 15th day of June, 1865, at Ten o'clock
in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the
contrary.—By order of the Court.
J. H. MOORE, Attorney, Walsall.
1855

1851 Census

Holyhead Road

- [1] John Butler (57), coal miner employing 10 men 3 boys, born Tipton;
- [2] Harriet Butler (55), wife, born Shropshire;
- [3] Robert Butler (29), son, forge hammerman, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Elizabeth Butler (28), daughter-in-law, dressmaker, born Acton, Cheshire;
- [5] Elizabeth Price (17), niece, born Gloucestershire;
- [6] Mary Mason (11), born Tipton;
- [7] John Jenkins (17), orphan, born Tipton;
- [8] Eler Watkiss (14), house servant, born Shropshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/12/1851

"An inquest was held at the RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury, on Friday se'nnight, on the body of a shoemaker named Henry Jones, whose death was occasioned by his incautiously attempting to get into a train at the South Staffordshire Railway Station in that town while it was in motion. It appears that a third-class train to Great Bridge and Dudley was just starting when the deceased arrived at the station, but before he could get a ticket the train was started. The deceased immediately ran forward, and opening a door of one of the carriages attempted to jump in while the train was moving from the platform but failed, and slipped his foot between the platform and the carriage. The porter caught him by the arm, and attempted to push him into the carriage, to prevent his falling altogether under the train, but his other foot then slipped off the edge, and he fell down on the line, two of the carriages passing over his legs. The train was stopped immediately, and on the signal being given, the guard, in putting on the break, caught the deceased by it and dragged him with the train. When taken up it was found that both of the poor man's legs were crushed in a dreadful manner, and also one of his thighs, and he died shortly after the accident. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Birmingham Journal 2/6/1855 - Advert

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the Matter of the Petition of *John Butler*, at present and for eleven weeks now last past residing in lodgings at the house of John Terry, situated in Portway Road, in the parish of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, working as a Miner, and for six months and eleven days previously thereto residing in lodgings at the house of *Robert Butler*, known by the sign of the RAILWAY INN, in the Holyhead Road, in the parish of Wednesbury aforesaid, and working also as a Miner, and for four years previously thereto residing at and keeping the RAILWAY INN, in the Holyhead Road, in the parish of Wednesbury aforesaid, and carrying on the trades or businesses of Licensed Victualler and Butty Collier, an Insolvent Debtor.

Notice is hereby given, that the Court will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, on Friday, the 15th day of June, 1855, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

By order of the Court.

J. H. Moore, Attorney, Walsall.

The 18th day of May, 1855."

Birmingham Journal 24/11/1855 - Advert

"Notice. If the Goods Left at Mr. *Robert Butler*'s, of the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, by Mr. Sargeant James Hunter, are not fetched away by the 30th of November next, they will be Sold, to defray expenses."

NOTICE.
IF the GOODS LEFT at Mr. Robert Butler's,
of the Railway Inn, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, by Mr.
SARGEANT JAMES HUNTER, are not fetched away by the 30th
of November next, they will be SOLD, to defray expenses.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1859 - Advert

"Notice. All Persons having any Claim against the Estate of *William Bird*, late of Wednesbury, Licensed Victualler, deceased, are requested to send the particulars thereof to me, the undersigned, John Francis Dalby, West Bromwich, Solicitor to the Executrix."

NOTICE.
ALL Persons having any CLAIM against the
Estate of **WILLIAM BIRD**, late of Wednesbury, Licensed
Victualler, deceased, are requested to send the particulars thereof to me,
the undersigned,
JOHN FRANCIS DALBY, West Bromwich,
Solicitor to the Executrix.

Birmingham Journal 19/3/1859 - Advert

“OLD RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Sale of Capital Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Public House Fixtures, Gas Fittings, Boilers, Palisading, &c. To be Sold by Auction, by C. Wootton (without reserve), on the Premises as above, on Tuesday Next, the 22nd day of March, commencing at Eleven o'clock.

All the superior Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, &c; comprising capital four-post and tent Bedsteads, in chintz and dimity clothing; superior feather and flock Beds, Bedding, Palliasses, wool and flock Mattresses, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Chamber Chairs, Carpets, Wash Stands and Tables, handsome Swing Glasses, Four substantial Public House Screens, well made Drink Tables, Windsor Chairs, Sofa, Dining Tables, handsome Water-slide Gas Chandelier, Benches, well bound Barrels, capital Coolers, superior Twelve-strike Mash Tub, two cast-iron Boilers, Grates, &c, Swing Sign, Two wrought-iron Yard Gates, 6ft by 4ft; large quantity of wood Pallisading, quantity of well made Tubs, two Wort Spouts, capital Water Tub, Stock of prime Ale and Beer, the usual Effects appertaining to the business, Culinary Utensils, &c.

Catalogues may be had at the Office of the Auctioneer, Paradis Street, West Bromwich.”

1861 Census

Holly Head Road

[1] Mary Ann Bird (36), widow, victualler, born Bromsgrove, Worcestershire;

[2] William Bird (5), son, born Wednesbury;

[3] Sarah Moore (12), general servant, born West Bromwich:

Mary Ann Bird (39), widow, married Jephtha Parkes (25), bachelor, on 15th December 1864.

Dudley Herald 8/8/1868

“Jephtha Parkes, RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury, was fined 10s and costs for serving during unlawful hours on Sunday.”

1871 Census

20, Holyhead Road – RAILWAY INN

[1] Jephtha Parkes (31), married, innkeeper, born Dudley;

[2] William Bird (17), step-son, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[3] Dorothy White (32), sister-in-law, innkeeper, born Dudley;

[4] Phoebe Conway (13), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Cannock Chase Examiner 6/2/1875 - Advert

“W. Price, RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

W. P., in taking to the above old-established Inn, begs to solicit a share of public patronage and support.

Burton and other Home Brewed Ales and Stout.

Choice Wines and Spirits.

A Large Club Room for society and other meetings.

Sacred Music on Sundays.”

Midland Examiner 13/3/1875

“On Wednesday evening a ‘house warming’ dinner was given at the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the occasion of the transfer of that well-known hostelry to Mr. Price. A most excellent spread was provided, and about 30 sat down. The chair was taken by Mr. J. Crostie, and the vice-chair by Mr. Jefferies. The health of the ‘new host’ was drank in a bumper, and song and sentiment was the order of the evening.”

Midland Examiner 20/3/1875

“William Ball was fined 10s 6d and costs for refusing to quit the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, when requested to do so.”

Midland Examiner 3/4/1875 - Advert

“RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

T. W. Price, in taking to the above Inn wishes to thank his friends for past favours, and also to inform them that he has taken to the above Hostelry, where they will find the best of Ales, Wines, and Spirits, as pure as from the still.

A Harmonic Meeting Nightly.

Sacred Music on the Grand Organ on Sundays.”

Midland Examiner 15/1/1876 - Advert

“RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Harmonic Meeting at the above House, at Six pm every Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/5/1876

“*Henry Bishop*, late landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury, was charged under the Insolvent Debtors Act with disposing of his property, on the 12th of February last, with intent to defraud his creditors. In August of last year he obtained from Messrs. Thompson, maltsters, of Smethwick, a loan of £130, to enable him to purchase the lease and effects of the above-named inn, contracting with Messrs. Thompson that on his completing the purchase he would transfer the premises to them and give them a bill of sale. He made the purchase, but refusing or neglecting to carry out his contract, the Messrs. Thompson brought an action to recover the loan, and the defendant sold up and ran away, but ultimately was arrested on a warrant. The case was adjourned until the 9th proximo, the accused being admitted to bail in two sureties of £25 each.”

AND

Dudley and District News 22/4/1882

“Mr. J. Stokes (Stokes and Hooper) applied for the transfer of the license of the WONDER INN, Tividale, from Sarah Hughes to *Henry Bishop*. Superintendent Wollaston opposed the application on the ground that the applicant has not conducted himself in such a manner as to entitle him to hold the license. In reply to Superintendent Wollaston’s remarks, Mr. Stokes said that if *Bishop* was taken into custody at Tamworth he was released the next morning, there being no charge against him. It was a case between *Bishop* and his creditors. As to the time he was committed for trial the charge was withdrawn, and it was preposterous to bring such allegations against his client when there was nothing in the charges which could criminate him. *Bishop* was a very respectable man, and highly connected, and during the whole time he had been a licensed victualler there had not been a single complaint against him. In 1858 he received a spirit license for the MITRE INN, at Tettenhall, from there he went to Birmingham to the Excelsior Tavern and held a license for that house; from there he went to the Leopard Inn at Coventry, and from thence to the Kings Head at Birmingham, and afterwards to the Red Lion, and next to the STATION HOTEL at Wednesbury. From these facts he accounted for his client from the year 1857 to 1876, and during the whole of that time he had conducted those houses in an exemplary manner without a single complaint or conviction being recorded against him, and that proved that as a licensed victualler he had conducted himself well. Since the year 1876 he had been a commercial traveller, and the case at Birmingham that had been mentioned in an attempt to damage his character, was that when he was abroad he spent a great deal of money on his employers and they attempted to prosecute him, but now his employers were about to be prosecuted for maliciously prosecuting him, and they wanted to make the matter up with him.

The Bench granted the application.”

Felix Fairn = Felix Fern

Sporting Life 18/11/1876

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, near Dudley.

Mr. Nuttall, the proprietor will give £6 10s to be run for in an all-England 200 yards dog handicap on Saturday and Monday, November 25 and 27 – first prize £5; second £1; third 10s. Entrance 6d each (no acceptance), to close on November 21 (Wednesday morning’s letters in time), to be made at the grounds; or at.....

Mr. *Felix Fairn*’s, RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury.”

Shropshire Examiner 25/5/1877

“On Tuesday afternoon the miners agents from Dudley, Old Hill, West Bromwich, and Darlaston, met at the STATION INN, Wednesbury, for the purpose of meeting Mr. David Moulson, treasurer of the National Miners Association, and Mr. T. Halliday, secretary, to arrange for meeting the various employers where the disputes as to hours, wages, and stints, were taking place.....”

Sporting Life 6/10/1877

“Royal Oak Recreation Grounds, Burnt Tree.

Mr. T. Walker, of Burnt Tree, and Mr. W. Taylor will give £6 10s to be run for on Mondays, October 15 and 22 – first prize £5, second £1, third 10s; entrance 1s each, and no acceptance. Entrances to be made not later than Tuesday, October 9, at the grounds, or at.....

Mr. *Felix Fern*’s, RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury.”

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.....

Felix Fairn, RAILWAY INN, £5 and costs, for permitting drunkenness.....

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.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/5/1880 - Advert

“Mr. Edward Ellis will Sell by Auction, This Day (Tuesday), at the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. The whole of the Brewing Plant, Ale Casks, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

Dudley and District News 12/6/1880

“On Tuesday, at the Dudley County Court, the following petitions were filed.....

Felix Fairn, out of business, late of the RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury, but now of Coseley. Liabilities £300.”

London Gazette 29/6/1880

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Felix Fairn*, late of the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead-road, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, but now in lodgings at Earl-street, Coseley, in the parish of Sedgley, in the said county of Stafford, out of business.

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 GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the 7th day of July, 1880, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 25th day of June, 1880.

William Bowen, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Harry Anderson, RAILWAY INN, 20, Holyhead Road. [1880]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/8/1880

“Yesterday the police received information that a boatman named Benjamin Aston, residing at Great Bridge, had been robbed in the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, under somewhat singular circumstances. Aston, who is 60 years of age, alleges that whilst he was partaking of refreshments in the public house on Tuesday he was induced by four girls to go into a room at the back of the vaults. After he was seated the door was locked, and the girls took £10 out of his pocket and afterwards absconded with the money. During the day four girls, named Phoebe Bough, Alice Owen, Mary Ann Lunn, and Elizabeth Cotterhill were apprehended on suspicion of stealing the money.”

AND

Dudley and District News 28/8/1880

“Phoebe Cotterill, Phoebe Baugh, Ann Lunn, and Alice Owen were brought up on remand charged with having stolen £10 from the person of Benjamin Aston, and in connection with the same case *Henry James Anderson*, the landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Wednesbury, was summoned, at the instance of the police, for having permitted drunkenness in his house and harboured prostitutes there; and the prosecutor, Aston, was summoned, at the instance of *Anderson*, for being disorderly in the house. Mr. H. Corser (instructed by Mr. Sheldon) appeared for the defendant Anderson, and it was agreed to take the charges against him first. By request of the police Lunn and Owen were then discharged, and the latter was called as a witness. She deposed that she went to the RAILWAY TAVERN on the previous Tuesday, with the other women implicated, between three and four o’clock, and remained there until a quarter to nine, and she gave particulars of the quantities of drink supplied to the various persons present and of their condition. PS Curtis spoke to the house being much frequented on Court days, and said he saw Joyce go away drunk. Matthew Joyce, Phoebe Baugh, and others, were called as witnesses.

The Stipendiary dismissed the summons for harbouring. The charge of drunkenness was also dismissed, the Stipendiary remarking that Superintendent Holland was right in having the summonses issued.

Mr. Sheldon announced that the case against Aston would not be proceeded with, and, on account of the lateness of the hour, Baugh and Cotterill were, on the application of Superintendent Holland, remanded till Tuesday next at Bilston, the Stipendiary admitting the prisoners to bail in one surety each in £20, or two in £10.”

[At Bilston the prisoners were committed for trial at the Sessions.]

AND

Dudley Herald 23/10/1880

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.....

Phoebe Cotterill and Phoebe Baugh were charged with the theft of £10 from the person of Benjamin Aston, of Wednesbury.

It appeared that the prosecutor, a boat builder, went into a public house at Wednesbury and got too much drink, when it was alleged that the two females, who accompanied him, put their hands into his pocket and took £10 of his money. The jury acquitted the prisoners without calling upon the defence.”

1881 Census

20, Holyhead Road

[1] *Henry J. Wilkinson* (32), manager, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Elizabeth Wilkinson* (33), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Charles Wilkinson* (9), son, born Banbury, Oxfordshire;

[4] *Harriett D. Wilkinson* (7), daughter, born Banbury, Oxfordshire;

[5] *James A. Wilkinson* (4), son, born Banbury, Oxfordshire;

[6] *Albert Wilkinson* (7 months), son, born Willenhall;

[7] *Alice Burns* (19), servant, born Willenhall:

Richard Hill = Richard Hall

Wednesbury Herald 26/1/1884

“William Slater, ironmonger, Oakeswell End; James Nash, Hill Street, Kings Hill; and John Harris, ironworker, of Darlaston, were charged with being drunk and creating a disturbance at the STATION INN, Holyhead Road, on the 15th inst.

On the evening of the day in question a number of men were heard by Police-sergeant Lytle and Police-constable Noble creating a disturbance in the STATION INN, and upon the police officers entering the vaults they found the defendants were drunk and creating a disturbance.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said the officers were attracted to the house through the disturbance.

In reply to Mr. Sheldon, who defended, Police-constable Noble stated that he saw the landlord in the act of turning a man out of the house. It was a man named Pickering, who it was alleged was the cause of the disturbance.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said the officers were attracted to the house through the disturbance.

In reply to Mr. Sheldon, who defended, Police-constable Noble stated that he saw the landlord in the act of turning a man out of the house. It was a man named Pickering, who it was alleged was the cause of the disturbance.

Mr. Superintendent Holland said although there was a disgraceful disturbance in the house the assistance of the police was not sought.

The defendants denied that they were drunk, but stated that they were excited through Pickering assaulting one of them and assaulting the others.

After several witnesses had given evidence, the Stipendiary said he believed all three were drunk as stated by the police, and fined each of them £1 1s 6d, or in default 21 days' imprisonment.

John Pickering, of Great Bridge, was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises, and as he failed to put in an appearance, through, it was alleged, pressure of work, the Stipendiary issued a warrant for his apprehension.

Richard Hill, the landlord of the STATION INN, was summoned for permitting drunkenness and also a disorderly house.

Mr. Sheldon submitted that his client had not in any way violated the law as he ejected the man who created the disturbance. If the case went on he should be able to prove most conclusively that the defendant did his best to conform to the law.

The Stipendiary said as Pickering was not in attendance he thought it would be best to adjourn the case for a fortnight.

Mr. Sheldon said he had a complete answer to the charge, but if his worship thought it desirable that the case should be adjourned he would respectfully submit to the decision of the Court."

Wednesbury Herald 2/2/1884

"John Pickerhill, iron worker, Great Bridge, was summoned for refusing to quit the STATION INN, Holyhead Road. The defendant created a disturbance in the house and refused to leave when requested to do so.

The case was adjourned for a week."

Wednesbury Herald 9/2/1884

"*Richard Hall*, landlord of the STATION INN, Holyhead Road, appeared on an adjourned summons with permitting drunkenness in his house under circumstances already reported in the *Herald*.

Mr. Sheldon, who defended, said his client was most anxious to keep his house properly, and had given his manager strict instructions not to permit drunken men to associate on his premises. Under these circumstances he hoped the Stipendiary would dismiss the case with costs. The application was granted."

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 5/1/1889

"Free Gardeners. A meeting was recently held at Mr. *Sims*'s, RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury, for the purpose of presenting a handsome marble timepiece with a silver plate bearing an inscription upon it, and a calf-skin purse of gold, to Mr. H. T. Finch, upon his appointment as permanent grand secretary of the Order...."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1889 - Advert

"Clerk and French Correspondent.

Situation Wanted, by a young Frenchman, age 20. Good references.

Address, P. B., RAILWAY HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

CLERK and French Correspondent.—Situation Wanted, by a young Frenchman, age 20. Good references.—Address, P. B., Railway Hotel, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

20, Holyhead Road

[1] *Joseph J. Sims* (53), stationary engine driver, born Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Sarah A. Sims* (52), wife, born Swansea;

[3] *Bernard J. Sims* (25), son, carpenter, born Darlaston;

[4] *Christopher G. Sims* (23), son, stationary engine stoker, born Darlaston;

[5] *Charles H. Sims* (21), son, railway porter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Arthur E. Sims* (18), son, steam hammer driver, born Darlaston;

[7] *Louis S. Sims* (14), son, born Darlaston;

[8] *Francis S. Sims* (11), son, born Wednesbury;

[9] *Josephine E. Barbeand* (26), daughter, married, born Darlaston;

[10] *Bertha J. Barbeand* (8 months), grand-daughter, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday; the magistrates present being Messrs. A. Elwell, Wilson Lloyd, R. Williams, G. Heaton, J. Nayler, J. B. Lees, F. H. Lloyd, and A. H. Partridge, and the Rev. A. A. Cary.....

William Daniel Thomas, the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, applied, through Mr. W. S. Smith, for the renewal of his license, which had been opposed on the ground of non-residence. Mr. A. Whitehouse appeared for the owners of the business, the Holt Brewery Company, and said Mr. *Thomas* was the secretary to the company. He should be glad if the Bench would lay down some rule to govern cases of this kind, the existing regulations in different districts being most embarrassing. What would do on one side of a street in one district would not do on the other in another district. To put himself right he had tentatively given notice to transfer the license to some other person. Mr. Heaton asked if the name of the company could not be inserted in the license. Mr. Whitehouse said he should be glad to consult his clients on the subject, but he thought it would be better to grant the license to some member of the company Granted, subject to a transfer being made to the Holt Brewery Company.”

Loyal Matheson Lodge of Manchester Unity of Oddfellows was established here in 1899.

Mrs. *Elizabeth Jones*, RAILWAY INN, 20, Holyhead Road. [1896]

1901 Census

20, Holyhead Road

- [1] *Frederick J. Astbury* (38), manager in beerhouse, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Theresa Caroline Astbury* (46), wife, born Leicester;
- [3] *James Edward Whittle* (10), step-son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Frederick A. Astbury* (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Annie Rotton* (26), servant, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Leader 20/4/1901

“At the Wednesbury Borough Police Court on Friday, *Frederick Astbury*, the landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, was charged with permitting drunkenness at his house on 3rd April. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted, and Mr. R. E. C. Kettle defended.

George Baugh (69), Drews Court, Wednesbury, gave evidence that during the greater part of April 3rd he was in defendant's house. He was several times served with drink, and when he left the house at three o'clock, he was drunk. He was taken to the police station, and did not recollect anything till the following morning. The last thing he remembered doing was playing the piano, between one and two pm.

William Bethel, junior, of St. Bartholomew Terrace, Wednesbury, said he was in the house on the date mentioned in the charge, about 11 o'clock, and saw Baugh have 'four goes of rum.' He was then getting drunk, and when he left he was drunk.

Baugh, recalled, said when he entered the house he had 10s in his possession, and on the following morning 2s 11½d. A bricklayer, *Samuel Jeavons* by name, who was working at the inn on the day, deposed to seeing Baugh drunk in the house, and *John James*, a labourer, said he saw Baugh lying on the ground, drunk, near the gates of the RAILWAY INN on the afternoon of the 3rd.

PS O'Leary said he was at the station on the 3rd inst, at 4pm, when *George Baugh* was brought in in a helpless state of drunkenness. He reported the matter to Superintendent Salt, who saw the man. He was in custody until 11am the following day. He was not sensible at 9pm on the 3rd after being five hours in the station. The following day witness, in company with PC Truswell, went to the RAILWAY INN. He saw defendant and his wife in the smoke room. Defendant said Baugh came to his house about 10am on the previous morning. He had two-penny worth of rum, and did not stay long. He returned just before dinner time, and was again served. Defendant left the house to go a drive at two and did not return till five. A man named *Price*, who was present during the interview, said, in reply to witness, that he helped Baugh out of the house at 3 o'clock, and returned.

PC Truswell also gave evidence of the interview.

Mr. Kettle, for the defence, submitted that Baugh, finding himself in the hands of the police, would try to protect himself, and lay the blame on others. According to Baugh, he had 14 or 15 'goes' of rum. Was it credible that a landlord of an important licensed house would permit a notorious drunkard to 'booze' in this manner. He also discredited the statement of the two men, Jeavons and Bethel, that they remembered certain times with exactitude. He admitted that Baugh was in the house between 9-15 and 10-15am, and with regard to 20 past 2 he allowed he was there, but denied that he was there after 2-30. He would call the two *Astburys*, who would say that Baugh came to the house between 9-30 and 10, had two-penny worth of rum, and left in about half an hour. He came back about dinner time, and Mr. Price, an architect of certain alterations then being made to the back premises, was in the room, and asked him to have a drink. The landlord left about 2-5, leaving his wife, Baugh, and Price in the bar. At 2-30 Baugh moved to the door, to go away, and as Price knew that he suffered from poor sight, and had a shuffling gait, and that the open cellar 'flap' was within two paces of the door, he got up to guide him past it. Baugh was then perfectly sober, and Mr. Kettle suggested he got drunk at other houses and wandered back to the RAILWAY INN, where he was found, getting further drink.

Witnesses were called for the defence, and after a hearing of about four hours a fine of £5 and costs was inflicted."

Wednesbury Leader 21/9/1901

"Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The renewal of the license of the STATION INN, Holyhead Road, was objected to on the grounds that the license was not required, that it was a house of a disorderly character, and that in 1898 and 1901 there were convictions for permitting drunkenness.

PS O'Leary said there were fully licensed houses at the following distance from the STATION INN, 44, 88, 140, and 180 yards, and a beerhouse was situated on the opposite side of the road. Since the present tenant took possession there had been no complaint.

In urging the renewal, it was stated by Mr. Walford (Walsall), that the owners had been misled in regard to the character of the manager they had placed in the house License renewed."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/12/1902

"Three boys named Joseph Warden, Joseph Russell, and William Henson were charged at Wednesbury yesterday with stealing a bottle of whiskey on the 27th ult. While a drayman was delivering wines and spirits at the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, on the 27th ult, the prisoners took out of the dray a bottle of whiskey and consumed the contents, all three getting drunk. Henson, who had been previously convicted, was sent to reformatory for five years, Warden was ordered to be birched, and Russell was dealt with under the First Offenders Act."

STATION INN SPIRIT VAULTS Home brewed beers. Free house. [1904]

Frederick Leek = Frederick Leake

Frederick Leek, STATION INN Spirit Vaults, Holyhead Road. [1904], [1908]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/6/1904

"*Frederick Leake*, licensee of the STATION INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was at West Bromwich County Court yesterday awarded £30 damages against the Great Western Railway Company for personal injuries."

1911 Census

Holyhead Road – RAILWAY INN

[1] *Alfred James Clay* (53), widower, public house manager, born Blackheath;

[2] *Emily Eliza Clay* (26), daughter, assistant, born Smethwick;

[3] *Maud Mary Clay* (21), daughter, assistant, born Blackheath:

Alfred James Clay – see also WAGGON AND HORSES, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton.

*probably the same person

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/1/1912

"James Clay, of the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with having permitted gaming on his licensed premises.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe, prosecuting, said the three summonses had reference to automatic machines which were kept on defendant's premises and used by customers. The idea of these machines was to put a penny in a slot and pull a lever, which caused a ball to shoot into the machine, where receptacles were placed. The receptacles were marked 'lost,' 'check,' and 'reserve,' and if the ball dropped in the first-named the person using the machine lost the penny in the slot; if it dropped into the receptacle marked 'check' the person received a two-penny check for drink; and if it fell into 'reserve' he had his shot over again. It was argued for the prosecution that this was clearly a game of chance, and required no skill or aim.

Mr. Glover, defending, said these machines were common in public houses in the district, and this man had been assured that they did not infringe the law relating to gaming.

The Stipendiary stated that even games of skill in public houses could not be played for money, and he was clearly of opinion that no skill was required in this game. He ordered a fine of 10s and costs in the first case, and imposed payment of costs in the others. The total penalties and costs amounted to £4 9s.

Supt. Salt stated at the close that he had received instructions to take similar proceedings against other publicans in the town, and these would come on later."

Yorkshire Post 6/12/1919 - Advert

"Wolverhampton, Staffs. By Order of Mr. F. W. Paddey, who is retiring.

Important Sale by Auction of the noted Free Freehold, Fully-Licensed, Public House, known as the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury (in the heart of the Black Country) and Dwelling House adjoining.

Also, the very important Freehold Central Business Premises, Nos.9 and 10, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton, together with the valuable Goodwill and possession of the Business of a Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Merchant, as a going concern, as most successfully carried on by Mr. F. W. Paddey, for upwards of a quarter of a century....."

1921 Census

20, Holyhead Road

[1] Arthur Wesson (38), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Ada Wesson (39), wife, born Walsall;

[3] Arthur Wesson (13), son, school, born Walsall;

[4] Mary Wesson (12), daughter, school, born Walsall;

[5] Leah Morgan (28), sister-in-law, leather machinist, born Walsall:

Evening Despatch 5/2/1937

"Four licenses were objected to by Supt. J. H. Hall at the annual Licensing Sessions at Wednesbury today. In his report, Supt. Hall said that the town contained 106 licensed premises, one to every 297 of the inhabitants.....

Objection was taken to the renewal of the licenses of RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road.

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the four objected to, which were put back for consideration at the adjourned meeting."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1937

"The licenses of houses referred to the adjourned licensing sessions were renewed at Wednesbury yesterday. They were RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road."

Walsall Observer 5/2/1938

"Wednesbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Police Superintendent J. H. Hall said he had received a notice from Mr. John Leslie Kimberley, of 30, Little Moor Hill, Smethwick, of his intention to apply for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the license of the RAILWAY INN, Holyhead Road, an alehouse, to a house and premises proposed to be erected, partly upon land at present forming the site of the licensed premises known of the GOLDEN CROSS (beerhouse 'on'), Market Place, Wednesbury, and partly on land adjoining The application was granted, the Mayor remarking that the new premises would be a fine improvement."

1939 Register

20, Holyhead Road (5 of 6)

- [1] Arthur George Roberts, date of birth 20/1/1893, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Frances E. Roberts, dob 15/1/1890, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] William Garrengton, dob 16/2/1871, steel furnace labourer, single;
- [4] James Edward Ruds, dob 20/1/1886, steel moulding, steel dresser, single;
- [5] Lilian May (Adkinson) Cooper, dob 5/12/1918, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Closed

**OLD RAILWAY INN, HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY,
SALE OF CAPITAL HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
BREWING UTENSILS,
PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES, GAS FITTINGS, BOILERS,
PALISADING, &c.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**

BY C. WOOTTON, (without reserve,) on the Premises as above, on **TUESDAY NEXT**, the 22nd day of March, commencing at Eleven o'clock—all the superior **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, **Brewing Vessels**, &c.; comprising capital four-post and tent Bedsteads, in chintz and dimity clothing; superior feather and flock Beds, Bedding, **Palisades**, wool and flock **Mattresses**, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Chamber Chairs, Carpets, Wash Stands and Tables, handsome **Swing Glasses**, Four substantial **Public House SCREENS**, well made **DRINK TABLES**, **Windsor Chairs**, **Sofa**, **DINING TABLES**, handsome **Water-slide Gas CHANDELIER**, Benches, well bound **BARRELS**, capital **COOLERS**, superior **Twelve-strike MASH TUB**, two cast-iron **Boilers**, **Grates**, &c.; **Swing Sign**, Two wrought-iron **YARD GATES**, 6ft. by 4ft.; large quantity of wood **Palisading**, quantity of well made **Tubs**, two **Wort Spouts**, capital **Water Tub**, Stock of prime **ALE and BEER**, the usual Effects appertaining to the business, **Culinary Utensils**, &c.
Catalogues may be had at the Office of the Auctioneer, **Paradise Street**, **West Bromwich**.

1859

W. PRICE, RAILWAY INN, HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

W. P., in taking to the above old-established Inn, begs to solicit a share of public patronage and support.
Burton and other Home Brewed Ales and Stout.
Choice Wines and Spirits.
A Large Club Room for society and other meetings.
Sacred Music on Sundays.

1875

RAILWAY INN. HOLYHEAD-ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

HARMONIC MEETING
AT THE ABOVE HOUSE,
At Six p.m. every MONDAY, TUESDAY, and SATURDAY.

1876

MR. EDWARD ELLIS will **SELL** by **AUCTION**, **THIS DAY (TUESDAY)**, at the **Railway Inn**, **Holyhead Road, Wednesbury**—the whole of the **BREWING PLANT, ALE CASKS, and other Effects**. Sale to commence at **Eleven o'clock**.

1880

WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFS.
By Order of Mr. F. W. Paddey, who is retiring.
IMPORTANT SALE BY AUCTION.
of the noted
FREE, FREEHOLD, FULLY-LICENSED, PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as the "**RAILWAY INN**," **Holyhead Road, Wednesbury** (in the heart of the **Black Country**), and **DWELLING-HOUSE** adjoining; also the very important **FREEHOLD CENTRAL BUSINESS PREMISES**, Nos. 9 and 10, **SNOW HILL, WOLVERHAMPTON**. Together with the valuable **Goodwill** and possession of the **Business of a Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Merchant**, as a going concern, as most successfully carried on by **Mr. F. W. Paddey**, for upwards of a quarter of a century at **No. 9, Snow Hill**, which **BOSWELL and TOMLINS, F.A.I.** will submit for **Sale by Auction**, subject to **Conditions of Sale**, at the **Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton**, on **WEDNESDAY, December 17th, 1919**, at **4 for 4.30 o'clock in the Afternoon**.
Solicitors: Messrs. HALL, PRATT, and PRITCHARD, of Bilston.
Auctioneers' Offices: 88 and 89, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton. Telephone 1116 (4 lines). Telegrams: "Auctions."

1919

RAILWAY

164, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Lowe and Mrs. Mary Ellcock [1906]

LICENSEES

Mary O' Connell [] – **1870**);
William Oakley (**1870 – 1872**);
Mary Lane (**1872 – []**)
James Haddock [1880] – [1881]
George Jones [1891] – [1893]
Thomas Whitehouse [1893]
Mrs. Ellen Whitehouse [1896]
William Whitehouse [1900]
Benjamin Davies [1901]
Joseph Parkes [1904]
Edward Sims [1906]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 15/5/1869 - Advert

“To be Let, a Beerhouse, with Fixtures. Ill-health the cause of leaving.
Apply, 164, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

TO be LET, a BEERHOUSE, with Fixtures. Ill-health the cause of leaving.—Apply, 164, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

164, Holyhead Road

- [1] William Oakley (23), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Fanny Danks Oakley (18), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Sarah Ann Lester (17), general servant, born Hall Green:

James Haddock, beer retailer, 164, Holyhead Road. [1880]

1881 Census

164, Holyhead Road

- [1] James Haddock (37), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Emma Haddock (30), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Clara Haddock (6), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Alfred Haddock (7 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Patience Randal (39), visitor, housekeeper, born Cookley, Worcestershire;
- [6] Ann Clay (17), general servant, born Lichfield:

1891 Census

164, Holyhead Road – RAILWAY TAVERN

[1] George Jones (41), publican and general labourer, born West Bromwich;

[2] Harriet Jones (41), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Arthur F. Jones (19), son, brass caster, born Wednesbury;

[4] Elizabeth Jones (6), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] Sarah Jones (2), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1893

“George Jones, RAILWAY TAVERN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 18th ult. Mr. Thorneycroft appeared for the defence.

The case was that Police-constable Wallis saw a drunken man named Henry Kendall in the defendant’s house, and saw him supplied with ale. There were two other persons there under the influence of liquor.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed. Kendall was fined 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

“The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday.... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of William Bird, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.

The renewals to be opposed were....

Thomas Whitehouse, the RAILWAY TAVERN, Holyhead Road.

The Mayor commented with regret upon the increase in the numbers of offences and convictions shown by the returns; and the contentious business was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day, the 29th inst.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

“The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions.”

Mrs. *Ellen Whitehouse*, beer retailer, 164, Holyhead Road. [1896]

Walsall Advertiser 7/4/1900

“At the Walsall Court House, on Monday, *William Whitehouse*, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was summoned for assaulting Jesse Tipton, of 124, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on March 24th.

Mr. J. Armstrong, for the complainant, said that on the date named the two men were attending a football match at Bloxwich, between Bloxwich Strollers and Wednesbury, when the defendant assaulted Tipton, without any provocation, knocked two of his teeth out, and rendered him unconscious for some time. In consequence of the injuries he received complainant was unable to return to his work for some days. Under these circumstances he asked the magistrates, instead of inflicting a nominal fine, to impose a heavy penalty. Complainant gave evidence in support of this statement.

Defendant said there was a disturbance between them some weeks ago, and Tipton had declared that he meant to assault him. When they met at the Bloxwich match complainant asked him he was staring at, pushed him, and also invited him to come into the next field and fight it out. His defence was that it was a fight between them, and that complainant got the worst of it.

A witness named Harry Rose (for defendant) asserted that it was ‘a free, fair, stand-up fight,’ and the Bench, coming to the conclusion that the defendant had had some provocation, only fined him 5s and costs, or seven days’ imprisonment.”

1901 Census

164, Holyhead Road – RAILWAY TAVERN

[1] Benjamin Davies (23), married, springer, tube trade, born Handsworth:

Joseph Parkes, beer retailer, 164, Holyhead Road. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1906

“The adjourned licensing sessions at Wednesbury were held yesterday.....

Respecting the license of the RAILWAY TAVERN beerhouse, Holyhead Road, Superintendent Salt opposed on the ground that it was not required in the interest of the public, and that the renewal of the license was not desirable.

Mr. R. A. Willcock urged for the owners that it would be a very bad policy on the part of the magistrates if they took the small houses away and allowed the large houses to remain. This deserved the most serious consideration of the magistrates, who were administering the law with the object of promoting temperance and sobriety.

The magistrates after private deliberation sent all the cases to the quarter sessions for compensation.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1906

“The members of the Staffordshire Licensing Committee met again yesterday, at the Shire Hall, Stafford, to resume the consideration of the licenses houses referred to them under the compensation clauses of the Licensing Act.....

The license of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was refused, there being no opposition.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/7/1906 - 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 11th day of June, 1906, and by several Adjournments thereof on the 18th, 25th, and 30th of June, 1906, 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 30th day of July, 1906, 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.....

RAILWAY TAVERN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse ‘on’ (ante 1869). Licensee, *Edward Sims*. Registered Owners, William Lowe and Mrs. Mary Ellcock.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/8/1906

“Staffordshire Licensing Committee. Compensation Awards.....

In the case of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, it was stated that the present licensee (*Edward Sims*) was acting as caretaker. The original claim was £650. Mr. William Lowe (joint owner) agreed to accept £500; £400 to himself and £100 to Cheshire’s Brewery Company, the leaseholders, and this sum the committee approved. The Chairman announced that the committee had fixed September 12 as the date for payment of compensation in all the cases which had been agreed upon.”

RAILWAY

Portway Road / Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Horton [1870] – [1870]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions at West Bromwich....

Applications for new spirit licenses....

Mr. Sheldon applied on behalf of *John Horton*, RAILWAY INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Mr. Ebsworth opposed. Refused.”

Wednesbury Herald 9/8/1879 - Advert

“RAILWAY INN, corner of Portway Road and Lea Brook, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the above named premises, on Monday, August 11th 1879, at six for seven o'clock in the evening.

The Licenses, Goodwill and Possession of the above excellent Corner Beerhouse containing Three Bedrooms, Club Room, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Bar, capital Cellars, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Yard, &c, &c.

The House has been most successfully carried on for a number of years past, and is being sold in consequence of the death of the late proprietor.”

RED LION

29, (39), Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Godfrey Ward [1784] – [1791]

Crisp [] – **1817**

Elizabeth Houldcroft [1818]

Richard Davis [1834] – [1842]

Edwin Richards [1845] – **1857**;

Mrs. Sarah Holroyd **(1857 – 1861)**;

Thomas Mills **(1861 – 1872)**;

George Henry Hill **(1872 – [1873]**

Timothy Riley [1874] – [1875]

Gerard Carroll [1876] – [1885]

Joseph Robert Madeley [1891] – [1893]

William Alexander Benness [1896]

Arthur Smith [1900] – [1901]

William Henry Brooks [1904] – [1908]

Thomas German [1911] – [1912]

Thomas Wood [1916] – [1921]

Tart [] – **1924**;

Mrs. Elizabeth Tart **(1924)**;

Herbert Ashley **(1924 – []**

Solomon Willetts [1932] – [1934]

David Proctor [1938] – [1940]

Mrs. Mary Adams [] – **1942**

William A Edwards **(1942 – [1948]**

Edward Oliver Griffiths [1961] – [1966]

Joseph Francis 'Joe' Leadbeater [1966] – [1977]



NOTES

39, Bridge Street [1872], [1881], [1891], [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1939]

29, Bridge Street [1912], [1916]

It was situated opposite to Mounts Road.

Commercial Inn [1845], [1849]

Hotel and Posting House [1883]

Auctions were frequently held here.

[1743]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/8/1784 - Notice

"Notice to Creditors. Wednesday, August 4, 1784.

Godfrey Ward, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Whitesmith and Victualler, having assigned all his real and personal Effects to Mr. Thomas Adams, of Walsall, and Mr. Richard Goodman, of Wolverhampton, for the Benefit of his Creditors, they are requested to meet at the House of the said *Godfrey Ward*, the Sign of the RED LION, in Wednesbury, by Three o'Clock in the Afternoon of Friday the 13th of August Instant, to have a State of his Affairs laid before them, and to assent to, or dissent from the Assignment."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/2/1785 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Order of the Assignees of *Godfrey Ward*, a Bankrupt, on Wednesday the 9th Day of February Inst, at the TURKS HEAD, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, between the Hours of Two and Six o'Clock in the Afternoon.

All that handsome new-built Freehold Dwelling House, consisting of a very good Kitchen, two Parlours, and three Rooms on a Floor, with large Shopping, a Yard, Garden, and a very pleasant Bowling Green walled round, with Summer Houses, the only one in the Town or Neighbourhood, and is an eligibly situated and well-accustomed Inn, in Wednesbury aforesaid, on the great Road leading from Wolverhampton to Birmingham.

Also about two Acres of Freehold Land, in Wednesbury aforesaid.....

Also the said Bankrupt's third Share of and in eight several Dwelling Houses, with six Shops, a Stable, Out-buildings, six Gardens, and Appurtenances to the said Premises belonging, situate near the Bridge in Wednesbury aforesaid.....

Also a Seat or Pew, which will hold nine Persons, well situated on the South Side in the Parish Church of Wednesbury....."

Godfrey Ward, whitesmith and victualler, RED LION, Wednesbury. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/1/1816 - Advert

"The Good-will and Licenses of the RED LION INN, Wednesbury (advertised to be sold by Auction on the 24th Inst) are disposed of by private Contract.

H. P. Evans, Auctioneer. New Street, January 19, 1816."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/1/1817 - Advert

"Valuable Brewing Utensils and Household Furniture, at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Richard Crump, on Monday the 13th of January, 1817, all the useful household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Crisp*, at the RED LION, in Wednesbury, who is removing to the GREEN DRAGON; comprising Mahogany and Oak Four-post and Tent Bedsteads, with Chintz and other Hangings, Feather Beds, Blankets and Quilts, Mahogany Bureau and Chests with Drawers, Pier, Swing, and Dressing Glasses, Mahogany, and Oak Dining, Card, and Pillar Tables, Mahogany, Oak, Ash, and painted Chairs, two Eight-day Clocks, two painted Screens, large Iron Furnaces, Backs and Coolers, capital thirty and ten Strike Mashing Tubs, excellent Iron Barm Casks, from 50 to 500 Gallons, with a general Assemblage of useful Articles in the Public Line.

The Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the Morning."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/6/1817 - Advert

"Public House Effects. By J. P. Tregent.

To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, this Day (Monday) June 9, the Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels and Utensils, Stock in Trade, and Effects of Mr. *Crisp*, RED LION, Wednesbury; together with the Good-will, Licenses, and immediate Possession of the Establishment of the said Public House.

Sale to commence at Half past Ten o'Clock, subject to the usual Conditions."

PUBLIC HOUSE EFFECTS.

BY J. P. TREGENT.—To be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premises, this Day (Monday) June 9, the Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels and Utensils, Stock in Trade, and Effects of Mr. *Crisp*, Red Lion, Wednesbury; together with the Good-will, Licences, and immediate Possession of the Establishment of the said Public House.

Sale to commence at Half past Ten o'Clock, subject to the usual Conditions.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1827 - Advert

"Mr. Green respectfully announces his intention of making his Forty-First Ascent on Wednesday next, September 12, from that well-known commodious situation, the Bowling Green, situate at the RED LION, Wednesbury. The entrance to the Green will be through the house.

The Ascent to take place at Two o'clock, and the doors open at twelve. A Band of Music will be stationed on the Bowling Green.

Tickets of admission 2s each, to be had at the principal Inns; of the Gentlemen comprising the Committee; and of Mr. Green at the RED LION. Children and Servant half price.

Mr. G. begs to state that a Seat in the Car is Now Vacant, and entreats of those parties who feel desirous of accompanying him, to make early application for the same.

He also respectfully informs the Inhabitants of Wednesbury, Walsall, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and their vicinities, that from the number of engagements now on hand, this will be the Last Ascent he can possibly accomplish this year, within twenty miles of either of the above places."

[George Green was an aeronaut with balloon.]

Blackcountryman (Autumn 1978)

'The Red Lion of Wednesbury' by Geoff Stevens

".....The RED LION had been a stopping place for coaches in the 18th century, but gradually the town centre inns had consolidated their positions and taken all the trade The building of the Wednesbury to Holyhead Road, with the Wednesbury section being completed about 1826, re-established the RED LION as a coaching establishment In 1818, when *Elizabeth Houldcroft* kept the inn, there was no coach traffic at all. By 1834, landlord *Richard Davis* was receiving passengers from the London to Liverpool coaches whilst the horses were being changed at the adjacent stables. *Davis* was a popular host of the late 1820s and the 1830s, and his annual ball at the RED LION was particularly well patronised, attracting visitors from as far as Warwickshire and Shropshire.

By 1842 the London to Holyhead Royal Mail coach stopped there, and there were coaches to Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury, and the Potteries. The horse-drawn omnibus left for Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Willenhall, and Darlaston six times a day and, with additional coaches, a hourly service to Birmingham was often available. The omnibus service continued until 1855....."

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Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/1/1835 - Advert

"Wednesbury Card and Dancing Assembly will be held at the RED LION INN on Friday the 16th of January inst. Stewards. Mr. Brown, Birmingham; Mr. Danks, Wednesbury; Mr. Wright, Wolverhampton. Dancing to commence at eight o'clock."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/1/1838 - Advert

"Wednesbury Annual Ball will be held at the RED LION INN, on Friday, the 19th instant.

Stewards. Mr. Samuel Danks, Mr. George Holmes, Mr. Benjamin Round.

Dancing to commence at eight o'clock.

Tickets. Ladies', 5s; Gentlemen's, 7s; to be had at the Bar.

Wednesbury, January 4, 1838."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/7/1838 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for Repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and from thence to the Portway adjoining the Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Road, and to Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the counties of Warwick, Worcester and Stafford, will be held at the house of *Richard Davis*, known by the sign of the RED LION, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday the 17th day of July inst at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Clement Ingleby, Clerk to the Trustees. Birmingham, July 4, 1838."

1841 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] Richard Davis (50), victualler;
- [2] Nancy Davis (40), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Sarah Davis (20), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Nancy Davis (20), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Harriot Davis (15), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Richard Davis (15), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Charles Davis (15), born Staffordshire;
- [8] Diana Davis (5), born Staffordshire;
- [9] Thomas Davis (30), domestic servant;
- [10] William Jackson (20), domestic servant, born Staffordshire;
- [11] James Talbot (20), labourer;
- [12] James Roberts (20), labourer;
- [13] Harriot Maybury (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/1/1842 - Advert

“RED LION INN, Wednesbury.

Thirteen Cart Horses for Sale.

To be Sold by Auction, by Taylor and Bills, at the house of Mr. *R. Davis*, RED LION INN, Wednesbury, on Friday, January the 21st, 1842.

Thirteen young useful Cart Horses, in good working condition, and may be seen at the stables of the above inn, until the day of sale.

Sale to commence at twelve o'clock in the morning, with the usual conditions.”

A Magistrates Court was held here. [1842]

Birmingham Journal 13/2/1847

“A man named Henry Woodcock, a brewer in the employment of Mr. *Richards*, landlord of the RED LION, Wednesbury, was charged with assaulting Mrs. *Richards*, on Friday last. The man being somewhat the worse for liquor, his mistress took him to task, when he flew into a passion, and threw a quantity of wort over her; information was then given to the police, by whom the prisoner was apprehended. He was fined in 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 5/8/1848

“On Monday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Richards*, the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body, of a collier named John Glover, fifty-six years of age, who was generally employed in Mr. Walker’s pit. While he was working there on Friday last, a quantity of coal fell from the roof and killed him on the spot, and a fellow-workman named Joseph Walker narrowly escaped being overwhelmed by the same mass. Evidence was given as to the pit being considered perfectly safe to work in, and the Jury returned the usual verdict.”

AND

“A boy named Job Skidmore, only nine years of age, having come to his death by being drowned in the canal, on Friday last, an inquest was held at the same time and place as the above.

It appeared that he had gone, along with another boy, to bathe in the canal near the Patent Shaft Company’s Ironworks, and had been in the water for about an hour, when he got beyond his depth, and sank, although he afterwards appeared once or twice above the surface of the water. The youth who was with him immediately raised an alarm, and the body was soon got out, but all efforts to restore animation proved unavailing.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

A coach left from here to Bridgnorth every afternoon at 5. [1849]

The Salopian coach, to Shrewsbury, left from here at a quarter to 3 every afternoon. [1849]

The Royal Mail coach, to Shrewsbury and Holyhead, every morning at a quarter to 9. [1849]

Ominbuses and coaches left from here hourly to Birmingham. [1849]

RED LION INN, WEDNESBURY.
Thirteen Cart Horses for Sale.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY TAYLOR AND BILLS,
At the house of Mr. R. Davis, Red Lion inn, Wednes-
bury, on Friday, January the 21st, 1842,
THIRTEEN young useful CART HORSES, in
good working condition, and may be seen at the
stables of the above inn, until the day of sale.
☞ Sale to commence at twelve o'clock in the morn-
ing, with the usual conditions.

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/4/1849

“Jane Blake, a married woman, living at Wednesbury, was committed for trial upon a charge of stealing a shirt, the property of *Edwin Richards*, landlord of the RED LION public house.”

AND

“Staffordshire Easter Sessions To be Imprisoned One Calendar Month.....

Jane Blake (pleaded guilty) for stealing a shirt and a saucepan, at Wednesbury, the property of *Edwin Richards*.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/6/1850

“William Bird, Henry Wood, and William Dowding, were summoned for assaulting Jeremiah Hill, railway contractor, at the RED LION INN, Wednesbury. The landlord of the inn, Mr. *Edwin Richards*, was also charged with keeping a disorderly house. The case was dismissed.”

1851 Census

Bridge Street

[1] *Edwin Richards* (31), innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] Mary Ann Richards (31), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] Henry Richards (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] Ann Blaze (19), house servant, born Wednesbury;

[5] Sarah Blower (19), house servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Journal 2/9/1854

“District Annual Licensing Day.....

With some few exceptions, the whole of the applicants (256) for license renewals, the business being confined to this, received such licenses without remark; but where licensed victuallers had transgressed the law in the preceding year, such conduct was not passed over without the serious notice of the Court. The word ‘cautioned’ was inscribed on the back of most of the licenses, but in two cases they were suspended.....

When *Edwin Richards*, the RED LION, Wednesbury, came for his license renewal, one of the magistrates present said he felt it to be a public duty to state that, as he was passing *Richards* house there was a disturbance of some extent taking place, the landlord himself was in liquor, and under the circumstances it really would appear that he was not a fit and proper person to keep a licensed house. Mr. Clarkson said that the law passed a heavy fine upon publicans getting intoxicated in their houses, and the present charge seemed to be one of a very serious nature. The other magistrates concurred, and this license was suspended for a month. Mr. *Richards* did not deny but that a quarrel amongst some men took place as above, but said he himself was not the worse for liquor.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/10/1854

“Special Sessions at Great Barr.....

The three cases of suspended licenses were gone into, viz, Mr. T. Underhill (SPON LANE, West Bromwich), Mr. *E. Richards* (RED LION, Wednesbury), and Mr. R. Albert (RAILWAY INN, Tipton), and restored.”

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *E. Richards*, RED LION INN, Bridge Street.”

Sarah Holroyd = Sarah Holrood

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.....

Sarah Holroyd, RED LION, Wednesbury, cautioned.”

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.....
Sarah Holrood, RED LION INN, Wednesbury, open after hours on a Sunday, fined 40s and costs.....
These parties were generally admonished or cautioned by the Magistrates.”

Birmingham Journal 9/7/1859 - Advert

“Monstre Quadrille Parties, for the Summer Season.
RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.
Rational Entertainment, and Dancing on the Green.
On Monday Next, July 11, and each succeeding Monday, at Three o’clock.
Admission by Ticket, 3d each, to be had at the Bar, for which an early application is solicited, to prevent confusion at the door.
Mr. Vinning has great pleasure to inform the Inhabitants of Wednesbury and its neighbourhood that he has at a great expense engaged Mr. D. Pountney’s celebrated Quadrille Band, from Birmingham, for the occasion. Conductor, Mr. J. S. Vinning.
Application to Mrs. *Holroyd*, at the Bar, for Tickets.
Refreshments, such as Sandwiches, &c, will be provided on reasonable terms.”

Mrs. *Sarah Holroyd* was also a stonemason. [1860]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/8/1860

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions yesterday, *Sarah Holroyd*, landlady of the RED LION, Bridge Street, was summoned on a charge of having on Saturday week kept her house open for the sale of liquors till past midnight. The police proved that there were persons in the house at the time named; but the defendant said that Mr. Atkins, of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, was stopping at her house at the time, with other professional gentlemen. No evidence of this was produced, and a fine of 20s and costs was ordered.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 2/2/1861 - Advert

“To Publican, Brokers, Parties Furnishing, Stonemasons, and Others.
Unreserved Sale at the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, and the Stone Quarry, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.
By Mr. B. Dawes, on Tuesday Next, the 5th day of February, and the following days, without the least reserve.
All the clean and useful Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Fixtures, &c, comprising Mahogany Dining and other Tables, excellent Bagatelle Table, with slate bottom, Balls, Cues &c, complete; large painted Screens, mahogany and other Chairs, mahogany and painted Chests of Drawers, a superior made and very handsome Secrétaire and Bookcase, with plate-glass front; Eight day Bracket Clock, Chimney and other Glasses, Oil Paintings, mahogany four-post and other Bedsteads, with damask furniture; feather Beds, Mattresses, Toilet Services, Brussels and other Carpets, Blankets, Sheets, Counterpanes, and other Chamber Appendages; iron and wood Chimney Pieces, Liquor Counter, with four drawers; six-pull Beer Machine, with Piping, complete; twelve brass Liquor Fountains, with Piping; brass Water Fountain, painted Liquor Bottles, nine painted and gilded Liquor Barrels, Cut Glass Decanters, Glassware, Kitchen Furniture, Culinary Requisites; Mash Tubs (varying in size from 16 to 36 bushels), two large Vats and Frame, two 100-gallon Boilers and Appendages, oval and other Coolers, Working Tubs, Ale Casks (from 9 to 200-gallons), Wine and Spirit Casks, Bottles, Earthenware; capital-built Phaeton, with Lamps, &c, complete; useful Brown Horse, Gig and other Harness, quantity of Grave Stones, Window Sills, Pig Troughs, York Slabs, Window Heads, Trusses, Hook Stones, Worked and Unworked Stone, capital Stone Roller, and other Effects; belonging to Mrs. *Sarah Holroyd*, taken under a bill of sale and distress for rent.
Sale to commence at half past Ten o’clock precisely each morning, with the usual conditions.
Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer’s Offices, Raglan Place, Wednesbury.
The House to be Let.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/4/1861

“Insolvent Debtor to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Stafford, at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, the thirtieth day of April, at the hour of ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Sarah Holroyd, late of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, likewise having a Stone Quarry, and being a Worker of and Dealer in Stone; previously of the same place and occupations, and also Letting Post Horses and Cabs for Hire; formerly of the same place, Licensed Beerseller and Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, likewise having a Stone Quarry, and being a Worker of and Dealer in Stone.

Richard Sill, Attorney, Birmingham.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/5/1861

“At Stafford County Court on Tuesday, the following insolvents were heard.....

Sarah Holroyd, licensed victualler, Wednesbury. Liabilities, £1,015 12s 5d; assets, £210 3s 2d.

Mr. Beeton supported for Mr. Sill. On the application of Mr. Moore, Mr. W. P. Brigstock, of Wednesbury, was appointed assignee.”

1861 Census

Bridge Street

[1] *Thomas Mills* (27), victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Leah Mills* (24), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] son not yet baptised (2 weeks);

[4] *Mary Powis* (18), general servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1862

“At a meeting of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held at the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, it was unanimously agreed to subscribe the sum of £3 from the funds for the relief of the distressed Foresters of the cotton district.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/6/1863

“Mr. William Perry, of Daisy Bank, near Wolverhampton, went to the police station at a quarter to twelve o’clock on Monday night, and reported that while passing down Potter’s Lane (about half a mile from the town), on his way home from the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and when near the crossing of the London and North-Western Railway, he was assailed by three men, who knocked him down, and having garrotted him robbed him of £62 in gold. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Perry, so well known to the sporting world as the Tipton Slasher, cannot give the slightest description of his cowardly assailants.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1863

“Mr. *Thomas Mills*, landlord of the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, wishes us to state that Mr. William Perry (generally known as the Tipton Slasher), who on Monday night reported to the police that he had been garrotted and robbed, shortly before twelve o’clock, and while on his way home from the above-named house, was not on the premises after eight o’clock in the evening.”

Sporting Life 20/9/1865

“The Ring Teddy Tierney and Frank Wilson (The Mouse).

The match between these Birmingham feather-weights progresses favourably, and the mill is looked forward to with much interest, both being known good lads. Tierney is staying at Mr. *Mills*’s, RED LION, Wednesbury, where he takes a benefit on Tuesday next, previous to going into training. Wilson has taken up his quarters at Joe Warom’s, Odd Fellows Arms, Manchester Street, Birmingham, where he will be glad to see his friends.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/7/1866 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Old-Established Inn, Valuable Building Land, and Premises.

Messrs. Walker and H. J. Lloyd will Sell by Auction, on Monday, the 30th day of July, 1866, upon the Premises called the RED LION, at 5 o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions of sale, the undermentioned truly valuable Property, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.

Lot 1. All that well-known and old-established Public House and Premises, called the RED LION, now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Mills*, fronting Bridge Street, and extending to New Street.

The house contains on the ground floor a large parlour, two sitting rooms, two tap rooms, with bar and kitchen. The second floor contains a large club room, 47ft by 15ft, and five chambers, with large and dry cellars in the basement. The out-offices consist of a brewhouse, stabling for nine horses, double and single coach-houses, harness room, large shed, coal house and piggeries, with large yard and appurtenances, containing, with the site of the buildings, 880 square yards of land.

Lot 2. A piece or parcel of valuable Building Land, adjoining Lot 1, fronting Bridge Street, and extending to New Street, containing 553 square yards of land.

Lot 3. A similar lot of Land, containing 662 square yards.

Lot 4. A Messuage or Dwelling House, fronting New Street, in the occupation of Mr. W. Mercel, with the yard at the back, containing, with the site of the buildings, 232 square yards of land.

The above Property is situated near the centre of the improving town of Wednesbury. The public business of the Inn has been successfully carried on for about a century, and may be much increased. The Railway Station is within two minutes' walk.

The whole forms together one of the best speculative properties ever offered for public competition in this locality. Further information may be had, and plans seen, at the Offices of Messrs. H. and J. E. Underhill, Solicitors, Exchange Chambers; Messrs. Timmis and Woodcock, Surveyors, Darlington Street; or the Auctioneers, Red Lion Street, Wolverhampton."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/5/1867

"Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, the district Coroner, held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, touching the death of a young man named James Harris.

The deceased was about seventeen years of age, and lived with his father, who is a puddler, in New Street. For some six or eight months past he has complained of severe pains in the head, which were usually accompanied with a watering in his eyes. On Sunday last, whilst at school, he was seized with one of these attacks, and upon going home he partook of a hearty dinner, and went to school again. The pain in his head continuing, some pills were procured from a herbalist doctor in the town, which he had been in the habit of taking, and of experiencing relief from under such attacks. His distress continued, however, and he vomited a good deal, after which he dropped off into a deep sleep, and snored in such an alarming manner that Mr. Wilson Moore was called in to see him. Mr. Moore could not understand the nature of his illness, and within an hour after the medical man's visit the young man expired.

Mr. Moore wished to have the body opened and the stomach examined, but the friends of the deceased objected, and Mr. Moore objected to give a medical certificate for burial, so that information had to be given to the police. The medical man seemed to entertain a doubt whether the young man was really dead, and left some medicine to be given to him should he revive.

It was stated that the deceased had had two previous attacks of a similar kind; and after hearing the evidence, the jury considered that the youth had died from apoplexy, and they returned a verdict that he had Died by the Visitation of God. The young man, it was stated, was of an unusually full habit for his age."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/6/1867 - Deaths

"On the 3rd instant, Elizabeth, wife of Mr. *Thomas Mills*, of the RED LION, Wednesbury, aged 29."

Birmingham Journal 16/11/1867 - Died

"On the 10th inst, after a short illness, aged 6 years and 8 months, Thomas, only son of *Thomas Mills*, RED LION INN, Wednesbury."

Thomas Mills was licensed to let horses. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1870

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Henry Spittle, the BLUE BALL INN, and Elizabeth Griffiths, Fallings Heath, were charged with having had their respective houses open during prohibited hours on Christmas Day. There being some extenuating circumstances in the cases, the defendants were merely ordered to pay costs. *Thomas Mills*, the RED LION INN, was charged with a like offence, but the evidence being incomplete, the case was dismissed."

1871 Census

39, Bridge Street – RED LION

- [1] Thomas Mills (36), widower, innkeeper, born Horsehay, Shropshire;
- [2] Ellen Mills (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Thomas Williams (62), boarder, labourer in iron works, born Wednesbury;
- [4] John Richards (32), boarder, blacksmith, born Oxfordshire;
- [5] Mary Kendrick (30), assistant, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Ellen Nichols (24), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

WEDNESBURY.—To be LET, with immediate possession, in consequence of the Death of the Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Mills, of the Red Lion Inn, Bridge Street—all that excellent Posting, Car, and Funeral BUSINESS, most successfully carried on for a number of years; with the large Yard, Stables, and lock-up Coach-houses, with private House attached. The Horses, Cabs, Cars, Mourning Coaches, Hearses to be taken to at fair valuation.—For particulars, and to treat, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Spring Vale House, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1872 - Advert

“Wednesbury. To be Let, with immediate possession, in consequence of the Death of the Proprietor, Mr. *Thomas Mills*, of the RED LION INN, Bridge Street.

All that excellent Posting, Car, and Funeral Business, most successfully carried on for a number of years; with the large Yard, Stables, and lock-up Coach-houses, with private House attached. The Horses, Cabs, Cars, Mourning Coaches, Hearses to be taken to at fair valuation.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Spring Vale House, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1872 - Advert

“Wanted, an experienced General Servant. Age over 25. Apply, RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, an experienced General SERVANT. Age over 25. —Apply, Red Lion Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1872 - Advert

“Found, on the 12th inst, in The Mounts, Wednesbury, a Liver-coloured Spaniel Bitch. If not owned in 3 days from this date, will be Sold to defray expenses.

Apply, RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

FOUND, on the 12th inst., in The Mounts, Wednesbury, a Liver-coloured Spaniel Bitch. If not owned in 3 days from this date, will be Sold to defray expenses.—Apply, Red Lion Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

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 headquarters 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.”

Midland Examiner 23/1/1875 - Advert

“Important and Eligible Freehold Properties, Consisting of Three Shops and Dwelling Houses, situate in Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Edward Ellis, at Mr. *Timothy Riley*’s, RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, on Monday, February 1st, 1875, at 6 o’clock in the Evening.....”

Gerrard Carroll = Gerard Carroll = Gerald Carroll = Jerrard Carrol

Midland Examiner 8/1/1876 - Advert

“RED LION Commercial Inn and Posting House, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Chester’s Celebrated Ales and Stout.

Wines and Spirits of the Best Quality.

Well-Aired Beds.

Chops and Steaks at any hour of the day.

Proprietor, *G. Carroll*.”

AND

RED LION COMMERCIAL INN AND POSTING HOUSE,
BRIDGE STREET, WEDNESBURY.
—
CHESTER’S CELEBRATED ALES AND STOUT;
WINES AND SPIRITS OF THE BEST QUALITY.
—
WELL-AIRED BEDS.
CHOPS AND STEAKS AT ANY HOUR OF THE DAY.
PROPRIETOR, G. CARROLL.

“Timothy Riley, Undertaker, Cab and Car Proprietor, RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

T. Riley respectfully informs the inhabitants of Wednesbury and neighbourhood that he is prepared to supply Hearses and Mourning Coaches, Wedding and other Carriages, Cars and Cabs, Wagonettes and Pleasure Vans, with good Horses and steady Drivers, on the shortest notice, and most reasonable terms.

Furniture carefully Removed to any distance.

All orders entrusted to his care, whether by post or otherwise, will be promptly executed.

Note the Address: Timothy Riley, RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Mail 7/4/1876

“Yesterday afternoon an alarming and destructive boiler explosion occurred at Wednesbury, at a small workshop in New Street, belonging to Messrs. T. Hampson and Co. The only persons in the shop were Mr. Hampson and a man named Hughes, who had begun work there only that morning. Suddenly the entire town was startled by a deafening report, and the sky was clouded with a mass of bricks, pieces of wood, pieces of iron, and fragments of various kinds, amid which the boiler was seen to rise entire, and, high up in the air to open out flat, with the exception of the ends. At the shop lay Hughes, terribly injured, while Hampson was buried under a mass of bricks. The wall at the end of the shop, part of the side walls, and a part of the roof had disappeared altogether, as had the shed which had covered the boiler, a very large portion of the debris being about the shop itself, the remainder having been scattered over a wide area. Hampson was seen to gasp once and then expire. Hughes was driven to Wolverhampton Hospital, where he was left as an in-patient, and was believed to be in a very critical condition. The boiler, all but a small piece, had gone over the houses on both sides of Bridge Street, and had fallen about a dozen feet from the back door of Hughes, the mass weighing probably 25cwt, having travelled some 150ft from its bed. Windows were broken and roofs smashed in the houses on both sides of the street.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 26/4/1876

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, resumed an enquiry at the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, touching the death of Titus Hampson (60), who was killed through the explosion of a boiler, at his works, in New Street, Wednesbury, on the 6th instant....

The Coroner briefly summed up, remarking that the person who appeared to be most to blame was the deceased himself, and seeing that the deceased and his partner were said to be well acquainted with boilers, they ought to have known better than to work this one at the high pressure. The only wonder was the explosion had not occurred long before.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death; and exonerated Mr. Foley and his son from all blame in connection with the repair of the boiler, on the ground that they repaired it for low pressure and not high pressure purposes.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/5/1876

“*Gerald Carroll*, of the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for having violently assaulted Edward Ellis, auctioneer and licensed victualler, of Darlaston. Mr. Ebsworth defended.

It appeared that on the 20th ult the complainant called at the house of the defendant, and the latter having paid an account which he owed, Ellis drew his attention to another which was outstanding. The defendant said that it had better stand over, and afterwards, in allusion to the valuation of some curtains, made a very damaging personal remark to Ellis. Warm words ensued, and then Ellis called *Carroll* a scamp; and upon this the latter seized the auctioneer by the throat, and but for the fortunate bursting of his collar and the soothing interference of the defendant's wife, the complainant felt sure that he should have been strangled. For the defence, it was urged that the defendant had received extreme provocation. A fine of 20s and costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/1/1877

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Annie Wootton, a respectably-connected young woman, was charged with having stolen a money-box, containing 16s, the property of *Jerrard Carrol*, of the RED LION INN, Bridge Street. The evidence showed that on the 16th inst a Netherton publican had some conversation with the accused, with a view to engaging her as a domestic servant, and he took her to the prosecutor's house, and left her there while he went into the town to make some enquiries as to her character. During his absence she left the house, and soon after she had gone the money-box was missed. Two days later she was apprehended by Sergeant Moore, and at first she denied having stolen the box, but while being taken to Wood Green to be remanded she admitted her guilt, and took the officer to Elwell's Pools, where she said she had thrown the box because she could not open it.

The prosecutor said that for the sake of the prisoner's friends he did not wish to press the charge; and her grandfather, a well-to-do farmer, pleaded, with tears in his eyes, to be spared the disgrace of having one of his descendants sent to prison, and asked the Bench to aid him in getting the prisoner into a reformatory, she having been wild and wayward, and having abandoned his home; but he had no reason to believe that she had led a profligate life. Mr. Marshall said the magistrates had a duty to perform, and the prisoner must be convicted, and sent to prison for three months, with hard labour. The severity of the sentence caused some surprise in Court."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/1/1877 - Advert

"Sale at the Auction Ground, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

John Cooper will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, February 6th, at Twelve o'clock.

Horses, Carts, a light-running Dog Cart, Hand Carts, Pigs, and other Effects.

Further Entries solicited, which may be made to Mrs. *Carrol*, RED LION INN, Wednesbury; or the Auctioneer, Commercial Chambers, West Bromwich."

Wednesbury Herald 26/4/1879 - Advert

"The Old Established Posting House, RED LION HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Gerrard Carroll begs to inform the inhabitants of Wednesbury and District that he has purchased the greater part of the Stock of Mr. James Birch, of the Boro' Mews, and is prepared to provide Cabs, Cars, Brakes, &c, on the Shortest Notice.

G. C. hopes by strict attention to business, to merit a portion of the patronage given to Mr. Birch.

Conveyances supplied for Wedding and Pleasure Parties.

Funerals Completely Furnished.

Goods removed to any distance.

April 24th, 1879."

Wednesbury Herald 17/4/1880

"On Saturday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquiry, at the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Jesse Cartwright, aged 18 days, the son of Joseph and Harriet Cartwright.

The mother said the child had been in good health from his birth. On Wednesday morning at eleven o'clock she put him to bed, and about half past two o'clock she found him dead. Dr. Moore was sent for, and on arriving pronounced life to be extinct, but declined to state what was the cause of death.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

Evening Express 25/1/1881

"Rosa James (12), and Sarah Tonks (8), were charged with stealing five yards of check linen and rule, the property of Thomas Broadhurst, Market Place.

Superintendent Holland stated that the prisoners were brought before the Bilston magistrates and formally discharged, in order that the parents might be summoned for sending them out to beg and steal. The parents now appeared before the Bench.

Police-sergeant Curtis stated that the woman James used to cohabit with a man named James, who was the father of the eldest child, but she had left him and gone to live with a man named Tonks, who was the father of the youngest child. For two or three years past the children had been going about the street begging. He had found the eldest child between 11 and 12 o'clock at night begging, and he had repeatedly spoken to the mother about sending the children out into the streets. The man Tonks did very little work, and to his own knowledge the defendants spent money in drink their children obtained by begging. The *modus operandi* of the eldest girl was to stand over a grating, and by her pitiable cries attract the attention of passers-by, to whom she would represent that she had lost a sixpence. The barmaid at the RED LION INN stated that on Wednesday last the defendant's children came in, and the eldest one offered to sell her the check linen produced at one penny per yard. Witness's mistress came in and said the linen was worth 6½d per yard, and in answer to a question then put to her, the elder girl stated that a Mrs. Palmer had given it to her to sell for her. Witness, at the request of her mistress, went with the children in the direction of Mrs. Palmer's to make inquiries, but while on the way they both decamped.

The Stipendiary said it was the most disagreeable part of his business to deal with anything concerning children, and that was one of the most lamentable cases that had yet come under his notice. There was all the elements of a real felony in the case, and if the charge was brought against a person of more mature years, he would be liable to be sent to prison.

The defendant James: What am I to do?

The learned Stipendiary: I will tell you what you will do. You will each go to prison for 14 days with hard labour, and the children will be sent to the Workhouse."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/3/1881 - Advert

"Cob. For Sale, a chestnut Horse Cob, thick-set. Price £13.
Apply, RED LION HOTEL, Wednesbury."

COB.—For Sale, a chestnut Horse Cob, thick-set. Price £13.—
Apply, Red Lion Hotel, Wednesbury.

1881 Census

39, Bridge Street – RED LION HOTEL

- [1] Gerard Carroll (38), licensed victualler, born Edinburgh;
- [2] Mary Ann Carroll (32), wife, born Stafford;
- [3] Edwin Gerard Carroll (8 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Emily Heath (10), niece, scholar, born Haughton, Staffordshire;
- [5] Thomas Farmer (21), groom, born Princes End;
- [6] Lucy Ball (24), general servant, born Pensnett;
- [7] Martin F. Sood (22), boarder, second class assistant of Inland Revenue, born Galway, Ireland;
- [8] Cors Aberne (20), boarder, second class assistant of Inland Revenue, born Cork, Ireland;

Wednesbury Herald 25/6/1881

"On Monday night a trap accident occurred in the Birmingham Road, Hill Top, and resulted in the occupants, Mr. *Carroll* of the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, and one or two friends, being badly shaken, the horse injured, and the trap damaged. When driving down the hill opposite the Police Station, Hill Top, the horse slipped and injured its knees, and the shafts of the vehicle were broken, causing the occupants of the conveyance to be thrown on the ground."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/10/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, a respectable Youth, about 18; one that can drive well, and used to horses.
Apply, RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a respectable Youth, about 18; one that can
drive well, and used to horses.—Apply, Red Lion, Bridge-
street, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/10/1881 - Advert

"Wanted, respectable Girl, as General Servant.
Apply, RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

WANTED, respectable Girl, as General Servant.—Apply,
Red Lion, Bridge-street, Wednesbury.

Dudley and District News 22/4/1882

"George Pitt, saddler, Bordesley Street, Birmingham, was charged with stealing a horse collar at Wednesbury on the 29th October last, value 15s, the property of Frederick Cadman, butcher, Wednesbury.

Prosecutor said the prisoner was a travelling working saddler, and on the day in question he gave him a horse collar to repair which he was to bring back the same day. Prisoner did not bring the collar back, and he did not see him again until last Wednesday when he was in custody. He had heard that prisoner offered to sell the collar for 1s in the RED LION, Wednesbury.

PC Lytle said he apprehended the prisoner on the 12th inst, in the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen; he had been tramping the country under different aliases. He charged him with the offence, and prisoner replied, 'Well I know I took it, and I suppose I shall have to suffer now.'

Prisoner was committed for trial to the Stafford Assizes."

AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/5/1882

"Staffordshire and Salop Assizes.....

George Pitt (54), saddler, was indicted for stealing a horse collar, the property of Frederick Cadman, at Wednesbury, on the 29th October last. Mr. Fisher prosecuted.

The prisoner, who is a travelling saddler, called upon the prosecutor, a butcher, at Wednesbury, and was entrusted with a horse collar to repair, on condition that he should return it the same evening. He failed, however, to bring back the article, and it subsequently transpired that he had sold it for 1s 6d, although its estimated value was 15s. He was found guilty and sentenced to a month's hard labour."

Wednesbury Herald 3/3/1883 - Advert

"G. Carroll, RED LION HOTEL and Posting House, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, begs to thank his Friends and the public generally for the liberal support bestowed upon him, and hopes by strict attention to business to merit a continuance of the same.

Funerals supplied complete on the Shortest Notice.

Hearses, Mourning Coaches, and Funeral Equipages.

For Wedding and Excursion Parties on the most Reasonable Terms.

A Select Dancing Class will be held every Wednesday Evening, in the Large Assembly Room attached to the above Hotel."

Magnet 23/2/1884 - Advert

"RED LION Music Hall, Wednesbury.

Proprietor, *Gerrard Carroll*. Pianist, C. Smith. Chairman, J. Oaks.

Wanted! Talent! Talent!! Talent!!!

Wanted, Lady Serio-Comics and Gentlemen Comics.

In all cases state Salary, which must be Moderate.

Address Proprietor, as above."

RED LION MUSIC HALL.
WEDNESBURY.
Proprietor, *GERRARD CARROLL.*
Pianist, *C. SMITH.*
Chairman, *J. OAKS.*
WANTED!
TALENT! TALENT!! TALENT!!!
WANTED,—Lady Serio-Comics and Gentlemen Comics.
In all cases state Salary, which must be Moderate.
Address Proprietor, as above.

Magnet 8/3/1884 - Advert

"Notice to the Profession!

Mr. Claude Alymer Having Signed Agreement with Mr. *Gerrard Carroll*, of the RED LION HOTEL, Wednesbury, to take the Sole Management of the Theatre of Varieties, is prepared to Treat with Artistes of Repute in all Lines for Present and Future Dates.

The greatest and most terrific success has been made by Mr. Fred Folly, the clever actor, comedian, author and composer; Miss Maud Danvil, one of the handsomest figures on the stage (a great draw); and Little Louie, pronounced to be the Cleverest Child Actress in the Profession.

Wanted, at once, Pianiste, to Read at Sight; also, Good Respectable Chairman.

All Letters to Mr. Claude Alymer, Theatre of Varieties, New Street, Wednesbury."

Magnet 16/8/1884 - Advert

"RED LION Concert Hall, Wednesbury.

Wanted, for the Opening of the above Hall, September 6th, and Onwards, Lady Serio-Comics and Dancers, Single-Handed Niggers, &c.

Will Rose Vivian and Miss Ellis please write in.

Proprietor, *G. Carroll*. Pianist and Manager, H. J. Shaw.

All letters to Mr. Shaw, BULLS HEAD, High Street, Bilston, until August 30th."

Dudley and District News 22/11/1884

"The large array of 'Corks' who appeared at the KINGS ARMS HOTEL, Princes End (Bro. F. Matthews) the other evening, shows the gigantic growth of 'Corkism' in the district. A regalia visit from Lodges 128 RED LION (Wednesbury), 330 THREE CROWNS (Swan Village), and 428 CASTLE HOTEL (Dudley), took place, when about 100 brothers attended and passed a most enjoyable evening, harmony and the object of the society being combined, under the presidency of Bro. Captain H. Allen. The society is now 22,000 strong, and is a registered society under the Friendly Societies Act, 1875. Its advantages were most ably explained by Bros. Captain Oates and Lieutenant Hall."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/3/1885 - Advert

"A Horse and Waggonette to be Sold, Waggonette to carry 6.

Apply, RED LION INN, Wednesbury."

A Horse and Waggonette to be Sold, Waggonette to carry 6.—Apply, Red Lion Inn, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/3/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, Young Man, who understands horses and to assist in brewery; character must be good.

Apply, RED LION, Wednesbury."

WANTED, Young Man, who understands horses and to assist in brewery; character must be good.—Apply, Red Lion, Wednesbury.

Commercial Gazette 18/6/1885

“Extracts from the Register of County Courts Judgements.....

Defendant, *Gerald Carroll*, RED LION INN, Wednesbury, innkeeper, £22 18s 9d on 14th May 1885.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/10/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable General Servant, about 20.

Apply, *Gerrard Carroll*, RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

**WANTED, a respectable General Servant, about 20.—
Apply, Gerrard Carroll, Red Lion, Bridge-st.,
Wednesbury.**

Gerrard Carroll – see also BLUE BALL, Oldbury, and QUEENS HEAD, King Street, Darlaston..

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1888

“A conference of the miners of the whole of South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire, and Cannock Chase was held at the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, yesterday afternoon, to consider the advisability of agitating for 10 per cent advance in wages. The conference was very well attended, nearly 100 delegates being present, representing about 16,000 men.....

After considerable discussion it was decided to give notice on Saturday, September 29, for 10 per cent advance in wages, each pit company to use its own discretion as to how the notices were given in. A resolution was also passed pledging each delegate to do his best to induce the men he represented to join the Miners Union.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/9/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, two Pianists, Saturday and Monday nights; good vamps.

Apply, RED LION, Wednesbury.”

**WANTED, two Pianists, Saturday and Monday nights ;
good vamps —Apply, Red Lion, Wednesbury.**

1891 Census

39, Bridge Street – RED LION

- [1] *Joseph Robert Madeley* (31), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary E. Madeley* (27), wife, born Handsworth;
- [3] *Ethel G. Madeley* (6), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William E. Madeley* (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Ruby E. Madeley* (6 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Eliza Challenor* (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Caroline A. Walford* (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Sarah J. M. Burton* (24), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Joseph Robert Madeley was also a cab and car proprietor, and had livery and bait stables. [1892]

Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1893

“The Bankruptcy Acts 1883 and 1890 Deeds of Assignment.....

Joseph Robert Madeley, the RED LION HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, victualler, cab proprietor, undertaker. Deed of assignment for the benefit of creditors, dated 20th and filed 26th inst, under which Mr. Edward Charles Russell, of Colmore Row, Birmingham, accountant, is trustee. Liabilities, £1,201 14s; assets, £452 10s.”

Commercial Gazette 21/6/1893

“Extracts from the Register of County Courts Judgements.....

Defendant, *Joseph Robert Madeley*, RED LION INN, Wednesbury, victualler, £10 8s 0d on 8th May 1893.”

Midland Sun 15/7/1893

“A meeting called to transact the annual business of Wednesbury Old Athletic Football Club was held at the RED LION HOTEL, on Wednesday evening, Mr. J. Rogers presiding. Upon the tables were the medals won by the team last season in the Wednesbury and Foresters Cup competitions.....”

Warwickshire Herald 28/9/1893

"Frank Adams, greengrocer, 185 Soho Road was charged with stealing a horse rug, of the value of 10s 6d, the property of *Joseph Madeley*, RED LION HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, from the yard of the Woodman Inn, Handsworth, on September 21st. Prosecutor stated that he drove into the yard on the date in question about half-past seven in the evening. A short time afterwards prisoner drove into the yard with a pony and trap. After staying in the house for some time he came out and was about to drive off. He noticed that the rug had gone, and he asked Sidney Peace, who was in the yard, how long since prisoner had driven off. He replied about three minutes, and at the prosecutor's request he got up in the trap and drove after prisoner. Sidney Peace stated that he drove after prisoner, and overtook him just by the police station, and found him kneeling on the rug, which was on the bottom of his cart. He charged him with taking the rug from a trap in the Woodman yard, but he said nothing. When taken to the station and charged he still maintained silence, but the little lad who was with him in the cart said that he had picked it off the floor and put it in the cart at his father's command. Prisoner admitted picking up the rug, but said it was not done with any felonious intent. He was fined 5s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1894 - Advert

"£2,200 secures Freehold, &c, RED LION HOTEL, Wednesbury; entirely free; old-established, most genuine trade; valuable inventory. Also, Funeral Repository attached, no opposition; posting. Freehold, licenses, stock, trade effects. Brewery companies, private speculators, opportunity. Gilbert Baker, Auctioneer, 15, Pierpoint Street, Worcester."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/9/1894 - Advert

"To Capitalists, Post-Masters, and Others.

The Freehold, Goodwill, and Possession of RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Commercial Inn and Posting House, with Horses, Hearses, Coaches, Carriages, Cabs, Brakes, Dog-Carts, Harness.

The only Established Posting House in Town. Grand Opening for Business Person. Owner retiring.

Apply, for particulars, John Rogers."

Wednesbury Herald 30/3/1895

"Wednesbury. Important Sale at RED LION HOTEL. Tuesday, 9th April, 1895.

Belcher and Son are instructed to Sell by Public Auction, on the above premises and date.

The Superior Brewing Plant, comprising Two large Copper Boilers, Vats, Coolers, Mash Tun, Five Butts, Tubs, &c, together with the well-known Three-Horse Brake, 'The Victory'; Four Strong Carts, new; Breeze and Coke Carts, Fruiterers Trucks, Two Spring Carts, Two Spring Traps, for Cobs; Useful Dog Cart, Two Phaetons, with Rumble Cushion and Lamps; Pony Spring Cart, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock prompt. Usual Conditions.

Auctioneers Offices, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and at Darlaston."

Wednesbury Herald 18/5/1895

"On Saturday Mr. F. W. Topham held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, respecting the death of Thomas Wilkes (65), a master blacksmith. On the 10th inst, the deceased had a conversation with a youth respecting a boy being killed on the railway, and, having asked a question as to when his inquest would be, he fell backwards and immediately expired. It was stated that deceased had never suffered from any disease, and was regarded as a very healthy man. The family did not desire a post mortem examination and the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

An application for alterations was approved in August 1895.

Walsall Advertiser 26/11/1898

"A crowded meeting of fitting and socket makers connected with the South Staffordshire tube trade was held on Thursday evening at the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, to consider the wages question. Workmen were present from the whole of the works in Wednesbury, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Aston, Great Bridge, and other districts.

After along discussion it was decided to ask the employers to concede an advance of 2½ per cent from October 1st to December 30th, and another 2½ per cent in January.

Mr. Jones stated if the advance was not conceded the workmen would come out on strike on Saturday. If any remained at work at the existing wages they would be looked upon as blacklegs."

1901 Census

39, Bridge Street

- [1] Arthur Smith (43), hotel manager, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Lucy Sarah Smith (43), wife, born Paddington, London;
- [3] Ernest Arthur Smith (22), son, engine fitter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Sidney Walter Smith (21), son, iron turner, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Violet Smith (18), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Vernon Smith (15), son, pattern maker, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Elsie Smith (12), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Harold Smith (9), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Roland Leo Smith (6), son, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Blanche Shakespeare (20), domestic servant, born Tewkesbury;

Wednesbury Leader 30/3/1901

“Another meeting of the fitting and socket makers locked out in the tube trade met on Thursday at the RED LION HOTEL, Wednesbury.

A workman, who presided, proposed a resolution expressing their determination to continue their resistance of the attempted reduction of 10 per cent, and this was seconded and carried.....”

Walsall Observer 8/6/1901

“On Thursday a meeting of the workmen connected with the tube trade in Wednesbury, Walsall, and Wolverhampton, who ceased work nearly fifteen weeks ago rather than accept a 10% reduction of wages, was held at the RED LION HOTEL, Wednesbury. A workman presided over a large attendance.

The General Secretary, Mr. T. Jones, reported that prior to the meeting a ballot had been taken to decide whether or not the men were prepared to return to their employment. The total number voting was 421, and of these 225 were in favour of going back to work at the reduction and 196 against, so that there was a majority for the former of 29. Before the vote was taken it was decided that a majority of even one would decide the issue, and that the vote should be binding.....

The men, having now arrived at a decision, must be loyal to it, and it only remained to acquaint the employers and to arrange for their return to work. They had fought a good fight, and had lost it honourably, because the employers had the longest purse. They were undoubtedly defeated, but not disgraced.....”

William Henry Brooks = William Henry Brookes

Walsall Observer 20/8/1904

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday week, Harry Davis, of Navigation Street, Wolverhampton, was charged with stealing a bicycle, of the value of £5 5s, the property of John Thomas Thompson, of Holloway Bank, Hill Top, on the 6th inst.

Prosecutor stated that on the date named, about 3.30pm, he left his bicycle outside the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. When he went to look for the machine at 4.40pm he found it was gone, and he then gave information to the police.

Mr. Hill, landlord of the SMITHS ARMS INN, Cross Street, Wednesbury, said he bought a bicycle from the prisoner on the 6th inst for £1. He was, therefore, surprised when a little later the same day prisoner brought the bicycle belonging to the prosecutor to him and asked £10 for it. Being suspicious, witness sent for the police, and in answer to his inquiry prisoner said he had had this machine for nine months.

Police-constable Rixon deposed to arresting prisoner at 9.40pm on the 6th inst, when he stated that he bought the machine nine months ago at a shop at Burslem. Subsequently prisoner admitted stealing the machine.

As prisoner had already done a term of imprisonment for bicycle stealing, he was sent to gaol for four months, with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/6/1906 - Advert

“General Wanted, about 18; good references.

Apply, at once, *Brookes*, RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

GENERAL Wanted, about 18; good references.—Apply, at once, *Brookes*, Red Lion, Bridge St., Wednesbury.

Birmingham Mail 27/11/1906

“At Wednesbury, today, *William Henry Brookes*, RED LION HOTEL, who was summoned for disregarding a vaccination notice, produced a medical certificate that the child was delicate. The Bench advised him to get something more definite, and adjourned the case.”

1911 Census

Bridge Street – RED LION HOTEL

- [1] *Thomas German* (66), hotel manager, born Aberdeen;
- [2] *Priscilla German* (50), wife, married 22 years, born Liverpool;
- [3] *Ada German* (18), daughter, born Manchester;
- [4] *Maud German* (11), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Gladys German* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Elizabeth Manning* (21), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Thomas German was also a bandmaster.

He was a professional musician. He was bandmaster to the Crown Tube Works Brass Band.

See also ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/9/1912 - Advert

“Good strong General Wanted at once.

Apply RED LION HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

**GOOD strong General Wanted at once.—Apply
Red Lion Hotel, Bridge-st., Wednesbury.**

1921 Census

Bridge Street – RED LION

- [1] *Thomas Wood* (58), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Sarah Wood* (53), wife, home duties, born Amblecote;
- [3] *Sidney Wood* (29), son, sheet steel roller, born Moxley;
- [4] *William Wood* (27), son, hairdresser, born Bradley;
- [5] *Elizabeth Wood* (24), daughter, home duties, born Bradley;
- [6] *Thomas Wood* (21), son, helper, steel rolling mill, born Wednesfield;
- [7] *Geoffrey Grimley* (27), adopted son, gas engine driver, born Market Drayton, Shropshire;
- [8] *Ivy Dunn* (17), barmaid, born Wednesbury:

Bilston & Willenhall Times 17/10/1925

“The death has occurred at 36, Wednesbury Road, Wolverhampton, of Mr. *Thomas Wood*, who for some years was the licensee of the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. Mr. *Wood*, who was 63 years of age, was very well-known in the town, and his death will come as a shock to his many friends.”

Geoffrey Grimley – see OLD PARK, Darlaston Road.

Lancashire Evening Post 6/8/1938

“A collision occurred between a motor cycle and a motor car in Whittle Lane, Charnock Richard, Chorley, at 4am today. *David Proctor*, of the RED LION HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, Staffs, driver of the motor cycle, and *Edward Styles*, of 21, Corporation Street, Wednesbury, pillion rider, were injured. They received cuts, bruises and general shock, and were taken to Chorley Hospital.”

1939 Register

39, Bridge Street

- [1] *David Proctor*, date of birth 12/3/1884, iron shingler, married;
- [2] *Helen Proctor*, dob 13/3/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

"The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

RED LION HOTEL, Wednesbury, 1s 3d."

Evening Despatch 9/6/1942

"Mrs. *Mary Adams*, of the RED LION HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was granted a decree nisi by Mr. Justice Collins in the Divorce Court today on the ground that her husband, Mr. William Adams, who did not contest the suit, had deserted her. One day when she came home from work she found the house locked up, and Mr. Adams had never returned."

Walsall Observer 1/8/1942

"Members of the local Women's Auxiliary Police Corps, to which the bride formerly belonged, formed a guard of honour at the wedding at St. Matthew's Church, Walsall, on Sunday, of Miss Betty Irene Edwards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *W. A. Edwards*, of the RED LION HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury (formerly of Walsall) and Mr. William Norman Watts, son of Mrs. E. Watts, of Churchfields Road, Wednesbury.

The Rev. G. W. E. Rooke officiated at the choral service and Mr. E. Dutton at the organ played Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March' and 'Because.'

Given away by her father, the bride wore a gown with train of white figured lace, trimmed with white satin over taffeta and a veil and halo of orange blossom; and she carried pink carnations. The bridesmaids, Misses Hilda Watts (sister of the groom) and Olive and Jean Edwards (sisters of the bride) wore pink net picture dresses, trimmed with blue over taffeta and floral headdresses of pink net. The groom's brother, Mr. Harry Watts, was best man.

After a reception to sixty guests at the Picture House Café, Mr. and Mrs. Watts left for a honeymoon at Worcester, the bride travelling in a sage green two-piece with nigger brown accessories."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League in 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.....

W. A. Edwards, RED LION, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/4/1962

"Two horse bridles, worth £6, have been stolen from a stable at the rear of the RED LION public house, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. They belonged to Margaret Barbara Tildesley, of 14, Hales Road, Wednesbury."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1962]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1963], [1965]

Approval of a Plan for alteration of the premises was granted on 3rd April 1964.

Joseph Francis Leadbeater = Joseph Francis Leadbetter = Joseph Francis Leabetter

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/12/1966 - Advert

"Mr. and Mrs. *Leadbeater*, of the RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, wish all their Customers, Old and New, a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/6/1967 - Advert

"Pianist wanted, weekends.

RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

PIANIST wanted, weekends. — Red Lion.
Bridge-street, Wednesbury. WED 0612

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1971 - Advert

"Mr. and Mrs. *Leadbeater*, of the RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, wish all their Customers, Old and New, a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/1/1974 - Advert

"Cleaner and Morning Barmaid wanted.
RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

CLEANER and Morning Barmaid
wanted. — Red Lion, Bridge Street,
Wednesbury. 556 0612.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Leadbetter died on 7th February 1974.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/2/1974 - Notice of Thanks

"The Husband and Family of the late Elizabeth Leadbetter wish to thank friends and relatives for their kindness and floral tributes and messages of sympathy in their sad loss.
RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/5/1977 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1964. West Midlands Metropolitan County.

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 Council Chambers, Council House, Smethwick, Warley, on the 24th day of June, 1977, at 3pm.

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 Act, 1964, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. Intoxicating liquor of all descriptions. Licensee, *Joseph Francis Leabetter*."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/7/1977 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1964. West Midlands Metropolitan County.

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 24th day of June, 1977, to refuse the renewal of the licenses 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 owners of the said premises) are required to send to the compensation authority notice of their claims before the 2nd day of August, 1977.....

RED LION, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. Intoxicating liquor of all descriptions. Licensee, *Joseph Francis Leabetter*."

Closed [pre 1978]

It was demolished in March 1983.

NOTICE to CREDITORS.
WEDNESBURY, August 4, 1784.
GODFREY WARD, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, White-Smith and victualler, having assigned all his real and personal Estates to Mr. Thomas Adams, of Walsall, and Mr. Richard Goodman, of Wolverhampton, for the Benefit of his Creditors; they are requested to meet at the House of the said Godfrey Ward, the Sign of the Red-Lion, in Wednesbury, by Three o'Clock in the Afternoon of Friday the 12th of August Instant, to have a State of his Affairs laid before them, and to assent to, or dissent from the Assignment.

1784

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Order of the Assignees of Godfrey Ward, a Bankrupt, on Wednesday the 9th Day of February Inst. at the Turk's Head, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford; between the Hours of Two and Six o'Clock in the Afternoon, All that handsome new built Freehold Dwelling-house, consisting of a very good Kitchen, two Parlours, and three Rooms on a Floor, with large Shoping, a Yard, Garden, and a very pleasant Bowling green walled round, with Summer-houses, the only one in the Town or Neighbourhood, and is an eligibly situated and well-acquainted Inn, in Wednesbury aforesaid, on the great Road leading from Wolverhampton to Birmingham.—Also about two Acres of Freehold Land, in Wednesbury aforesaid, occupied by Mr. Adie and ———.—Also the said Bankrupt's third Share of and in eight several Dwelling-houses, with six Shops, a Stable, Out-buildings, six Gardens, and Appurtenances to the said Premises belonging, situate near the Bridge in Wednesbury aforesaid, occupied by Mary Ward, John Derby, Thomas Timmins, John Fowkes, Ambrose Jevon, Mary Sile, John Ryley, and ———.—Also a Seat or Pew, which will hold nine Persons, well situated on the South Side in the Parish Church of Wednesbury.—For further Particulars apply to Mr. Hughes, of Wednesbury aforesaid, or Mr. Goodman, of Wolverhampton, the Assignees, or to Mr. Jellon, of Walsall, who has the Securities for several Sums of Money.

1785

THE Good-will and Licences of the **RED LION INN**, Wednesbury (advertised to be sold by Auction on the 24th inst.) are disposed of by private Contract.

H. P. EVANS, Auctioneer.
New Street, Jan. 19, 1816.

1816

Valuable Brewing Utensils and Household Furniture,
AT WEDNESBURY.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premises, by RICHARD CRUMP, on Monday the 15th of January, 1817, all the useful Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. Crisp, at the Red Lion, in Wednesbury, who is removing to the Green Dragon; comprising Mahogany and Oak Four-post and Tent Bedsteads, with Chintz and other Hangings, Feather Beds, Blankets and Quilts, Mahogany Bureau and Chests with Drawers, Pier, Swing, and Dressing Glasses, Mahogany and Oak Dining, Card, and Pillar Tables, Mahogany, Oak, Ash, and painted Chairs, two Eight-day Clocks, two painted Screens, large Iron Furnaces, Backs and Coolers, capital thirty and ten Strike Mashing Tubs, excellent Iron Barm Casks, from 50 to 500 Gallons, with a general Assemblage of useful Articles in the Public Line.

The Sale to commence at Ten o'Clock in the Morning.

1817

MR. GREEN respectfully announces his intention of making his **FORTY-FIRST ASCENT** on **WEDNESDAY NEXT**, September 12, from that well-known commodious situation, the **BOWLING GREEN**, situate at the **RED LION, WEDNESBURY**. The entrance to the Green will be through the house.

The Ascent to take place at **TWO O'CLOCK**, and the doors open at twelve. A Band of Music will be stationed on the Bowling Green.

Tickets of admission 2s. each, to be had at the principal Inns; of the Gentlemen comprising the Committee; and of Mr. Green at the Red Lion.—Children and Servant half price.

Mr. G. begs to state that a **SEAT** in the **CAR** is **NOW VACANT**, and entreats of those parties who feel desirous of accompanying him, to make early application for the same.

He also respectfully informs the Inhabitants of Wednesbury, Walsall, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and their vicinities, that from the number of engagements now on hand, this will be the **LAST ASCENT** he can possibly accomplish this year, within twenty miles of either of the above places.

1827

WEDNESBURY CARD and DANCING ASSEMBLY will be held at the Red Lion Inn on Friday the 16th of January inst.

Mr. BROWN, Birmingham,
Mr. DANKS, Wednesbury,
Mr. WRIGHT, Wolverhampton, } Stewards.

Dancing to commence at eight o'clock.

1835

WEDNESBURY ANNUAL BALL will be held at the **RED LION INN**, on **FRIDAY**, the 19th instant.

MR. SAMUEL DANKS,
MR. GEORGE HOLMES,
MR. BENJAMIN ROUND, } Stewards.

Dancing to commence at eight o'clock.

Tickets—Ladies, 5s.; Gentlemen's, 7s.—to be had at the Bar.

Wednesbury, January 4, 1838.

1838

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for Repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and from thence to the Portway adjoining the Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Road, and to Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse-lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the counties of Warwick, Worcester and Stafford, will be held at the house of Richard Davis, known by the sign of the Red Lion, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday the 17th day of July inst. at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

CLEMENT INGLEBY,

Clerk to the Trustees.

Birmingham, July 4, 1838.

1838

V.



R.

MONSTRE QUADRILLE PARTIES,
FOR THE SUMMER SEASON.

RED LION INN, BRIDGE STREET,
WEDNESBURY.

RATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT,
AND
DANCING ON THE GREEN.

ON MONDAY NEXT, July 11, and each succeeding Monday, at Three o'clock.

Admission by Ticket, 3d. each, to be had at the Bar, for which an early application is solicited, to prevent confusion at the door.

Mr. Vinning has great pleasure to inform the Inhabitants of Wednesbury and its neighbourhood that he has at a great expense engaged Mr. D. POUNTNEY'S celebrated **QUADRILLE BAND**, from Birmingham, for the occasion. Conductor, Mr. J. S. Vinning.

Application to Mrs. Holroyd, at the Bar, for Tickets.

Refreshments, such as Sandwiches, &c., will be provided on reasonable terms.

1859

TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, PARTIES FURNISHING,
STONEMASONS,
AND OTHERS.

UNRESERVED SALE AT THE "RED LION INN,"

BRIDGE STREET and the STONE QUARRY, HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. B. DAWES, on TUESDAY NEXT,

the 5th day of February, and the following days, without the least reserve—all the clean and useful **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING PLANT, FIXTURES, &c.**, comprising Mahogany Dining and other Tables, excellent Bagatelle Table, with slate bottom, Balls, Cues, &c., complete: large painted Screens, mahogany and other Chairs, mahogany and painted Chests of Drawers, a superior made and very handsome Secrétaire and Bookcase, with plate glass front: Eight day Bracket Clock, Chimney and other Glasses, Oil Paintings, mahogany four-post and other Bedsteads, with damask furniture; feather Beds, Mattresses, Toilet Services, Brussels and other Carpets, Blankets, Sheets, Counterpanes, and other Chamber Appendages, iron and wood Chimney Pieces, Liquor Counter, with four drawers: six-pull Beer Machine, with Piping, complete: twelve brass Liquor Fountains, with Piping: brass Water Fountain, painted Liquor Bottles, nine painted and gilded Liquor Barrels, Cut Glass Decanters, Glassware, Kitchen Furniture, Culinary Requisites, Mash Tubs (varying in size from 16 to 36 bushels), two large Vats and Frame, two 100-gallon Boilers and Appendages, oval and other Coolers, Working Tubs, Ale Casks (from 9 to 200-gallons). Wine and Spirit Casks, Bottles, Earthenware; capital-built **PHAETON**, with Lamps, &c., complete; useful Brown HORSE, Gig and other **HARNESS**, quantity of **GRAVE STONES**, Window Sills, Pig Troughs, York Slabs, Window Heads, Trusses, Hook Stones, Worked and Unworked **STONE**, capital Stone Roller, and other Effects; belonging to Mrs. Sarah Holroyd, taken under a bill of sale and distress for rent.

Sale to commence at half past Ten o'clock precisely each morning, with the usual conditions.

Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's Offices, Raglan Place, Wednesbury.

The **HOUSE** to be LET.

INSOLVENT DEBTOR to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Stafford, at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on **TUESDAY**, the thirtieth day of April, at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

SARAH HOLROYD, late of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, and Dealer in Tobacco, likewise having a Stone Quarry, and being a Worker of and Dealer in Stone; previously of the same place and occupations, and also Letting Post Horses and Cabs for Hire; formerly of the same place Licensed Beerseller and Brewer, and Dealer in Tobacco, likewise having a Stone Quarry, and being a Worker of and Dealer in Stone.

RICHARD SILL, Attorney, Birmingham.

1861

WEDNESBURY.
OLD-ESTABLISHED INN, VALUABLE BUILDING
LAND, AND PREMISES.

MESSRS. WALKER and H. J. LLOYD will
SELL by AUCTION, on Monday, the 30th day of July, 1866,
 upon the Premises called the **RED LION**, at 5 o'clock in the after-
 noon, subject to conditions of sale, the undermentioned truly
 valuable **PROPERTY**, in the following or such other lots as may be
 agreed upon at the time of sale, viz:—

Lot 1.—All that well-known and old-established **PUBLIC-
 HOUSE and PREMISES**, called the **Red Lion**, now in the occupa-
 tion of **Mr. Thomas Mills**, fronting **Bridge-street**, and extending to
New-street.

The house contains on the ground floor a large parlour, two
 sitting rooms, two tap rooms, with bar and kitchen.

The second floor contains a large club room, 47ft. by 15ft., and
 five chambers, with large and dry cellars in the basement. The
 out-offices consist of a brewhouse, stabling for nine horses, double
 and single coachhouses, harness room, large shed, coal house and
 piggeries, with large yard and appurtenances, containing, with the
 site of the buildings, 880 square yards of land.

Lot 2.—A piece or parcel of valuable **BUILDING LAND**, ad-
 joining **Lot 1**, fronting **Bridge-street**, and extending to **New-street**,
 containing 553 square yards of land.

Lot 3.—A similar lot of **LAND**, containing 662 square yards.

Lot 4.—A **MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE**, fronting **New-
 street**, in the occupation of **Mr. W. Mercel**, with the yard at the
 back, containing, with the site of the buildings, 232 square yards of
 land.

The above Property is situated near the centre of the improving
 town of **Wednesbury**. The public business of the Inn has been
 successfully carried on for about a century, and may be much in-
 creased. The **Railway Station** is within two minutes' walk.

The whole forms together one of the best speculative properties
 ever offered for public competition in this locality.

Further information may be had, and plans seen, at the Offices of
Messrs. H. and J. E. UNDERHILL, Solicitors, Exchange Chambers;
Messrs. TIMMIS and WOODCOCK, Surveyors, Darlington Street;
 or the **AUCTIONEERS**, **Red Lion Street**, **Wolverhampton**.

1866

TIMOTHY RILEY,
UNDERTAKER, CAB AND CAR PROPRIETOR,
RED LION INN, BRIDGE-STREET, WEDNESBURY.

T. RILEY respectfully informs the inhabitants of **Wednesbury** and neighbourhood that he is
 prepared to supply
HEARSEs AND MOURNING COACHES,
 Wedding and other Carriages, Cars and Cabs, Wagonettes and Pleasure Vans, with good Horses and
 steady Drivers, on the shortest notice, and most reasonable terms.
 FUNERALS CAREFULLY REMOVED TO ANY DISTANCE.
 All orders entrusted to his care, whether by post or otherwise, will be promptly executed.
 NOTE THE ADDRESS—
TIMOTHY RILEY,
RED LION INN, BRIDGE STREET, WEDNESBURY.

1876

THE OLD ESTABLISHED POSTING HOUSE,
RED LION HOTEL,
BRIDGE STREET, WEDNESBURY.

GERRARD CARROLL
BEGS to inform the inhabitants of Wednesbury
and District that he has purchased the greater
part of the Stock of Mr. James Birch, of the Boro'
Mews, and is prepared to provide Cabs, Cars, Brakes,
&c., on the Shortest Notice.

G. C. hopes by strict attention to business, to
 merit a portion of the patronage given to **Mr. Birch**.

Conveyances supplied for Wedding and Pleasure
Parties.

FUNERALS COMPLETELY FURNISHED.

Goods Removed to any Distance.
April 24th, 1879.

1879

G. CARROLL,
RED LION HOTEL AND POSTING HOUSE,
BRIDGE STREET, WEDNESBURY

**BEGS to thank his Friends and the public gener-
 ally for the liberal support bestowed upon him,**
and hopes by strict attention to business to merit a
continuance of the same.

FUNERALS SUPPLIED COMPLETE
on the Shortest Notice.

Hearses, Mourning Coaches, & Funeral Equipages
For Wedding and Excursion Parties on the most
Reasonable Terms.

A SELECT DANCING CLASS will be held every
Wednesday Evening, in the Large Assembly Room
attached to the above Hotel

1883

NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION!
MR CLAUDE ALYMER
 Having Signed Agreement with **Mr. GERRARD CAR-
 ROLL**, of the **RED LION HOTEL, WEDNESBURY**, to take
 the **SOLE MANAGEMENT** of the **THEATRE OF VARIE-
 TIES**, is prepared to Treat with Artists of Repute in all Lines
 for Present and Future Dates.
 The greatest and most terrific success has been made by **Mr**
FRED FOLLY, the clever actor, comedian, author and composer;
Miss MAUD DANVIL, one of the handsomest figures on the stage
 (a great draw); and **LITTLE LOUIE**, pronounced to be the
 Cleverest Child Actress in the Profession
WANTED.—At once, **PIANISTE**, to Read at Sight; also, Good
 Respectable **CHAIRMAN**.
 All Letters to **Mr CLAUDE ALYMER,**
THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
NEW STREET, WEDNESBURY.

RED LION CONCERT HALL, WEDNESBURY.
W A N T E D,
 For the **OPENING** of above Hall, September 6th, and
 Onwards, **Lady Serio-Comics and Dancers, Single-Handed Nig-
 gers, &c.**
Will Rose Vivian and Miss Ellis please write in.
Proprietor, G. CARROLL.
Pianist and Manager, H. J. SHAW.
 All letters to **Mr SHAW, BULL'S HEAD, HIGH STREET,**
BILSTON, until August 30th.

1884

£2,200. secures Freehold, &c., **Red Lion Hotel, Wednesbury**;
 entirely free; old-established, most genuine trade; valuable
 inventory. Also, **Funeral Repository** attached, no opposition;
 posting. Freehold, licenses, stock, trade effects. Brewery companies,
 private speculators, opportunity.—**Gilbert Baker, Auctioneer, 15,**
Pierpoint Street, Worcester.

TO CAPITALISTS, POST-MASTERS, AND OTHERS.
**THE FREEHOLD, GOODWILL, and POS-
 SESSION of RED LION INN, Bridge-street, WEDNES-
 BURY**—Commercial Inn and Posting House, with **HORSES,**
HEARSEs, COACHES, CARRIAGES, CABS, BRAKES,
DOG-CARTS, HARNESS. The only Established Posting
 House in Town. Grand Opening for Business Persons.
 Owner retiring. Apply, for particulars, **JOHN ROGERS,**

1894

WEDNESBURY.

IMPORTANT SALE AT RED LION HOTEL.

TUESDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1895.

BELCHER AND SON are instructed to Sell by Public Auction, on the above premises and date, the Superior BREWING PLANT, comprising Two large Copper Boilers, Vats, Coolers, Mash Tun, Five Butts, Tubs, &c, together with the well-known THREE-HORSE BRAKE, "THE VICTORY"; Four Strong Carts, new; Breeze and Coke Carts, Fruiterers' Trucks, Two Spring Carts, Two Spring Traps, for Cobs; Useful Dog Cart, Two Phaetons, with Rumble Cushion and Lamps; Pony Spring Cart and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock prompt. Usual Conditions.

Auctioneers Offices, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and at Darlaston.

1895

MR. AND MRS. LEADBETTER,

of

**THE RED LION,
BRIDGE-STREET,
WEDNESBURY,**

Wish all their Customers. Old and
New, a very Merry Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year

1966

MR. AND MRS.

LEADBEATER.

of

THE RED LION.

**Bridge-street,
Wednesbury.**

wish all their Customers. Old
and New. a Very Merry
Christmas and a Prosperous
New Year.

1971

RED SWAN

Darlaston Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Hitch [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

RISING SUN

114, Piercy Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Millward Brothers [1927]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1961], [1965]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Henry Butler [1871] – [1904]
Edwin Butler [1893]
Richard Henry Butler [1911] – [1912]
Thomas Roberts [1921]
Charles Henry Lloyd [1921] manager
William James Richards [1939] – **1965**;
Anthony Searle Brierley **(1965 – [1966])**



1965

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/1/1869 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold and Copyhold Property at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN ROYAL HOTEL, Stafford Street, Wednesbury, on Monday, the 8th day of February, 1869, at six for seven o’clock.....

Lot 10. A Freehold Dwelling House, used as a Beerhouse, situate in Piercy Street, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury, comprising large clubroom, bar-parlour, smokeroom, two bed-rooms, large kitchen and three cellars, together with the brewhouse and maltroom over, and other convenient outbuildings and yard thereto belonging.”

1871 Census

114, Piercy Street

- [1] Henry Butler (29), labourer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Eliza Butler (22), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Sarah Ann Butler (11), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Frederick Butler (22), boarder, labourer, deaf and dumb, born Wednesbury:

Lot 10
A FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, used as a Beerhouse, situate in Piercy-street, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury, comprising large clubroom, bar-parlour, smokeroom, two bed-rooms, large kitchen and three cellars, together with the brewhouse and maltroom over, and other convenient outbuildings and yard thereto belonging.

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/3/1872

“Henry Butler, beerhouse keeper, was fined £5 and costs for permitting gambling in his house on the 12th ult.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/8/1873

“On Monday the annual festival of Charity Lodge No.806 of the Free Gardeners Friendly Society took place at the RISING SUN, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury The report showed the lodge to be in a prosperous state, and to have been remarkably free from sickness during the past year.”

Henry Butler issued tokens from here.

1881 Census

114, Piercy Street – RISING SUN

- [1] *Henry Butler* (39), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Eliza Butler* (33), wife, born Dudley Port;
- [3] *Anne Butler* (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Matilda Butler* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Eleanor Butler* (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Richard Butler* (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Matilda Smith* (23), cousin, born Dudley Port;



Token

Birmingham Daily Post 13/4/1888

“Midland Counties Trade Federation.

On Wednesday night a special delegate meeting was held at the RISING SUN INN, New Town, Wednesbury, Mr. W. Price, of Halesowen, presiding. The Halesowen delegates reported that the present list of prices was very unfair, and that the workmen had held a meeting and decided to co-operate with the spike-nail makers at Sedgley with a view of getting a uniform list.

Mr. Higgins (Sedgley) said the employers at Sedgley admitted that the list was a very unfair one, as no spike-nail maker could earn a living even when in full work.

On the motion of Mr. R. Winwood (Blackheath), seconded by Mr. W. Millerchip (Walsall), it was decided that the secretary (Mr. R. Juggins) should invite all the employers in the spike-nail trade in Halesowen, Sedgley, and Dudley to meet a deputation of the workmen at an early date, with a view of mutually agreeing upon a fresh list of prices.”

Henry Butler, RISING SUN, New Town, 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.]

Eliza Butler died in the 3rd quarter of 1889.

1891 Census

114, Piercy Street

- [1] *Henry Buttler* (49), widower, retail brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Annie Buttler* (20), daughter, housekeeper, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Matilda Buttler* (19), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Nellie Buttler* (17), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Richard Buttler* (14), son, office boy, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Frank Buttler* (7), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Emily Haywood* (16), visitor, born Wednesbury;

Midland Sun 17/6/1893

“On Wednesday morning last Mr. Topham (Coroner) held an inquest at *Edwin Butler*’s RISING SUN INN, Newtown, Wednesbury, on the body of Benjamin Heywood, aged 51, Hydes Road, Newtown, Wednesbury, who died very suddenly on Sunday evening last.

Charlotte Heywood said: I am the wife of the deceased. I last saw my husband alive on Sunday afternoon last, when he appeared to be in his usual good health. After I had had my tea, I thought I should like to go out for a walk, which I did, and returned home just after nine in the evening. I saw a large number of people around our house, at which I was very much surprised. One of my neighbours came to me, and asked me if I had heard anything. I said no. She then told me that my husband had suddenly died.

Malcolm Heywood, aged 13, was next called and said: I am the son of the deceased. I came home from church on Sunday evening at about 8.40. My father then asked me for a drop of water. I went into the kitchen to get the water, and he followed me. Immediately he had drunk the water he fell onto the floor. I immediately began to scream and one of the neighbours came to my assistance.

Thomas Howell was next called and said: I live next door to the deceased. About 8.45 on Sunday evening last I was in my house and heard someone screaming. I jumped over the wall adjoining Heywood’s yard and found the

deceased lying on the floor between the door separating the back kitchen and the sitting room. Immediately I saw him I said he was dead. I called for Dr. Crew who arrived about 10 minutes after the occurrence, who said deceased had died through an apoplexion.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Henry Butler, beer retailer, 114, Piercey Street, New Town. [1896], [1904]

Henry Butler (59), widower, licensed victualler, married *Phoebe Eccleston* (58), widow, on 15th March 1899.

1901 Census

114, Piercy Street

[1] *Henry Butler* (59), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Phoebe Butler* (59), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Frank Butler* (17), son, tailor's errand boy, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Florrie Jinks* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

“Free Gardenry at Wednesbury. On Monday evening last the members of the Charity Lodge No.806 held their annual supper at the RISING SUN, Newtown. Councillor W. Adams presided, and Bro. H. T. Finch, general secretary, was voted to the vice chair.....”

Richard Henry Butler married *Arabella Bower* in the 4th quarter of 1901.

1911 Census

114, Piercy Street – RISING SUN INN

[1] *Richard Henry Butler* (34), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Arabella Butler* (52), wife, married 11 years, born Clayton, Yorkshire;

[3] *Francis Butler* (27), brother, barman, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Charles Butler* (9), son, school, born Bradford, Yorkshire;

[5] *Enid Bower* (17), step-daughter, barmaid, born Bradford, Yorkshire;

[6] *Dorothy Bullock* (16), niece, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

[7] *George H. Bullock* (11), nephew, school, born West Bromwich:

Wednesbury Herald 14/10/1911

“New Town and District Flying Club. The annual dinner took place on Thursday evening at headquarters, the RISING SUN INN, Piercy Street, Mr. D. Tonks (president) occupying the chair.

Upwards of thirty members and friends sat down to a capital repast. A smoking concert followed, the artistes including Messrs. Bob Harding, H. Wood, J. Cartwright, S. Beesley, and F. Jones. During an interval in the programme the distribution of prizes took place, the principal winners being Messrs. N. Beesley (challenge cup), Pass, Mole, Woodhall, and Butler.”

Richard H. Butler, beer retailer, 114, Piercey Street, New Town. [1912]

1921 Census

114, Piercy Street

[1] *Charles Henry Lloyd* (30), beerhouse manager, born Walsall;

[2] *Helina Lloyd* (30), wife, assistant beer house, born Walsall;

[3] *Florence Brenda Lloyd* (5), daughter, school, born Walsall:

Walsall Observer 9/4/1927

“At Monday's meeting of Wednesbury Town Council Plans approved were for.....

Alterations to the RISING SUN INN, Piercey Street, for Millward Brothers.”

THE RISING SUN,



**Piercy Street, Newtown,
Wednesbury.**

FINE HOME BREWED ALES.

All Ales Brewed on the Premises.

Proprietor:— C. H. LLOYD.

1939 Register

114, Piercy Street – RISING SUN Public House (2 of 3)

[1] William J. Richards, date of birth 13/7/1906, publican, married;

[2] Annie Florence Richards, dob 7/1/1911, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/2/1940

“Latest donations to the West Midlands and *Express and Star* Comforts Fund.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £344 1s 3½d.

Proceeds of Boxes.....

RISING SUN, New Town, 4d.”

Rugeley Times 8/6/1940

“The RISING SUN darts club, Wednesbury, held their annual dinner on Wednesday evening and there was a good number of members present. The President (Mr. E. Russell) congratulated the members on keeping together and also W. Woodcock, who gained the highest score (128) in the three divisions. During the evening Mr. Russell also presented a clock to Mrs. A. James, who had done untiring work for the comforts fund. Other presentations were made to the host (Mr. W. Richards), while a silver cup was given to the club by Mr. W. Gutteridge, of Newtown. A concert followed, when the artistes were Messrs. F. Butler, S. Harrold, H. Kendrick, A. Critch, J. Gutteridge and W. Woodcock. A collection of behalf of the Mayor’s Comforts fund amounted to £1 5s.”

Evening Despatch 12/2/1954

“Ald. L. Whitehouse, chairman of the Wednesbury licensing bench, at the annual sessions today, said an increase of seven cases of drunkenness did not disturb the bench because extra facilities were given to the public to celebrate Coronation year festivities. He commended the brewery company concerned and the architect for the alterations made to the RISING SUN INN, Piercy Street, and advised other brewery representatives to visit the place and see what an excellent job had been done in converting old property into modern requirements.”

Walsall Observer 24/8/1962 - Advert

“Attention! all Mild drinkers.

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

RISING SUN, Piercy Street, Newtown, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1965

“Wednesbury Borough Council agreed last night to make a clearance area in Mesty Croft, one of the oldest parts of the town, which involves nearly 300 houses and nearly 900 people. A report by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector said that the most satisfactory way of dealing with existing conditions was to demolish the buildings in the area. The area includes Elwell Street, Alma Street, Oxford Street and Piercy Street, where many of the houses are more than 100 years old. People who have lost their homes will be rehoused by the council.....”

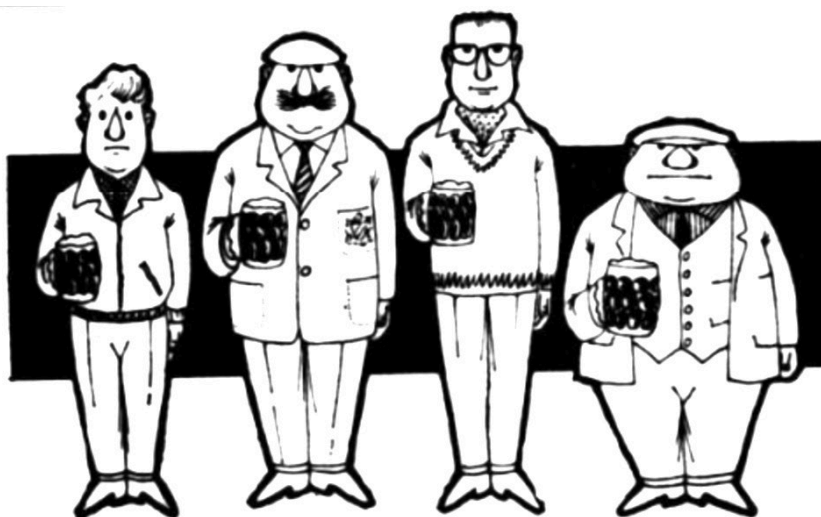
[1967]

Closed

Demolished



1967



ATTENTION! all MILD drinkers

HIGHGATE MILD is now available in the
following BUTLERS and ATKINSONS houses:—

BRIDGE HOUSE, Bloxwich Road, Walsall.
NEW NAVIGATION, Birchills, Walsall.
WALSALL ARMS, Bank Street, Walsall.
FALCON, Lichfield Street, Walsall.
FITTERS ARMS, Hatherton St., Walsall.
FORGE HAMMER, Rolling Mill Street,
Pleck, Walsall.
FOUNTAIN, Lower Forster Street, Walsall.
NEW INN, Green Lane, Walsall.
PRINCE OF WALES, Queen St., Walsall.
BEAR & RAGGED STAFF, High Street,
Walsall.
COACHMAKERS ARMS, Bridgeman St.,
Walsall.
TANNERS ARMS, Day Street, Walsall.
DUKE OF YORK, Moxley Rd., Darlaston.
BLACK HORSE, Pinfold St., Darlaston.
NELSON, Catherine's Cross, Darlaston.
WHITE LION, King Street, Darlaston.
KINGS HILL TAVERN, Darlaston Road,
Wednesbury.
DARTMOUTH INN, High St., Darlaston.
NAGS HEAD, The Green, Darlaston.
OLD BUSH, The Green, Darlaston.
STAR MUSIC HALL, James Bridge,
Darlaston.

RAILWAY TAVERN, James Bridge,
Darlaston.
RISING SUN, Piercy Street, Newtown,
Wednesbury.
FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street,
Wednesbury.
OLD BLUE BALL, Hall End, Wednesbury.
PRINCE REGENT, Victoria Street,
Wednesbury.
COTTAGE, Wood Green, Wednesbury.
SPRING COTTAGE, The Paddock,
Walsall.
HARDEN, Coalpool Lane, Walsall.
NEWPORT ARMS, Pleck Road, Walsall.
VINE, Lower Hall Lane, Walsall.
KINGS ARMS, High Street, Bloxwich.
FOUNTAIN, Portland Street, Walsall.
STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, Catherine's
Cross, Darlaston.
BIRD IN HAND, Pinfold Street, Darlaston.
HORSE & JOCKEY, High Bullen,
Wednesbury.
GOLDEN CROSS, Market Place, Wed-
nesbury.



Pride of the Midlands

RISING SUN

1, Trowse Lane / 81, Meeting Street, (High Bullen), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Page

John Harris Blakemore [1858]

Messrs. Fletcher, wine and spirit merchants.

Highgate (Walsall) Brewery Co. Ltd. [1921]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939)

LICENSEES

Humphry Foster [1791]

Josiah Foster [1816]

William Colcomb [1818] – **1837**

John Hartley Hitchen [1841] – [1848]

Smith [1848]

William Johnson [1849] – [1851]

John Harris Blakemore [1852] – [1853]

R Holland [1855]

John Titley [1857] – **1865**);

John Wilkes (**1865** – [1866]

John Hayward [] – **1867**);

Thomas Cook (**1867** – **1872**);

John McCann/McMann (**1872** – []

James Fletcher [1876]

Joseph Woodhall [1878] – **1882**);

John Hamson (**1882** – []

John Harrison [1888]

Thomas Hodgkin Brown [1891] – [1904]

Frederick W Baker [1904] – [1908]

Joseph Higginson [1911] – [1912]

William Shuck [1916]

Mrs. Florance Amas [1921]

Oliver Holt [1921]

Joe Belcher Wardle [1932]

Arthur Standley [1939] – **1949**)

Albert Hatton [1950]

Taylor [1956]

Benjamin Morgan [1961] – **1964**);

Richard Leslie Edwards (**1964** – [1966]

David Leonard Marsden []

H G Lewis [1976]

Kevin Woodhouse [1982]



1967



Ex-pub 2008

NOTES

High Bullen [1822], [1828], [1842], [1850]

SUN [1791]

Humphry Foster, victualler, SUN, Wednesbury. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/2/1816 - Advert

“Public House in Wednesbury.

To be Sold by private Contract, all that convenient Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House, now and for many Years past used as a Public or Victualling House, known by the Sign of the SUN, with the Stable, Outbuildings, Well of good Water, and other the Appurtenances, desirably situated at the Entrance of the Town of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, adjoining the Turnpike Road leading from Bilston and Darlaston, and now occupied by *Josiah Foster*.

For further Particulars, and to treat for the Purchase, apply to Mr. Thomas Stone, Gun-lock Master, or Messrs. Crowther, Solicitors, Wednesbury.”

William Colcomb was also a maltster. [1818]

Morning Herald (London) 18/3/1824

“At Stafford Assizes James Rawson was indicted for cutting John Brittain, with intent to murder him. Mr. C. Phillips conducted the prosecution.

John Brittain said: I am a labourer. On the night in question I was at the RISING SUN public house at Wednesbury. I was quite sober. The prisoner was there, but not of my party. The prisoner was turned out for being riotous. I told him he had better go home. The landlord turned him out twice, and the prisoner then burst the door open and came in. As he came in he laid hold of me by the knee, and cut me with a knife; he also struck me with his fist. After he came in I said nothing to him. He attempted to cut me again, but I struggled with him and prevented him. In about a minute I fainted. I was confined to my bed about eighteen days, and am now obliged to use a crutch.

By the Learned Baron: I had knocked down a man named Bate, but I never struck the prisoner.

Samuel Spital stated: I saw the prisoner thrown out, and come in again, on the door being burst open. I then saw the prisoner at Brittain's back, and heard Brittain cry out for me, saying he was stabbed. I saw blood fly out a yard and a half, in a stream as broad as three fingers. The prisoner tried to get away, but I knocked him down. I asked him if he was not sorry for it, and he said he had more reason to be sorry for himself. I asked where he got the knife, he said from Derby; it was a broad-pointed knife.

Thomas Smith stated: I heard Brittain complain the he was stabbed, and the prisoner threw away a knife. I fetched the surgeon.

Joseph Bate stated: I had been drinking with the prisoner, who was rather fresh in liquor. I wished to take him home, but he would not go; he said he would stay till he had shown them a Derbyshire ‘Pur’ or two. What that means I do not know. He burst the door open; he went in and I followed him. John Brittain and I had a blow or two. I struck Brittain, who returned it. I don't know why I struck him. I had no sort of quarrel with Brittain; I saw no knife.

Mr. Robert Ladbury stated: I am a surgeon, and attended Brittain. When I reached him he was in a fainting state; the wound was in the middle of the left thigh, on the outside; the wound was about six inches long, and about an inch and a half in depth in the deepest place; the man is not well yet; it appeared to have been done with a sharp instrument. I did not consider the wound dangerous if properly treated; there is no important artery near it; he will recover the use of his limb.

James Parkes stated that he was the constable who took the prisoner. The knife was never found.

Brittain being recalled, stated that the prisoner had twelve of his fellow-workmen drinking with him at the RISING SUN.

The prisoner, in his defence, stated that the witnesses came to swear his life away.

The Learned Baron summed up the evidence.

The Jury found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy; and when asked by the Learned Baron what was the ground of the recommendation, they deliberated for a considerable time, when the Foreman stated that they did not believe the prisoner cut with intent to murder.

The Learned Baron then told them if they thought so, they must acquit the prisoner.

The Jury again considered of their verdict, and found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy on the ground that he was a rough uneducated man. In this recommendation the prosecutor joined.

The Learned Baron observed that if men would quarrel in ale-house and proceed to blows, it ought to be a manly stand-up fight, and when one of them was beaten, they should leave off; but it could never be endured that they should cut each other with knives.

Judgement of Death was then recorded against the prisoner.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/3/1824

".....Sentence of death was recorded; the Learned Judge telling him his life would be spared, but he would be sent out of the country."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/9/1834 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Building Land in Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Daniel Taylor, on Monday next, the 29th of September, at the house of Mr. *William Colcomb*, known by the name of the RISING SUN, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, at four o'clock in the afternoon, in one or more lots as shall be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to conditions....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/2/1835 - Advert

"Wanted immediately, a single sober Man who understands the Malting Business.

Apply to *William Colcomb*, Maltster Wednesbury."

WANTED immediately, a single sober Man who understands the Malting Business.--Apply to **WILLIAM COLCOMB**, Maltster, Wednesbury.

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.....

Also, that well known and old established Inn called the RISING SUN, situate at or near the High Bullen, in the town of Wednesbury; together with the extensive outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, which is now, and for many years has been in the occupation of Mr. *William Colcomb*."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/2/1837 - Died

"On the 1st instant, sincerely lamented by his family and a large circle of friends, in his 49th year, Mr. *William Colcomb*, of the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury."

John Hartley Hitchen = John Hartley Hitchin

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 9/12/1843

"The Colliers Movement South Staffordshire.

A delegate meeting was held at the JOLLY COLLIERS, Swan Village, on the 27th ult, when Mr. James George was unanimously called to the chair, who in an able manner opened the meeting, and then called the Secretary to read the minutes of the last delegate meeting, which were read and confirmed. He then proceeded to call over the names of the different lodges, when their delegate came forward and paid in the following sums.....

RISING SUN, Wednesbury 14s 7½d."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/8/1844

"Within the last few days an inquest was held at the RISING SUN, Wednesbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of a respectable woman named Elizabeth Sawyers, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal, Wednesbury. It appeared from the evidence that deceased, who was fifty-five years of age, lived with Mr. Walker, in Tower Street, Birmingham. Since the death of her husband, which took place a short time ago, she was rather in a depressed state of mind, and went on a visit to some friends at Bilston, where she remained until Wednesday week, when she returned to Birmingham, to the house of Mr. Walker. About eight o'clock that evening she sat down to tea, when she suddenly stood up, said she did not like the bread, and that she would step out for some cakes. No suspicions whatever were entertained by those present of her intentions. She was allowed to go out, but she did not return, nor was any intelligence heard until the next day, when her body was found in the Birmingham Canal, which runs through the above town. Her bonnet was found on the bank, a short distance from the spot where her remains were picked up, and in her pocket was safely wrapped up £5 16s 6d. The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned. There was no mark of violence upon her person, and how she came into the water could not be ascertained, but the great probability is the poor woman threw herself in whilst labouring under temporary insanity."

Birmingham Journal 25/10/1845

“On Thursday se’nnight an inquest was held by George Hinchliffe, Esq, at the RISING SUN, Wednesbury, on the body of a child named Whately, who was drowned in the Canal at Lea Brook. The poor child had not left its home more than three or four minutes before it was discovered in the Canal, and though taken out immediately, it was quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1845

“Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway.

We, the Undersigned, Landowners, Merchants, Coal and Ironmasters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other Inhabitants residing in the boroughs of Birmingham and Walsall, and the towns of Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Handsworth, and other places in those Districts, do hereby express our opinion that the projected Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway is calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the places and districts above mentioned, and we promise it our strenuous support.....

J. H. Hitchen, Innkeeper, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 20/6/1846

“A poor sickly orphan girl, the daughter of Samuel Mason, miner, Darlaston, who had been living with a relative in that town since her parents’ death, left the house on Thursday week, in consequence of harsh treatment, and with great difficulty reached Wednesbury in the evening, when she was seen about half-past ten o’clock, sitting on a low wall, in a very languid, depressed state. She was taken to the workhouse, where Mr. Russell, surgeon, prescribed for her, and paid her every attention; but she rapidly sank, and died the next day. An inquest was held on the body, at Mr. *J. H. Hitchen*’s, the RISING SUN, on Monday, at which Mr. Russell having stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the poor child’s body, and found the lungs and bowels much inflamed, the Jury returned a verdict of Died by the Visitation of God.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/11/1846 - Advert

“Public House, Wednesbury.

On Sale, by Private Contract, an excellent Freehold Messuage and Premises, known by the sign of the RISING SUN INN, in the occupation of Mr. *J. H. Hitchen*.

Apply to Mr. Gibbons, accountant, or to Mr. Charles Corser, solicitor, both of Wolverhampton.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/2/1847

“On Saturday, the 20th instant, an inquest was held at the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Anthony Gorman, aged 34 years. It appeared a few nights previous the deceased went home to his house late, when some words took place between him and his wife, and he would not go to bed, but came down stairs again, and a brother of the deceased coming in, they went out together to drink. The deceased upon his return went up to his wife’s bed room, and fetched the candle down stairs and got a light. His wife heard him in the room, but never spoke, and she went to sleep again. Sometime after she was awoke by a great noise, she got up and ran down stairs, when she found the deceased lying on his back, and his shirt, and a shawl which he had round his neck, on fire. She tried to put it out, but could not, and she called in two neighbours, who succeeded in putting out the flames. The deceased was taken to bed, but was burnt most dreadfully on the chin, down the chest and stomach. Mr. Russell, surgeon, attended the deceased, but finding that his wife was not able to manage for him, he ordered him to be removed into the Workhouse, where it required two persons to attend him until he expired. It appeared from a statement made by the deceased that he fell asleep, with a lighted candle upon the table, and when he fell upon the floor must have knocked the candle upon him. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 22/5/1847 - Advert

“An Old-Established Public House, the RISING SUN, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, on Tuesday, the 25th day of May, 1847, at the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions of sale as will be then produced and read. All that Old-licensed and long-established Public House, called the RISING SUN INN, in the occupation of Mr. *J. H. Hitchen*, and situated at the High Bullen, Wednesbury, and fronting the Turnpike Road leading from that place to Bilston and Darlaston.

The House contains five capital dry and lofty Cellars, a good sized Tap Room, Parlour, large Kitchen, Bar, Back Parlour, large Brewhouse and Cooking Kitchen, a capital Club Room, 31 feet by 15 feet, and five good Sleeping Rooms. There is also a Pump of Hard Water, and a two-stall Stable, communicating with the Workhouse Lane, from which there is a Back Entrance to the whole of the Premises.

Also, all that Piece of Building Land, adjoining the above Premises, and having a Frontage to the said Turnpike Road of 7 yards 2 feet and 8 inches.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. C. Corser, Solicitor, or the Auctioneers, Wolverhampton, at whose respective Offices a Plan of the Property may be seen.”

Birmingham Journal 1/1/1848

“At Wednesbury Public Office, on Tuesday, Mr. *Hitchen*, of the RISING SUN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, was summoned to answer a charge of having stolen a dog, the property of a person named Edward Baylis, also residing in Wednesbury. The prosecutor missed it on the 18th of November, after having had it only about a week, and as he lately ascertained that it was in Mr. *Hitchen*'s possession, he had asked it from him, but had met with a refusal. For the purpose of proving the dog's identity, he now produced the person from whom he bought it, and the animal having been brought into Court, recognised him immediately.

The defence of Mr. *Hitchen* was that his daughter picked the dog up in the month of July last, near Penn, when it appeared to have lost its owner.

The Magistrates being satisfied as to who was the real owner of the animal (which was a fine specimen of the Blenheim or King Charles breed), ordered it to be given up to Baylis, and also decided that Mr. *Hitchen* should pay the cost of the summons, and 2s 6d as travelling expenses to the man who identified the dog.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/8/1848 - Advert

“The First and Only Excursion Train to Liverpool, will start from Birmingham, on Monday, August 28th, at half-past one o'clock in the afternoon, and return from Liverpool on the following Friday, at half past six in the evening.

The Train, consisting of enclosed carriages, will travel at mail speed, stopping as Bescott Bridge, Wolverhampton, and Stafford, to take up and set down passengers.

This Train will run in conjunction with the Special Train from Bristol, Gloucester, and Cheltenham to Birmingham, and will enable parties to arrive in time by the early trains from Warwick, Leamington, Coventry, and other places. Tickets, There and Back, 10s 6d Each, to be had of the following persons.....

Mr. *Smith*, RISING SUN, Wednesbury.....

To prevent disappointment to parties in the country requiring tickets the Committee would advise them to remit a Post Office Order for their Tickets, and made payable to Henry Sansum, 42, Lower Hurst Street; or to Mr. John Morley, No.122, Suffolk Street, Birmingham, when they will be punctually attended to.”

William Johnson was also a wine and spirit merchant. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

Trouse Lane

[1] *William Johnson* (24), innkeeper, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[2] *Hellen Johnson* (23), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Ann Richards* (21), domestic servant, born Madeley, Shropshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/5/1851

“At Wednesbury Public Office, on Tuesday, *William Johnson*, licensed victualler, of Wednesbury, was charged with refusing to admit police-constable Whittaker into his house on the morning of the 13th instant, for which offence he was fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 31/5/1851 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Houses and Land, situate in Dale Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Horton and Butler, on Friday next, the 6th day of June, at the house of Mr. *William Johnson*, sign of the RISING SUN, Wednesbury aforesaid, at Six o'clock in the evening.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1851

“*William Johnson*, licensed victualler, of Wednesbury, was charged with assaulting William Spittle, of the same place, who stated that he went to the house of the defendant, when some words ensued between them, and the defendant threw a glass of ale at him, and threatened to kill him. The defendant was ordered to find sureties, and pay the costs.”

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.....

William Johnson, Wednesbury, cautioned.....

Those cautioned had that remark written on the back of their license.”

Birmingham Journal 15/5/1852 - Advert

“Wednesbury Ratepayers Protection Association.

At an open air Meeting of the above Association, held on Monday evening, the 10th instant, on a Plot of Land belonging to Mr. *J. H. Blakemore*, adjoining the RISING SUN INN, Trowse Lane, the Rules and Objects of the Association having been read by the Secretary, Mr. A. Whitehouse, the following Resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. E. S. Glew; seconded by Mr. Mayes.

1st. That the Rules and Objects of the Wednesbury Ratepayers Protection Association, which have been read by the Secretary, be printed and distributed to the Ratepayers generally.

Moved by Mr. Thomas Danks; seconded by Mr. Chas. Gething.

2nd. That the Ratepayers Protection Association deprecate the clandestine manner in which the Parish has been brought under the Health of Towns Act; also the late proceedings in respect to obtaining the Church Rate.

Moved by Mr. Anslow; seconded by Mr. Mason.

3rd. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. Joseph Allday, Town Councillor of Birmingham, for his attendance on this occasion, and for the valuable information he has imparted to the Association.

Moved by Mr. Whitehouse; seconded by Mr. Trow.

4th. That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. B. Danks, for his able conduct in the Chair.

Wednesbury, May 10th, 1852.”

Birmingham Journal 17/7/1852 - Advert

“To Manufacturers, Agriculturists, Brokers, and Others.

Sale of Steam Engines, a capital Gipsy Van, a very useful Horse, a variety of Household Furniture, and other Effects, at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, at the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury (removed there for convenience of Sale) on Monday, July the 26th, 1852.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/9/1852

“Licensing Day for Offlow South.....

Inspector Blaney addressed a notice to the chief superintendent complaining of the conduct of the following licensed victuallers, who, having music and allowing dancing in their respective inns, were accused of letting out the company at a late hour. Some of these persons, elevated with liquor, made noises and created disturbances in the street, much to the annoyance of the peaceable and well disposed. Major M'Knight laid the paper before the Court, and the delinquents, who did not deny the music and dancing, merely said they discharged their company at the proper hour; they did not suffer drunkenness on their premises. The Bench, through the Rev. I. Clarkson, said the evil appeared especially to prevail on Monday and Saturday nights, and the defendants must be seriously admonished as to their future conduct. This referred to.....

John Blakemore, RISING SUN, Wednesbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/11/1852

“An adjourned inquest was held the 3rd instant, at the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury, before Mr. George Hinchliffe, coroner, on the body of Benjamin Corfield. The deceased was employed as a miner at Mr. Bailey’s, Sedgley Colliery, and whilst ascending the shaft of the water pit, on the 28th ult, in the water barrel, a quantity of coal accidentally fell down the shaft, in consequence of the breaking of the axle tree of a loaded cart which was passing. The coal fell on the head of the deceased, knocked him out of the barrel, and he was subsequently brought up quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but they and the coroner strongly condemned the practice of allowing men to ascend the water shaft without a proper skip and tacklers; they also recommended that the coals should not be loaded so near the mouth of the pits. Thomas Wynne, Esq, inspector of coal mines, was present at the inquiry, and stated that the opinion expressed coincided with his own.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/5/1853

“At Wednesbury petty sessions, on Tuesday last, Charles Bowman, Thomas Walters, and Thomas Griffiths were charged with assaulting Mr. *John Harris Blakemore*, landlord of the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury, and his servant girl. Soon after midnight on Saturday last, and when the RISING SUN had been cleared of its customers, the defendants went together to the inn, and demanded to be supplied with drink. Their demand was not acceded to, and they knocked down the plaintiff, and then struck and cut him with a stone so severely, that it was necessary afterwards to procure surgical aid. They also assaulted Mrs. Harris [sic] and the maid servant of the inn. The offenders were each fined 40s and costs, or two months’ imprisonment, for assaulting Mr. Harris [sic], and 10s and costs, or to be imprisoned for one month, for the assault upon the servant; in all, £4 12s each, or imprisonment for three months. The defendants went to prison.”

Birmingham Journal 29/10/1853 - Advert

“Seventh and Final Sale of Freehold Building Land, at Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright and Son, on Monday, the 14th day of November, 1853, at the house of Mr. *John Blakemore*, the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury, at Six o’clock in the evening.....”

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *R. Holland*, RISING SUN, Trowse Lane.”

Birmingham Journal 28/11/1857

“John Murphy was charged at Wednesbury Police Office on Tuesday with wilful damage. *John Titley*, a publican, stated that the defendant came into his house last Sunday night, and was very disorderly. He came again on the following day, but on account of his previous bad conduct no drink was supplied to him. In revenge, he broke a jug and glasses, to the value of 11d. The defendant was ordered to pay the costs, and the value of the articles broken. There was also a charge of stealing 12s against him; but the prosecutor not appearing, he was discharged on that count.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/1/1858

“Mr. Walker, from the office of Mr. W. H. Duignan, Walsall, appeared before the stipendiary magistrate, on Tuesday, to lay an information against William [sic] *Titley*, of the RISING SUN public house, Wednesbury, a respectable innkeeper, for allowing a pork pie to be raffled for in his house. Mr. Walker said the defendant had admitted the facts, and insisted on the evils of gambling in Wednesbury and elsewhere as grounds for bringing this information. Mr. Burbury, for the defence, alleged that the landlord had obtained no benefit from the transaction, that the raffle was for the benefit of a poor widow, and that the case would not have been brought before the bench but for a dispute as to who was the winner of the pie. Mr. Leigh directed that the charge to be withdrawn on payment of costs and half a sovereign to the attorney, in all £1 6s 6d.”

London Gazette 17/8/1858

“Whereas a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, bearing date the 7th day of August, 1858, hath been filed against *John Harris Blakemore*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Brass and Iron Founder, and he being declared bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to John Balguy, Esq., one of Her Majesty’s Commissioners of the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, on the 27th day of August instant, and on the 16th day of September next, at half past eleven of the clock in the forenoon, on each of the said days, 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, and at the first sitting to choose assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt 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 Mr. Frederick Whitmore, No.19, Temple-street, Birmingham, the Official Assignee whom the Commissioner has appointed, and give notice to Mr. John Smith, Solicitor, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Journal 4/9/1858 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady, middle-aged Woman-Of-All-Work. Also, a Young Man, about 17 or 18, to wait and make himself generally useful.

Apply personally, at the RISING SUN, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a steady, middle-aged WOMAN-OF-ALL-WORK. Also, a Young MAN, about 17 or 18, to wait and make himself generally useful. Apply personally, at the Rising Sun, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/12/1858 - Advert

“Freehold Iron and Brass Foundry, with Steam Engine and other Fixtures; that well-known Inn, the RISING SUN; and several other substantial Dwelling Houses, Plots of Land, and other Premises, situated at Wednesbury.

Joseph Dawes will Sell by Auction, at the RISING SUN INN, in Wednesbury, on Wednesday the 29th day of December, at six o’clock in the evening, by order of the Assignees of Mr. *John Harris Blakemore*, a Bankrupt.....

Lot 1. An excellent and well-accustomed Inn, with Retail Spirit Vaults attached, known by the sign of the RISING SUN, and standing at the junction of Trowse Lane, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and Meeting Street, with the Brewhouse, Outbuildings, Yard, and Premises thereto belonging, as the same are now occupied by *John Titley*; and three Dwelling Houses adjoining thereto, and Yard, and fronting to Meeting Street aforesaid, with the Outbuildings thereto belonging, occupied by Thomas Richards, Thomas Roberts, and William Cain.

This lot, including the site of the Buildings, has an area of 554 square yards.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/4/1859 - Advert

“Wanted, at the RISING SUN, Wednesbury, Two strong respectable Servant Girls.

Apply at the above Inn. Liberal wages given.”

WANTED, at the Rising Sun, Wednesbury, Two strong respectable SERVANT GIRLS.—Apply at the above Inn. Liberal wages given.

1861 Census

Trowse Lane

[1] *John Titley* (39), licensed victualler, born Cheadle, Staffordshire;

[2] Ann Titley (35), wife, born Burslem, Staffordshire;

[3] William Titley (10), son, born Haywood, Staffordshire;

[4] Henry Titley (8), son, born Haywood, Staffordshire;

[5] Elizabeth Titley (6), daughter, born Stoke on Trent;

[6] Ann Titley (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[7] Mary Titley (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[8] Elizabeth Saunders (20), house servant, born Staffordshire;

[9] Mary Haggaty (13), house servant, born Wednesbury;

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/12/1861 - Advert

“To Showmen and Others.

To be Sold, the largest and handsomest Pig in the world.

Apply to Mr. *John Titley*, RISING SUN, Wednesbury, where the pig may be seen.”

TO SHOWMEN and Others.—To be **SOLD**, the largest and handsomest PIG in the world. Apply to Mr John Titley, Rising Sun, Wednesbury, where the pig may be seen.

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

“Anthony Neave, an Irishman, was charged with wilfully damaging a window at the house of Mr. *J. Titley*, the RISING SUN, High Bullen, Wednesbury. On Sunday night defendant, on being turned out of the house for disorderly conduct, took up several large stones and bricks and threw them through the window, doing damage to the amount of £1 17s 6d. He was fined 2s 6d and costs, and ordered to make good the damage, or in default two months’ imprisonment.

The defendant was then charged with assaulting police-constable Birch. The officer went to take him into custody on the charge of wilful damage, but he refused to leave his house unless the constable produced a warrant for his apprehension, and in the scuffle the latter was severely handled. As the defendant was legally justified in resisting his capture without a warrant, the case was dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/8/1863

“At Walsall Petty Sessions, yesterday, an application was made on behalf of *John Titley*, licensed victualler, Wednesbury, for leave to sell excisable liquors at Bloxwich wakes.

The Mayor wished to know if the applicant was the party who waited upon him on Saturday last with a similar application, and on being answered in the affirmative, his Worship said he considered the applicant a most impertinent fellow. When he called upon him (the Mayor) and was informed that the application could not be granted, and the grounds upon which it was refused were explained, he grossly insulted him (his Worship) in his own office. He had now to inform Mr. *Titley* that the Bench were unanimously of opinion not to grant the application.

Mr. Ward said the applicant had been to him to sign the application, and he also had refused to do so.

The Mayor said he considered it would be very unfair to the victuallers of Bloxwich, who had the rates and taxes of the place to pay, to permit parties from a distance to open refreshment booths in front of their houses.

The application was accordingly refused.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/1/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, two clean respectable Servants, who have been used to a Public-house; about twenty-five and fifteen. Apply at the RISING SUN, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, two clean respectable SERVANTS, who have been used to a Public-house; about twenty-five and fifteen.—Apply at the Rising Sun, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/9/1864

“Benjamin Topley, Edward Price, John Jones, screw bolt forgers, and John Mason, collier, were on Tuesday brought up before the Stipendiary at Wednesbury on a charge of having assaulted and robbed on the highway a labourer named Benjamin Williams of a silver watch and chain.

From the evidence it appeared that on Tuesday afternoon the prosecutor went to the RISING SUN INN, High Bullen, and staid drinking there all afternoon and a portion of the evening, when he left, but at what hour he could not say, as he was drunk; but he had not proceeded far when he was knocked down, beaten, kicked, and ill-treated, from the effects of which he remained unconscious for some time. When he came to himself he found he had been robbed of his watch and several other articles. He wandered on as far as his son’s house at Hill Top, where he arrived about two o’clock on the Wednesday morning, covered with blood and dirt, and his eyes blackened. He was afterwards attended by a medial gentleman for several days.

On the Wednesday at noon the prisoner Topley went to the shop of Mr. Mold, pawnbroker, Walsall, and asked 17s on the watch, produced, which was identified as the prosecutor’s property. Sixteen shillings was loaned on the watch by William Mold, junior, and the ticket was taken out by Topley in the name of Thomas King, of Dudley Street, Wednesbury. On the following day the prisoner went a second time to Mr. Mold’s in order to redeem the watch, when he was handed over to the custody of Police-sergeant Wood, of the Walsall police, and while being conveyed to the station house he said that ‘it was the first job of the sort he had ever been in in his life.’ He was afterwards charged at the Wednesbury Police Station, in the presence of Sergeant Steele, and while the articles stolen were being enumerated, he said he (the prosecutor) ‘didn’t have a handkerchief.’ The three other prisoners were afterwards apprehended on the charge of having been concerned in the robbery, as they were seen by Sergeant Steele the same night and early the following morning in High Street at a distance of only a few hundred yards from the spot where the robbery was committed.

The prisoners were remanded until Monday next, at the West Bromwich Police Court, in order to admit of time for the police to prosecute some necessary inquiries affecting the three prisoners arrested on suspicion. The accused, with the exception of Topley, were admitted to bail in two sureties of £5 each, and themselves in £10.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/9/1864

“William Topley, John Mason, David Price, and John Jones were brought up on remand at the Police Court, yesterday, charged with having assaulted and robbed, on the highway, a labourer, named Benjamin Williams, a resident of Wednesbury. The particulars of the case have been already published. Since the prisoners’ incarceration on the charge, Topley has made a statement in the presence of Police-sergeant Gasson, in which he implicated the three other prisoners as having taken an active part in the assault and robbery. The only independent testimony against them, however, was the fact that they had been seen in the neighbourhood where the robbery took place on the night in question, and early the ensuing morning. The Stipendiary, however, did not consider the evidence sufficiently conclusive to commit on, and all of the accused, with the exception of Topley were discharged, Topley being fully committed to take his trial at the Assizes.”

AND

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 3/12/1864

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

William Topley, 30, miner, was indicted for violently assaulting Benjamin Williams, on the 6th of September, and stealing a silver watch and chain. Mr. Hill prosecuted. The prisoner was found guilty of feloniously receiving the watch, and was sentenced to four months’ imprisonment, with hard labour, having been in prison for two months.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/12/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, a Servant Woman about 23; one that has been used to a Public-house. Liberal wages given. Apply at the RISING SUN Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a SERVANT WOMAN about 23; one that has been used to a Public-house. Liberal wages given.—Apply at the Rising Sun, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/6/1865 - Advert

“Wednesbury. First-Class Liquor Vaults.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold (by direction of Mr. *John Titley*, who is leaving the neighbourhood).

The License, Goodwill, and Possession, of that excellent Liquor Vaults and Tavern, known as the RISING SUN, in Trowse Lane, at the corner of Meeting Street, Wednesbury. The House has been carried on with great success by Mr. *Titley*, for ten years, and is now in full business. The consumption of Malt exceeds 1,000 bushels a year, and there is a large Spirit Trade done. Rent, £40. Coming-in about £550.

Apply to Roderick and Son, Auctioneers, 35, Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/2/1866 - Advert

“To be Sold, a Bargain, full-compass Trichord Cottage Piano-Forte, in handsome Walnut Case, Metallic Plate, and all the latest improvements.

Apply to Mr. *Wilkes*, the RISING SUN, High Bullen, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/5/1866

“Meeting of the Wednesbury Board of Health.....

The Inspector of Nuisances report was read, and showed, amongst other nuisances, one existing on the premises of Mr. *Wilkes*, the RISING SUN public house, caused by Mr. *Wilkes* keeping pigs. Mr. *Wilkes* appeared before the Board, and at their request consented to part with the pigs.”

Walsall Advertiser 2/2/1867 - Advert

“RISING SUN INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.

Unreserved Sale by Auction, on Monday, February 4th, 1867, upon the above-named premises, comprising the whole of the useful household Furniture and other effects, belonging to Mr. Richard Holland, which will be Sold by Auction, by R. L. Courtney.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock am.

Auctioneer’s Offices, High Street, Westbromwich, and 34, Station Street, Walsall.”

RISING SUN INN,

TROUSE LANE, WEDNESBURY.

UNRESERVED SALE BY AUCTION, on Monday, February 4th, 1867, upon the above-named premises, comprising the whole of the useful household FURNITURE and other effects, belonging to Mr. Richard Holland, which will be Sold by Auction, by R. L. COURTNEY.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock a.m.

Auctioneer’s Offices—

High St., Westbromwich, & 34, Station St., Walsall

Thomas Cook = Thomas Cooke

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/9/1868

“Henry Mason, who said he was a gasfitter, and lived at Manchester, was brought up in custody at Walsall Police Court, on Thursday, charged with stealing a silver watch, worth 30s, from the person of *Thomas Cook*, landlord of the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury.

The prosecutor stated that at about five or six o’clock on Wednesday evening, he was on the Walsall racecourse, and stood by the ropes to witness the last race. After he had been there a short time he felt prisoner’s hand in his pocket, and on turning round quickly he saw the prisoner with his watch. He had it in his right hand at first; but immediately he observed that he was detected he threw the watch on the ground, and endeavoured to get away. Witness, however, seized him, and by the assistance of a friend held him until a policeman arrived. The ring of the watch, to which the chain was attached, was nipped clear off.

Police-constable Wynne proved having apprehended the prisoner, and upon his pleading guilty, he was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/7/1869

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Thomas Cook*, licensed victualler, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house on the previous Tuesday. Sergeant Steele said he visited the RISING SUN, Trowse Lane, kept by the defendant, on Tuesday morning. He saw one man on the floor asleep and drunk, and another sitting on the bench in a state of intoxication. Mr. Ebsworth defended. The Bench fined defendant 20s and costs, as this was the first conviction.”

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.....

Thomas Cooke, RISING SUN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.”

1871 Census

1, Trowse Lane – RISING SUN INN

[1] *Thomas Cook* (56), licensed victualler, born Tamworth;

[2] Ann Cook (57), wife, born Walsall;

[3] William Cook (33), son, furniture dealer, born Walsall;

[4] John Cook (25), son, bridge plater, born Walsall;

[5] Ann Cook (20), daughter, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/9/1871

“At the Police Court, yesterday, the following cases against Wednesbury publicans were brought before the Stipendiary (Mr. I. Spooner) and adjudicated upon.....

Thomas Cook, the RISING SUN, High Bullen, for permitting drunkenness.

Police-constable William Jones, on Monday night, the 11th instant, visited the defendant’s house, at about half-past twelve o’clock, when he found three men asleep there. On awakening them they used very bad language, and on calling the landlord’s attention to the matter he turned the men out. The witness was severely cross-examined by Mr. Ebsworth (who appeared for the defence) as to whether the men were really drunk, but adhered to his first statement; he could tell by the demeanour, the actions, and the violence of the men that they were intoxicated; they could not sit upright.

Mr. Ebsworth palliated the offence by pleading that, as it was Wake time, it would be almost a matter of impossibility to exclude, even in the best conducted houses, people who might be under the influence of drink. Defendant had hitherto conducted his house in a satisfactory manner.

Police-constable Walters, on being asked by Mr. Spooner, said the defendant had been fined in 1869 for committing a similar offence. The house had, however, been conducted rather better since then.

The Stipendiary: Only ‘rather’ better? That does not speak well for it. A good deal, added Mr. Spooner, had been said about the liability of the landlord, but there was no question that any person who took a public house like that, at the same time took upon himself the responsibility of not permitting any offence to be committed in it – and the gravest offence was to permit drunkenness. If a person was not fit to keep his house, why did he not give it up, and

not let the public be preyed upon and injured by the drunkenness, which was a general nuisance in the district? He should fine the defendant £5 and costs, and his license would be endorsed, and he hoped and trusted that the magistrates would refuse his license at the next Licensing Sessions.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/3/1872

“*Thomas Cook*, landlord of the RISING SUN liquor shop, Trowse Lane, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house. On the 13th ult Police-sergeant Morris visited defendant’s house just after one o’clock, and then saw ten or twelve men and women come from another public house and enter the defendant’s. They were most of them intoxicated. He left the place, and on returning at half-past two Morris found the place in great confusion; there were ten or twelve drinking, but altogether there were about twenty men and women in the shop, not two of them being sober.

Mr. Ebsworth, who admitted that the defendant had done wrong, begged that the Stipendiary would not endorse the license, as complainant having been twice before convicted would possibly lose it if he did so.

Mr. Spooner, who said that he only hoped at licensing day the defendant would lose his licence, fined the defendant £5 and costs, and his license was endorsed.”

Thomas Cook – see also RED LION, Park Street, Walsall.

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/7/1873

“*Samuel Parker*, *Thomas Wright*, and *John Booth*, three young men, were summoned for having been quarrelsome in the RISING SUN, Wednesbury, on the night of the 17th ult, and were fined 5s and costs each, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

Midland Examiner 25/3/1876

“*James Fletcher*, landlord of the RISING SUN INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house on the 7th instant. Police-constable Hodgetts stated that on the 7th instant he went to the defendant’s house and found three men in the vaults in a drunken state. For the defence it was urged that the men were not intoxicated; that they were journeymen tailors on the tramp; and that they called on their way to have some refreshments. The case was dismissed.”

Midland Examiner 24/8/1878

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Wednesday, a married woman named *Elizabeth Dodd* was charged with wilful damage, and also with assaulting *Elizabeth Cartwright*, in Trowse Lane, on the 29th ult.

The defendant went to the RISING SUN INN, which was kept by *Joseph Woodhall*, and, seeing *Cartwright* talking to a person, she threw a glass which caught her on the forehead, the consequence being that *Cartwright* sustained injuries, and the glass was broken.

The Bench fined defendant 20s and costs, or in default one month’s imprisonment for the assault, and also ordered her to pay 5d damage and 5s and costs for breaking the glass.”

Wednesbury Herald 20/9/1879

“*Joseph Woodhall*, landlord of the RISING SUN INN, Trowse Lane, was summoned for keeping his house open for the sale of liquors during prohibited hours on Sunday the 7th inst. Mr. Williams, of Walsall, defended.

Police constable Aldrit said that in accordance with instructions given him, he and Police constable Wassell went into Meeting Street at a quarter past four o’clock, for the purpose of watching the back part of defendant’s house. At a quarter to seven he saw defendant come out of the house and speak to a man in the street. He afterwards went back again and on again returning he placed a bottle containing whisky or brandy in the man’s pocket. At ten minutes past seven o’clock he saw a woman go into defendant’s house, and come out again with what appeared to be a jug under her arm. At 7.17 he saw a man come out of the front part of the house, but he did not appear to have a jug in his possession.

Police constable Wassell gave corroborative evidence.

Defendant said he did not get up until 7.35, and that he did not supply any person with spirits until nine o’clock. A woman was ill and he gave her a cup of rum.

Mr. J. W. Williams: You wish to make us believe that you acted the good Samaritan?

Mr. Williams contended that no case had been made out against his client, but the Bench said otherwise, and fined defendant 20s and costs.”

1881 Census

1, Trowse Lane – RISING SUN

- [1] Joseph Woodhall (43), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] Jemima Woodhall (44), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Lucretia A. Woodhall (16), daughter, born Walsall;
- [4] Charlotte D. Woodhall, (14), daughter, born Walsall;
- [5] Ernest J. Woodhall (12), son, scholar, born Walsall;
- [6] Jemima L. Woodhall (11), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;
- [7] Adelina Woodhall (9), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;
- [8] William E. Woodhall (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Rosannah Woodhall (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Dudley and District News 3/12/1881

“Patrick Connor (26), puddler, Carribee Street, Wolverhampton, was charged with being drunk, assaulting the police, and also with assaulting Thomas [sic] *Woodhall*, landlord of the RISING SUN INN, Wednesbury, which house he refused to quit when requested, on the previous Saturday night.

Prisoner went into the inn drunk, and, on the landlord requesting him to leave the premises, he became very violent, and pushed the landlord about. Hearing the disturbance, Police-constables Bishop and Lyttle went in and arrested prisoner, when he made a desperate attempt to escape and kicked them right and left.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s and costs for refusing to quit, and a similar penalty for assaulting the police.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/12/1881

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, *Joseph Woodhall*, landlord of the RISING SUN, Trowse Lane, was charged with keeping a disorderly house, and also with allowing raffling on his premises. Mr. Brevitt, of Wolverhampton, appeared to prosecute on behalf of the county authorities, and Mr. Sheldon appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Sheldon said the house occupied by the defendant belonged to Messrs. Fletcher, wine and spirit merchants, Walsall, and he and his friend having consulted together, had agreed with the permission of the Bench to pay a fine of £5 and costs in the first case. In the other case, which was raffling for a leg of pork, injudiciously permitted by the defendant, and of which information was laid by some one connected with it, he would consent to pay a fine of 20s and costs on the understanding that the license should not be endorsed.

Mr. Brevitt said the case was a very serious one, and he was aware that letters had been written by Messrs. Fletcher to the occupier, cautioning him against allowing any women on his premises under any pretence whatever. The defendant had not attended to those orders, and therefore it would be very hard for Messrs. Fletcher to suffer for the faults of the occupier. He understood that the proprietors of the house had made arrangements to remove the defendant at once, and he would, therefore, with the permission of the Bench, consent to the suggestions Mr. Sheldon had made to the Bench.

The Bench said they could not consent to the suggestions made without hearing a certain amount of evidence. Mr. Brevitt said if evidence was required he should have to go into the case, which was ultimately done.

Police-constable Lytle said on the evening of the 5th November he saw Mrs. James and Annie Knight, both prostitutes, enter the back premises of the defendant’s house, in company with men, and remain there for a quarter of an hour. He went twice again the same night to the defendant’s house, and on each occasion he saw the same women in company with men in the house. On the following Saturday, about eight o’clock, he saw Mrs. James and another prostitute, named ‘Little Alice,’ enter the side door of the defendant’s house the same as the preceding Saturday evening. He saw other prostitutes enter the house at that time, and at nine o’clock none of the women he saw enter had left the house. During that evening he saw the landlord take liquors into the smokeroom. On the 19th November, about eight o’clock, he again watched the house, and saw four women conduct themselves in the same manner as the two preceding Saturdays, and a prostitute named Woodall (no relation to the defendant) came out of the house drunk. On the evening of the 26th witness went into the house several times, and on each occasion he saw prostitutes who, when they observed him, went out of the house.

Mr. Sheldon, on behalf of his client then pleaded guilty, and said it would be unnecessary to call further evidence in support of the prosecution.

The Bench said the evidence disclosed the most disgraceful state of things that had ever come under their notice. They, therefore, would impose the fullest penalty, £10 and costs, and endorse the license.

The defendant also pleaded guilty to the charge of allowing raffling on his premises, and was fined 10s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/8/1882

“Annual general licensing meeting for the division of West Bromwich.....

Mr. Holland, superintendent of the Wednesbury division, reported that there were six licensed victuallers proceeded against during the past year. One, *Joseph Woodhall*, of the RISING SUN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, was convicted for two offences – one for harbouring prostitutes, for which he was fined £10 and costs, and the license endorsed; the second for permitting gambling, and was fined 10s and costs. *Woodhall* had since left the house, and it was being well conducted by *John Hamson* License renewed.”

1891 Census

1, Trowse Lane – RISING SUN

[1] *Thomas Brown* (46), publican's manager, born Whysall, Nottinghamshire;

[2] *Mary Brown* (54), wife, born Handsworth;

[3] *Elizabeth M. Brown* (10), daughter, born Shirland, Derbyshire:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/9/1898

“At the Wednesbury Borough Police Court today, *Thomas Hodgkin Brown*, of the RISING SUN INN, Trowse Lane, was charged with assaulting *Emma Stewart*, a married woman, also of Trowse Lane. Mr. J. S. Sharpe represented the complainant, and Mr. Checketts (Walsall) defended.

Mr. Sharpe said on the 20th inst his client was out waiting upon a woman, and about ten o'clock at night she went to defendant's house for some gin and wormwood. Defendant did not treat her civilly, but supplied her. A little later complainant went to defendant for her supper-beer, and a dispute arose over 2½d, which it was alleged the complainant owed him. He filled her jug and then demanded 5d, but complainant denied that she owed defendant anything. Defendant thereupon emptied the jug, and remarking that complainant was drunk, went round the counter to her and put her out of the house. In doing this he handled complainant roughly, and kicked her in the stomach. A doctor subsequently saw the complainant, and she had to be poulticed. Mr. Sharpe added that he thought it was an outrageous thing that because defendant lost his temper over 2½d, and because complainant had not gone regularly to him for beer, he should assault her, and in order to bolster up his case say that she was drunk.

A cross-summons was issued against complainant for being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the RISING SUN. It was urged that *Stewart* was drunk, and *Brown* refused to serve and requested her to leave his house, and because she would not go he ejected her, but did not use unnecessary violence.

Mr. Checketts was calling evidence, when a consultation took place between the parties.

Mr. Sharpe then said he was willing to withdraw the charge against *Brown* if he would, on the other hand, withdraw his charge and any imputation against *Stewart*.

These terms were accepted, and the cases dropped through.”

1901 Census

1, Trowse Lane – RISING SUN TAVERN

[1] *Thomas H. Brown* (60), licensed victualler, born Wassall, Nottinghamshire;

[2] *Mary Brown* (65), wife, born Handsworth;

[3] *Elizabeth M. Caborn* (20), daughter, born Shirland, Derbyshire;

[4] *Joseph C. Caborn* (25), son-in-law, iron moulder, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 3/12/1904

“At the Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions, on Wednesday, *William Mason* (25), baker, was indicted for having stolen, at Wednesbury, on October 15th, 38s, the money of *Frederick Baker*.

The evidence showed that prosecutor kept the RISING SUN INN, at Wednesbury. On October 15th the prisoner had went into the public house, and after he had gone the money had gone. Subsequently prisoner expressed his regret and promised to refund the money. He was found guilty and sentenced to three years' penal servitude.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/12/1904

“Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions.....

William Mason, 25, baker, was indicted for stealing 38s, the moneys of *Frederick Baker*, at Wednesbury, on October 15. Mr. C. Bronte Morgan prosecuted.

The money was stolen from a glass in the bar at the RISING SUN INN, and was missed after the prisoner had been drinking there alone. He afterwards admitted the theft to the landlord, and said he had squandered the money. He was found guilty, and it appeared that he had been in trouble since 1893, and on the last occasion received severe punishment.

The Assistant-Chairman, in passing sentence of three years' penal servitude, said it was necessary to shut the prisoner up and keep him from preying on his fellow-beings.”

1911 Census

81, Meeting Street – RISING SUN

[1] *Joseph Higginson* (33), storekeeper, spirits, born Tipton;

[2] *Cathine Higginson* (25), wife, married 3 years, assisting in the business, born Oldbury;

[3] *Olive Irene Higginson* (1), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Mail 10/5/1915 - Advert

“General (good, strong) Wanted.

Apply Mrs. *Shuck*, RISING SUN, Grouse [sic] Lane, Wednesbury.

GENERAL (good, strong) Wanted. – Apply, Mrs. *Shuck*,
Rising Sun, Grouse Lane, Wednesbury.

1921 Census

1, Trowse Lane

[1] *Oliver Holt* (41), manager of public house, born Walsall;

[2] *Frances Annie Holt* (42), wife, born Walsall;

[3] *Marie Elizabeth Holt* (17), daughter, fancy leather worker, out of work, born Walsall;

[4] *Minnie Gertrude Holt* (15), daughter, book binder, out of work, born Walsall;

[5] *Oliver Harry Holt* (9), son, school, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1937

“Monthly meeting of Wednesbury Town Council yesterday.....

A recommendation that the GEORGE INN, Union Street, and other properties belonging to the brewery company should be acquired, and for the re-sale to the brewery company of a similar area of land in connection with the Central Area Improvement scheme, at a price of £3,000 plus £400 costs, was confirmed.”

Walsall Observer 24/4/1937

“Wednesbury Licensing Justices yesterday granted an application in respect of the removal of the license of the RISING SUN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, to premises proposed to be erected at the rear of the present house and premises.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1938

“While working on the demolition of the RISING SUN INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, yesterday, William Jones, aged 39, of 156, Borneo Street, Walsall, was injured when a ceiling collapsed. He was taken to West Bromwich Hospital for treatment, but was not detained.”

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.....

RISING SUN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 9/9/1939

“Wednesbury’s Raid Shelters.

Following is list of the air raid shelters which are now ready or will be available shortly, with the accommodation provided.....

RISING SUN INN, Trowse Lane (100).”

1939 Register

1, Trowse Lane – RISING SUN

[1] *Arthur Standley*, date of birth 28/12/1878, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Gertrude Standley*, dob 16/12/1881, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Harry Standley*, dob 18/09/1908, railway fireman, single;

[4] *Mabel Standley*, dob 1/9/1905, barmaid, single;

[5] *Ivy (Standley) Webster*, dob 23/2/1911, drapery shop assistant, single;

[6] *Hilda (Standley) Sanders*, dob 25/9/1919, newsagents shop assistant, single:

Walsall Observer 28/9/1940

“Miss *Hilda Standley*, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *A. Standley*, of the RISING SUN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, on Wednesday gave a coming-of-age party on the premises of *W. H. Smith & Sons (Wholesale Department)*, Walsall, where she is employed. Many of the staff and friends were present. The ground floor staff of the wholesale department gave her a clock, and other members a solid silver bangle. Son of the wholesale department foreman, Mr. *H. Brown*, Pte. *Howard Brown*, serving with a searchlight unit, came of age this week and was the recipient of many congratulatory messages and presents.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

Arthur Standley died in the 3rd quarter of 1949.

Arthur Standley – see also *SHOULDER OF MUTTON*, Spon Lane, West Bromwich..

Coleshill Chronicle 6/1/1951

“Mr. *Albert Hatton*, who was recently appointed steward at Minworth Social Club, was formerly licensee of the RISING SUN, Wednesbury. He is a keen sportsman, a shrewd inside-forward, and has already appeared in the Social FC colours.”

Tipton Herald 29/9/1956 - Advert

“Wanted, Barmaid.

Apply, *Taylor*, RISING SUN, Highbullen, Wednesbury.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1962]

Edinburgh Gazette 9/3/1976

“*David Leonard Marsden*, of 173 Todmorden Road, Burnley, Lancashire, plastic pipe extruder operator, lately residing and carrying on business as a licensed victualler at the RISING SUN INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury, West Midlands.”

Walsall Observer 17/7/1981

“Wednesbury side *Queensbury Rangers* won the Premier Division of the Sandwell Sunday League last season. And at their annual presentation night, at the RISING SUN, Wednesbury, Walsall reserve team keeper *Martin Connearly* and athlete *Ian Stewart* were the guests of honour.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/12/1982

“A Wednesbury man and his wife were this morning finishing mopping up at their pub after 50 gallons of water flooded part of the premises last night. Mr. *Kevin Woodhouse* and his wife *Norma* had closed the RISING SUN at the end of licensing hours when a valve on a water heater burst.”

London Gazette 18/8/1983

"Kevin Woodhouse, unemployed, of 22 Thorn Close, Wednesbury, in the metropolitan county of West Midlands, lately carrying on business as a Tenant Publican at the RISING SUN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury aforesaid, and formerly so carrying on business at the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury aforesaid.

Court - Dudley.

Date of Order - 2nd August 1983.

Date of Filing Petition - 2nd August 1983."

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/3/1984 - Advert

"The RISING SUN, Wednesbury.

Christina and Peter present on

Friday, March 10, Musical Duo Brian-Lacey.

Saturday, Guitar and Vocalist Dave T.

Monday, Guitar and Vocalist Gary."

**THE RISING SUN
WEDNESBURY**
Christina and Peter
present on
Friday, March 10
**MUSICAL DUO — BRIAN-
LACEY**
Saturday
**GUITAR & VOCALIST
DAVE 'T'**
Monday
**GUITAR & VOCALIST
'GARY'**

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/6/1984

"More than 80 Sandwell pub licensees who were bitter about a slump in trade have won their battle for a rates cut RISING SUN INN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/11/1986 - Advert

"RISING SUN, Wednesbury.

Beautiful meals, silly prices, cosy dining room.

Entertainment every Saturday. Room for hire.

Reservations ring 021 502 4912."

RISING SUN, WEDNESBURY.
Beautiful meals, silly prices, cosy
dining room. Entertainment every
Saturday. Room for hire — Reser-
vations ring 021 502 4912.

A team from here won the Walsall Highgate Super Pool League championship. [1989]

Closed

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/4/1991

"A former Wednesbury pub could be converted into a nursing home. Plans for the RISING SUN at Trowse Lane to be turned into a nursing home for 25 people have been submitted to Sandwell planners. The pub would have eight bedrooms, dining room and lounge on the ground and 15 bedrooms on the first floor."

It was converted into a nursing home.

Public House in Wednesbury.

TO be SOLD by private Contract, all that convenient Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House, now and for many Years past used as a Public or Victualling House, known by the Sign of the SUN, with the Stable, Outbuildings, Well of good Water, and other the Appurtenances, desirably situated at the Entrance of the Town of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, adjoining the Turnpike Road leading from Bilston and Darlaston, and now occupied by Josiah Foster.

For further Particulars, and to treat for the Purchase, apply to Mr. Thomas Stone, Gun-lock Master, or Messrs. Crowther, Solicitors, Wednesbury.

1816

Also, that well known and old established Inn called the RISING SUN, situate at or near the High Bullen, in the town of Wednesbury; together with the extensive outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, which is now, and for many years has been in the occupation of Mr. William Colcomb.

1836

PUBLIC HOUSE.—WEDNESBURY.
ON SALE, by Private Contract, an excellent FREE-HOLD MESSAGE and Premises, known by the sign of the "Rising Sun Inn," in the occupation of Mr. J. H. Hitchin.
Apply to Mr. GIBBONS, accountant, or to Mr. CHARLES CORSER, solicitor, both of Wolverhampton.

1846

AN OLD-ESTABLISHED PUBLIC HOUSE,

The Rising Sun Inn, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Messrs. WALKER and PAGE, on TUESDAY, the 25th day of May, 1847, at the Rising Sun Inn, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions of sale as will be then produced and read—all that Old-licensed and long-established PUBLIC HOUSE, called the "Rising Sun Inn," in the occupation of Mr. J. H. Hitchen, and situated at the High Bullen, Wednesbury, and fronting the Turnpike Road leading from that place to Bilston and Darlaston.

The House contains five capital dry and lofty Cellars, a good sized Tap Room, Parlour, large Kitchen, Bar, Back Parlour, large Brewhouse and Cooking Kitchen, a capital Club Room, 31 feet by 15 feet, and five good Sleeping Rooms. There is also a Pump of Hard Water, and a two-stall Stable, communicating with the Workhouse Lane, from which there is a Back Entrance to the whole of the Premises.

Also, all that Piece of BUILDING LAND, adjoining the above Premises, and having a Frontage to the said Turnpike Road of 7 yards 2 feet and 8 inches, and containing square yards.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. C. Corser, Solicitor, or the Auctioneers, Wolverhampton, at whose respective Offices a Plan of the Property may be seen.

1847

THE FIRST AND ONLY

EXCURSION TRAIN to LIVERPOOL will start from Birmingham, on MONDAY, AUGUST the 28th, at half-past one o'clock in the afternoon, and return from Liverpool on the following FRIDAY, at half-past six in the evening.

The Train, consisting of enclosed carriages, will travel at mail speed, stopping at Beccott Bridge, Wolverhampton, and Stafford, to take up and set down passengers.

This Train will run in conjunction with the Special Train from Bristol, Gloucester, and Cheltenham to Birmingham, and will enable parties to arrive in time by the early trains from Warwick, Leamington, Coventry, and other places.

TICKETS, THERE AND BACK, 10s. 6d. EACH.
To be had of the following persons:—Mr. PARKER, bookseller, Wolverhampton; Mr. MATTY, Wool Pack, Stourbridge; Mr. HODGETTS, Bird-in-Hand, Dudley; Mr. MOORE, Crown and Anchor, Oldbury; Mr. JONES, News Agent, Darlaston; Mr. MURRAY, Printer, West Bromwich; and Mr. SMITH, Rising Sun, Wednesbury. An early application is necessary.

To prevent disappointment to parties in the country requiring tickets the Committee would advise them to remit a Post Office Order for their Tickets, and made payable to HENRY SANSON, 42, Lower Hurst-street; or to Mr. JOHN MONLEY, No. 122, Suffolk-street, Birmingham, when they will be punctually attended to.

1848

FREEHOLD IRON AND BRASS FOUNDRY,
WITH
STEAM ENGINE AND OTHER FIXTURES;
THAT WELL-KNOWN INN "THE RISING SUN;"
AND SEVERAL OTHER SUBSTANTIAL
DWELLING HOUSES, PLOTS OF LAND,
AND OTHER PREMISES,
SITUATED AT WEDNESBURY.

JOSEPH DAWES will SELL by AUCTION, at the RISING SUN INN, in WEDNESBURY, on Wednesday, the 29th day of December, at six o'clock in the evening, by order of the Assignees of Mr. John Harris Blakemore, a Bankrupt, subject to conditions then to be produced and read—The following lots of valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY:—

LOT 1.—An excellent and well-accustomed INN, with Retail Spirit Vaults attached, known by the sign of "THE RISING SUN," and standing at the junction of Trowse Lane, in Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and Meeting-street, with the Brewhouse, Outbuildings, Yard, and Premises thereto belonging, as the same are now occupied by John Titley; and three DWELLING HOUSES adjoining thereto, and Yard, and fronting to Meeting-street aforesaid, with the Outbuildings thereto belonging, occupied by Thomas Richards, Thomas Roberts, and William Cain.

This lot, including the site of the Buildings, has an area of 554 square yards.

1858

WEDNESBURY.

FIRST-CLASS LIQUOR VAULTS.

BY RODERICK and SON.—To be SOLD (by direction of Mr. John Titley, who is leaving the neighbourhood), the LICENSE, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION, of that excellent Liquor Vaults and Tavern, known as "THE RISING SUN," in Trowse Lane, at the corner of Meeting Street, Wednesbury. The House has been carried on with great success by Mr. Titley, for ten years, and is now in full business. The consumption of Malt exceeds 1,000 bushels a year, and there is a large Spirit Trade done. Rent, £40. Coming-in about £550.
Apply to Roderick and Son, Auctioneers, 35, Cherry Street, Birmingham.

1865

RISING SUN
Meeting Street, Wednesbury

THIS THURSDAY & EVERY THURSDAY

SWEET SOUL DISCOTHEQUE
Your D.J. JAY BEE
Doors Open 8.0 p.m. Adm. 2/-

1971

MAY AND BOB
of

THE RISING SUN,
High Bullen,
Wednesbury.

Would like to wish all customers and friends a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

1973

PART-TIME BARMAIDS
wanted, 50p per hour.
Apply—
RISING SUN,
Trowse Lane,
Wednesbury.
Telephone 021 556 3470.

1974

ROBIN HOOD

74, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

George Harry Sampson Mason [1907]

LICENSEES

Ingram Morris [1868] – [1872]

William Harley [1879] – [1881]

Mary Webster [1882]

Walter Kemp Wright [1886]

John Partridge [1891] – [1896]

John Lacey [1898] – [1901]

George Harry Mason [1904]

Thomas Horton [1907]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

It was formerly the SPOTTED LEOPARD.

[1853]

WEDNESBURY.
SALE AT THE SPOTTED LEOPARD, PORTWAY ROAD.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY H. FARRINGTON, on the above Premises,
(without reserve,) on MONDAY, June 2nd, 1856;—the clean and
useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Brewing Vessels, well-seasoned
Ale Casks, and a variety of useful Effects; particulars of which will
appear in catalogues, to be had from the Auctioneer, Bridge Street,
Walsall.

Birmingham Journal 24/5/1856 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Sale at the SPOTTED LEOPARD, Portway Road.

To be Sold by Auction, by H. Farrington, on the above Premises, without reserve, on Monday, June 2nd, 1856.

The clean and useful Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, well-seasoned Ale Casks, and a variety of useful Effects; particulars of which will appear in catalogues, to be had from the Auctioneer, Bridge Street, Walsall.”

Ingram Morris, beer retailer, Portway Road. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1870

“On Thursday night, at about ten o’clock, a fire broke out at the house of Mr. T. [sic] *Morris*, ROBIN HOOD INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury. The Royal brigade, under the command of Mr. T. A. Ellis, attended, with their engine, and the fire was subdued by one o’clock, by which time property (consisting of the stables and loft, and the stock of hay, straw, &c, therein) had been destroyed. The origin of the fire is not known. The loss is covered by insurance.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/4/1870

“On Thursday evening a fire broke out in the stable of Mr. T. [sic] *Morris*, the ROBIN HOOD INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, and before it could be subdued property to the value of about £100 had been destroyed. The loss is covered by insurance.”

1871 Census

74, Portway Road

- [1] Ingram Morris (48), widower, beerhouse keeper, born Woodside, Staffordshire;
- [2] Sarah Morris (17), daughter, housekeeper, born West Bromwich;
- [3] William Morris (14), son, born Bilston;
- [4] Annie Morris (12), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Ingram Morris (5), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Mary Upton (18), step-daughter, general servant, birthplace not known;
- [7] Jesse Upton (16), step-son, birthplace not known;
- [8] Samuel Fishe (3), grand-son, born Wednesbury;

Ingram Morris, beer retailer, 74, Portway Road. [1872]

Wednesbury Herald 26/11/1879

“Success to Revival of Trade was celebrated on Saturday night last at Mr. *William Harley*’s, ROBIN HOOD INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, where a number of workmen were invited to a free supper, from a round of beef, supplied by the firm of Messrs. Chesters. The Chairman afterwards proposed ‘Success to John Bagnall and Sons Limited;’ and the vice chairman proposed ‘Success to revival of trade.’ Both toasts were enthusiastically received.”

1881 Census

74, Portway Road

- [1] William Harley (44), beer seller, born Cubbington, Warwickshire;
- [2] Louise Harley (30), wife, born Rudford, Gloucestershire;
- [3] Gertrude Amy Harley (10), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Frederick Joseph Harley (9), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Maud Emily Harley (7), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;
- [6] Louisa Harley (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Lauria Harley (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Ada Harley (10 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Lot 2.—All that commodious and conveniently-arranged FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE, the “Robin Hood,” in the occupation of Mary Webster, and comprising Entrance Passage, Bar Parlour, large Club Room, Kitchen, two Bedrooms, large Attic, two Cellars, and Brewhouse, with Maltroom over, also a three-stall Stable with Loft over same, and large Yard and Gateway, entrance from Portway Road, producing an annual rental of £40 0s. 0d.

Dudley and District News 1/4/1882 - Advert

“To Maltsters, Brewers, and Others.

Important Sale of the ROBIN HOOD Public House, Retail Shop, and three Dwelling Houses.

Mr. E. Cox (by order of the Mortgagee) on Tuesday, the 4th day of April, 1882.....

Lot 2. All that commodious and conveniently-arranged Freehold Beerhouse, the ROBIN HOOD, in the occupation of *Mary Webster*, and comprising Entrance Passage, Bar Parlour, large Club Room, Kitchen, two Bedrooms, large Attic, two Cellars, and Brewhouse, with Maltroom over, also a three-stall Stable with Loft over the same, and large Yard and Gateway, entrance from Portway Road, producing an annual rental of £40 0s 0d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1886

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Neville, stipendiary, *Walter Kemp Wright*, keeper of the ROBIN HOOD INN, Portway Road, was charged with selling beer at an improper hours.

At twenty minutes past one on the morning of Sunday, February 21, Police-constable Sutton saw a woman leave the house with a can, which was found to contain half a gallon of beer. On taking her back to the house, the landlady admitted serving the beer.

The defence was that the woman was a charwoman, and had received the beer as a gift.

The Stipendiary said the defendant had been doing a very dangerous thing, and discharged him with a caution.”

1891 Census

74, Portway Road – ROBIN HOOD INN

- [1] John Partridge (28), carpenter, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Matilda Partridge (24), wife, born Horseley Heath;
- [3] William Partridge (7), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Percy Partridge (5), son, born Darlaston;
- [5] John Partridge (10 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Daniel Lawrence (57), wife's father, retired, born Honiton Wood, Shropshire:

Daniel Lawrence – see GEORGE.

John Partridge, beer retailer, 74, Portway Road. [1896]

Lot 5.—A Valuable RETAIL BEERHOUSE, known as "The Robin Hood," situate in Portway Road, Wednesbury, having Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Club Room, Kitchen, and Bed Rooms, with Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stabling, and large Gateway Entrance, now in the occupation of Mr. John Lacey, who holds the same on a lease, which expires 25th March, 1903.
Lot 6.—Two DWELLING HOUSES, adjoining thereto, one being a Retail Shop with four Bed Rooms, numbered 75 and 76, in Portway Road, with the Outbuildings and Yard thereto. Annual rent, £25.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/11/1898 - Advert

"Valuable Old-Licensed Hotel and Beerhouses, Dwelling Houses, Wharf, and Building Land.

Edward Cox will offer for Sale by Auction, on Tuesday Next, the 29th day of November, at the SANDWELL HOTEL, High Street, West Bromwich, at Seven o'clock in the evening, prompt.....

Lot 5. A Valuable Retail Beerhouse, known as the ROBIN HOOD, situate in Portway Road, Wednesbury, having Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Club Room, Kitchen, and Bed Rooms, with Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stabling, and large Gateway Entrance, now in the occupation of Mr. John Lacey, who holds the same on a lease, which expires 25th March, 1903.

Lot 6. Two Dwelling Houses, adjoining thereto, one being a Retail Shop with four Bed Rooms, numbered 75 and 76, in Portway Road, with the Outbuildings and Yard thereto. Annual rent, £26."

1901 Census

Portway Road – ROBIN HOOD INN

- [1] John Lacey (46), retailer of beer, born Ireland;
- [2] Margaret Lacey (35), wife, born Ireland;
- [3] Nicholas Lacey (19), son, assistant brewer, born Wednesfield;
- [4] John Lacey (18), son, barman, born Bilston;
- [5] Mary Lacey (14), daughter, born Willenhall;
- [6] Ellen Lacey (11), daughter, born Cannock;
- [7] Frank J. Lacey (8), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Eliza Painter (23), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

John Lacey – see also CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, and GRAPES, High Street.

Nicholas Lacey – see FOX AND DOGS, Albert Street, and ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street.

John Lacey – see SMITHS ARMS, Cross Street.

George Harry Mason, beer retailer, 74, Portway Road. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1907

"The adjourned annual Licensing Sessions took place at Wednesbury yesterday.

Applications were heard for the renewal of licenses which had been objected to under the compensation clause..... In the case of the ROBIN HOOD, Portway Road, Mr. R. A. Tench, for the licensee and lessee, urged that there were two or three hundred outdoor customers. The Mayor enquired if people were not attracted from other districts by the long pull being given. Mr. Tench admitted that the long pull was given, but said the practice was not confined to this particular house, and if other houses would abandon it his clients would undertake to do the same. The Bench referred all the licenses to the Compensation Authority at Stafford."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1907

“County Licensing Compensation Authority.

The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1904, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford on Tuesday.....

Mr. Disturnal stated that the following houses had been reported by the justices from Wednesbury borough.....

ROBIN HOOD, Portway Road, beerhouse (licensee *Thomas Horton*).

The only opposition was in the case of the ROBIN HOOD, Mr. R. A. Tench and Mr. Wilmot appearing for interested parties. Supt. Salt gave formal evidence, and the renewal of the license was refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/7/1907

“A supplemental meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday and Thursday, to consider the amount of compensation to be awarded in the case of licenses the renewal of which was refused at the principal meeting.....

In cases where the amount of compensation approved by the committee was not accepted by the parties concerned, these were referred to the Inland Revenue Commissioners to determine the sum to be awarded.....

ROBIN HOOD, Portway Road (owner George Harry Sampson Mason), referred to Inland Revenue Commissioners.”

Lichfield Mercury 8/1/1909

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The Licensing Committee presented a report for the year 1908.....

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue gave their decisions in the cases referred to them last year.....

ROBIN HOOD, Wednesbury, £2,737.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/11/1909

“Today (Friday), at the Wednesbury Police Court, Edward Whalin, a native of Bilston, but of no fixed abode, was charged with stealing a bicycle, the property of George Parkes, Albert Street, Princes End.

Superintendent Salt said the alleged offence was as far back as September 5th, 1907, and at the last Worcestershire Quarter Sessions the prisoner was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment. The police were in the position that they were unable to find an important witness upon whose statement the warrant was granted, and he (the speaker) was not sure whether they would be able to complete the case that day.

The prosecutor stated that on September 5th, 1907, he called at the ROBIN HOOD INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, and left his bicycle outside. He was only away a few minutes. When he returned the bicycle was missing.

Martin Kelly deposed to seeing a man take the bicycle and ride away, but he could not identify him.

Other witnesses were called, who deposed to seeing a man ride off with the bicycle, but they could not say that the prisoner was the man.

When charged with the offence by Police-sergeant Lee prisoner said, ‘I was not in Wednesbury that day.’

Prisoner was remanded for a week for further inquiries to be made.”

ROLLING MILL

36, Cross Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Grainger [1870]

NOTES

John Grainger = John Granger

John Grainger, beer retailer, Cross Street. [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

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

John Granger, ROLLING MILL INN, Cross Street, Wednesbury, applied personally for a beer certificate. No opposition. Refused.”

1871 Census

36, Cross Street

[1] *John Grainger* (64), formerly sheet iron roller, born Darlaston;

[2] Ann Grainger (63), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] Sarah Grainger (28), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] James Grainger (24), son, sheet iron roller, born Wednesbury:

ROSE

55, Union Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

T Nicholls [] – **1870**);
Edward Severn **(1870 – [1872]**
Hannah Dyson [1881]
William Dawes [1887] – [1891]
Henry Banks [1892]
Mary Banks [1892]
Samuel Bolton [1896]
James Pheasant **(1897)**
Michael Roche [1901]
George H Lloyd [1904]
Davis [1906]
John Palmer [1910]



c1892

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

It had a six-day license.

1871 Census

55, Union Street

- [1] Edward Severn (34), refreshment house keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Hannah Severn (32), wife, assists in business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] James Severn (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Arthur Severn (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] George Severn (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Annie Severn (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Henry Severn (3 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Hannah May (17), general servant, born Wednesbury;

Edward Severn, beer retailer, 55, Union Street. [1872]

Edward Severn – see also TOWN HALL.

1881 Census

55, Union Street, west side – Refreshment House

- [1] Hannah Dyson (72), widow, refreshment house keeper, born Renishaw, Derbyshire;
- [2] Louisa Griffiths (42), daughter, assistant refreshment house keeper, born Birmingham;
- [3] Paul Griffiths (41), son-in-law, iron roller, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary A. Brookes (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Georgina Taylor (11), visitor, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/9/1885 - Advert

"Pianist. Wanted, a proficient Pianoforte Player, for Saturday evenings.
Apply at the ROSE INN, Union Street, Wednesbury."

PIANIST.—Wanted, a proficient Pianoforte Player, for Saturday evenings.—Apply at the Rose Inn, Union-st., Wednesbury.

Birmingham Mail 28/6/1889

"At Bilston today, John Robert Edward Warren, about 40 years of age, stated to be respectably connected, was committed for trial at the Sessions on a charge of stealing a silver watch and a gold chain, belonging to *William Davies* [sic], landlord of the ROSE INN, Wednesbury. The theft was committed two years ago when the prisoner was lodging at the prosecutor's house. Since then he had served 16 months' imprisonment in Worcester Gaol on another charge, and was arrested at the expiration of his sentence."

[At the Staffordshire Sessions, on 2nd July 1889, John Robert Edward Warren, who had four previous convictions, three for theft and one for bigamy, pleaded guilty to stealing, on 17th November 1887, at Wednesbury, one watch and one gold chain, the property of *William Dawes*. He was sentenced to imprisonment, with hard labour, for one calendar month in HM Prison at Stafford.]

William Dawes, beer retailer, 55, Union Street. [1888]

1891 Census

55, Union Street – ROSE INN

[1] *William Dawes* (75), beer seller, born Knowle, Warwickshire;

[2] *Emily Dawes* (67), wife, born Penkridge;

[3] *Alfred Dawes* (27), son, carpenter, born Smethwick;

[4] *Elizabeth Dawes* (33), daughter, born Oldbury;

William Dawes – see also OLD BARREL, Darlaston Road.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1892

"The annual licensing session at Wednesbury.....

Applications for new licenses were adjourned.....

Henry Banks, ROSE INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, for a seven days license, in lieu of one for six days."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1892

"The adjourned general licensing meeting for Wednesbury took place at the Police Court, yesterday.....

The new applications were.....

Mary Banks, the ROSE INN, Union Street, for a seven-day instead of a six-day license (Mr. W. S. Smith supporting the application). Refused."

Samuel Bolton, beer retailer, 55, Union Street. [1896]

Walsall Observer 17/7/1897

"Walsall Bankruptcy Court.....

Re *James Pheasant*, of the ROSE INN, Union Street, Wednesbury beerhouse keeper.

This debtor appeared for public examination, Mr. Peace representing him and the Official Receiver appearing in person.

The statement of affairs showed gross liabilities £621 4s 9d, of which £206 4s 9d was expected to rank for dividend. The assets were estimated at £93 14s 4d.

Debtor was examined by the Official Receiver, and stated that he had been a boat steerer, and having saved £50 went into business as a contractor and haulier. He purchased a piece of land at Walsall Wood, and built a house and shop upon it. His wife there carried on business as a grocer and provision dealer, and he continued his own business. Early this year he sold that business and took the ROSE INN, but being pressed he sold that and filed his petition. He attributed his failure to bad trade and bad debts.

The examination was adjourned to the 28th inst to close."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1898

“Notice of Dividends..... *James Pheasant*, Union Street, Wednesbury, beerhouse keeper. First and final dividend 5s 8d in the pound; payable April 27, at the Official Receiver’s, Wolverhampton.”

1901 Census

55, Union Street – ROSE INN

[1] *Michael Roche* (30), unmarried, publican, born Ireland:

George H. Lloyd, beer retailer, 55, Union Street. [1904]

Walsall Observer 21/7/1906

“On Monday, Mr. G. C. Lewis held an inquest at the CASTLE HOTEL, Walsall Road, Wednesbury, respecting the death of *Annie May Cook* (26), wife of a Midland Railway clerk.

It was stated that deceased had been in ill-health which caused her to be low and depressed. On the advice of the doctor the husband had been in the habit when away at work of leaving his wife with an old friend, Mrs. *Davis*, wife of the licensee of the ROSE INN, Union Street. Deceased was there on Friday, and at night went out into the back premises. Mrs. *Davis* followed, and before she could prevent her saw deceased cut her throat with a razor belonging to Mr. *Davis*, and which had been kept behind the bar. A wound was occasioned which severed the windpipe, and death ensued shortly afterwards.

The jury, in returning a verdict of Suicide during Temporary Insanity, expressed sympathy with the relatives.”

Walsall Observer 30/7/1910

“At a special court on Wednesday, before Messrs. C. Southern and E. Austin, Benjamin Tonks, of Foster Street, Wednesbury, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the ROSE INN, Union Street. Mr. Southern said prisoner had a wretched record, having been twenty times before the court. He would be fined 20s and costs, or 21 days’ imprisonment.”

Lichfield Mercury 1/7/1910

“On Friday the principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shirehall, Stafford Licenses refused.....

ROSE INN, Wednesbury, ante-1869 beerhouse, six days’ license.”

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.....

ROSE INN, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante 1869, £500.”

Closed

ROSE AND CROWN

72, (146), Darlaston Road, (146, Kings Hill), Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Blews

Thompson, maltster, Oldbury [1921]

LICENSEES

William Rogers [1855] – [1861]

Akins/Atkins [1861]

Dovey Corns [1866]

George Blissett [1869] – **1871**;

Eliza Brown (**1871** – []

Henry Whitehouse [1881]

Walker [1898]

Joseph Hand [1899]

Joseph Baseford [1901]

Henry William Clifton [1910] – [1911]

Samuel 'Sam' Allen [1921] – [1940]

NOTES

146, Darlaston Road [1871], [1881], [1921]

146, Kings Hill [1891], [1911]

72, Darlaston Road [1939], [1940]

It was known locally as "The Steps" or "Napper Allen's".

Birmingham Journal 15/12/1855 - Advert

"The Annual Meeting of the Darlaston Retail Brewers Protection Society will be held on Thursday next, December 20th, at Mr. *William Rogers's*, the ROSE AND CROWN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury at Three o'clock in the afternoon."

1861 Census

Darlaston Road – ROSE AND CROWN INN

[1] William Rogers (54), married, publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] William Rogers (10), grand-son, born Wednesbury:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/10/1861

"Young Stewart of Birmingham will fight Okey of Walsall, at 9st, for £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Akins's*, ROSE AND CROWN, Wednesbury, any night next week,"

AND

Sporting Life 16/10/1861

"Young Stewart, of Birmingham, will fight Ottey, of Walsall, at 9st, for £10 a side. The match can be made at Mr. *Atkins's* ROSE AND CROWN, Wednesbury."

FREEHOLD HOUSES AND OTHER BUILDINGS,
On the DARLASTON ROAD, at WEDNESBURY; and
in BOND STREET, DUDLEY.

MESSRS. E. and C. ROBINS will SELL by
AUCTION, by direction of the Trustees, under the will of
the late Mr. William Blews, deceased, on Friday, the 16th day of
November instant, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, WED-
NESBURY, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions
there and then to be produced:—

WEDNESBURY.

Lot 1.—All that valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY, situated at
Wednesbury, and fronting the turnpike road leading from that
town to Darlaston; consisting of the "Rose and Crown" PUBLIC-
HOUSE, in the occupation of Mr. Dovey Corns, with the Brew-
house, Malt Room, Coal-house, and other Out-buildings. Also,
Three other HOUSES and Appurtenances adjoining, and fronting
the said turnpike road, in the respective occupations of John Dent,
Joseph Williams, and Henry Hill; together with Nine other
HOUSES and Appurtenances, situated in a roomy Yard at the
back of the above front Houses, and extending to the road leading
from the Wednesbury Church Hill, across King's Hill Field, by the
Meeting House towards Darlaston, in the respective occupations of
Thomas Jones, Mary Thomas, George Heming, Thomas Holyhead,
Henry Shrewsbury, Charles Young, Charles Miniffe, Moses Butler,
and George Rainbow.

The present annual and weekly rents amount to £98 11s. per
annum, and the superficial quantity of Land is between 1,500 and
1,600 square yards.

There is ample space for building other Houses, without at all
interfering with those already erected, and the nearness of this
Property to the Old Park Works and the populous neighbourhood
adjoining, would fully justify an outlay, with certainty of a satis-
factory result in increased rental. The Mines and Minerals are
reserved.

1866

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the DARLAS-
TON RETAIL BREWERS' PROTECTION SOCIETY will
be held on THURSDAY NEXT, December 20th, at Mr. William Rogers's,
the Rose and Crown, King's Hill, Wednesbury, at 3 o'clock in the
afternoon.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/11/1866 - Advert

"Freehold Houses and Other Buildings, on the Darlaston Road, at Wednesbury; and in Bond Street, Dudley. Messrs. E. and C. Robins will Sell by Auction, by direction of the Trustees, under the will of the late Mr. William Blews, deceased, on Friday, the 16th day of November instant, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, at four o'clock in the afternoon....

Lot 1. All that valuable Freehold Property, situated at Wednesbury, and fronting the turnpike road leading from that town to Darlaston; consisting of the ROSE AND CROWN Public House, in the occupation of Mr. *Dovey Corns*, with the Brewhouse, Malt Room, Coal-house, and other Outbuildings. Also, Three other Houses and Appurtenances adjoining, and fronting the said turnpike road, in the respective occupations of John Dent, Joseph Williams, and Henry Hill; together with Nine other Houses and Appurtenances, situated in a roomy Yard at the back of the above front Houses, and extending to the road leading from the Wednesbury Church Hill, across Kings Hill Field, by the Meeting House towards Darlaston, in the respective occupations of Thomas Jones, Mary Thomas, George Heming, Thomas Holyhead, Henry Shrewsbury, Charles Young, Charles Miniffe, Moses Butler, and George Rainbow.

The present annual and weekly rents amount to £98 11s per annum, and the superficial quantity of Land is between 1,500 and 1,600 square yards.

There is ample space for building other Houses, without at all interfering with those already erected, and the nearness of this Property to the Old Park Works and the populous neighbourhood adjoining, would fully justify an outlay, with certainty of a satisfactory result in increased rental. The Mines and Minerals are reserved."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/12/1869

"At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before Mr. Spooner, *George Blisset*, beerhouse keeper, pleaded guilty to having his house open at improper hours on Sunday, the 5th. Mr. Spooner said that as this was the first offence of the defendant he would only be fined 1s and costs, being 10s 6d, but he must endorse his license, showing that he had been fined. If there were another conviction against him it would also be endorsed upon his license. The magistrates at the next licensing-day would then have the power to refuse defendant a license, and treat him as a person not having a license at the time of the passing of the Beerhouse Act."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/12/1869

"At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, Thomas Bassett and William Yates were charged with being on the premises of *George Blissett*, of the ROSE AND CROWN, Kings Hill, at prohibited hours.

Police-constable Ainsworth said that at 11.40 on the 5th inst he found the defendants on the premises.

Each of the defendants was fined 1s and costs (making 13s 6d)."

1871 Census

146, Darlaston Road – ROSE AND CROWN

- [1] *Eliza Brown* (48), widow, beer shop, born Prestop, Shropshire;
- [2] *Eliza Jane Brown* (18), daughter, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Mary Ann Brown* (15), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Thomas Wilson Brown* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *John Credgington* (50), boarder, painter, born Prestop, Shropshire;
- [6] *Robert Preist* (21), boarder, moulder, born Wolverhampton:

1881 Census

146, Darlaston Road

- [1] *Henry Whitehouse* (28), colliery engineer, out of employ, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Whitehouse* (25), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Horace Whitehouse* (9 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Evans* (17), niece, domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/2/1889 - Advert

"To Let, a good Beerhouse, doing a good trade; ROSE AND CROWN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury; cause of leaving, sickness."

To Let, a good Beerhouse, doing a good trade; Rose and Crown, King's-hill, Wednesbury; cause of leaving, sickness.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1892 - Advert

“Home-Brewing Beerhouse to Let; densely populated neighbourhood.
Apply, the ROSE AND CROWN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.”

HOME-BREWING Beerhouse to Let; densely populated neighbourhood.—Apply, the Rose and Crown, King's Hill, Wednesbury.

Wellington Journal 7/5/1898 - Advert

“Lad. Strong, respectable, steady Lad Wanted, about 18, with good character, for public house; to assist in brewing, feed pigs, and make himself generally useful; live in.
Apply, stating wages and particulars, *Walker*, ROSE AND CROWN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/4/1899

“This (Monday) morning Mr. H. A. Pearson, County Coroner, held and inquest at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, touching the death of Ann Wright (62), a widow, who resides with her married daughter at 23, Kings Hill.

Harriet Ray, daughter of deceased, identified the body, and said that her mother went to the ROSE AND CROWN public house for some beer at about 8.55 on Thursday night last. Soon after witness heard that her mother had fallen down the public house steps. On witness going to see what was the matter she found her mother sitting on the bottom step at the front of the public house. She was unconscious, and she helped to get her mother home. She had been in good health for some years, and her eyesight was also good.

Ann Aston, wife of Benjamin Aston, said that on Thursday night she heard that deceased had met with an accident, and she went to see her. She never regained consciousness.

Mr. *Joseph Hand*, landlord of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, stated that soon after nine o'clock on Thursday night he went into the tap room, and in a minute or so he heard a crash, as if something had been broken. On going outside to see what it was he saw a broken jug in the road and the deceased lying at the bottom of the steps. He went and fetched a chair, and assisted in carrying the woman home.

Dr. Dingley said that he was called to see the deceased on Thursday night, when he found a large wound on the left side of the head, about an inch and a half long. The woman was also unconscious, and it was his opinion that death was due to concussion of the brain, caused by a fall.

By a Juror: The steps were in a better condition than they had ever been before.

After a consultation a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

On the landlord of the house being recalled he was strongly recommended to see that lamp at the front of the house over the steps was lighted each night. This, it was said, was very much needed.”

1901 Census

Darlaston Road – ROSE AND CROWN INN

- [1] *Joseph Baseford* (34), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Maria Baseford* (30), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Ethel Baseford* (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Mary Baseford* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Joseph Baseford* (9 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Lizzie Sumbark* (15), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Lichfield Mercury 1/7/1910

“On Friday the principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shirehall, Stafford Licenses renewed.....

ROSE AND CROWN, Wednesbury, ante-1869 beerhouse.”

1911 Census

146, Kings Hill

- [1] *Henry William Clifton* (43), licensed holder, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Susan Clifton* (42), wife, married 21 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Henry William Clifton* (5), son, school, born Oldbury;

1921 Census

146, Darlaston Road

- [1] *Samuel Allen* (39), beerhouse keeper, manager, born Macclesfield, Cheshire;
- [2] *Lily Allen* (38), wife, born Derby;
- [3] *Lily Allen* (11), daughter, school, born Derby;
- [4] *Florrie Allen* (8), daughter, school, born Derby;
- [5] *Arthur Allen* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Ellen Allen* (9 weeks), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Eliza Nash* (16), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Rugeley Times 17/2/1934 - Marriages

“At Wednesbury Parish Church, on February 3rd, by the Rev. D. H. Bowdler, Mr. Joseph Whitehouse, of 10, Hope Terrace, Kings Hill, to Miss Lily Allen, of ROSE AND CROWN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

“Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions, yesterday.....

Mr. S. W. Smith applied for the renewal of the license of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, and stated that it was regarded as the third most valuable under rateable value of the five within an area of 250 yards.

The police objected, saying the house was redundant, but the Justices renewed the license on condition that the house was put in proper structural repair.”

1939 Register

72, Darlaston Road – ROSE AND CROWN Public House

- [1] *Samuel Allen*, date of birth 28/3/1882, charge hand shearer, engineer rolling stock, married;
- [2] *Lily Allen*, dob 24/12/1882, unpaid domestic duties and public house server, married;
- [3] *Ellen (Allen) (Cowley) Hurley*, dob 11/4/1921, domestic duties in public house, single;
- [4] *Joseph H. Allen*, dob 9/11/1925, school, single;
- [5] *William Nash*, dob 6/7/1903, press shop shearer, rolling stock, single;
- [6] *Arthur Statham*, dob 24/5/1917, paint sprayer, single;
- [7] *Joseph Whitehouse*, dob 8/5/1905, nut cutter (hot), heavy work, married;
- [8] *Lily (Whitehouse) Judge*, dob 3/6/1910, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [9] *Arthur J. Whitehouse*, dob 27/1/1938, under school age, single:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/1/1950 - In Memoriam

“*Allen*. Years pass but memories remain of Arthur, the dear son of *Samuel* and *Lily*, who died January 26, 1938. Fondly remembered by his sisters and brothers, ROSE AND CROWN, Kings Hill.”

Walsall Observer 9/4/1954

“Hayes Motorways Walsall Luxury Tours have pleasure in announcing to the travelling public that they have now been licensed by the West Midland Traffic Commissioners to carry Private Parties to Blackpool for the Illuminations (day or two-day tours).

Parties can be picked up at.....

ROSE AND CROWN INN, Kings Hill.”

LAD.—Strong, respectable, steady Lad Wanted, about 18, with good character, for public-house; to assist in brewing, feed pigs, and make himself generally useful; live in.—Apply, stating wages and particulars, WALKER, Rose and Crown, King's Hill, Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

ROSE AND CROWN

Walsall Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Bailey [1834] – [1841]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Thomas Bailey, beer retailer, Walsall Street. [1841]

ROSE HILL TAVERN

80, (77), (28), Church Hill / Vicarage Road, (St. Marys Road), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Ansells Ltd. [1961], [1996]
Burtonwood Brewery Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Smith [1840] – [1845]
Timothy Smith Millward [1848] – **1850**;
Francis Adams **(1850 – 1856)**;
John Burroughs Powell **(1856 – 1860)**;
Thomas Brant **(1860 – [1873]**
John Cuxson [1878] – [1896]
John Potts [1901] – [1904]
Leonard Watkins [1908]
William Richards [1911]
William S McGill [1912]
William Till [1916] – [1935]
Mrs. Fanny Freer [1939] – **1940**)
William Martin Bradshaw **(1940 – 1947)**
Albert Arthur Griffiths [1961] – [1973]
Alan Bevan [1980] – [1983]
Kim Roden **(1988 – []**
Stuart James [] – **1996**)
Wayne Wilkinson []
Kenneth Banks [] – **2014**)

NOTES

77, Church Hill [1871], [1872], [1881], [1888], [1891], [1901]
28, Church Hill [1935], [1939]
80, Church Hill [1981], [2010], [2023]

BLACK HORSE. [1840], [1871], [1872], [1873]

ROSE HILL ARMS [1881]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/11/1840 - Advert

“Public Notice.

I Hereby forewarn all Persons from trusting my Son, Thomas Smith, as I will not be responsible for any debt or debts he may contract after this notice.

Richard Smith. BLACK HORSE, Church Hill, Wednesbury, November 7, 1840.”

PUBLIC NOTICE.
I Hereby forewarn all Persons from trusting my Son,
THOMAS SMITH, as I will not be responsible for
any debt or debts he may contract after this notice.
RICHARD SMITH.
Black Horse, Church-hill, Wednesbury, }
November 7, 1840.



2014

1841 Census

Church Hill

- [1] *Richard Smith* (45), publican;
- [2] *Mary Smith* (45), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Mary Smith* (20), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Thomas Smith* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Caroline Smith* (14), born Staffordshire;
- [6] *Richard Smith* (12), born Staffordshire;
- [7] *Martha Smith* (9), born Staffordshire;
- [8] *John Smith* (2), born Staffordshire;
- [9] *Thomas Moore* (15), ap.;
- [10] *Henry Jennings* (15), ap.;
- [11] *Thomas Griffiths* (15), ap.:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/7/1848

“James Hilton was committed for stealing at Wednesbury, on Wednesday the 28th of June last, a shawl and a pair of stockings, the property of Mr. *Millward*, of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury. Mrs. *Millward* identified the articles, and stated that on the 28th of June they were on a clothes line in the yard. Mary Anne Turner, who lives opposite, saw the prisoner go into the yard, take the clothes from the line, and go away with them. She gave information, and he was immediately pursued and taken.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/7/1848

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions To be imprisoned one calendar month.....

James Hilton (pleaded guilty) for stealing a silk apron, and a pair of stockings, the property of *Timothy Millward*, at Wednesbury.”

London Gazette 5/11/1852

“Whereas a Petition of *Timothy Smith Millward*, trading, known, and sued as Timothy Millward, formerly of Oldbury, Worcestershire, then of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church-hill, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Innkeeper and Iron Roller, then of Darlaston-road, Wednesbury aforesaid, Iron Roller, then of the WHITE HORSE INN, Wednesbury aforesaid, Innkeeper and Iron Roller, then and now of Kates-hill, Dudley, Worcestershire, Iron Roller, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Worcestershire, at Dudley, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Timothy Smith Millward*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Timothy Smith Millward* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 18th day of November instant, at nine 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 the choice of the creditors' assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *Timothy Smith Millward*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Thomas Walker, Clerk of the said Court, at his office, at the Court House, Priory-street, Dudley, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

London Gazette 2/10/1855

“The following Prisoners, whose Estates and Effects have been vested in the Provisional Assignee by Order of the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors, and whose Petitions and Schedules, duly filed, have been severally referred and transmitted to the County Courts hereinafter mentioned, pursuant to the Statute in that behalf, are ordered to be brought up before the Judges of the said Courts respectively, as herein set forth, to be dealt with according to Law..... Before the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Wednesday the 17th day of October, 1855, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon precisely.....

Timothy Smith Millward (sued as and trading in the name of Timothy Millward) heretofore of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, and Dealer in Spirituous Liquors and Tobacco, same time following the occupation of a Merchant Iron Roller, then of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, first carrying on the aforesaid business, and following the said occupation of a Merchant Iron Roller, then of a Merchant Iron Roller only, then of a Licensed Victualler, and Dealer in Spirituous Liquors, and Iron Roller, then of Kates-hill, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, then of Dudley Port, Tipton, in the county of Stafford, then of Tividale, in the parish of Tipton, and county aforesaid, following, at such three last mentioned places, the aforesaid occupation of a Merchant Iron Roller, and occasionally

working as a Labourer, then of Tivdale aforesaid, Licensed Brewer and Retailer of Ale, Beer, Porter, and Tobacco, and Merchant Iron Roller, then a Prisoner for Debt in the Gaol of Worcester, in the county of Worcester, and late of Tivdale aforesaid, Licensed Brewer, and Retailer of Ale, Beer, Porter, and Tobacco, and following the said occupation of a Merchant Iron Roller, and occasionally working as a Labourer.....

NB. 1. If any Creditor intends to oppose a Prisoner's discharge, notice of such intention must be given to the said Prisoner, in writing, which may be left at the Gaol two clear days before the day of hearing above mentioned, exclusive of Sunday, and exclusive both of the day of giving such notice and of the said day of hearing....."

Birmingham Journal 5/1/1850

"Transfer of Public House Licenses.....

ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, from Mr. *Timothy Millward* to Mr. *Francis Adams*. In this case some days' delay will take place, the applicant having refused to post the necessary notice."

1851 Census

Church Hill

[1] *Francis Adams* (45), mill furnace man, born Bilston;

[2] *Maria Adams* (43), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Charlotte Adams* (18), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Joseph Adams* (16), son, born Bilston;

[5] *Francis Adams* (11), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[6] *Paul Adams* (9), son, scholar, born Bilston;

[7] *Rebekah Adams* (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Martha Adams* (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[9] *Ann Jones* (19), house servant, born Bilston:

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.....

Francis Adams, Wednesbury, 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."

AND

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."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/3/1852

"Pigeon Shooting.....

Joseph Martin of Wednesbury will shoot a match with Robert Butler of the same place, for £5 a side, at 7 or 9 birds each, 21 yards rise, 2oz of shot. The money is ready at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/8/1854

"A considerable sensation was occasioned at Wednesbury, on Thursday last, by the discovery of the body of a male child, about five months old, which appeared to have been murdered. About noon on that day John Thomas, a journeyman brewer, was passing down Tommy Shop Lane, leading out of Trowse Lane, and which runs at the back of the BLUE BALL, Hall End, and had occasion to step aside out of the carriage road, when he discovered in a dry ditch, that was overhung with foliage, the body of a child wrapped in an old black shawl. He immediately fetched to the spot Mrs. Cookson and others, and it was then seen that the child had a handkerchief tied tightly round its throat. The body was conveyed to the ROSE HILL TAVERN, where it was examined by Mr. Woodhall, surgeon. The child appeared to have been a very healthy one, to have been alive eleven hours before, and the discolouration of the face and a part of the body seemed strongly to indicate that death had been caused by strangulation. The child was clad

in a pink and white frock, and a flannel petticoat, &c. From the style of the dress – the pattern and semblance of the frock in particular – the child is supposed to be that of Irish parents of the labouring class. On Wednesday, an Irishwoman, carrying a child similarly dressed, and saying that her child was three and twenty weeks old about that day, was soliciting alms not far from where the body was discovered.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/8/1854

“*Francis Adams*, licensed victualler, Wednesbury, was, on Tuesday last, ordered to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for three months for a severe assault upon his wife. The complainant had been subjected to much previous ill-treatment from her husband, who was alleged to be cohabiting with another woman; and the complainant’s face was very much disfigured, the result of his brutal conduct.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/5/1855

“On Tuesday, *Francis Adams*, licensed victualler of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, was fined 10s for selling spirits on Sunday morning, a policeman proving that he saw a person leave the house that morning with a bottle of gin.”

Birmingham Journal 17/11/1855 - Advert

“To be Let, an Old-licensed Public House, known by the sign of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, in the midst of a Mining and Iron District. There is a good supply of clean and soft Water. Apply at the above address, to *Francis Adams*, who is changing his residence.”

Francis Adams – see also VINE, Portway Road.

John Burroughs Powell = John Burrows Powell

TO be LET, an Old-licensed PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of “THE ROSE HILL TAVERN,” Church Hill, Wednesbury, in the midst of a Mining and Iron District. There is a good supply of clean and soft Water. Apply at the above address, to *Francis Adams*, who is changing his residence.

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/10/1856

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *John Burrows Powell*, landlord of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, was fined in the separate penalties of 5s and expenses for permitting gambling on his premises on the nights of the 4th and 6th instant. Mr. Sheldon was retained for the defence.”

Birmingham Journal 6/12/1856 - Advert

“I Hereby give Notice, that if *Josiah Foster*, who left his Box, &c, and other Goods, at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, does not Fetch the same away, within fourteen days from this date, they will be Sold to defray expenses.

John Burroughs Powell.

December 3rd, 1856.”

I Hereby give Notice, that if **JOSIAH FOSTER**, who left his BOX, &c., and other Goods, at the Rose Hill Tavern, Wednesbury, does not Fetch the same away, within fourteen days from this date, they will be Sold to defray expenses.
JOHN BURROUGHS POWELL.
December 3rd, 1856.

Birmingham Journal 14/2/1857 - Advert

“Open to All England.

To be Shot For, at Mr. *J. B. Powell*’s, the ROSE HILL TAVERN, in Wednesbury, on Monday, March 2nd, at Twelve o’clock, a Fat Pig, weighing thirty score, by Thirty Tickets, at Ten Shillings each.

Particulars to be had on applying as above.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/3/1857

“At *J. B. Powell*’s, ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, on Monday, March 9, a fat pig, weighing 30 score, and valued at £15, will be shot for by 30 members, at 10s each, 3 birds each, 21 yards rise, 2oz of shot, guns $\frac{3}{4}$ bore, the gun to be held in a sportsmanlike manner. The best blue rocks will be provided. Shooting to commence at twelve o’clock.”

John Burroughs Powell – see also CASTLE, Wednesbury, and OLD BRITANNIA, Moxley, Darlaston.

OPEN TO ALL ENGLAND.
TO be SHOT FOR, at Mr. *J. B. Powell*’s, the Rose Hill Tavern, in Wednesbury, on MONDAY, March 2nd, at Twelve o’clock, a FAT PIG, weighing thirty score, by Thirty Tickets, at Ten shillings each. – Particulars to be had on applying as above.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1860

“To so great an extent is gaming of various descriptions carried on in this locality, that the Wednesbury 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.....

Thomas Brant, of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, convicted of allowing the game of bagatelle played for ale and porter, on the 14th ult. Defendant said he had only kept the house a few weeks. Fined 40s and costs, and told to remove the bagatelle board.

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

Church Hill

- [1] *Thomas Brant* (47), licensed victualler and shoe maker, employing 2 men and 4 boys, born Tettenhall;
- [2] *Jane Brant* (46), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Zephaniah E. Brant* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Charles Ranglelott* (23), servant, born Tettenhall;
- [5] *Thomas Picking* (18), servant, born Burntwood;
- [6] *Thomas Carter* (18), apprentice, born Tettenhall;
- [7] *Henry Highfield* (17), apprentice, born Tettenhall;
- [8] *Edward Tonkinson* (14), apprentice, born Tettenhall;
- [9] *Emily James* (17), servant, born Walsall;

Thomas Brant was also a boot maker. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/5/1868

“On Saturday morning last, an inquest was held before Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner for South Staffordshire, at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, concerning the death of George Emms, a boy 16 years old, whose parents live at Wednesbury, and who met with his death on Thursday last by being crushed at the Friar Park Ironstone Quarry, Walsall Road, West Bromwich. On the previous Friday, when the inquest was held on the body of James Ruffleton, who was killed in the same accident which resulted in the death of the deceased, blame was attributed to Mr. William Taylor for not properly looking after the boys, as was his duty, and the Coroner intimated that when he held an inquest on the body of Emms he would require to know why Taylor acted in such a manner.

William Taylor stated that he was engaged at the Friar Park Quarry to look after the men. He saw the two boys deceased on Wednesday night last, when they told him that they should not do any more work at the quarry unless Mr. Dawes increased their wages, and he heard no more of them until he was told of the accident on the following day.....

Sarah Edwards said she knew George Emms, and about 20 minutes to two o'clock on Thursday afternoon last he was brought home injured. She attended him, and found his back, thighs, and stomach very much hurt, especially the latter, of which the deceased complained greatly. Mr. Iliffe, surgeon, was sent for, but notwithstanding his treatment the boy died about a quarter past five o'clock the same afternoon. Previous to his death he was perfectly sensible, and, in reply to Police Sergeant Langdon as to who sent him to that part of the work where he got injured, he replied that he was not sent, but went there of his own accord.

The Coroner said there could be little doubt that the deceased had in a great measure lost his life through his own fault. He had no right to be where he was, and he (the Coroner) thought there had been a want of care on the part of the man Taylor. It did seem extraordinary that a person who was placed there to look after boys did not know that they were at work, and especially as they had been seen there several days previously. The deceased had stated that

he went there on his own accord, but it would have been more satisfactory if they had heard that he had been cautioned not to do so.

The jury then consulted together, and, after a short deliberation, the foreman said their verdict was Accidental Death, but at the same time they wished to express as their opinion that there had been a want of caution either on the part of the watchman or the manager, and they hoped the Coroner would express the same to the manager through the representative of Mr. Dawes, so that such things might be looked after in future."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/10/1869

"Edward Tomkinson, a workman in the employ of Mr. *Thomas Brant*, boot and shoemaker, Church Hill, Wednesbury, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for stealing several pieces of leather and a clamp, the property of his employer."

1871 Census

77, Church Hill – BLACK HORSE INN

[1] *Thomas Brant* (57), licensed victualler, born Tettenhall;

[2] *Jane Brant* (56), wife, born Bloxwich;

[3] *Mary Jane Brant* (19), niece, domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Mail 30/3/1876

"Yesterday evening an inquest was held at the BLACK HORSE INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, before Mr. E. Hooper, on the body of *Thomas Stevenson* (40), labourer, in the employ of the Local Board of Heath, who committed suicide under circumstances already detailed in the *Daily Mail*.

John Bardell, lock filer, Spring Head, Wednesbury, said the deceased was his step-father. At ten minutes past eleven on Sunday night he was at the house of the deceased, who lived with his daughter *Elizabeth*. He was with deceased for three hours. He went to see him owing to his having heard that the deceased had been drinking heavily, and was saying he should commit suicide. Deceased told witness he should burn the cottage down, and unless he (witness) went away, he (the deceased) would put six inches of steel into him. *Elizabeth* was then at her sister's. The deceased was often in a very excited state, and twelve months ago he had to be watched for a fortnight. When witness left the house on Sunday night the deceased was asleep. On going out witness closed the door, but did not lock it. On the following morning, at half-past six o'clock, witness got up and went to the cottage of deceased. He found smoke issuing from the roof. He raised an alarm, procured assistance, and had the doors, which were locked, burst open. He then saw that the rooms were full of smoke and the furniture was on fire; it had been reduced to tinder. Water was procured and the fire extinguished. In one of the rooms he found the deceased lying on a bed, with his head hanging over the side, the face being covered with blood. Twelve months ago the deceased had attempted to destroy himself, owing to having discovered that one of his daughters was enceinte. The deceased was a very steady man. He had partaken of the contents of a brandy bottle on Sunday night. Some letters were found by witness on a couple of boxes, which were placed in the garden. He gave the letters of the police-constable.

By a Juryman: The deceased was a good parent, and I never heard of his having ill-used his daughter.

Elizabeth Stevenson, aged 16, the daughter of the deceased, stated that during the last two months, whilst she had been at home, she had noticed nothing peculiar in her father's manner.

The Coroner: Had your father taken any indecent liberties with you? – Witness: Yes Sir, on the Friday before. He slept in the same room with me, and had attempted improper liberties with me before.

The Coroner: Did you think that on these occasions he had had something to drink? – Witness: No Sir; neither did he appear to be excited. The second Sunday after I came home he attempted indecent liberties with me, and I told a neighbour, *Mrs. Skidmore*, of the matter, and she advised me to let it 'blow over.' Last Friday when he repeated the attempt at it was just as if I had lost my senses. He then left me and locked the door.

The Coroner: Do you mean to say, on oath – and be careful, for if you tell me a falsehood you may be committed to prison – that your father took these indecent liberties? – Witness: Yes, Sir.

The Coroner: Do you know the meaning of an oath? – Witness: No, Sir.

The Coroner: That will do. I shall not ask you anything more.

A Juryman: As regards the witness not knowing the nature of an oath, all I can say is that she has been connected with a Bible class of the chapel she attended and she has recited some grant pieces.

A Juryman: That is her artfulness.

Police-sergeant Moore stated that on visiting the house of the deceased on Monday morning he found him lying on the bed. By his side, and lying in the centre of the bed, was a razor, wet with blood. His throat was cut, and there was a quantity of blood on the floor. Upon searching the body of the deceased he found a purse upon him containing 5s 11½d, and from the first witness he received letters which were read. The first, which was addressed 'To my daughter,' was written in a much better style in every respect than the second, which was addressed 'To the printer.' They were as follows.

"My daughter, Elizabeth Stevenson. My dear, my dear, my dear, how could you serve me so? These will be the last words from a broken-hearted parent. When I heard the lies you had made up, you and your neighbours, I listened with patience till my heart melted within me, and I sat myself down to rest my weary bones while my poor heart and bowels settle, and it was eleven o'clock that I met a friend. May the Lord bless the friend, God bless the friend, and may the friend be a friend to fathers; and may no secrets be hid from them, and may no lies be cloaked from fathers. My dear, with tears of grief, and tears of sorrow, and what must I must do. I have done all I can to keep you tidy; and now you have paid me altogether. May the Lord bless you for all your lies, and when you tell lies think of me, whose blood was spilled for you. Farewell my dear. Do not grieve now for me. Shed not a tear, but look to yourself, and tell plenty of lies, and God won't bless you. Farewell, my dear; a long farewell – farewell forever; for mine will be a chain of misery for all of you. Yet God is full of mercy and patience. Farewell.....

[The letters ramble on in the same vein.]

The Coroner then summed up the evidence and the jury, after a brief deliberation, returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased committed Suicide by cutting his throat while in a state of Temporary Insanity."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/4/1878 - Advert

"Found, on the 5th inst, at Wednesbury, a black-and-tanned Dog. Apply, ROSE HILL INN, Wednesbury."

FOUND, on the 5th inst., at Wednesbury, a black-and-tanned Dog.—Apply, Rose Hill Inn, Wednesbury.

Midland Advertiser 20/4/1878 - Advert

"Henry Jerrams, Ale & Porter Brewer, Golden Ball Brewery, Oldbury.

Respectfully informs his Customers and the Inhabitants of Wednesbury and District that, in order to ensure the more punctual delivery of Orders, he has appointed as Wholesale agent, Mr. *John Cuxson*, ROSE HILL INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, and any favours entrusted to him will meet with prompt attention."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1880 - Advert

"Wednesbury. Beerhouse to Let. Large commodious premises. Rent £22. In-coming low. Part may remain. For particulars, apply, ROSE HILL INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury."

Wednesbury Herald 29/1/1881

"On Tuesday afternoon, Edwin Hooper, Esq, South Staffordshire Coroner, held an inquiry at ROSE HILL ARMS INN, The Vicarage, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Elizabeth Linford, aged five years and eight months, the daughter of Jonah and Elizabeth Linford, who had died from the effects of burns.

The mother of the deceased stated that on Thursday last she left the deceased and her sister, who was eight years of age, in the house whilst she went to Elwell's works to take her son's dinner. She was only absent about a quarter of an hour, as she had left no one in charge of the children. On her way home a young man met her and informed her that her daughter was enveloped in flames. She hastened to her home, and found a neighbour named Yardley attending to the deceased's injuries, which were all over her body. She made inquiries, and ascertained that the deceased's clothes became ignited when she was in the act of removing a frying pan off the fire.

The Coroner: Did you have a fire guard? – Witness: No sir.

The Coroner: And you did not leave anyone in charge of the children? – Witness: No sir.

The Coroner said the question of children being burnt to death was becoming a very serious one, and it would be incumbent upon him to direct some of the juries to return verdicts of manslaughter against some of the negligent parents who would be bound to be sent to prison. He did not know what view the jury would take of the present case, but he considered the mother to be guilty of gross neglect in leaving the children in the house unprotected. He should, however, insist upon the parents providing a fire-guard in the present case, and in the event of their not complying with his orders within a week he should take them before the magistrates. Through the negligence of parents a large number of children were daily losing their lives, and it therefore was time that something was done to compel parents to properly protect their children.

The foreman of the jury said he fully endorsed all that had been said by the Coroner, because there was no doubt that had Mrs. Linford provided a fire-guard her daughter would not have lost her life.

In reply to further questions, the witness said that Mr. Wilson Moore, surgeon, attended the deceased but his efforts were of no avail, and the sufferer expired on Thursday.

Mrs. Yardley stated that she found the deceased enveloped in flames, and a young man afterwards seized her and rolled her in the snow and so extinguished the flames.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental death, and recommended that the parents be requested to obtain a fire-guard.

Mrs. Linford promised to comply with the recommendations of the Coroner and the jury.

The Coroner said he should send a policeman to Linford's house that day week to see if a fire-guard was provided."

John Cuxson = John Coxon = John Cookson

1881 Census

77, Church Hill – ROSE HILL INN

[1] John Coxon (56), formerly machinist, born Wednesbury;

[2] Mary A. Coxon (52), wife, born Walsall;

[3] John Coxon (30), son, clerk in tube works, born Walsall;

[4] Louise Coxon (23), daughter, housewife, born Wednesbury;

[5] Clara Coxon (21), daughter, milliner, born Wednesbury;

[6] Nellie Coxon (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[7] Albert Bonum (4), visitor, born Wolverhampton;

[8] Sarah Dellicoate (22), domestic servant, born Swan Village:

Wednesbury Herald 11/6/1881

"To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Monday, the 20th day of June.....

Lot 1. All that very valuable Freehold, Old-Licensed Inn, formerly known by the sign of the BLACK HORSE INN, but now of the ROSE HILL INN, situate at Church Hill, Wednesbury, and fronting the Vicarage Road leading from Church Hill to Walsall, with the range of shopping (easily convertible into a Cottage), now occupied with the said Inn, and the large Garden lying at or near the back of the said Inn, and separated therefrom by a gate road leading out of the Vicarage Road to the back of the said Inn, the site of the said gate road being also included in the present sale. The Inn is conveniently and compactly built, and comprises (in addition to the aforementioned range of Shopping) three Bedrooms, large Club Room, Parlour, Back Kitchen, Maltroom, Brewhouse, large Cellar, Yard, and the usual Outbuildings....."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1881 - Advert

"Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Monday, the 4th day of July, 1881, at 7 o'clock precisely, subject to conditions to be then produced.

A valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, known by the sign of the ROSE HILL INN, situate at Church Hill, Wednesbury, with a Range of Shopping (easily convertible into a Cottage) belonging thereto, and the large Garden at the back thereof. Also, a Cottage adjoining to the said Inn.

The Inn and Out-buildings are held by the present tenant on a Lease, at the low rental of £35. The Garden is let at the additional annual nominal rent of £2, and the Cottage is let at the annual rent of £6 14s; the whole producing a gross annual rental of £43 14s.

The surface area of the Lot is 1,117 square yards or thereabouts.

Several Cottage Properties in Wednesbury will be Offered at the same time and place.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury; or to Messrs. Thursfield and Messiter, Solicitors, Wednesbury."

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/10/1881 - Advert

“Henry Jerrams Noted Ales & Porters, Golden Ball Brewery, Oldbury.

The Trade and Families Supplied.

Price Lists and Terms on Application at the Brewery, or from Mr. *John Cuxson*, ROSEHILL INN, Wednesbury; Mr. Samuel Barnett, HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

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.....

John Cookson, ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 3/11/1883

“The members of the St. George’s Lodge (1890), of Manchester United Order of Oddfellows, presented twelve of their past officers with emblems, on Saturday evening, at a supper held in honour of the occasion, at the ROSE HILL INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1887

“At Wednesbury Police Court, William Gorton (66), alias ‘Jeremy Diddler’ of Hill Top, miner, no fixed abode, was brought up, on remand, charged with having, by false pretences obtained 2d from *John Cuxson*, keeper of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, and 2s from Joseph Dicken, keeper of the GLADSTONE INN, Portway Road.

It seemed that the prisoner went to the house of the former prosecutor and represented that he was Lord Calthorpe’s keeper, and had been out since two o’clock in the morning looking for poachers, five of whom he had secured and handed over to Superintendent Holland, who had got them locked up at the station. He accounted for his dilapidated appearance by saying that it was necessary to put on old clothes to disguise himself, so that the poachers might not recognise him, and he added that he had left his horse and trap at the BELL INN, Walsall Road. Upon these representations he obtained a loan of 2s, but the prosecutor, having some misgivings, sent a messenger after him, with the result that he was traced to a lodging house in High Bullen, where he was regaling himself with a beef steak. No horse and trap could be found at the BELL INN. The prosecutor went to him at the lodging house and asked for the return of the 2s, and the prisoner handed over 1s 7d, telling him he would have to be satisfied with that. He was then handed over to Sergeant Lightfoot, who had already had information of the other fraud. In that case the prisoner went to Mr. Dicken’s house, and said he was the manager at Messrs. Addenbrooke’s colliery, and having fallen out with the publican who had been in the habit of supplying the pit beer, was about to transfer the custom – which he said amounted to about £80 a quarter – to the prosecutor. He then obtained 2s and said he would give the prosecutor half-a-crown the next day.

Superintendent Holland said he had known the prisoner as ‘Jeremy Diddler, of Hill Top,’ for thirty-five years, and knew that he had been convicted eight times previously, and sent to penal servitude three times for similar offences to those now charged against him. He had also once attempted suicide.

The prisoner was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.”

AND

Staffordshire Chronicle 2/7/1887

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The following prisoners who had pleaded guilty were sentenced as follows.....

William Gorton (69), no occupation, for false pretences, at Wednesbury, on May 21, to 12 months’ hard labour and three years’ police supervision.”

1891 Census

77, Church Hill – ROSE HILL INN

[1] *John Cuxson* (67), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Cuxson* (64), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Clara Cuxson* (29), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Albert E. Cuxson* (14), grand-son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Martha Delicoat* (31), servant, born Swan Village;

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 Cuxson, ROSE HILL INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury.”

1901 Census

77, Church Hill – ROSE HILL INN

- [1] *John Potts* (29), manager, public house, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Potts* (27), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Elizabeth Potts* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Alice A. Potts* (9 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Jenny Amos* (15), sister-in-law, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *James Smith* (42), boarder, bricklayer, born Tipton:

Walsall Observer 11/7/1903

“At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday week.....

Mr. A. J. Glover made an application for the approval of plans for the entire rebuilding of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury. He pointed out that the renewal of the license was only granted at the last Brewster Sessions on condition that the house was rebuilt before the next annual meeting. He now presented plans which had been prepared by the architect, Mr. A. I. Scott, for the proposed complete rebuilding of the house and premises at a total cost of £1,200. The house was in such a dilapidated condition that it was absolutely necessary it should be pulled down to the ground. If his application was granted he would agree to set back the premises to enable the road at that spot to be made 36ft wide.

After a short discussion in private, the Bench approved the plans.”

1911 Census

Church Hill – ROSE HILL TAVERN

- [1] *William Richards* (45), widower, licensed victualler, born Lount, Leicestershire;
- [2] *Florrie Richards* (21), niece, housekeeper, born Lount, Leicestershire;
- [3] *Selina Price* (28), general servant, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Frederick Charles Grazier* (19), general servant, born Bromsgrove:

South Staffordshire Times 9/4/1921

“A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Association was held on Tuesday afternoon at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury. Alderman J. H. Sheldon, who presided was congratulated upon being elected to the Aldermanic Bench of the Council, the members considering that it was an honour for their chairman, which was well merited.

It was stated that in consequence of the attitude of the Government in continuing the prices and gravity of beer and the restrictions of the gravity, Mr. A. Short MP had been written to, and replied that there was little likelihood of the Government doing anything sensible.

Councillor J. Lacey, Messrs. T. Perkins, and *W. Till* were elected delegates to the conference of the No.5 District in Birmingham, but it was decided not to send delegates to the annual conference of the Licensed Victuallers Defence League at Llandudno in May.”

1921 Census

Church Hill – ROSE HILL TAVERN

- [1] *William Till* (65), licensed victualler, born Walsall;
- [2] *Kate Phelps Till* (46), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *John William Phelps Till* (13), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Norman Charles Phelps Till* (7), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Clara Elizabeth Deeley* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

South Staffordshire Times 22/12/1923

“Mr. A. J. Glover applied on behalf of Mr. *W. Till* (ROSE HILL TAVERN) as secretary of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association, for an extension of one hour on the night of Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, and New Year’s Eve. The application was made on behalf of the public as much as the licensees, as many people visiting the district and on the marketing night, require some liquid refreshment.

The Bench granted the application for two days only, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day up to 11 o’clock.”

South Staffordshire Times 12/7/1924

“A monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Society was held on Tuesday afternoon at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, when Alderman J. H. Sheldon presided.....”

Sports Argus 24/9/1927

“.....The ground and changing quarters of Wednesbury Rugby Club are still at Leabrook, but the club’s new headquarters are the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Vicarage Road, more central premises, which boast a capital clubroom.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 28/7/1928

“The sixth annual meeting of Wednesbury Rugby Club took place on Thursday night at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Mr. C. Humphreys presided.....”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 25/8/1928

“The half yearly meeting of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association was held on Tuesday evening at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, when Mr. A. Blakemore presided.

Reference was made to the new Shop Hours Act, whereby publicans can now sell cigarettes, tobacco and matches during all the hours they are permitted to be opened. The secretary said he had been instructed that license holders could also sell these articles outdoor after 8pm, as well as on the premises.....”

Walsall Observer 12/10/1929

“Wednesbury Parish Church School Centenary. Programme.....

Subscriptions to the Centenary Fund may be sent to the Vicar, secretaries, or headmaster, from whom tickets may be obtained. Secretaries *J. W. Till*, ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury.”

Rugeley Times 1/8/1931

“The ninth annual meeting of the Wednesbury Rugby Club was held at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, on Thursday evening last, when Mr. A. Bridgeman presided.....”

Midland Advertiser 7/1/1933

“Mr. *W. Till*, secretary of the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association, celebrates the 77th anniversary of his birthday on Wednesday next, but we regret to learn that he is far from well and has been confined to bed for some days.....”

William Till was secretary of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Friendly and Provident Society. [1934]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1935

“A verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind was returned at an inquest at Wednesbury last night on *William Till*, aged 79, licensee of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, 28, Church Hill, Wednesbury, who was discovered early yesterday morning dead with his head near a gas fire, the pipe of which was disconnected.

The widow said her husband had been licensee of the tavern for 20 years. On Sunday night he seemed quite normal. When she took her husband a cup of coffee next morning she found him lying on the floor with his head towards the fender. He had an eiderdown quilt round his head and the gas tap was turned on. The chimney was stuffed with material. He was dressed in night attire.

The Coroner (Mr. J. F. Addison): Have you any idea why your husband should take his life? – He sometimes said he was fed up, but never threatened to take his life. He had no other worries.

Mr. *Till*, who was a well-known resident of the town, had been secretary of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association for over 16 years. For 40 years he worked as a furnace hand at Messrs. Edward Smith Ltd tube works, Wednesbury.”

1939 Register

28, Church Hill – ROSE HILL TAVERN Licensed Premises

[1] *Fanny Freer*, date of birth 25/5/1880, licensee, widowed;

[2] *Lilian R. Saxon*, dob 16/10/1908, barmaid, married;

[3] *Elijah Saxon*, dob 10/4/1906, motor lorry driver, married:

Walsall Observer 1/6/1940

“Said to have been involved with another boy in the theft of a pound from a Wednesbury public house, a boy of thirteen admitted at Wednesbury Juvenile Court on Thursday that they shared the proceeds. Some of the money he spent and some he had given away.

The Chairman (Mr. A. H. Coney): It is very easy to be generous with somebody else’s money, isn’t it?

Mrs. *Freer*, of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, told how, on hearing a bump in the bar, she went there in time to see two boys bolt through the door, but could not recognise either of them. Afterwards she missed about 20s from the till.

The boy, whose school report described his character as ‘sly and crafty,’ was put on probation for twelve months and his parents were ordered to pay 15s costs.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

William Martin Bradshaw emigrated to New Zealand in 1947.

He returned to Britain in 1960.

He died in 1972.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1962], [1963], [1966]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/10/1962 - Advert

“Barmaid required, weekends; learners considered.

ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury.”

BARMAID required, weekends.—**Rose Hill
Tavern, Church Hill, Wednesbury;
learners considered.**

Birmingham Daily Post 18/2/1963

“Wednesbury licensees want local youths to carry their birth certificates to show as proof that they are old enough to drink. The tenants section of Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association is discussing the idea and it may be suggested to Wednesbury Borough Council that a by-law should be framed. Wednesbury justices have expressed concern at the increase in offences by young people of drinking under age. Last year there were five convictions; there were none the previous year. The justices have appealed to licensees for support in preventing similar offences this year.

The birth certificate suggestion has been put forward by Mr. *A. A. Griffiths*, licensee of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, who is chairman of the tenants section. He thinks it unfair that licensees should be penalised when they are doing their best to see that no one under age commits drinking offences in their houses. He said, ‘When a licensee challenges young people he is told lies; but if a police officer walks into the house they become frightened and immediately admit their correct ages. This makes the publican out to be a liar.’”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1965]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/12/1966

“Licensee of the ROSEHILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, Mr. *A. A. Griffiths*, has been elected to the Midlands District Committee of the National Trade Development Association. Mr. *Griffiths* is the first member of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association to be elected to the committee in more than 40 years. He is one of the five Staffordshire retail representatives on the committee. He has been chairman of the tenants section of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association.”

A team from here took part in the Tipton Open Domino Knockout Competition. [1967]

Albert Arthur Griffiths was elected vice-president of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association in January 1968.

Walsall Observer 16/2/1968

"At the annual meeting of the Wednesbury and Darlaston Ladies Licensed Victuallers Association officers elected were.....

Mrs. D. Griffiths, ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, secretary."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/12/1968 - Advert

"Girl's Cycle, 3-speed, clean, good condition, £7 or nearest offer.
ROSEHILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, Staffs."

**GIRL'S CYCLE, 3-speed, clean, good condition, £7 or nearest offer. —
Rosehill Tavern, Church-hill, Wednesbury, Staffs.**

Walsall Observer 14/2/1969

"Mr. *Albert Griffiths*, newly-elected president of the Wednesbury and Darlaston District Licensed Victuallers Association, is seeking the aid of local councillors in an attempt to get a new public house with a ballroom built in the area. 'Young people who use the licensed houses in the area have nowhere locally to enjoy their leisure, and many of them travel to Wolverhampton for dancing,' he said. The only licensed house in the Wednesbury and Darlaston area where society dinners could be held is limited in accommodation to a maximum of 120 people.'

Mr. *Griffiths*, who is tenant of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, was speaking at the association's annual meeting at the BLACK HORSE INN, Wednesbury, on Tuesday."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/7/1973 - Marriages

"On Monday, July 30, 1973, at St. Bartholomew's Church, Wednesbury, William Robert, of Burton-on-Trent, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson, Longbenton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Elizabeth Anne, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *Albert Griffiths*, ROSEHILL TAVERN, Wednesbury."

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/12/1979

"From the end of January informal meetings of a new 18-Plus Group in Wednesbury will be held at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, to organise talks, quizzes, dances and discos in the area."

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/2/1980

"It's action with the arrows with the Wednesbury 18-Plus Group. For the new club, which opened at the end of January, has already got enough keen players to set up a darts team. The club meets every Thursday at the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, at 8pm. Future events planned at the club include a weekend at Great Yarmouth where 3,000 members of 18-Plus groups throughout England will meet."

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/7/1980

"Vintage cars are best according to Wednesbury licensee Mr. *Alan Bevan*. For *Alan*, who keeps the ROSE HILL TAVERN in Church Hill, collects old cars and reckons they are much more reliable than the modern kind. *Alan* has three vintage cars at the moment, a 1940 Morris 8 tourer, a 1936 Austin Seven Ruby and a 1931 Austin Seven. 'I started collecting them a few years ago, buying them from a friend and having the cars renovated. The Morris is the only one on the road at present, and it is in great working order. As a matter of fact I used it for my daughter's wedding,' said *Alan*, aged 52."

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/8/1981

"The strains of golden oldies filled the air for a cheerful contest at a Black Country Club yesterday. Members of 18-Plus clubs, a social club for the 18 to 30-year-olds, fought a close run battle in the finals of their music quiz. The four-man team from Dudley beat Wednesbury 64-63 at the quiz in the ROSEHILL TAVERN at Wednesbury. Wednesbury club officer, Mr. Steve Kitson, said, 'It was all up to the last point, we guessed the name of the record but missed the artist.'"

Alan Bevan was chairman of Sandwell Licensed Victuallers Association. [1983]

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/9/1988

"Kim and Mandy Roden have taken over the newly-renovated ROSEHILL TAVERN in Church Hill, Wednesbury, after 12 years running Ansells pubs in Evesham, Birmingham and Redditch."

A team from here won the Walsall Friday Night Darts League Premier Division. [1994/5], [1995/6]

Stuart James – see also PARK, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/8/2003

"Walsall County Court proceedings.....

Wayne Wilkinson of and trading with another at the ROSEHILL TAVERN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, as publicans, latterly of 14 John Fletch Close, Wednesbury, and formerly of and trading at the COTTAGE INN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, as a publican."

Closed

It reopened in 2006.

It became ROSEHILL TAVERN Bar & Grill in 2022. [2023]

Closed [2024]

HENRY JERRAMS,

ALE & PORTER BREWER,

GOLDEN BALL BREWERY, OLDBURY.

Respectfully informs his Customers and the Inhabitants of Wednesbury and District that, in order to ensure the more punctual delivery of Orders, he has appointed as Wholesale Agent, MR. JOHN CUXSON, ROSE HILL INN CHURCH HILL, WEDNESBURY, and any favours entrusted to him will meet with prompt attention.

1878

WEDNESBURY.—Beerhouse to Let. Large commodious premises. Rent £22. In-coming low. Part may remain.—For particulars, apply, Rose Hill Inn, Church Hill, Wednesbury. c8056

1880

Wednesbury, Staffordshire.—To be Sold by Auction, BY Mr. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, at the Green Dragon Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury, on MONDAY, the 4th day of July, 1881, at 7 o'clock precisely, subject to conditions to be then produced—

A valuable FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED INN, known by the sign of the "ROSE HILL INN," situate at Church Hill, Wednesbury, with a Range of SHOPPING (easily convertible into a Cottage) belonging thereto, and the large Garden at the back thereof. Also, a COTTAGE adjoining to the said Inn.

The Inn and Out-buildings are held by the present tenant on a Lease, at the low rental of £35. The Garden is let at the additional annual nominal rent of £2, and the Cottage is let at the annual rent of £6. 14s.; the whole producing a gross annual rental of £43. 14s.

The surface area of the Lot is 1,117 square yards or thereabouts. Several COTTAGE PROPERTIES in Wednesbury will be Offered at the same time and place.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury; or to Messrs. Thursfield and Messiter, Solicitors, Wednesbury.

HENRY JERRAMS

NOTED ALES & PORTERS,

GOLDEN BALL BREWERY, OLDBURY.

THE TRADE AND FAMILIES SUPPLIED.

PRICE LISTS AND TERMS ON APPLICATION AT THE BREWERY,

OR FROM

MR. JOHN CUXSON, ROSEHILL INN, CHURCH HILL, WEDNESBURY.

MR. SAMUEL BARNETT, HOPE & ANCHOR INN, HALESOWEN STREET, OLDBURY.

1881

The Rosehill Tavern

80 Church Hill
Wednesbury
WS10 9DU

Tel :- 0121 530 8128



A welcoming pub with a family room and two other bars. Banks Original on offer along with two guest ales.

Opening times:

Sunday – Thursday 12-11pm
Friday & Saturday 12-1am

2010

ROSEHILL TAVERN
PRESENTS

MIDLAND Recipes

MAINS MENU

CURRY MUTTON

JERK CHICKEN

FRIED CHICKEN

HARD FOOD

(yam, plantain, boiled dumplin,
kidney beans & gravy)

All served with rice & peas or white rice
(plus steamed vegetables)

REGULAR - £8.50

LARGE - £10

SIDES

FRIED DUMPLIN

£1.50

COLESLAW

REGULAR - £2.50

LARGE - £3.50

BBQ CHICKEN WINGS

REGULAR - £4.00

LARGE - £5.00

SPECIAL
OFFER

* FREE WINGS OR DUMPLINS
WITH EVERY MAINS ORDER *

CONTACT: 07342519239 / 07460429074 - FOR INFO
ROSEHILL TAVERN, WEDNESBURY, WS10 9DJ

2023

ROSE, THISTLE, AND SHAMROCK

High Bullen, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Jones **(1849 – 1850)**

NOTES

London Gazette 24/1/1851

“Whereas a Petition of *Samuel Jones*, at present and for five months last past residing in Portway-road, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Shingler, for one year and two months previous thereto residing at the ROSE, THISTLE, AND SHAMROCK, in the High Bullen, Wednesbury aforesaid, Licensed to brew and sell Ale, Beer, or Cider by retail, and Licensed Dealer in Tobacco, occasionally working as a Shingler, for two years and five months previous thereto residing at the STRUGGLER, in Portway-road, Wednesbury aforesaid, Licensed to brew and sell Ale, Beer, or Cider by retail, and also Licensed Dealer in Tobacco, occasionally working as a Shingler, and for twelve months before that time residing in the Hollyhead-road, Wednesbury aforesaid, Shingler, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Samuel Jones*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Samuel Jones* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 1st day of February next, at two o’clock in the afternoon 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 *Samuel Jones*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Joseph Heapy Watson, Clerk of the said Court, at his office, at the Court-house, in Oldbury, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

ROYAL EXCHANGE

22, Chapel Street / Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.
Ansell's Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Lloyd [1861]
Jeremiah Cartwright [1869]
Thomas Parsons [] – **1870**;
Mrs. Frances 'Fanny' Parsons (**1870** – [1881])
Edward Smith [1891]
Enoch Page [1892] – [1904]
George Taylor [1901]
Nicholas Edmund 'Nick' Lacey [1911] – [1940]
John Lacey [] – **1949**
Ethel Martin [1961] – [1967]

NOTES

It had a ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Dudley Herald 22/5/1869

"*Jeremiah Cartwright*, ROYAL EXCHANGE beerhouse, Portway Road, Wednesbury was fined 1s and costs for serving during prohibited hours."

Thomas Parsons died in 1870.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/10/1870

"The following transfers of publicans licenses were effected.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, Wednesbury, from *Thomas Parsons* (deceased) to his widow."

Frances Parsons = Frances Pearsons

1871 Census

22, Chapel Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Frances Parsons* (59), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Halesowen;
- [2] *Benjamin Parsons* (26), son, brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Elizabeth Parsons* (20), daughter, born Halesowen;
- [4] *Ann Parsons* (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Fanny Wall* (4), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1872

"Yesterday morning, a meeting of ironworkers was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, to hear addresses touching the present condition of the iron trade. Mr. Slimner presided, and Mr. Walker was the principal speaker. The proceedings showed the men to be generally satisfied with the arrangement made last week by the sub-committee for the regulation of the percentages in the trade, and determined to adhere until Christmas next to the understanding that five heats per turn should be worked; and determined also to promote as much as possible the principle of conciliation and the national organisation of the ironworkers."

Midland Examiner 27/2/1875 - Advert

"Important Sale of a Freehold Public House and Dwelling Houses, in Wednesbury.

Mr. Edward Ellis will Sell by Auction at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, the 17th day of March, 1875, at Six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot. 2. Four Dwelling Houses, numbered 33, 34, 35, and 36, in Chapel Street, Wednesbury, with brewhouses and necessary outbuildings thereto, and with a private entry and enclosed yead.

The Property comprised in this Lot has a frontage of 44 feet 3 inches to Chapel Street, and is let to Josiah Dibble, James Knowles, Mary Tipton, and Joseph Wilkinson, at rentals amounting together to £38 2s 0d a year.

The total surface area of this Lot is 274 square yards, part of which is Leasehold for the residue of a term of 999 years, commencing on the 2nd of May, 1739, and the remaining part is Freehold.

NB. The whole of the above Property is substantially built, and of the best materials, and the Auctioneer respectfully solicits intending purchasers to inspect the same before the day of sale."

Midland Examiner 20/3/1875

"On Wednesday, Mr. Edward Ellis submitted a quantity of freehold property for public competition, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury. There was a large company present, and the competition was spirited Lot 2, being Nos.33, 34, 35, and 36, Chapel Street, was purchased by Mrs. *Fanny Parsons*, for £415."

Wednesbury Herald 3/1/1880

"Ancient Order of Foresters. The 14th anniversary of the Court Excelsior, No. 4795, was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening last, when a strong number of members sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the hostess Mrs. *Pearsons*....."

1881 Census

22, Chapel Street – SCOTTS ARMS [sic]

[1] *Frances Parsons* (69), widow, publican, born Halesowen;

[2] Benjamin Parsons (36), son, born Wednesbury;

[3] Fanny Wall (15), grand-daughter, domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1885 - Advert

"Re *Frances Parsons*, Deceased.

All Persons having any Claims or Demands against the Estate of *Frances Parsons*, late of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Chapel Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Widow and Beerhouse Keeper, deceased, who died on the 22nd day of March, 1885, are required to Send Particulars thereof to Mr. George Willetts, of No.78, King Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, or to Mr. Thomas Willetts, of No.11, Perry Street, Wednesbury aforesaid (the Executors of the deceased), or to us, the undersigned, as their Solicitors, in order that the same may be forthwith discharged, if found correct.

Thursfield & Messiter, Solicitors, Wednesbury."

RE FRANCES PARSONS, Deceased.—All Persons having any CLAIMS or DEMANDS against the Estate of FRANCES PARSONS, late of the Royal Exchange Inn, Chapel Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Widow and Beerhouse-keeper, deceased, who died on the 22nd day of March, 1885, are required to SEND PARTICULARS thereof to Mr. GEORGE WILLETTS, of No. 78, King Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, or to Mr. THOMAS WILLETTS, of No. 11, Perry Street, Wednesbury aforesaid (the Executors of the deceased), or to us, the undersigned, as their Solicitors, in order that the same may be forthwith discharged, if found correct.

THURSFIELD & MESSITER, Solicitors, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

22, Chapel Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Edward Smith* (40), brewer, born Tipton;
- [2] *Catherine Smith* (35), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Harry Taylor* (16), step-son, factory worker, born Walsall;
- [4] *Joseph Taylor* (14), step-son, born Walsall;
- [5] *Annie Florence Taylor* (12), step-daughter, born Walsall;
- [6] *Agnes Maud Taylor* (10), step-daughter, born Walsall;
- [7] *Emily Smith* (4), daughter, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [8] *Alice Dora Smith* (2), daughter, born Great Bridge;
- [9] *Jessie Wright* (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

1901 Census

Chapel Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *George Taylor* (34), publican, manager, born Cork, Ireland;
- [2] *Caroline Taylor* (28), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *George H. Taylor* (4), son, born Walsall;
- [4] *Fred W. Taylor* (3), son, born Walsall;
- [5] *Eliza Carlshaw* (24), visitor, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1901

“Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent Salt objected to the renewal of the licenses, in consequence of convictions, of the following houses.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Chapel Street.....

The magistrates renewed all the licenses but Mr. Joynson pointed out that if any of the applicants were again convicted they would in all probability lose the licenses.”

Enoch Page, beer retailer, 22, Chapel Street. [1904]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/9/1909

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, today (Friday), *Job Bache*, formerly of the TWO FURNACES INN, Tipton, applied for the transfer of the license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE beerhouse, Chapel Street, Wednesbury, from *Thomas Horton* to himself.

Superintendent Salt reminded the Bench that a complaint had been made against the applicant whilst he was keeping a house at Tipton of giving the long pull. Applicant said he stopped that as soon as the complaint was made.

Superintendent Salt: It is reported that there was a good deal of trouble with you over the long pull.

Applicant denied this, and said he did his best to check it. He added that they were all giving the long pull now at Tipton.

Mr. Southern (presiding magistrate) said the Bench viewed with great disfavour the long pull, and the Mayor on a previous occasion had expressed himself very strongly in that Court. If the Bench granted the transfer they wished the applicant to understand the position.

Applicant: Very good, sir.

Mr. Southern: The transfer will be granted, but there must be no long pull.”

1911 Census

Chapel Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Nicholas Edmund Lacey* (29), single, brewer and retailer of beer, born Wednesfield;
- [2] *Marie Hinds* (38), housekeeper, born Stourbridge;
- [3] *Mary Costello* (15), domestic housemaid, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1919

“Wednesbury Borough Licensing Justices, yesterday.....

The following licenses were to be served with opposition notices on the ground of redundancy.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, Portway Road.”

1921 Census

22, Chapel Street

[1] *Nicholas Edmund Lacey* (39), single, haulier and beer retailer, born Wednesfield:

Nicholas Edmund Lacey was the son of *John Lacey*.

John Lacey – see *ROBIN HOOD*, Portway Road, *CROSS GUNS*, Bilston Road, and *GRAPES*, High Street.

John Lacey died on 18th February 1930.

1939 Register

22, Chapel Street

[1] *Nicholas E. Lacey*, date of birth 6/11/1881, retailer of beer, single;

[2] *John Lacey*, dob 1/4/1883, insurance agent, single;

[3] *Francis J. Lacey*, dob 3/5/1892, repairs labourer, works house property, auxiliary fire service, single:

John Lacey and *Francis J. Lacey* were brothers of *Nicholas Edmund Lacey*.

Nicholas Edmund Lacey died in the 2nd quarter of 1947.

Nicholas Edmund Lacey – see also *FOX AND DOGS*, Albert Street.

Rugeley Times 23/4/1949

“Pain, which *John Lacey* (66), licensee of the *ROYAL EXCHANGE*, Chapel Street, Wednesbury, imagined in his stomach, became so real and severe that he committed suicide by gassing himself in his kitchen. This was stated at the inquest at Wednesbury on Saturday when Mr. Frank Cooper, coroner, commented, ‘It is not infrequent to find a case of this sort; where there is nothing physical to account for the pains, but they are none the less felt by the patient and possibly in a more acute form than if they had been real.’ He recorded a verdict that *Lacey* took his own life at a time when the balance of his mind was disturbed.

Francis Lacey, 5, Park Street Terrace, Wednesbury, said he was a barman for his brother *John* and used to leave the premises at 10.45 at night, returning at 7.30 in the morning. *John* had never been married. In the 1914-18 war he had served out East and had suffered from malaria. He had had treatment from the late Dr. Morris and also from Dr. Morris’ successor, Dr. King. Last August he went to Walsall Hospital for about 10 weeks, for he had constantly complained of pains in his stomach. On January 1st he went into hospital at West Bromwich for a further six weeks. After his return he still complained of pains and became very depressed. The witness added that on one day he found his brother on his back in the kitchen with gas escaping from the stove.

James Lacey, another brother, said he had never had any indication that *John* was likely to take his life. He had seen him on the Wednesday before his death, when *John* had complained of pains in his chest, stomach and legs. He had said there was no use in his legs.

Dr. Edwin Joseph King said *John Lacey* was sent to Walsall and West Bromwich hospitals so that the cause of his pains could be investigated. Results at both hospitals were completely negative, but it was hinted at West Bromwich that the pains might be psychological due to the man’s depression. It was not unusual in that type of case.

Dr. King said he made an autopsy. *John Lacey*’s heart had been in an excellent condition considering his age. The lungs had shown evidence of bronchitis, although *Lacey* had definitely complained of stomach pains. ‘I made a very careful examination of his stomach because I wanted to find out what had been the trouble, but there was nothing at all abnormal about it,’ said Dr. King.

Mr. Cooper: To put it as the man in the street would put it, these pains were imagined; people who do imagine these pains really suffer from them although there is no bodily cause?

Dr. King agreed. He said *Lacey* had died of suffocation from coal gas poisoning.

Mr. Cooper said it was obvious that *Lacey* had committed suicide, but he also had no doubt that *Lacey*’s mind had been disturbed over a very long period.”

John Lacey – see also *SMITHS ARMS*, Cross Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/5/1961

“Because there was an element of doubt, Wednesbury magistrates yesterday dismissed charges against a local licensee, but the chairman, Dr. A. Frost, added, ‘We think there is a certain amount of laxity in the running of the public house and in future better arrangements must be made.’ Mrs. *Ethel Martin*, licensee of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street, Wednesbury, was found not guilty on three charges of selling beer by her agent outside permitted hours.

Three men, Howard Taylor (31), and Raymond Taylor (34), both of Hawthorn Road, Wednesbury, and Sidney Goldby (40), of Dangerfield Lane, Wednesbury, admitted consuming beer on the premises outside permitted hours and were each fined £5 and ordered to pay £1 costs.

The licensee’s husband, James Frederick Martin (44) admitted three charges of aiding and abetting the consumption outside permitted hours and was fined a total of £12 with costs of £3 6s.

Mrs. *Martin* told the Court that she did not know her husband and the other men were downstairs drinking and had not given them permission.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/7/1967 - Notice

“The Licensing Act, 1964. County Borough of West Bromwich.

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 27th June, 1967, to Refuse the Renewal of the License of the premises specified below.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street, Wednesbury. Old Beerhouse License. Licensee, *Ethel Martin*. Registered Owners, Ansells Brewery Ltd, Aston, Birmingham.”

ROYAL EXCHANGE

10, (3), (Upper) High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1955)

LICENSEES

John Dudley [1839] – **1861**);
Joseph Dudley [1861]
George Lloyd (**1861** – [] manager
John Wainwright [1888] – [1889]
F Hammonds [1895]
Edmund Louis Hammonds [1896]
Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Archard [1901]
William A Hatfield [1904]
Thomas Hanks [1908]
Thomas Green [1911] – [1912]
Thomas Brookes [1916] – [1921]
Thomas Lockett [] – **1925**);
James Tyler (**1925** – []
John William Parbott [1932]

NOTES

3, Upper High Street [1871], [1881]
3, High Street [1872], [1884]
10, Upper High Street [1911], [1921]
10, High Street [1916], [1921], [1932]

NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE [1858]
EXCHANGE [1879], [1885]

John Dudley married Mary Spittle on 3rd February 1833.

1841 Census

High Street

- [1] John Dudley (35), edge tool maker, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Mary Dudley (30), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Sarah Dudley (6 months), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Jane Nightingale (20), f.s., born Staffordshire;

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/1/1847

“On Monday last the members of the Females Lodge, which now numbers upwards of fifty, held at the house of Mr. John Dudley, Wednesbury, were entertained with a sumptuous dinner, given by the worthy host and hostess. After the cloth was removed, and the usual loyal toasts were given, with great applause, the health of the host and hostess, &c, &c, was drunk with acclamations. The remainder of the day was spent in conviviality, and the company separated about ten o'clock.”

ROYAL EXCHANGE SPIRIT VAULTS, HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.

WILLIAM HABRON having accepted the situation of **MANAGER** for Mr. GEORGE LLOYD, of the above Vaults, will commence his duties on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25th.**

ALES, WINES, AND SPIRITS
of the best quality.

1880

ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.

W. ASHCROFT & SON will **SELL** BY AUCTION, on **FRIDAY NEXT, August 30th, 1889, at 11 a.m. prompt,** on the above Premises, all the superior and modern

BREWING PLANT.

A quantity of **SURPLUS FURNITURE**, and other Trade Effects—comprising, amongst other items, 250 and 60 gallon Copper Boilers, 120 and 60 gallon home-made Casks, superior 20-bushel Mash Tub (with patent solid iron portable perforated bottom), large and valuable Taps (with 2-inch piping), Iron Tank, 200-gallon Malleable Iron Boiler, Water Indicator, strong Vats (with circular refrigerator), Piping and Taps, large Copper Sieve, Lawrence's Patent Sparget, large Working and other Tubs, Hop Press, Weighing Machine and Weights, Malt Crusher, Pianoforte, Harmonium, a quantity of surplus Furniture, and Effects.

Further particulars from the Auctioneers, 7, The Bridge, Walsall.

1889

1851 Census

High Street West

- [1] *John Dudley* (49), beer seller, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Dudley* (42), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah Dudley* (10), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [4] *Elenor Dudley* (4), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Mary Ann Rogers* (20), house servant, born Bilston:

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/10/1853

“At the sessions held for the purpose on Wednesday last, at Great Barr, there were 64 applications made for new victuallers licenses. Of the comparative few granted were the following.....

Mr. *Dudley*, ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/2/1854 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others. Sale of Freehold Property, at Wood Green, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, on Wednesday next the 22nd of February, at the house of Mr. *John Dudley*, ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/3/1858 - Deaths

“March 2, after a long and painful illness, aged 48 years, *Mary*, the beloved wife of Mr. *John Dudley*, of the NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1860 - Deaths

“On the 23rd ultimo, after a short illness, aged 59 years, Mr. *John Dudley*, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/1/1861

“At West Bromwich Public Office, on Saturday last, the following transfers of licenses were granted by the Magistrates.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Wednesbury, from the executors of the late Mr. *John Dudley*, to Mr. *George Lloyd*.”

George Lloyd issued tokens from here.

George Lloyd married *Sarah Dudley*, the daughter of *John* and *Mary Dudley*.

1861 Census

High Street

- [1] *George Lloyd* (29), licensed victualler, born Redditch;
- [2] *Sarah Lloyd* (20), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Sarah E. Lloyd* (4 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Eleanor Dudley* (14), sister-in-law, fundholder, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Sarah Millard* (19), house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Mary A. Hadley* (14), house servant, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/3/1862

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes.....

Action for Damages arising from an Injury. *Hackwood v Lloyd*.

The plaintiff, *John Hackwood*, who sued for his son, a boy fifteen years of age, is a grocer and general agent, residing in High Street, Wednesbury, of which parish he is also beadle and constable, and the defendant, *George Lloyd*, is a publican, carrying on business in the same street. The action was brought to recover damages for a permanent injury alleged to have been inflicted on the plaintiff's son by the defendant. The defendant pleaded not guilty.

The plaintiff's son was returning home at about ten o'clock one evening, when, seeing a light shining through a hole in the wall of plaintiff's stable, he, with boyish curiosity, peeped through to see what was going on. He saw the defendant and two bricklayers at work there, and as another lad was passing at the time he called his attention to the



Token

discovery. The lads took turns at the cranny, and the end of it was that while the plaintiff's son was looking in, a piece of mortar was thrown at him, and, lodging in his eye, eventually destroyed the sight of it.

Richard Lloyd, one of the bricklayers at work with the defendant, was called for the defendant, and in effect said he did not throw the mortar. In cross-examination he said he was using no mortar at the time, nor was the defendant, who was some distance from it. The only man who was using mortar was the third man, whose name was Wittingham, and he was doing some work which made it necessary for him to throw the mortar off his trowel into his work. It was quite possible, he said, that a piece of mortar might have accidentally flown off, and gone into the eye of the plaintiff's son.

Wittingham was then called, and after describing the position of himself, the defendant, and Lloyd, admitted that it was just possible that he might have splashed a piece of mortar into the lad's eye.

Concerning the question of damages it was shown that the lad, after being attended temporarily, was sent to the Birmingham Eye Infirmary, where he had remained almost ever since. It was also stated that he had lost his employment in consequence of the injury done him.....

The case was adjourned till next morning."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/3/1862

".....Sarah Lloyd, wife of the defendant, deposed that she constantly saw Hackwood at her house and at his own from that time to the time the letter came from the lawyer about the action, and he never, on any occasion, spoke of witness's husband being the cause of the injury to the boy's eye.....

The Judge summed up the case with great care, noticing the case both of the plaintiff and the defendant and the main points in favour of the credibility of each of the opposing statements.....

The jury after retiring to consult returned after an absence of half an hour, and gave their verdict for the defendant, expressing their sympathy for the boy on the loss of his eye.

The case occupied altogether about eight hours."

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/2/1863

"Louisa Ferns, a woman with a baby in her arms, was charged with having assaulted Sarah Lloyd, the landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury. The prisoner, who gets her living by ballad singing in public houses, was in the ROYAL EXCHANGE on Monday night, and commenced singing a song which was indecent, when the landlord, Mr. Lloyd, requested her to leave. She refused with an oath, and Mr. Lloyd proceeded to eject her, while Mrs. Lloyd held the baby. Mrs. Lloyd went to the door to give her the child, when the prisoner pulled her by the hair into the gutter and tore a gold earring from her ear. The landlord had great difficulty in rescuing his wife from the brutality of the prisoner. An officer, in taking her to the station, was obliged to send for another policeman to assist him, and between them both they managed to carry her. The prisoner showed some bruises and scratches, which she said were inflicted by the prosecutrix. She was ordered to pay the expenses, 11s 6d, or go to gaol for 14 days."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/8/1868

"Robert Ward, a shingler, employed by Mr. Barker, of Leybrook, and residing in Meeting Street, Wednesbury, was charged with having attempted to commit suicide. On last Saturday night, about ten o'clock, the prisoner went into the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury, and was drinking there some time. He then went to a chemist's shop, and purchased a packet of 'Vermin Killer.' He returned to the public house, and ordered a glass of brandy. It was given to him, and he emptied the contents of the packet into it, and drank part of it, saying to one of the men present, 'If I die you will find some coppers in my pocket, and you can drink my health.' He then stretched out his legs and acted in so strange a manner, that the suspicions of those present were aroused, and an officer coming by at the time, he was called in, and accused taken into the surgery of Mr. Iliffe, at Spring Head, Wednesbury.

In reply to the Bench, Ward said that he had been drinking very hard, and he could hardly tell what he did.

Mr. Spooner said that the offence was a very serious one, and the prisoner was liable to be imprisoned for two years, which sentence he would most certainly get if he came again. This, however, Mr. Spooner hoped he would not do. He would be let off on being bound over in his own recognizances."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/3/1870

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Joseph Evans, boatman, appeared, charged with having assaulted Mary Talbot, High Street. The complainant’s sons had been in the defendant’s employ, and, as she alleged, wages were due to them. On the 5th of January she went to the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, to endeavour to effect a settlement, and a quarrel arose, which ended in defendant striking the complainant on the head with a stick, and drawing blood. Since the assault the defendant had been away with his boat. Fined 20s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/11/1870

“At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, William Butler (21), puddler of Gornal, and Sarah Butler (23), his wife, were charged on remand, the former with unlawfully cutting and wounding a man named Henry Crump, labourer, living in Oatmeal Square, High Street, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm, and the latter with aiding and abetting him in the same.

The prisoners had been remanded twice in consequence of Crump being unable to attend the Court. Prosecutor was now sufficiently recovered to be able to give evidence. He stated that he was at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, on Saturday night, the 22nd ult, about half-past ten, when the prisoner entered, and began cursing and swearing at an old man named Roper. Prosecutor remonstrated, and the prisoner, making use of threatening language, struck him a blow in the mouth. The landlord turned him out into the street, and prosecutor also went out. No sooner had he reached the outside than the prisoner rushed at him, struck him above the right eye with something he had in his hand, and knocked him down. Prosecutor became insensible, and remembered nothing more of what took place in the street.

Samuel Hackwood, broker, High Street, saw the prisoner knock prosecutor down. He then stooped down and struck prosecutor while he lay on the ground. Witness heard the female prisoner cry out to the prisoner, ‘Use the knife, Will.’ Witness dragged the prisoner off prosecutor, and held him till Police-sergeant Langdon came. When the officer made his appearance the female prisoner said, ‘Run, Will, the bobby is coming.’ The language she made use of was disgraceful.

A woman named Edna Emery said she saw the male prisoner knock prosecutor down outside the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, on the night of the 22nd ult. She heard the female prisoner say, ‘Use the knife, Will.’ As soon as she had said this, the male prisoner struck prosecutor again.

Hannah Nelson gave corroborative testimony.

Police-sergeant Langdon deposed to receiving the male prisoner into custody from the hands of the witness Hackwood. On the way to the station the prisoner said he would ‘loose Hackwood’s heart out when he got the chance.’ Having lodged the prisoner in the lock-up, witness went to the house where the prosecutor had been living, and he found him lying on the floor in a state of unconsciousness. Witness fetched Mr. Iliffe, surgeon, and then went back to the station, and charged the prisoner with cutting and wounding the prosecutor with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. Prisoner denied that he had had a knife in his possession that evening, and said he ‘only tripped him up.’ The officer did not find a knife upon him. He arrested the female prisoner on the following day.

Charles Webb Iliffe, surgeon, said he was called in to see prosecutor about twelve o’clock on the night in question. He had a large contusion and laceration over the right eye, and a punctured wound beneath the eye. The latter was about an inch in depth, and about one-fourth of an inch in width, and was evidently caused by some sharp instrument. If done with a knife, he should say it must have been the small blade of a pen-knife. The bone over the eye was exposed, to the extent of three inches by two, and the skin hung down over the eye. There was a quantity of dirt on the skin, from which witness inferred that the wound was caused by a kick. Prosecutor had lost a large quantity of blood, and he continued in a dangerous state for three or four days.

The prisoners pleaded not guilty, and they were committed for trial at the Sessions.”

AND

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 7/1/1871

“Staffordshire Epiphany Quarter Sessions.....

William Butler (21), puddler, and Sarah Butler (24), were found guilty of unlawfully wounding Henry Crump, at Wednesbury, on the 22nd of October, and sent to gaol for nine months’ imprisonment each.”

1871 Census

3, Upper High Street

[1] *George Lloyd* (38), licensed victualler and cooper, born Arley, Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Lloyd* (32), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Sarah Thursfield* (26), barmaid, born London;

[4] *Ann Cottrill* (23), general servant, born West Bromwich:

George Lloyd, wine and spirit merchant. [1872]

He was also a cooper.

Midland Examiner 30/1/1875 - Advert

"Notice. Public Appeal.

In consequence of trade depression and other consequences over which he has no control, *Thomas James Lees*, late of NAGS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, has become involved in serious pecuniary difficulties. Being totally blind, and having no means of extricating himself from his unfortunate position, a few friends have formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of making an appeal to the public on his behalf, feeling confident that the facts of the case have only to be made known to secure a hearty and generous response.

Persons who have kindly undertaken to collect subscriptions for the above object will greatly oblige by forwarding their cards, together with the amounts subscribed, on or before Tuesday, February 2, 1875, either to Mr. *Daniel Lockett* (LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN HOTEL), Chairman of Committee; Mr. *George Lloyd* (ROYAL EXCHANGE), Treasurer; Mr. *Rogers*, Secretary; or to *Thomas J. Lees*, New Town, Wednesbury.

NB. Any subscription, however small, will be thankfully received."

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1876

"*Jesse Jones*, brewer, was charged with stealing half a pint of rum, belonging to his master, *George Lloyd*, licensed victualler, Wednesbury. The theft was discovered by a police-constable who had been concealed on the prosecutor's premises to watch the prisoner. He was sentenced to 21 days hard labour."

Wednesbury Herald 14/6/1879

"*Albert Holroyd* (37), stonemason, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the EXCHANGE INN, High Street, when requested to do so by the landlord on the 31st ult.

The complainant stated that on the day in question the defendant came to his house, when in a state of intoxication. He requested him to leave, but he refused to do so, and it was with difficulty that he was ejected.

Mr. Superintendent *Holland* said he regretted to say that it was the defendant's eleventh appearance before the magistrates.

Major *Williams* said it was sad to see a respectable looking man in such a position. Defendant would be fined 20s and costs, or in default one month's imprisonment."

Wednesbury Herald 21/8/1880 - Advert

"ROYAL EXCHANGE SPIRIT VAULTS, High Street, Wednesbury.

William Habron having accepted the situation of Manager for Mr. *George Lloyd*, of the above Vaults, will commence his duties on Wednesday, August 25th.

Ales, Wines, and Spirits of the best quality."

1881 Census

3, Upper High Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] *George Lloyd* (49), victualler and cooper, born Upper Arley, Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Lloyd* (42), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Sarah Elenor Lloyd* (20), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *F. R. C. Lloyd* (5), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Jane Corfield* (10), niece, scholar, born Upper Arley, Staffordshire;

[6] *Sarah Ingram* (48), barmaid, born Birmingham;

[7] *Elizabeth Ellis* (20), general servant, born Wednesbury:

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.....

G. Lloyd, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Wednesbury.”

George Lloyd was also a brewer. [1884]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/2/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, good General Servant, accustomed to public house.

Apply, EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, good General Servant, accustomed to public house.—Apply, Exchange Inn, High-st., Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/12/1888

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Isaac Davis, Potters Lane, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, with assaulting Police-constable Jackson, and with stealing two glasses, the property of *John Wainwright*, keeper of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Upper High Street.

At about twenty minutes past twelve o’clock on Christmas morning Police-constable Jackson heard someone singing carols in the ROYAL EXCHANGE, and, on going in, found the prisoner and other persons there. He spoke to them about the noise they were making, and the prisoner, who was drunk, struck him on the face. He was taken into custody, and in his pocket the officer found two glasses belonging to the landlord.

He was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk and disorderly, and 10s and costs for assaulting the officer, nothing being done in the charge of felony.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/4/1889

“Warrants were granted for the apprehension of William Melia and William Flaherty (both of whom had absconded) on a charge of being drunk and refusing to quit the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, kept by *John Wainwright*. After the row at the KINGS ARMS defendants went to the EXCHANGE in a drunken condition and the landlord knowing of previous misconduct on their part refused to serve them and they then created a disturbance.”

Walsall Observer 24/8/1889 - Advert

“ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Wednesbury.

W. Ashcroft & Son will Sell by Auction, on Friday Next, August 30th, 1889, at 11am prompt, on the above Premises. All the superior and modern Brewing Plant, a quantity of Surplus Furniture, and other Trade Effects; comprising, amongst other items, 250 and 60 gallon Copper Boilers, 120 and 60 gallon home-made Casks, superior 20-bushel Mash Tub (with patent solid iron portable perforated bottom), large and valuable Taps (with 2-inch piping), Iron Tank, 200-gallon Malleable Iron Boiler, Water Indicator, strong Vats (with circular refrigerator), Piping and Taps, large Copper Sieve, Lawrence’s Patent Sparget, large Working and other Tubs, Hop Press, Weighing Machine and Weights, Malt Crusher, Pianoforte, Harmonium, a quantity of surplus Furniture and Effects.

Further particulars from the Auctioneers, 7, The Bridge, Walsall.”

A meeting of the Licensed Victuallers Association was held here in February 1895.

Wednesbury Herald 7/12/1895

“On Saturday last the employees in the Blacksmith Department of the Crown Tube Works held their first annual dinner at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, when upwards of 80 sat down to an excellent repast supplied by Host *F. Hammonds*.....”

Edmund Louis Hammonds (1850–1903), played cornet in the Wednesbury Rifle Volunteers Band, The Crown Works Band and The Royal Birmingham Orchestra.

He was married to Mary Ann.

He married, secondly, Alice Riley on 30th July 1892.

See also GREYHOUND, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, and BRITANNIA, Leabrook Road, Tipton.

1901 Census

Upper High Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Elizabeth A. Archard* (49), widow, publican, born Derbyshire;
- [2] *Edith E. Evans* (27), daughter, barmaid, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Minnie Evans* (22), daughter, barmaid, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *George Edward Archard* (14), step-son, office boy, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Annie Cavill* (16), domestic servant, born Staffordshire;

Birmingham Mail 15/9/1905

“Mr. Betham held an inquest at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, today, touching the death of *Elizabeth Ann Archard*, aged 53, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. The evidence showed that on the night of September 12 deceased was retiring to rest, and turned at the top of the stairs to wish a visitor ‘Good-night’ when she was apparently attacked with giddiness and fell downstairs, sustaining fatal injuries to her head. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Midland Counties Express 26/2/1910 - Advert

“General (smart), 20-22; good character indispensable.
ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury.”

GENERAL (smart), 20-22; good character indispensable.—Royal Exchange, High-st., Wednesbury.

1911 Census

10, Upper High Street

- [1] *Thomas Green* (45), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Matilda Green* (41), wife, married 21 years, born Tipton;
- [3] *Alice Green* (19), daughter, typist, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Arthur Green* (16), son, brewery bottler, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Thomas Green* (14), son, pawnbroker's assistant, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Beatrice Norton* (21), domestic servant, born Tipton;

1921 Census

10, Upper High Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Thomas Brookes* (59), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Matilda Brookes* (56), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] *Charles T. Brookes* (28), son, barman, born Walsall;
- [4] *Charlotte Tomlinson* (21), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

South Staffordshire Times 9/8/1924

“Daniel Elwell, 28, John Street, Walsall, was summoned for not having control over a horse and cart on July 30th, in Upper High Street, Wednesbury.

PC Parton stated that at 2.10pm on the date in question he saw a horse attached to a truck outside the ROYAL EXCHANGE. He found defendant in the bar, and defendant told him he had been there a quarter of an hour, but making enquiries he found that the defendant had been in the public house since 1 o'clock.

Defendant, who denied the offence, was fined 5s.”

Walsall Observer 20/11/1948

“For many years licensee of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Wednesbury, and for 15 years a fireman in Darlaston Fire Brigade, Mr. *John William Parbott* passed away at his home, 32, Wharfdale Street, Wednesbury, on Sunday afternoon, after a long illness, in his 74th year. A native of Wednesbury, he lived in the town all his life. Though he retired nine years ago, he returned and took employment with Rubery Owen, Darlaston, to do essential work. He leaves a widow and four children. The funeral service was held at Wednesbury Parish Church on Thursday and the remains were cremated at Perry Barr.”

Closed

ROYAL GEORGE

71, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

[1853]

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/11/1856

“Wednesbury Local Board of Health.....

The report of the Officer of Health stated that there was a case near the ROYAL GEORGE, in Portway Road, in which the contents of a privy ran down to the step of a house-door, and exhibited a most disgusting appearance. It was only removed after repeated applications at the office. In this instance there was only one privy to five houses, and it was in this yard where two cases of small-pox existed.”

ROYAL OAK

20, King Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Walter Showell [1881], [1932]

LICENSEES

John Wells [1853] – **1862**);
William Entwistle (**1862** – [1865]
John Veal [1868] – [1870]
Joseph Russell [1871] – **1873**);
Eliza Hedges (**1873** – []
Edward Taylor [1881] manager
William McDonnell (**1881** – [1884]
William Bennett [1891] – [1892]
Mrs. Jane Evans [1896]
P Davenport [1900]
Arthur Preece [1904]
Evan Holloway [1908]
William A Benness [1901]
James Edwin Pascall [1911] – [1912]
Richard Hodson [1916] – [1921]
Thomas Goode [] – **1924**);
Thomas Betts (**1924** – [1932]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 1/10/1853 - Advert

“To Gasometer Makers, Brokers, and Others.

Wanted to Purchase, a small Gasometer, &c, to supply about 15 or 20 Lights, at lowest cash price.

For particulars, direct to Mr. *John Wells*, ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, Wednesbury.”

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.....

John Wells, of King Street, Wednesbury.”

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.”

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 of 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 favorable terms, he 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 HUFTON
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. T. TAFT, Talbot Hotel, Cradley Heath.

“ ISAAC NEWTON, Horse Shoe Inn, Brierley Hill

“ THOMAS BARNES, Lion Hotel, Bilston.

“ DANIEL DABBY, Old Britannia Inn, Moxley

1878

TO GASOMETER MAKERS, BROKERS, and OTHERS. — WANTED to PURCHASE, a small GASOMETER, &c., to supply about 15 or 20 Lights, at lowest cash price. — For particulars, direct to Mr. John Wells, Royal Oak Inn, King Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Journal 10/2/1855

“The large and handsome club-room at the ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury, was filled on Saturday last by the workmen employed by Messrs. James Russell and Sons, the extensive iron tube manufacturers, to partake of a dinner provided in Mrs. *Wells*’s best style. Mr. Abraham Griffiths, the oldest workman, who has been upwards of thirty years in the employ, presided, and Mr. T. Foster, also an old workman, filled the vice-chair. Some capital singing enlivened the evening, and a comic song made for the occasion, and sung in character, caused much merriment. At the close of the evening, ‘God save the Queen’ was sung, and the meeting separated well pleased with each other.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/9/1855

“It had been intended to celebrate the capture of Sebastopol in Wednesbury yesterday week, but the Market Place being occupied on account of the wakes, the committee appointed to get up a demonstration deemed it advisable to defer it until Monday last. On that day Wednesbury certainly made a grand show. The streets were lined with the colours of our native land and her allies, and from the railway the town assumed a most gay aspect. The sight on entering the town was most striking. At the lowest computation not less than five hundred colours were displayed, and there was scarcely an inn or a shop, however small, that did not exhibit this mark of rejoicing.....

In the Market Place two sheep were roasted whole by the committee for gratuitous distribution. A sheep was also roasted whole by Mr. George Rowley, of the HORSE AND JOCKEY; two by Mr. *John Wells*, of the ROYAL OAK, King Street; two by Mr. Rowley, of the ROYAL OAK, High Bullin.”

Birmingham Journal 13/10/1855

“The second annual meeting of the members of the No.1 Loan and Investment Society, took place on Monday last, at the house of Mr. *John Wells*, the ROYAL OAK, King Street, when upwards of thirty persons sat down to an excellent dinner, served up in a very able manner by the host. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. John Danks was called upon to preside, and the vice-chair was occupied by the secretary of the society, Mr. Thomas Parkes junior. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and responded to with much enthusiasm, several excellent songs and glees were sung, and mirth and hilarity prevailed throughout the evening, the company separating at an early hour, highly pleased with their enjoyment. The success of the society during the past year has been very great, and the profits have greatly exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its members.”

Birmingham Journal 10/1/1857

“On Friday evening, the members of No.1 Loan Society, held at Mr. *John Wells*’s, the ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury, partook of an excellent dinner, provided by the landlord on the termination of the society. Mr. Thomas Wood was called to the chair. Mr. Thomas Parkes, junior, the secretary, officiated as vice, and after being called upon to read over a statement of the accounts, which was done to the satisfaction of the members, they were finally passed. Mr. Parkes was thanked for the able manner in which he conducted the society from the commencement. In responding, the secretary remarked that the society had turned over more than two thousand pounds, and although they had suffered a loss, it had come to a satisfactory conclusion, both to borrowers and investors.”

Birmingham Journal 16/10/1858 - Advert

“Wanted, a General Servant, from twenty-five to thirty years of age, where another Servant is kept. Liberal wages given, and a good character required.

Address, Mr. *John Wells*, ROYAL OAK, Commercial Inn, King Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1859

“On Monday afternoon an inquest was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, Wednesbury, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, upon the body of John Hardiman, who died on Friday last. Deceased was at work in a pit near Darlaston, on the 17th December last, when a quantity of coal fell upon him, so severely injuring him that he was not able to work again. It was clearly proved that death had resulted from the injuries so received, and the Jury immediately returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/4/1859 - Advert

“Wanted, an active Man, with good character, as Cowman. He must be a good Milker.

Apply to Mr. *John Wells*, ROYAL OAK, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, an active Man, with a good character, as COWMAN. He must be a good Milker. - Apply to Mr. John Wells, Royal Oak, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/2/1860 - Advert

“Wood Green Farm, one mile from Wednesbury, one and a half from Walsall, eight from Birmingham, eleven from Lichfield, and one from Darlaston, on the Wednesbury and Walsall Turnpike Road.

C. Wootton has been favoured with instruction from Mr. *John Wells* (who is giving up one of his farms), to Sell by Auction, on the Farm as above, on Friday, the 9th day of March, 1860, all the valuable Live and Dead Farming Stock, Implements, Dairy Utensils, &c, including twenty-five tons of well-ended hay, one hundred tons of capital manure, several tons of mangold wurtzel, ten handsome cows, in-calf, new milch, and fresh barren; three handsome sturks, in-calf; eight capital young sturks, six powerful young horses, eighteen handsome store pigs, ditto sow in-pig, two fine gilts in-pig, handsome young open gilt, several couples of fowls, broad and narrow-wheel carts and waggons, iron and wood ploughs, harrows, drills, chaff, winnowing and turnip-cutting machines, iron horse rack, large water-barrel, on wheels and shafts; new rick sheet and poles, 15 yards by 10 yards; capital milk trap and cans, two large barrel churns, superior light spring trap, two capital Stanhope gigs, nearly new; double and single-bodied phaetons, in good condition; five capital sets of cart harness, set of useful gig harness, two excellent riding saddles, forks, rakes, &c.

Luncheon to be on the table at half-past ten; the sale to commence at half-past eleven o'clock.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Wednesbury, and at the Auctioneer's, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/6/1860 - Advert

“Desirable Old Licensed Public House, the ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury.

Joseph Whitehouse is favoured with instructions from Mr. *John Wells*, who is retiring from the Business, to Dispose Of, with immediate possession, the above convenient and well-frequented House, with Four large Clubs attached, and now doing a first-rate trade.

For further particulars, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury.

PS. Several other good Business Houses to be Disposed Of.”

1861 Census

King Street – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *John Wells* (65), publican and farmer of 22 acres employing two men, born Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire;
- [2] *Sarah Wells* (54), wife, born Quatford, Shropshire;
- [3] *John Wells* (23), son, born Walsall;
- [4] *Elizabeth Wells* (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William H. Wells* (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Mary McFarlane* (32), widow, house servant, born Mayo, Ireland;
- [7] *William Lowe* (36), servant, carter, born Chelmarsh, Shropshire;
- [8] *Mary Greenway* (60), visitor, born Coventry;

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1861

“District Annual Licensing Day.....

The list of parties fined for various breaches of the law it appeared was rather less than that of preceding years, and comprised of the following persons.....

John Wells, ROYAL OAK, Wednesbury, open on a Sunday, fined 2s 6d and costs; cautioned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1863

“*William Entwistle*, of the ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury, was charged with having his house open for the sale of liquors during unlawful hours on the morning of Sunday, the 1st inst. The case was proved by Sergeant Gasson, and the defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/6/1864

“At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary, *William Entwistle*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, appeared to answer a charge of having sold malt liquor during prohibited hours on the morning of the 17th of April last. Mr. Sheldon appeared for the defendant.

Police-constable Evans deposed to seeing a woman leaving the back part of the defendant's premises with a jug of ale in her hand, and to having heard a man ask her if there was ‘any chance.’ The woman and man then went back to the window of the house, and the constable saw a glass of some kind of liquor passed out, and drunk by the man. Evans then went nearer, and heard the woman ask for a quart of ale. He made some remark, and the woman in charge of the tap then refused to supply any ale.

Several witnesses were called to contradict the constable's statement, but the Stipendiary deemed their evidence unworthy of belief, and a previous conviction having been proved, a fine of £5 and costs was imposed.”

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.....

William Entwistle, ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury, open house on Sunday, April 17th, fined £5 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 stated below, whose licenses were suspended, all conducted their houses since the several convictions in a very orderly manner.....

William Entwistle, ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury license renewed.”

William Entwistle – see also SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, and LAMP.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/4/1865

“On Tuesday morning Mr. Hooper, the District Coroner, held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, Wednesbury, touching the death of a child named Eliza Willford, one month old, who was found dead in a house in King Street, on Saturday last. It appeared that the mother of the deceased is a poor woman, and has been in the Union, where she was confined. She left there, and was admitted out of charity in a house in King Street. She remained there a short time. On Saturday morning she went out in the yard, when some one went in her room and found the deceased dead. The body was removed from there to the ROYAL OAK, where the inquest was held yesterday morning. The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead, but how or by what means deceased came to her death there was no evidence to show.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/3/1868 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, that Old-established Liquor Vault, ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury.

Apply on the Premises.”

To be DISPOSED OF that Old-established LIQUOR VAULT,
ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury. Apply on the
Premises

Birmingham Journal 18/4/1868 - Advert

“Clearing-Out Sale, at the ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Whitehouse, on Tuesday Next, April 21.

The Household Furniture, &c, belonging to Mr. *John Veal*, who has removed, consisting of mahogany and other Chairs, Tables, Sofa, Benches, iron and tent Bedsteads, straw Palliasses, four-pull Ale Machine and Piping, 180 and 70-gallon Copper Boilers, two Ale Coolers, eight Ale Casks, Chaff Engine, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock am.

Catalogues can be had at the Auctioneer's Office, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

NB. The House to be Let.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/11/1868

“Wednesbury Election.

On Friday last Mr. Walker attended meetings in Wednesbury at the ROYAL OAK, King Street, at half-past one; at the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Kings Hill, at seven; at the FORESTERS ARMS, Oxford Street, at eight; and at the MUSEUM TAVERN, Elwell Street, at nine. At each he was most enthusiastically received, and his addresses and replies to questions gave the greatest satisfaction. At the FORESTERS ARMS the harmony of the proceedings were somewhat interrupted by an attack by Mr. Benjamin Danks and a few other Brogdenites on the chairman, Mr. Cullis, an ex-member of the late Liberal Committee, who now supports Mr. Walker, and by an attempt afterwards by the same party to pass a vote in favour of Mr. Brogden, but which was most vociferously negatived, Mr. Walker securing the support of his audience at each meeting.”

[Alexander Brogden was Liberal MP for Wednesbury from 1868 to 1885.]

1871 Census

20, King Street – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *Joseph Russell* (62), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Russell* (62), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Mary Ann Russell* (34), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Ellen Lewis* (22), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/12/1871

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner (stipendiary).....

Joseph Russell, of the ROYAL OAK public house, was summoned for having on Sunday, the 26th ult, refused to admit the police into his premises, and having also permitted drunkenness. Mr. Ebsworth defended.

Police-constable Farnell deposed to going to the defendant's, but was detained for some time outside, when he heard the noise as of people running about. Upon being admitted, he discovered three men concealed under a bed. One of them was intoxicated.

Defendant was fined 40s on the charge of permitting drunkenness, and was ordered to pay the costs on the other charge.”

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.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/6/1878

“Bartholomew Jones, labourer, was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit the ROYAL OAK public house, King Street, Wednesbury.”

Wednesbury Herald 14/8/1880

“Thomas Welsh, Dudley Street, and Edward Couldew, Holyhead Road, were charged with assaulting George Sheath on the 2nd inst. Mr. Docker, of Smethwick, appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Sheldon for the defence.

The prosecutor stated that he went into the ROYAL OAK, King Street, on the night in question, when he was struck by the defendants without any provocation.

At the suggestion of Mr. Sheldon, and with the concurrence of the Stipendiary, the defendants apologised, paid the damage done in the public house, and the costs, altogether £4 15s 5d. The summons was then withdrawn.”

1881 Census

King Street – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *Edward Taylor* (53), married, manager of spirit vaults, born Warwickshire;

[2] *John Holloway* (20), visitor, tinman, born Warwickshire:

Darlaston Weekly Times 19/1/1884

“The members of the ROYAL OAK Judge and Jury Club, Wednesbury, with a few friends, met to celebrate their third quarter on Saturday last. An excellent dinner was provided by the host, Mr. *McDonnell*. Upon the cloth being drawn, the learned judge, Mr. Kennedy, took the chair, with Mr. Townley as vice. A very pleasant evening was spent.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1884

[This is about a group of Irish nationalists (Fenians) called the Dynamite Society who were planning a bombing campaign against English cities.]

“The Dynamite Plots. Discovery of Nitro-glycerine at Egan’s House.

The Birmingham police were yesterday further rewarded for their search at Kyotts Lake House, the former residence of Egan and Daley. As soon as the prisoners were arrested the police commenced a thorough examination of the house, and afterwards they decided on turning over the garden discovered a tin canister in which were a number of documents containing, not only important evidence against both Egan and Daley, but also the names and addresses of persons connected with the Irish Republican Brotherhood.....

Acting upon information contained in the letters which were found in the tin canister, the Birmingham police arrested, at Wednesbury, *William McDonnell*, who was acting manager at the ROYAL OAK INN, King Street The prisoner is described as being married and 38 years of age. He is about 5ft 10in in height, of dark complexion, and powerfully built. He wore a long overcoat, and during the few minutes that the magisterial proceedings lasted looked about the Court in a very unconcerned manner. There were not an unusual number of people in Court, but amongst them were several of the prisoner’s acquaintances, to whom he nodded as he turned to descend the dock steps.

It is understood that *McDonnell* admits being connected with the Irish Republican Brotherhood prior to 1875, and writing the letters to Egan signed with his name. At the time he wrote these letters he says he was living at Wednesbury, from which place he removed about five years ago to take a situation as barman at the licensed house of a Mr. Tait. About three years ago he returned to Wednesbury, having obtained the situation he was filling at the time of his arrest. He denies having had any connection with any secret society since 1875, and declares himself totally ignorant of its proceedings since then.

Our Wednesbury reporter writes.

Upon the discovery in Egan’s garden implicating James [sic] *McDonnell*, of Wednesbury, as a member of the Fenian Brotherhood and a district centre, and the finding of a paper upon Daley at Liverpool, bearing the address of P. Flynn, BRITISH QUEEN, High Bullen, in the same town, closer attention has been given by police officers to the doings and houses of both men than had previously been bestowed upon them.....

On Wednesday, Mr. Farndale, Detective-officer Black, and other officers from Birmingham, were in Wednesbury, in consultation with Chief-superintendent Longden, of Bilston, and Superintendent Holland, and at about eleven o’clock *McDonnell* was invited to an interview with some of the visitors at the police station. He accepted the invitation with apparent readiness, and at the close of an interview of some duration, he was detained, pending communications with the Home Office, until four o’clock, when authority to arrest not having been received he was allowed to return to his home, the ROYAL OAK, King Street, which, since July, 1881, he has managed for Messrs. Walter Showell and Co., brewers, of Birmingham and Oldbury. At the same time a new manager went with him, who had been sent by Mr. Showell, on hearing from the police of the position in which *McDonnell* was placed.

At about half-past ten o’clock at night, the needful authority having meanwhile arrived from the Home Office, Chief-superintendent Longden, Superintendent Holland and Detective Inspector Stroud and Detective Stevenson, of Birmingham, went to the ROYAL OAK, a reserve of constables being in the immediate vicinity to render assistance in case of need. They found *McDonnell* behind the bar engaged in his business, and with a view of preventing a scene, the officers asked him to step into another room, which he did. Inspector Stroud then read to him the same charge that was preferred against Egan on Saturday, and as soon as he had changed his clothes, he was removed to the Great Western Railway Station, and conveyed to Birmingham by the 11.15 train, the whole affair being carried out so quietly that very few persons, beyond those actually concerned in the arrest, were aware that anything unusual was taking place. He protested, with some show of indignation, against his removal to Birmingham without giving

him an opportunity of seeing his solicitors, as being illegal, but offered no resistance. At the morning interview it was understood that he admitted the authorship of the letter which was produced at the Birmingham Police Court on Saturday, and others in the hands of the police, but declared that he had long since ceased to be connected with the organisation.

Enquiries which have since been made show that the accused is a native of Wednesbury, and that he lived in Wells Buildings, King Street, with his parents, for many years. It is said that at one time he worked at the Patent Shaft and Axletree Works, but for some years past he has acted as a manager of public houses, a business which at one time took him to Willenhall, at another time to Wolverhampton, and at another to Bloxwich, where he displayed conspicuous courage on the occasion of a fire on the house he kept for Messrs. Leary and Sons, and narrowly escaped with his life. At one period he belonged to the Staffordshire Yeomanry, and at another the Rife Volunteers, and in those capacities he seems to have won the respect of his comrades, and to have been very well liked. The ROYAL OAK, a large substantial house of a superior character, he has managed creditably, no complaint having been made against his conduct of the place, although the difficulties of keeping good order must have been increased by the fact that the house was largely frequented by Irish people of the labouring class. The residents in the immediate neighbourhood are, however, chiefly of English nationality. Some suspicion has attached to the place since the disclosures made in connection with the murder of Lord Mountmorris, but nothing came to light to justify the interference of the authorities. A 'judge and jury' club, a 'buffalo society,' and a branch of St. Patrick's Benefit Society were held on the premises, and it is considered that some one or more of these gatherings may have been used as a convenient cloak for others of a less innocent description. A search of the premises was made yesterday afternoon, somewhat too late perhaps to yield much fruit, if fruit was ever there, bearing in mind the long interval since the alarm was given by the apprehension of Egan and Daley; but the results of the search are not allowed to be known beyond official circles.

Mrs. *McDonnell*, who was confined a week ago with her fifth child, bears the blow which has fallen upon her with tolerable equanimity. Flynn's house is situate in the very centre of what may be described as the 'Irish quarter,' and as compared with *McDonnell's*, is of very humble proportions and character. Flynn, who is about seventy-five years of age, is naturally much annoyed at the unenviable notoriety which he has obtained, and with regard to the importation of the name of his house into the business of the Fenian Brotherhood, the only theory that he and his friends can advance is that Daley or some one else engaged in the nefarious work of the association had jotted it down as a convenient house of call for the members in passing from town where they were likely to meet with their own countrymen. It was not till late in the day yesterday that the apprehension of *McDonnell* became generally known, and then considerable excitement was occasioned in the town."

[At Warwickshire Assizes, in August 1884, *William McDonnell* and two other Irishmen, John Daly and James Francis Egan, were charged with treason-felony. After a long trial Daly and Egan were found guilty on all counts; Daly was sentenced to penal servitude for life, Egan to 20 years' penal servitude. *McDonnell* was found guilty on one count, and discharged in his own recognisances to come up for judgement when called upon.]

Darlaston Weekly Times 28/6/1884

"An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Kate Crump, aged nine years and six months, of Dale Street, Wednesbury, who died suddenly on Sunday last.

The deceased attended a Board School in Lower High Street, and when she returned home on Friday, she complained of a headache, which she said had been caused by the lessons she had to learn at school. The child grew rapidly worse, and on Sunday medical aid was sent for, but death took place before the arrival of the doctor. Mary Ann Groves said the doctor attributed death to over-pressure of work at the Board School. A juryman said that one of his own children had complained of headache, arising from the same cause. Mr. Hooper, Coroner, said the question of overwork was now under the consideration of the Education Department.

The Jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Cause, accelerated by overwork at a Board School."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/12/1886

"At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, Charles Frederick Holcroft, Patrick Gilmer, and Patrick Lynch, trustees of the St. Patrick's Friendly Society, held at the ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, were summoned at the instance of Mary Neyling, widow of John Neyling, to show cause why they refused to pay her £10, that being the amount to be paid by the society towards the funeral expenses of her deceased husband. Mr. Robinson (Birmingham) appeared for the widow, and Mr. Whitehouse (Tipton) for the defendants

At the outset Mr. Whitehouse took the preliminary objection that the Bench had no jurisdiction, inasmuch as the dispute ought to have been submitted to arbitration in accordance with the rules. Mr. Robinson replied to the objection, and read correspondence which he had had with the officials of the society, and which showed that he at first applied for arbitrators to be appointed, but on the society making such appointment withdrew the application, and decided to try the question before the Bench. The rule in question provided that in the event of arbitrators not being appointed within forty days the question in dispute might be taken before magistrates, but in this case the withdrawal was made before the end of forty days.

After considerable argument, the Magistrates' Clerk said he must advise the Bench that they had no jurisdiction. Rule 27 provided that such a dispute as this should be settled by arbitration; and section 30 of the Friendly Societies Act of 1875 was repealed by the Act chap.42 Victoria, which provided that the 30th section of the Act of 1875 should only apply to societies under conditions which did not apply to this particular society. Therefore the complainant's only chance of making a case would be to bring herself under section 22 of the Act of 1875. Under that she must show she had made an application for a reference, and that the forty days had elapsed without a decision. Here she failed, because although she properly made the application through her solicitor, it was withdrawn by him before the end of forty days, and no other was substituted in its place. Therefore jurisdiction did not exist.

Mr. Robinson said he should take advice on the point, and, if necessary appeal."

1891 Census

20, King Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *William Bennett* (29), public house manager, born Sedgley;

[2] *Alice Bennett* (21), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Jane Harvey* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Sporting Life 13/1/1900

"Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Billiard League.

The following are the entries and starts for the third billiard tournament, open to the beer and wine trade, promoted by Messrs. Burroughes and Watts.....

P. Davenport, ROYAL OAK HOTEL, Wednesbury, 150."

1901 Census

King Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *William A. Benness* (45), public house manager, born St. Peter's, Kent;

[2] *Sarah E. Benness* (44), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Alexander A. Benness* (15), son, born Wolverhampton;

[4] *Louisa A. Davies* (22), daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[5] *Horace C. Benness* (8 months), son, born Wolverhampton;

[6] *George Davies* (22), son-in-law, girder maker, born Wednesbury:

1911 Census

20, King Street – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *James Edwin Pascall* (55), public house manager, born Oakengates, Shropshire;

[2] *Emily Pascall* (54), wife, married 35 years, public house manageress, born Oakengates, Shropshire;

[3] *Minnie Rose Pascall* (28), daughter, born Oakengates, Shropshire;

[4] *James Pascall Harris* (11), grand-son, school, born Birmingham:

Walsall Advertiser 14/10/1911 - Advert

"A. Beebee's Noted Home-Brewed Ales.

Brewery, Sandwell Street, Walsall.

Houses.....

ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury."

Minnie Rose Pascall married *Richard Hodson* in the 1st quarter of 1912.

1921 Census

20, King Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] Richard Hodson (41), licensed victualler, manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] Minnie Rose Hodson (39), wife, manageress, assistant, born Wrockwardine, Shropshire;

[3] Richard Hodson (8), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[4] Edwin Thomas Hodson (1), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] Henry Jones (11), boarder, school, born Wednesbury:

South Staffordshire Times 23/2/1924

“At Stafford Assizes on Thursday, on a charge of fraudulently converting to his own use £169 9s 5d, received by him on account of the members of the ROYAL OAK Death and Dividend Society, at Wednesbury on December 31st, William Bradshaw, aged 43, boiler cleaner, was sentenced to four months imprisonment with hard labour.

Mr. A. J. Long, who prosecuted, said during the past year prisoner, as one of the trustees of the society, was entrusted with sums of money. Last ‘share-out’ night he should have sent a sum of £148 to the club meeting place, leaving a deficiency of £169.

Prisoner gave evidence, and stated that he had accounted for all the money he had actually received. He had paid out money from time to time, but during the time he had been under arrest, his house had been broken into, and books, papers and receipts stolen. He further alleged that a sum of £90 was due to the society from a former official. It was stated that the prisoner had worked at one place for twenty-four years, and bore a splendid character, and the Judge expressed his regret that a man of such character should have done this. It was, however, a bad business to make away with money belonging to fellow working men, and that sort of thing could not be tolerated.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/6/1925

“‘These cases are becoming too prevalent, and the magistrates intend, as far as they can, to stamp them out,’ said Mr. W. Martin Winn, Chairman, at Wednesbury County Police Court yesterday, when he passed sentence of a month’s imprisonment with hard labour upon Silas Stevenson (38), married, whose address was given as c/o ROYAL OAK, King Street, Wednesbury, and who was summoned for making a false representation to obtain unemployment benefit.

Mr. W. E. Brown, who prosecuted on behalf of the Ministry of Labour, said defendant had been drawing 4s 10d a day from April 16 to May 20, and when he signed that he was out of work on May 15 he was employed as a lorry driver, for which work he received 7s. Mr. Brown added that despite the many prosecutions that were taking place these cases were increasing, and the Ministry of Labour asked that magistrates would be more severe in their sentences.”

Evening Despatch 12/2/1932

“In his report to the Wednesbury Licensing Justices today Supt. Adams stated.....

The whole of the licenses would be renewed, with the exception of the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, and the ROYAL OAK, King Street, to which notice of objection would be given on the grounds of redundancy.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.

License renewal was refused on 25th July 1932.

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/7/1932

“Principal Meeting of Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority.....

In the case of the ROYAL OAK, Wednesbury, Mr. McGregor Clarkson, barrister, appeared for the justices. Mr. A. J. Glover, of Wednesbury, who represented the owners and licensee, formally applied for renewal of the license.

PS Gilman stated that the house was poor structurally and badly in need of repair. The license was not necessary for the needs of the neighbourhood, and the house was suitable for use as a dwelling house or shop. The present tenant had been there since April, 1924.

Replying to the Chairman, witness said the owners refused to give on his application any figures with regard to the trade done at the house. ‘I can only say,’ witness added, ‘from my own observation that the trade is very limited; very poor indeed.’

.....The Chairman said the committee had considered the matter very carefully. They had no figures as to the trade before them. The case would be adjourned till October 8, and in the meantime the figures would have to be supplied to the Clerk, and evidence as to them would have to be given on oath.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/10/1932

"At the adjourned Principal Meeting of the Staffordshire Compensation Authority the license of the ROYAL OAK, Wednesbury, came up for further consideration. The Compensation Authority decided to refuse the renewal of the license.

At the Supplementary Meeting of the Staffordshire Compensation Authority the following amounts were settled..... ROYAL OAK, Wednesbury, £1,125."

Dudley Chronicle 24/11/1932 - Advert

"Sale of Freehold Villa Residence and De-Licensed Properties situate in Wednesbury, West Bromwich, and Lower Bradley.

In the Borough of Wednesbury.....

Lot 2. By Instructions from Messrs. Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.

The ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, to be de-licensed on the 26th November, 1932. (Vacant possession will be given.) Solicitors, Messrs. Shakespeare and Vernon, 83, Colmore Row, Birmingham."

Closed

Walsall Observer 11/2/1933

"Wednesbury annual licensing sessions.....

Police Superintendent Adams in his report stated that there are 111 licensed houses in Wednesbury – 54 fully licensed, 41 beerhouses 'on,' 15 beerhouses 'off,' and one wines 'on.' This is a reduction of two full licenses, the ROYAL OAK, King Street, and the KINGS ARMS, High Bullen, having been closed by the Staffordshire County Compensation Committee during the past year."

WOOD GREEN FARM,
One mile from Wednesbury, one and a half from Walsall, eight from Birmingham, eleven from Lichfield, and one from Darlaston, on the Wednesbury and Walsall Turnpike Road.

C WOOTTON has been favoured with instructions from Mr. John Wells (who is giving up one of his farms), to SELL by AUCTION, on the Farm as above, on Friday, the 9th day of March, 1860, all the valuable LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, DAIRY UTENSILS, &c., including twenty-five tons of well-ended hay, one hundred tons of capital manure, several tons of mangold wurtsel, ten handsome cows, in-calf, new milch, and fresh barren; three handsome sturks, in-calf; eight capital young sturks, six powerful young horses, eighteen handsome store pigs, ditto sow in-pig, two fine gilts in-pig, handsome young open gilt, several couples of fowls, broad and narrow-wheel carts and waggons, iron and wood ploughs, harrows, drills, chaff, winnowing, and turnip-cutting machines, iron horse rack, large water-barrel, on wheels and shafts; new rick sheet and poles, 15 yards by 10 yards; capital milk trap and cans, two large barrel churns, superior light spring trap, two capital Stanhope gigs, nearly new; double and single-bodied phaetons, in good condition; five capital sets of cart harness, set of useful gig harness, two excellent riding saddles, forks, rakes, &c.

Luncheon to be on the table at half-past ten; the sale to commence at half-past eleven o'clock.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, at the Royal Oak Inn, Wednesbury, and at the AUCTIONEER'S, Paradise-street, West Bromwich.

DESIRABLE OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE,
"THE ROYAL OAK,"
KING STREET, WEDNESBURY.

JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE is favoured with instructions from Mr. John Wells, who is retiring from the business, to DISPOSE OF, with immediate possession, the above convenient and well-frequented HOUSE, with Four large Clubs attached, and now doing a first-rate trade.

For further particulars, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Turk's Head, Wednesbury.

P.S.—Several other good BUSINESS HOUSES to be DISPOSED OF.

1860

CLEARING-OUT SALE,
At the ROYAL OAK INN, King Street, Wednesbury.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, on TUESDAY NEXT, April 21—the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c., belonging to Mr. John Veal, who has removed, consisting of mahogany and other Chairs, Tables, Sofa, Benches, iron and tent Bedsteads, straw Palliasses, four-pull Ael Machine and Piping, 180 and 70-gallon Copper Boilers, two Ale Coolers, eight Ale Casks, Chaff Engine, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock, a.m.

Catalogues can be had at the Auctioneer's Office, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

N.B.—The HOUSE to be LET.

1868

LOT 2.

BY INSTRUCTIONS FROM MESSRS.
SHOWELLS BREWERY CO., LTD.

The "ROYAL OAK" INN, KING STREET,
to be de-licensed on the 26th November, 1932.
(VACANT POSSESSION WILL BE GIVEN).
Solicitors: MESSRS. SHAKESPEARE AND
VERNON, 83, Colmore Row, Birmingham
(Tel. Central 1351).

1932

SAMSON AND LION

11, High Bullen, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

W. Butler and Co. Ltd. [1926]

LICENSEES

John Richards [1868] – [1872]
Richard Horton [] – **1880**
Mrs. Elizabeth Billingsley [] – **1881**;
Richard Challinor **(1881)** – [1891]
William Taylor [1896]
Clara Westbury [c.1900]
Phineas John Kendrick [1900] – [1911]
Edward F B Wakeham [1912]
William Henry Brookes [1917] – [1921]
John Freeman [1926]



c1895

NOTES

SAMPSON INN [1881]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/9/1868

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, *John Richards*, beerhouse keeper, was charged with permitting gaming in his house, on Wednesday, the 16th inst. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the defendant. The case was proved by another beerhouse keeper, named George Dawes, who lost about £4 by card playing on the evening of the above day, and the full penalty of £5 and costs was imposed, Mr. Spooner remarking that nothing was more injurious to the public morals that this gambling at public houses, and he only regretted that he could not double the penalty.”

1871 Census

11, High Bullen
[1] *John Richards* (41), publican, born Ocker Hill;
[2] Ann Richards (43), wife, born Tipton;
[3] Thomas Richards (12), son, born Tipton;
[4] Sarah Ann Caddick (17), domestic servant, born Ocker Hill:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/4/1871

“*John Richards*, beerhouse keeper, of the High Bullen, Wednesbury, was summoned for permitting gambling in his house. Police-constable Farnell visited defendant’s house shortly before eleven o’clock on the 29th ultimo, when he saw ten men in a back room, four of whom were playing at cards for ‘glasses round.’ The defendant, who admitted to the constable that the men were playing for beer, was fined 40s and costs, and his license was ordered to be endorsed.”

John Richards, beer and wine retailer, 11, High Bullen. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/1/1880

“The body of *Richard Horton*, landlord of the SAMPSON AND LION INN, High Bullen, Wednesbury, was discovered on Monday in a truck near Swan Village Railway Station. Deceased was a loader at the site of the proposed new gasometer at Swan Village, and on the men returning to work in the afternoon they found *Horton* lying dead, with a cut on the side of his head and bruises on his face.”

Birmingham Mail 23/1/1880

“An enquiry was held yesterday as to the cause of the death of *Richard Horton* (44), of High Bullen, Wednesbury. The evidence proved that deceased was engaged in loading a boat from a truck on the Great Western Railway, on Monday. His fellow-workmen went to dinner, leaving him at work, and when they returned they found him lying dead at the bottom of the boat, with a wound outside of his head. There was no suspicion of foul play, and it was supposed that in getting out of the truck he fell and broke his neck. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Richard Horton – see also WATERLOO, Marsh Lane, Walsall.

Elizabeth Billingsley married *Richard Challinor* in the 4th quarter of 1880.

1881 Census

11, High Bullen – SAMSON AND LION

- [1] *Richard Challinor* (32), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Challinor* (26), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Florence M. Billingsley* (4), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William Bailey Wiggin* (28), barman, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Eliza Fitch* (17), general servant, born West Bromwich:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/9/1885

“A meeting of the men who are still out of work, as the result of the late strike in the nut and bolt trade, was held at the SAMPSON AND LION, Wednesbury, on Wednesday. Mr. Juggins was requested to see the associated employers with a view of soliciting support for the men who were described as being in a state of semi-starvation. It was also decided to appeal to the trade on behalf of the men.”

1891 Census

11, High Bullen – SAMPSON AND LION

- [1] *Richard Challinor* (41), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Challinor* (36), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Florence M. Billingsley* (14), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Ernest W. Challinor* (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Emma Mosley* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday.....

Mr. Wright, Wolverhampton, submitted plans for the addition of a bedroom to the SAMSON AND LION INN.....

The Bench, after deliberating in private approved the alteration of the SAMSON AND LION.”

William Taylor, beer retailer, 11, High Bullen. [1896]

Phineas John Kendrick, beer retailer, 11, High Bullen. [1900], [1904]

Phineas John Kendrick was also a blacksmith and farrier at 18, High Bullen. [1900], [1904]

1901 Census

11, High Bullen – SAMPSON AND LION TAVERN

- [1] *Phineas J. Kendrick* (52), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary A. Kendrick* (52), wife, born Shushall, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Mary A. Kendrick* (26), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Annie Kendrick* (19), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury:

1911 Census

11, High Bullen

- [1] Phineas J. Kendrick (62), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Mary A. Kendrick (62), wife, married 37 years, born Shirley, Warwickshire;
- [3] Mary A. Kendrick (36), daughter, assistant at home, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Ann Maria Nolen (70), sister, widow, no occupation, born Birmingham:

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/6/1917 - 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 County Buildings, Stafford, at 10 30 o'clock am, on Saturday, the 14th day of July, 1917.

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.....
SAMSON AND LION, High Bullen, Wednesbury. Beer and Wine license. Licensee, *William Henry Brookes*."

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1917

"County Licensing. Meeting of the Compensation Authority.....

Messrs. W. Butler and Co, the owners, asked for the renewal of the beer and wine 'on' license of the SAMSON AND LION, High Bullen, Wednesbury, which was opposed by Mr. F. Knowles, clerk to the Wednesbury Borough Licensing Justices. After hearing the parties, the Bench decided to renew the license."

1921 Census

11, High Bullen

- [1] *William Henry Brookes* (50), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Polly Brookes (50), wife, at home, born Walsall;
- [3] John William Henry Brookes (17), son, carpenter, housing scheme, born Birmingham;
- [4] Stanley Slater Brookes (16), son, at home, born Wednesbury:

William Henry Brookes – see also CROSS GUNS.

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/7/1926 - 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 June and the 12th day of July, 1926, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

SAMSON AND LION, High Bullen, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *John Freeman*. 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.....

SAMSON AND LION, Wednesbury, ante '69 beerhouse, £1,600."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/2/1927 - Advert

"Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties situate at Wednesbury.....

By instructions from Messrs. W. Butler and Co. Ltd.

Lot 2. Retail Business Premises, formerly known as the SAMSON AND LION (now de-licensed) and Retail Shop adjoining, Nos. 10 and 11, High Bullen (with Vacant Possession of the de-licensed premises)."



Clara Westbury

SCOTT ARMS

225, (74), Darlaston Road (West), (Platt Street / Kings Hill Field), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Frank Myatt Ltd.
Ansells Ltd.
Avebury Taverns [2000]

LICENSEES

Enoch Turner [1834] – [1842]
Israel Corbett [1845] – [1851]
Thomas Millington [] – **1858**);
James Proffitt (**1858 – 1860**);
Enoch Smith (**1860 – 1865**);
Joseph Millington (**1865 – []**)
Thomas Millington [1868] – [1891]
Mrs. Mary Millington [1896] – [1900]
William George France [1904] – [1912]
Mrs. Emily Rogers (**1912 – []**)
Isaiah Platt [1916] – [1921]
Charles Samuel Heap (**1923 – [1927]**)
Mrs. M Johnson [1932]
William Windmill [1938] – [1940]
Ellen Hickman [1961] – **1962**);
Wilfred Ball (**1962 – 1964**);
Mrs. Daisy (Ball) Whittingham (**1964 – [1968]**)
F H Corfield [1983]
Foulkes [1991]
David Jones [2000]

NOTES

Kings Hill Field [1835], [1842], [1850], [1851]
Darlaston Road [1849]
74, Darlaston Road [1871], [1873], [1881], [1884], [1891], [1896], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1932]
74, Hill Street [1900]
225, Darlaston Road [1940]

SCOTT'S ARMS [1842], [1862]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/3/1835 - Advert

“To be disposed of by private Contract, the Licences and immediate Possession of a small and compact Public House, known by the sign of the SCOTT'S ARMS, situate on the road leading from Wednesbury and Darlaston. For further particulars apply on the premises to *E. Turner*.”

TO be disposed of by private Contract, the Licences and immediate Possession of a small and compact Public House, known by the sign of the SCOTT'S ARMS, situated on the road leading from Wednesbury and Darlaston. For further particulars apply on the premises to *E. Turner*.



Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/4/1835 - Advert

"To be Disposed Of by Private Contract.

The Licenses and Possession of the SCOTTS ARMS INN, situate on the road leading from Wednesbury to Darlaston. The house is surrounded by neighbouring collieries, and large iron works. The stock, brewing utensils, and other effects, to be taken at a fair appraisement.

For further particulars apply to Mr. E. Turner, on the premises."

1841 Census

Darlaston Road West

[1] Enoch Turner (40), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] Mary Turner (40), born Staffordshire;

[3] Sarah Turner (15), born Staffordshire;

[4] Charles Turner (8), born Staffordshire;

[5] Ann Turner (6), born Staffordshire:

TO BE DISPOSED OF

By Private Contract,

THE Licenses and Possession of the SCOTT'S ARMS INN, situate on the road leading from Wednesbury to Darlaston. The house is surrounded by neighbouring collieries, and large iron works. The stock, brewing utensils, and other effects, to be taken at a fair appraisement.

For further particulars apply to Mr. E. TURNER, on the premises.

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/1/1842

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Richard Wright and Joseph Wilcocks were indicted for receiving from James Yates 10lbs of rushlights, the property of John Ryley, at Darlaston, they well knowing the same to have been stolen. There had been three other indictments against Wright, but they were ignored by the Grand Jury.

Mr. Meteyard appeared for the prosecution, and applied to the Court to allow James Yates, who had in the former part of the sessions pleaded guilty to having stolen the rushlights in question, to be called as a witness against the prisoners, as without his evidence he thought they could not be convicted, and the Court had the power of examining as a witness a prisoner who pleaded guilty before he had received judgement.

The court having acceded to this application, James Yates was called and stated that in October last he was an apprentice to Mr. Joseph Golcher, gun lock manufacturer, at Darlaston. The two prisoner were workmen in the same establishment. He (witness) broke into Mr. Riley's candle warehouse between 6 and 7 on Monday morning, the 8th of November. He took 10lbs of rushlights, which he took to the shop in which he and the prisoners worked at Mr. Golcher's, and placed them in a hole. He afterwards told Joseph Wilcocks that he had brought some rushlights from Mr. Riley's. Wilcocks asked him where they were, and he told him. Wilcocks afterwards told him that he had taken 4lbs of them from the hole. This was the first time that candles had been there, but there had been four gun-locks in the hole before. Wright would not have the remaining 6lbs because they were rushlights. He said they could swear to them, and that they must be made away. He (witness) took them and threw them into a pool of water. Wright went part of the way with him, and looked out to see if any one was about.

Mary Turner, wife of Enoch Turner, who keeps the SCOTTS ARMS public house, Darlaston, proved that on the 8th November last the prisoner Wilcocks brought 2lbs of rushlights, and offered them to her for sale.

Wilcocks, in answer to the charge, said he did not know exactly that they had been stolen at the time he received them. Wright denied the charge.

The jury found Wilcocks guilty, and acquitted Wright.

There was another indictment against the prisoners, but no evidence was offered.

Wilcocks was sentenced to two months hard labour. Wright was cautioned and discharged."

Birmingham Journal 15/3/1845

"On Friday night, and by adjournment on the Monday following, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. Israel Corbett, SCOTTS ARMS, near Wednesbury, on the body of Joseph Adkins, who came by his death from falling down a pit in the colliery of Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co.

It appears that the deceased went with two other men on Thursday, March 6, to repair a shaft in the Old Park Colliery. He went down the pit with a man named Colewood, and in a short time they wanted to come up for some tools. On the signal being given, the man who conducts the engine proceeded to draw them up, and when they were at the top, neglected to stop the engine, by which neglect they were drawn up to the pulley, and forced to lay hold of the framework to save themselves. Colewood caught hold of the frame, but Atkins laid hold of the chain, and when the skip came up to him it knocked him from his hold, and he was precipitated down the pit. Two weights which are attached to the chain went over the pulley, and after an hour spent in replacing them, some men went down the pit and found the poor man dreadfully bruised and dead.

The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against George Hughes, the engineer, who was committed by G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, to the sessions. Hughes bears a good character; he has worked the engine a number of years, and never was the cause of an accident before.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/3/1845

“Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

George Hughes, an engine man, was charged with killing and slaying Joseph Hancox, on the 6th of March last, at Wednesbury. The deceased and a man named Colebrook were coming up one of Mr. Lloyd’s pits, at Wednesbury, when the skip was drawn over the pulley. Colebrook jumped out, and held by the pit frame. The deceased also got out, and held by the frame chain, but the skip knocked him off, and, the waggon not being over the mouth of the pit, which was 110 yards deep, the deceased fell down it, and was killed.

The prisoner received an excellent character as a careful man from three witnesses who were examined. Howard, the banksman, said he would trust his life in the prisoner’s hands tomorrow.

In reply to a question from the learned judge, it appeared that there was no proof forthcoming that the prisoner had heard the signal bell ring, or that it had been rung; and his Lordship, after adverting to the high character the prisoner had borne as a careful man, directed an acquittal.”

Birmingham Journal 20/12/1845

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Israel Corbett*, SCOTTS ARMS, Kings Hill Field, Wednesbury, by G. Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a young woman, named Phoebe Devey, who was found dead at the bottom of a pit, in a colliery belonging to Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co. It appeared that she had been missed from her home on Wednesday, the 3rd instant, and every effort to discover her proved unsuccessful, and all hopes of her being found were given up. On the night of Thursday, the 11th instant, a moulder, living in the neighbourhood, had a singular dream, which gave him considerable uneasiness. He thought he saw a young woman taken from a certain pit, which had been worked out, and near which he had to pass every day on his road to work. He told one or two persons of his dream, and they laughed at him; but as he passed he discovered something white at the bottom, which led him to the conclusion that some person had fallen in. He informed two of his fellow-workmen of the circumstance, who went with him to the pit, and letting down a candle they discovered the wounded and lifeless body of a woman. On being brought to the top of the pit, it was recognised to be the body of the missing girl. She was only fifteen or sixteen years of age, and it is supposed that she must have been lying at the bottom of the pit for nine days.

The Jury, which was very respectable, returned a verdict that the deceased was found dead at the bottom of a coal pit, but how she came there was not ascertained. The singular circumstance connected with this case has been a source of great interest in the neighbourhood where it occurred.”

1851 Census

Darlaston Road

- [1] *Israel Corbett* (37), victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Maria Corbett* (33), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Joseph Corbett* (13), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Thomas Corbett* (11), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Samuel Corbett* (9), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Hannah Corbett* (7), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Job Corbett* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Elizabeth Horton* (17), sister-in-law, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Emma Smallman* (18), house servant, born Sedgley;

Birmingham Journal 17/7/1852

“On Saturday morning last an accident occurred in a limestone pit belonging to Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co., Old Park Fields, whereby three persons lost their lives, in consequence of a large quantity of rock and earth, which had become loosened from the roof, falling upon them. On Monday morning an inquiry was commenced before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, deputy coroner, at the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, High Bullen, on the bodies of John Brown, 25, and Joseph Williams, 15; also at the SCOTTS ARMS, Kings Hill, on the body of James Clansey. The inquiries were adjourned until Friday, to allow time to communicate with the Secretary of State. Yesterday afternoon, Thomas Wynn, Esq, one of the Government Inspectors, was in attendance.

The first witness called was Thomas Hampson, who stated that he was a limestone miner, and worked in a pit belonging to Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co., situated at Hobbs Hole, in the parish of Wednesbury. On Saturday morning last, the three deceased, with the rest of the men, went down the pit to work. After being at work a short time, a large quantity of rock from the roof suddenly fell upon the three deceased, and buried them. Williams was employed in making a hole to blow some stone with powder. Brown was breaking the stone into smaller pieces for the loading, and Clancey was loading stone. Williams and Adams examined the roof during the week to see if it was safe. The rock fell without giving any warning to the men who were at work; the quantity was from fifteen to twenty tons. The pit is properly worked, and the pillars left to support the roof are quite sufficient, and the workings are not so wide as in pits in the neighbourhood of Walsall and Dudley.

Mr. Wynn stated from an inspection of the pit, that no blame could be attached to any person, for he found the working to be much narrower where the accident occurred than in any other part of the pit. The roof was a good one, and the giving way of this part was one of those occurrences which did accidentally occur in following dangerous callings.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1858

“About ten o’clock on Wednesday night some thieves got into the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, by the back door, crept up stairs without being observed, passed through the club room, and into one of the bed rooms, where they ransacked a chest of drawers, and carried off a rosewood writing desk, containing several silver pencil cases and a silver watch. They then left the house by a window, and went off towards Wednesbury. A short distance from the inn they seem to have broken up the desk, which was found on the road afterwards, along with its less valuable contents.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/12/1858

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last at the SCOTT ARMS public house, Kings Hill, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Catherine Triver, twenty-six years of age, who died suddenly in bed, on the morning of the 23rd ultimo.

Samuel Partridge, Esq, MD, of Darlaston, who had made a post mortem examination of the body of deceased, gave evidence, after which the Jury returned a verdict of Died from Disease of the Heart.”

James Proffitt – see also CASTLE.

Walsall Free Press 10/12/1859 - Advert

“SCOTT ARMS, Kingshill, Wednesbury.

W. Horobin will sell by Auction, on Monday the 19th day of December, 1859, a portion of the household furniture, three ale casks, bagatelle board, large wood shed, two wood pigstyes, four wash tubs, and other effects, belonging to Mr. *Enoch Smith*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1860

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, Edward Pope and Henry Richards were charged by John Pavy with having, on Monday afternoon, assaulted and beaten him. Mr. Bayley defended Pope.

Complainant said that he went to the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, at about one o’clock, and saw the prisoners there. They talked about fighting a man who was there, and he remonstrated with them, when Richards struck him on the eye. Pope assisted in the assault, and he was held down and kicked in the most brutal way. When he got up he discovered that 8s 6d in money and a silk handkerchief had been taken from him. The handkerchief was afterwards found upon Pope. In reply to Mr. Bayley, prosecutor admitted that he had had two pints of ale and a glass of rum, but denied that he was drunk.

Police-constable William Davis deposed to taking the prisoners into custody and charging them with the assault and robbery.

Edwin Carter, a young man who witnessed the fight, said that Pavy challenged a man to fight, and that Richards told him not to do so.

Witnesses were afterwards called to character, and a fine of 20s and costs was inflicted upon each of the prisoners.”

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.”

1861 Census

Kings Hill – SCOTT ARMS INN

[1] Enoch Smith (28), miner, born Walsall;

[2] Louisa Elizabeth Smith (20), wife, born Walsall;

[3] Frederic Titus Smith (1), son, born Wednesbury:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/11/1864

“An inquest was held on Friday, at the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Titus Smith, 68, miner. Deceased was the nephew of the landlord of the SCOTT ARMS, and for some time had been out of work. For eight nights preceding his death deceased had lain out in the open air. On Tuesday week his uncle took him into the SCOTT ARMS, and he then complained very much of cold and want of food. He expired on the morning of the 1st instant. The Jury returned a verdict that the deceased had died from cold, exposure, and want of sufficient sustenance.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/2/1865

“Yesterday, at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, Mr. E. Hooper resumed the enquiry touching the death of John Willis, a ‘hanger-on,’ who was killed at the Old Park Colliery, on Friday, by the fall of a piece of limestone down the shaft of the pit at which he was at work, the piece of stone striking him on the head and dividing the skull. Mr. E. Smallman attended the enquiry on behalf of Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co, the proprietors of the pit.

The inquest had been adjourned from Monday, in consequence of the absence of Mr. B. Jenks, the chartermaster of the pit in question. Yesterday Mr. Jenks attended, and explained that having gone out of town on Saturday last, he had been unexpectedly detained by the illness of his brother, and had therefore been unable to return home in time to be present at the inquest on Monday, a circumstance which he much regretted. The Coroner accepted the explanation, and remarked that he must insist upon the attendance of parties at such enquiries, both for the satisfaction of the public and in the interest of the working miner. Mr. Jenks expressed his anxiety to give all the assistance in his power on such occasions, and Mr. Smallman undertook that in all cases in which the firm he represented was interested, the wishes of the Coroner should be attended to.

Mr. Jenks and a witness, named Evan Price, were then briefly examined. Their evidence showed that the deceased must have ventured to the bottom of the shaft at the time when a skip was descending, and when, according to the rules of the colliery, he ought not to have been there. The only person to blame being the deceased, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/6/1869

“Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, at the SCOTS ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of John George Yarrow, aged eight years, who was drowned on Saturday last, whilst bathing in an arm of the canal leading to the works of the Patent Shaft Company.

It appeared from the evidence that about noon on the day named deceased was bathing with his brother and another boy, when he got into water which was seven feet in depth, and not being able to swim he cried out for assistance. John Rowley, a workman at the Patent Shaft Company, ran to the spot, but though he was there directly, and jumped into the water, he was unable to find deceased’s body for about half-an-hour. He ran considerable risk of being drowned whilst rescuing the body, as he had the cramp several times. The body of deceased was taken home, and Mr. Iliffe, surgeon, was sent for, but the lad was quite dead.

The Coroner spoke very highly of the conduct of Rowley in rescuing the lad.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

74, Darlaston Road – SCOTTS ARMS

- [1] *Thomas Millington* (49), publican, born Shropshire;
- [2] *Harriet Millington* (49), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Emma Millington* (18), daughter, barmaid, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Harriet Millington* (16), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Millington* (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Thomas Millington* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *William Millington* (10), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1872

“On Monday night an adjourned meeting of colliery engine winders was held at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Kings Hill, in furtherance of the agitation for an increase of wages and a reduction of the hours of work.....

After considerable discussion, the following resolution was unanimously agreed to, ‘That, considering the wages question, and the general advance that has taken place in all branches of the trade, this meeting hereby decides, on behalf of the colliery engineers of the district, that a fortnight’s notice shall be given to our employers on Saturday, June 15, that we shall require the adoption of the nine hours system on and after June 29, and a uniform rate of 4s per day wages for a day of nine hours, and 6d per hour afterwards, otherwise to cease work.’”

Walsall Observer 22/3/1873

“A meeting of engine tenters of Wednesbury, Darlaston and district was held, at the SCOTS ARMS INN, Kings Hill, on Monday evening, to hear an address from Mr. Thomas Rhodes, engineers agent (North Staffordshire district), on ‘The principles and benefits of unity, co-operation, and amalgamation; their necessity and advantages.’ The following resolution was passed, ‘That we join the Amalgamated Association of Engineers, and pledge ourselves to do what we can to make it a national one.’”

Cheshire Observer 3/10/1874

“At the Bilston Police Court, on Tuesday, before Mr. Stipendiary Spooner, *Thomas Millington*, of the SCOTTS ARMS, Wednesbury, was summoned at the instance of John George Horder, inspector under the Adulteration Act for South Staffordshire, for selling adulterated brandy. Defendant was defended by Mr. Ebsworth, solicitor to the Wednesbury Licensed Victuallers Association.....

Mr. Spooner dismissed the case, stating that he did not think such a prosecution came within the meaning of the Act, and he could not decide as to what amount of weakness of brandy constituted adulteration. There was nothing deleterious in the mixture, and perhaps the more there was of the absence of alcohol the better it was for the district and its consumers.

The Inspector asked for a case to be granted for the opinion of the Queen’s Bench, which was refused. The Stipendiary was pressed again to do so, when he said he had decided the case upon the facts, and there being no point of law a case would not lie.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/2/1875

“Yesterday a sad occurrence happened at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, King Hill. It seems that whilst a galvanizer, named George Richards, aged 23, was eating his dinner at the public house, he attempted to swallow a large piece of meat. It stuck in his throat, and before medical assistance arrived he was choked. An inquest will be held on the body in due course. Deceased was an unmarried man.”

Walsall Observer 20/2/1875

“On the 12th inst, an inquest was held at the SCOTTS ARMS INN, Wednesbury, on the body of George Richards (33), galvaniser, who was fatally choked whilst eating his dinner on Monday last.

The deceased, who lived at Darlaston Green, had from his infancy a wen in his throat, which had gradually grown larger. When he was twelve years old the deceased was taken to the Wolverhampton Hospital, but no operation was performed upon him. He was, however, told by the medical men that he would die suddenly.

A witness, named Bassidge, stated that on Monday morning, after the deceased and himself had had some rum and water, the former sat down to his dinner, which consisted of hashed meat. The meat looked tender, but immediately after deceased had put some of it into his mouth he noticed that he looked ‘peculiar.’ Witness then took two pieces of meat out of Richards’s mouth, who all this time was unable to breathe. Water was poured into his mouth, but he could not swallow it; and before medical aid could be procured he died. When the doctor came he expressed an opinion that the deceased, with the affection of the throat he had, ought not to have eaten solid meat at all.

A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

Forest of Dean Examiner 31/12/1875

"The first exhibition of the Midland United Fancy Rabbit Society was held on Monday and Tuesday last, at the SCOTTS ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury. Although the society has been in existence but a few months, it appears to have already secured a considerable amount of patronage and support, and the display of animals staged on the occasion of the first exhibition were in point of numbers and quality quite equal to many exhibitions of greater pretensions. The object of the society being to encourage a counter attraction to pigeon-flying and dog-racing among the denizens of the Black Country, it deserves every support, and it must be a matter of congratulation that the first exhibition has been a decided success. Upwards of 59 animals, the majority being of a very superior class, were exhibited, and on Monday a considerable number of persons visited the rooms, and the attendance was considerably augmented on Tuesday....."

Midland Examiner 30/12/1876

"On Tuesday and Wednesday, December 26th and 27th, the Midland Fancy Rabbit Society held their annual prize show at the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill. There was a splendid show of animals, and some rare specimens. There were 43 exhibits, the exhibitors being Mr. *Millington*, SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill Several prizes were awarded Mr. *Millington* took 1st prize for yellow and white A noticeable feature of the show was the neat and clean appearance of the various pens, all the animals being in fine condition."

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/6/1878

"An official paper which has just been issued gives the names of the registered trade unions, showing those which have, and those which have not, made returns according to law, and, with regard to the former, the amount of their funds on the 31st December, 1876, their income for that year, and the number of their members.....

Excelsior Amalgamated Association of Colliery Engine Tenders, SCOTTS ARMS, King Hill, Wednesbury, established February 23, 1872, no return.

Excelsior Branch (No.3) of the National Federation of Engineers Protection Association of Great Britain and Ireland, SCOTTS ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, established August 19, 1875; funds, £12; annual income, £88; number of members, 65."

Birmingham Mail 9/1/1879 - Died

"On the 2nd inst, aged 57 years, Harriet, the beloved wife of Mr. *Thomas Millington*, of the SCOTT ARMS INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury; deeply regretted."

1881 Census

74, Darlaston Road

- [1] *Thomas Millington* (59), licensed victualler, born Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Millington* (65), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Thomas Millington* (21), son, iron moulder, born Fallings Heath;
- [4] *William Millington* (19), son, iron moulder, born Fallings Heath;
- [5] *Harriet Millington* (25), daughter, general servant, born Fallings Heath;
- [6] *Nelly Evans* (16), grand-daughter, barmaid, born Fallings Heath;

Birmingham Daily Post 9/2/1882 - Advert

"Larks. Three, good as can be had; owner giving up keeping them. Apply, *Millington*, SCOTTS ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury."

LARKS.—Three, good as can be had; owner giving up keeping them.—Apply, *Millington*, Scott's Arms, King's Hill, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

74, Darlaston Road – SCOTT ARMS INN

- [1] *Thomas Millington* (69), publican, born Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Millington* (77), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Harriet Millington* (37), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Thomas Millington* (31), son, moulder, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Marrior* (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *William Millington* (29), son, moulder, born Wednesbury;

Thomas Millington died after a long illness on 30th July 1893.

Edinburgh Gazette 30/3/1909

“Friendly Societies Act, 1896. Advertisement of Dissolution by Instrument.

Notice is hereby given, that the Strive For Victory Lodge 127, Honourable Order of Modern Masons, a Friendly Society, Register No.2131, held at the SCOTS ARMS INN, Kings-hill, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, is dissolved by Instrument, registered at this office, the 22nd day of March, 1909, unless within three months from the date of the *Gazette* in which this advertisement appears proceedings be commenced by a member or other person interested in or having any claim on the funds of the Society to set aside such dissolution, and the same is set aside accordingly.

J. D. Stuart Sim, Chief Registrar. 28, Abingdon-street, Westminster.

Dated the 22nd day of March, 1909.

1911 Census

Kings Hill – SCOTT ARMS INN

- [1] William George France (44), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Mirriam France (44), wife, married 22 years, assisting in business, born Darlaston;
- [3] Phoebe France (21), daughter, assisting in business, born Darlaston;
- [4] William George France (19), son, electrical testing engineer, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Percy William Arehus (18), adopted son, riveter, born Stoke, Staffordshire;
- [6] Kate Ellis (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

William George France – see also BOROUGH ARMS, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, and WAGGON AND HORSES, King Street, Darlaston.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/9/1912

“The question of the desirability of ladies holding licenses was referred to in a case at the Wednesbury Police Court this morning, when Mr. A. J. Glover, solicitor, applied for the transfer of the SCOTTS ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, to Mrs. *Rogers*.

Mr. Glover stated that the circumstances were somewhat unusual, owing to the fact that Mrs. *Rogers*’s husband was at present time licensee of the LAMB AND FLAG INN, Wednesbury. This house was referred for compensation, however, and the matter would be settled at a meeting to be held on the 3rd of next month. Mrs. *Rogers* was a lady of means, having estate of her own, and was also well acquainted with all matters that a licensee should know. Of course, when compensation was paid in respect of the LAMB AND FLAG Mr. *Rogers* would reside at the SCOTTS ARMS.

‘Some magistrates,’ Mr. Glover added, ‘have expressed the opinion that ladies can manage certain public houses better than men, as their persuasive powers are greater.’ He further observed, smilingly, ‘I don’t wish to be impertinent, but (turning in the direction of the applicant, who was smartly dressed) I am sure she is a lady who would have a very good effect.’

Alderman Handley (chairman): Is it supposed to be an advantage to have a lady as a license holder?

Mr. Glover: In this case, if I may say so, sir.

Alderman Handley further asked whether the husband would have the license transferred to him when he gave up the LAMB AND FLAG, but Mr. Glover said he did not think so, as the lady had taken the house on tenancy out of her own estate.

The application was granted.”

Emily Rogers – see also COTTAGE OF CONTENT, The Green, Darlaston.

1921 Census

Darlaston Road – SCOTT ARMS INN

- [1] Isaiah Platt (37), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Annie Platt (38), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Donovan Isaiah Platt (8), son, school, born Wednesbury:

Plans for alterations were approved in February 1922.

Walsall Observer 8/10/1927

"There was a 4½ hours hearing by the Stipendiary, Mr. B. G. Grimley, at Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, of a case in which *Charles Samuel Heap*, licensee of the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors in non-permitted hours, Mrs. Emma Anderson, 18, The Leys, Darlaston, for consuming them, and *Heap* again for aiding and abetting her. Mr. E. Brown prosecuted for the police, and Mr. A. J. Glover defended. Sergeant Collins said that at 10.16pm on August 10 he and Police-constable Skidmore saw three charabancs drawn up in Platt Street, at the side of the SCOTT ARMS, the front of the house being closed, and in darkness. As they approached a woman ran up the passage into the back portion of the premises, where lights were still burning, and where they found two women and three men. One of the women, Mrs. Anderson, was drinking whiskey. Mr. *Heap* told witness that there had been a children's and mothers' trip, and that the drinks were supplied before ten o'clock. Since then he had been 'doing some checking,' and left the people talking. Mrs. Anderson, he said, left the house shortly after she was served, and had only just returned when witness entered. *Heap* later said, 'It was a daft thing to do. If I had not called them back they would have gone away with the others.'

Mr. Glover said his defence was that there was no proof of consumption of liquor. He admitted that Mrs. Anderson was about to drink the whiskey. The Stipendiary pointed out that this was sufficient proof of consumption, and after the adjournment Mr. Glover put forward the second defence that the five people were guests of Mr. *Heap*.

Sergeant Collins admitted that there was no question of secrecy about the arrangement of the charabancs, but said that Mr. *Heap* at no time mentioned that the people were his guests.

Mr. Glover said that the charabancs returned to the house at about 9.55, and Mr. *Heap* invited Mrs. Anderson, the three drivers (one of whom was Mrs. Anderson's husband), and her friend, Mrs. Howell, to have a drink. Mrs. Anderson left her drink to attend to her child in the charabanc and did not return until just before the visit of the Sergeant.

The defendant, *Heap*, said that he was 26 years in the army and for some time was Regimental Sergeant-Major. He had held the licence for four years and nine months. He corroborated Mr. Glover's evidence, as did two of the drivers, Benjamin Anderson, 18, The Leys, Darlaston; Albert Anderson, 90, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston; Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Howell, of Goddard Street, Bilston.

Mr. Grimley said that with regard to the first summons against *Heap* there was no evidence to show when the liquor was supplied, and the case would be dismissed. In Mrs. Anderson's case there was first put forward the defence that she was going to drink, but was stopped before she could do so. It was a very hopeless defence, and, he should have thought, only a last resort. It was not until after lunch that the defence was brought forward that Mrs. Anderson was the guest of Mr. *Heap*, and he had grave doubts as to whether this was so. He must find that the case against her was made out. He accepted *Heap*'s explanation that the people otherwise were his guests, but felt sure that he was talking to them from the bar after he had finished his business, and must have seen that Mrs. Anderson was there. He would deal with them under the First Offenders Act, and each would have the costs to pay; *Heap* £5 9s, and Mrs. Anderson 4s.

Albert Anderson, 90, Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, witness in the previous case above, was summoned for driving a charabanc to the danger of the public on August 29.

Mr. E. Brown, who prosecuted, said that he had spoken to Mr. Glover, defendant's solicitor, and they thought that as there was no personal injury, the case would be met if the defendant paid the costs, £5 3s 6d. Mr. Grimley consented to this course being taken."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/5/1938

"A disused pit shaft, the depth being estimated at about 50ft, has been discovered by workmen excavating to put in a new cellar at the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, beneath the site of the former smoke-room. The top of the shaft, covered with a brick dome, was found five feet below the surface, and the shaft contained 12 feet of water, which has now been drained away. The shaft has now been filled in and a reinforced concrete slab a foot thick has been placed over the hole to take the weight of the new cellar and smoke-room."

Walsall Observer 21/5/1938

"People who have spent a pleasant hour in the old smoke-room of the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, have probably never guessed that they were sitting over a 50 feet pit shaft; yet this fact has been revealed during alterations that are being carried out at the house. The smoke-room has been knocked down and whilst excavations were being made for a new runway to the cellar one of the workmen came upon the brick dome of the shaft. It is fortunate that this dome was a very substantial one for, although it was covered, in turn, with about five feet of earth, there seem to have been possibilities of a cave-in.

When the dome was removed, a brick-lined shaft was revealed and it was found that the pit was fifty feet deep with about twelve feet of water in the bottom. It was filled with rubble, the water thus being forced out, and covered in with an iron and reinforced concrete raft about eighteen inches thick to give a substantial foundation for the new brickwork.

The licensee, Mr. *William Windmill*, told an *Observer* reporter that he had no idea of the existence of the shaft, the discovery of which caused a mild sensation in Kings Hill, especially among those who recalled the times they have sat in the smoke-room immediately over it."

1939 Register

Darlaston Road – SCOTT ARMS

[1] *William Windmill*, date of birth 14/8/1890, licensee, public house, married;

[2] *Adelaide B. (Windmill) Rhodes*, dob 6/5/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Muriel Windmill*, dob 2/1/1920, clerk, single:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 9/3/1955 - Advert

"Wanted, Charwoman.

Apply, SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury."

**WANTED, Charwoman; apply—Scott Arms,
Kings Hill, Wednesbury.**

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1958]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/4/1963

"It was business as usual in the saloon bar of the SCOTT ARMS public house, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday night, even though firemen from Wednesbury were busy putting out a fire under the hearth boards in the room. Customers watched the fire fighting operation and, with still another half-an-hour left until 'time' was called, continued their drinking."

Wilfred Ball died in the 4th quarter of 1963.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/4/1964

"The wife of the licensee of the KINGS HILL TAVERN, Wednesbury, was commended by Wednesbury magistrates yesterday for throwing the contents of a large tin of pepper into the face of a thief she caught opening the bar till. William Ernest Handley (30), unemployed, of Hall Lane, Ocker Hill, Tipton, was sentenced to a total of 12 months' imprisonment after admitting attempting to steal money from the till, stealing a quantity of coppers from the public house, stealing £1 from the SCOTT ARMS public house, Kings Hill, and the breach of two-year probation order. Chief-Insp. B. Taylor said that the woman, Mrs. Isabella Leighton rushed into the bar when she heard the till bell and saw Handley on top of the counter with his hand in the till. She grabbed him, pulled him over the counter, then threw the pepper in his face before running for help.

Earlier the same day Handley had taken the coppers being collected for spastic children."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/3/1966 - Advert

"Wanted, Smart Barmaid or Barman, 3 or 4 evenings.

Apply, Mrs. *Ball*, SCOT ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury."

**WANTED, Smart Barmaid or Barman,
3 or 4 evenings; apply—Mrs. Ball, Scot
Arms, King's Hill, Wednesbury. Tele-
phone James Bridge 2879.**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/4/1967 - Advert

"Wanted, Barmaid, learner considered.

Apply, SCOT ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury."

**WANTED, Barmaid, learner considered.
Apply Scot Arms, Kings Hill, Wed-
nesbury. Telephone 2879.**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/5/1968

"Bilston landlord, Mr. Albert Whittingham, and Wednesbury licensee, Mrs. *Daisy Ball*, after their wedding yesterday at Wednesbury Parish Church, went their separate ways – Mr. Whittingham to open up his pub, the BLUE BOAR, in Oxford Street, Bilston, and his bride to look after the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury. The couple, who work for rival breweries, are to carry on at their own pubs until they can get a joint license."

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/12/1983

“Barefaced cheek was the key to success in this year’s Pile of Pennies competition between Black Country pubs. Over the past ten weeks more than 100 locals and their customers have been working to build money mountains in a contest organised by West Bromwich Building Society. And the winners, the WHITE HORSE in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, staged a cheeky stunt to get the ball rolling. A mystery masked bachelor streaked through the pub wearing nothing but a plastic smile, raising £50. With raffles, barbecues and a Halloween fancy dress, licensee Mrs. Sylvia Peach and her regular customers were first in the contest with £660. They won the West Bromwich Building Society Cup, for raising the most money.

The Sandwell Evening Mail Cup went to the WELLINGTON INN, Park Lane East, Tipton, which was second with £605. The WELLINGTONN regulars raised their pile of pennies with a swear box, raffles, and a donation from the pub’s football team, Green Wellington.

In third place came the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, Darlaston, who raised £451.

The whole contest produced £4,650, which will go to help the Midland Societies for the Blind.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/6/1987

“Officials from Millfields School, West Bromwich, are to be presented with a cheque for school equipment tomorrow, raised by customers of the SCOTT ARMS public house, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, with a series of sponsored activities.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/1/1988

“It was a hard day’s play for youngsters from a West Bromwich school who spent 24-hours potting balls during a pool marathon. The eight pupils from Millfield School, Westminster Road, succeeded in sinking 3,221 balls, as well as raising cash for the school, during the event. They were supported by customers of the SCOTT ARMS pub in Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, who helped the pupils by joining in the marathon, which was held at the school. Millfield School headmaster, Mr. Adrian Simm, said, ‘The pupils did extremely well and hope to have raised up to £200 towards new reading and language equipment.’ Regulars from the SCOTT ARMS pub have held fundraising events of their own in the past for the school and, in fact, raised the money to buy the pool table which was used during Friday and Saturday.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/12/1992 - Advert

“Ken and Marg of the SCOTT ARMS, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, would like to wish all their Customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.”

On 16th July 2000 *David Jones* applied for an annual karaoke license for Saturdays 8pm to 11.30pm.

[2009]

Closed [2011], [2017]

It was converted into a take-away. [2019]



2004



2007



Daisy Whittington 1968

SCOTT ARMS, KINGSHILL, WEDNESBURY.
W. HOROBIN, will sell by **AUCTION**, on Monday the 19th day of December, 1859, a portion of the household furniture, three ale casks, bagatelle board, large wood shed, two wood pigstyes, four wash tubs, and other effects, belonging to **Mr. Enoch Smith**. Sale to commence at Two o'clock.

1859



1992

SHAKESPEARE

36, (Upper) Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

James Russell and Sons Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Stokes [1859] – [1861]
Simeon Evans [1863]
Ann Harvey [1864]
Mrs. Selina Rowley [1864]
Mrs. Sarah Blakemore [1868] – [1872]
Sarah Page [1875]
William Smith [1881]
Alfred Smith [1891] – [1904]
William A Oldbury [1909] – [1912]
Harry Rosewarne [1912]
Albert Henry Ashwood [1914]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 5/2/1859

“On Tuesday, at the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, Thomas Madeley was charged with having stolen some tools, the property of *John Stokes*, of the SHAKSPEARE INN, Dudley Street.

Prosecutor stated that the prisoner had worked for him at lock filing, and that on Monday he went to Birmingham, and when he returned he missed the tools. On enquiry he discovered that they had been taken by the prisoner to the premises of Mr. Spittle, of Holyhead Road. Mr. Sheldon defended, and cross-examined prosecutor as to the identity of the goods.

James Ryley gave evidence to the effect that the prisoner went into prosecutor’s shop between eleven and one o’clock on Monday, and took a number of tools away, stating that he would go to Mr. Alfred Spittle’s, where he knew he could get work. Witness identified many of the tools produced.

Mr. Sheldon submitted that the whole affair was a mistake, as the circumstances clearly showed. The prisoner was a good workman, and Mr. Spittle had been willing to give him work, which perhaps had caused some jealousy between him and the prosecutor.

Mr. Alfred Spittle was called, and his testimony simply confirmed the case for the prosecution.

To prevent the case being sent to the Sessions Mr. Sheldon advised his client to plead guilty. The prisoner consented to do so, but said that he was not aware he had taken away tools which did not belong to him.

Mr. *Stokes*, in reply to the Magistrates, said he did not wish to press the charge, and Mr. Bagnall said that himself and Mr. Walker were of opinion that there was much to be said on behalf of the prisoner, and they thought that Mr. Spittle’s conduct was not very straightforward or businesslike. Under the circumstances they would discharge the prisoner on payment of costs.”

1861 Census

Dudley Street – SHAKESPEARE INN

- [1] John Stokes (35), lock filer and beer retailer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Martha Stokes (36), wife, lock filer and beerhouse keeper, born Eccleshall, Staffordshire;
- [3] Joseph S. Stokes (15), son, lock filer, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Enoch C. Stokes (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Sarah A. Stokes (1), daughter, born Aston, Warwickshire;
- [6] Mary Clarke (25), general servant, born Ireland;
- [7] Mary A. Reardon (33), widow, general servant, born Ireland;
- [8] John Sutcliffe (31), lodger, tailor, born Grantham, Lincolnshire;
- [9] Frederick Carter (31), lodger, tailor, born Great Torrington, Devon;

Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1863

“*Simeon Evans*, of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, was charged with having his house open for the sale of liquors during unlawful hours on Sunday, the 1st inst. The case was proved by Police-constable Marlow, who deposed that on the day in question he found fourteen men in the house drinking ale and spiritous liquors. The defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/6/1864

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, a man named David Timmins appeared to prefer a charge of assault against Mrs. *Selina Rowley*, of the SHAKESPEARE beerhouse, Dudley Street, and mother of Robert Rowley, a youth who was lately backed to fight a prize fight with a man named Collett.

It was shown that on Sunday night last the complainant went into defendant’s house with some companions, and happened to call her ‘Mrs. Gwilt.’ She at once, with scientific skill, dealt him three ‘tremendous punches’ on the face, and caused his nose to bleed, and subsequently she kicked him violently on the nose, and inflicted a rather severe wound.

The defendant did not appear, and a warrant was ordered to issue for her apprehension.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1864

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Police Court, Mrs. *Selina Rowley* appeared to answer a charge of having assaulted David Timmins, on the night of the 12th of June.

The complainant’s evidence was to the effect that on the night named he went into the defendant’s house, the SHAKESPEARE beerhouse, Dudley Street, and called for some ale. It was supplied to him, and in paying for it he called the landlady ‘Mrs. Gwilt,’ whereupon she clenched her fists and gave him three or four ‘tremendous punches’ on the nose, causing blood to flow copiously. While he was staunching the blood, she renewed the attack, and kicked him on the bridge of the nose, inflicting a wound which compelled him to remain away from work for some days. Some corroborative evidence was given, and the defendant then pleaded that she suffered considerable provocation from the complainant, who had repeatedly insulted her. She was fined 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/9/1864

“On Tuesday, at Wednesbury Police Court, Mrs. *Selina Rowley*, of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, was charged with having assaulted Elizabeth Ingram; and Robert Rowley, her son, was charged with having assaulted Annie Gee, the wife of an eating-house keeper, living in Union Street, and a sister of the complainant in the other case. Mr. Bayley appeared for the complainants, and Mr. Ebsworth for the defendants.

The evidence in support of the charges, which were taken separately, was that at about a quarter-past, nine o’clock on the night of Wednesday last, Mrs. Gee, her sister, and a young man named William Wall, entered Mrs. *Rowley*’s house, and having taken their seats in the parlour, called for some porter and ginger beer, with which they were supplied. They remained in the house about twenty minutes, and then Mrs. *Rowley* entered the room, and with gross language ordered them to leave the house. They said they were going as soon as they had drunk their refreshments, but Mrs. *Rowley* called her son, who seized Mrs. Gee by the throat, tore her shawl, caused her to lose her brooch, and pushing her violently out of the house, both kicked and struck her. Ingram subsequently went to the front door to ask for her sister’s brooch, and Mrs. *Rowley* then struck her.

For the defence, witnesses were called to show that the complainants and their companions were asked to leave the house because Mrs. Gee was reclining on the sofa in an indelicate position, while Ingram and Wall were seated in another part of the room, the woman on the knee of the man, who had his arms round her neck. It was also alleged that no unnecessary violence was used in ejecting the complainants from the house.

The Stipendiary held the offence proved, and imposed a fine of £2 and costs in each case, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1864

"Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court.....

Ann Harvey, of the SHAKESPEARE beerhouse, Dudley Street, was summoned for having persons drinking in her house during unlawful hours. In the course of the case it came out that the summons had been served at the SHAKESPEARE on Mrs. *Rowley*, the real landlady of the house, and that *Ann Harvey* had not been on the premises since May.

The Stipendiary ordered a fresh summons to be issued, and directed Mr. Superintendent Holland to inform the Excise authorities of Mrs. *Rowley* being in possession of the house, and carrying on the business; *Ann Harvey*, the person in whose name the license stands, having left the town."

Selina Rowley – see also HORSE AND JOCKEY, High Bullen, Wednesbury.

Sarah Blakemore, beer retailer, Dudley Street. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/6/1868

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary, the following persons were summoned.....

Sarah Blakemore, SHAKESPEARE beerhouse, house open during improper hours on Monday last, fined 20s and costs."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/6/1868

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday.....

Sarah Blakemore, who keeps the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, was charged with having refused to admit Police-constable Chapman, in the execution of his duty, on the 8th inst. It appeared that about eleven o'clock on the evening in question the officer visited the defendant's house. He knocked at the door and informed the defendant that he was a police officer. She went away and was heard by the complainant to say to some one in the house, 'Drink hard for the police are here.' The door was opened in the course of five minutes, and when the constable entered he found the house was empty. She was fined £1 and costs; in all £1 9s 6d."

Mrs. *Sarah Blakemore*, beer retailer, 36, Dudley Street. [1872]

1871 Census

36, Dudley Street

[1] *Sarah Blakemore* (61), widow, publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Alice* (?) (19), barmaid, born Wednesbury;

[3] *William* (?) (49), boarder, engine fitter, born Bedlington, Northumberland;

[4] *Hannah* (?) (41), boarder, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Sarah* (?) (17), grand-child, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Frank* (?) (16), grand-child, engine fitter, born Wednesbury;

[7] *William* (?) (14), grand-child, school, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Alfred James* (?) (12), grand-child, school, born Wednesbury;

[9] *Hannah Eliza* (?) (10), grand-child, school, born Wednesbury;

[10] *Richard* (?) (7), grand-child, school, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 14/6/1872 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

Mr. W. Hickman will Sell by Auction, on Monday next, June 16th, 1872, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, of the above Beerhouse, together with the Household Furniture, Trade Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade and Effects; Comprising Metallic Framed Bedsteads, Palliasses, Feather and Flock Beds, Carpets, Rugs, Washstands, Dressing Tables, Fire Irons, Cane-seated and Windsor Chairs, Tables &c; 12-Strike Mash Tub, Cooling Vats, Wort Spouts, 120-Gallon Brewing Boiler, Fire Door, Copper Wort Pump, Half hogshead Barrels and Hogshead ditto, Barm Tubs, Four Pull Beer Machine, Jug and Glass Shelves, Tap Table, Ale Measures, Screen, Seatings, Doors and Doorcases, Cross-leg Drinking Tables, Chairs, Rail-back Benches, Gas Fittings, Blinds, Sign and Ironwork, Lamp and Fittings, and other important effects.....”

Midland Counties Evening Express 4/5/1875

“*Sarah Page*, SHAKESPEARE beerhouse, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, appeared in answer to a summons charging her with selling as unadulterated beer which was found to be adulterated.

Samuel Toy said that on the 9th of February he went to the defendant’s house and purchased two quarts of ale. He took a bottle with him, into which the ale was placed by the defendant, and after being served, he informed her that the ale was required for analysis, and sealed up the bottle in her presence. He afterwards handed the sealed bottle over to Mr. Horder, the inspector under the Adulteration Act. Mr. Horder said he received the bottle of ale from the last witness on the 9th and on the 12th February he took it in the same state as he received it to Mr. Jones, the analyst at Wolverhampton. In his presence the bottle was opened, and witness divided the ale, taking one half with him (which he now produced), and leaving the other half for analysis. On the 14th he received the analyst’s report, which was that the liquor was adulterated with common salt, and contained 168.97 grains to the imperial gallon.

Mr. Spooner: That is abominable. It is enough to poison half the parish if they drink it.

Defendant: I am sorry if I have done anything wrong.

Mr. Spooner: Anything wrong! What do you mean by putting 168 or nearly 169 grains of salt in your ale! The Excise allows 50, but this contained nearly 119 more than is allowed. It is the worst case I have ever had, 132 grains being hitherto the greatest amount. As you are a widow I will have a little mercy, and fine you £10 and costs.

Defendant: I am very poorly off, and have a large family.

Mr. Spooner: If you have a large family that is no reason why you should poison everybody.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1878 - Advert

“Barman Wants Situation, in a good Business House; good references.

Address, SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.”

BARMAN Wants Situation, in a good Business House; good references. — Address, Shakespeare Inn, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1878 - Advert

“Barman. Situation Wanted, single, used to quick counter trade. Good references.

Address, SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.”

BARMAN.—Situation Wanted, single, used to quick counter trade. Good references.—Address, Shakespeare Inn, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 14/6/1879 - Advert

“To Parties in search of a Beerhouse, Publicans, Brokers and Others.

Unreserved Sale at the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury.

Mr. W. Hickman will Sell by Auction on Monday next, June 16th 1879.

The Licenses, Goodwill and Possession of the above Beerhouse, together with the Household Furniture, Trade Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade and Effects, comprising Metallic French Bedsteads, Palliasses, Feather and Flock Beds, Carpets, Rugs, Washstands, Dressing Tables, Fire-irons, Cane-seated and Windsor Chairs, Tables &c; 12-Strike Mash Tub, Cooling Vats, Wort Spouts, 120-gallon Brewing Boiler, Fire Door, Copper Wort Pump, Half-hogshead Barrels and Hogshead ditto, Barm Tubs, Four Pull Beer Machine, Jug and glass Shelving, Tap Table, Ale Measures, Screen, Seatings, Doors and Door Frames, Cross legged Drinking Tables, Capital rail-back Benches, Gas Fittings, Blinds, Large Swing Sign and Ironwork, Lamp and Fittings, and other important Effects.....”

1881 Census

36, Dudley Street

- [1] William Smith (55), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Selena Smith (56), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] William Hampson (24), lodger, gas tube welder, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Laura Hampson (17), wife, born Wednesbury;

1891 Census

36, Dudley Street – SHAKESPEARE INN

- [1] Alfred Smith (40), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Smith (40), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Selina Smith (19), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Annie Smith (17), daughter, tailoress, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Lois Smith (14), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Alfred Smith (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Elizabeth Smith (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Laura Smith (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] William Smith (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Edith Smith (6 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

An application for alterations was approved in August 1895.

Alfred Smith, beer retailer, 36, Dudley Street. [1896], [1904]

1901 Census

36+37, Upper Dudley Street – SHAKESPEARE TAVERN

- [1] Alfred Smith (49), iron puddler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Smith (50), wife, born Stourbridge;
- [3] Selina E. Smith (29), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Lois Smith (25), daughter, tailoress, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Alfred J. Smith (22), son, brass finisher, born Wednesbury;
- [6] William Smith (13), son, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Edith Smith (10), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/10/1909 - Advert

“Good, well-known local Cob for Sale, 15-2; cause of sale no further use. No dealers need apply.

W. A. Oldbury, SHAKESPEARE INN, Wednesbury.”

**GOOD, well-known local Cob for Sale, 15-2;
cause of sale no further use. No dealers
need apply.—W. A. Oldbury, Shakespeare Inn,
Wednesbury.**

1911 Census

36, Upper Dudley Street

- [1] William Oldbury (58), steel cutter, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Phoebe Oldbury (54), wife, married 33 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] William Arthur Oldbury (25), son, gas and water cock maker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Laura Oldbury (19), daughter, born Wednesbury;

William A. Oldbury, beer retailer, 36, Dudley Street. [1912]

Walsall Observer 17/8/1912

“A good deal of interest was manifested in the following cases which were on the list at Wednesbury Police Court yesterday week.

Noah Beesley (35), 41, Paul Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for assaulting Sarah Ann Jones; George Harvey (23), Church Street, was summoned for assaulting Martha Kendrick; Bert Shinton (23), Cross Street, was summoned for assaulting Thomas Poulton; *Harry Rosewarne* (26), SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, was summoned for assaulting Thomas Poulton; Frank Rosewarne (19), Great Western Street, was summoned for assaulting Thomas Poulton; Mrs. Poulton (48), wife of Thomas Poulton, of Cross Street, was summoned for assaulting Bert Shinton;

Thomas Poulton, senior (44), was summoned for assaulting Frank Rosewarne and *Harry Rosewarne*; Thomas Poulton, junior (23), 2 court, Union Street, was summoned for assaulting Frank Rosewarne and *Harry Rosewarne*; Thomas Poulton, junior (23), and Thomas Poulton, senior (44), were summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street; Mary Ann Harvey (56), Church Street, was also summoned for assaulting Martha Kendrick.

Mr. R. A. Tench and Mr. A. G. Glover had been engaged as solicitors in several of the cases, and on the application of the former the whole of the cases, with the exception of those against Noah Beesley and John Bennett, were adjourned for one week. One of the defendants appeared with a heavy bandage over his left eye."

Walsall Observer 24/8/1912

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday week.....

Harry Rosewarne, of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, well known locally as a boxer, was fined 20s and costs, or one month's imprisonment, for assaulting Thomas Poulton, senior, also of Wednesbury, who refused to quit licensed premises. The Bench considered that *Rosewarne* used more force than was necessary.

For refusing to quit the premises of the SHAKESPEARE INN, Thomas Poulton, senior, was fined 5s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1914

"The Wednesbury Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Superintendent Salt reported Since the last annual sessions three licensees had been proceeded against, and one convicted. Opposition was taken to the renewal of the license of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge.....

The Bench renewed all the licenses with the exception of the BULLS HEAD INN, Tame Bridge; the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street; and the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Foster Street. The two latter were opposed on the ground of redundancy. Consideration of these objections were deferred until the adjourned meeting."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1914

"At Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions yesterday.....

The renewal of the licenses of the HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street, and the SHAKESPEARE INN, Dudley Street, were opposed on the ground of redundancy, and both were referred to the County 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.....

SHAKESPEARE, Dudley Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Albert Henry Ashwood*."

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.....

Seven licenses had been referred from Wednesbury Division and two from Wednesbury borough. The latter, both ante-1869 beerhouses – the SHAKESPEARE, Dudley Street, and the HEN AND CHICKENS, Foster Street – were unopposed, and the renewal was refused."

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/8/1914 - 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 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.....

SHAKESPEARE, Dudley Street, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Albert Henry Ashwood*. Registered Owner, James Russell and Sons Limited.”

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.....

SHAKESPEARE, Dudley Street, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante-1869, £900.

The money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and will be paid on the 28th instant.”

It closed in 1914.

SHIP

23, Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Edgar Evans, Wellhead Brewery, Perry Bar [1893], [1895]
Samuel Woodhall Ltd. (acquired in 1911) [1924]

LICENSEES

John T Duce [1871]
Isaac Nayler [1881]
Thomas Crowther [1882] – [1882]
Alfred Gould [1888]
Edwin Thomas Fisher (1889 – [1891]
Edgar Evans [1893] – [1904]
Albert Charles Horton [1895] – [1901] manager
F E Greatwich [1908]
William A. Hatfield [1911]
Mrs. Emily Bache [1912] – [1914]
John Owen [1916]
Arthur Clifton [1921] – [1921]

LOT 5.—An Important FULL-LICENSED FREEHOLD PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as

"THE BRIDGE TAVERN."

No. 23, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, with handsome modern Liquor-shop Front, good Cellars, and other ample business accommodation, let to Messrs. Needham and Crick as annual tenants at a rent of £48.; also, the Two Substantial FREEHOLD RESIDENCES adjoining, being Nos. 22 and 21 in Bridge Street, let to Mrs. Skape and Mr. Chambers, at rents of £15. and £12. respectively.

This is a handsome and substantial property, and is well worth the attention of Brewers and of Investors generally.

It has a frontage of more than 25 yards, and contains about 910 square yards.

1890

NOTES

It had a six-day license.

1871 Census

23, Bridge Street

- [1] John T. Duce (46), gun lock manufacturer and wine and spirit merchant, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Harriet Duce (45), wife, born London;
- [3] Charles T. Duce (14), son, assistant in gun lock trade, born Wednesbury;
- [4] William H. Duce (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Selina M. Duce (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] James Duce (9), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Charlotte Duce (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Herbert Duce (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Esther H. Duce (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Laura Smith (2), niece, visitor, born Liddington, Wiltshire;
- [11] Emma J. Rebbeck (21), nursery governess, born Lockeridge, Wiltshire;
- [12] Ellen Baker (24), cook, born Wednesbury;
- [13] Mary Ann Sharp (20), house maid, born Wednesbury;
- [14] Ellen H. Butler (19), barmaid, born Darlaston;
- [15] Fanny Baker (13), nurse maid, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 5/3/1881 - Advert

"Spirit Vaults, 23, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

A well-known Vaults, with modern-fitted shop, and every convenience for doing a large business. Long lease. In-coming £500.

Apply, Roderick and Son."

SPIRIT VAULTS, 23, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.—A well-known Vaults, with modern-fitted shop, and every convenience for doing a large business. Long lease. In-coming £500.—Apply, Roderick and Son.

1881 Census

23, Bridge Street – Wine and Spirit Stores

[1] Isaac Nayler (33), manager, born Golds Hill, West Bromwich;

[2] James Nayler (17), brother, barman, born Golds Hill, West Bromwich:

Thomas Crowther = Thomas Crowder

Wednesbury Herald 22/7/1882

“At the Sedgley Police Court on Monday, a man giving the name of *Thomas Crowder*, and who stated that he was the landlord of the SHIP INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was charged with being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and trap, and also with using obscene language in Castle Street, Coseley, on the 5th inst.

Police-constable Cooper and two other witnesses proved the offence.

Defendant denied being drunk, but admitted using obscene language.

The Bench fined defendant £2 and costs, with the alternative of six weeks’ imprisonment.”

Alfred Gould, spirit vaults, 23, Bridge Street. [1888]

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1890 - Advert

“Sale of Properties at Aston and Wednesbury, by Roderick & Son.

To be Sold by Auction (by order of the Mortgagees), at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday, August 12, 1890, at Six o’clock in the evening.....

Lot 5. An Important Full-Licensed Freehold Public House, known as the BRIDGE TAVERN, No.23, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, with handsome modern Liquor Shop Front, good Cellars, and other ample business accommodation, let to Messrs. Needham and Crick as annual tenants at a rent of £48; also, the Two Substantial Freehold Residences adjoining, being Nos.22 and 21 in Bridge Street, let to Mrs. Skape and Mr. Chambers, at rents of £13 and £18 respectively.

This is a handsome and substantial property, and is well worth the attention of Brewers and of Investors generally. It has a frontage of more than 25 yards, and contains about 910 square yards.”

1891 Census

23, Bridge Street – BRIDGE INN

[1] Edwin Thomas Fisher (61), married, publican, born Birmingham;

[2] Louisa Lowe (19), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/5/1893

“*Edgar Evans*, owner of the liquor vaults in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. Willcock defended.

The evidence of Police-constables Egan and Trusswell and Police-sergeant McGuire was that a man named Thomas Evans entered the house in a drunken condition, and a few minutes after was found standing at the counter, two jugs containing ale being before him.

For the defence, it was admitted that the man entered the house, but a positive denial was given to the suggestion that he had drink there, and it was urged that the police had neglected their duty in not preventing him going into the house, and that they had really sought to entrap the landlord. The object of the licensing laws was the protection of the people themselves against excessive drinking.

Alderman Williams said the case was one of grave suspicion. The defendant had been sailing very close to the wind. But the evidence was scarcely sufficient to warrant a conviction. Mr. Willcock’s doctrine, no doubt, would be very effective if it were practicable. But it seemed such a large order, and would involve such a large increase of the force, that it was practically impossible. The summons was dismissed.

Evans was fined 5s and costs for being upon the premises in a drunken condition.”

Edgar Evans was also a maltster. [1893]

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1895

“At Wednesbury, yesterday.....

There were three charges against *Edgar Evans*, brewer, Perry Bar, licensee of the SHIP INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and four against his manager, *Albert Charles Horton*, for having permitted the licensed premises to be used for betting.

After much legal argument, the hearing was adjourned until the 20th December for the production of authorities.”
AND

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1895

“In consequence of Mr. A. Young being unable to attend, the charges against *Edgar Evans*, owner, and *Albert Horton*, manager, of the SHIP INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, for permitting betting on the premises, were adjourned until the 19th January.”

Edgar Evans was also the licensee of the FORTUNE OF WAR. [1896], [1904]

Dudley Herald 17/2/1900

“On Saturday the employees of Messrs. Edwin Richards and Sons, Portway Works, gave a send-off to one of their shopmates (Corporal J. Farmer) in the shape of a supper and concert at the SHIP INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. There were about fifty present. After justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr. W. Kershaw was voted to the chair, and Mr. W. Grant to the vice-chair.

The Chairman remarked that he had a very pleasant duty to perform. They were gathered together to take a farewell of one of whom they all respected. He was pleased to announce that their employer, Mr. Thomas, of the Cleveland, Wolverhampton, had given a handsome subscription, and Mrs. Thomas had sent the guest a knitted Tam o' Shanter. The Chairman, on behalf of his fellow workmen, presented Corporal Farmer with tobacco, cigarettes, pipes, pouch, and a purse of gold. They wished him God-speed and a safe return, and drank his health with musical honours. Corporal Farmer suitably responded.

Mr. Mathers then obliged with the ‘Absent-minded Beggar,’ and collection was made.”

Edgar Evans served as a Councillor for Birchfield Ward of Handsworth District Council from 1900 for several years.

1901 Census

23, Bridge Street

[1] *Albert Charles Horton* (35), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah Ann Horton* (37), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Sidney Charles Horton* (9), son, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 23/11/1901

“On Saturday a good number of Foresters and friends sat down to a splendid repast at the headquarters of Court Foresters Castle, the SHIP INN, Bridge Street.....”

1911 Census

Bridge Street – BRIDGE STREET VAULTS

[1] *William A. Hatfield* (49), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Florence G. Hatfield* (38), wife, married 9 years, assisting in trade, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Louie M. Hatfield* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *William A. Hatfield* (6), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *James H. Hatfield* (5), son, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Violet Hadley* (23), general servant, born Denaby Main, Yorkshire:

Evening Despatch 19/12/1913

“Wednesbury police have had reported to them the disappearance of Mr. Job Bache, aged 48, of the SHIP INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. It appears that Mr. Bache left his home late on Monday night, and has not since been heard of. The anxiety of the relatives is increased by the fact that some twelve months ago Mr. Bache had a seizure, and this had a serious effect on his health. The following description has been issued. Height 5ft 8in, grey hair, brown eyes, fair complexion, brown moustache turning grey, wearing grey overcoat, navy blue suit, grey mixture cap, black silk handkerchief, and black boots laced.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/1/1914

"No tidings have yet been received with regard to the whereabouts of Job Bache (48), husband of the licensee of the SHIP INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, who left home at midnight on December 19. It is understood that his relatives have enquired in every possible direction, and the police have also made search in every quarter in which it was thought likely he might be found."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1914

"Mr. James Clark, Borough Coroner, held an enquiry at West Bromwich yesterday on Job Bache (49), of the SHIP INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, whose body was recovered from the canal at Hill Top on Tuesday.

The widow said about twelve months ago her husband had a stroke and had been practically a cripple ever since. This had been a trouble to him, and he had been peculiar in his conduct for some time, but had never threatened to take his life. On December 15 she left him sitting in front of the kitchen fire, and had not seen him since.

In reply to the Coroner witness said her husband had said he was tired of life and wished he was dead, but she denied having told the police he had threatened to commit suicide.

Evidence of the recovery of the body having been given, the Coroner commented on the difference between the statements made by Mrs. *Bache* that day and those she made to the police. If people did not help him and the police by giving full, true, and correct information on all points connected with the death of a person, they would find things more unpleasant than at present, when he tried to show every consideration for the feelings of relatives.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide while of Unsound Mind."

1921 Census

23, Bridge Street – SHIP INN

[1] Arthur Clifton (43), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] Emma Clifton (40), wife, home duties, born Smethwick;

[3] John Fletcher (67), father-in-law, widower, retired licensed victualler, born Langley Green;

[4] Elizabeth Lowe (17), step-daughter, home duties, born Causeway Green;

[5] Bertha Clifton (16), daughter, preparing fancy leather, born Walsall;

[6] Doris Clifton (14), daughter, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[7] Arthur Clifton (12), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[8] John Clifton (10), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[9] Christopher Clifton (2), son, born Wednesbury;

[10] Cyril Clifton (1), son, born Wednesbury;

South Staffordshire Times 1/3/1924

"Opposition was offered to the renewal of three licenses on the grounds of redundancy at the Wednesbury Adjoined Brewster Sessions, yesterday.....

The first was in respect of the BRIDGE STREET LIQUOR VAULTS (known as the SHIP INN), owned by Messrs. Samuel Woodall, Ltd., West Bromwich, for whom Mr. J. S. Sharpe (solicitor) appeared.

PS Thorpe, in evidence, pointed out that the grounds of the objection were redundancy and that the premises were structurally unsuitable. The rooms upstairs were ill-arranged and were badly in need of repair. The smoke room was dark and badly ventilated. The structural condition of the house was bad all through. The cellar was supported by six props, and the attic ceilings were giving signs of giving way and appeared dangerous. Within 500 yards of this particular house there were 13 fully licensed houses and five beer-on houses.....

The accommodation and arrangement of the premises compared unfavorably with the houses in the immediate neighbourhood.

Mr. Sharpe: Have you visited the other houses in the neighbourhood for the purposes of differentiation? – Sergeant Thorpe: Yes.

And the LIQUOR VAULTS would make two SWANS? – Perhaps they are larger premises but there is a lot of space in the LIQUOR VAULTS that is no good at all.

Perhaps you would be good enough to tell us while you are dealing with the re-building of this house, what this house can be turned into when the license is taken away? – It would take a lot of money to re-build it. It wants reconstruction.

It is a building for a public house and it looks like a public house? – This is not the kind of house that is required at the present day. It is out-of-date.

It would make a good club, and you don't want any more clubs? – I think it would make a better lodging house. (Laughter.)

You have no complaint about the character of the house? – There has been no complaint.

How long have you known the house? – Sixteen and a half years.

Do you know a considerable sum of money was spent on this property upon plans submitted to the justices in 1920? – During my time there have been no alterations of any size done there at all.

Do you know that £260 were spent to put the place in order in 1920? – It is not within my recollection.

And do you know that in 1921 another large amount was spent upon decoration? – Well, the house wants a lot of money spending on it today.

Do you say the painting is bad? – It certainly wants doing again.

It is quite as good as the back door leading to this court, and that wants doing up again? – Badly.

There are a good many places that want doing up again? – This house does at any rate, sir.

Addressing the justices, Mr. Sharpe said his clients had been the owners of the house since 1911, and in 1920 they spent a lot of money on the plans approved by the magistrates in the reconstruction of the premises from a sanitary point of view and from a domestic point of view. This house was in one of the most important thoroughfares in Wednesbury. It had an extensive facade and bore comparison, so far as the exterior was concerned, with any house they could find in the neighbourhood.

The only complaint was that of redundancy, and the justice knew that any house could be redundant. The house in question would make two of the WHITE SWAN, and was a far better house than the WHITE SWAN. There were certainly many houses in Wednesbury that would compare unfavorably with the LIQUOR VAULTS. Would it be converted for housing accommodation, or would it be turned into a club? They did not want any more clubs in Wednesbury, and this was just the house that might be turned into a club. There was an outcry against clubs at the present time, because there was no proper legislation to deal with them, and he was sure the police would bear him out when he said that they would rather have a dozen public houses than one club to look after. 'We should be forced to do something with it,' added Mr. Sharpe, 'It would go into other hands, and I might pretty rarely indicate what would happen. It would be turned into a club and would be a greater menace to the well-being of the borough than this house is at the present time.'

After the magistrates had had a private consultation, the Mayor announced.....

The LIQUOR VAULTS would be referred for compensation on the ground of redundancy."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1924

"At a meeting under the Licensing Consolidation Act the Staffordshire Compensation Authority refused yesterday to renew the licenses of fifteen houses which had been referred on the ground of redundancy.....

LIQUOR VAULTS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, full license (six day)."

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/8/1924

"The principal meeting of the Compensation Authority (Licensing Consolidation Act) for the county of Staffordshire was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday.....

The following licenses, all of which had been referred by the licensing justices on the ground of redundancy, were refused, no objection being offered by the owners.....

LIQUOR VAULTS, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

Lichfield Mercury 9/1/1925

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee, in their report for 1924, stated that they had fixed the compensations in respect of a number of houses as follows.....

LIQUOR VAULTS, Wednesbury, £750."

Dudley Chronicle 14/5/1925 - Advert

"Particulars of the Commodious Three-Storey Double-Fronted Dwelling House and Premises, until recently known as the SHIP INN (but now de-licensed), situate and being No.23 in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Arthur Clifton. The accommodation comprises:

Second Floor. Three Bedrooms, Wardrobe Fitment on Landing.

First Floor. Two Bedroom and spacious Room, formerly used as a Club Room.

Ground Floor. Vestibule Entrance, Passage, two Front Rooms (formerly used as Snug and Bar), two Sitting Rooms (one formerly used as Smoke Room, and one having cooking range therein), Verandah, Pantry, and Scullery (containing cooking grate, boiler and sink), together with Coal Store, Washhouse (having a boiler and sink), two W.C.s, Urinal, and large paved Yard with draw-in Gateway Entrance thereto.

Basement. Good Cellaring with rolling-in way from yard.

There is a draw-in way between this house and No.24, Bridge Street, giving access to the yard, which is also used by the occupier of No.24.

Gas and Water are laid on to the property.

The house, which has a frontage of 34ft to Bridge Street, is very suitable for business purposes, or could be readily converted into two dwelling houses.

Belcher and Son have received instructions from the Owners, Messrs. Samuel Woodhall Ltd. to offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, 26th May, 1925, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely...."

PARTICULARS
of the
COMMODIOUS THREE-STOREY DOUBLE-FRONTED
DWELLING HOUSE
and Premises, until recently known as
"THE SHIP INN"
(but now de-licensed),
Situate and being

No. 23 in BRIDGE STREET, WEDNESBURY,
in the occupation of Arthur Clifton.

The Accommodation comprises:

SECOND FLOOR.—Three Bedrooms, Wardrobe Fitment on Landing.

FIRST FLOOR.—Two Bedrooms and spacious Room formerly used as Club Room.

GROUND FLOOR.—Vestibule Entrance, Passage, two Front Rooms (formerly used as Snug and Bar), two Sitting Rooms (one formerly used as Smoke Room, and one having cooking range therein), Verandah, Pantry, and Scullery (containing cooking grate, boiler and sink), together with Coal Store, Washhouse (having a boiler and sink), two W.C.s, Urinal and large paved Yard with draw-in Gateway Entrance thereto.

BASEMENT.—Good Cellaring with rolling-in way from yard.

There is a draw-in way between this house and No. 24, Bridge Street, giving access to the yard, which is also used by the occupier of No. 24.

Gas and Water are laid on to the property.

The house, which has a frontage of 34ft. to Bridge Street, is very suitable for business purposes, or could be readily converted into two dwelling houses.

BELCHER AND SON

Have received instructions from the Owners, Messrs. Samuel Woodhall, Ltd., to offer the above Freehold Property for SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, WEDNESBURY,

ON TUESDAY, 26th MAY, 1925,
at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely,
subject to Conditions. *

Copies of these Particulars and any further information may be obtained from the AUCTIONEERS, BANK CHAMBERS, WEDNESBURY, and at DARLASTON (Tel. 151—two lines), or from

MESSRS. CADDICK & YATES,
SOLICITORS, New Street, West Bromwich
(Tel. 169).



Job Bache

SHROPSHIRE HOUSE

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Cash [1828] – [1830]

SMITHS ARMS

1, Cross Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Hammond [1871] – [1888]
Edward Slater [1890] – [1896]
Elizabeth Bishop [] – **1899**;
Louisa Tart (**1899** – [1901]
Thomas Allen Muskin [1903] – [1904]
Hill [1904]
John Lacey [1911]
Fred Fisher [1921]
Elizabeth Jane Morris [] – **1926**;
Reuben Cannadine (**1926** – [1927]

The Commodious DWELLING HOUSE,
formerly known as the "SMITH'S ARMS"
INN (now de-licensed), No. 1, CROSS ST.
(off Holyhead Road), Wednesbury.
Solicitors: MESSRS. PINSENT & CO., 6,
Bennetts Hill, Birmingham (Tel. Central 241).

1928

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 25/2/1860 - Advert

"Sale on Tuesday Next. Cross Street, Wednesbury, near the SMITHS ARMS....."

1871 Census

1, Cross Street – SMITHS ARMS INN

- [1] *Benjamin Hammond* (49), moulder and beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;
- [2] *Teresa Hammond* (51), wife, born Belgium;
- [3] *Henry Hammond* (17), son, commercial clerk, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Selina Garvey* (16), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Benjamin Hammond, beer retailer, 1, Cross Street. [1872]

1881 Census

1, Cross Street – SMITH ARMS

- [1] *Benjamin Hammonds* (59), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *Theresa Hammonds* (62), wife, born Belgium;
- [3] *Ann Hammonds* (54), sister, born Tipton;
- [4] *Clara Hammonds* (22), daughter, married, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William Hammonds* (1), grand-son, born Scotland:

Edward Slater = Edward Salter

Birmingham Daily Post 2/7/1890

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Jesse Price, Cross Street, was summoned for refusing to quit the SMITHS ARMS INN, in the same street, and assaulting the landlady, Eliza Slater.

It appeared that he went into the house and called for a pint of porter, but as he refused to pay it was taken away from him, and an attempt was made to get him out of the house, which did not succeed until a policeman had been fetched. Soon afterwards he returned, and whilst the landlady was trying to stop him he struck her on the face.

The Stipendiary dismissed the charge of refusing to quit, but imposed a fine of 10s and costs for the assault."

1891 Census

1, Cross Street – SMITHS ARMS

- [1] *Edward Slater* (45), stamper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Eliza Slater* (39), wife, born Sutton Coldfield;
- [3] *Edward J. Slater* (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Charlotte Berry* (19), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Edward Salter, beer retailer, 1, Cross Street. [1896]

1901 Census

1, Cross Street – SMITHS ARMS

- [1] *Louisa Tart* (55), widow, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Charles Tart* (29), son, painter, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Elizabeth L. Tart* (22), daughter, domestic duties, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Albert Blundell* (23), boarder, ironworks labourer, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 5/12/1903

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday week, *Thomas Allen Muskin*, SMITHS ARMS beerhouse, Cross Street, was summoned for permitting drunkenness.

The evidence showed that Police-constables Savory and Webb found a woman named *Mary Wassell* dancing and reeling about in the smoke-room, the landlady playing the piano meanwhile. She was very drunk, and the explanation given was that the woman worked at the public house, and had just been fetched to go an errand.

The Bench dismissed the case, but said defendant would do well to let it be a warning to him.”

Thomas Muskin, beer retailer, 1, Cross Street. [1904]

Walsall Observer 20/8/1904

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday week, *Harry Davis*, of Navigation Street, Wolverhampton, was charged with stealing a bicycle, of the value of £5 5s, the property of *John Thomas Thompson*, of Holloway Bank, Hill Top, on the 6th inst.

Prosecutor stated that on the date named, about 3.30pm, he left his bicycle outside the RED LION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. When he went to look for the machine at 4.40pm he found it was gone, and he then gave information to the police.

Mr. Hill, landlord of the SMITHS ARMS INN, Cross Street, Wednesbury, said he bought a bicycle from the prisoner on the 6th inst for £1. He was, therefore, surprised when a little later the same day prisoner brought the bicycle belonging to the prosecutor to him and asked £10 for it. Being suspicious, witness sent for the police, and in answer to his inquiry prisoner said he had had this machine for nine months.

Police-constable *Rixon* deposed to arresting prisoner at 9.40pm on the 6th inst, when he stated that he bought the machine nine months ago at a shop at Burslem. Subsequently prisoner admitted stealing the machine.

As prisoner had already done a term of imprisonment for bicycle stealing, he was sent to gaol for four months, with hard labour.”

John Lacey was the son of *John Lacey*.

John Lacey – see ROBIN HOOD, Portway Road, CROSS GUNS, Bilston Road, and GRAPES, High Street.

John Lacey was the brother of *Nicholas Edmund Lacey*.

Nicholas Edmund Lacey – see FOX AND DOGS, Albert Street, and ROYAL EXCHANGE, Chapel Street.

1911 Census

Cross Street – SMITHS ARMS

- [1] *John Lacey* (28), single, publican, retailer of beer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Lacey* (24), sister, housekeeper, born Willenhall:

1921 Census

1, Cross Street – SMITHS ARMS

[1] Fred Fisher (34), iron and steel worker and beerhouse manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] Annie Fisher (31), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] Ada Fisher (10), daughter, school, born Coventry;

[4] Fred Fisher (6), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[5] Gladys Fisher (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] James Fisher (2), son, born Wednesbury;

[7] Ada Casserley (14), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

Dudley Chronicle 29/10/1925

“For three hours on October 17, the West Bromwich Borough Coroner, Mr. Lyon Clark, and a jury were occupied in unravelling a motor fatality which occurred in a Wednesbury street, on Thursday of last week, and in the end the Coroner made some strong comments about the driver of the motor car responsible for the fatality. The victim was Kenneth Cooper (4), of the Hollies, Aldridge, who was knocked down by a motor car in the Holyhead Road, the car being driven by Alfred Haddock, butcher’s assistant, of 44, High Street, Bilston. The child was conveyed to the West Bromwich Hospital, where it died from injuries three hours after being admitted.

The first witness was George Benjamin Cooper, the father, who stated that on Thursday afternoon he and his wife took the child on a visit to his grand-mother’s, at the SMITHS ARMS, Cross Street, Wednesbury, and they had only been in the house about ten minutes when the boy asked for a penny to buy some sweets. Witness gave him a penny and the boy went out of the house. Almost immediately shouts were heard, and rushing into the street witness found that the child had been run over, and was being taken away in a motor car. Witness followed in another car, and caught up the car in which the child was being taken to Dr. Dingley’s surgery. Later, witness took him to the hospital. He was unconscious.....”

[The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death and censured the driver. The Coroner said that if he had made the adjudication the verdict would have been Manslaughter.]

Walsall Observer 5/2/1927

“Objection was raised by the police at the Wednesbury annual licensing sessions yesterday to the renewal of the license of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Stafford Street, and the NOAHS ARK, beerhouse, New Street. The NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, it was explained, had been ill-conducted, while it was said the NOAHS ARK was a house of a disorderly character, and on July 13 there was a conviction for supplying intoxicants during non-permitted hours. These licenses were referred to the adjourned meeting on March 4, together with those of the SMITHS ARMS, beerhouse, Cross Street, and the MAZEPPA, beerhouse, Elwell Street, which were objected to on the ground of redundancy.”

Walsall Observer 5/3/1927

“At the adjourned Wednesbury Licensing sessions yesterday, the license of the SMITHS ARMS, Cross Street, was referred for compensation, but that of the MAZEPPA, Elwell Street, which had also been objected to on the ground of redundancy, was renewed. The licenses of the L.N.W. HOTEL, Stafford Street, and the NOAHS ARK, New Street, which had been objected to on the ground of convictions, were renewed.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/5/1927 - Notice

“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 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.....

SMITHS ARMS, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee *Reuben Cannadine*.”

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 license of the SMITHS ARMS, Wednesbury. The closing of the house was not opposed by the owner.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1928

“Annual report of the County Licensing Committee.....

At the Principal Meeting of the Compensation Authority held on July 19, the Committee refused to renew 13 out of 16 licenses referred to them. At the Supplemental Meeting the Committee fixed the compensation of the undermentioned 12 cases as follows.....

SMITHS ARMS, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante-1869. £2,325.

In all the before-mentioned cases the money had been apportioned amongst the interested parties, and would be paid on 24th of December instant.”

Dudley Chronicle 9/2/1928 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties situate in the Parishes of Wednesbury and Tipton.

Belcher and Son have received instructions to offer for Sale by Public Auction at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday, 13th February, 1928, at 7 o'clock in the Evening.....

Lot 1. The Commodious Dwelling House, formerly known as the SMITHS ARMS INN (now de-licensed), No.1, Cross Street (off Holyhead Road), Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 10/3/1928

“Wednesbury Town Council.....

The SMITHS ARMS, Cross Street, has been purchased at a public auction for £322 for street improvement purchases.”

SPREAD EAGLE

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Isaiah Rowlinson [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

SPREAD EAGLE

85, Portway Road, Leabrook, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Josiah Griffiths [1848] – **1860**;
William Entwistle (**1860** – [1861]
Charles Horton [1862] – **1863**;
Richard Sandall (**1863** – **1865**);
Mrs. Eliza Sandall (**1865** – **1866**);
Joseph Taylor (**1866** – [1874]
Henry Madley [1871] – [1879]
Joseph Plant [1881] – [1884]
James Plant [1887]
Harry Nicklin [1891] – [1892]
William Ferrer [1892] – **1893**;
David Paulton Jones (**1893** – []
John Granger [1895] – [1896]
James Arthur Woodward [1901] – [1908]
A Woodward [1910]
Charlotte Emma Brooks []
Martin Egan [1912]
Francis J Wilkinson [1916] – [1921]
George Henry Wilcox [1932] – **1933**;
William Henry Best (**1933** – [1935]

NOTES

83, Portway Road [1881]
85, Portway Road [1896]

Birmingham Journal 1/1/1848

“The Oak Farm Workmen. At the second anniversary feast of the Loyal Order of Brothers of Love, No.12 Lodge, held at Mr. *Griffiths*’s, SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury, on Monday, at which Mr. C. S. Bywater presided, the Chairman kindly suggested that some arrangements should be made for raising a fund for the assistance of their fellow-workmen who had been unexpectedly thrown out of employment by the suspension of these works. He stated that the brothers at Tipton had appointed collectors, to whom the workmen in that place had voluntarily paid over their half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, and before the proceedings terminated collectors were appointed to raise contributions in Wednesbury, an example which, it was trusted, would be followed in other parts of the mining district. It is to be hoped that precautions will be taken to prevent unauthorised parties from collecting money, as there are in all places numbers of idle, unprincipled men ready to take advantage of the charity of the public and their fellow-workmen to appropriate moneys collected under the guise of benevolence to their own use. The Lodge appears to be in a very fair condition, the funds being represented ample to support its members for some time.”

SPREAD EAGLE INN,
PORTWAY ROAD, WEDNESBURY,
Near to the Great Western and London and North-Western
Railway Stations.
**IMPORTANT UNRESERVED CLEARING-OUT
SALE.**
TO BREWERS, PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.
MR. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD has received in-
structions from Mr. J. Taylor, to SELL by AUCTION,
on MONDAY NEXT, January 8, the BREWING VESSELS,
FIXTURES, FITTINGS, together with the well-bound English
oak ALE CASKS, PIANO-FORTE, HOUSEHOLD FURNI-
TURE, &c.; comprising twenty Ale Casks, varying in size, from
50 to 300 gallons, Ale Coolers, wrought iron Boilers, Copper Re-
frigerator, Tubs, Coolers, Patent Hop Press, Patent Malt Crusher,
well made Twenty-bushel Mash Tub, Sixteen-bushel ditto, copper-
bottomed and other Sieves, Six-pull Stop-tap Ale Machine, Iron
Forcing Pump, Copper ditto, Lead Pump, Tap Tables, Screens,
Benches, Jugs, &c., &c. The HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE com-
prises a very fine-toned 6½-octave Cottage Piano-forte, in walnut
wood case (by Rolfe and Co.), mahogany framed Sofa, Case of
Stuffed Birds, Eight-day Timepiece, in rosewood case, Barometer,
Tables, and Miscellaneous Effects.
Sale to commence punctually at half-past Ten o’clock.
Catalogues may be had on application at the Auctioneer’s
Office, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.
The Auctioneer respectfully solicits the attention of the trade
to the Ale Casks, being in first-class condition.

1866

1851 Census

Portway Road

- [1] Josiah Griffiths (32), roll turner, born Darlaston;
- [2] Sarah Griffiths (32), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Ann Griffiths (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Samuel Griffiths (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Caroline Griffiths (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Josiah Griffiths (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Marender Griffiths (3), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Eliza Griffiths (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

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.....

Josiah Griffiths, Portway Road, Wednesbury, 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.]

County Courts Chronicle 1/1/1855

“*Smith v Griffiths*.

This was an action brought by the plaintiff, Joseph Smith, a miner, of Wednesbury, against the defendant, *Josiah Griffiths*, a publican of the same place, to recover the sum of £5 for damages sustained by the plaintiff by an assault which the defendant had committed upon him, in the GEORGE INN, Wednesbury, on the morning of the 2nd November.

The evidence on behalf of the plaintiff was to the effect that he was drinking in the public house aforementioned, on the evening mentioned, when the defendant, who was tipsy, after challenging him to fight, struck him several times on the side of the head. The plaintiff had been suffering from illness for some months, and the assault tended to extend the time of that illness. After evidence was adduced on the part of the defendant to show that all he did to the plaintiff was to push his hat further down upon his head.

His Honour gave judgement for the plaintiff; but, taking into consideration the fact of the defendant being drunk at the time, said he should give the plaintiff a verdict for two guineas.”

Birmingham Journal 17/11/1855

“On Tuesday last Thomas Fanaher and Michael May were brought before Thomas Walker, Esq, and the Rev. W. Ker, charged with being concerned in a desperate affray caused by a mob of Irish in the Portway Road, Wednesbury, on Saturday night. It appeared that the Brunswick Works Band had been playing round the town, and about eleven o’clock adjourned for refreshment to the house of Mr. *Josiah Griffiths*, the SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road. About thirty Irishmen were in the house, and they asked the musicians to play ‘Patrick’s day in the morning.’ They said they would do so if the Irish gave them some ale. Upon this a furious onslaught was made on the English, several of whom were knocked down and kicked in the most brutal manner. Several quart jugs were hurled at the band, who retreated from the house. A man named Gauntlet went out after a fellow who stole his cap, and was knocked down. He would probably have been murdered had not Mr. *Griffiths*, the landlord, dragged him into the house. A cinder, weighing about fourteen pounds, was then hurled through the window, which struck Mrs. *Griffiths* on the side and knocked her down. Volleys of brick-ends were then flung by the Irish, the glass and sashes of the windows in front of the house were totally demolished, and the police were sent for. A witness produced a quantity of hair torn from his head by Farraher, and both prisoners were proved to be active in the affray. In defence they totally denied being present. They were fined £5 each, or two months’ imprisonment.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/9/1856

“At Mr. *Josiah Griffiths*’s, SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury, near the railway station, on September 22, a fat pig, upwards of 20 score, will be shot for, by 22 subscribers, at 10s each, 3 birds each, guns $\frac{3}{4}$ bore, 2oz of shot, 21 yards rise. Shooting to commence at half-past twelve o’clock. Best blue rocks will be provided.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/4/1857

“About seven o’clock on the morning of Saturday last, a tremendous explosion alarmed the dwellers in the vicinity of the extensive ironworks at Leabrook, belonging to Messrs. Bagnall and Sons. It appears that at the time stated the outermost of three boilers at the southern side of these works suddenly blew up, the force of the explosion raising the boiler fairly out of its bed, and projecting the greater part of it to a distance of more than one hundred yards from its site. A portion of the lower end was driven into the adjacent canal, the wind caused by its rapid flight throwing a mare down, while the larger portion in its onward course went through a wall, behind which a number of women were engaged in washing ‘gleeds,’ one of whom was killed on the spot, and another so seriously injured that she died on the following day. The roofs of the sheds in the neighbourhood of the explosion were covered with bricks, which were scattered in all directions, and one or two of the workmen had narrow escapes. It was fortunate that the boiler flew out instead of into the works; had it been otherwise, the consequences must have been much more serious. Among other persons injured are John Ashford, an elderly man, who is severely hurt on the back and head; and another man named John Ellis had his leg fractured, but both are happily recovering.

On Tuesday afternoon, an inquest was opened on the bodies of Bridget Fox and Julia Flynn, before the district coroner, G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road.....

The coroner suggested an adjournment, in order that practical evidence might be adduced as to the cause of the explosion. The jury at once assented, and the inquiry was adjourned till four o’clock on Friday afternoon.

The inquiry was resumed yesterday, when, after the examination of several witnesses, the jury returned a verdict that the explosion was owing to the inferior character of the iron, and that the manager, when the leakage was pointed out to him, should have taken means to ascertain its cause.”

Walsall Free Press 11/7/1857

“County Court Blakemore v Mincher.

Mr. Sill appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Beaton for the defendant. The action was brought to recover the sum of £10 damages, for an assault committed upon the plaintiff by the defendant.

It appeared from the evidence adduced that the two parties met at the SPREAD EAGLE public house at Wednesbury, and some dispute arose respecting a small wager, when the plaintiff said to the defendant, ‘My father always paid twenty shillings in the pound, and that is more than yours ever did;’ upon which the defendant struck the plaintiff, or, as it was stated, pushed him on the bosom. The plaintiff at once said, ‘I’ll have law for you,’ when the landlady said, ‘Don’t do that; strike him again.’ Thereupon the plaintiff, as was stated by defendant’s witnesses, though denied by the plaintiff himself, attacked the defendant, and beat him very severely about the face. They were then parted. This was the case brought before the jury.

Mr. Beaton defended with considerable energy and ability, and in his address to the jury remarked that the complainant’s attorney had not ventured to call either of the parties who were present on the occasion; moreover, that the plaintiff himself came with very ill grace to ask for compensation, he having been at a public house at a very early hour in the morning. He further remarked on the general character of the plaintiff.

The Judge summed up, and the Jury found a verdict for the plaintiff. Damages £2.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/2/1858

“At Mr. *Griffiths*’s, SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury, on Monday last, a large assemblage of lovers of the trigger met to witness a match for two fat pigs, valued at £10, by 20 members at 10s each, three birds each. After some excellent shooting, Messrs. Cottis of Westbromwich, and Bang of Wednesbury, and Simkins of Hill Top, killed all, and shot off bird for bird up to the sixth, Simkins missing; the other two killed and divided.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1860 - Advert

“Found, a Dark Brown Pony, aged, about 11 hands high, long tail, short mane. The owner may have him by paying expenses.

Apply at the Police Office; or to *J. Griffiths*, SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury. If not owned after this notice, will be Sold to defray expenses.”

FOUND, a Dark Brown PONY, aged, about 11 hands high, long tail, short mane. The owner may have him by paying expenses.—Apply at the Police Office; or to J. Griffiths, Spread Eagle, Wednesbury. If not owned after this notice, will be Sold to defray expenses.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1860

“At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before J. Leigh and Thomas Davies, Esqrs, *Josiah Griffiths*, who keeps the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, was summoned by William Wright, a contractor, to answer a charge of cheating at gaming or tossing. Mr. Sheldon appeared for complainant, and Mr. Ebsworth defended.

Complainant stated that on the 23rd of August last he went to defendant's house, when a game of tossing money in a hat was introduced. Defendant was there, and his son; and he (complainant) played at the game with defendant, betting the son 5s a time, and ultimately lost £6 10s. After this had gone on some time defendant declared his son off the betting. Complainant said that this was not fair, but still he went on playing, and afterwards won £19, but defendant did not pay him the whole of it, but left something like £15 owing. This sum Mr. Wright of course wanted to get, and considered that while he paid his losses honourably defendant ought to have done the same. Mr. Ebsworth said the proceedings were taken for the purpose of getting money; and Mr. Sheldon intimated that after eliciting the facts, he would not ask to take the matter further unless the Bench thought that the defendant ought to be bound over to appear when called upon to answer the charge. Mr. Leigh did not consider it was a case in which he could order defendant to be bound over, as it appeared that the present proceedings were taken for the purpose of exposure, and to get the money, and doubtless had the money been paid the case would not have come before him. Complainant might however prefer an indictment at the Assizes if he thought proper.”

Birmingham Journal 11/2/1860

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before J. Leigh and Thomas Davies, Esqrs, *Josiah Griffiths* was charged with allowing gaming in his house, he being the keeper of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, in the Portway Road. Mr. Bayley, instructed by Major M'Knight, Deputy Chief-Constable, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Slater, who attended on behalf of Mr. Ebsworth, defended.

Mr. Bayley stated that the case arose out of an information laid a fortnight ago against the defendant by Mr. Wright, a contractor, who then made a charge against *Griffiths* of non-payment of money won.

Mr. Wright, who was summoned by the police to give evidence, was examined, and he stated that on the 23rd August last he went to the defendant's house, and took part in a game of shaking coins in a hat. The defendant and others joined in the game.

Mr. Slater contended that the case did not come under the statute, as he thought the statute sought only to prevent gaming among strangers and customers, with a view to keep the houses orderly. In the present case all the parties were private friends, and not ordinary customers, and he submitted that defendant had as much right to allow a game in his house amongst his friends as he would have if he kept a private house. Mr. Leigh considered that the Act of Parliament applied to houses licensed for the sale of beer or liquors. Mr. Slater then, in mitigation of fine, urged that the fact of his client being unaware that he was doing anything illegal at the time, should be favourably considered by the Bench. The Bench ordered a fine of £5 and costs; total £6 9s.”

Josiah Griffiths – see also GREEN DRAGON.

1861 Census

Portway Road

- [1] *William Entwistle* (44), widower, innkeeper, born Bolton, Lancashire;
- [2] *Ann Mosely* (38), widow, housekeeper, born Wiveliscombe, Somerset;
- [3] *Alice Entwistle* (18), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *William Entwistle* (16), son, butcher's apprentice, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Richard Entwistle* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Bridget Ogon* (16), house servant, born Ireland;
- [7] *William Mosely* (13), lodger, employed in iron works, born Bristol;
- [8] *Joseph Fraizer* (55), lodger, not known, born Hereford;

William Entwistle – see also ROYAL OAK, King Street, and LAMP.

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/10/1863

"A Policeman in an Irish Row. Police-constable Willis preferred a charge of assault against Richard Powell and Margaret Meeley; Francis Marley and John Meeley, with the former two, were also charged with committing wilful damage to a door and window at the SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, Wednesbury. Mr. Slater prosecuted on behalf of the police.

Willis said he was on duty in Portway Road on the night of the 28th ult, about half-past eleven o'clock, and he heard a disturbance inside the SPREAD EAGLE. He went in, and Powell, after blackguarding him, threatened to put him out, and forthwith struck him. The female, 'Margery,' came with a quart jug and threw at him. Powell picked up a stone and struck him with it on the arm, and another from 'Margery' followed. The other two prisoners then took part in the 'row.' Powell threw a stone through a pane of glass, 'Margery' repeated this interesting experiment; Marley did likewise, and to crown it all, John Meeley kicked the panel of the door in.

The prisoner Powell defended himself with considerable skill, which would indicate he was not a novice in the police courts. When informed they would each have to pay a fine of 2s 6d and costs, Powell seemed much dissatisfied, and remarked drily, 'A bobby will swear a bullock's a horse, after that.' (Laughter.)"

Birmingham Daily Post 21/4/1864

"Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, the District Coroner, held an enquiry, at the house of Mr. *Richard Sandall*, the SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on view of the body of John Loyden, aged six years, who had been run over by a wagon. The evidence went to show that the accident was occasioned by the thoughtlessness of the deceased, and that the man in charge of the vehicle was in no way to blame, and the Jury accordingly found a verdict of Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/3/1865

"On Friday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on the body of William Henry Griffiths, five years old, the son of a puddler living in that neighbourhood.

From the evidence of Eliza Griffiths, the sister of the deceased, an intelligent little girl seven years old, it seemed that she and her brother were alone in a room at their father's house on Tuesday, when the deceased took up a piece of paper, lighted it, and began to play with it; but finding that his fingers were being scorched he dropped the paper, which fell on his clothes and set them on fire. The flames were promptly extinguished, and under the direction of Mr. J. C. Garman remedies were applied to the severe injuries which the deceased was found to have sustained; but death terminated his sufferings on Wednesday.

Verdict, Accidental Death."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/10/1865

"On Saturday, at the West Bromwich Public Office, the following transfers of license were granted.....
SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury, from *Richard Landle* [sic], deceased, to his widow."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/1/1866 - Advert

"SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Near to the Great Western and London and North-Western Railway Stations.

Important Unreserved Clearing-Out Sale.

To Brewers, Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. E. B. Scholefield has received instructions from Mr. *J. Taylor*, to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, January 8, the Brewing Vessels, Fixtures, Fittings, together with the well-bound English oak Ale Casks, Piano-Forte, Household Furniture, &c; comprising twenty Ale Casks, varying in size, from 50 to 300 gallons, Ale Coolers, wrought iron Boilers, Copper Refrigerator, Tubs, Coolers, Patent Hop Press, Patent Malt Crusher, well made Twenty-bushel Mash Tub, Sixteen-bushel ditto, copper-bottomed and other Sieves, Six-pull Stop-tap Ale Machine, Iron Forcing Pump, Copper ditto, Lead Pump, Tap Tables, Screens, Benches, Jugs, &c, &c. The Household Furniture comprises a very fine-toned 67/8-octave Cottage Piano-forte, in walnut wood case (by Rolfe and Co.), mahogany framed Sofa, Case of Stuffed Birds, Eight-day Timepiece, in rosewood case, Barometer, Tables, and Miscellaneous Effects.

Sale to commence punctually at half-past Ten o'clock.

Catalogues may be had on application at the Auctioneer's Office, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.

The Auctioneer respectfully solicits the attention of the trade to the Ale Casks, being in first-class condition."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1866

“Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest yesterday, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, touching the death of Harriet Eliza Curtis, an illegitimate child, three months old.

The evidence went to show that the child had always been of a sickly habit of body; but its parents, who had got married since the child's birth, never obtained medical assistance. They gave it cod-liver oil, however (by the advice of its grand-mother), and also some white mixture, which they bought at the shop of Mr. Walker, and which the vendor deposed to contain nothing but magnesia, chalk, aniseed, and water. On Tuesday night the child was put to bed in its usual health, but about three o'clock on the following morning its mother was awakened by a loud rattling in her infant's throat, and before the father, James Orgill, could dress himself to fetch a doctor the child had expired. The Jury found that death had resulted from Natural Causes, accelerated by the neglect of the friends to obtain medical assistance; and, by the advice of the Jury, the Coroner suitably admonished Mr. and Mrs. Orgill, and also the grand-mother of the deceased child.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1866

“Patsy Malony was charged at Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, with attempting to stab. Mr. J. E. Sheldon appeared for the complainant.

Anthony Farragher stated that he was on Sunday last at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury with a friend, and while they were sitting at a table defendant came up and offered complainant's friend a glass of beer, which he took and put on the table, but did not drink it. Defendant then struck him on the nose causing blood to flow freely, and the two went out into the road to fight, and whilst defendant was taking off his coat a knife fell out of his sleeve, and defendant picked it up and opened it. They were, however, separated, and shortly after this complainant went to the THREE SWANS, at about eight o'clock in the evening, when defendant came in and a conversation ensued about the fight, complainant telling defendant he ought to be ashamed to draw a knife on a man. Complainant went out on saying this and was followed by defendant who opened the knife and ran after him, saying he would run it through him if he got near him; but the crowd kept him back, and complainant ran away.

John Hanley proved going with complainant to the inn. He saw the defendant draw his knife and say, ‘he'd run it through the first man he came nigh to.’ He was bound over to keep the peace for twelve months.”

Joseph Taylor, GRAPES and SPREAD EAGLE, High Street and Portway Road. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/7/1868

“An inquest was held yesterday morning, at the SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, Wednesbury, before Mr. Chas. H. Bayley, Deputy Coroner for South Staffordshire, concerning the death of Mary Flannery, a child five years and seven months old, who had lived with her parents at Wednesbury. On the 4th inst the deceased was left alone in the house whilst her mother went out, when she accidentally set her clothes on fire, and was so severely burnt that, notwithstanding the attention of Dr. Blackwood, she lingered and died on Tuesday last from the effects of the burns. The Coroner having censured the mother for leaving the child alone in the house, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Joseph Taylor was also a wine and spirit merchant.

1871 Census

Portway Road – SPREAD EAGLE

- [1] Henry Madley (40), innkeeper, born Much Wenlock, Shropshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Madley (40), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Henry Madley (13), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Mary A. Madley (12), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Lizzie Madley (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Alice Madley (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Frederic Madley (6), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Lucy Madley (3), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Leah Galton (20), general servant, born Wolverhampton;

Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1872

“Yesterday, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest on the body of Mary Kilcoyne, aged 45, who fell dead on Sunday morning while walking along the Portway Road. Verdict, Died from Natural Causes.”

South Staffordshire Examiner 7/11/1874

“On Tuesday last an inquest was held before Mr. Edwin Hooper, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Wednesbury, kept by Mr. *Joseph Taylor*, on the body of a female child, named Catherine Tracey, aged one year and ten months. The parents of the child reside at 15, Crows Buildings. During the evening of the 24th ult deceased was playing with her sister, Sarah Ann Tracey, in the father’s house. The tea kettle was accidentally knocked over by Sarah Ann, and a quantity of the boiling water fell upon the deceased’s neck. Up to the 29th of last month the parents of the deceased attended to the injuries of the child, when finding that she did not get better they called in the assistance of Dr. Blackwood, but the child died on the 30th ult. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/7/1880

“At Wednesbury Public Office yesterday, Peter Kavanagh, labourer, High Bullen, was charged with cruelty to a dog, and also with refusing to quit the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, when requested to do so.

The complainant, Mr. *Joseph Plant*, said that on the 3rd inst he found the defendant in his yard and ill-treating his dog, which was chained up, by piercing it with a sharp instrument. Upon ordering him to go off the premises he refused to do so, and subsequently attempted to injure witness by throwing two jugs at his head.

As defendant did not appear, the Bench ordered a warrant for the apprehension of the defendant on both charges.”

AND

Dudley Herald 24/7/1880

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Patrick Kavannagh, labourer, High Bullen, was charged with refusing to quit the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, and also with cruelty to a dog, belonging to the landlord, James [sic] *Plant*.

The defendant, on going into the house, created a disturbance, and refused to quit when requested to do so. He subsequently went into the yard and beat a dog in a most brutal manner with a prop, inflicting serious injuries.

The Bench fined defendant 20s and costs for refusing to quit, and 10s and costs for the cruelty to the dog, or in default six weeks’ imprisonment.”

1881 Census

83, Portway Road

[1] *Joseph Plant* (26), publican, born Dudley;

[2] Annie Plant (24), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Eliza Wright (18), sister-in-law, born Wolverhampton;

[4] Pricilla Wright (16), sister-in-law, born Wolverhampton;

[5] Mary Jane Wright (14), sister-in-law, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[6] Martha Wright (12), sister-in-law, scholar, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/9/1881

“John Lawton, Bratt Street, West Bromwich, was charged with stealing a duck, drake, and a whip, the property of John [sic] *Plant*, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury. On the night of the 6th inst, prisoner was at prosecutor’s house, and after he had left the birds and whip were missed. On the following day he sold the birds to a man named Woodward for 4s 6d. Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the coming Stafford Sessions.”

[At Staffordshire Autumn Sessions John Lawton was found guilty of a different case of stealing fowls and was sentenced to three months’ hard labour, followed by three years’ police supervision.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/2/1882

“An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon, by Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on the body of Mary Lockett (64), of Portway Road, who died suddenly early on Thursday morning last. Deceased went to bed apparently in good health on Wednesday night, but died about one o’clock on the following morning, before medical aid could be obtained.

Verdict, Died from Natural Causes.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/3/1882 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, used to a public house.
Apply, SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a good General Servant, used to a public house.
—Apply, Spread Eagle, Portway-road, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/5/1882 - Advert

“Good strong Girl Wanted, as General Servant; must be clean.
Apply, SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, Wednesbury.”

GOOD strong Girl Wanted, as General Servant; must be
clean.—Apply, Spread Eagle, Portway road, Wednesbury.

Darlaston Weekly Times 11/8/1883

“An inquest was held, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, on Thursday, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, respecting the death of William Gadon (10). It appears that deceased was sent with a dinner to Sparrow’s Forge, and when passing near a ‘bosh’ containing warm water, suddenly went giddy, and fell in. He was badly injured, and died on Monday night. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

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. Plant, SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury.”

Darlaston Weekly Times 15/12/1883

“An old man named Samuel Lockett, who resided with his sister in the Portway Road, Wednesbury, was found dead in the cellar of the house where he lived, on Saturday night. There was a severe wound on the right temple, and it is conjectured that the deceased had been drinking, as was his usual Saturday night’s custom, when, on passing the entrance to the cellar, he fell backwards down the cellar, and met his death.

An inquest on the body was held at the SPREAD EAGLE public house, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wednesbury Herald 2/2/1884

“An inquest was held, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, by Edwin Hooper, Esq, District Coroner, respecting the death of Levi Duncalf (36), iron worker, Foster Street, who was found dead in bed, on Tuesday evening.

Phoebe Duncalf, the wife of the deceased, stated that her husband was for some years in the army, and eight years ago was discharged on account of ill health. During the past few months he had been very unwell, and had the medicine supplied by a herbalist. On Monday he complained of pains in his side and in his throat, and early on Tuesday morning he was found dead in bed. In reply to a juryman witness that she was sure that her husband had not poisoned himself. He loved his children too well to commit suicide.

The Coroner said it was to be regretted that he could not have the assistance of a doctor.

A juryman: Some people have got antipathy to doctors. They prefer having herbs.

The Coroner: Sometimes herbs are of great benefit if properly used.

In a case like the subject of this inquest medical aid should have been obtained. The wife of the deceased said her husband would not permit her to fetch a surgeon to him.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Commercial Gazette 20/11/1884

“Bills of Sale.....

Joseph Plant, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Wednesbury, victualler.

5th November 1884. Assignment and surrender in favour of William Butler and others.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1887

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *James Plant*, the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, was summoned for having permitted drunkenness on his premises.

Police-sergeant Cullinam deposed that on the afternoon of the 4th inst, in consequence of the disorderly state of the Portway Road, he went into the defendant's house, and found about thirty people there, three of whom were much the worse for liquor. He asked how it was that these people were there, and the defendant replied that if he did not let them in they would break his windows, and knock his brains out.

Mr. Willcock appeared for the defence, which was to the effect that the defendant was not aware that the three drunken people had entered the house, and that they had not been supplied with drink.

The summons was dismissed, but two of the three people named were fined; John Kenealey, 10s and costs, or twenty-one days' imprisonment with hard labour; and Catherine Glynn, 1s and costs, or seven days' imprisonment, and a warrant was ordered to issue for the apprehension of the third.”

Midland Counties Express 13/8/1887

“About 10 o'clock on Monday evening a party of youths were riding in some swing boats which have been erected on some waste land near Wednesbury Market Place. The proprietor, a man named Nicks, at the expiration of the ride, experienced some difficulty in stopping the boats, as the youths were determined to derive some fun at Nicks's expense, and went on swinging. Nicks got a large pole to stop one of the boats in which a youth named William Gallagher (17), of Portway Road, was riding. It appears that the pole, which was intended to catch the bottom of the boat and act as a kind of brake, struck Gallagher instead, and caused him to fall from the boat to the ground. When picked up it was found that Gallagher had sustained a severe fracture of the skull. A doctor was sent for, and on his arrival it was ascertained that the unfortunate youth could not possibly live the night out. The police at once arrested Nicks, and charged him with causing grievous bodily harm. About three hours afterwards Gallagher succumbed to the injuries, and Nicks was then re-charged with causing his death. Prisoner was remanded for a week on bail.

Mr. Topham, deputy coroner, held an inquest on Thursday, at the SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, Wednesbury, touching the death of Gallagher. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. Nicks was subsequently brought before the magistrates and discharged.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/12/1890

“On Saturday Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on the body of Mary Glynn (31), and Maria Glynn, her infant daughter, 9, Brickkiln Street.

It seemed that on the 30th ult the mother was confined, and on the 2nd instant she took cold and got worse until the 10th, when both she and her child died. No medical man was called in until the 9th, when Dr. Crew's assistant attended, the doctor himself going on the following day, but not until after death. The latter sent a note stating that in his opinion the mother had died from puerperal fever; and the Coroner said that no doubt led to the death of the child, because the mother would be unable to properly nourish it.

The Coroner censured Mary Ann Connell, the midwife who attended the case, for not having warned the husband sooner of the dangerous condition of his wife, when he would probably have sent for a doctor whilst there was yet hope.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

1891 Census

Portway Road – SPREAD EAGLE

[1] *Harry Nicklin* (32), public house manager, born Tipton;

[2] *Ellen Nicklin* (33), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Annie Bristo* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 11/1/1893

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. Neville, Stipendiary, *William Ferrer*, the SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 26th December. Mr. W. S. Smith appeared for the defence.

Police-sergeant Rowbotham and Police-constable Wallace gave evidence to the effect that they visited the house at a quarter to and a quarter past seven, and in the taproom saw two drunken men named Michael O’Connell and John Kenealey, whilst in the taproom there was a third man, named Arthur Moore, whom the landlord at first tried to conceal, and afterwards said was a friend of his. Kenealey was afterwards got to his own home, on the other side of the street. The police stated that the house, whilst under the control of the defendant had been conducted very badly.

For the defence it was stated that the defendant had great difficulties to contend with, owing to the house being in a low neighbourhood, and that these difficulties were increased on the day in question, it being Boxing Day.

A fine of £5 and costs was imposed, the Stipendiary remarking that the defendant had been guilty of the worst offence under the Act. O’Connell and Kenealey were fined 10s each and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment, for being present on the premises; and Moore 5s and costs, or seven days’ imprisonment.”

Midland Sun 29/4/1893

“Several points of interest to the licensed trade came up at the Wednesbury Police Court on Tuesday, before Messrs. A. Elwell and H. P. Parkes. Mr. Overton, solicitor of Wolverhampton, applied for the transfer of the license of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, from *William Ferrer* to *David Paulton Jones*. He said the house was in a rough neighbourhood, but as the applicant (Mr. *Jones*) had been superintendent of the lunatic wards at the Dudley Workhouse he would be well calculated to deal with any rough customers.

The Magistrates’ Clerk: He had been taking care of lunatics, and now he is going to keep a public house. (Laughter.) Police Superintendent Salt was sworn, and stated that *Ferrer* had been recently fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness. The house was in a very disorderly neighbourhood. There were several public houses close at hand, and one next door. Public houses were very thick in that district. The houses were not wanted for the purpose of the neighbourhood. Half the number would quite suffice for the district.

The Magistrates’ Clerk: This is a very big question that is now being raised.

Mr. Elwell: I quite see it.

The Magistrates’ Clerk: All that you can do is to refuse this application. There is nothing against the applicant whatever. The main point is, is it fair to destroy this property mainly on the ground that it is not wanted, which is nothing new.

Mr. Elwell: The opportunity comes, if we don’t seize the opportunity we shall never have them.

The Magistrates’ Clerk: It never has been done on one ground only. Will you grant the license without prejudice until the next licensing session.

The Bench requested Superintendent Salt to give notice of objection for the licensing day.

The Magistrates’ Clerk (to Superintendent Salt): Are not all the licenses in the neighbourhood with the exception of this, for beerhouses?

Superintendent Salt: There is one other fully licensed house, the NELSON. The others are beerhouses.

The Magistrates’ Clerk: Were they held before 1869?

Superintendent Salt: They were sure to be.

Mr. Overton addressed the Bench contending that it would be better and fairer to all parties if objections were taken before a full licensing Bench, and due notice had been given to them to meet the case. He was well aware that the conviction had not been endorsed against the licenses, and he had no idea that any objection was taken to the character of the house. It would be better to give formal notice. Then they would all be at arm’s length, and it would give the people an opportunity to redeem the character of the property. If they would grant the temporary transfer they would be entirely in the hands of a full licensing Bench.

Mr. Elwell said they had taken that into account, and the Superintendent would give them notice. With regard to the applicant’s certificate of character they might say that it had greatly influenced them. It was signed by two Justices of the Peace, a solicitor, and a Vicar. The application would be granted without prejudice to the licensing justices.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

"The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday.... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of William Bird, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.

The renewals to be opposed were....

David P. Jones, the SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road.

The Mayor commented with regret upon the increase in the numbers of offences and convictions shown by the returns; and the contentious business was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day, the 29th inst."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

"The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions."

John Granger = John Grainger

Wednesbury Herald 1/6/1895

"Michael Hereward, of Brickkiln Croft, Wednesbury, who was arrested on a warrant for being connected with a disorderly scene which took place at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, on the 18th inst, was taken before a special court on Saturday.

Evidence was given by the landlord, *John Grainger*, and his wife, and prisoner was fined 20s and costs, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment in default."

Wednesbury Herald 9/11/1895

"On Friday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper (district coroner), held an inquest at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, respecting the deaths of Julia MacFarlane (52) and a child named James Berks, aged six months. The child died suddenly, and MacFarlane sat up two nights with other women to watch the corpse. When watching on Thursday night, MacFarlane complained of being unwell, and died before medical aid could be obtained.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes in each case."

Birmingham Weekly Post 11/8/1900

"On Wednesday afternoon Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquest at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Catherine Rogers (40), of Portway Road, who died from injuries sustained by falling downstairs on Monday night. Deceased was going upstairs, when she over-balanced herself. Verdict, Accidental Death."

1901 Census

Portway Road – SPREAD EAGLE INN

[1] *James A. Woodward* (22), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Warrington, Lancashire;

[2] *Alfred P. Woodward* (17), brother, barman, born Walsall:

Wednesbury Leader 6/7/1901

"Annie Moran, two months old, the child of Annie Moran, who lodges at Brickkiln Croft, Wednesbury, was taken to bed at 11 on the night of the 28th ult and slept between its parents. At 5-55am they awoke and found the child dead and cold. The inquest was held on Monday morning at the SPREAD EAGLE by Mr. H. A. Pearson, and a verdict was returned that the child was Accidentally Suffocated."

Tipton Herald 5/9/1903

"A man named James Dolly, residing in School Street, West Bromwich, at the Wednesbury Police Court on Monday was ordered to pay £3 damage, and also a fine of 20s and costs, or in default five weeks' imprisonment. This punishment was inflicted in consequence of his being drunk and disorderly on Saturday night, breaking a plate-glass window at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, and behaving like a madman."

Tipton Herald 31/7/1909

“An inquest was held on Monday at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, on the body of Sarah Ann Williams (59), formerly living in Portway Road, who died early on Sunday morning from the effects of injuries received the night previous. Whilst going upstairs to bed deceased slipped and fell to the bottom. She fractured her skull, and only lived a little over an hour afterwards. Dr. Dingley was called, but the woman died before his arrival. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/3/1910

“The third round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Handicap Billiards Tournament was continued yesterday. In the afternoon, F. Cook, GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, easily beat *A. Woodward*, SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury, by 104 points.”

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 license.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1935

“The Wednesbury Licensing Bench yesterday.....

All licenses were renewed except SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road.....

Application for renewal of these, it was stated would be heard at the adjourned sessions.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/3/1935

“Wednesbury justices renewed the license of but the SPREAD EAGLE, Portway Road, was referred for compensation.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/5/1935 - Notice

“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, on Thursday, the 18th day of July, 1935, 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.....

SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury. Alehouse. Licensee, *William Henry Best*.”

Evening Despatch 18/7/1935

“Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority today refused to renew, on the ground of redundancy, four out of five houses referred. They are SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury.”

Evening Despatch 31/12/1935

“In their report to the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions at Stafford today, the County Licensing Committee stated that compensation in respect of four licenses for which renewals had been refused had been fixed as follows.....

SPREAD EAGLE Wednesbury, £2,750.”

STANDEFORD BAR

Spring Head, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Hickman and Pullen [1921], [1927]

John Baker, Hednesford [1936]

LICENSEES

William Harvey [1921] – [1923]

Percy Henry Green [] – **1928**;

William Brearley (**1928** – []

Frederick Lingard [1932]

Clara Hytch [1936]

NOTES

1921 Census

19, Camp Hill Lane

[1] *William Harvey* (32), public house manager, STANDEFORD BAR, Spring Head, born Hednesford, Staffordshire;

[2] *Elsie May Harvey* (27), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Thomas Levi Harvey* (6), son, school, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Observer 28/7/1923

“On the grounds that it would be establishing a precedent which they did not wish to set up, the Wednesbury magistrates on Tuesday refused the application made by Mr. *William Harvey*, licensee of the STANDEFORD BAR, Spring Hill, Wednesbury, for an occasional license to sell intoxicating liquors at the ‘City’ football ground, Darlaston, today, on the occasion of the Darlaston British Legion annual sports.”

AND

South Staffordshire Times 28/7/1923

“An application was made by the licensee of the STANDEFORD BAR, Spring Head, Wednesbury (Hickman and Pullen) for an occasional license to sell liquors at the Darlaston British Legion fete, at Darlaston on Saturday July 28th, in a field, between 2 and 10pm, was not granted, as the magistrates considered they would be creating a precedent.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/5/1927 - Advert

“Re Messrs. Hickman and Pullen Ltd, the Brewery, Wednesbury.

Important Sale of Five Licensed Houses.....

STANDEFORD BAR, Wednesbury, and the adjoining Labour Exchange, Bottling Stores, Assembly Rooms, Garages, Stabling, Large Yard, etc.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1927

“Messrs. Boswell and Tomlin, Wolverhampton, offered eleven licensed houses for sale at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, yesterday.....

The freehold property formerly known as the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, and now comprising the Wednesbury Labour Exchange, was withdrawn.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/5/1927

“An important sale of Staffordshire and Worcestershire licensed houses was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, when Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, of Wolverhampton, disposed of eight of the twelve lots offered.....
Of the six properties belonging to Messrs. Hickman and Pullen Ltd, the Brewery, Wednesbury.....
The STANDEFORD BAR, Labour Exchange, and Bottling Stores, Wednesbury, was withdrawn.”

Walsall Observer 14/2/1931

“Wednesbury Brewster Sessions yesterday.....
Plans had been approved and alterations carried out at the.....
STANDEFORD, Spring Head.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

“Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions, yesterday.....
The full license of the STANDEFORD BAR, Spring Head, Wednesbury, was referred to Stafford for compensation on grounds of redundancy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1936

“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.....
STANDEFORD BAR, Springhead, Wednesbury. Alehouse (6 days). Licensee, *Clara Hytch*. Registered owners, John Baker, Woodside, Station Road, Hednesford, Stafford.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/1/1937

“Staffordshire County Licensing Committee, annual report for 1936.....
Compensation had been fixed as follows.....
STANDEFORD BAR, Wednesbury, £2,500.”

STAR

81, Wood Green Road, (23, Wood Green), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Frederick Smith Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1961]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Griffiths [1861] – [1872]
Thomas Sillitoe [1881] – [1882]
Francis Dicken [1888] – [1901]
Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Dicken [1911]
James Cleobury [1921] – [1927]
Arthur George Roberts [1934]
John Thomas Wilkes [1938] – [1940]
Joseph Shinton [1961] – [1966]
P B Adcock [1983]



c1930s

NOTES

23, Walsall Road [1871]
23, Wood Green [1872], [1881], [1891], [1896], [1901]
81, Wood Green Road [1911], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

It was a home brew house.

1861 Census

Wood Green

- [1] William Griffiths (54), engineer at ironworks and retail brewer, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Susannah Griffiths (44), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Elizabeth Griffiths (25), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Paul Griffiths (21), son, iron roller, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Lydia Griffiths (19), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] John Griffiths (17), son, edge tool maker, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Sarah Griffiths (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Ann Griffiths (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Hannah Griffiths (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Phoebe Griffiths (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [11] William Griffiths (2), son, born Wednesbury;

William Griffiths, retailer of beer, Wood Green. [1862]

William Griffiths, beer retailer, Woodgreen. [1868]

1871 Census

23, Walsall Road – STAR INN

- [1] *William Griffiths* (64), innkeeper, iron and steel worker, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Susannah Griffiths* (54), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *John Griffiths* (27), son, general turner at works, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Sarah Griffiths* (21), daughter, dressmaker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Ann Griffiths* (19), daughter, housemaid, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Phoebe Griffiths* (14), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *William T. Griffiths* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

William Griffiths, beer retailer, 23, Woodgreen. [1872]

William Griffiths died in the 1st quarter of 1877.

Thomas Sillitoe = *Thomas Siltoe*

1881 Census

23, Woodgreen – STAR

- [1] *Thomas Siltoe* (54), retail brewer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Siltoe* (65), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ann Summers* (18), domestic servant, born Shropshire;

Wednesbury Herald 29/4/1882

“All Persons having any Claim or Demands against the Estate of *George Sillitoe*, late of the CROWN INN, Albert Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Publican, Deceased, (who died on the 5th January 1867) are requested, on or before, the 27th May next, to send particulars of their Claims and Demands to Mr. *Thomas Sillitoe*, of the STAR INN, Woodgreen, Wednesbury, aforesaid, Beerhouse Keeper, the surviving Executor of the Will of the said *George Sillitoe*.....”

Francis Dicken was the son of *Francis Dicken* of the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

23, Wood Green – STAR INN

- [1] *Francis Dicken* (27), beerhouse keeper, born Princes End;
- [2] *Sarah E. Dicken* (24), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Francis T. Dicken* (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Doris A. Dicken* (8 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Mary A. Plimmer* (22), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Francis Dicken Jnr., beer retailer, 23, Woodgreen. [1896]

1901 Census

23, Wood Green – STAR Beerhouse

- [1] *Francis Dicken* (38), beerhouse keeper, born Princes End;
- [2] *Sarah Dicken* (35), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Francis Dicken* (13), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Doris Dicken* (11), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Rubbina Dicken* (7), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Mary Plimmer* (33), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Francis Dicken died in the 3rd quarter of 1903.

1911 Census

81, Wood Green Road – STAR INN

[1] *Sarah Elizabeth Dicken* (43), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Birmingham;

[2] *Rubbinia Mabel Dicken* (16), daughter, home duties, born Wood Green:

Walsall Observer 27/7/1912

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, a bricklayer’s labourer, named Gerald William Bailey, of 18, Chapel Street, the Pleck, Walsall, was charged with unlawfully wounding a fitter’s labourer named Frederick William Morton, of Brookside, Newtown, Wednesbury, both being employed at the works of the Deritend Company, Wednesbury.

The evidence for the prosecution showed that both the prisoner and prosecutor were in the STAR INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, on Monday for a considerable time. According to Morton, he left at 11am after paying for several drinks for Bailey, who was still in the public house when he returned at one o’clock. They commenced to talk about the Insurance Act. (Laughter.) The prisoner became quarrelsome, and after challenging witness to fight several times, he struck him on the face, saying, ‘If you won’t fight, take that.’ He could not say what Bailey struck him with, but something bright dropped out of his hand.....

Dr. Garman said he put two stitches in a wound on Morton’s left eye. It could have been done with a knife such as the one produced belonging to the prisoner.

PC Day said that when he arrested the prisoner the latter had a knife in his possession, and he remarked, ‘It might have been open when I used it upon him.’ He was the worse for drink.

The prisoner, who denied that he had a knife in his hand when he struck the prosecutor, was fined 30s, including costs, or one month’s imprisonment, after the charge had been reduced to one of common assault. He was refused time in which to pay the money, and was taken below.”

1921 Census

Wood Green – STAR INN

[1] *James Cleobury* (32), licensed victualler, born Walsall;

[2] *Gertrude Cleobury* (32), wife, assistant, born Walsall;

[3] *James Cleobury* (6), son, school, born Walsall:

James Cleobury, of the STAR INN, Wood Green, gave evidence in a court case concerning a motoring offence in January 1927.

The pub joined the Wednesbury and District Darts League and entered the Lonsdale Darts Trophy Competition in 1938.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1938

“Henry Talbot, aged 38, a scaffolder, of 38, Barlow Road, Wednesbury, was at Wednesbury yesterday fined 40s and 6s costs for refusing to quit licensed premises, and 10s for assaulting Mrs. Annie Wilkes, wife of the licensee of the STAR INN, Wood Green.

It was stated that while the licensee was away to get a policeman to eject the defendant the latter got hold of two glasses of beer and threw them at the licensee’s wife. Her dress was damaged and the glasses were smashed.”

Walsall Observer 23/7/1938

“Walsall Liberals gathered in force on Saturday at Melbourne House, Queens Road, Walsall, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Holden T. White, on the occasion of their annual garden fete. In spite of the threatening weather there was a splendid attendance, partly accounted for by the attraction of the beautiful gardens and the open darts tournament which was included in the programme of events and for which 16 local teams entered.....

Mrs. Holden White presented medals to the finalists of the darts tournament, the winning team being the ROYAL OAK, Pleck, with the STAR, Wood Green as runners-up. W. Wellings, of the winning team, had the highest score.”

1939 Register

Wood Green Road – STAR INN (2 of 4)

[1] *Annie Wilkes*, date of birth 15/4/1910, domestic duties, married;

[2] *Annie Wormington*, dob 7/11/1884, power presser, widowed;

Arthur George Roberts was married Frances Ellen (Nellie).

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League in 1948.

Tipton Herald 7/7/1956

“A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was recorded at the inquest at Wednesbury on Wednesday on *Arthur George Roberts* (63), of 58, Alexandra Road, Kings Hill, who was formerly engaged in the licensing trade at the STAR, Wood Green, and later at the FORGE TAVERN, Franchise Street.

Mrs. Frances Ellen Roberts, widow, said her husband had once been a steel presser but had retired because of ill health.

Mr. Frank Cooper, Coroner, said he would return a formal verdict in accordance with the evidence that death was from niyocardia degeneration due to chronic bronchitis, materially accelerated by pneumoconiosis.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1963], [1965]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/7/1970 - Advert

“For Sale, Motor Mower, Super Suffolk Colt, brand new, only used twice; £18.

The STAR, Wood Green, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1975 - Advert

“To Old and New customers alike, wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, from Hilda and Jim, STAR INN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 19/5/1981 - Advert

“Bar Staff required, experience essential, part-time.

Apply, STAR, Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury.”

Closed

It was converted into a restaurant.

BAR STAFF required, experience
essential, part time.
Apply — The Star, Woodgreen
Road, Wednesbury

Birmingham Mail 9/11/1991

“A Midland pub is re-opening after overcoming the threat of demolition with the help of a £100,000 refurbishment. The STAR INN in Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, will re-open on Monday after being taken over by licensee Howard Sanderson and his wife Jill. They have almost rebuilt the pub after buying the demolition-threatened premises from Bass Breweries. Mr. Sanderson, who was licensee of the nearby QUEENS HEAD in Brunswick Park Road for 12 years, said, ‘It was run down and due to be demolished as part of the A461 road-widening scheme. Fortunately, it was reprieved.’ Mr. Sanderson said he had to overcome various planning wrangles with Sandwell Council over car parking before permission for the work was eventually given. ‘We opened it all up into one big room’, he added, ‘brought the toilets in from outside and also extended the kitchen. We have become a bar-restaurant.’”

Check STAR AND GARTER.

**FOR SALE, Motor Mower, Super
Suffolk Colt, brand new, only used
twice: £18.—The Star, Wood
Green, Wednesbury.**

1970

**To Old and New customers alike
wishing you a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year from
HILDA AND JIM,
STAR INN,
Wood Green Road,
Wednesbury.**

1975

STAR AND GARTER

Wood Green, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Savage [1834] – [1851]

Elizabeth Savage [1855]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

John Savage, STAR AND GARTER, Wood Green. [1834]

John Savage, beer retailer, Wood Green. [1835], [1841], [1849], [1850]

1841 Census

Wood Green

[1] *John Savage* (60), wood turner;

[2] *Elizabeth Savage* (55);

[3] *Elizabeth Bridgwater* (85);

[4] *Sarah Bridgwater* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

John Savage, retailer of beer, Wood Green. [1842]

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1845

“Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway.

We, the Undersigned, Landowners, Merchants, Coal and Ironmasters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other Inhabitants residing in the boroughs of Birmingham and Walsall, and the towns of Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Handsworth, and other places in those Districts, do hereby express our opinion that the projected Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway is calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the places and districts above mentioned, and we promise it our strenuous support.....

John Savage, Victualler, Wednesbury.”

1851 Census

Wood Green

[1] *John Savage* (70), wood turner, born Pebbboth, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Elizabeth Savage* (67), wife, born Kingswinford;

[3] *Hannah Rogers* (25), house servant, born Harrington, Worcestershire:

John Savage died on 28th February 1855.

Elizabeth Savage died in the 2nd quarter of 1855.

Birmingham Journal 4/8/1855 - Advert

“All Persons having Claims on the Estate of the late *John Savage*, Publican and Wood Turner, and *Elizabeth Savage*, Publican, of Wood Green, Wednesbury, are requested to send them in on or before the 20th day of September, 1855, to John and Benjamin Savage, Executors. Also, all Persons being Indebted to the above Estate are requested to Pay over the same to the said Executors.

August 2nd, 1855.”

Check STAR.

ALL Persons having Claims on the Estate of the late JOHN SAVAGE, Publican and Wood Turner, and ELIZABETH SAVAGE, Publican, of Wood Green, Wednesbury, are requested to send them in on or before the 20th day of September, 1855, to JOHN and BENJAMIN SAVAGE, Executors. Also, all Persons being INDEBTED to the above Estate are requested to Pay over the same to the said Executors.
August 2nd, 1855,

STORES

70, Holyhead Road / Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

James Harrison Cox [1868] – [1869]

Mrs. Harriet Meech [1869]

John Groves [1871] – [1881]

Mrs. Emma Ruston [1891]

Michael Toney Wiggins [1894] – [1896]

Thomas Shinton [1901]

William Henry Luker [1901]

Mrs. Mary Ann Dicken [1904]

George Bytheway [1911] – [1921]

William James Gisbourne **(1938 – [1966])**

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

James Cox, beer retailer, Holyhead Road. [1868]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/8/1869 - Advert

“Sale This Day (Tuesday).

By Joseph Whitehouse, at the ALE STORES, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury (under distress for Rent and Gas).
The Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, Wine, &c, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *James Cox*.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1869 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the STORES, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. B. Scholefield, Tomorrow (Tuesday), September 28.

The Public House Fixtures, Household Furniture, &c, comprising capital 6-pull Stop Ale Machine, by Morgan; 2-pull Ale Machine, handsome Shop Fixtures, Counter, Liquor Shop Tables, Screens, Gas Fittings and Piping, Window Boards, Lamp, Sign Board, Tap-room Tables, Ale Casks, Chairs, Feather Beds, iron Bedsteads, Palliasses, Washstands, Dressing Tables, Toilet Glass, Bed Clothes, mahogany Tables, handsome Chimney Glass, Easy Chair, Couch, Fenders, Benches, Glasses, Jugs, Port Wine, Sherry, Bottles, Measures, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mrs. *Meech*, who is giving up the public business.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/10/1869

“Bankrupts.....

James Harrison Cox, beerhouse keeper, Wednesbury, passed, supported by Mr. Ebsworth.

Mr. Topham appeared for a creditor, and Mr. Dale for the official assignee.

An application subsequently made by Mr. Thurstans, for the payment to Mrs. *H. Meech*, of £47 10s 6d out of the estate, on the ground that it had been derived from the sale of goods belonging to her, was referred to the registrar.”



c1968

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/11/1869

“Bankruptcies.....

James Harrison Cox, beerseller, Wednesbury, came up for his last examination, supported by Mr. Ebsworth. Mr. Dale opposed for the official assignee and Mr. Topham for the trade assignee, and Mr. Thurstans attended for Mrs. *Harriet Meech*, who had claimed £47 which there was in court as having been realised by the sale of certain property which she had bought from the bankrupt. The claim, however, was abandoned. The opposition to the bankrupt was that just prior to his bankruptcy he sold, according to his own statement, a certain part of his property to a broker, of whom he could give no account any more than that he met him in Birmingham.

His Honour said he was disposed to commit the bankrupt for trial, but the creditors had already lost a good deal of money, and he wished to save them the £47 in court, which, in the event of a committal would be lost in prosecuting. He should therefore adjourn the case for two months; and if in the meantime the bankrupt paid £20 into court, he would probably be leniently dealt with.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/1/1870

“Bankrupts.....

James Harrison Cox, licensed victualler, Wednesbury, supported by Mr. Ebsworth, Mr. Topham opposing on behalf of the creditors assignee. Adjourned without protection until the bankrupt should have paid £20 into court.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/5/1870 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In Matter of *James Harrison Cox*, late of the STORES, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Retailer in Beer and Wines, but now of No.3, Victoria Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, in lodgings, and out of business, adjudged Bankrupt on the 4th day of September, 1869. A Meeting of the Creditors will be held before the Registrar at the County Court Office, Walsall, on the 15th day of June, 1870, 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.”

1871 Census

70, Holyhead Road – STORES

- [1] *John Groves* (45), publican, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Hannah Groves* (33), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Joseph Groves* (4), son, born Priestfield;
- [4] *Susan Davis* (74), mother-in-law, widow, born Stafford;
- [5] *Eliza Cooper* (17), general servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 10/3/1877 - Advert

“Barmaid. Wanted, by a tall young Person, a Situation as Barmaid, in a respectable Inn or Spirit Vaults. Good reference.

Address, E. D. Groves, STORES, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

BARMAID.—Wanted, by a tall young Person, a Situation as Barmaid, in a respectable Inn or Spirit Vaults. Good reference.—Address, E. D. Groves, Stores, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1878 - Advert

“Barmaid. Wanted, by a respectable young Person, a Situation as Barmaid. Inn or spirit vaults. Would make herself useful. Tall. Good reference.

Address, *Beta, Groves's* STORES, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

BARMAID.—Wanted, by a respectable young Person, a Situation as Barmaid. Inn or spirit vaults. Would make herself useful. Tall. Good reference.—Address, *Beta, Groves's* Stores, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

1881 Census

70, Holyhead Road – STORES

- [1] *Hannah Groves* (44), publican's wife, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Joseph Groves* (14), son, machinist, born Priestfield;
- [3] *Julianna Thomas* (19), niece, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

1891 Census

70, Holyhead Road

- [1] *Emma Ruston* (46), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Emma J. Croydon* (23), daughter, married, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Hannah W. Ruston* (18), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Florence M. Ruston* (13), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] *Maria Lewis* (26), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

Michael Toney Wiggins = *Michael Tony Wiggin* = *Michael Wiggin Tovey*

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.....

Michael Wiggin Tovey, the STORES beerhouse, Holyhead Road.....

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 Gazette 29/9/1894

“Wednesbury adjourned Licensing Sessions were held yesterday.....

Mr. Willcock applied for the renewal of the license of the STORES, Holyhead Road, to *Michael Toney Wiggin*, who had been fined for an offence against the Licensing Act.

Superintendent Salt said the house had been well conducted since the conviction.”

[The application was granted.]

Michael Toney Wiggins, beer retailer, 70, Holyhead Road. [1896]

1901 Census

70, Holyhead Road

- [1] *Thomas Shinton* (46), beer retailer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Shinton* (48), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Gertrude Withers* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *John Parry* (48), boarder, labourer in steel works, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William Mabury* (65), boarder, living on own means, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Leader 14/9/1901

“In the early hours of Thursday morning a serious attack by a burglar or burglars on the police officers attempting their arrest, occurred in the cellar of the STORES public house, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. One officer, PC Savery, is now in hospital, and two men are in custody.

Before Major Proctor, at a Special Court on Thursday afternoon, two young men, Benjamin Tonks, a labourer, of Dudley Street, Wednesbury, and Henry Hooper, a ‘squeegee’ in a tube works, of Dudley Street, were charged with burglary, and Tonks was charged with unlawfully wounding PC Savery.

Police Superintendent Salt said before opening the case that PC Savery was during the previous night removed in the ambulance carriage to the hospital, and lay there in a rather serious condition. He should therefore ask for a remand, after giving sufficient evidence, till the 20th inst.....

The prisoners were remanded as requested by the superintendent.”

AND

Wednesbury Leader 28/9/1901

“.....Superintendent Salt applied for a further seven days’ adjournment.

Mr. A. J. Glover did not raise any objection. He would like to hear how the injured police officer was going on. The police superintendent said he was now progressing favourably.

The remand applied for was granted, an application for bail being refused.”

AND

Wednesbury Leader 5/10/1901

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday morning, before Alderman R. Williams, Colonel Smith, and Mr. C. Southern, Benjamin Tonks, Dudley Street, Henry Hooper, Dudley Street, and George Coombs, of Ocker Hill, were again brought up in custody charged with having committed burglary on the 12th September at the house of *William Henry Luker*, the STORES INN, Holyhead Road, and Tonks and Coombs were further charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm on PC Savoury [sic] in attempting to resist lawful apprehension. Mr. Darby (West Bromwich) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. A. J. Glover defended Hooper and Coombs.

Mr. Darby, in opening, said the charges were of a very serious character, especially the one of disabling an officer when doing his duty, and he had no hesitation in saying at the outset that he thought the evidence would be such that the magistrates would readily come to the conclusion there would be a prima facie case, and they would consider it their duty to commit the prisoners for trial at the Assizes.

In outlining the circumstances of the case Mr. Darby said *Luker* was the licensee of the STORES INN, and the other occupants of his house on the night of the 11th ult were his wife, two children, and a young woman named Ford, who was a visitor, and had been acting as barmaid. On this night Mrs. *Luker* had gone to visit friends at Wood Green and proposed staying the night. *Luker* when he closed at 11 prepared to walk to Wood Green. They started about 11-20, and as *Luker* left the house he noticed the prisoners, who had been inside the house since ten o'clock, loafing about. He (Mr. Darby) concluded they had some idea of what was happening and were waiting there to carry out a plot of burglariously entering the premises and committing a robbery. *Luker* got back to the STORES about 12-15, and was going to the back of the house for the purpose of entering by the back-door when he saw a light in the sitting room of the house. He went cautiously up to the window, and as there was nothing but light muslin curtains he was able to look into the room. He saw three men sitting here, two of whom were Hooper and Tonks. The one he was unable to identify. The men appeared to be helping themselves to food and drink, and he heard one say that they had better look quick or they might be caught, but they would give the b—— something if he did come back. Upon this *Luker* adopted the reasonable course of instead of rushing into the house and engaging in a hand to hand conflict with the men, of going to the police station. He there saw PCs Savoury and Mountford, and returned with them to the premises. The officers went to the back of the premises, and each looked through the window and saw the prisoners. Only Mountford, however, could swear to the three, as when Savoury looked Coombs had gone into the cellar for something. Mr. Darby said there was absolutely no question about two of the prisoners, but there was about Coombs, who was not found on the premises, but PC Mountford, who saw all three had subsequently picked him out from among a number of other men. There were two cellars to the house, connected by a narrow neck, and steps led down from the yard and from the house. There were a large number of barrels and pipes in the cellar, which greatly minimised the area. Having seen the three men the officers suggested that *Luker*, who was affected by asthma, should go back to the station and bring further assistance, which he did. In the meantime, however, one of the men heard the constables in the yard and came up the cellar steps in the yard, where he saw one of the officers and being in uniform, of course he knew the police were on their track. He ran down the steps again and gave the alarm. Mountford also ran down and got hold of Hooper. The charge of wounding it would be seen had only been preferred against Tonks and Coombs, because Mountford, retaining his hold on Hooper, he was unable to take part. Savoury also entered the cellar, which was quite dark, and he was at once attacked by a fusillade of bottles, and being repeatedly struck he was knocked down. While down Coombs actually got on him, or fell on him, and literally gnawed the side of his face away. There was no doubt of this because for days afterwards tooth marks could be seen on the side of his head. Mr. Darby then returned to *Luker*, who, he said, on arriving at the police station found PS O'Leary and PC Smith. On hearing of the occurrence the two officers at once hurried to the place, and the Sergeant straightway entering the cellar struck several times at what he considered one of the prisoners, but was really the officer Savoury. It could not be suggested, however, that this was the way by which he came by his injuries, because they were undoubtedly inflicted prior to this. Tonks and Hooper were at once taken into custody, but Coombs was not arrested until the following evening.

It was discovered afterwards that the place had been thoroughly looted, and Miss Ford's portmanteau had been cut open, several things taken out and the portmanteau stuffed up the chimney. When Coombs was arrested some of the things said to have been stolen were found on him. (Proceeding.)”

AND

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

“The hearing of the case was resumed on Monday....

Superintendent Salt gave evidence in corroboration of the statement that when the police went to Coombs' house to arrest him, and called him out of bed, prisoner said, 'I know what you've come for. It's about that job at the STORES.'

The case for the prosecution having been closed, the Bench intimated that they considered that a prima facie case had been made out against all three prisoners.

Mr. Glover, who appeared for the defence of Coombs, intimated his intention of calling witnesses for the defence, with a view to proving an alibi. Evidence was then given by Coombs, who admitted that he was in the STORES before closing time, but said he had nothing to do with the other prisoners, who also were there. Upon leaving the public house he stayed in the town for some time, but reached home about midnight. On the way he met his wife, who, being annoyed at his being late, scratched his neck and face. Afterwards, in his house, she threw a chair at him, this striking him on the head. He went to bed, and did not go to work the next morning, but said that was because of his wife's treatment of him the night before. He denied that when the police called that he made any such statement as was alleged. The handkerchief had blood upon it, and the safety pins which the police had found belonged to his brother-in-law, who lodged with him.

Other witnesses were called, including Louisa Coombs, wife of the prisoner Coombs, and Charles Goddard, the brother-in-law.

During the hearing of the case Colonel Smith asked for PS O'Leary to be recalled, and questioned him as to why he did not have a lantern when he went to the public house; and the officer, in reply, said it was not customary for an inspector or sergeant in towns to have a lantern.

The magistrates committed all three prisoners for trial at the next Staffordshire Assizes, accepting bail for Coombs. Colonel Smith said the magistrates had directed the Clerk to forward a copy of the depositions, especially that part in which PC Savoury made allegations against PS O'Leary, with a view to an inquiry being held.

Superintendent Salt said he had that day received a letter from the Chief Constable in which he said he would sift the matter to the bottom."

AND

Wednesbury Leader 11/12/1901

"In the Nisi Prius Court at the Stafford Assizes on Saturday, the burglary case commenced before Commissioner H. D. Greene, QC, MP. The prisoners, Benjamin Tonks (21), labourer; Henry Hooper (21), ironworker; and George Coombs (32), fitter, were indicted for having, between the 11th and 12th September, at Wednesbury, burglariously broken into the dwelling house of *William Henry Luker*, the STORES INN, and stolen a quantity of cigars, cigarettes, and ale. Tonks and Hooper pleaded guilty. Mr. Vachell was for the prosecution, and Mr. Lawrence defended.

The prisoners were found on the premises of the STORES INN, and information was given to the police, and two constables (one of them Police-constable Savery) went to the house. The men who had burglariously entered the house sought refuge in the cellar, whither they were followed by the police. Tonks and Hooper were arrested, but before capitulating they had carried on a brisk assault on the police, shying bottles and anything that came handy at them. While the battle was in progress in the cellar, other constables arrived on the scene, and a singular feature of the case was that one of the policemen who arrived during the skirmishing, Police-sergeant O'Leary, began to attack, not the enemy, but one of his own comrades, the darkness of the cellar being such that he failed to distinguish between the burglars and the police. Savery was the constable he struck, and even handcuffed him, and the wounded constable was removed from the cellar in a sorry plight. The third burglar got away through the front door of the house, and the prosecution sought to show that Coombs was the missing man. Evidence was given showing that his face and body bore evidence of having had some rough usage, the suggestion being that the scratches and bruises were received during the fight in the cellar.

When the Court rose on Saturday evening the case for the prosecution had not been closed.

At the resumed hearing on Monday the prosecution continued to call witnesses in support of the case against Coombs.

Mr. Lawrence, for the defence, said the prisoner Coombs set up an alibi, that he was not in the STORES INN on the night in question. Prisoner and his wife gave evidence in corroboration, and a man named Goddard, brother-in-law, deposed to seeing the prisoner and his wife quarrelling, and similar evidence was given by other witnesses. The jury acquitted the prisoner.

Tonks and Hooper were committed for twelve months.

There were charges against the prisoners Tonks and Coombs for assaulting the constables, but no evidence in respect to them was offered by the prosecution."

Wednesbury Leader 26/10/1901

“John Henry Wood (27), of Brickkiln Street, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing 5d from the till at the STORES INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, kept by *John Henry Luker*.

Fanny Luker, wife of prosecutor, said prisoner was in the STORES INN from 2-30 till 4-45pm on the 21st inst, and on coming into the bar on one occasion she found him leaning over the bar counter with his hand in the till. On examining it afterwards she found that he had taken the only fivepence that it contained. Prisoner ran out of the house when she questioned him as to what he was doing.

Edward Price, labourer, Camp Street, Wednesbury, said he was in the bar room where prisoner was, but went out of the room for a short time. On returning he saw prisoner running out of the house.

PC Truswell deposed to arresting prisoner. When charged prisoner twice threatened that when he came out of prison he would shoot both *Luker* and his wife.

The Stipendiary committed prisoner for trial at the Sessions.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/11/1901

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

John Henry Wood (28), labourer, indicted for having stolen 5d from a till, was found guilty, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.”

Mrs. Mary Ann Dicken, beer retailer, 70, Holyhead Road. [1904]

1911 Census

Holyhead Road – STORES

- [1] George Bytheway (27), licensed victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Teresa Bytheway (27), wife, married 3 years, assistant in business, born Walsall;
- [3] George Bytheway (18 months), son, born Darlaston;
- [4] Alice Stanley (16), domestic servant, born Walsall:

1921 Census

70, Holyhead Road

- [1] George Bytheway (37), licensed victualler, born Walsall;
- [2] Teresa Bytheway (37), wife, born Walsall;
- [3] George William Bytheway (11), son, school, born Darlaston;
- [4] John Norman Bytheway (10), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Francis Bytheway (8), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Ruby Bytheway (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Joy Bytheway (1 month), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Lydia Benton (20), boarder, born Walsall:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Table Tennis League. [1932]

1939 Register

70, Holyhead Road (3 of 5)

- [1] William James Gisbourne, date of birth 10/12/1905, manager of licensed premises, beer, married;
- [2] Laura Gisbourne, dob 7/6/1908, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] Margaret Emily (Thomas) Roberts, dob 15/6/1918, bar general, single:

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

STORES INN, Wednesbury, 15s 6d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/11/1959

"The only licensee to be in charge of the same public house for more than 20 years, Mr. *William Gisbourne*, of Wednesbury, was one of 25 managers and manageresses to receive awards at Mitchells and Butlers Ltd, Smethwick, yesterday. Mr. *Gisbourne*, who is married with three children, has been licensee of the STORES INN, Wednesbury, since 1938.

Mr. George Darby, an executive director of Mitchells and Butlers, and Mr. A. E. Tomblin, a general manager, presented cheques and certificates to five licensees with 40 years' service and to 20 with 20 years' service."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 1/4/1963 - Advert

"Barmaid or Barman, evenings and weekends.
STORES, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

BARMAID or Barman, evenings and week-ends. — Stores, Holyhead-road, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Mail 19/8/1964

"Six families were evacuated from their homes because of leaking gas after an articulated lorry had crashed into a house in Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, early today. The bang as the lorry hit the wall awakened everyone in the block of terrace houses.

The families were turned into the street in their nightclothes when leaking gas from a fractured main reached danger level. They were given shelter at the STORES, a public house, where the landlord, Mr. *W. M. [sic] Gisbourne*, and his wife provided hot refreshments.

The crash occurred after the lorry and a small car had collided at the notorious Dartmouth crossroads. The lorry crashed into the front room of 65, Holyhead Road The STORES public house on the corner of the crossroads has been struck several times by motor vehicles. 'My customers now want danger money to drink in the bar,' said Mr. *Gisbourne* after the crash."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/2/1966 - Advert

"Cleaner, 6 mornings per week.
STORES INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

[1968]

SALE THIS DAY (TUESDAY).

BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, at the Ale Stores, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury (under distress for Rent and Gas)—the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STOCK of ALE, WINE, &c.**, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. James Cox.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

UNRESERVED SALE AT THE STORES,
HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, TO-MORROW (TUESDAY), September 28—the **PUBLIC-HOUSE FIXTURES, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.**, comprising capital 6-pull Stop Ale Machine, by Morgan; 2-pull Ale Machine, hand some Shop Fixtures, Counter, Liquor Shop Tables, Screens, Gas Fittings and Piping, Window Boards, Lamp, Sign Board, Tap-room Tables, Ale Casks, Chairs, Feather Beds, Iron Bedsteads, Palliasses, Washstands, Dressing Tables, Toilet Glass, Bed Clothes, mahogany Tables, handsome Chimney Glass, Easy Chair, Couch, Fenders, Benches, Glasses, Jugs, Port Wine, Sherry, Bottles, Measures, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mrs. Meech, who is giving up the public business.

1869

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE, HOLDEN
AT WALSALL.

IN Matter of JAMES HARRISON COX, late of The Stores, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Retailer in Beer and Wines, but now of No. 3, Victoria Street, Wednesbury aforesaid, in lodgings, and out of business, adjudged Bankrupt on the 4th day of September, 1869. A **MEETING** of the Creditors will be held before the Registrar at the County Court Office, Walsall, on the 15th day of June, 1870, 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.

1870

STRUGGLER

Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Jones **(1847 – 1849)**

NOTES

London Gazette 24/1/1851

“Whereas a Petition of *Samuel Jones*, at present and for five months last past residing in Portway-road, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Shingler, for one year and two months previous thereto residing at the ROSE, THISTLE, AND SHAMROCK, in the High Bullen, Wednesbury aforesaid, Licensed to brew and sell Ale, Beer, or Cider by retail, and Licensed Dealer in Tobacco, occasionally working as a Shingler, for two years and five months previous thereto residing at the STRUGGLER, in Portway-road, Wednesbury aforesaid, Licensed to brew and sell Ale, Beer, or Cider by retail, and also Licensed Dealer in Tobacco, occasionally working as a Shingler, and for twelve months before that time residing in the Hollyhead-road, Wednesbury aforesaid, Shingler, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Samuel Jones*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Samuel Jones* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 1st day of February next, at two o’clock in the afternoon 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 *Samuel Jones*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Joseph Heapy Watson, Clerk of the said Court, at his office, at the Court-house, in Oldbury, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

TALBOT

151, (37), Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Showell's Brewery Co. Ltd. [1911], [1921]

LICENSEES

John Partridge [1851] – [1873]
Enoch Partridge [1876]
John Springthorp [1881]
Edward Hampson [1908]
Herbert Edwin Harvey [1911] – [1912]
John William Harrison [1916] – [1921]
Alfred Gilbert [1927]
Henry Thomas Vale [1932] – **1933**;
Jeremiah Bray **(1933 – 1936)**
Horace Clarke **(1936 – []**
Albert E Saxon [1939]
Arthur Edward Maddox []
Holtham [1952]
Mrs. Mary Ann Mason [1955]

Lot 7.—All that very valuable Freehold Old Licensed INN, known by the sign of the "Talbot Inn," situate at King's-hill, Wednesbury, and fronting the main road leading from Wednesbury to Darlaston, and containing two attics, four bed rooms, club room, smoke room, bar, tap room, kitchen, two cellars, brewhouse, stabling, two coach houses, malt room, large garden, good yard with draw-in-gate way, now in the occupation of Mr. Enoch Partridge.

The total area of this lot is 1,172 square yards.

1876

NOTES

37, Darlaston Road [1871], [1881], [1921]
151, Darlaston Road [1940], [1955]

SPOTTED DOG [1864], [1872]

Birmingham Journal 24/8/1850

"On Monday afternoon, an inquest was held at the TALBOT INN, Kings Hill Fields, Wednesbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq. Coroner, on the body of Richard Butler, a lad fifteen years of age, whose death was alleged to have been caused by the violence of a boy about the same age, of the name of Joseph Corbett.

From the evidence of a lad named John Clansey, it appeared that he and the deceased had a quarrel with a number of boys on Sunday, the 28th of July, and Corbet being one of these, he struck the deceased several blows on the side of the head with a pebble which he held in his hand. On going home, he complained of pains in his head, and a tumour appeared shortly afterwards. On the Tuesday following, Mr. Abel Rooker, surgeon, of Darlaston, was called in, and being unable to reduce the tumour, he opened it on Thursday, and found that the underlying bone was diseased, the cause being external injury, as he suspected. Deceased had not told his parents of the blows received from Corbet, and it was only upon being asked by Mr. Rooker that he mentioned what had taken place. The lad lingered until Sunday last, when he died, and a post mortem examination made by Mr. Rooker proved that death had ensued from mortification of the brain, probably produced by the injuries in question.

In order to procure further evidence, the Coroner adjourned the inquiry until Thursday evening. On the jury reassembling a lengthened inquiry took place, but in consequence of the contradictory evidence given an open verdict was returned, to the effect that the deceased had died from injuries received from some person, but who that person was the jury considered the evidence did not satisfactorily show."

1851 Census

Darlaston Road

- [1] John Partridge (42), fitter, born Darlaston;
- [2] Nancy Partridge (40), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] Ann Partridge (20), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] Samuel Partridge (16), son, fitter, born Darlaston;
- [5] Enoch Partridge (11), son, 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.....

John Partridge, Kings Hill Field, Wednesbury, 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.]

Birmingham Journal 25/10/1856

“The Heart of Oak Lodge, No.617, of the Order of United Free Gardeners, was opened on Tuesday last at the TALBOT INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury. Fifty-five members were initiated, and twenty-five more proposed; their average ages are twenty-six years. Mr. J. Thomas, of Willenhall, the district secretary, was present, and made some appropriate remarks on the rapid extension of the order. After closing the lodge, a convivial meeting was opened.”

1861 Census

Kings Hill – TALBOT INN

- [1] John Partridge (52), widower, victualler, born Darlaston;
- [2] Enoch Partridge (21), son, carpenter, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/11/1863

“An inquest was opened yesterday by Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the BARREL INN, Wednesbury, on the body of William Dolphin, aged fifty years. It appeared that deceased had walked from Walsall on Monday night last, in perfect health. When he entered his house he sat in the chair, and died in about two minutes. The inquest was adjourned until the 11th inst.

John Partridge, the landlord of the TALBOT INN, was duly summoned to attend as a juror, and was fined £2 for refusing to do so.”

[At the adjourned inquest the jury returned a verdict of Died from Disease of the Heart.]

Birmingham Daily Post 30/7/1864

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the TALBOT INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of Martha Roberts, aged six years and six months, who had sustained such dreadful injuries through her clothes having caught fire on the afternoon of Tuesday last, that she expired within a couple of hours afterwards. The body presented a frightful and sickening appearance, being literally roasted from the knees to the waist. The evidence went to show that the mother of the child had left her in a room in which there was a fire, and gone into the brewhouse to wash. In about five minutes a neighbour called her, and on entering the house she found the deceased on the sofa, with her dress in flames. The burning clothes were torn off, and goose grease applied. Mr. Duce, surgeon, was sent for, and his assistant promptly attended, and applied flour to the burns; but the poor child, as already stated, died in a couple of hours. It having transpired that there was no guard before the grate, the Coroner reprimanded the mother of the deceased for her neglect in not having provided one. The Jury found a verdict of Accidental Death.”

John Partridge, beer retailer, Kings Hill. [1868]

1871 Census

37, Darlaston Road – TALBOT

- [1] *John Partridge* (63), head, widower, publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Edwin Stackhouse* (43), lodger, axle turner, born Pelsall;
- [3] *Ann Stackhouse* (38), wife, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Enoch Partridge* (30), head, carpenter, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Sarah Ann Partridge* (26), wife, born Sutton Arfield, Derbyshire;
- [6] *Enoch C. Partridge* (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Thomas Partridge* (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *John E. Partridge* (8 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Mary Calladine* (20), visitor, born Wednesbury;

Midland Examiner 19/8/1876 - Advert

“Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

Sale of Valuable Properties consisting of an Old-licensed Inn, a Beerhouse, and several other desirable Properties. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the KINGS ARMS INN, in Dudley Street, Wednesbury, on Friday, the 25th day of August, 1876, at six for seven o'clock precisely.....

Lot 7. All that very valuable Freehold Old Licensed Inn, known by the sign of the TALBOT INN situate at Kings Hill, Wednesbury, and fronting the main road leading from Wednesbury to Darlaston, and containing two attics, four bed rooms, club room, smoke room, bar, tap room, kitchen, two cellars, brewhouse, stabling, two coach houses, malt room, large garden, good yard, with draw-in-gate way, now in the occupation of Mr. *Enoch Partridge*.

The total area of this lot is 1,172 square yards.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1878 - Advert

“Sale of Properties. By Roderick & Son.

To be Sold by Auction, at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, early in the ensuing year.....

The Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, known as the TALBOT INN, at Kingshill, Wednesbury.”

1881 Census

37, Darlaston Road – TALBOT INN

- [1] *John Springthorp* (49), licensed victualler, born Ibstock, Leicestershire;
- [2] *Mary Ann Springthorp* (56), wife, born Warwickshire;
- [3] *Fanny Springthorp* (18), daughter, born Park Hill, Staffordshire;
- [4] *John Springthorp* (15), son, scholar, born Park Hill, Staffordshire;
- [5] *Florence Medding* (10), boarder, scholar, born Walsall;

Birmingham Daily Post 9/6/1890

“On Saturday, Mr. Topham, deputy-coroner, held an inquest at the TALBOT INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of *Rebecca Hemmings* (67), a widow, who died on Thursday, under the following circumstances.

The deceased, who is said to have been of weak intellect, lived with her son-in-law and daughter, a couple named *Atkins*, at Forge Street, and on Thursday afternoon her daughter was frying some meat for the supper of one of her brothers, who was going to work on the night turn. During her absence from the room for a few moments the deceased took a piece of meat from the frying-pan, and was struggling with it in her throat when her daughter returned. The latter did what she could to afford relief, and so did some neighbours who were called in, but without avail; and on the arrival of Dr. S. Partridge, who was at once sent for, death had taken place.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1890

"Yesterday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the TALBOT INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of David Bailey (31), sawyer and ironworker, whose death from self-inflicted wounds in the throat has already been reported in the *Post*.

Anna Bailey, widow of the deceased, said her husband had been ill for about three months, owing to working in the wet, but he kept at work until about a month before his decease. On the Wednesday before his death Dr. Partridge said he was suffering from typhoid fever. On Saturday night, soon after eleven o'clock, he called her, and she took him some beef-tea, but he would not drink it. Then she fetched some milk, which he took and drank without remark, but as soon as he had handed the glass back to her he threw the bed clothes off him, jumped out of bed, and made for the stairs. She tried to hold him, but he swung her round, and she fell down the stairs. He followed, and striding over her as she lay at the bottom of the stairs, stepped into the lower room, picked up a knife which lay on the table, and ran upstairs again. She ran out and gave an alarm, and some of the neighbours came in; but what took place then she did not know, as she became unconscious, and remained so between one and two hours. She had been married nine years, and had three children. Her husband had 'moithered' a good deal in the few days before his death, but had not made any attempt on his life before Saturday night.

Harriet Cockayne, a neighbour, who had helped to nurse the deceased, gave corroborative evidence; and Police-constable Platt said that when he reached the house the deceased was lying on the bed naked, bleeding copiously from a wound in the throat, and the knife produced was afterwards found on the floor. Witness wrapped a cloth round the throat, and held it until Dr. S. Partridge came, when the latter began to sew up the wound, and Bailey died whilst the doctor was doing that. The deceased had cut his throat at the foot of the bed, and fallen upon the floor. Verdict, Temporary Insanity."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/5/1893

"Yesterday, Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the TALBOT INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, on the body of Rosannah Butler, aged six months, child of parents living in that locality. It seemed that on Friday the infant was taken with convulsions, and the mother put her into mustard and water, but without effect, death taking place before a medical man could be brought to the house. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned, and the coroner commended the mother for the measures she had taken to preserve the child's life, remarking that frequently he had to complain that such measures were not taken."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1898

"The Licensing Sessions for Wednesbury borough were held yesterday.....

Mr. Sharpe applied for structural alterations at the TALBOT INN, Kings Hill, and the application was granted."

1911 Census

Kings Hill – TALBOT INN

- [1] Herbert Edwin Harvey (38), licensed victualler, born Hednesford, Staffordshire;
- [2] Nellie Harvey (32), wife, married 11 years, assisting in business, born Smethwick;
- [3] Evelyn Mary Harvey (6), daughter, born Sparkbrook;
- [4] Alfred Hayden John Harvey (1), son, born Great Bridge;
- [5] Ruth Hagar Whitehouse (16), servant, born Great Bridge;

Wednesbury Leader 9/9/1911

"On Tuesday, at the TALBOT INN, Kings Hill, an inquest was held by Mr. G. C. Lewis (County Coroner) concerning the death of Ethel May Sandland (3), whose parents reside at 2 house, 4 court, Chapel Street, Kings Hill, who, on Saturday afternoon, was knocked down and killed almost instantly by a passing mourning coach belonging to Mr. Sidney Webb, undertaker, of Wednesbury. It appears that the fatality took place at about three o'clock. The coach was proceeding in the direction of Darlaston, when the child left the pavement, and was about to cross the road. She stumbled, however, and fell, with the result that a wheel of the coach passed over her head and neck. The infant's head was badly crushed, and she had large bruises on each side of the face. She was carried in a house near by, but expired almost immediately. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. At the conclusion of the inquiry the Coroner called the driver of the coach, John Ward, of Meeting Street, Wednesbury, and informed him that the jury had exonerated him from all blame."

Walsall Advertiser 18/5/1912

"A publican, named *Herbert Harvey*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, was summoned for spitting whilst a passenger on a tramcar.

Mr. Victor Crooke (Deputy Town Clerk) stated that that offence had been extensively practiced of late, and the Tramway Committee had given instructions that it must be stopped. In this case the offence was committed on April 29 on a tramcar travelling from the BROWN LION to Darlaston. Defendant, when asked by the conductor to desist, said if the Tramways Committee did not want spitting on the cars they should provide spittoons. William Henry Forman, conductor, and Mrs. Wright, 105, Rutter Street, gave evidence in support, and the Bench imposed a fine of 10/- and costs."

1921 Census

37, Darlaston Road – TALBOT INN

[1] *John William Harrison* (56), tool maker, bolt and nut, and licensed victualler, born Ocker Hill;

[2] *Eve Harrison* (55), wife, born Darlaston;

[3] *Lillian Eva Harrison* (30), daughter, clerk, labour exchange, born Middlesborough;

[4] *Violet Harrison* (28), daughter, domestic at home, licensed house, born Darlaston'

[5] *Frederick James Harrison* (10), grand-son, school, born Darlaston:

Smethwick Telephone 5/2/1927 - Acknowledgments

"Mrs. *A. Gilbert* and Family (from the TALBOT HOTEL, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, and late of the OLD CRYSTAL PALACE HOTEL, Smethwick) wish to thank all Friends, also the R.A.O.B., for sympathy and floral tributes in their sad bereavement."

1927 Probate

"*Alfred Gilbert* of TALBOT INN, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, died 28 January 1927. Administration Lichfield 14 March to Sarah Gilbert, widow. Effects £115 6s 6d."

Smethwick Telephone 28/1/1928 - In Memoriam

"In loving memory of my dear husband *Alfred Gilbert* (of TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury), who passed away January 28th, 1927. Fondly remembered by his loving wife, son and daughter (Morris and Dorothy)."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 14/4/1928

"An enjoyable social, organised by the Ladies Committee of the Kings Hill No.5 Ward, was held on Wednesday evening, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, when Mrs. Sims (vice-president) presided over a large gathering....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/10/1934

"Many political changes and surprises have taken place at Wednesbury in connection with the forthcoming municipal elections.....

The agent of the Labour party, Miss D. E. Hossack, is seeking election in the Kings Hill Ward, and if she is successful she will be the first woman councillor Wednesbury has had since it was created a borough. Her opponent is Mr. *Jeremiah Bray*, licensee of the TALBOT INN, who has been a resident for 56 years. Mr. *Bray* is a member of the Licensed Victuallers Association, and is a keen gardener and sportsman. He is interested in bowling, and was a member of the team who first got in the final of the Staffordshire Cup in 1911. The Ratepayers Association is supporting his candidature."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/1/1936

"An appeal case came before Judge H. L. Tibbs at Walsall yesterday which was instituted by *Jeremiah Bray*, of TALBOT INN, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, against a demolition order made by Wednesbury Corporation respecting 133-137, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Mr. P. Thorneycroft said that an undertaking had been given by the owner to do certain repairs to the property, in order that it would not be included in the slum area. The sole issue was whether or not the undertaking had been kept.

Mr. N. P. Lester, Town Clerk of Wednesbury, argued for the Corporation that 50 per cent of the work had not been done, and that one of the houses was still a back-to-back house and had two families in it. A lot of work which had been done was done unsatisfactorily. The main roof had simply been patched and nothing done to improve the attics. Specification of the work which still remained to be done amounted to £230, said Mr. Lester. Judge Tebbs adjourned the case in order that the parties concerned could come to an agreement as to what repairs to the property must be carried out."

Evening Despatch 30/6/1936

"*Horace Clarke*, licensee of the TALBOT HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, was at Wednesbury today fined £3 with £5 5s costs, on a summons for supplying intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours. A further summons for supplying and one for selling, and three for aiding and abetting the consumption of intoxicating liquor, were withdrawn on payment of 4s costs in each case. His wife, Eva Clarke, was summoned in three instances for aiding and abetting the consumption of liquor; Elsie May Jones, of 3, Wellcroft Street, Wednesbury, was summoned for aiding and abetting Clarke in three instances of supplying liquor, and Wesley Flintham, of 25a, New Street, Herbert Bates, of 56, Sandwell Street, and Alfred Yates, of 26, Collins Street, all of Walsall, were summoned for consuming liquor. Each of these summonses was withdrawn on payment of 4s costs."

Walsall Observer 9/9/1939

"Wednesbury's Raid Shelters.

Following is list of the air raid shelters which are now ready or will be available shortly, with the accommodation provided.....

TALBOT INN, Darlaston Road (85)."

1939 Register

Darlaston Road – TALBOT INN (3 of 4)

- [1] *Albert E. Saxon*, date of birth 10/9/1895, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Doris (Saxon) Palin*, dob 21/3/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] *Mavis A. (Saxon) Humphries*, dob 16/4/1939, under school age, single:

North Wales Weekly News 19/6/1952

"License transfer to Mr. *Arthur Edward Maddox*, formerly of the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, Staffs."

Evening Despatch 20/10/1952 - Advert

"For Sale, Mink Tie (six tails), as new; best offers, also double silver fox fur.

Holtham, TALBOT HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury."

Evening Despatch 11/3/1955

"Wednesbury licensing justices today refused to renew the license of the TALBOT HOTEL, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, and referred it for compensation, to the compensating authority at Stafford.

PS Machin said that within 500 yards there were six other licensed houses, two being only 120 yards away. There was one licensed house for every 333 inhabitants. The present licensee, Mrs. *Mary Ann Mason*, had a lifetime of experience in the business and had improved the trade of the house, but in his opinion there were too many licensed houses in the area."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1955 - 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 27th day of June, 1955, 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 the Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owners of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their Claim before the 1st day of September, 1955, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to Compensation.....

TALBOT INN, 151, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury. Full License. Licensee, *Mary Ann Mason*. Registered Owners, Ind Coope & Allsopp Ltd, Station Street, Burton-upon-Trent."

Closed

TALBOT

27, Market Place (High Street) / Spring Head, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Henry Armishaw

John T. Duce and Sons, Church Hill [1880s]

Edwin Butler

Hickman and Pullen, High Bullen Brewery [1906], [1927]

LICENSEES

Thomas Tibbatts [1768]

Richard Tibbatts [1775]

Rogers [1784]

Constable [1786]

Thomas Hawe [1788] – **1799**

Simeon Constable **(1799 – [1800]**

Joseph Hateley [1805] – [1818]

Joseph Price [1819] – [1824]

Edward Nightingale [1828] – [1840]

John Teadstill [1841] – [1842]

Thomas Charles Smyth [1845]

Joseph Guest [1849] – **1862**;

John Guest [1851]

Henry Armishaw **(1862–[1873]**

Harriet Armishaw [1874] – **1875**);

Daniel Gorton **(1875 – [1879]**

Francis Botfield [1881]

John Haggerty **(1889 – []**

Thomas Haggerty [1891]

F W Morris [1892] – [1893]

John G Sykes [1894]

Edwin Butler [1895] – [1896]

William l'Anson [1895] – [1905]

Thomas Sebastian Morris [1906]

Frank Jones [1909] – [1911] manager

George Thomas Cartwright [1912] – [1918]



Ex-pub 2008

NOTES

TALBOT AND BLUE BALL [1796], [1797], [1800], [1805]

It was originally a half-timbered Elizabethan inn.

It was a home brew house.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/5/1768 - Advert

"To be Sold to the best Bidder, At the House of Mr. *Thomas Tibbatts*, known by the Sign of the TALBOT in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Saturday the 21st Day of May Inst....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/7/1775 - Advert

"To be Sold to the best Bidder or Bidders, in the two following Lots, on Wednesday the 19th of July Instant, at the House of Mr. *Richard Tibbats*, the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/5/1784 - Advert

"To be Sold by private Contract, at the Dwelling House of Mr. *Rogers*, situate at the TALBOT in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford (at any future Day when called upon by any Person).

All the Household Goods and Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Coppers, and Fixtures, in the said Dwelling House, Brewhouse, and Stables, &c, together with a great Variety of exceeding good Barrels, Iron-bound, particularly five or six large Casks, Iron-bound, proportionably strong, and will hold from 308 to 351 Gallons each.

A proper Person may be accommodated with the Whole, or Part of the above, at a fair Appraisement, and put into Possession of the said Dwelling House immediately, provided such Purchaser is well recommended to the Proprietor of the said Buildings and Premises, it being a good-accustomed and convenient House, and well situated for Public Business.

For Particulars enquire of the said Mr. *Rogers*, or John Heeley, at the Sun Fire Office, in Walsall."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/11/1786 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Jos. Payton, on Friday, November 17, 1786.

The Whole of the Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, &c, belonging to Mr. *Constable*, at the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury (who is going to reside in Birmingham), Particulars of which will be inserted in next Monday's *Gazette*....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/11/1786 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, by Joseph Payton, on Friday and Saturday next, the 17th and 18th of November Instant.

The Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, &c, belonging to Mr. *Constable*, at the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, consisting of Bedsteads, with Moreen and Check Furniture, Goose and other Feather Beds, Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Mahogany Bureau, Dining, Card, and Pillar Tables, Mahogany Chairs, Pier and Swing Glasses, an Eight-day and Thirty-hour Clock, a very good Dial Time Piece, very good Kitchen Requisites, large Copper and Iron Furnaces, Iron-bound Tubs, Hogsheads, and Half-hogsheads; twenty Dozen bottled Cyder, Glass Bottles, and various other Articles, as expressed in the Catalogues....."

Thomas Hawe = Thomas Hawes

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/12/1788 - Advert

"Bilston Turnpike Tolls to be Let.....

At the House of *Thomas Hawe*, the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury....."

Thomas Hawe, TALBOT INN, Wednesbury. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/9/1794 - Advert

"To be Let by Auction, by Richard Crump, at the House of Mr. *Thomas Hawe*, the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury, on Friday the 3rd of October, 1794....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/2/1796 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the House of *Thomas Hawe*, the TALBOT AND BLUE BALL INN, in Wednesbury, on Friday the 19th Day of February inst, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon.

J. Wall. February 15, 1796."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/11/1796 - Advert

"Turnpike Tolls to be Let.....

At the House of *Thomas Hawes*, the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/10/1797 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads will be Let by Auction to the best Bidder, at the House of *Thomas Hawe*, situate at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, and known by the Sign of the TALBOT AND BLUE BALL....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/5/1799 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, at the Dwelling House of Mr. *Thomas Howe*, the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Friday the 17th Day of May inst....."

Thomas Howe – see also OLD BLUE BALL.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/10/1799 - Advert

"Wind Mill.

To be Sold by Auction, by Francis Poole, on Friday the 1st Day of November, 1799, at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon, at the House of Mr. *Constable*, the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/12/1799 - Advert

"Bilston Turnpike Tolls to be let.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates, or Turnpikes, called Gibbet Lane and Catchems Croner Gates, and Fighting Cocks Bar, and Ettingshall Side Bar, upon the Turnpike Road leading from High Bullen, in Wednesbury, to the further End of Darlaston Lane, next the Portway, and from thence through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, for one whole Year (commencing the first of January next) at the House of *Simeon Constable*, the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury aforesaid, on Tuesday, the 31st Day of December instant, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon of the same Day, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, 'For regulating the Tuurnpike Roads;' which Tolls were let on Lease the last Year, for the Sum of £436 clear of the Expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at such Sum as the Trustees then present shall direct.

Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must, at the same Time, make a Deposit of five per Cent and give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

By Order of the Trustees, John Willim, Clerk and Treasurer. Bilston, December 2, 1799."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/4/1800 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the next meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the House of Mr. *Simeon Constable*, the TALBOT AND BLUE BALL INN, in Wednesbury, on Friday the 2nd Day of May next, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon.

J. Wall. West Bromwich, April 28, 1800"

Joseph Hateley = Joseph Hately

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/2/1805 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads will be Let by Auction to the best Bidder, at the House of *Joseph Hately*, situate at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, and known by the Sign of the TALBOT AND BLUE BALL....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/4/1807 - Advert

"Timber. To be Sold by Auction, by Josiah Robins, at the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, this Day (Monday) the 27th of April, at Half-past Three in the Afternoon.....

Mr. *Hateley*, at the TALBOT, will shew the Lots, which are all marked and numbered."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/11/1807 - Advert

"Stolen or Strayed, out of a Piece of Ground in the Manor of Bradley, near Bilston, in the County of Stafford, a dark Bay Poney Mare, about 10 Hands high, aged; has a white Blaze down the Forehead, and one white Leg behind. Whoever will bring her to Mr. Charles Gallimore's, BLUE PIG INN, in Bilston, or Mr. *Joseph Hately's*, TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble, and all Expenses paid."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/3/1808 - Advert

"Wednesbury Building Society.

It is intended to erect twelve Dwelling Houses, not exceeding the Value of £100 each, on Land at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, to be finished on or before the 29th Day of September, 1808.

Persons inclined to contract for the erecting and finishing of such Dwelling Houses, are desired, without Delay, to deliver Plans and Proposals, in Writing, sealed up, and directed for 'the Committee of the Wednesbury Building Society, to be left at Mr. *Hately's*, the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury; and Persons having Bricks to dispose of, are requested to send Proposals for Sale of any Quantity not exceeding 200,000, to be delivered at Wednesbury, sealed up, and directed as above mentioned."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/6/1811 - Advert

"The Trustees of the Turnpike Road leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the County of Stafford, do hereby give Notice, that the Owners of all Cattle, Horses, Asses, &c found at large or depasturing upon any Part of the said Road will be proceeded against as the Law directs.

Given under their Hands, at a Meeting held by Adjournment, at the House of *Joseph Hateley*, the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, on Monday the 20th of May.

Joseph Fernyhough, Clerk."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/2/1814 - Notice

"All Persons who have any Claim or Demand against the Society held at the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, called the Wednesbury Building Society, are desired to send their Accounts, containing Particulars, to Mr. Thomas Espley, of Wednesbury aforesaid, on or before the 2nd Day of May next, in Order that the same may be examined, and if correct, discharged; and all Persons who stand indebted to the said Society, or to the Committee of the same, are required to pay their respective Debts to the said Mr. Espley immediately, or they will be sued for the same without other Notice.

E. and S. Crowther, Attornies. Wednesbury, February 16, 1814."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/8/1814 - Advert

"To the ancient and venerable Order of Druids in Union, Lodge No.53.

The Anniversary of the above Lodge will be held at Brother *Joseph Hately's*, TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, when the Company of any regular made Brother in Union will be esteemed a Favour.

By Order of the MNA. J. Martin, Secretary."

Joseph Hateley was also a maltster. [1818]

Parson and Bradshaw General & Commercial Directory 1818

"Coaches from the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury.

Market Coach to Birmingham four days per week, at half-past eight in the morning; to Darlaston at seven in the evening."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/10/1819 - Advert

"Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Tolls.

Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be Let by Auction, at the House of *Joseph Price*, the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury aforesaid, on Tuesday the 2nd Day of November next, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon, for the Term of one Year, commencing the 1st Day of January next, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, 'for regulating the Turnpike Roads;' which Tolls were let on Lease the last Year at the under-mentioned Sums, clear of the Expenses of collecting them, and will be put up at those Sums respectively.

Whoever happen to be the best Bidder, must, at the same Time, give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct, and make a Deposit of one Month's Rent for each Lot.

Lot 1. Cock Heath Gate, £276.

Lot 2. Bilston Bridge, High Street, and Cold Lanes Gates, £422.

Lot 3. Catchems Corner Gate, Fighting Cocks Bar, Ettingshall Bar, and Ettingshall Side Bar, £170.

Lot 4. Gibbet Lane Gate, £374.

NB. No Person will be suffered to bid unless his Surety be present, ready to give the Security required.

By Order of the Trustees, John Willim, Clerk and Treasurer.

Bilston, September 29, 1819."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/7/1821 - Advert

"Turnpike Road from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

The next General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury, on Tuesday the 24th Day of July instant, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon precisely, to transact the Business before Dinner, and dine at Three.

John Willim, Clerk to the Trustees."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/7/1824 - Advert

"Freehold Buildings, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Moreton, this present Monday, the 19th of July, at the house of Mr. *Price*, the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, precisely at five o'clock in the afternoon....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/4/1827 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by T. Walters, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 10th and 11th of April, 1827, the Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, Stock in Trade of Ale, Wines, and Spirits, Licenses, Good-will, with immediate Possession of that very desirable Public House, known by the Sign of the TALBOT INN, situate in the midst of the Market Place, Wednesbury, and late in the possession of Mr. *Joseph Price*, Innkeeper, &c, but now a bankrupt.

The Furniture consists of very excellent four-post mahogany tent and other bedsteads, fine feather beds, mattresses, bed and table linen, glass and china, wardrobes, chests of drawers and chets, mahogany dining table with ends, oak tables, dressing ditto, tea ditto, and deal ditto, floor and bedside carpets, mahogany, oak, ash, and other chairs, grates, fenders, fire-irons, coppers, iron boilers, mashing and other tubs, barrels, containing some thousand gallons of ale, wine, and spirits, horse, carts, gig and harness; particulars of which will appear in catalogues in due time.

NB. Stabling for at least thirty horses, with extensive and entire Yard, and a pleasant Kitchen Garden.

The Licenses and Good-will to be sold on the first day, at twelve o'clock."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/5/1827 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, on Monday, May 21, 1827 pursuant to an order of the major part of the commissioners in a commission of bankruptcy awarded and issued forth against *Joseph Price*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Victualler, dealer and chapman, a bankrupt.

All that Freehold substantial Tenement or Dwelling House, with front and back kitchen, cellar, and two sleeping-rooms, &c, situate in Old Meeting Street, Newtown, Bilston, and in the possession of Margaret Atkins, as tenant at will."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/7/1827 - Notice

"All Persons standing indebted to the Estate of Mr. *Joseph Price*, Innkeeper and Dealer, late of Wednesbury, a bankrupt, are requested to pay the same to Mr. G. W. Court, Assignee to the estate, within fourteen days from the date hereof, or they will be proceeded against without further notice.

R. M. Benson, Solicitor to the Commission. Wednesbury, July 9, 1827."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/6/1828 - Advert

"Turnpike Road from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further end of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the county of Stafford.

The next General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the TALBOT INN, in Wednesbury aforesaid, on Thursday next, the 5th day of June, at one o'clock in the afternoon.

John Willim and Son, Clerks to the Trustees.

Bilston, May 31, 1828."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/12/1828 - Notices

"The Commissioners in a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued against *Joseph Price*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Victualler, dealer and chapman, intend to meet on the thirtieth day of December instant, at twelve o'clock at noon, at the house of Mr. John Machin, called the Union Inn, in Union Street, in Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, in order to audit the accounts of the Assignees of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt under the said commission.

T. Lane Parker, Solicitor to the Assignees under the said Commission."

AND

"The Commissioners in a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued against *Joseph Price*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Victualler, dealer and chapman, intend to meet on the thirtieth day of December instant, at one o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. John Machin, called the Union Inn, in Union Street, in Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, in order to make a 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.

T. Lane Parker, Solicitor to the Assignees under the said Commission."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/1/1829 - Notice

"The Creditors who have proved their debts under Commission of Bankrupt awarded against *Joseph Price*, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Victualler, dealer and chapman, may receive dividend of one shilling in the pound on their respective debts on application at the office of Mr. Luckock, Accountant, 3, Cherry Street.

T. Lane Parker, Solicitor to the Assignees."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/2/1836

"Horseter, of Wednesbury, is prepared to fight Skyte, of Walsall, from £25 to £100 a side. The needful is ready at the TALBOT, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/1/1840 - Advert

"To Timber Merchants, Wheelwrights, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, on Friday next, the 10th day of January, by Mr. T. P. Stokes, at the house of Mr. *Nightingale*, the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, at four o'clock in the afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be produced, the following lots of Timber growing on Delves Green Farm.

Lot 1. 21 Ash Trees, 13 Oak Trees, 3 Poplar Trees, numbered with white paint from 2 to 39 inclusive.

Lot 2. 8 Ash Trees, 32 Poplar Trees, 1 Alder Tree, numbered with white paint from 40 to 80 inclusive.

Lot 3. 19 Ash Trees, 10 Oak Trees, 3 Poplar Trees, numbered with white paint from 81 to 110 inclusive.

Delves Green Farm is situate close to the town of Walsall, and about two miles from Wednesbury.

Mr. *Nightingale*, the Tenant, will appoint a person to show the respective lots, and further particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. John Orme Brettell, Land and Mine Agent, Dudley."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/2/1841 - Advert

"To Parties Desirous of Disposing Of Furniture and Other Effects with Privacy, Care, and Expedition.

Messrs. Taylor and Bills respectfully inform the Public, that they have taken a large Room at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, for the convenience of those parties who are desirous of disposing of Furniture and other Effects with privacy and expedition. Sale Accounts settled at the close of the sale each day.

Messrs. T. and B. trust, by unremitting attention, confidence, and care of articles consigned to their trust, to merit a share of public patronage.

A Sale of modern and useful Household Furniture, in the Auction Room at the above Inn, this day, to commence at ten o'clock.

Offices, High Street, Wednesbury."

1841 Census

Market Place

[1] *John Teadstill* (40), innkeeper;

[2] *Elizabeth Teadstill* (43);

[3] *William Teadstill* (12), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Henry Teadstill* (7), born Staffordshire;

[5] *Edward Claverley* (46), male servant;

[6] *Hannah Morris* (19), f.s, born Staffordshire;

[7] *Richard Moore* (44);

[8] *Ann Moore* (46):

John Teadstill – see also WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and BULL AND MOUTH, Bilston.

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/11/1842 - Advert

"TALBOT INN, Wednesbury.

Taylor and Bells respectfully make known to parties who wish to engage in the Public Business that they have at their disposal, with immediate possession, the above excellent old-established and well accustomed Public House, known by the sign of the TALBOT, which is most eligibly situated in the centre of the Market Place of the above named town, now carrying on a lucrative trade, for which it has been notorious for a number of years.

The house and premises are so replete with every convenience, and possessing so many advantages with regard to situation, &c, that it merits the immediate attention of any industrious and economical individual who wishes to embark in the above line of trade. The present occupier is leaving solely in consequence of other engagements.

The Stock of ale and spirits (which is small), brewing vessels, &c, to be taken at a fair valuation. Coming in about £200. Rent moderate.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply on the premises, or at the offices of Mr. Thomas M. Bills, Auctioneer and Surveyor, Wednesbury."

Commercial inn [1845]

Joseph Guest was also a rag and bone merchant. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

Market Place

[1] *Joseph Guest* (46), victualler, born Oldswinford;

[2] *Elizabeth Guest* (37), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Eliza Guest* (18), daughter, born Brierley Hill;

[4] *Selina Guest* (12), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Martha Guest* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Emma Cooksey* (19), house servant, born Brierley Hill;

[7] *Mary Novell* (20), house servant, born Mayo, Ireland;

[8] *Thomas Heap* (30), ostler, born Leicester;

[9] *Henry West* (18), house servant, born Coventry;

[10] *Jacob France* (46), lodger, traveller, ink, pens &c, born Newcastle;

[11] *Ann France* (34), lodger's wife, born Newcastle:

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.....

Joseph Guest, Wednesbury, 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.”

AND

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.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/3/1853 - Deaths

“On the 23rd instant, aged 27, Mr. Philip Martin, of the New Road, and son-in-law to Mr. *Guest*, of the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 26/8/1854 - Advert

“A Valuable Opportunity.

To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the Goodwill, Possession, and Stock-in-Trade, of a well-established Gun, Gun-Implement, and General Ironmongers Business, situated in Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. The present Proprietor is leaving England.

For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to Mr. *J. Guest*, TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

Barrels of ale were given by Mr. *Guest*, TALBOT INN.

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *J. Guest*, TALBOT INN, Market Place.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/8/1857

“Wednesbury Board Of Heath.

The fortnightly meeting of this body was held on Monday evening.....

The report of the inspector of nuisances contained nothing particular of interest. The surveyor reported that Mr. *Guest*, of the TALBOT INN, was taking the necessary steps to do away with the nuisance complained of as originating on his premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1858

“At the Public Office, West Bromwich, on Saturday last, a fellow, who had two gold pendants in his ears, and who stumped into the dock on a wooden leg, was charged with an assault on the police. It was shown from the statement of Police-constable Quinsey that on the preceding Wednesday night Mrs. *Guest*, of the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, sent for his assistance in getting rid of the defendant, who, exhibiting lots of tom-foolery, by which he picks up a living, had got drunk, become noisy and abusive, and had insulted her. With some difficulty the officer got him to the station, but not before he had received a severe kick on the forehead from the prisoner’s wooden leg, in addition to thumps with his fists. Today the strolling vagabond said he was too drunk to recollect anything of the matter, and he was fined 10s and costs, or go to gaol for twenty-one days.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/4/1859

“Wednesbury Board of Health.....

A nuisance long and earnestly complained of, caused by Mr. *Guest*, landlord of the TALBOT INN, pumping water which accumulated in his cellar into the road, was again under consideration. The Surveyor had failed to induce Mr. *Guest* to take decisive means to prevent the nuisance, and the Chairman and others bore testimony to the disgusting stench which accompanies the discharge of this liquid into the street. It was suggested that Mr. *Guest*, by sinking in his own yard, could find an outlet for the offensive accumulation into the hollows of the old coal workings underneath, and it was remarked that many persons in the town had been compelled to adopt this course. The Clerk was directed to write to him to say that he must cease to discharge the water into the street.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/9/1859

“Henry Yapp was charged with having defrauded Nancy Davis of 2s 4d at the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, on the previous night. Mr. Langman appeared for the defence.

The prosecutrix was at the public house, and the prisoner came in offering ‘sheep’s trotters’ for sale. Davis purchased a pennyworth from him, giving, as she and two other witnesses alleged, a half-crown in payment. One of the parties said he saw Yapp look at the half-crown and put it into a different pocket to that in which he placed copper coins. After receiving the half-crown he went to the other side of the table, and shortly afterwards the prosecutrix bought another pennyworth of trotters, and then asked for her change. He denied that he had received a half-crown from her, but, saying that if he had received one it would be among his copper, took out a quantity of copper money, but there was not a half-crown among it. A police officer was sent for, and in Yapp’s possession were found one half-crown, one shilling, and 1s 11d in copper. He, however, said he had given change for the half-crown found upon him. John Cadwallader and his wife, of Wolverhampton, were called for the defence, and from their evidence it seemed that the defendant was in the employ of Cadwallader, and that the money taken from the defendant by the policeman and the number of trotters sold by him exactly corresponded. The case was compromised, Yapp giving to Davis a half-crown and paying the expenses of the witnesses.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/11/1859

“An occurrence of a most melancholy nature took place at Wednesbury on Thursday evening, when a poor fellow named Benjamin Allcock, aged about 50 years, suddenly expired.

About eight o’clock on Thursday evening attention was called to the fact that a man had fallen down in High Street, and on the police hearing of it, orders were given by Mr. Inspector Blayney to have him taken to the station. This was done, and it appeared the man was suffering from extreme debility, and was in a most dangerous condition. Mr. Proctor, surgeon, was sent for, and other aid was administered, after which Mr. Blayney had the sufferer taken to the TALBOT INN, where the hostess, Mrs. *Guest*, did all in her power to restore him, giving him brandy and water, preparing gruel, and otherwise seeking to give him relief. This kindness was, however, we regret to say, but of little avail, for though at first the poor fellow seemed to revive, he died in half an hour after he was received into the house, as he was being conveyed upstairs. Before he died deceased stated that he had been in the service of an innkeeper of the town for about a fortnight, but for the last few days he had been very ill, and was obliged to keep his bed for two days. His employer insisted upon his getting up on Thursday and leaving her house. She stopped 1s 6d of his wages for the two days he had been in bed. The unfortunate man then left the house, and was found shortly afterwards in the condition above described. He complained very much of this want of feeling shown him, and certainly his appearance was such as should have induced some kindly consideration.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/1/1860

“On Sunday morning a man named Abraham Darlaston, who had been an inmate of the West Bromwich Union, and wore their clothing, was found dead in a field close to Wednesbury. Upon enquiries being made, it appeared that deceased left the Workhouse on Saturday, on an errand for the master of the house. He called on his sister, who lives in Wednesbury, and left her about two o’clock, stating that he was going home. The sister gave him a few coppers and some onions. In the evening deceased called at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, about seven, and told the landlord that he had been sent to deliver a message for the Governor of the Union, and that he was told he might take his time getting home, so that he delivered his message soon. Nothing was seen of him afterwards until about a quarter past one o’clock on the Sunday morning, when he was noticed going down Redding Lane in a helpless state of intoxication, and about nine in the morning the body was discovered in the field approached by Redding Lane, by a woman named Hannah Birchill. Deceased was lying on his back, his head being much lower than his body, and it is supposed death ensued by reason of the tendency of the blood to rush to the head, consequent upon

the position in which he fell. Of course the cold and exposure may have had considerable effect. In his pockets some tobacco, snuff, onions, and 8d in money were found. Deceased was about forty-five years of age; and the body now lies at the TALBOT INN, awaiting the official enquiry.”

1861 Census

Market Place – TALBOT INN

- [1] Joseph Guest (57), licensed victualler, born Wollaston;
- [2] Elizabeth Guest (48), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Martha Guest (18), daughter, assists in liquor shop, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Martha Cooksey (19), barmaid, born Bilston;
- [5] Sarah Ann Shepherd (26), maid of all work, born Tipton;
- [6] William Jones (28), brewer, born Gloucestershire;
- [7] William Fairbourne (42), lodger, widower, brewery agent, born Yorkshire;
- [8] Eliza Jane Martin (11), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 12/8/1862 - Advert

“To be Sold, cheap, quite new, a Lot of Sashes, Yorkshire Lights, Doors, and Cases, &c.
Apply at the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury.”

TO be SOLD, cheap, quite new, a Lot of SASHES, YORKSHIRE LIGHTS, DOORS, and CASES, &c.—Apply at the Talbot Inn, Wednesbury.

Henry Armishaw = Henry Armshaw

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1862 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Young Man, as Ostler and Brewer.
Apply to *Henry Armishaw*, TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a steady Young Man, as OSTLER and BREWER.—Apply to HENRY ARMISHAW, Talbot Inn, Market-place, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/3/1863

“Thomas Humpage, miner, was charged with having committed wilful damage at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Wednesday week. Mr. *Armishaw*, landlord, proved that the prisoner came into the house on Wednesday night, and behaved very disorderly. He threw the jugs and glasses about, and assaulted a man named Caddick violently with a gutta percha stick. He was ordered to pay the damage, 1s 6d, and 5s costs. The case of assault was also proved, and he was fined 10s and costs, or a month at the gaol in default.

Edward Humpage, brother of the previous prisoner, was also charged with an assault on Caddick, in the LAMP TAVERN, High Street, but the case was adjourned for a week for the production of further evidence.”

Birmingham Daily Dost 29/4/1863 - Advert

“An Enormous Giant, the Largest in the World, who can reach the height of ten feet three inches, will appear at the TALBOT INN, Market Street, Wednesbury, for Three Days only, Thursday, April 30, Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2.

Admission, from Two till Four 6d, and from Four till Nine _d each.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/5/1863

“At Wednesbury Police Court, John Betts and Henry Westley were brought up on remand, charged with uttering various counterfeit coins. Inspector Holland deposed to having being called into the house of Mr. *Armshaw*, the TALBOT INN, Market Place, on Friday last, and to having there found the prisoner Westley, whom he charged with having passed two counterfeit florins to Mr. *Armshaw*’s barmaid, who had placed one coin in the till but had retained the other in her hand. Witness took the prisoner into an adjoining room and there searched him, but failed to discover any other spurious money upon him. The prisoner was then removed to the police station. Witness also produced a third counterfeit florin, which he had received from Parish-constable Ellis, and which it was alleged Westley had uttered on the same evening. The prisoner Betts, who had been in Westley’s company during the evening, absconded while Inspector Holland was engaged with Westley, but was subsequently apprehended by Sergeant Gasson, who produced a portion of galvanic battery found in Betts’s house. The prisoners were remanded till Monday at West Bromwich, but the learned Stipendiary consented to accept bail for Betts, himself in £40, and two sureties in £20 each. Mr. Sheldon appeared for Betts, and Mr. Ebsworth for Westley.”

[Josiah Griffiths of the GREEN DRAGON gave the third counterfeit florin to Parish-constable Ellis.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/5/1863

“Henry Westley, on bail, appeared to answer a charge of uttering counterfeit coin at the house of Mr. *Armshaw*, the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury. The defendant was brought up at Westbromwich on the charge a short time ago, with another man, and was then remanded, to allow the authorities of the Mint to be communicated with. The stipendiary now announced that he had received a communication from the Mint authorities, who were willing to allow the charge to drop, as they believed that Westley might have been misled. The defendant was consequently discharged.”

[At the intermediate hearing Betts was discharged, there being no further evidence against him.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/1/1864

“An inquest was, yesterday, held before Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, at the TALBOT INN, Spring Head, Wednesbury, touching the death of a child, seven months old, named Caroline Mills, the daughter of a greengrocer, carrying on business in Spring Head. The evidence went to show that on Sunday morning last the mother of the deceased found her child in a fit, and that she at once sent for a surgeon, but before he could attend the infant had expired. A verdict of Died by the Visitation of God was returned.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/3/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady active young Man, as Ostler and Brewer. Good character indispensable. Apply, TALBOT INN, Market Place. Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a steady active young Man, as OSTLER and BREWER. Good character indispensable.—Apply, Talbot Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1866 - Advert

“To be Let, a Shop, in the centre of the Market Place, Wednesbury. Apply, Mr. *Armishaw*, TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

TO be LET, a SHOP, in the centre of the Market Place, Wednesbury.—Apply, Mr. Armishaw, Talbot Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/6/1866 - Advert

“For Sale, cheap, a Tent, 32ft by 30ft; quite new Tilt.

Apply, Mr. *H. Armishaw*, TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

FOR SALE, cheap, a TENT, 32ft. by 30ft.; quite new Tilt.—Apply, Mr. H. Armishaw, Talbot Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury.

AND

“To be Sold, cheap, a Gas Apparatus for 100 Lights.

Apply Mr. *H. Armishaw*, TALBOT INN, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1866 - Advert

“Wanted, a Girl-Of-All-Work, from 18 to 20. Good character indispensable. Apply, TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a GIRL-OF-ALL-WORK, from 18 to 20. Good character indispensable.—Apply, Talbot Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 6/8/1866

“A very distressing case of suicide occurred on Thursday at Wednesbury.

The GOLDEN CROSS INN, Market Place, was kept by two brothers and a sister, named *Danks*; and another kept a butcher's shop close to. On Thursday morning, Mark Danks, one of the brothers who lived at the GOLDEN CROSS, and who followed the business of a screw-maker in a shop at the back of the inn, arose about six o'clock, and went into his brother's butcher's shop. He remained talking to his brother for a few minutes, and then, saying he would commence his work, went to his own shop, which could be seen from the butcher's shop. After he had been there some five or ten minutes, his brother, thinking it strange he did not pursue his usual course of first opening the shutters, sent a man to see what was the matter, and the man found Mark suspended by a rope from the ceiling of an upper room, his feet hanging down the ladders which led to the shop below. An alarm was at once given, deceased was cut down, and medical assistance was immediately obtained, but life was found to be extinct.

Deceased was 40 years of age, and a widower, and for some time has been addicted to intemperance. For the last week he had been drinking heavily, and on the night before his death he slept very little, and appeared very much excited and restless. The rope by which he was suspended was a new sash-cord, so that it is probable it had been obtained on purpose, leading to the supposition that the rash act was premeditated.

At the inquest held on the body, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the TALBOT INN, on Saturday, the Jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity, the result of excessive drinking.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1869

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, an elderly man, named Isaiah Ward, was charged with cruelty to dogs by inciting them to fight, and also with refusing to leave a public house when requested to do so. Police-constable Bates stated that on the 30th March last he went to the house of Mr. *Armishaw*, the TALBOT INN, Market Place, and found defendant and three other men fighting dogs. Mr. *Armishaw* and witness endeavoured to induce them to desist and leave the premises, but they refused to do so. Two of the men were subsequently fined by the Magistrates, but the defendant had kept out of the way until that morning. Fined 21s and costs, or with the option of one month’s imprisonment.”

London Gazette 24/8/1869

“Notice is hereby given, that an agreement for the dissolution of a Friendly Society, called the Wednesbury Methodist Union, held at the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, was transmitted to the Registrar of Friendly Societies in England, on the 21st day of August, 1869.

John Tidd Pratt, Registrar of Friendly Societies in England. London, 21st day of August, 1869.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/12/1869

“At Wednesbury Police Court yesterday a carter named George Payne, formerly in the employ of Mr. Thomas Millington, of Mill Pool Colliery, West Bromwich, was charged, on remand, with stealing three loads of coal, and embezzling several sums of money belonging to his employer.

The prosecutor stated that the prisoner had been in his employ for about ten years, and it was his duty to deliver coal as he was directed by his (prosecutor’s) two sons, Thomas and Richard Millington. The prisoner was also authorised to receive money for the coal delivered, if the customers desired to pay for it, and account for the cash on coming back to the office. The prisoner had a house on the wharf at Wednesbury Bridge, where the coal was retained, and at night the ticket-books, used when loads were taken out, were removed to his (prisoner’s) house for protection. Prisoner had no authority to take out tickets from the book, and he was not aware he had done so until the 5th instant, when he discharged him. Payne had not accounted for three loads supplied to Mrs. *Armishaw*, of the TALBOT INN, on the 3rd, 18th, and 23rd of November.

In cross-examination the witness said that when his father died he took to the business, and after prisoner was discharged he found a number of sums of money which had not been accounted for. There were small debts amounting to about £200 which had not been paid into the hands of his employers by the prisoner.

Prisoner was next charged with embezzling, on the 25th of November, two sums of money, namely 11s, which he had received from Mrs. Owen, King Street, and 10s 9d from Mrs. Chorlton, Vicarage, Wednesbury.

Mr. Bayley said the prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge of embezzlement.

The charge of larceny was ultimately withdrawn.

The prisoner was sent to gaol for six months, as the prosecutor recommended him to mercy.”

1871 Census

Market Place – TALBOT INN

[1] *Henry Armishaw* (54), licensed victualler, born Aston, near Birmingham;

[2] *Harriet Armishaw* (55), wife, born Sheldon, Warwickshire;

[3] *Sarah Armishaw* (31), daughter, milliner, born Aston;

[4] *John Armishaw* (29), son, gentleman, born Aston;

[5] *Joseph Armishaw* (20), son, brewer, born Aston;

[6] *Margaret Armishaw* (16), daughter, waiter, born Aston;

[7] *Elizabeth Andrews* (16), general servant, born Sheldon, Warwickshire;

[8] *George Jones* (23), ostler, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Daily Post 13/4/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, a Servant, about 26, to make herself generally useful; one who has been used to a Public-house. Good character required.

Apply, TALBOT INN, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a SERVANT, about 26, to make herself generally useful; one who has been used to a Public-house. Good character required.—Apply, Talbot Inn, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/4/1873 - Advert

"Celebrated Trotter, Brown Orville (the property of Messrs. Yeomans, Pennymore Hayes, Four Ashes, near Wolverhampton), will serve mares this season. Blood and Nag Mares 3 guineas, Cart Mares 2 guineas. Groom's fee 5s.....

Tuesday, April 22nd, Brown Orville starts from Pennymore Hayes, through Norton, Brownhills, Pelsall, to the TALBOT INN, Digbeth, Walsall, from one till five, then to the TALBOT, Wednesbury, for the night."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/7/1873 - Advert

"For Sale, a handsome dark-brown Filly, fast, and quiet to ride and drive; four years old, about 15.1. No dealers need apply.

Apply at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury."

FOR Sale, a handsome dark-brown Filly, fast, and quiet to ride and drive: four years old, about 15.1. No dealers need apply. —Apply at the Talbot Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1873 - Advert

"For Sale, a half-bred Horse Colt, six months old, by Young Rattler.

Apply to Mr. *Armishaw*, TALBOT INN, Wednesbury."

FOR Sale, a half-bred bay Horse Colt, six months old, by Young Rattler.—Apply to Mr. Armishaw, Talbot Inn, Wednesbury.

Henry Armishaw died in the 1st quarter of 1874.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1874 - Advert

"Wanted, a strong active Servant. Good character indispensable.

Apply, Mrs. *Armishaw*, TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a strong, active Servant. Good character indispensable.—Apply, Mrs. Armishaw, Talbot Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Dudley Guardian 19/9/1874

"Mr. E. Hooper, the Coroner for the district, held an inquest on Monday morning, at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on the body of William Rogers, a painter, aged 73, who committed suicide on Sunday afternoon, by placing himself in front of a train which was running between Walsall and Wednesbury. The evidence taken showed that deceased had only left the West Bromwich Workhouse a few weeks, during which time he had been obtaining a living in a casual manner, and that a daughter had intended taking him back to the Workhouse again on Monday. On Sunday afternoon deceased deliberately knelt down in front of the 3.35pm local train from Walsall to Wednesbury as it approached the Riddings Lane Bridge. The wheels passed over his neck, cutting his head off. His legs and body were also much mangled, whilst his clothing was stripped from the body. A verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity was returned."

Midland Examiner 3/10/1874 - Advert

"To Brokers, Publicans, Parties Furnishing, and Others.

Important and Unreserved Sale at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Mr. Thomas Harford has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Monday, October 5th, 1874, the Contents Of Six Bedrooms and Other Goods, consisting of ten sets of bedsteads, feather and flock beds, bed clothes, carpets, dressing tables and washstands, toilet ware, chairs, eight-day case clocks, seven-octave pianoforte, six large ale barrels, from 280 to 400 gallons; four copper measures, from 1 to 4 gallons; together with sundry other goods.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Office and Residence, Dudley Road, Westbromwich."

Midland Examiner 3/4/1875 - Advert

"*Daniel Gorton*, TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Home-Brewed Ales of the best quality.

London and Dublin Stout.

Wines and Spirits of the finest brand.

Well-Aired Beds.

A commodious Assembly Room, available for Society Meetings and Club purposes."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/4/1875

“Last night, a numerously attended meeting of ratepayers took place at the Assembly Room at the TALBOT INN, Wednesbury, for the purpose of taking steps to establish a Ratepayers Protection Society for that town. Mr. Hatchett occupied the chair, and, in opening the proceedings, said the object of the proposed society was, not to pit themselves against the local governing bodies, but rather to assist them by becoming the mouthpiece of the ratepayers, through which their wishes could be made known It was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Thomas Kimberley, seconded by Mr. Evan Jones, that a Ratepayers Protection Society for the town of Wednesbury be formed.....”

Midland Examiner 24/11/1877

“On Monday, Mr. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on the body on William Aston, aged 14, who hung himself on Friday last. Mr. Superintendent Holland was preset on behalf of the police authorities.

Matilda Smith, wife of John Smith, a striker, said the deceased was her illegitimate son, and was in the habit of hawking firewood, which she bought and chopped up. His health and spirits had been generally good, and he had never threatened to destroy himself. Her husband had had occasion to correct him at times, but had never ill-treated him, nor had she done so. Until the last fortnight her husband had been out of work for seven weeks, and they had all been ‘half clemmed to death.’ There were four other children younger than the deceased. On Saturday week there was a disturbance between her husband and herself because she had upbraided him for taking drink. The deceased then squealed out, and some of the neighbours broke open the door. The boy was not struck on that occasion. John Smith, husband of this witness, also declared that the boy had not been ill-treated.

Ellen Smith, deceased’s half-sister was called, but not sworn. She said the deceased said he was going to hang himself. Then he put an old frock round his neck and a rope, which hung from the ceiling, outside the frock. Then he jumped off a chair. He made motions to have the chair put under him again. They did not do it, but ran for some of the neighbours. No one had told her what to say.

Sophia Spooner, the person who cut the body down, deposed that the deceased had been very badly treated both by his step-father and his mother, and that in consequence the poor lad had repeatedly threatened to destroy himself. On Saturday night week John Hollyhead, a neighbour, broke into the house and struck Smith because of his ill-treatment of the boy.

Ann Hollyhead, another of the neighbours, spoke to having heard the boy screaming several times when his step-father, as she believed, was beating him. On the night of Saturday week the deceased and his mother stayed in her house till after one o’clock, because of Smith’s ill-treatment of them.

Harriet Tonks, a neighbour, and Martha Marten, a neighbour, declared that they were not aware that the boy had been ill-treated.

The Coroner, in summing up, commented on the unsatisfactory nature of the evidence, and on the fact that someone had committed gross perjury, also remarking that the fact that the lad had placed an old dress round his neck seemed to favour the idea that he was at play, and that he had hung himself accidentally.

The mother, upon being recalled, said the deceased hung his brother about a fortnight ago, and was in the habit of hanging a couple of kittens that were in the house.

The Jury found that the deceased had accidentally hung himself while at play. On the suggestion of the Coroner they also appended a rider to the effect that the attention of the Local Board should be drawn to the wretched condition of the tenement in which the family lived, and to the need of a public mortuary in the town, the Coroner, in making the recommendation, stating that if the local authorities did not provide such a place he should bring the matter under the notice of the Home Office.

All the witnesses examined, six in number, had to sign their depositions with a cross.

Superintendent Holland stated that he had received a cheque for £2 2s from a gentleman in London, who wished it to be applied to the relief of the family through the incumbent of the parish.

Sergeant Curtis, in describing the house to the jury, said there was no furniture whatever down stairs, and up stairs there was only some small straw and a few bricks, covered with a filthy sheet. It appeared as if the family had slept down stairs, and used the upper rooms as closets, the floors being covered with ordure. The stench was so bad that he and others had to beat a retreat. They could not find a vacant spot in which to place the body.”

Birmingham Mail 23/3/1878 - Died

“On the 16th inst, aged 62 years, *Harriet*, the beloved wife of *Henry Armishaw*, late of Wednesbury; deeply regretted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/5/1878 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Inn and Vaults and House Property and Building Sites, in the Market Place, and most central part of the Town of Wednesbury.

By Roderick & Son. To be Sold by Auction (by direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. *Henry Armishaw*), at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday, June 18, 1878, at 6 o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. The important Freehold Premises, known as the TALBOT INN, situate in Market Place, at the corner of Spring Head, in the most central and best business part of Wednesbury, with spacious modern Liquor Vaults, and other ample business accommodation, good Cellarage, Public Weighing Machine, Stabling for twelve horses, large Yard, with gateway, and other extensive Premises; the whole now in the occupation of Mr. *Daniel Gorton*, as annual tenant, at a rent of £150.

The capital Freehold Property contains 1,153 square yards, and has a very important corner frontage. It is situate in the very centre and most improving part of the town, and is particularly well worth the attention of brewers and wine merchants.

Lot 2. A valuable Freehold Building Site, adjoining the said TALBOT INN.....

Lot 3. A Valuable Freehold Building Site, adjoining the Premises attached to the said TALBOT INN.....

Lot 4. Four Freehold Houses, adjoining Lot 3.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/2/1879

“Yesterday A. Hooper, Esq, held an inquest at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, relative to the death of Daniel Burkitt, miner, aged 28, who was killed on Saturday by a fall of roof while at work in the engine pit of Messrs. Shorthouse and Arley's colliery. It was stated in evidence that instead of using a ‘bunter’ for the purpose of loosening some coal, the deceased used an axe. Had he used the ‘bunter’ he would have been some ten feet away from the coal, and not immediately under it, as was the case. The Coroner said the deceased appeared to have brought about his death by his own carelessness, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wednesbury Herald 19/4/1879 - Advert

“TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Unreserved Clearing-out Sale in consequence of the Premises being taken down.

Mr. Joseph Whitehouse has received instructions from Mr. *D. Gorton*, to Sell by Public Auction, on Tuesday, April 22nd, 1879, all that Capital Brewing Plant, Liquor Shop Fixtures, Household Furniture, Excellent 7-Octave Cottage Pianoforte, a Valuable Cow, 10 Store Pigs, and other Effects, comprising 360 gallons Copper Boiler with Brass Tap, 100 gallon ditto, 48 gallon ditto, 400 gallon Wrought Iron Boiler, 38 bushel Mash Tub, Ale Coolers, Malt Crusher, 20 Ale Casks, Tubs &c, Ale and Spirit Measures, Glasses, Decanters, Jugs and Cups, Four-post and other Bedsteads, Straw Palliasses, Wool Beds, Dining and other Tables, Chairs, Sofa, Chest of Drawers, Pier and Swing Glasses, Timepieces, Cupboards, Carpets, Fenders, Fire Irons, Two-knife Chaff Engines, Washing and Wringing Machine, &c, &c.....”

It was rebuilt in 1879 for John Taylor Duce and Sons, wine merchants, of Church Hill.

Dundee Courier 26/6/1879

“It is not often one has the opportunity of making a coal mine in his own cellar, and the late tenants of the old TALBOT INN at Wednesbury will be surprised to learn that, on the removal of that house recently, a solid seam of good coal was found within seven or eight feet of the surface.”

Wednesbury Herald 31/7/1880

“On Monday, Messrs. J. T. Duce and Sons, wine and spirit merchants, of Bridge Street, opened their extensive wine and spirit vaults, stores and offices, which have been erected on the site on which the TALBOT formerly stood fronting the Market Place and Spring Head. It will be remembered that on the site above referred to the TALBOT and a number of other dilapidated houses stood and which were an eyesore to the authorities of the town, and also to the inhabitants of the Market Place. These dilapidated structures have now all been removed, and on the site has been erected a fine modern building, which on the whole must be regarded the best wine and spirit vaults and stores in the Midland Counties, for no expense has been spared in making the whole of the compartments as good as possible. The vaults are 40ft long, and 20ft wide; the market room 20ft long, and 10ft wide, and the out-door department 14ft long and 20ft wide. The interior of the above rooms are lined with incaustic tiles in panels. The ceilings are of pitch pine, moulded, stained, and varnished, and the counter fittings are and woodwork generally are

of dark oak. With a view of making the fittings appear as neat as possible, painted tiles have been introduced. The upper and lower portion of windows are filled in with stained glass. Each room is well ventilated, and is 15ft high. Adjoining the above named rooms is the retail department where single bottles of wine and spirits can be obtained. This room is also fitted up with oak. The wholesale department is under the same roof, and is three stories high. The main cellar is 75ft long, and 33ft wide in one span, and 10ft high. It is admirably fitted up, and when lighted with gas presents a very good appearance. The sides are fitted round with brick bins, capable of storing an immense quantity of wine. The second floor is the spirit store, and is fitted up with casks. There are also three offices, and altogether the building is the most complete of the kind in the district, and reflects great credit upon the architect, Mr. A. P. Brevitt, of Darlaston, and the builders, Messrs. William Trow and Sons, of Wednesbury."

1881 Census

Market Place – TALBOT INN

- [1] *Francis Botfield* (27), manager, spirit vaults, born Ironbridge;
- [2] *Bertha Botfield* (24), wife, born Broseley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Minnie Botfield* (2), daughter, born Ironbridge;
- [4] *Maude Botfield* (6 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Sarah Bentley* (17), general servant, born Astley Abbots, Shropshire;

Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1889 - Advert

"To Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants, Hotel Proprietors, Victuallers and Others.

Re John T. Duce and Sons Limited. In Liquidation.

Important Unreserved Sale of the Office Furniture, Loose Plant and Effects, at the TALBOT INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, comprising capital fire and thief proof Safes, mahogany knee-hole Tables, Chairs, Earth-closet, Stools; Thirty-one very excellent best Oak Cooper-made Spirit Store Casks, from 24 to 300 Gallons each; Bottling Machines, copper Measures, 3in Thrawling, Crates, Bottle Racks and Boxes; great quantity of Porter, Ale, and Wine Bottles; also the remaining Stock of Bottles Wines, comprising 142 dozens of Choice Port Wines, principally Sandemans and Grahams; 25 dozens Sherry, 47 dozens Hock, 48 dozens Champagne, 2 Quarter-casks of Port, 1 ditto Cherry Brandy, 1 ditto Docter, &c, which will be Sold by Auction, by W. J. Seal (by direction of C. H. Jaques, Esq, the Official Liquidator), on Friday Next, March 22.

Sale to commence at Half-past Ten o'clock am.

Catalogues and particulars to be had of Messrs. Marlow, Potter, and Martin, Solicitors, Walsall; Messrs. Woodward and Jaques, Chartered Accountants, Colmore Row; or the Auctioneer's Offices, 5, Union Street, both of Birmingham."

Birmingham Mail 12/3/1891 - Advert

"Van (light Spring) to be Sold cheap, good cover; suit hawker or broker.

TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury."

VAN (light Spring) to be sold cheap, good cover; suit hawker or broker.—Talbot Hotel, Market Place, Wednesbury.

1891 Census

High Street – TALBOT HOTEL

- [1] *Thomas Haggerty* (37), licensed victualler, born Liverpool;
- [2] *Mary Haggerty* (37), wife, born Little Stanney, Cheshire;
- [3] *Hugh J. Haggerty* (11), son, born Liverpool;
- [4] *Mary S. Haggerty* (8), daughter, born Liverpool;
- [5] *Thomas C. Haggerty* (6), son, born Liverpool;
- [6] *Florence Haggerty* (4), daughter, born Liverpool;
- [7] *Fred P. Haggerty* (2), son, born Liverpool;
- [8] *Sarah J. Holyhead* (21), servant, born Wednesbury;

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/12/1891

"On Sunday morning, at St. John's Rectory, Wednesbury (the residence of the Rev. F. R. Harpham), Mrs. Harpham, who had been suffering from a severe attack of neuralgia for several days, died suddenly. Mrs. Harpham complained of acute pain, and intimated that she should take some laudanum to give her relief. It is supposed that she took an excessive dose, for shortly afterwards she was found prostrate. Dr. Coleman was sent for and administered

restoratives, but they were of no avail, death taking place shortly after eleven o'clock. The deceased lady, who was in her 38th year, leaves several children, one of whom is only six weeks old. Much sympathy is expressed for the Rev. F. R. Harpham in the heavy loss he has sustained.

On Thursday Mr. E. Hooper, coroner for South Staffordshire, held an inquest at the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, touching the death of Mrs. Harpham.

Mr. Harpham, who was very much distressed, said he had been married for thirteen years. Since her confinement on November 5 his wife had been attended by Dr. Coleman. On Saturday morning last she had a violent attack of neuralgia, but he did not know, only from what was told him, that she had taken anything. There was nothing to trouble her that he was aware of. On Sunday morning while he was washing his hands, his daughter came and told him to come at once. He found his wife in front of the fire. She seemed to have swooned in the chair and to be very ill. He put her into bed, and she then said, 'Give me something.' Witness sent his eldest boy for a doctor, and when he asked her what was the matter she said 'she did not know. She felt dizzy. It must have been the opium,' and he then understood that she had been taking opium, because of the violent pain she had been in. When the doctor came he told witness that she was dead. His wife suffered from weakness of the heart. He had not cautioned her as to taking opium, because she did not take it at all frequently. She suffered from fainting fits, in which she appeared very ill. He was quite satisfied that his wife did not take the opium with any intention of doing herself any wrong, or that she took more than she had taken on previous occasions; but he believed that her recent confinement had made her weak and unable to stand the effects of the opium.

Amy Alcock, in service at the Hollies (Mr. Harpham's residence) also related the circumstances attending the death of Mrs. Harpham. She said that Mrs. Harpham wished to have thirty drops of the opium, but by the desire of witness she only took twenty-five drops. There was nothing to trouble her mind or to cause her to take an overdose of the opium.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence, that death was due to an Overdose of Opium."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1892 - Advert

"General Servant (good) Wanted; strong; used to plain cooking; good character indispensable; age 18 to 20; willing to assist in bar when required. Small family.

Apply, Mrs. *F. W. Morris*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/5/1893 - Advert

"General Servant Wanted, assist in bar; good character indispensable.

Mrs. *Morris*, TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury."

GENERAL Servant Wanted, assist in bar: good character indispensable.—Mrs. Morris, Talbot Hotel, Market Place, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1894 - Advert

"Sale of Valuable Old-Licensed Public House Property, with Possession, the OLD TALBOT INN, occupying the Most Important Situation in Wednesbury.

Messrs. Gray & Walker have received instructions from the Mortgagees to Sell by Auction, at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, March 8, 1894, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely.

All that Freehold Liquor Vaults and Premises, known as the OLD TALBOT, with the adjoining Wholesale Wine, Spirit, and Ale Stores, having long frontages to the Market Place and Springhead, the very centre of the busiest part of Wednesbury, the whole being in the occupation of *John G. Sykes*, Esq, at an annual rental of £270, and whose lease will expire at Lady-day, 1894, when the purchaser will be entitled to possession.

The Retail Department has attractive frontages to the Market Place and Springhead, is of handsome elevation, substantially built; and consists of Wine and Spirit Vaults, Private Bar or Snug, and well-appointed Smoke-room, the whole of which are lofty, spacious, conveniently arranged, and decorated with great taste, the walls having oak dados and encaustic tiles, and the ceilings being panelled with pitch pine. There are also Parlour and Kitchen, with ample Sleeping Accommodation and spacious Cellarage.

The Wholesale Department, which has an extensive frontage, comprises Counting-house, complete suite of Offices, Wine, Spirit, and Ale Stores, in Two Storeys and Basement, each 85ft by 36ft, with Lift; and in the large Yard, approached from Spring Head by a Gateway, are Cart Shed for four vehicles with room over, Gighouse, four-stalled Stable and Loose Box with loft over; and the total area of land is 1,240 square yards.

The Extremely Valuable Trade Fixtures and Fittings will be included in the Sale.

For further particulars apply to Edward Caddick Esq, Solicitor, West Bromwich; or to the Auctioneers, 3, Temple Row, Birmingham."

Birmingham Mail 5/8/1898

“John Willetts, of Cannon Street, Birmingham, was the plaintiff in an action against William James Schofield, of 125, Pershore Road, to recover damages for slander. The defendant pleaded justification. Mr. Harris, QC, and Mr. Dorsett were for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. Young, QC, and the Hon. R. Coventry for the defendant.

Mr. Harris explained that his client was an auctioneer and valuer who had recently set up in business for himself in Birmingham, and the defendant a licensed victualler having houses at various places in the district, who speculated in this class of property. The defendant expressing a desire to make a purchase of this nature, plaintiff introduced him to persons who were selling the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury. Schofield agreed to buy for about £6,000, and a deposit of £300 was paid. The plaintiff was afterwards instructed to find a purchaser for the house, but in this he was not successful. For his services Willetts received £50, and commission. Ultimately the defendant failed to complete the purchase of the TALBOT, and the deposit was lost. Schofield was evidently much displeased, and on various occasions he publicly denounced the plaintiff as a thief, threatened to get him imprisoned, and said he had seen Detective-Superintendent Van Helden about the matter.

There was a counter-claim for £350, said to have been advanced as the deposit alluded to, but Mr. Young said his case was that both parties had been equally interested in this phase of the transaction, and the real amount claimed was £200; £150 as half of the £300, and £50 paid for services.

The defendant was called to substantiate his allegation that the words complained of were true in substance and fact. To one question, in cross-examination, he gave a rather evasive reply, and on Mr. Harris observing that perhaps witness could not answer the interrogation, his Lordship interposed with the remark, ‘I’m quite sure he can’t; the fact is he is not in a fit condition to come into court.’ A jurymen: Hear, hear. Another witness for the defence admitted that he, the defendant, and his friends had had a few drinks in the course of the day, adding, ‘I’ve told the truth, my lord.’ His Lordship: On that point I’m quite sure you have. (Laughter.)

The jury found for the plaintiff on the claim and counter-claim, with £15 damages.”

Dudley Herald 13/8/1898

“At Birmingham Assizes on Wednesday, Enoch Holmes, Wednesbury, estate agent and valuer, sued *Edwin Butler*, formerly of the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, to recover £125, balance of a commission of £150. Mr. Vachell (instructed by Mr. Glover, Wednesbury) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Disturnal (instructed by Mr. Jones, Wednesbury) for defendant.

Mr. Vachell said that defendant was the owner of the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, and the action was to recover the balance of the commission defendant promised to plaintiff if he secured a purchaser for the TALBOT.

His Lordship: Haven’t I already tried that? I remember the TALBOT.

Mr. Disturnal: Yes, my Lord, you have; *Willetts v Schofield*.

Mr. Vachell: I’m sorry I did not hear that case.

His Lordship: You haven’t missed much, Mr. Vachell. The chief characteristic was that all the witnesses on one side were drunk (laughter).

Continuing, Mr. Vachell explained that about April, 1897, defendant informed plaintiff, who at that time was a clerk in the office of Mr. George Rose, solicitor, Wednesbury, that he desired to find a customer for the hotel. He told plaintiff that if he could find a customer for the house for £4,500 he should have £100 commission. Some negotiations took place, and defendant ultimately said that he wanted £6,000 for the house, and promised plaintiff if he found a customer at that price he would give him £150 commission. Mr. Willetts, auctioneer, approached defendant in June with a view to purchasing the house, and defendant referred him to plaintiff. Eventually Willetts, through plaintiff, made an offer of £6,050, and a deposit of £300 was paid. When the £300 was paid into the bank, defendant gave plaintiff a cheque for £25, and this, it was contended, was part of the commission.

Witnesses were called to prove that when they spoke to defendant about the sale of the hotel he referred them to plaintiff.

John Willetts, auctioneer, who gave evidence on behalf of plaintiff, said in reply to his lordship, that it was frequently the case in negotiating the sale of a public house for agents to say they had an offer larger than any they had received. Defendant’s version was that he gave the instructions to plaintiff to sell as the clerk of Mr. Rose, solicitor, who before the sale took place died. The sum of £150 was mentioned, but it was to include all legal costs connected with the sale.

His Lordship said that he had a good deal of difficulty in arriving at a decision in that matter. First of all he started with no prejudice in favour of plaintiff, who, while clerk to Mr. Rose, went and made a bargain as to commission for himself, but he did not think that was a matter which had anything to do with the Solicitor Act. He did not think Mr. Rose would have touched the matter of the sale of a public house on commission with a long pole. He believed that Holmes did make the bargain on his own behalf, and not Mr. Rose's behalf, with *Butler*. He did not think it reflected the slightest credit on Holmes to make such a bargain whilst the clerk to a respectable solicitor. However, on the evidence he was bound to give judgement for plaintiff of £125 with costs."

Birmingham Mail 4/1/1898

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Charles Burnell (35), who described himself as a medical practitioner, was indicted for the theft of a watch, the property of Harry Lewis, auctioneer. Prisoner was seen to take the watch out of prosecutor's bag at the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury. He was found guilty, and sentenced to 12 months' hard labour, previous convictions being recorded."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/6/1898 - Advert

"Wanted Cook-General, and Housemaid who can wait table; Wages £20 and 16.

Apply, Mrs. l'Anson, TABLOT HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, COOK-GENERAL, and HOUSEMAID who can wait table. Wages £20 and 16.—Apply, Mrs. l'Anson, Talbot Hotel, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/10/1898

"Ancient Order of Foresters. Greets Green and Wednesbury District.

The half-yearly meeting of the above branch was held on Monday, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury. The District Chief Ranger (Bro. C. H. Bowcott) took the chair at 2pm, and the usual routine of business was proceeded with. The auditors reports on the financial position of the branch were received, and it showed that, though heavy calls had been made upon the funds, progress was still being made. A very pleasant break occurred about half-way through, when a present of a valuable gold watch was made to Bro. Noah Oldbury, in recognition of thirty years' service as trustee of the branch....."

William l'Anson was also a brewer. [1900]

Walsall Observer 1/12/1900

"On Saturday a most successful meeting was held at the Loyal St. George Lodge, No.1980, Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, at their lodge house, TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, for making new members and presentation of framed emblems to three brothers....."

Hickman and Pullen had their brewery here.

Wednesbury Leader 30/3/1901

"On Thursday afternoon Mr. H. A. Pearson (Coroner) held an inquest at the TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, on the body of Enoch While (50), formerly residing in Holden Road, Wednesbury, who met with his death on Tuesday evening.

From the evidence it appeared that the deceased man, on Tuesday afternoon, was attempting to get into his trap, near the NAGS HEAD INN, Ablewell Street, Walsall, when the horse suddenly bolted, throwing him violently to the footpath. The deceased dropped on his head and shoulder. Assistance was obtained and he was taken into the public house, where he was seen by Dr. Leighton, but he expired two hours later in Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, after being taken to his home.

Dr. Crew stated that death was due to dislocation of the neck. In connection with the case the necessity of having ambulances in every town arose. He commented that had the deceased been brought home in a proper ambulance, instead of being huddled in a cart, his life would have been prolonged sufficiently for him to have seen his family before his death.

The jury, in returning a verdict of Accidental Death, recommended that the Town Council be requested to provide a horse ambulance."

1901 Census

Market Place – TALBOT HOTEL

- [1] William l'Anson (38), publican and brewer, born Kepwick, Yorkshire;
- [2] Christine l'Anson (33), wife, born Crook, Durham;
- [3] Anthony l'Anson (13), son, born Crook, Durham;
- [4] Irene l'Anson (12), daughter, born Carlisle;
- [5] William l'Anson (10), son, born North Stocklan, Durham;
- [6] Christine l'Anson (8), daughter, born Bramley, Yorkshire;
- [7] Basil l'Anson (5), son, born Exmouth, Devon;
- [8] Sarah Ann Jones (24), domestic servant, born Bilston;
- [9] Joyce Jones (22), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Wednesbury Leader 6/4/1901

“The members of Loyal St. George Lodge (No.1980) of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, held their quarterly meeting on Saturday last at their Lodge House, TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place. There was a very large attendance of officers and members present.....”

Tipton Herald 24/1/1903

“Manchester Unity of Oddfellows. On Saturday evening the annual meeting of the Loyal St. George Lodge (No.1980) was held at the Lodge House, TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury. Bro. C. Yates was in the chair, and Bro. W. Birch in the vice chair. There was a good number of members present.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/4/1905

“Charles Evans, of Queen Street, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a quantity of bottled beer, value 5s, the property of *William l'Anson*, landlord of the TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, on the 13th inst. The beer was stored under the counter at the TALBOT HOTEL, and it was alleged that prisoner, who was a customer, removed the bottles by reaching over the counter. Altogether 20 bottles were missing, and the prosecutor stated that prisoner was a character he did not wish to have in his house, and always ordered him out.

Prisoner, who was arrested by Police-constable Bowdler, was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.”

AND

Lichfield Mercury 30/6/1905

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Charles Henry Evans (29), fruit hawker, was indicted for stealing twenty bottles of Bass's ale, the property of *William l'Anson*, at Wednesbury, between 6th and 19th April. Mr. Thomas prosecuted.

The evidence showed that prosecutor keeps the TALBOT HOTEL at Wednesbury, and put the beer under the counter to get in condition. Prisoner visited the hotel, and during the absence of the prosecutor he stole the bottles of beer. It was stated that prisoner visited the house on three occasions, and stole the beer.

Prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to twelve months with hard labour.”

London Gazette 1/2/1907

“In the Matter of a Deed of Assignment for the benefit of Creditors, executed on the 12th day of October, 1906, by *Thomas Sebastian Morris*, Licensed Victualler, of the TALBOT HOTEL Market Place, Wednesbury.

The creditors of the above named *Thomas Sebastian Morris*, who have not already sent in their claims, are required, on or before the 15th day of February, 1907, to send in their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims, to me, the undersigned, John Tindall Bunch, of Imperial-buildings, Bridge-street, Walsall, Chartered Accountant, the Trustee under the said deed, and to execute or assent in writing to the said deed, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated this 30th day of January, 1907.

J. Tindall Bunch, Trustee.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1908

“Remarkable statements were made at Walsall County Court yesterday, during the hearing of a case in which *William l’Anson*, late proprietor of the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, was sued by Samuel Williams, tailor, Union Street, Wednesbury, for £2 5s, being the price of a suit of clothes supplied for the defendant’s son, aged 13.

Mr. Tench (for the plaintiff) hinted that there were circumstances he did not wish to mention; but subsequently Mr. Cooper (for the defendant) said he did not think he need mince matters. He could speak out plainly, and tell the court that in 1905, when these clothes were supplied, the defendant’s wife ran away with, so he asserted, the then Mayor of Wednesbury, with whom, he alleged, she was at present living in New Zealand. Defendant knew nothing about the transaction with plaintiff, and objected to paying for his children to be clothed for his wife to take them away with her.

In reply to Judge Smith, Mr. Cooper added that divorce proceedings were now pending.

Further evidence was given, and it was stated that the boy ordered the goods subsequent to his mother leaving home, and afterwards met his mother by arrangement in Birmingham.

Mr. Cooper said that Mrs. *l’Anson*’s pleadings in the divorce action which was pending showed that his wife left home on February 14, 1905, and these goods were supplied a month later.

Defendant was called, and denied any knowledge of the order given to plaintiff; and Mr. Cooper said he could prove by detective’s reports that the boy in question was now with his mother in New Zealand.

Judge Smith said he was of opinion Mrs. *l’Anson* exceeded her authority in getting goods to take with her out of the country, and he entered a non-suit with costs.”

Dundee Evening Telegraph 30/7/1909

“In the London Divorce Division, damages of £1,500 were awarded to Mr. *William l’Anson*, formerly of the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, and now of Arundel Street, Walsall, who proved that his wife Christiana had been guilty of misconduct with Mr. Isaiah Oldbury, formerly an axle manufacturer, and three times Mayor of Wednesbury, an alderman of the borough, a member of the County Council, and a Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Frampton explained, in opening the case for the petitioner, that the respondent and the co-respondent are now in New Zealand, and that the latter had unsuccessfully appealed to be dismissed from the suit on the ground of domicile. They both denied the misconduct, and Mrs. *l’Anson* alleged a number of matrimonial offences against her husband, including condonation, connivance, cruelty, misconduct, and unreasonable delay in presenting the petition. The petitioner, who married in 1889, was formerly a member of the Durham Constabulary, and in 1897 he took the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, his wife assisting him in the business. The co-respondent, a married man with a grown-up family, became a frequent customer, and this was the subject of gossip in the town. The petitioner heard rumours, and made objection to the frequency of the visits, though he did not think there was anything serious. On the morning of February 14, 1905, however, Mrs. *l’Anson* was missing from the house, and inquiries showed that quite early on that date, St. Valentine’s Day, she had taken the train from Wednesbury to Birmingham, carrying away with her all the money which happened to be in the hotel at the time. Further inquiries indicated that she had gone to America, but she could not be traced. Six weeks later the petitioner’s three children disappeared, and he then began to suspect the co-respondent, who at that time was still Mayor of Wednesbury.

In September, 1905, it was mentioned in the Council Chamber and in the local papers that the Mayor was about to take a holiday, that he was going to South Africa on business and pleasure combined. But he did not resign his office till November, and he held his position on the City Council till the expiration of the term.

At the beginning of 1907 the petitioner ascertained that the co-respondent, with Mrs. *l’Anson* and the three children, had settled at Whites Bridge, Christchurch, New Zealand, where the co-respondent had acquired ninety-seven acres of land and had become a farmer and cattle dealer. The petitioner then made inquiries about the past, and found that during the co-respondent’s visits to the hotel in 1903 his wife gave instructions that no one was to be admitted into the commercial room, and that she and the co-respondent were on more than one occasion seen to leave the same room.

Counsel commented strongly on the fact that every matrimonial offence it was possible to impute had been alleged against the husband by his wife and the co-respondent, and pointed out that when particulars were asked for they could not be given in any detail, and not one date could be stated.

Mr. Hume Williams, KC, who represented the respondent and co-respondent, at the close of Mr. Frampton’s opening statement sought to explain the curious position he occupied. He said that at the beginning of May this year, after the evidence had been collected for the purposes of the trial, the London solicitors received from the solicitors acting for the parties in New Zealand a letter stating that the respondent and co-respondent had changed their address, and they (the solicitors) were unable to give any information as to their present address. ‘Under the circumstances,’ the

letter continued, 'we cabled you to stay defence in the action, for we presume that this is the only thing we can do, as it is clear that Mr. Oldbury and Mrs. *l'Anson* would not face any further examination.' Counsel asked the advice of the learned Judge, and handed, for his lordship's perusal, the proofs of the evidence he had in support of the charge.

The President: I cannot advise you, but if any evidence of the allegations of cruelty and misconduct made against the petitioner is given I shall take care that the particulars are sent to the Kings Proctor.

Mr. Hume Williams decided that he would not further contest the case.

The petitioner briefly gave evidence of the facts outlined, and the proof of misconduct having been given by a former servant at the TALBOT HOTEL, and by Mr. J. F. Johnson, a customer, the jury found the misconduct proved, and gave the damages at £1,500. They formally found that the charges alleged against the petitioner had not been made out.

His lordship granted the decree nisi, with the usual costs."

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/10/1909

"Staffordshire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Edward Morris, 27, turner, on bail, was indicted for unlawfully uttering a false and counterfeit coin at Wednesbury, on July 27. Mr. Cranston prosecuted, and Mr. R. J. Lawrence defended.

Theresa Lewis, a barmaid, employed at the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, stated that at 8.15pm on July 27 she was serving in the bar when the prisoner came in and asked to be supplied with half a pint of ale. Subsequently, he produced a coin resembling a half-crown from his waistcoat pocket, and tendered it in payment for the ale. Witness thought the coin was a bad one, so she took it to the manager.

Frank Jones, manager of the hotel, said when he told the prisoner that the half-crown was a 'dead wrong one,' the prisoner said, 'No, it isn't; I have plenty more like it.' Later witness communicated with the police.

William Perry, licensee of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, stated that at about 7.30pm on July 27 the prisoner came into the bar and asked for a glass of beer. Witness served the prisoner, who tendered him a half-crown, which he found to be a bad one. On his telling the prisoner that the coin was a false one, the prisoner said, 'I know where I had it from.' Witness recommended the prisoner to take it back, and get it changed while it was new, remarking that if he tried to 'plant' it he would get 'pinched.'

Harry Odhams, a cycle-maker, of Wednesbury, gave corroborative evidence.

Charles Albert Westley, silversmith, of Wednesbury, stated the coin in question was counterfeit and valueless.

Police evidence having been given, the prisoner, on oath, said he honestly believed the coin to be a good one.

The jury found the prisoner guilty and recommended him to mercy on account of his previous good character.

Sentence of one month in the second division was passed."

It was the headquarters of Wednesbury Town Bicycle Club. [1910]

1911 Census

Market Place – TALBOT HOTEL

[1] *Frank Jones* (32), hotel manager, born Birmingham;

[2] *Eva Jones* (31), wife, married 3 years, hotel manageress, born Birmingham;

[3] *Frank Ambrose Jones* (1), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Sophia Bromwich* (61), mother, widow, born Northampton;

[5] *Kate Hughes* (18), domestic servant, born Coseley:

Walsall Observer 9/9/1911

"Mr. A. J. Glover applied for the temporary transfer of the TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, from *Frank Jones* to *George Thomas Cartwright*. He explained that if the transfer was granted *Cartwright* would be the holder of two licenses, he having for a number of years kept the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. He knew the bench did not care for one man to have two licenses at the same time, and if the justices still held this view he should ask for the temporary transfer of the license of the WHITE SWAN from Mr. *Cartwright* to his wife, who would stay there until a suitable tenant could be found. If the bench would, however, grant the transfer, and allow *Cartwright* to still be in possession of the WHITE SWAN, he gave an undertaking to find a tenant as soon as possible. The Bench granted the transfer on Mr. Glover's undertaking to find a new tenant for the WHITE SWAN INN."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 8/11/1912

"A dinner and presentation took place at the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday evening, given by the staff of Messrs. Hickman and Pullen, the Brewery, Wednesbury, to Mr. A. J. Dawes on the occasion of severing his connection with the firm to take up a position as tied-house manager with Messrs. M. A. Sedgwick and Co., of Watford. In the unavoidable absence of the principals, who wrote wishing Mr. Dawes every prosperity in his new undertaking, Mr. A. W. Houliston occupied the chair, and on behalf of the staff presented Mr. Dawes with an inlaid rosewood drawing-room clock. Mr. Dawes appropriately returned thanks."

George Cartwright was a committee member of Wednesbury and District Free and Protection Society. [1918]

Closed

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/5/1927 - Advert

"Re Messrs. Hickman and Pullen Ltd, the Brewery, Wednesbury.

Important Sale of Five Licensed Houses.....

STANDEFORD BAR, Wednesbury, and the adjoining Labour Exchange, Bottling Stores, Assembly Rooms, Garages, Stabling, Large Yard, etc."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1927

"Messrs. Boswell and Tomlin, Wolverhampton, offered eleven licensed houses for sale at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, yesterday.....

The freehold property formerly known as the TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury, and now comprising the Wednesbury Labour Exchange, was withdrawn."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/5/1927

"An important sale of Staffordshire and Worcestershire licensed houses was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, when Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, of Wolverhampton, disposed of eight of the twelve lots offered.....

Of the six properties belonging to Messrs. Hickman and Pullen Ltd, the Brewery, Wednesbury.....

The STANDEFORD BAR, Labour Exchange, and Bottling Stores, Wednesbury, was withdrawn."

Kils 'n' Kins (Autumn 2006)

"TALBOT HOTEL, Wednesbury The building now houses a furniture store, employment exchange, Co-op, post office, undertakers and hairdressers."

TO be SOLD by private Contract, at the Dwelling-house of Mr. Rogers, situate at the Talbot in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford (at any future Day when called upon by any Person) All the Household Goods and Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Coppers, and Fixtures, in the said Dwelling-house, Brewhouse, and Stables, &c. together with a great Variety of exceeding good Barrels, Iron-bound, particularly five or six large Casks, Iron-bound, proportionably strong, and will hold from 308 to 351 Gallons each; a proper Person may be accommodated with the Whole, or Part of the above, at a fair Appraisalment, and put into Possession of the said Dwelling-house immediately, provided such Purchaser is well recommended to the Proprietor of the said Buildings and Premises, it being a good-accustomed and convenient House, and well situated for public Business.—For Particulars enquire of the said Mr. Rogers, or John Heeley, at the Sun-fire-office, in Walfall.

1784

TO be Sold, by Auction, on the Premises, by JOS. PAYTON, on Friday, November 17, 1786, the Whole of the Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, &c. belonging to Mr. Constable, at the Talbot Inn, Wednesbury (who is going to reside in Birmingham) Particulars of which will be inserted in next Monday's Gazette. To be Sold by Private Contract, several Shares in the Dudley Canal Extension.—To be Let, a genteel House and Warehouse, in St. Paul's Square; also a House and Shop near St. Bartholomew's Chapel. Enquire of the Auctioneer.

1786

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, on the Premises, by JOSEPH PAYTON, on Friday and Saturday next, the 17th and 18th of November instant, The Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, &c. belonging to Mr. Constable, at the Talbot Inn, Wednesbury, consisting of Bedsteads, with Moreen and Check Furniture, Goose and other Feather Beds, Mahogany Cheffs of Drawers, Mahogany Bureau, Dining, Card, and Pillar Tables, Mahogany Chairs, Pier and Swing Glasses, an Eight-day and Thirty-hour Clock, a very good Dial Time Piece, very good Kitchen Requisites, large Copper and Iron Furnaces, Iron-bound Tubs, Hogheads, and Half-hogheads; twenty Dozen bottled Cyder, Glass Bottles, and various other Articles, as expressed in the Catalogues, which may be had at the Angel Inn, Wolverhampton; Swan Inn, Dudley; Bull's Head Inn, Walsall; New Inn, Birkone; Place of Sale and of the Auctioneer, St. John's-street, Birmingham.—The Sale to begin each Morning at Ten o'Clock.

1786

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the House of Thomas Hawe, the Talbot and Blue Ball Inn, in Wednesbury, on Friday the 19th Day of February inst. at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon.

J. WALL.

February 15, 1796.

1796

Bilston Turnpike Tolls to be let.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates, or Turnpikes, called Gibbet Lane and Catchem's Corner Gates, and Fighting Cocks Bar, and Ettingshall Side Bar, upon the Turnpike Road leading from High Bullen, in Wednesbury, to the further End of Darlaston Lane, next the Portway, and from thence through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be LET by AUCTION, for one whole Year (commencing the first of January next) at the House of Simeon Constable, the Talbot Inn, in Wednesbury aforesaid, on Tuesday the 31st Day of December instant, at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon of the same Day, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, "For regulating the Turnpike Roads;" which Tolls were let on Lease the last Year, for the Sum of 436l. clear of the Expences of collecting them, and will be put up at such Sum as the Trustees then present shall direct.

Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must, at the same Time, make a Deposit of five per Cent. and give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

By Order of the Trustees,

JOHN WILLIM,

Bilston, December 2, 1799.

Clerk and Treasurer.

1799

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the House of Mr. Simeon Constable, the Talbot and Blue Ball Inn, in Wednesbury, on Friday the 2d Day of May next, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon.

J. WALL.

West Bromwich, April 28, 1800.

1800

WEDNESBURY BUILDING SOCIETY.

IT is intended to erect twelve Dwelling Houses, not exceeding the Value of 100l. each, on Land at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, to be finished on or before the 29th Day of September, 1828.—Persons inclined to contract for the erecting and finishing of such Dwelling Houses, are desired, without Delay, to deliver Plans and Proposals, in Writing, sealed up, and directed for "the Committee of the Wednesbury Building Society, to be left at Mr. Hatley's, the Talbot Inn, Wednesbury;" and Persons having Bricks to dispose of, are requested to send Proposals for Sale of any Quantity not exceeding 200,000, to be delivered at Wednesbury, sealed up, and directed as above mentioned.

1808

NOTICE.

ALL Persons who have any Claim or Demand against the Society held at the Talbot Inn, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, called the Wednesbury Building Society, are desired to send their Accounts, containing Particulars, to Mr. Thomas Espley, of Wednesbury aforesaid, on or before the 2d Day of May next, in Order that the same may be examined, and if correct, discharged; and all Persons who stand indebted to the said Society, or to the Committee of the same, are required to pay their respective Debts to the said Mr. Espley immediately, or they will be sued for the same without other Notice.

E. and S. CROWTHER, Attornies.

Wednesbury, Feb. 16, 1814.

To the ancient and venerable Order of Druids in Union, Lodge No. 53

THE Anniversary of the above Lodge will be held at Brother Joseph Hatley's, Talbot Inn, Wednesbury, when the Company of any regular made Brother in Union will be esteemed a Favour.

By Order of the M. N. A.

J. MARTIN, Secretary.

1814

Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Tolls.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Road leading from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be LET by AUCTION at the House of Joseph Price, the Talbot Inn, in Wednesbury aforesaid, on Tuesday the 23 Day of November next, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon, for the Term of one Year, commencing the 1st Day of January next, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, "for regulating the Turnpike Roads;" which Tolls were let on Lease the last Year at the under-mentioned Sums, clear of the Expences of collecting them, and will be put up at those Sums respectively.

Whoever happen to be the best Bidder, must at the same Time give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for the Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct, and make a Deposit of one Month's Rent for each Lot.

Lot		£.	s.	d.
1.—Cock Heath Gate	...	276	0	0
2.—Bilston Bridge, High Street, and Cold Lanes Gates	...	422	0	0
3.—Catchem's Corner Gate, Fighting Cocks Bar, Ettingshall Bar, and Ettingshall Side Bar	...	170	0	0
4.—Gibbet Lane Gate	...	374	0	0

N.B. No Person will be suffered to bid unless his Surety be present, ready to give the Security required.

By Order of the Trustees,

JOHN WILLIM,

Clerk and Treasurer.

Bilston, September 29, 1819.

1819

Turnpike Road from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

THE next General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the Talbot Inn, in Wednesbury, on Tuesday the 24th Day of July instant, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon precisely, to transact the Business before Dinner, and dine at Three.

JOHN WILLIM,

Clerk to the Trustees.

1821

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by T. WALTERS, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 10th and 11th of April, 1827, the Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, Stock in Trade of Ale, Wines, and Spirits, Licences, Good-will, with immediate Possession of that very desirable Public House, known by the Sign of the TALBOT INN, situate in the midst of the Market-place, Wednesbury, and late in the possession of Mr. Joseph Price, Innkeeper, &c. but now a bankrupt.

The Furniture consists of very excellent four-post mahogany tent and other bedsteads, fine feather beds, mattresses, bed and table linen, glass and china, wardrobes, chests of drawers and chets, mahogany dining table with ends, oak tables, dressing ditto, tea ditto, and deal ditto, floor and bed-side carpets, mahogany, oak, ash, and other chairs, grates, fenders, fire-irons, coppers, iron boilers, mashing and other tubs, barrels, containing some thousand gallons of ale, wine, and spirits, horse, carts, gig and harness: particulars of which will appear in catalogues in due time.

N.B. Stabling for at least thirty horses, with extensive and entire Yard, and a pleasant Kitchen Garden.

The Licences and Good-will to be sold on the first day, at twelve o'clock.

FREEHOLD HOUSE, &c.

TO be SOLD by Auction, by THOS. WALTERS, on Monday, May 21, 1827, subject to conditions to be then produced, at Mr. James Hazeley Francis's, sign of the Blue Boar Inn, Newtown, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, pursuant to an order of the major part of the commissioners in a commission of bankruptcy awarded and issued forth against Joseph Price, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Victualler, dealer and chapman, a bankrupt, between the hours of three and five o'clock in the afternoon:—all that Freehold substantial Tenement or Dwelling House, with front and back kitchen, cellar, and two sleeping-rooms, &c. situate in Old Meeting-street, Newtown, Bilston aforesaid, and in the possession of Margaret Atkins, as tenant at will.

For particulars apply to Mr. Benson, at his office, in Cherry-street, Birmingham, or the Auctioneer, Bilston.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons standing indebted to the Estate of Mr. JOSEPH PRICE, Innkeeper and Dealer, late of Wednesbury, a bankrupt, are requested to pay the same to Mr. G. W. Court, Assignee to the estate, within fourteen days from the date hereof, or they will be proceeded against without further notice.

R. M. BENSON, Solicitor to the Commission.

Wednesbury, July 9, 1827.

1827

THE Commissioners in a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued against JOSEPH PRICE, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Victualler, dealer and chapman, intend to meet on the thirtieth day of December instant, at twelve o'clock at noon, at the house of Mr. John Machin, called the Union Inn, in Union-street, in Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, in order to audit the accounts of the Assignees of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt under the said commission.

T. LANE PARKER,

Solicitor to the Assignees under the said Commission.

THE Commissioners in a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and issued against JOSEPH PRICE, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Victualler, dealer and chapman, intend to meet on the thirtieth day of December instant, at one o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. John Machin, called the Union Inn, in Union-street, in Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, in order to make a 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.

T. LANE PARKER,

Solicitor to the Assignees under the said Commission.

1828

THE Creditors who have proved their debts under Commission of Bankrupt awarded against JOSEPH PRICE, of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, In keeper and Victualler, dealer and chapman, may receive dividend of one shilling in the pound on their respective debt on application at the office of Mr. Luckock, Accountant, N 3, Cherry-street.

T. LANE PARKER,
Solicitor to the Assignees.

1829

**TO PARTIES DESIROUS OF DISPOSING OF
FURNITURE AND OTHER EFFECTS
WITH PRIVACY, CARE, AND EXPEDITION.**

MESSRS. TAYLOR and BILLS respectfully inform the Public, that they have taken a large Room at the Talbot Inn, Market-place, Wednesbury, for the convenience of those parties who are desirous of disposing of Furniture and other Effects with privacy and expedition. Sale Accounts settled at the close of the sale each day.

Messrs. T. and B. trust, by unremitting attention, confidence, and care of articles consigned to their trust, to merit a share of public patronage.

A Sale of modern and useful Household Furniture, in the Auction Room at the above Inn, this day, to commence at ten o'clock.

Offices, High-street, Wednesbury.

1841

TALBOT INN, WEDNESBURY.

TAYLOR and BELLS respectfully make known to parties who wish to engage in the Public Business that they have at their disposal, with immediate possession, the above excellent old-established and well accustomed PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of the TALBOT, which is most eligibly situated in the centre of the Market Place of the above named town, now carrying on a lucrative trade, for which it has been notorious for a number of years.

The house and premises are so replete with every convenience, and possessing so many advantages with regard to situation, &c., that it merits the immediate attention of any industrious and economical individual who wishes to embark in the above line of trade. The present occupier is leaving solely in consequence of other engagements.

The Stock of ale and spirits (which is small), brewing vessels, &c., to be taken to at a fair valuation. Coming in about £200. Rent moderate.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply on the premises, or at the offices of THOMAS M. BILLS, Auctioneer and Surveyor, Wednesbury.

1842

A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY.

TO BE DISPOSED OF BY PRIVATE TREATY, the GOODWILL, POSSESSION, and STOCK-IN TRADE of a well-established GUN, GUN-IMPLEMENT, and GENERAL IRON-MONGER'S BUSINESS, situated in Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. The present Proprietor is leaving England.

For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to Mr. J. Guest, Talbot Inn, Market Place, Wednesbury.

1854

**TO BROKERS, PUBLICANS, PARTIES FURNISHING,
AND OTHERS.**

**IMPORTANT AND UNRESERVED SALE
AT THE TALBOT INN, MARKET PLACE,
WEDNESBURY.**

MR. THOMAS HARFORD has received instructions TO SELL BY AUCTION, on MONDAY, OCT. 5th, 1874, the CONTENTS OF SIX BEDROOMS and OTHER GOODS, consisting of ten sets of bedsteads, feather and flock beds, bed clothes, carpets, dressing tables and washstands, toilet ware, chairs, eight-day case clocks, seven-octave pianoforte, six large ale barrels, from 280 to 400 gallons; four copper measures, from 1 to 4 gallons; together with sundry other goods.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Office and Residence, Dudley Road, Westbromwich.

1874

**DANIEL GORTON,
TALBOT INN,
MARKET PLACE, WEDNESBURY.**

HOME-BREWED ALES of the best quality.
LONDON AND DUBLIN STOUT.
WINES and SPIRITS of the finest brand.

WELL-AIRED BEDS.

A commodious ASSEMBLY ROOM, available for Society Meetings and Club purposes.

1875

**VALUABLE FREEHOLD INN AND VAULTS
AND
HOUSE PROPERTY AND BUILDING SITES,**

In the MARKET PLACE and most central part of the Town of WEDNESBURY.

BY RODERICK & SON.—To be Sold by Auction (by direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. Henry Armishaw), at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on TUESDAY, June 18, 1874, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced—

LOT 1.—The important FREEHOLD PREMISES, known as "THE TALBOT INN," situate in the Market Place, at the corner of Spring Head, in the most central and best business part of Wednesbury, with spacious modern Liquor Vaults, and other ample business accommodation, good Cellarage, Public Weighing Machine, Stabling for twelve horses, large Yard, with gateway, and other extensive Premises; the whole now in the occupation of Mr. Daniel Gorton, as annual tenant, at a rent of £150.

This capital Freehold Property contains 1,153 square yards, and has a very important corner frontage. It is situate in the very centre and most improving part of the town, and is particularly well worth the attention of brewers and wine merchants.

1878

To Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants, Hotel Proprietors, Victuallers, and Others.—By John T. Duce and Sons (Limited). In Liquidation.—Important Unreserved Sale of the OFFICE FURNITURE, LOOSE PLANT, and Effects,

**AT THE TALBOT INN, MARKET PLACE,
WEDNESBURY.**

comprising capital fire and thief proof Safes, mahogany knee-hole Tables, Chairs, Earth-closet, Stools; Thirty-one very excellent best Oak Cooper-made SPIRIT STORE CASKS, from 24 to 300 Gallons each; Bottling Machines, copper Measures, 3in. Throwing Crates, Bottle Racks and Boxes; great quantity of Porter, Ale, and Wine Bottles; also the valuable remaining Stock of

BOTTLED WINES,

comprising 142 dozens of Choice Port Wines, principally SANDEMAN'S and GRAHAM'S; 25 dozens Sherry, 47 dozens Hock, 48 dozens Champagne, 2 Quarter-casks of Port, 1 ditto Cherry Brandy, 1 ditto Docter, &c., which will be Sold by Auction,

BY W. J. SEAL (by direction of C. H. Jaques, Esq., the Official Liquidator), on FRIDAY NEXT, March 22. Sale to commence at Half-past Ten o'clock a.m.

Catalogues and particulars to be had from Messrs. Marlow, Potter, and Martin, Solicitors, Walsall; Messrs. Woodward and Jaques, Chartered Accountants, Colmore Row; or the Auctioneer's Office, 5, Union Street, both of Birmingham.

1889

GENERAL Servant (good) Wanted: strong; used to plain cooking; good character indispensable; age 18 to 20; willing to assist in bar when required. Small family.—Apply, Mrs. F. W. Morris, The Talbot Hotel, Market Place, Wednesbury.

1892

SALE OF VALUABLE OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE PROPERTY,

With possession.

THE "OLD TALBOT" INN,

occupying the most important situation in WEDNESBURY.

MESSRS. GRAY and WALKER have received instructions from the Mortgagees to **SELL** by **AUCTION**, at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, on **THURSDAY**, March 8, 1894, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely—all that **FREEHOLD LIQUOR VAULTS and PREMISES**, known as the "Old Talbot," with the adjoining **WHOLESALE WINE, SPIRIT, and ALE STORES**, having long frontages to the Market Place and Spring Head, the very centre of the busiest part of Wednesbury; the whole being in the occupation of John G. Sykes, Esq., at an annual rental of £270, and whose Lease will expire at Lady Day, 1894, when the Purchaser will be entitled to possession.

The **RETAIL DEPARTMENT** has attractive frontages to the Market Place and Spring Head, is of handsome elevation, substantially built; and consists of Wine and Spirit Vaults, Private Bar or Snug, and well-appointed Smoke Room, the whole of which are lofty, spacious, conveniently arranged, and decorated with great taste, the walls having oak dados and encaustic tiles, and the ceilings being panelled with pitch pine. There are also Parlour and Kitchen, with ample Sleeping Accommodation and spacious Cellarage.

The **WHOLESALE DEPARTMENT**, which has an extensive frontage, comprises Counting House, complete suite of Offices, **WINE, SPIRIT, and ALE STORES**, in Two Storeys and Easement, each 80ft. by 36ft., with Lift; and in the large Yard, approached from Spring Head by a Gateway, are Cart Shed for four vehicles with room over, Gighouse, four-stalled Stable and Loose Box with loft over; and the total area of Land is 1,270 square yards.

The Extremely Valuable **TRADE FIXTURES and FURNITURE** will be included in the Sale.

For further particulars apply to Edward Oadish, Esq., Solicitor, West Bromwich; or to the Auctioneers, 8, Temple Row, Birmingham.

1894

Turnpike Road from Wednesbury, through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford.

THE next General Meeting of the Trustees will be held at the Talbot, in Wednesbury, on Monday the 26th Day of June instant, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon.

JOHN WILLIAMS, Clerk to the Trustees.

1899

The "Talbot" Hotel

MARKET PLACE,

.. WEDNESBURY.



The Billiard, Coffee, Lounge and Smoke Rooms, are replete with every Comfort.

ALES



STOUT.

HICKMAN & PULLEN

Brewers, Maltsters, Wine, Spirit and Hop Merchants,
THE BREWERY, : : WEDNESBURY.

— Telephone No. 18. —

1906

TALBOT

Wood Green, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Watson [1787]
Hemersley [1818]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/2/1787 - Advert

"Timber.

To be Sold by Auction, at Mrs. *Watson's*, the Sign of the TALBOT, in Wood Green, near Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, at Three o'Clock, on Monday the 19th Day of February Instant.

One Hundred and Seventy-seven Oak Trees, Sixty-eight Ash, four Poplar, and four Sycamore Trees, marked, numbered, and growing on a Farm at Delves Green, near Walsall, occupied by James Shelton. The Tenant will shew the Timber."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/2/1818 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by R. Crump, on Thursday next, February 19.

All the useful Household Furniture, Bedding, and Linen, Tables, Chairs, large Screens, two large Coppers, two Iron ditto, Mashing and Brewing Tubs, large Deal Backs, about 18 Iron-bound Casks, with a general Assemblage of Kitchen and Brewing Utensils, belonging to Mr. *Hemersley*, at the TALBOT INN, Wood Green, near Wednesbury. The Sale to commence at Ten o'Clock in the Morning."

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by R. CRUMP, on Thursday next, February 19, all the useful Household Furniture, Bedding, and Linen, Tables, Chairs, large Screens, two large Coppers, two Iron ditto, Mashing and Brewing Tubs, large Deal Backs, about 18 Iron-bound Casks, with a general Assemblage of Kitchen and Brewing Utensils, belonging to Mr. Hemersley, at the Talbot Inn, Wood Green, near Wednesbury.

The Sale to commence at Ten o'Clock in the Morning.

T I M B E R.
TO be Sold by Auction, at Mrs. Watson's, the Sign of the Talbot, in Wood-Green, near Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, at Three o'Clock on Monday the 19th Day of February Instant, On Hundred and Seventy-seven Oak Trees, Sixty-eight Ash, four Poplar, and four Sycamore Trees, marked numbered, and growing on a Farm at Delves-Green near Walsall, occupied by James Shelton. The Tenant will shew the Timber.

THREE CROWNS

Camp Hill Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Isaac Griffiths [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

THREE CROWNS

160, (109), Darlaston Road, (109, Kings Hill), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

John Lord, Walsall [1921], [1929]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1939)
Enterprise Inns [1990s]

LICENSEES

Simeon Butler [1860] – **1872**;
James Bailey (**1872** – []
James Dale [1877] – [1881]
David Chattaway [1891] – [1912]
Mrs. Elizabeth E Whitehouse [1921]
Alpheus Alcock [1932] – [1940]
Leonard Mills [1961] – **1962**;
Harry Hulse (**1962** – **1967**)
William 'Bill' Chilton [1968] – [1970]
Ray Wolverson [1975] – [1976]
Edward Harris [1997]



Ex-pub 2004

NOTES

109, Darlaston Road [1864], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1881], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1921]
109, Kings Hill [1891], [1900], [1911]
160, Darlaston Road [1939], [1940], [1995]

It had a beerhouse license.

Simeon Butler, beer retailer and screw manufacturer, Darlaston Road. [1860]

1861 Census

Darlaston Road

- [1] *Simeon Butler* (48), bolt and nut manufacturer, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Hannah Butler* (36), wife, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Phoebe Butler* (13), daughter, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Mary Butler* (9), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Edwin Wilson* (48), lodger, stone miner, born Branspath, Durham:



Token

Simeon Butler, beer retailer and bolt and screw manufacturer, 109, Darlaston Road. [1864], [1868], [1870], [1872]

Phoebe Butler married Samuel Robinson on 30th January 1865.

1871 Census

109, Darlaston Road – THREE CROWNS

- [1] *Simeon Butler* (59), widower, bolt and nut maker and beer shop, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Samuel Robinson* (33), boarder, bolt and screw maker, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Phoebe Robinson* (23), wife, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Simeon Robinson* (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1877

“Mr. Hooper, Coroner, lately held an inquest at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Samuel Severn (56), master iron founder, Bright Street, Kings Hill, who, early on Monday morning, was seized with a fit, and died about an hour and a half afterwards, before a medical man arrived. His widow stated that he had been in ill-health for some months, and had been of intemperate habits. He was not sober when he went to bed on Sunday night. He could get drunk at any hour on Sundays from the THREE CROWNS INN, near his home.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned, and the Coroner ordered information to be given to Superintendent Holland of Mrs. Severn’s statement with reference to the public house.”

James Dale = James Dail

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/10/1877

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *James Dale*, landlord of the THREE CROWNS INN, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, was summoned for having permitted drunkenness in his house on the 20th inst. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the defence

Police-constable Hodgetts proved seeing a man named William Denery drunk in defendant’s dancing room on the night in question, and also saw him drinking. The man was very drunk when in the street, and was fined by the Tipton magistrates 15s and costs.

For the defence it was contended that the defendant was not aware that the man was drunk, neither was he supplied with any liquor.

The Bench said there appeared to be a doubt in the case, and the defendant would have the benefit of it, but they would advise him to exercise a little more care in future.”

1881 Census

109, Darlaston Road

- [1] *James Dale* (47), iron moulder, born Tipton;
- [2] *Sarah Dale* (52), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Solomon Dale* (32), son, sailor, born Tipton;
- [4] *Emma Dale* (31), daughter-in-law, born Falmouth, Cornwall;
- [5] *Catherine Dale* (14), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Hannah Dale* (12), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/10/1881 - Advert

“Found, Black Horse, with white mark on the face; can have it by paying expenses.—Apply, Mr. Dail, Three Crowns,

King’s Hill, near Darlaston.”

FOUND, Black Horse, with white mark on the face; can have it by paying expenses.—Apply, Mr. Dail, Three Crowns, King’s Hill, near Darlaston.

David Chattaway = David Chatterway

1891 Census

109, Kings Hill

- [1] *David Chattaway* (58), furnace man, born Foleshill, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Sarah Chattaway* (37), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Arthur Chattaway* (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Alice Chattaway* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Wednesbury Herald 16/3/1895

“An inquest was held on Monday at the Town Hall, concerning the death of *Emma Jones* (46), the wife of *Thomas Jones*, labourer, Dangerfield Lane. The husband stated that owing to the severity of the weather he had done little or no work since Christmas, and he had been unable to provide adequate food for his wife and family. On the 7th inst deceased had some potatoes for her dinner. She was distressed because she had not been able to pay her sick and draw club fees. Witness had made no application to the Poor Law Authorities for relief, but he had received tickets for coal and bread from charitably disposed persons. The Coroner said it was distressing that people died from starvation when every provision was supposed to be made for indigent persons.

Mrs. Chattaway, of the THREE CROWNS INN, Kings Hill, stated that on the 7th inst, the deceased came to her house and asked her if she would kindly pay up her arrears in the club to prevent her being excluded from benefit.

Witness said she would pay the money. Deceased complained of not having had much food for several days, and witness gave her some food and beer, but before she had the opportunity of either eating or drinking she fell back and died.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Syncope, accelerated by want of food.”

David Chattaway, beer retailer, 109, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill. [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1898

“The Licensing Sessions for Wednesbury borough were held yesterday.....

The magistrates sanctioned plans for the restoration of the THREE CROWNS INN, Kings Hill.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/9/1899

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the borough of Wednesbury were held today.....

Mr. S. M. Slater made an application for the sanction of the justices to the carrying out of certain alterations to the THREE CROWNS INN, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill. He pointed out that the proposed alterations would be almost entirely confined to the back premises, and the only object the owner of the house had in coming before the Bench was to improve the sanitary accommodation, which had hitherto been rather primitive. There was no intention whatever of extending the drinking area.

The application was granted.”

David Chattaway, beerhouse keeper, 109, Kings Hill. [1900]

An application was made for a full license in August 1900.

Dudley Herald 18/8/1900

“On Saturday last the members of the Strive for Victory Lodge (127) of the Kings Hill branch of the Birmingham District of Modern Masons held their annual dinner at the THREE CROWNS INN, Kings Hill.....”

1901 Census

Darlaston Road – THREE CROWNS INN

- [1] *David Chatterway* (68), beerhouse keeper, born Foleshill, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Sarah Chatterway* (47), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Arthur Chatterway* (14), son, commercial clerk, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Alice Chatterway* (12), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Florence Chatterway* (8), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Sarah Jones* (26), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

1911 Census

109, Kings Hill

- [1] *David Chattaway* (78), beerhouse keeper, born Foleshill, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Sarah Chattaway* (57), wife, married 28 years, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Arthur Chattaway* (24), son, clerk, iron foundry, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Alice Chattaway* (22), daughter, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Florence Chattaway* (18), daughter, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;

1921 Census

109, Darlaston Road – THREE CROWNS

- [1] *Elizabeth E. Whitehouse* (57), widow, manageress, born Darlaston;
- [2] *Albert G. Whitehouse* (20), son, waggoner, born Darlaston;
- [3] *Sarah A. Whitehouse* (18), daughter, bolt screwer, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Gladys Whitehouse* (16), daughter, bolt screwer, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Cecil Whitehouse* (14), son, moulder, out of work, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Mary Elizabeth Peake* (25), daughter, married, household duties, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Sarah Elizabeth Peake* (2), daughter, born Kings Hill;
- [8] *Tom George Peake* (11 weeks), son, born Kings Hill;

Walsall Observer 2/3/1929

“Adjourned Brewster Sessions at Wednesbury yesterday.....

Subject to a minor alteration the Bench sanctioned plans for the improvement of the THREE CROWNS, Kings Hill. Mr. E. E. Brown, for the owners, Messrs. J. Lord, of Walsall, explaining that it would give better supervision and the outdoor customers would not be brought so much into contact with the indoor.”

Alpheus Alcock = Alpheus Block

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.....

THREE CROWNS, Kings Hill.”

1939 Register

160, Darlaston Road – THREE CROWNS Public House

[1] *Alpheus Alcock*, date of birth 21/5/1871, beerhouse manager, married;

[2] Jessie Alcock, dob 24/7/1873, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Nesta E. Ward, dob 1/1/1922, assistant ladies hairdresser, ARP first aid, single;

[4] Sarah A. Grove, dob 29/10/1877, domestic cleaner, widow:

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1946], [1958]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/9/1962 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted, weekends.

THREE CROWNS, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury.”

**PIANIST WANTED, weekends. — Three
Crowns, Darlaston-road, Wednesbury.**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/5/1965 - Advert

“Cleaner wanted, mornings.

THREE CROWNS, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.”

A team from here took part in the Fallings Heath Cribbage League. [1965], [1966], [1967], [1968]

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 HERBERTS PARK TAVERN, Darlaston, and RED LION, Wednesfield.

A team from here took part in the Darlaston Cribbage League. [1967]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/12/1968 - Advert

"Elsie and *Bill*, THREE CROWNS, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, Wednesbury, would like to wish all customers and friends old and new a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year, and also welcome new friends."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1970 - Advert

"THREE CROWNS, Kings Hill, Wednesbury.

Mr. and Mrs. *W. Chilton*, Elsie and *Bill*, wish all their Customers and Friends everywhere a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1975 - Advert

"*Ray* and Dot of the THREE CROWNS, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, wish all their customers and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

London Gazette 28/2/1995

"Tracey Dawn Dale, occupation unknown, of THREE CROWNS, 160 Darlaston Road, King Hill, Darlaston, Wednesbury, West Midlands.

Court - Walsall.

Date of Filing Petition - 9th January 1995.

Date of Bankruptcy Order - 9th February 1995.

Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition - Creditor's."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/12/1997

"The landlord of a Darlaston pub was left tied up by masked men for more than an hour while two men wearing stocking masks took an unknown amount of cash from games machines. Licensee *Edward Harris*, aged 69, of the THREE CROWNS, Darlaston Road, told police he was downstairs when they broke in at around 3am today. They tied his hands and feet and after they left he managed to free himself. A man is helping police with their inquiries."

Closed [1998]

It was converted into Three Crowns House, headquarters of Martin Instrument Co. Ltd. [2004]

A planning application was made on 5th November 2004 for conversion into three flats.

ELSIE AND BILL, Three Crowns,
Darlaston-road, Kings Hill, Wed-
nesbury, would like to wish all
customers and friends old and new
a Very Happy and Prosperous New
Year, and also welcome new
friends.

1968

THREE CROWNS,
KING'S HILL,
WEDNESBURY.
MR. AND MRS. W. CHILTON,
ELSIE AND BILL,
Wish all their Customers and
Friends everywhere a very
Happy Christmas and a Pros-
perous New Year

1970

THREE CROWNS

206, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

James Bullock
Thomas Oliver Limited [1909]

LICENSEES

John Powell [1861] – [1862]
Mary Powell [1864]
Mrs. Jane Skidmore [1870] – [1871]
John Downing [1872] – [1881]
Thomas Bullock [1891] – [1896]
Mrs. Charlotte Bullock [1898] – [1901]
Thomas Withers [1904] – [1905]
Maria Barrett [1909]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Holyhead Road – THREE CROWNS
[1] John Powell (49), coach-smith and beer seller, born Wednesbury;
[2] Maria Powell (49), wife, born Wednesbury;
[3] Maria Archer (20), niece, general servant, born Wednesbury;
[4] Joseph Longmore (4), nephew, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/3/1862 - Deaths

“On the 18th instant, Mr. *John Powell*, landlord of the THREE CROWNS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, aged 52 years.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/12/1864

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions.....

Mary Powell, beerhouse keeper, THREE CROWNS, Holyhead Road, was fined 2s 6d and costs for having kept open her house for the sale of ale during prohibited hours on Sunday week.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1870

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Jane Skidmore*, of the CROWN beerhouse, Holyhead Road, was charged with having had her house open for the sale of ale during prohibited hours, at a quarter to one on Sunday morning last.

Police-constable Riley deposed that, in consequence of information received, he, at the time stated, entered the defendant's house, and found therein a man named Wood, with a jug of ale before him.

Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the defendant, and asked: This house is a favourite resort of policemen, isn't it?

Witness: Not in particular.

Mr. Ebsworth: You, yourself, have been sticking up to the widow, haven't you?

Witness (bashfully smiling): No, sir.

Mr. Ebsworth: Haven't you said you would marry her, or that you would have your name over the door? (Laughter.)

Witness: No.

WEDNESBURY.

Sale of VALUABLE OLD-ESTABLISHED FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE AND ELEVEN DWELLING HOUSES.

MONDAY, 9th DECEMBER, 1901.

BELCHER AND SON, F.A.I., are favoured with instructions from the Trustee under the Will of the late Mr. James Bullock to offer for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION on the above date at the

WHITE HORSE HOTEL, WEDNESBURY, at seven o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions incorporating the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, to be then produced, the following Valuable Freehold Properties:—

Lot 1.

NINE FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES, situate and being Nos. 198, 199, and 200 in Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, and Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, in Court 4, at the rear thereof, fully occupied and producing £82 11s. gross per annum.

Lot 2.

THE OLD-ESTABLISHED FREEHOLD BEERHOUSE known as the 'THREE CROWNS INN,' together with the TWO DWELLING HOUSES adjoining, situate and being Nos. 206, 206½, and 207, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, fully occupied and producing gross £43 8s. per annum.

The accommodation of the Beerhouse comprises Bar, Tap-room, Parlour, Two Bedrooms, Good Cellaring, and Brewhouse, together with Yard, Garden, Closet, and side entrance.

Both properties are situated on the main Holyhead Road, in close proximity to the Town Hall, Art Gallery, Post Office, and Railway Stations, and the houses are in constant demand.

Further particulars may be had upon application to the Auctioneers, Wednesbury and Darlaston, or to

JNO. H. STOCKDALE, Esq.,
Solicitor,
Wednesbury.

1901

Mr. Ebsworth: And you never gave her that, I suppose (holding up a photographic portrait of the officer)?

Witness: Yes, I gave her that. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. Ebsworth: You never put your arms round her waist, I suppose?

Witness (smiling): I might have done. (Continued laughter.)

Mr. Ebsworth: Were you not a little jealous on finding Wood in the house with the widow?

Witness (assuming an air of indifference): No, I was not.

Mr. Ebsworth: On this Sunday morning, at a quarter to one, as you say, was not Police-constable Farmer also at the widow's gate, doing a little courting with the widow's sister? (Laughter.)

Witness (hesitatingly): Yes, he was.

In answer to further questions, he said the front door was closed. He got over the wall. There was no sign of brewing going on. Wood was not at work, but was taking his ease.

Mr. Ebsworth: I see; taking his ease with the widow. (Laughter.)

Mr. Ebsworth, for the defence, suggested that the charge was prompted by jealousy, and called Wood, who deposed that he had been assisting 'the widow,' as the defendant was termed throughout the case, in racking off some beer; and, when the constable entered, he was sitting down to some bread and cheese, and beer, which had been given to him.

The Bench dismissed the case; but recommended the defendant to be more cautious in future."

Jane Skidmore was fined 20s and costs for opening during prohibited hours, in January 1871.

1871 Census

206, Holyhead Road – Beerhouse

[1] *Jane Skidmore* (30), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Skidmore* (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[3] *David Skidmore* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Mary Riley* (16), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Jane Skidmore married *John Downing* on 1st November 1871.

John Downing was the son of William Downing of the NAGS HEAD, Dudley Port, Tipton.

John Downing, beer retailer, 206, Holyhead Road. [1872]

1881 Census

206, Holyhead Road – THREE CROWNS INN

[1] *John Downing* (34), publican, born Dudley Port;

[2] *Jane Downing* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Mary Skidmore* (17), step-daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *David Skidmore* (15), step-son, labourer in iron works, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Jane Downing* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury:

1891 Census

Holyhead Road – THREE CROWNS

[1] *Thomas Bullock* (34), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Charlotte Bullock* (29), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Ann Bullock* (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Thomas Bullock, beer retailer, 206, Holyhead Road. [1896]

Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1898

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Charlotte Bullock*, THREE CROWNS beerhouse, Holyhead Road, was charged with selling ale to a drunken man, named Boyd, who was found on her premises on the morning of the 23rd ult. Mr. Stockdale appeared for the defendant, and admitting the offence, pleaded that there was nothing in the man's appearance when he asked for the drink to lead the defendant's assistant to suppose he was drunk. A fine of 10s and costs was imposed."

1901 Census

206, Holyhead Road – THREE CROWNS INN

[1] *Charlotte Bullock* (39), widow, publican, born Tipton;

[2] *Ann Bullock* (17), daughter, assistant, born Wednesbury;

[3] *John Holyhead* (3), nephew, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Leader 30/11/1901

“Sale by Auction. Wednesbury.

Valuable Old-Established Freehold Beerhouse and Eleven Dwelling Houses.

Monday, 9th December, 1901.

Belcher and Son, FAI, are favoured with instructions from the Trustee under the Will of the late Mr. James Bullock to offer for Sale by Public Auction on the above date at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, at seven o'clock in the evening precisely.....

Lot 2. The Old-Established Freehold Beerhouse known as the THREE CROWNS INN, together with the Two Dwelling Houses adjoining, situate and being Nos.206, 206½, and 207, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, fully occupied and producing gross £43 8s per annum.

The accommodation of the Beerhouse comprises Bar, Tap Room, Parlour, Two Bedrooms, Good Cellaring, and Brewhouse, together with Yard, Garden, Closet, and side entrance.

Both properties are situated on the main Holyhead Road, in close proximity to the Town Hall, Art Gallery, Post Office, and Railway Stations, and the houses are in constant demand.”

Thomas Withers, beer retailer, 206, Holyhead Road. [1904]

Walsall Observer 30/7/1904 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, Beersellers, and Others.

Important Sale of Old-Established Freehold Beerhouses, Business Premises, and Dwelling Houses, situate at Wednesbury.

Monday, 15th August, 1904.

Belcher & Son, FAI have received instructions to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, at half-past Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely.....

Lot 3. The Old-Established Beerhouse, known as the THREE CROWNS, situate in Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, comprising tap room, smoke room, sitting room, two bedrooms, cellar, with rolling-in way, washhouse, privy, and garden, in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Withers*, at a net rental producing £30 per annum, together with Two Dwelling Houses adjoining, being Nos.206½ and 207, Holyhead Road, aforesaid, in the respective occupations of *Abbiss* and *Taylor*, at weekly rentals producing gross £26 0s 0d per annum. Total annual rentals £56.

This Property has recently undergone extensive repairs.”

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."

Boxing World 13/12/1905

"Entries are required by Mr. H. Cullis for a 9st competition, open to Wednesbury and Darlaston only during the Christmas week. First prize £10 10s and silver cup, second a gold-centre medal in case, which will be on view at Mr. T. Withers, THREE CROWNS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, where the competitors will have to weigh in at six o'clock. Entries to be sent to the 'Sporting Buff' Office or to Mr. H. Cullis, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Mail 7/2/1906

"At a special court, at Wednesbury, today, Michael O'Connell (32), hawker, Portway Road, was charged, before Mr. J. Handley, with inflicting grievous bodily harm on Robert Rowley, ironworker, Dale Street terrace; John Burns, ironworker, Trows Buildings, Portway Road; and Frank Lloyd, ex-publican and footballer, Holyhead Road, all of whom are inmates of West Bromwich Hospital. The police applied for a remand.

Frank Rowley, tyre dresser, Hobbins Street, brother of one of the injured men, was called, and stated that on Monday night he was in the THREE CROWNS INN, Holyhead Road, in company with his brother, Robert Rowley, Frank Lloyd, and other men including John O'Connell, a brother of the accused. A quarrel took place between John O'Connell and witness's brother, and eventually they went out of the public house into the street, where they had a fight. Witness followed them, and shortly afterwards heard Lloyd, who had also gone into the street, exclaim, 'Oh! I'm stabbed!' At this time witness observed prisoner standing near Lloyd with something bright in his hand. Witness went over to Lloyd, whereupon prisoner struck at him (witness) several times with something that looked like a knife, but did not hit him. Lloyd called out, 'Keep away from him; he's got a knife in his hand.' Witness then attended to Lloyd, who was in a fainting condition.

Asked by the Clerk (Mr. Knowles) if he desired to put any question to the witness, prisoner replied, 'I'm going to get a lawyer. I've nothing to say now.'

Police-sergeant Lee spoke to going with Police-constables Turner and Marshall in search of the prisoner, whom they found shortly before midnight in the house of his brother in Portway Road. Prisoner was at once removed to the police-station, but as he was under the influence of drink at the time he was not charged until the following morning, when he was accused of wounding Lloyd, with intent to cause him grievous bodily harm. To this prisoner simply replied, 'All right.'

Prisoner, who is of somewhat rough appearance and below medium height, had nothing to say, and appeared unconcerned. He was remanded in custody until Friday."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/7/1906

"The following sentences were passed by Mr. Justice Bigham at Staffordshire Assizes yesterday.....

Michael O'Conner (33), hawker, was indicted for wounding Robert Rowley with intent to murder him at Wednesbury, and was sent to penal servitude for three years."

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1909 - Notice

"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 Licenses 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.....

THREE CROWNS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Maria Barrett*."

The License renewal was refused by the Compensation Authority on 11th June 1909.

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1909 - 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 11th, 12th, and 17th days of June, 1909, 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 12th day of July, 1909, 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.....

THREE CROWNS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Maria Barrett*. Registered Owners, Thomas Oliver Limited."

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.....

THREE CROWNS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, £650.

.....the money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties."

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/2/1910

"The licensing sessions for Wednesbury borough were held yesterday.....

In regard to the THREE CROWNS beerhouse, Holyhead Road, referred for compensation and extinction last year, compensation would be paid to the parties on the 5th inst, and the license provisionally renewed in respect of the premises would expire on the 12th inst."

Lot 3.

The Old Established BEERHOUSE, known as the "THREE CROWNS INN," situate in Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, comprising tap room, smoke room, sitting room, two bedrooms, cellar, with rolling-in way, washhouse, privy, and garden, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Withers, at a net rental producing £30 per annum, together with TWO DWELLING HOUSES adjoining, being Nos. 206½ and 207, Holyhead Road, aforesaid, in the respective occupations of Abbiss and Taylor, at weekly rentals producing gross £26 0s. 0d. per annum. Total annual rentals £56.

This Property has recently undergone extensive repairs.

THREE FURNACES

Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Brown [1834]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

THREE SWANS

107, Holyhead Road, (Dudley Street / Pool Street), (Dudley Road), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mr. Smith, tube manufacturer, Wednesbury
Henry Mitchell and Co. [1890]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1900], [1927]

LICENSEES

John Jevon [1818] – **1857**;
Thomas Jevon (**1857** – [1865]
Mrs. Sarah Mary Williams [] – **1866**);
William Deakin (**1866** – []
William Deacon (**1867** – []
Thomas Maddocks [1868] – **1871**);
William Dawes (**1871** – [1876]
Joseph Henry Rice* [1881]
Henry Rice* [1883]
W H Aston []
John Wassell [1891] – [1892]
John Lacey [1896]
Henry Dixon [1900]
Mary A Dixon [1901]
William Macdonald [1901]
Thomas Green [1904]
Joseph Onions [1908] – [1908]
Frederick John Fleet [1911] – [1924]
Sidney Arthur Higgs (**1927**)
Jesse Tonks [1932]
Walter Frederick Wilding [1939] – [1940]
Thomas Lole []
Ronald I Nickless []
Lawrence Archibald Palfreyman [1952]
Thomas Shinton []
Gilbert J Cope []
Herbert Price []
Clarence A Parsons []
Frank Rogers [1961] – **1964**);
Harold Leslie Stanford (**1964** – [1966]
Thomas Davies []
Graham H Turner []
Kevin Woodhouse []
Carol and David A Aulton []



c1930

NOTES

It was situated opposite to Meeting Street.

Dudley Road [1828], [1830]

Dudley Street

The original inn was known as the BALL COURT. (It had a croquet court).

THREE SWANS HOTEL [1872]

It was known locally as 'the House That Jack Built'.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/7/1813 - Advert

"To be disposed of immediately by private Contract, the Licenses and Good-will of an old established Public House, the THREE SWANS, Wednesbury. The Draught of Ale is great and certain, with all Conveniences, lying near to the Iron Foundry and Coal Pits. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a fair Valuation. Coming-in will be made easy. Apply on the Premises."

John Jevon = John Jevons = John Jeavons = John Jevans

John Jevon was also a best gun lock maker. [1818]

TO be disposed of immediately by private Contract, the Licenses and Good-will of an old established Public House, the 'THREE SWANS, Wednesbury. The Draught of Ale is great and certain, with all Conveniences, lying near to the Iron Foundry and Coal Pits. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a fair Valuation. Coming-in will be made easy.—Apply on the Premises.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/5/1835 - Advert

"Notice.

A Fifty Pounds Club, on a very improved principle, will commence at the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury, on Wednesday the 13th inst. Any person becoming a Member will very much oblige his obedient servant, *John Jevon*. NB. The Rules and every other information may be had by applying as above. Wednesbury, May 2, 1835."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/5/1838

"John Farnell, of Wednesbury, feels inclined to fight the Tipton Slasher; he will accommodate him for his own sum, in the same ring as Parker and Preston, and will meet him at the THREE SWANS, Wednesbury, tomorrow, from four to eight o'clock, to enter into agreements."

1841 Census

Holyhead Road – THREE SWANS

- [1] John Jevon (66), innkeeper, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Samuel Jevon (30), maltster, born Staffordshire;
- [3] Thomas Jevon (15), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Hannah Jevon (55), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Sarah Jevon (12), born Staffordshire;
- [6] George Webb (25), m.s.;
- [7] Ann Harrison (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;
- [8] Ann Lewis (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 22/7/1843

"On Monday last, July 17th, the members of the Tradesman's Refuge Lodge, M.U., held their anniversary dinner at the house of Host *Jevons*, THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury. The dinner was on the table at two o'clock. When the brothers had done ample justice to the good things provided by the worthy host, the cloth being removed, they further proceeded with the enjoyment of the day....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/4/1845 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Freehold Buildings, with the Mines and Mineral under the same.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, on Tuesday, the 22nd day of April, 1845, at the house of Mr. *John Jeavons*, THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury, at five o'clock in the evening.....”

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1845

“Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway.

We, the Undersigned, Landowners, Merchants, Coal and Ironmasters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other Inhabitants residing in the boroughs of Birmingham and Walsall, and the towns of Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Handsworth, and other places in those Districts, do hereby express our opinion that the projected Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway is calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the places and districts above mentioned, and we promise it our strenuous support.....

John Jevon, Innkeeper, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/11/1845

“An inquest was held on Tuesday last at the THREE SWANS, Wednesbury, on the body of a young man named Thomas Billings, who was killed by falling from a skip as it was ascending the shaft of a mine. The deceased was in the skip, with three fellow-workmen, and was being drawn up the shaft, when, from some cause unknown, he fell out at about forty yards from the bottom of the mine, and was dashed to pieces. His companions were closely questioned as to whether there had been any quarrel or ‘larking’ going forward at the time of the unfortunate occurrence, but this they distinctly denied. When taken up he was quite dead, his body being dreadfully bruised, and his skull fractured.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/9/1847

“On Monday last, an inquest was held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, at the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Joseph Clarke Price, aged 10 years. It appeared that the deceased had been at work at Messrs. Walker and Co’s Patent Iron Shaft Works, at Wednesbury, on Friday, the 17th instant, and that between 10 and 11 o’clock at night, the deceased having done his work he went to a part of the works where a person named David Kendrick was at work; the deceased in a frolic took hold of the tongs which Kendrick had in his hand just as a bar of red-hot iron was coming through the rolls, and both Kendrick and deceased falling down, the bar of iron fell upon the deceased, igniting his clothes, and inflicting a severe burn upon his thigh. The deceased was removed home in a state of insensibility, where he died shortly afterwards. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 16/10/1847

“About seven o’clock on Wednesday morning last, an accident of a most dreadful nature occurred at Wednesbury to a man named William Davis, thirty-seven years of age, who was employed as a millwright at the Patent Shaft Works belonging to the Messrs. Walker. The deceased was in the act of throwing off the gearing of a wheel which worked a small mill (the steam engine being in motion at the time) when, placing his foot upon a revolving shaft, he was thrown into a hole close by, in which a crank worked, and doubtless instantly deprived of life, as, on his being taken out, he was mangled in the most shocking manner, and quite dead. The inquest was held the same day at the THREE SWANS, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, when the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. It appeared he had been often cautioned against putting the machinery out of gearing before the mill was stopped.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/12/1848 - Died

“On the 11th instant, aged 66 years, Hannah, wife of Mr. *John Jevans*, at the sign of the THREE SWANS, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 13/7/1850

“On the morning of Saturday, the body of William Gilbert, a boy five years of age, was found in the canal at Lea Brook, by a man named Alfred Onions and some other persons who had been dragging for him. The unfortunate deceased had been missing since the previous evening, and he was last seen near the spot where he was found. An inquest was held on the same day, at the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, when a verdict of Found Dead was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/11/1850

"An inquest was held at the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Joseph Wilkes, aged 36, who was killed by a fall of coal at Mr. Haines's pit at Willingworth. Verdict, Accidental Death.

Also on the 18th ult, at the same place, and inquest was held on the body of Margaret Trevor, four years old, who fell into a pit belonging to Messrs. Lloyd, Foster, and Co. Verdict, Accidental Death."

1851 Census

Holyhead Road

[1] John Jevon (72), widower, innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] Samuel Jevon (42), son, maltster, born Wednesbury;

[3] Thomas Jevon (29), son, house manager, born Wednesbury;

[4] Thomas Gibbons (42), brewer, born Warwickshire;

[5] Ann Mason (21), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Thomas Jevon = Thomas Jeavons = Thomas Jevons

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/9/1856

"Edward Stocking of Wednesbury will shoot a match with Thomas Bucksey of Wood Green, or Long George of Hobbins Row, for £10 a side, at 9 birds each, 1½oz of shot, 21 yards rise, 60 fall, to find and trap for each other. Money ready any time next week, at the THREE SWANS, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/12/1856

"The sixteenth anniversary of the Tradesman's Refuge Lodge, No.3035, M.U., was held at the THREE SWANS, Wednesbury, on Monday evening, when G. E. Howitt, Esq, surgeon of the lodge, and PPGM Stephen Juttyman presented a very handsome silk velvet collar, with silver plate suitably inscribed, to Mr. Thomas Mayes, as a mark of respect for his valuable services to the lodge."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/6/1857

"Young Madeley of Wednesbury is surprised that Hawkes should challenge him level; if Hawkes really wants a match Madeley will run him five score yards if he will give one yard start; or will run Danks or Coates five score yards level for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready at the THREE SWANS, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 27/3/1858

"On Thursday night last, a fellow, professing to be a drover, and giving the name of William Hodgson, was found by Police-constable Allen, in Spon Lane, offering three sturdy porkets for sale for the 'low price of £1.' From circumstances, Allen took the pig-vendor into custody, and placing him in a cell at the station, put the pigs under another roof. The account the fellow gave was that he had been employed by Mr. Harris, of Swan Village, butcher, to drive the pigs from Birmingham market to this person's house. However, yesterday, the right owner turned up in the person of Mr. Griffiths, iron dealer, &c, near the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury. He had on Thursday last bought the porkets at about one pound each in Birmingham market, and being much importuned by Hodgson (a perfect stranger) to let him drive them to Wednesbury, he had the job, and a nice job he was near making of it. Mr. Griffiths has identified the pigs as his property, and it is expected that today the Magistrates will identify the drover, at least as a rogue and vagabond, if nothing else, and let him see the inside of Stafford Gaol for a period."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 29/3/1858

".....The Magistrates said complainant was thoughtless in entrusting his property to a strange youth like the defendant, and dismissed the Birmingham drover, to his evident delight, and it may be surprise. As to Mr. Griffiths, he told the Bench that one of the three pigs had since died, and so he went home rather heavy hearted."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/5/1858

“An inquest was held on Thursday morning at the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury, on the body of a child two years old, named Charles Henry Hitchin, whose parents reside in Queen Street. On Sunday morning deceased was playing in the yard adjoining Paddock’s beerhouse, in Queen Street, where there was the body of an old cart rearing up against the wall. On this cart the child was playing, and by some means it fell down, dropping on the poor little fellow’s forehead, breaking his nose, and otherwise injuring him. Death ensued on the following Tuesday morning. Mr. Garman, surgeon, stated the cause of death to be concussion of the brain, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/5/1860

“Awfully Sudden Death. A sad calamity of this nature occurred on Tuesday night. Mrs. *Jeavons*, wife of Mr. *Jeavons*, of the THREE SWANS INN, had for a long time been suffering from severe pulmonary disease, but on the day in question, feeling much better than usual, she, contrary to medical and other advice, went a drive to Birmingham with her husband. On their return, they called to see a friend at Hockley, and there the deceased sustained a rupture of one of the arteries of the lungs, which caused her death in a few minutes. It is supposed that the excitement and exertion of the journey must have tended to the sad and fatal result.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/5/1860 - Deaths

“On the 8th instant, suddenly, aged 40 years, Mary, wife of Mr. *Thomas Jevon*, of Wednesbury.”

1861 Census

Holyhead Road – THREE SWANS INN

- [1] *Thomas Jevon* (39), widower, victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Henry Jevon* (29), nephew, barman, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ann Cox* (34), visitor, born Bath;
- [4] *Ann Hursfield* (18), servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Harriet Smith* (16), servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 25/6/1861

“On Sunday evening, about nine o’clock, the body of a boy was found in an arm or branch of the Birmingham Canal at Lee Brook. The poor lad, whose name was Samuel Grice, was ten years of age, and he lived in Meeting Street, Wednesbury. It appeared from the statement of his companion, Samuel Wright, that he had been bathing near to the place where he was found, and, as it is supposed, he got out of his depth, and before assistance could be procured life was extinct. A man named James Onions got the body out of the water, and it was conveyed to the THREE SWANS INN, where it now lies.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/8/1863

“Yesterday a united demonstration of the four Wednesbury lodges comprised in the Bescot Bridge District Branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, M.U., took place. The members of the several lodges having first mustered at their respective lodge houses, the Good Samaritan Lodge, No.2888, proceeded from the BLUE BALL, Church Hill, to the CROWN AND CUSHION, High Bullen, and there joined the St. George’s Lodge, No.1980. From thence the two lodges moved on to the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, and took up the Widows Relief Lodge, No.1181, and the Tradesmen’s Refuge Lodge, No.3035. At this point the lodges, headed by the Rifle Corps Band, were arranged according to numerical order, and the members being decked out with gay-coloured scarfs, and carrying flags, banners, and the regalia of the order (the latter kindly lent by the Birmingham district), a procession of imposing length and attractive appearance was formed.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1864

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper, the Coroner, held an enquiry at the house of *Thomas Jeavons*, the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, into the circumstances connected with the death of *Phoebe Martin*, an infant, ten months old, who had died on Wednesday, under the following singular circumstances.

Mary Martin, the mother of the deceased, and the wife of *Thomas Martin*, grocer, said that the deceased had had good health from the period of her birth. On Tuesday morning, at half-past eight o’clock, witness brought her downstairs, and gave her about a teaspoonful of tea from a cup which was standing on the hob. It appeared as though

the wind had met the tea, and choked the deceased. Mr. John C. Garman, surgeon, was instantly sent for, but the child died in five minutes, and before the medical gentleman could arrive.

Sarah Jane Davis, a neighbour, deposed that she was called into the house of the parents of the deceased, and saw it give but one gasp and then die. Every care had been taken of the child by its parents.

Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon, said he was sent for about a quarter to nine on the morning of Tuesday to visit the deceased. He sent his assistant at once, who found it dead. Witness saw the body in half an hour afterwards, and it presented the appearance of a healthy, well-nourished child. He had been attending the mother for a fortnight previously; had had many opportunities of seeing the deceased, and attributed death to asphyxia, arising from spasms of the glottis, a small valve at the top of the windpipe.

The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1864

"On Tuesday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an enquiry at the house of Mr. *Thomas Jevon*, the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Samuel Martin, aged thirty-nine, a man employed at the works of Mr. D. Rose, at Moxley, whose death occurred in an awfully sudden manner, on Saturday morning last.

John Martin, a boy of ten years of age, son of the deceased, said that his father was a ball-furnaceman. About seven o'clock on Saturday morning, the deceased suddenly placed his hands on witness's shoulders, and said, 'John, I have been bad; fetch Christopher Pointon' (his underhand). Deceased then sat down on a stool, and told witness to fetch the manager, who sent him for some brandy. When he returned his father was dead. Deceased had not complained of any illness beyond rheumatism, and appeared well when he went to work at half-past four o'clock on Saturday morning. When witness left him to fetch Pointon, the deceased was shaking, and throwing his arms about. The family consisted of the father, mother, and eight children (including witness), four of whom slept in the same room with their parents.

Samuel Whitmore, an engineer, deposed that he was with the manager when the latter was sent for, and accompanied him to the part of the works where the deceased was. The latter was then standing up, with his hand on Pointon's back, and he said he felt very ill. Deceased then sat down, and witness went away, but was immediately called back, and saw the deceased sitting down on a bench. He struggled, and tried two or three times to retch, and then died.

William Humphries, a puddler, stated that he had known the deceased for nineteen years, and that he had recently suffered from rheumatism. He was in the habit of taking his beer like other men of his class.

Christopher Pointon, the underhand, said that when he went to the deceased, who had got out his first heat, and was preparing for a second, he found him trembling violently. Witness placed him in a sitting posture. Some brandy was sent for, but before it arrived the deceased, after two or three ineffectual efforts to vomit, almost instantly expired. He was fond of drink.

Sarah Martin, the wife of the deceased, stated that he had been attended by Mr. Duce, surgeon, who said that he was suffering from low rheumatic fever. The deceased liked his beer, but nothing out of the way.

Mr. Adam Willetts, manager of the works, confirmed the testimony of the other witnesses as to the manner of death, which he attributed to a fit. He added that the deceased never neglected his work for drink.

The jury found a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

An inquest was held here in May 1864 which resulted in the landlord of the WESTPORT being charged with manslaughter. [See under that pub for details.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/1/1865

"Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest yesterday, at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, touching the death of a man named Edward Peplow, who resided in Hobbins Street, and who committed suicide under very singular circumstances. On Monday morning last, at about ten o'clock, the deceased, who was suffering from small pox, and had been delirious from Saturday, rose from his bed and made his way to a water cistern at the back of the house. His wife followed him, but deceased, notwithstanding his wife's exertions, threw himself into the cistern. He was speedily extricated from his horrible position, but not before life was extinct. The jury found a verdict to the effect that deceased had committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity."

Birmingham Journal 9/9/1865 - Advert

“THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Disposed Of, with immediate possession, this well-known Old-licensed House, now and for many years past (without changing hands) doing a first-class business, situated on the main road from Wolverhampton to Birmingham. For particulars, apply to F. W. Seaman, Solicitor; or to Mr. Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, &c, both of Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 7/10/1865 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Whitehouse (under a Bill of Sale), on Monday and Tuesday, October 9 and 10, unless disposed of by Private Contract.

All the Household Furniture, Stock, Fixtures, and Effects, consisting of mahogany Centre and other Tables, Chairs, Wardrobes, Bedsteads, Sofas, Couches, Piano-Forte, feather Beds, and Bed Clothing, Pier and Swing Glasses, 5-pull Ale Machine, Spirit Fountain and Spirit Barrels, Pewter Measures, Glasses, 25-bushel Mash Tub, three Ale Coolers, forty Ale and Spirit Casks, varying from 28 gallons to 500 each, Malt Crusher, 2-knife Chaff Engine, Sign, Lamp, and other Effects, according to catalogues, which can be obtained from the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, or at the Place of Sale.

Sale to commence punctually each morning at half-past Ten o’clock.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/1/1866

“On Saturday, at West Bromwich Police Court, a Special Sessions for the temporary transfer of public licenses was held.....

THREE SWANS, Wednesbury, from Mrs. *Sarah Mary Williams* to Mr. *William Deaken*.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1866

“Patsy Malony was charged at Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, with attempting to stab. Mr. J. E. Sheldon appeared for the complainant.

Anthony Farragher stated that he was on Sunday last at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury with a friend, and while they were sitting at a table defendant came up and offered complainant’s friend a glass of beer, which he took and put on the table, but did not drink it. Defendant then struck him on the nose causing blood to flow freely, and the two went out into the road to fight, and whilst defendant was taking off his coat a knife fell out of his sleeve, and defendant picked it up and opened it. They were, however, separated, and shortly after this complainant went to the THREE SWANS, at about eight o’clock in the evening, when defendant came in and a conversation ensued about the fight, complainant telling defendant he ought to be ashamed to draw a knife on a man. Complainant went out on saying this and was followed by defendant who opened the knife and ran after him, saying he would run it through him if he got near him; but the crowd kept him back, and complainant ran away.

John Hanley proved going with complainant to the inn. He saw the defendant draw his knife and say, ‘he’d run it through the first man he came nigh to.’ He was bound over to keep the peace for twelve months.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/3/1867 - Advert

“The Bankruptcy Act 1861

William Deakin, now of 3, Dale Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, out of business, and late of the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury aforesaid, Victualler, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 15th day of March, 1867, 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 6th day of April, 1867, at Twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the County Court, Goodall 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.”

Walsall Advertiser 1/6/1867 - Advert

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Walsall.

In the matter of *William Deakin*, now of 3, Dale Street, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, out of business, and late of the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury aforesaid, Victualler, adjudged Bankrupt on the 15th day of March, 1867. 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 25th day of May, 1867. C. G. Megevan, High Bailiff.”

County Express 25/5/1867

“On Tuesday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, opened an inquest at the THREE SWANS INN, Holloway Road, Wednesbury, on the body of John Gould, who died from injuries received by a fall of a gallery at the Baptist Chapel, Reading Lane, Wednesbury, while Mr. Murphy was lecturing there on the 26th of April, as previously described.

After the jury had viewed the body, the Coroner examined the mother of the deceased, Mary Hodgson, who stated that her son was 25 years of age, by occupation an engine fitter, and a married man, having no children.

The Coroner said this was an enquiry of great importance, not only to the persons living in the immediate neighbourhood, but to the public generally, and the matter would require a careful investigation before the jury came to their decision. Therefore, it was his intention to adjourn the inquiry, in order to procure the attendance of certain persons, without whose evidence it would be impossible for them to conclude the case; in the first place, the evidence of the men who erected the gallery in question; of the persons who had made an examination of the remains, for it was necessary that an inspection should be made by competent persons; and of the man who was lecturing at the time, as to who gave the instructions for the erection of the gallery, and who were responsible for it. The lecturer (Mr. Murphy) was then out of the district, but would return in a week, and he should adjourn the inquiry until Tuesday next, taking care the he (Murphy) was summoned before the jury to give evidence on that day. The Coroner directed that Mr. Murphy should be communicated with, and informed that he was required to attend the inquest, and when he made his appearance he should be served with a summons to appear forthwith.”

[After adjournments the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.]

[For more on the accident see under BELLWETHER.]

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/6/1867

“.....Mr. Murphy in leaving the place was the object of an attack by a crowd. The public house in which the inquest was held is in a low neighbourhood, where Irish form an important part of the population, and they had been gradually collecting in preparation for the departure of the Anti-Papal lecturer.....”

Birmingham Journal 6/7/1867 - Advert

“To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that capital Old-licensed House, the THREE SWANS, situated in the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, in an excellent business situation, and surrounded by Iron and other Works. It is well adapted for parties requiring large and commodious Premises. The House contains Parlour Bar, Smoke Room, two Tap Rooms, Kitchen, Brewhouse, large Lodge or Club Room, suitable for a Concert Hall, four Chambers, and four Attics, together with a large lock-up Yard, Stabling for five Horses, two Coach-houses, Piggeries, &c.

Apply to Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/7/1867 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Whitehouse, on Tuesday Next, July 23rd (unless disposed of by Private Contract).

The Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, and other Effects (under a Distress for Rent); comprising lofty four-post Mahogany, and other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Mattresses, Mahogany Dining, Centre, and other Tables, eight-day, and other Clocks, fourteen Ale Casks, Mash Tub, Coolers, Working, and other Tubs, two Copper Boilers, four-pull Ale Machine, five-tap Spirit Fountain and Piping, five Spirit Casks, Jugs, Glasses, and Bar Fittings, Chairs, Benches, Swing Sign, Lamp, Gas Fittings, and Piping, six Store Pigs, Sow-in-Pig, and Sow with Seven Pigs, Fowls, &c, &c. Sale to commence punctually at half-past Ten o'clock am, owing to the large number of Lots.

Catalogues may be obtained at the place of Sale; or at the Auctioneer's Office, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

The House and Premises to Let.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/1/1868

“Court of Exchequer Whitehouse v Scott.

This was an action brought by the assignee of a bankrupt named *Deacon*, who formerly kept the THREE SWANS INN at Wednesbury, against the defendant, an architect and surveyor and bill discounter at Birmingham, for the alleged wrongful conversion to his own use of certain goods stated to be the property of the bankrupt at the time of his bankruptcy. The defendant pleaded ‘Not Guilty,’ and that the property was not the property of the bankrupt. Mr. Huddleston and Mr. Macnamara appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Field for the defendant.

The questions in this case were as to the validity of a bill of sale given by the bankrupt before his bankruptcy to the defendant, and as to whether the defendant had converted the goods to his own use.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, on the ground that the bill of sale was not bona fide.

His Lordship directed a nonsuit to be entered, giving the plaintiff leave to move to enter the verdict for £50, on the ground that there had been a wrongful conversion of the goods by the defendant.”

Gloucester Journal 4/4/1868

“Gloucester Spring Assizes Nisi Prius Court Smith v Scott.

Mr. Huddleston, QC, and another learned gentlemen were for the plaintiff; Mr. Powell, QC, and Mr. Motteram, for the defendant. This was an action to recover £42 10s upon a guarantee.

Mr. Huddleston, in stating the case, said the plaintiff is a tube manufacturer, of Wednesbury, Staffordshire, and the defendant a surveyor, of Birmingham. Mr. Smith, the plaintiff, was the owner of a public house, called the THREE SWANS, at Wednesbury. In the course of last year he let the house to *William Deacon*, at £50 a year, and *Deacon* agreed to take the fixtures at a valuation. They were valued at £72 10s. £30 were paid, and £42 10s were to be paid when the rent became due. When the first quarter became due *Deacon* was not able to pay it. Some proposals were made by *Deacon* to Smith, in which he was advised by Scott, the defendant, who had a bill of sale over the whole of *Deacon*’s goods. Scott proposed to Smith that *Deacon* should give him a bill of sale for the fixtures; Smith referred him to his legal adviser, Mr. Leaman, who declined. Scott then asked if he would give him twelve months to pay the money in upon receiving a guarantee, which was agreed to, and a guarantee was given, dated 12th February, for the payment of the £42 10s by Scott, in default of *Deacon* not paying the amount. Three half-years rent remained unpaid, amounting to £75; a distress was issued, and Mr. Smith was paid. He waited twelve months to bring the action on the guarantee, and now called upon the defendant to pay the amount he had undertaken to pay. Mr. Powell said it might save time if he took his lordship’s opinion on a point of law. If the case stood exclusively on this guarantee he admitted he should have no answer; but his case was that the whole of the consideration was not expressed in the guarantee, there was another consideration which had not been fulfilled by the plaintiff. This consideration was that the plaintiff would accept Mrs. Smith as a tenant to the house, and that she should have the use of the fixtures for 12 months; she was accepted as a tenant, but within one twelvemonth the plaintiff distrained for rent on these fixtures, which he had agreed Mrs. Smith should have the use of for a twelvemonth.

His lordship overruled the point; and the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount claimed.”

Thomas Maddock = Thomas Maddocks

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1868

“On Monday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an enquiry at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, the house of the deceased’s parents, touching the death of Thomas Maddocks, aged 13, who, while bathing in the canal, on Friday evening, near Mr. Marshall’s works, got beyond his depth, and was drowned in the presence of his brother Arthur, aged 11, who was bathing with him. The body was got out in the course of a few minutes, by a man named Harris, but, although a crowd of persons quickly congregated, little or nothing seems to have been done to restore animation, until the arrival of Dr. Blackwood and Mr. Garman, when it was too late. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/10/1868

“Yesterday, an inquest was held at the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, by Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner, on the body of a child named Thomas, son of Joseph Turner, miner, Meeting Street. On Thursday night, about twenty minutes past five, the child was upon it’s mother’s lap, and when she was putting out her hands to reach some sugar, the little one took hold of a cup of boiling water on the table, and severely scalded its chest. Mr. Blackwood was sent for, but could not come until the following morning, owing to his other engagements. The mother-in-law having been examined, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1869

“Within the past few days no fewer than three children have died in Wednesbury from the effect of injuries sustained through their clothes having taken fire.....

Frederick Rudge, aged 7, the son of parents living in Foster Street. On the 5th inst, he was searching beneath a sofa in his father’s house for some article or other, and was lighting himself with a piece of lighted paper, when his clothes took fire, and he was badly burnt on the left side, abdomen and shoulder. He was placed under the care of Mr. Wilson Moore, and lingered until Sunday, when he died.”

[The inquest, held at the **THREE SWANS**, Holyhead Road, returned a verdict of **Accidental Death**.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/5/1869

“On Saturday night a child named Francis Green, of Meeting Street, Wednesbury, pulled a can of boiling water upon its breast. Dr. Blackwood was called in, and administered remedies for the very severe scalds inflicted, but the child died on the following day.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/5/1869

“An inquest was held yesterday, by Mr. Hooper, at the **THREE SWANS**, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the body of a child named Francis Greenthorp, of 49, Meeting Street, who died on the previous Monday of scalds inflicted by pulling a canful of boiling water upon him, as previously reported in our columns. The jury returned a verdict of **Accidental Death**.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/8/1870

“Yesterday Mr. Topham, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest at the **THREE SWANS INN**, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the body of William Late, aged 10, son of a stock taker, living in Hobbin Street. On Friday evening the deceased went to bathe in an arm of the Monway canal, and in a few minutes went down. A companion named Henry Bird, aged 8, who was standing on the bank, informed a man named Richard Wright, who was working in the neighbourhood of the occurrence, and Wright recovered the body; life, however, was extinct. Verdict, **Accidental Death**.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/2/1871

“The Fatal Accident at Messrs. Lloyd’s Patent Shaft and Axeltree Works.

Yesterday an inquest was held at the **THREE SWANS**, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of Charles Powis, who met with his death under the circumstances detailed in our Saturday’s issue. A verdict of **Accidental Death** was returned.”

1871 Census

107, Holyhead Road – **THREE SWANS**

- [1] *Thomas Maddocks* (46), victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Sarah Fanny Maddocks* (29), wife, born Newport, Hampshire;
- [3] *John Maddocks* (22), son, born Wednesfield Heath;
- [4] *Sarah Ann Maddocks* (18), daughter, born Wednesfield Heath;
- [5] *Arthur W. Maddocks* (13), son, born Wednesfield Heath;
- [6] *William H. Maddocks* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesfield Heath;
- [7] *Phillip A. Maddocks* (6), son, scholar, born Wednesfield Heath;
- [8] *Clara E. Maddocks* (5), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;
- [9] *George A. Maddocks* (4), son, born Bilston;
- [10] *Frank Maddocks* (1), son;
- [11] *Hannah Smith* (21), domestic servant, born Manchester;
- [12] *Sarah Martin* (13), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Thomas Maddock – see also **MERRY BOYS**, Willenhall Road, Wednesfield, and **OLD BUSH**, Ward Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1872

“On Friday evening a large meeting of nut and bolt makers, who are now on strike, was held at the SCOTT'S ARMS, Blackhall, Darlaston, under the presidency of Mr. John Robinson. The men were greatly determined to have ‘the justice for which they sought.’ It was resolved to hold a mass meeting at the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury, on Tuesday evening; and those present were invited to attend a meeting in the Agricultural Hall, Walsall, on Tuesday.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/2/1872

“Last night a meeting of working men was held at the THREE SWANS public house, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, in support of the nut and bolt makers now on strike, and was attended by a large number of persons, that number being greatly increased by men who had formed a large and orderly procession from Smethwick. After the addresses had been delivered by Messrs. John Elle, who presided, D. Wood, T. Harper, and R. Juggings (who announced the receipt of new and liberal donations from Grantham, Middlesbrough, Birmingham, and other parts), it was proposed by Mr. Juggings, ‘That if the strike continue for many more weeks, a committee be formed, and a co-operative shop commenced.’ This was seconded by Mr. Harper, who said if no justice could be obtained from the masters the men must endeavour to obtain it from one another, and he felt sure that they could get profits equally as large as those of the employers. What a thing it would be, the speaker added, if instead of the men working for the masters, the masters worked for the men. (Laughter.) Mr. Juggings informed the meeting that several gentlemen to whom he had spoken on the matter had promised to take shares; one had said he would have ten; another offered to find ten gentlemen who would each take ten; four gentlemen had promised to have five each; another had said he would have three, and another one. The Chairman supported the proposition, and said that many gentlemen had to him expressed their opinion that the plan would be successful, and he was sure the secretary would have plenty of applications for shares as soon as the scheme was known. It was said that the men were idle, but if they were not allowed to return to work they would soon show whether they were or not. The resolution was unanimously agreed to, and the meeting ended.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1872 - Advert

“A Good General Servant Wanted; also, a young Man, about 18, to assist in the Brewing, and make himself generally useful.

Apply at the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

A Good General **SERVANT WANTED**; also, a young Man, about 18 to assist in the Brewing, and make himself generally useful.—Apply at the Three Swans, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1873

“On Friday night a meeting of ironworkers took place at the THREE SWANS HOTEL, Wednesbury, for the purpose of hearing an address from the Rev. T. D. Matthias, of Dowlais, who has tendered his services to solicit aid for the non-union men thrown out of employment in South Wales.....

Mr. Capper proposed a resolution pledging the meeting to support the non-unionists by collections in all the works, and by all other means, and recommended that they should pay 6d for every ton of iron made, in addition to the levy of 1s for the unionists. The proposition was heartily carried.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1873 - Advert

“General Servant (respectable) Wanted.

Apply to Mrs. *W. Dawes*, THREE SWANS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

GENERAL Servant (respectable) Wanted.—Apply to Mrs. *W. Dawes*, Three Swans Hotel, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Dudley Guardian 28/2/1874

“Wednesbury Local Board.....

The Medical Officer reported In the cellars of 35 and 36, Chapel Street, there was an accumulation of foul water, which percolated into the cellars from a well in the yard of the THREE SWANS. The water was highly charged with foul gases, which were diffused throughout the house, and were likely to generate fever.”

Midland Examiner 5/12/1874 - Advert

“THREE SWANS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Choice Wines and Spirits, Fine Home Brewed Ales.

Extra Dublin Stouts in Draught and Bottles.

An Assembly Room, 60ft long by 16ft wide, well lighted and warmed, suitable for Lodges, Courts, Public and Union Meetings, Concerts, &c; an inspection of which is respectfully invited.

A good enclosed Yard, 40 yards long by 14 yards wide, with Lock-up Coach-houses and good Stabling.

Proprietor, *W. Dawes*, P. Prov. G.M., M.U.; and P.C.R., A.O.F.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/12/1874

“At the Walsall County Court, yesterday, before A. Martineau, judge, Esq, Mr. Thomas Simcock, tailor, High Street, sued Mr. *W. Dawes*, of the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, for the sum of £5 5s, being the value of a suit of clothes supplied to defendant’s order. Mr. Sproston (from the offices of Messrs. Duigman and Lewis) appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Ebsworth for the defendant.

The evidence in support of the plaint was to the effect that in February last Mr. Mason, butcher, called upon the plaintiff, and ordered a suit of clothes, at the same time referring him to the defendant for payment. Plaintiff called upon the defendant to make inquiries, and the latter told him to make the clothes and send him the bill, and he would pay for them. When the bill was sent in he refused to pay it. It transpired that during the election contest Mason and *Dawes* made a wager of a suit of clothes as to the result, Mason backing Mr. Brogden and the defendant backing Mr. R. Mills; and a memorandum to that effect, in Mason’s handwriting, was put in. The defendant admitted having made the bet, but pleaded that Mason had had too expensive a suit.

His Honour said if a man made a bet for a new hat or a new suit of clothes, he had a right to go to the best shop and get the best hat or suit of clothes he could. He regretted that, as a man of honour, the defendant had not paid the money without quibble or dispute. It was a matter that ought not to have been brought into court. He should give judgement for plaintiff for the full amount claimed and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1875 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Man, to assist in Brewing, and make himself generally useful. Also, a respectable General Servant. From the country preferred.

Apply to Mr. *Dawes*, THREE SWANS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/11/1875

“Yesterday an inquest was held at the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Sarah Townsend, aged three years, who lived with her parents in Old Meeting Street. On Friday evening the child, during the temporary absence of its mother, was standing by the fire, when its clothes caught fire, and it was so severely burnt about the face and body that death resulted on the following day. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1876 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady, single young Man, to live in the house, to Assist in Brewing, and make himself generally useful. Apply to Mr. *Dawes*, THREE SWANS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a steady, single young Man, to live in the house, to Assist in Brewing, and make himself generally useful.—Apply to Mr. *Dawes*, Three Swans Hotel, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Dudley Herald 19/2/1876

“On Monday, an important meeting of ironworkers was held at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, to consider the ironmasters’ proposals in favour of the establishment of a new Wages Board.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1876 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted; one from the country preferred.

Mrs. *W. Dawes*, THREE SWANS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

GENERAL Servant (good) Wanted; one from the country preferred.—Mrs. *W. Dawes*, Three Swans Hotel, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

London Gazette 31/10/1876

“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 *William Dawes*, of the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead-road, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

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 11th day of November, 1876, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 27th day of October, 1876.

Slater and Marshall, Solicitors for the said Debtor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1877 - Advert

“To Hotel-keepers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Brewers, and Others.

THREE SWANS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. L. Courtney, on Monday, December 3, 1877, upon the Premises, at 6 o'clock in the evening (unless previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which due notice will be given).

The Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of all that Valuable Premises, known as the THREE SWANS HOTEL.

The House and Premises, which are very commodious, have a spacious and commanding front, and comprise Liquor Shop (recently fitted up), two Smoke Rooms, Bar Parlour, large Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, large Brewhouse (replete with every convenience), Assembly Room, 60ft long by 16ft wide, well lighted, suitable for lodges courts, public and union meetings, concerts, balls, &c; eight Bed Rooms, enclosed Yard, 40 yards long by 14 yards wide; two lock-up Coach-houses, Stabling for four horses, Piggeries, &c.

NB. The Purchaser of the Lease, &c, of which six years is unexpired in January next, to take to the Fixtures, Furniture, Brewing Plant, and Stock at valuation.

The House is situate in the main thoroughfare leading from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, and within five minutes' walk of the Great Western and London and North-Western Railway Stations, is in excellent working order, and now doing a good Business.

For further particulars, apply to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1878 - Advert

“Wednesbury. THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road; excellent position, well-frequented old-licensed house, splendid business premises, doing a fair trade; could be greatly increased by a persevering business man. Coming-in about £450.

E. B. Scholefield, Auctioneer and Valuer, Church Street, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/3/1878 - Advert

“Man and Wife (experienced) Want the Management of a respectable Public House or Spirit Vaults. Good references can be given.

Address, *William Dawes*, Post Office, Wednesbury.”

MAN and Wife (experienced) Want the Management of a respectable Public-house or Spirit Vaults. Good references can be given. —Address, William Dawes, Post Office, Wednesbury,

Birmingham Daily Post 15/7/1879 - Advert

“Barman. Situation Wanted, by a respectable young Man. Good references.

Address, William Rice, THREE SWANS HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

BARMAN.—Situation Wanted, by a respectable young Man. Good references.—Address, William Rice, Three Swans Hotel, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 5/8/1879

“Edward Humphage, an old offender, was charged with being drunk and assaulting the police.

Police-constable Noble said he found the prisoner drunk in the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, and he was asked by the landlord to ‘turn him out.’ The man was very violent, and kicked him severely about the knees, and his legs were bruised so much that he could hardly walk.

Mr. Holland said that the day previous Humphage was fighting and he was one of the worst characters in the district. Police-constable Wassall gave corroborative evidence, and added that they were compelled to put prisoner on a handcart, as he refused to walk.

Prisoner said he knew nothing of what he had done because he was so drunk.

There was a long list against the prisoner. He was fined £2 and costs for being drunk, or, in default, two months' imprisonment; and for the assault on the police he was sent to gaol for three months, without the option of a fine.”

1881 Census

107, Holyhead Road – THREE SWANS INN

[1] Joseph H. Rice (48), married, hammer man and victualler, born Cannock;

[2] Emma Hall (42), manageress, born West Bromwich;

[3] Charles Baker (22), barman, born Greets Green;

[4] George M. Watson (17), waiter, born Park Gate, Yorkshire;

[5] Eliza Groom (18), domestic servant, born Horseley Heath:

Birmingham Mail 1/9/1881

“For some time past the police have been making enquiries for John Edward Belcher (36), living at Wednesbury, who has been engaged at the Lock and Skin Hospital, Newhall Street, Birmingham, as dispenser of medicine, and to receive the subscriptions given to the institution. Last night Detective-inspector Painter went to Wednesbury, and apprehended Belcher on a warrant for embezzling 19s at the THREE SWANS public house, where he has been engaged as a pianist. The accused has succeeded in keeping out of the hands of the police since last May. He was traced some time back as far as London by the detectives and then lost sight of. When journeying from Wednesbury to Birmingham prisoner admitted to Painter that he had appropriated the money to his own use. Prisoner was brought up this morning before Messrs. Hill and Goodrick, and charged with embezzling 19s belonging to the institution, but was remanded until Wednesday, on the application of Mr. Hooper, who prosecuted. The prisoner’s father is a local preacher at Wednesbury, and is well known in the district. It is supposed that the prisoner has embezzled nearly £200.”

[Belcher pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six weeks’ imprisonment.]

Wednesbury Herald 7/4/1883

“On Thursday Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquiry at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Edward Ward aged 1_ days. The deceased was weak from birth, and died before medical aid could be obtained on the 3rd inst. A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1883

“A meeting of the workmen, principally those employed at the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, took place at the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury, on Thursday; Mr. S. Harvey presiding. Some discussion took place as to the propriety of forming a society for puddlers apart from the millmen, and after a resolution had been passed censuring the millmen for refusing work, as by doing so they had compelled the puddlers to go in at a reduction, a ballot was taken, the result of which was that 47 men were for going to work at the reduction and 37 for holding out for the old rate of wages. A resolution of sympathy with Messrs. Wright on the damage done at their works was unanimously passed. This may be taken as practically settling the matter so far as Wednesbury is concerned.”

*probably the same person

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.....

Henry Rice, THREE SWANS, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/9/1885

“On Wednesday night the Hon. P. Stanhope, the Liberal candidate for the borough of Wednesbury, addressed a meeting of the electors in St. James Ward, at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/12/1886

“Yesterday Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the body of Michael Roche (76), a bricklayer’s labourer. On Saturday afternoon the deceased went to the Parish Church Schools to receive a coat from Hopkins Charity, and had arrived within a few yards of his own door on his return home, when he slipped in passing over the stones in front of the gateway leading into the yard of the THREE SWANS INN, and fell on his face, cutting his temple deeply. He was carried in-doors, and Dr. Hingley was sent for, but before that gentleman’s arrival death had taken place. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/1/1887

“Yesterday, Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, on the body of Thomas Poxon (16), son of George and Sarah Jane Poxon, of Monway Fields, whose death had occurred owing to his having been hit on the head by a stone thrown at him by a man named James Miller.

The evidence of the mother of the deceased and his brother Samuel Poxon, was to the effect that on Sunday, the 14th of November, the deceased and another brother were taking a donkey, which they had rescued from some boys who were ill-using it, to a plot of grass near their parents’ house, when Miller came up with a companion, and because the boys would not leave the donkey alone, ‘clouted’ the deceased on one of the ears and threw at him a piece of furnace slag, which struck him on the back of the head. Then the mother, the sister, and the brother Samuel went to see what was going on, and Miller threatened to throw at the mother. This ‘put some rage into’ the deceased, who took up a stone, and threatened that if could not throw at Miller he would throw at his dog; but before he could do so Miller threw at him, and then ran away, the stone, a large one, striking him on the forehead, and causing a wound from which blood flowed freely. His mother dressed the wound, and he went to work till a fortnight before Christmas, when he became sick and complained of pains in his head. In consequence he stayed at home until after the Christmas holidays, when he resumed work, and continued to go to work until Friday night, when he was well and cheerful, although he had complained of pains in his head on Wednesday and Thursday. On Saturday morning early he awoke his mother by screaming that the pains in his head were intense, and remedies were applied which eased him; but in the afternoon, the youth being then unconscious, Dr. Dingley was fetched, and at about half-past six he died.

Dr. Dingley said that when he was called in he came to the conclusion that the deceased’s brain was affected. He had since made a post mortem examination of the body. On the left side of the forehead, about 1½in from the middle line, he found an irregular-shaped scar, where a wound had healed up, and in the skull underneath there was a hole 1¼in in diameter, corresponding with the scar, a piece of dead bone, quite loose, being in the centre of the hole. There were signs of inflammation around the hole, and underneath the membranes were inflamed, and a portion of the brain had softened, there also being in the centre of the softened part an abscess 1½in in diameter. The cause of death was the abscess in the brain, resulting from necrosis of the bone of the skull. A stone would be most likely to cause such an injury. It was quite possible that if the injury was as far back as the 14th November the boy could have gone on with his work. That it was an old injury was shown by the looseness of the bone. Great violence must have been used.

The implicated man, James Miller, offered himself for examination, being first cautioned by the Coroner. He said that on the day named, seeing that the deceased and his brother were ill-using a donkey, he went and spoke to them. They cursed him, telling him the donkey did not belong to him, but to a Mr. Harvey, and he boxed the ears of the deceased, who ran upon the railway and threw stones at him from fifty to sixty yards distance. Witness knew that the stones could not take effect from that distance, and so he threw a stone back to frighten the lad, and shoved the other boy off the donkey. Then the mother and sister came up, and the latter turned up her sleeves and began to throw at him, also calling out to the boy, since deceased, ‘Why didn’t you cut his —— fat head open.’ He tried to tell the mother what had occurred, but she would not hear him, and, with her daughter began to push him about. Then the deceased, who had a stone in his hand, said if he could not hit witness he would hit his dog, and he threw and hurt the animal. The mother and sister had bricks in their hands at the time, and he feared to turn his face from them lest they should hit him from behind, and perhaps kill him; but when he heard the dog cry out he threw a stone which he had in his hand, without taking aim at all, and, finding that he had diverted the attention of the mother and sister, he ran away. As he ran the daughter threw half a brick at him, which struck him in the back. All the family used very bad and threatening language. He also called two witnesses, named Stephen Hodson and Martin Collins who gave corroborative evidence.

The Coroner, in summing up, pointed out the difference between manslaughter and homicide by misadventure, adding that if the jury thought Miller intended to inflict bodily harm they must return a verdict of manslaughter, but if they thought the man acted without malicious intention and simply with a desire to defend himself, then they had

better return a verdict of wounded by misadventure. The jury, after deliberating some time in private, adopted the latter alternative, but coupled with the verdict a request to the coroner to admonish Miller. This was done, the Coroner telling him that, according to the strict letter of the law, he had been guilty of manslaughter, but the jury had taken a lenient view of the case. It must be a very serious reflection to him that he had been the means of causing the death of a fellow-creature by committing an illegal act, and it was hoped it would be a warning to him and to many other people in the district who were addicted to stone throwing.”

W. H. Aston issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1890 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale of Two Capital Brewing Plants, Copper Furnaces, &c (by directions of Messrs. Henry Mitchell and Co. Limited), on Monday Next, April 21. BLUE BOAR INN, Oxford Street, Bilston.

Messrs. Thomas Skidmore & Son have received instructions from Messrs. Henry Mitchell and Co. Limited to Sell by Auction (without reserve).

The Excellent Brewing Plants, large Collecting Vats, Fermenting Vat, pair wood Vats and Frame, copper-bottom Sieve, large brass Taps, 16-bushel Mashtub, 230-gallon Copper Furnace, grate and brickwork, wrought-iron Furnace; large iron Cistern, ¼ plates, size 6ft by 3ft by 2ft; patent copper Refrigerator, quantity of Ale Barrels, copper Measures, &c. Salet at Eleven o'clock.

Also at the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, the whole of this Excellent Plant, comprising twenty-one capital sweet Barrels, Gathering Tubs and oval Coolers, 18-bushel Mashtub, pair wood Vats and Frame, lead Piping, lead Refrigerator, India-rubber Hose, 250-gallon copper Boilers, small copper Boiler, Avery's Weighing Machine, 400 Gallons Fresh Ale, &c. Sale at Two o'clock.

Catalogues may be obtained from the Places of Sale, and from the Auctioneers Offices, 1 and 2, Bilston Street, Wolverhampton.”

John Wassell = John Wassall

Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1891

“At about a quarter to one o'clock yesterday morning, some of the members of the household of Mr. *John Wassall*, keeper of the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, were aroused by a dense suffocating smoke, which was creeping from one of the lower rooms into those above, and on a search being made it was found that the flooring in one of the rooms had taken fire, through an accumulation of burning soot at the back, as it afterwards turned out, and that the fire had spread to some of the furniture. Police-sergeant Lightfoot rendered assistance at once, and a messenger having been despatched to the fire-engine station, the brigade under Captain Scott attended with their engine.”

1891 Census

107, Holyhead Road

[1] *John Wassell* (52), licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] Elizabeth Wassell (42), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Bessie Wassell (27), daughter, born Sedgley;

[4] Alice Price (22), domestic servant, born Great Bridge;

[5] Constance Clarke (18), domestic servant, born Leominster, Herefordshire:

John Wassell – see also DUKE WILLIAM, Sedgley, and WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury.

Walsall Observer 10/3/1900

“Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquiry on Monday, at the THREE SWANS, Wednesbury, touching the death of a girl named Mary Blake (7), daughter of Charles Blake, 7, School Street, Wednesbury.

The deceased had been very weak for years. On the 1st inst the deceased was carrying a flag to celebrate the relief of Ladysmith.

Dr. Walter Garman said his opinion was that death was due to heart failure.

A verdict of Natural Causes was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/3/1901

“Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) held an inquest today at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, respecting the death of Elizabeth Riley, aged two years seven months, whose parents reside in Holyhead Road.

From the evidence it appeared that the child had been delicate from birth, and was also subject to fits. On Thursday deceased was seized with a fit, but she appeared to recover. However, on Sunday morning there were symptoms of another attack, and the child suddenly expired. The father, Joseph Riley, it appeared, was a stoker engaged at the Patent Shaft works, and was in receipt of nearly 25s a week. Riley, his wife, and four children occupied a two-roomed house, and all slept in one bedroom.

Several jurymen expressed the opinion that the house was unfit for human habitation.

The Coroner observed that it was in a filthy condition, and he was not surprised that the child had died. The house, he considered, was not fit for a pig to live in, and the stench was awful.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned by the jury, and the Coroner administered a severe censure to the parents for tolerating such a disgraceful and insanitary state of affairs.”

1901 Census

107, Holyhead Road – THREE SWANS

[1] Mary A. Dixon (27), widow, hotel keeper, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Gladys B. Dixon (5), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[3] Elizabeth J. Dixon (18), domestic servant, born West Bromwich;

[4] Sarah Mole (63), servant, born Tipton:

Wednesbury Leader 10/8/1901

“On Wednesday evening Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquiry at the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, into the death of Mary Jane Jeavons (48), wife of John Jeavons, labourer, living at 150, Holyhead Road, who was found strangled in her yard on Tuesday.

John Jeavons stated that about nine years ago his wife had a pin scratch on the leg. Mortification set in, and deceased had to go to the West Bromwich Hospital, where the leg was amputated. On the 24th of July his wife was leaning on a shelf over the cellar steps to hang up a brush when the shelf gave way and she fell down. Her little finger was broken in two places. She had since been somewhat melancholy, as she thought the finger, too, might prove a serious danger, and lead to the necessity of amputation. On Monday night she seemed all right on going to bed. On Tuesday morning she awoke early, and asked him if he was going to work. He told her he was not, and went to sleep again. He next saw deceased in the yard, strangled.

William Barsby said on Tuesday morning he had occasion to go into the yard early. He saw deceased lying on her back near a wall. She had a string tied three times round her neck, and it was drawn so tight that it had to be cut with a knife. Into the yard wall a hook had been driven. The woman was then breathing slightly, but died before the doctor arrived.

Rosanna Carter, 103, Holyhead Road, said she saw deceased on the 5th and asked her how her hand was. She cried, and said she wished she was dead. On the 6th at 7-15am she saw deceased lying in the yard. She was breathing. She had a razor in her pocket.

Dr. A. E. Dingley said he was called to see the woman shortly after 7am. There was a strong hook in the wall over her feet, and a chair stood under the hook. She was dead, and her face was blue. There were three marks on her neck, and death was caused by suffocation through hanging.

PC O'Hara said that on the 6th at 7-30am he was called to deceased. She was lying near a wall with her feet towards it. Some twine near had been taken off her neck. It was ascertained that the chair near the wall was one which the woman often used to help her get about.

A verdict that deceased killed herself while of an Unsound Mind was returned, and the Coroner remarked on the sadness of the affair.”

Wednesbury Leader 12/10/1901

“At Wednesbury Police Court on Friday, before Aldermen R. Williams, I. Oldbury, and Mr. F. W. Hackwood, a man named Edwin Hudson (50), of no fixed abode, but who has been living in apartments at Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, was charged with obtaining various sums of money by false pretences, and with intent to defraud, between the 17th September and 3rd October.

The evidence showed that prisoner represented himself to be in the employ of the Midland Advertising Company, Wolverhampton, and canvassed for advertisements for the Wolverhampton Wanderers Fixture Card. He secured 2s 6d from Frank Turbot, manager of the South Staffordshire Coffee House, Market Place; 4s 6d from Benjamin E. Pewtriss, tobacconist, Market Place; 5s from Herbert E. Kent, of the CROWN AND CUSHION INN; 5s from William H. Hadley, GREEN DRAGON INN, Market Place; 2s 6d from James Faulkner, BULLS HEAD INN; 2s from *William Macdonald*, THREE SWANS INN; 5s from Frank Bateman, licensed victualler, High Street; 2s 6d from Edward Phillips, BRITANNIA INN, Trowse Lane; 2s 6d from John Jones, FORRESTERS ARMS, Portway Road; and 2s 6d from Albert Newbould, OLD PACK HORSE, Dudley Street.

Frederick L. Hodgetts, of the Penn Road, Wolverhampton, said he was a partner in the Midland Advertising Company. Prisoner had been in their employ, but left on the 27th April. He had not been connected with the company since, and was not authorised to canvass for advertisements.

Detective Truswell deposed to effecting the arrest of prisoner.

Alderman Oldbury (to prisoner): Didn't you consider you had a lot of 'flats' to deal with in Wednesbury? I am surprised that tradesmen should give their money away without even asking for a receipt. They must be very confiding.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Sessions, which commence on Tuesday next.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1901

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Edwin Hudson, 50, traveller, pleaded guilty to having obtained various sums of money by false pretences at Wednesbury, on September 17. There were previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sentenced to three years' penal servitude.”

Wednesbury Leader 10/8/1906

“A supper, given by the Directors of the P. S. A. Company to the smelters of the Monway Department, was admirably served up at the THREE SWANS INN, on Saturday evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. W. Tomlinson, and the vice chair by Mr. W. Clements.

Mr. W. Jones, in moving a resolution thanking the Directors for their kindness, remarked that the supper was given to mark the occasion of finishing the laying down of four new forty-ton acid furnaces, gas producers, etc. It showed the kindly feeling which existed between the men and the masters, and he hoped it would serve as a pattern to other smelting shops.....”

Walsall Advertiser 15/8/1908

“At the Penkridge Petty Sessions on Monday, *Joseph Onions*, of the THREE SWANS INN, Wednesbury, was summoned for disorderly conduct at Standeford, Brewood, on the 26th July. Mr. R. Astley Tennh, of Wednesbury, appeared for the defence.

According to Sergeant Snead, he with a man named Heywood and Police-constable Barrett was standing on the bridge at Standeford, when defendant came across the road and asked Heywood if he accused one of his (defendant's) party of taking a fox. Defendant said Heywood was a — liar, and at the same time raised his hands in a fighting attitude, and said, 'I have a good mind to smash your — jaw.' Police-constable Barrett gave corroborative evidence, as did the man Heywood.

The defence was that *Onions* stepped in between Heywood and a member of his (defendant's) party to prevent a disturbance. He denied making use of the expressions attributed to him.

Defendant and about a dozen other witnesses gave evidence.

Eventually the Bench convicted, and fined defendant 10s and costs.”

Tipton Herald 10/4/1909

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, before Mr. C. Southern and Dr. Dingley, Michael O’Connell, of Portway Road, Wednesbury, was charged with being a convict on license and failing to report himself. He was also charged with being drunk and disorderly in the Holyhead Road, and further, with being drunk on the licensed premises of the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, and refusing to quit.

The Bench said the prisoner had a wretched record. He had been before the Court about fifty times during the last fifteen to twenty years. For refusing to quit he was fined 10s and costs, or 14 days’ imprisonment, and for being drunk and disorderly 5s and costs, or seven days.

With regard to the charge of failing to report himself in accordance with the conditions of his license, Superintendent Salt said prisoner was sentenced to three years’ penal servitude in July 1906, for wounding. On the 21st August last year he was released on license, but did not report himself to the police after the 31st December. On this charge the Bench sentenced prisoner to three months’ imprisonment, the sentences to run concurrently.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/10/1909 - Advert

“Wanted, smart Young Lady Pianist, for Saturday and Monday evenings.
Apply, THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, smart Young Lady Pianist, for
Saturday and Monday evenings.—Apply,
Three Swans, Holyhead-rd., Wednesbury.

1911 Census

107, Holyhead Road

- [1] *Frederick John Fleet* (38), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Sarah Annie Fleet (38), wife, married 17 years, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Miriam Ellis (20), barmaid, born Walsall:

1921 Census

107, Holyhead Road – THREE SWANS

- [1] *Frederick J. Fleet* (48), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Elizabeth Fleet (47), wife, home duties, born Tipton;
- [3] Lilian Hill (23), step-daughter, barmaid, born Tipton;
- [4] George Hill (21), step-son, motor mechanic, out of work, born Tipton;
- [5] Ester Plant (24), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1924

“Upon five charges of forging signatures to receipts for amounts ranging from 5s to 17s 6d between February 12 and May 28 this year, James George Sheldon (36), 9, Queen Street, Wednesbury, a stream crane driver, and a former secretary of the Wednesbury branch of the British Iron, Steel, and Kindred Trades Association, appeared before the Stipendiary (Mr. Bertram G. Grimley) at Wednesbury Police Court yesterday.

Mr. Percy J. Slater, who prosecuted on behalf of the association, stated that the local branch held its meetings at the THREE SWANS HOTEL, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, and that the landlord, Mr. *F. J. Fleet*, was paid rent for the room. Sheldon paid the rent, but first of all made a claim from the central office of the association for the money, and then when it was forwarded to him with the receipt he handed the money over and obtained the landlord’s receipt and signature. This year, however, the landlord had received no rent, but the applications had been made and the receipts sent in with the signatures upon them by Sheldon, who was secretary up to the end of May. It was ascertained that the signatures were not those of *Fleet*, while in another instance what was purported to be the signature of the local president, Mr. I. Johns, also appeared on a receipt for delegation expenses, whereas the president had neither made application for them nor had he been paid.

Evidence was given bearing out this statement, and Sheldon, who was represented by Mr. Ernest E. Brown, of Wednesbury, was committed for trial at the next Staffordshire Assizes, bail being allowed.”

AND

Staffordshire Sentinel 26/2/1925

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

James George Sheldon (36), described as a crane driver, pleaded guilty to forging five receipts for sums varying between 5s and 17s 6d at Wednesbury. Mr. A. J. Long, prosecuting, said the prisoner was the local secretary of the British Iron, Steel, and Kindred Trades Association, and he made forgeries purporting to show that money, which he had received from the head office and had retained, had been disbursed. Prisoner was sentenced to four months’ imprisonment in the second division.”

Sidney Arthur Higgs = *Sydney Arthur Higgs*

Walsall Observer 17/12/1927

“A protection order in respect of the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, was granted on the application of Mr. Kenshole (Birmingham), who, on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells & Butlers, said the licensee, a man named *Higgs*, had left the premises without sanction. The matter was in the hands of Police Superintendent Adams. The order was granted in the name of Mr. Parsons.”

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.”

Sidney Arthur Higgs – see also ROYAL OAK, Booth Street, Darlaston.

Walsall Observer 9/9/1939

“Wednesbury's Raid Shelters.

Following is list of the air raid shelters which are now ready or will be available shortly, with the accommodation provided.....

THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road (50).”

1939 Registry

107, Holyhead Road (2 of 4)

[1] *Walter F. Wilding*, date of birth 3/6/1905, manager of public house, married;

[2] *Elizabeth M. Wilding*, dob 17/7/1904, unpaid domestic duties, assistant to above, married;

Walter Frederick Wilding died in the 2nd quarter of 1946.

Evening Despatch 19/12/1952

"William Mellon Corbett, aged 34, labourer, of 32, Middle Vauxhall, Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, was fined £5 at Wednesbury today for stealing a wireless set valued £15 from the private room of *Lawrence Archibald Palfreyman*, licensee of the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road. Corbett later took the wireless back and said he took it for a bit of fun. He had drunk 11 pints of beer during the dinner hour."

Walsall Observer 27/3/1981 - Advert

"THREE SWANS, Hollyhead Road, Wednesbury.
Hot and Cold Snacks Available.
Egg on toast, beans on toast, egg and chips, cobs, etc.
Live entertainment on Saturday Night.
Film Show on Sunday Night.
Small Parties also catered for."

Sandwell Evening Mail 25/6/1981

"Thieves who forced their way into THREE SWANS public house, Holly Head Road, Wednesbury, stole a £600 video recorder."

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/12/1982 - Advert

"The THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, wish all Customers and Friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

London Gazette 18/8/1983

"*Kevin Woodhouse*, unemployed, of 22 Thorn Close, Wednesbury, in the metropolitan county of West Midlands, lately carrying on business as a Tenant Publican at the RISING SUN, Trowse Lane, Wednesbury aforesaid, and formerly so carrying on business at the THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury aforesaid.

Court - Dudley.

Date of Order - 2nd August 1983.

Date of Filing Petition - 2nd August 1983."

[1983]

Closed

It was demolished in 1986.

The site was used by Wednesbury Motors Ltd.

NOTICE.
A FIFTY POUNDS CLUB, on a very improved principle, will commence at the Three Swans Inn, Wednesbury, on Wednesday the 13th inst. Any person becoming a Member will very much oblige his obedient servant,
JOHN JEVON.
N.B. The Rules and every other information may be had by applying as above.
Wednesbury, May 2, 1835.

1835

THREE SWANS, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.—To be DISPOSED OF, with immediate possession, this well-known Old-licensed HOUSE, now and for many years past (without changing hands) doing a first-class business, situated on the main road from Wolverhampton to Birmingham.—For particulars, apply to F. W. Seaman, Solicitor; or to Mr. Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, &c., both of Wednesbury.

UNRESERVED SALE
AT THE THREE SWANS, HOLYHEAD ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE (under a Bill of Sale), on MONDAY and TUESDAY NEXT, October 9 and 10, unless disposed of by Private Contract—all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STOCK, FIXTURES, and Effects, consisting of mahogany Centre and other Tables, Chairs, Wardrobes, Bedsteads, Sofas, Couches, PIANO-FORTE, feather Beds, and Bed Clothing, Pier and Swing Glasses, 5-pull Ale Machine, Spirit Fountain and Spirit Barrels, Pewter Measures, Glasses, 24-bushel Mash Tub, three Ale Coolers, forty Ale and Spirit Casks, varying from 23 gallons to 500 each, Malt Crusher, 2-knife Chaff Engine, Sign, Lamp, and other Effects, according to catalogues, which can be obtained from the Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury, or at the Place of Sale.
Sale to commence punctually each morning at half-past Ten o'clock.

1865

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

WILLIAM DEAKIN, now of 3, Dale Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, out of business, and late of the Three Swans Inn, Wednesbury aforesaid, Victualler, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 15th day of March, 1867, 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 6th day of April, 1867, at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the County Court, Goodall 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.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF STAFFORDSHIRE,

HOLDEN AT WALSTALL.

IN the matter of **WILLIAM DEAKIN**, now of 3, Dale Street, Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, out of business, and late of the Three Swans Inn, Wednesbury aforesaid, Victualler, adjudged Bankrupt on the 15th day of March, 1867. 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 judgment of the Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.

Dated this 25th day of May, 1867.

C. G. **MEGEVAN**, High Bailiff.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, that capital Old-licensed HOUSE, the "THREE SWANS," situated in the Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, in an excellent business situation, and surrounded by Iron and other Works. It is well adapted for parties requiring large and commodious Premises. The House contains Parlour Bar, Smoke Room, two Tap Rooms, Kitchen, Brew-house, large Lodge or Club Room, suitable for a Concert Hall, four Chambers and four Attics, together with a large lock-up Yard, Stabling for five Horses, two Coach-houses, Piggeries, &c.—Apply to Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

UNRESERVED SALE,

AT THE THREE SWANS INN
HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY J. WHITEHOUSE, on **TUESDAY** NEXT, July 23rd (unless disposed of by Private Contract)—the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING PLANT, and other Effects (under a Distress for Rent); comprising lofty four-post Mahogany, and other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Mattresses, Mahogany Dining, Centre, and other Tables, eight-day, and other Clocks, fourteen Ale Casks, Mash Tub, Coolers, Working, and other Tubs, two Copper BOILERS, four-pull Ale Machine, five-tap Spirit Fountain and Piping, five Spirit Casks, Jugs, Glasses, and Bar Fittings, Chairs, Benches, Swing Sign, Lamp, Gas Fittings, and Piping, six Store Pigs, Sow-in-Pig, and Sow with Seven Pigs, Fowls, &c., &c.

Sale to commence punctually, at half-past Ten o'clock a.m., owing to the large number of Lots.

Catalogues may be obtained at the place of Sale; or at the Auctioneer's Office, Russell Street, Wednesbury.
The HOUSE and PREMISES to LET.

1867

THREE SWANS HOTEL,

HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.
CHOICE WINES AND SPIRITS, FINE HOME
BREWED ALES.

EXTRA DUBLIN STOUTS IN DRAUGHT AND
BOTTLES.

An **ASSEMBLY ROOM**, 60ft. long by 16ft. wide, well lighted and warmed, suitable for Lodges, Courts, Public and Union Meetings, Concerts, &c.; an inspection of which is respectfully invited.

A good enclosed Yard, 40 yards long by 14 yards wide, with Lock-up Coach-houses and good Stabling.

PROPRIETOR—W. DAWES,

P. Prov. G.M., &c.; and P.C.R., A.O.F.

To Hotel-keepers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Brewers, and Others.—**THREE SWANS HOTEL**, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.—To be Sold by Auction.

BY R. L. COURTNEY, on **MONDAY**, December 3, 1877, upon the Premises, at 6 o'clock in the evening (unless previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which due notice will be given)—the **LEASE, LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION** of all that Valuable PREMISES, known as "THE THREE SWANS HOTEL."

The House and Premises, which are very commodious, have a spacious and commanding front, and comprise Liquor Shop (recently fitted up), two Smoke Rooms, Bar Parlour, large Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, large Brew-house (replete with every convenience), Assembly Room, 60ft. long by 16ft. wide, well lighted, suitable for lodges, courts, public and union meetings, concerts, balls, &c.; eight Bed Rooms, enclosed Yard, 40 yards long by 14 yards wide; two lock-up Coach-houses, Stabling for four horses, Piggeries, &c.

N.B.—The Purchaser of the Lease, &c., of which six years is unexpired in January next, to take to the Fixtures, Furniture, Brewing Plant, and Stock at valuation.

The House is situate in the main thoroughfare leading from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, and within five minutes' walk of the Great Western and London and North-Western Railway Stations, in excellent working order, and now doing a good Business.

For further particulars, apply to **R. L. Courtney**, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.

1877

WEDNESBURY.—Three Swans Inn, Holyhead Road; excellent position, well-frequented old-licensed house, splendid business premises, doing a fair trade; could be greatly increased by a persevering business man. Coming in about £450.—**E. B. Scholefield**, Auctioneer and Valuer, Church Street, Wednesbury.

1878

Unreserved Sale of Two Capital **BREWING PLANTS**, Copper Furnaces, &c. (by directions of Messrs. Henry Mitchell and Co., (Limited), on **MONDAY NEXT**, April 21.—Blue Boar Inn, Oxford Street, Bilton.

MESSRS. THOMAS SKIDMORE & SON, have received instructions from Messrs. Henry Mitchell and Co. (Limited), to Sell by Auction (without reserve)—the Excellent **BREWING PLANTS**, large Collecting Vats, Fermenting Vat, pair wood Vats and Frame, copper-bottom Sieve, large brass Taps, 16-bushel Mash-tub, 230-gallon Copper Furnace, grate and brick-work, wrought-iron Furnace; large iron Cistern, 1/4 plates, size 6ft. by 3ft. by 2ft.; patent copper Refrigerator, quantity of Ale Barrels, copper Measures, &c. Sale at Eleven o'clock.

Also at The Three Swans, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, the whole of this Excellent **PLANT**, comprising twenty-one capital sweet Barrels, Gathering Tube and oval Coolers, 18-bushel Mash-tub, pair wood Vats and Frame, lead Piping, lead Refrigerator, India-rubber Hose, 250-gallon copper Boilers, small copper Boiler, Avery's Weighing Machine, 600 GALLONS FRESH ALE, &c. Sale at Two o'clock.

Catalogues may be obtained from the Places of Sale, and from the Auctioneers' Offices, 1 and 2, Bilton Street, Wolverhampton.

1890

THREE SWANS

**HOLLYHEAD ROAD,
WEDNESBURY**

HOT & COLD SNACKS AVAILABLE

**Egg on toast – beans on
toast – egg and chips, cobs,
etc.**

**Live entertainment on Sa-
turday Night.**

**Film Show on Sunday Night.
Small Parties also catered for.**

Tel. 021-556 0395.

1981

THE THREE SWANS

**Holyhead Road
Wednesbury
556 0395**

***Wish all Customers
and Friends***

**a Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year**



1982

THREE TUNS

High Bullen, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Dawes [1834] – [1842]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Joseph Dawes = Joseph Daws

Joseph Dawes, beer retailer, High Bullen. [1841]

1841 Census

High Bullen

[1] *Joseph Daws* (58), forge man;

[2] *Mary Daws* (40), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Sarah Clark* (5), born Staffordshire:

Joseph Dawes, retailer of beer, High Bullen. [1842]

THREE TUNS

58, Union Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler Ltd. [1904], [1949]

LICENSEES

Thomas Kendrick [1861] – [1871]

Mrs. Ann Kendrick [1881]

John Simpson [1891]

Henry Beesley [1896]

George Arthur Lee [1901] – [1904]

Herbert Riley [1904]

Mrs. Harriett Elizabeth Eames [1911]

John W Evans [1912]

Richard Henry 'Dick' Collett (1913 – 1951)



1904

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Union Street

[1] *Thomas Kendrick* (48), publican and coach smith, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Ann Kendrick* (48), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *John Kendrick* (21), son, coach smith, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Sarah Ann Kendrick* (18), daughter, general servant, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Mercy Kendrick* (15), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Thomas Kendrick* (13), son, born Wednesbury:

Thomas Kendrick, retailer of beer, Union Street. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/10/1862

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, a publican named *Thomas Kendrick*, landlord, of a house in Union Street, charged a man named *David Williams*, with having assaulted him, and broke a pane of glass. It appeared that on Friday night last, defendant went into complainant’s house, and commenced to exhibit his ability as a member of the magic art, before the assembled company, after which he went round, cap in hand, to collect donations. Complainant, however, objected to this course, and defendant then became very violent, and committed the damage complained of. Fined 5s and costs, or 14 days’ imprisonment.”

Thomas Kendrick, carriage step manufacturer and beer retailer, Union Street. [1864], [1865]

Thomas Kendrick, beer retailer, Union Street. [1868]

1871 Census

58, Union Street

[1] *Thomas Kendrick* (58), publican and coach smith (employing 11 men 1 boy), born Wednesbury;

[2] *Ann Kendrick* (59), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Sarah A. Danks* (5), grand-daughter, scholar, born Aston, Warwickshire;

[4] *Mary J. Slade* (18), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Thomas Kendrick died in the 1st quarter of 1876.

Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1880 - Advert

"Lost, January 2, at Wednesbury, a black-and-tan Bitch; answers to the name of Topsy; age five months.

If the finder will return it to Thomas Kendrick, THREE TUNS, Union Street, Wednesbury, he will be rewarded."

1881 Census

58, Union Street – THREE TUNS INN Public House

[1] Ann Kendrick (69), widow, publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] Thomas Kendrick (35), son, widower, coach smith, born Wednesbury;

[3] Sarah A. Danks (16), grand-daughter, domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Ann Kendrick died in the 4th quarter of 1886.

1891 Census

Union Street – THREE TUNS

[1] John Simpson (52), beerhouse keeper, born Droitwich;

[2] Elizabeth Simpson (52), wife, born Droitwich:

Henry Beesley, beer retailer, 58, Union Street. [1896]

1901 Census

Union Street – THREE TUNS

[1] George A. Lee (29), beerhouse keeper, born Birmingham;

[2] Rosannah Lee (29), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] William A. Lee (8), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] Ida Lee (6), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] George H. Lee (3), son, born Wednesbury;

[6] Harriet Whitehouse (73), mother-in-law, widow, born Tipton:

Walsall Observer 5/12/1903

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday week, *George Arthur Lee*, THREE TUNS INN, Union Street, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on November 14th.

Evidence was given that Police-constables Savory and Webb were called to the public house in consequence of a dispute between the landlord and a man named Dulleston, over some change which the latter said was due to him. He was drunk, and was so disorderly he had to be locked up. The landlord admitted having supplied him, but said the man had given him the exact money each time. Dulleston had since been convicted, but it was now denied that he was drunk.

The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant £5, including costs."

George Arthur Lee, beer retailer, 58, Union Street. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1904

"Wednesbury adjourned licensing sessions.....

Eight licenses were objected to by the police.....

THREE TUNS, Union Street.

In each instance a conviction was recorded against the house. License renewed."

1911 Census

58, Union Street

[1] John William Eames (43), nut tool maker, born Colwich, Staffordshire;

[2] Harriett Elizabeth Eames (46), wife, married 1 year, innkeeper, born Dowlas, Monmouthshire;

[3] Albert Edward Danks (19), step-son, hairdresser, born Bilston;

[4] Kate Danks (21), step-daughter, barmaid, born Walsall:

Harriett Elizabeth Eames – see also SWAN, John Street, Bilston.

John W. Evans, beer retailer, 58, Union Street. [1912]

Richard H. Collett, beer retailer, 58, Union Street. [1916]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1919

“Wednesbury Borough Licensing Justices, yesterday.....

The following licenses were to be served with opposition notices on the ground of redundancy.....

THREE TUNS beerhouse, Union Street.”

1921 Census

58, Union Street

[1] *Richard Henry Collett* (44), beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Eliza Annie Collett* (44), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Dora Mercy Collett* (20), daughter, assistant to father, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Nancy Palmer Collett* (16), daughter, shop assistant, draper and haberdasher, born Wednesbury:

1939 Register

Union Street – Public House (4 of 5)

[1] *Henry R. Collett*, date of birth 10/7/1876, publican, married;

[2] *Eliza A. Collett*, dob 8/9/1876, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Walter Thomas Wood*, dob 7/4/1904, steel erector, heavy work, married;

[4] *Annie Palmer Wood*, dob 4/3/1905, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/3/1940

“Penny-A-Week way to put Comforts Fund on a permanent basis.

Nearly £500 has been added to the lists of the funds in the West Midland and *Express and Star* federation since the last list, indicating the enthusiasm of people is still on the increase.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged £380 18s 9½d.

Proceeds of boxes.....

THREE TUNS, Union Street, £1 2s 1d.”

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

THREE TUNS, Wednesbury, 4s.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1949

“In Wednesbury, tomorrow will be a doubly joyful occasion, for a golden wedding as well as Christmas Day will be celebrated. At the THREE TUNS, Union Street, a family party will be in progress to mark the half century of married life of the host, Mr. *Richard Henry Collett*, and his wife *Eliza Annie*, both aged 73. Only one other publican in the town is believed to have held the same license longer than Mr. *Collett*, who has been at the THREE TUNS now for 36 years. Before that he was for short periods at the Swan, Stonnall, near Lichfield, and the SHIRE OAK at Walsall Wood.

Mr. *Collett* thinks that he has certainly held his license longer than anyone else in the town in the houses of W. Butler and Co. Ltd. Born in Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, he later worked for 35 years at the Leabrook tube works of Foster Bros. Ltd. There are two daughters and three grand-children.

Mr. *Collett* is a member of Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association, and Mrs. *Collett* helps with the women’s section.”

Evening Despatch 22/1/1951

“Few people live in Wednesbury’s narrow, main shopping street. Therefore it is a rare occasion to see a funeral there. They are all business premises. Today, however, the police closed the street for the burial of the town’s oldest publican, 74-year-old Mr. *Richard Henry Collett*, who had been a resident for 38 years as tenant of the THREE TUNS INN. Traffic was diverted while the funeral passed along on its journey to the parish church. Bearers were members of the Licenced Victuallers Association, of which Mr. *Dick Collett* was the oldest and honorary member. When Union Street was re-opened to traffic today there was a sudden crash. More than 100 bottles of expensive liqueur spirits and wine in the window of the GEORGE INN wine and spirit stores came crashing down when the glass shelves cracked through the vibration of the heavy traffic. Crowds gathered to see the damage. The manageress, Mrs. T. H. Benton, said afterwards, ‘I heard such a crash while I was in the bar that I thought a lorry had come through the window.’ All the bottles were piled up in the window and several bottles of brandy were smashed. Mr. T. H. Benton, the licensee, rushed back from his neighbour’s funeral, at which he was a bearer, to see the damage to his stock.”



Richard Henry Collett 1936



MR. AND MRS. R. H. COLLETT

1949

TOWN HALL

56, Russell Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Parrish [1856]
Joseph Gutteridge [1861]
T Shorthouse [1861] – [1862]
Culwick [1865]
Edward Severn [] – **1870**;
Thomas Bragg **(1870 – [1891]**
Mrs. Ann Bragg [1896]
Percival John Corfield [1901] – [1907]
Mrs. Mary Louisa (Corfield) Whittaker [1911] – [1912]
George Thomas Bray [1921] – **1923**;

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 18/8/1855 - Advert

“Sales by Private Contract....

Two Houses, situated in Russell Street, Wednesbury, the sign of the TOWN HALL INN, and the next to it, by Private Contract.”

TWO HOUSES, situated in Russell Street, Wednesbury, the sign of the TOWN HALL INN, and the next to it, by PRIVATE CONTRACT.

Birmingham Journal 19/12/1855 - Advert

“The TOWN HALL INN, Russell Street, Wednesbury, to be Let or Sold, immediately.

Nothing to be taken to. Stabling for five horses. Rent, Twenty-two Pounds per annum.

Apply to Peter Thomason, opposite.”

THE “TOWN HALL INN,” Russell Street, Wednesbury, to be LET or SOLD, immediately. Nothing to be taken to. Stabling for five horses. Rent, Twenty-two Pounds per annum.—Apply to Peter Thomason, opposite.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/5/1856 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, in Russell Street, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Fallows and Smith, at the DARTMOUTH ARMS, at Wednesbury, this present Monday the 5th of May, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then and there to be produced.

All that compact Freehold Property, in Russell Street, Wednesbury, opposite the Town Hall; comprising the Retail Public House, called the TOWN HALL INN, in the occupation of Mr. John Parrish, containing parlour, tap-room, bar, club-room, two chambers, attic, cellars, Brewhouse, Stable, and loft over, Yard, and every convenience; also the Dwelling House and Premises adjoining, in the tenure of Mr. Butler.

The Property comprises an area of 258 square yards, and produces an annual income of £34. It is in a good situation, fast improving, and will be found a desirable small investment.

For further particulars apply to Mr. J. H. Thursfield, Solicitor, Wednesbury; or to the Auctioneers, 14, Temple Row, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/10/1858 - Advert

“To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the TOWN HALL INN, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

For particulars, apply to Mr. Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, High Street, Wednesbury.”

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, the “TOWN HALL INN,” Russell Street, Wednesbury.—For particulars, apply to Mr. Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, High Street, Wednesbury.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
IN RUSSELL-STREET, WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY FALLOWS and SMITH, at the Dartmouth Arms, at Wednesbury, on Monday next the 5th of May, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then and there to be produced—all that compact FREEHOLD PROPERTY, in Russell-street, Wednesbury, opposite the Town Hall; comprising the RETAIL PUBLIC HOUSE, called the “TOWN HALL INN,” in the occupation of Mr. John Parrish, containing parlour, tap-room, bar, club-room, two chambers, attic, cellars, Brewhouse, Stable, and loft over, Yard, and every convenience; also the DWELLING HOUSE and PREMISES adjoining, in the tenure of Mr. Butler.

The Property comprises an area of 258 square yards, and produces an annual income of 34*l*. It is in a good situation, fast improving, and will be found a desirable small investment.

For further particulars apply to Mr. J. H. Thursfield, Solicitor, Wednesbury; or to the Auctioneers, 14, Temple-row, Birmingham.

1856

Birmingham Journal 24/9/1859 - Advert

"TOWN HALL INN, Russell Street, Wednesbury. By Joseph Whitehouse.

To be Disposed Of by Private Contract, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above-named Inn, now doing a good business, the present Proprietor having engagements at a distance, which compels him to leave the town. Apply on the Premises; or to Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, &c, TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury."

1861 Census

Russell Street – TOWNHALL TAVERN

- [1] Joseph Gutteridge (34), beerseller, engine fitter and turner, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Eliza Gutteridge (28), wife, born Grindon, Herefordshire;
- [3] John Thomas Gutteridge (3), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Jane Elizabeth Gutteridge (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Eliza Gutteridge (2 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Catharine Kelly (17), general servant, born Lichfield:

Joseph Gutteridge – see also THREE FURNACES, West Bromwich, and WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/9/1861

"On Monday next a rat match will take place at Mr. *T. Shorthouse's*, TOWN HALL INN, Wednesbury, between Mr. Weston's dog Pepper and Mr. Silvester's bitch Polly, to destroy 20 rats each, for £5 a side."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/11/1862

"At *T. Shorthouse's*, TOWN HALL TAVERN, Wednesbury, a ratting sweepstakes, for dogs of all merits, from 7½lb to 13½lb weight, will take place on Monday, December 15. Entries 5s each, which will remain open till Saturday, December 13, when the list will close and the dogs will be duly handicapped by a competent judge. The first dog to be pitted at seven o'clock. A good supply of rats on hand, with the use of the pit gratis for gentlemen to try their dogs in."

Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1865 - Advert

"To be Let, the TOWN HALL INN or Beer Shop, situate in Russell Street, Wednesbury. Apply to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/2/1865 - Advert

"Sale Tomorrow (Tuesday), in Russell Street, Wednesbury.

Clearing Out Sale by Auction, by R. L. Courtney, at the TOWN HALL INN, of all the Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, Household Furniture, Bagatelle Board, with slate bottom, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Culwick*, who has entered into other engagements. The House to be Let. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock."

Edward Severn – see also ROSE.

1871 Census

56, Russell Street – Beerhouse

- [1] Thomas Bragg (46), beerhouse keeper, born Handsworth;
- [2] Emma Bragg (47), wife, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [3] Phoebe Martin (15), general servant, born Princes End:

Thomas Bragg, beer retailer, 56, Russell Street. [1872]

Emma Bragg died in the 2nd quarter of 1876.

Thomas Bragg, widower, innkeeper, married Ann Perry, widow, on 17th September 1876.

TO be LET the TOWN HALL INN or BEER-SHOP, situate in Russell Street, Wednesbury.—Apply to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.

**SALE TO-MORROW (TUESDAY),
IN RUSSELL STREET, WEDNESBURY.**

**CLEARING OUT SALE BY AUCTION,
BY R. L. COURTNEY, at the Town Hall Inn, of
all the BREWING PLANT, PUBLIC HOUSE FIXTURES,
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Bagatelle Board, with slate bottom,
and other Effects belonging to Mr. Culwick, who has entered into
other engagements. The House to be Let.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.**

1881 Census

56, Russell Street

- [1] *Thomas Bragg* (56), retail brewer and publican, born Handsworth;
- [2] *Ann Bragg* (57), wife, born Cheddar, Somerset;
- [3] *Sarah Perry* (22), step-daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Clare J. Harding* (7), niece, scholar, born Paddington, Middlesex:

Thomas Bragg, beerhouse keeper, 56, Russell Street. [1888]

1891 Census

56, Russell Street

- [1] *Thomas Bragg* (66), retail brewer, born Handsworth;
- [2] *Ann Bragg* (60), wife, born Cheddar, Somerset;
- [3] *Sarah Ann Perry* (28), domestic servant, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Clara Jane Harding* (16), niece, milliner, born Paddington, London:

Thomas Bragg died on 13th October 1891.

Mrs. *Ann Bragg*, beer retailer, 56, Russell Street. [1896]

1901 Census

56, Russell Street – TOWN HALL INN

- [1] *Percival J. Corfield* (27), brewer and innkeeper, born Pensnett;
- [2] *Mary L. Corfield* (27), wife, born Bloxwich;
- [3] *William N. Corfield* (2), son, born Netherton;
- [4] *Mary J. Chatband* (21) niece, domestic servant, born Netherton:

Percival John Corfield, beer retailer, 56, Russell Street. [1904]

Percival John Corfield died in the 4th quarter of 1906.

Mary Louisa Corfield married *Arthur Whittaker* in the 1st quarter of 1908.

1911 Census

56, Russell Street – TOWN HALL INN

- [1] *Arthur Whittaker* (45), no occupation, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary Louisa Whittaker* (38), wife, married 3 years, innkeeper, born Bloxwich;
- [3] *William Norris Corfield* (12), step-son, born Netherton;
- [4] *Arthur Sydney Whittaker* (2), son, born Wednesbury:

Mrs. *Mary Louisa Whittaker*, beer retailer, 56, Russell Street. [1912]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1919

“Wednesbury Borough Licensing Justices, yesterday.....

The following licenses were to be served with opposition notices on the ground of redundancy.....

TOWN HALL TAVERN, Russell Street.”

1921 Census

56, Russell Street

- [1] *George Thomas Bray* (52), engineer, born Great Bridge;
- [2] *Annie Louisa Bray* (45), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Doris Challinor* (18), step-daughter, confectionery assistant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *John Challinor* (16), step-son, assistant marker off, born Walsall;
- [5] *Noah Bray* (16), son, assistant roll turner, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Gladys Challinor* (12), step-daughter, school, born Tipton:

South Staffordshire Times 3/2/1923

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions....

All the licenses would be renewed except the ROYAL OAK, Meeting Street, and TOWN HALL, Russell Street, both of which were referred for compensation on the ground of redundancy.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/6/1923 - 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, on Tuesday, the 17th day of July, 1923, 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.....

TOWN HALL INN, Russell Street, Wednesbury. Beer ‘on’ Ante 1869. Licensee, *George Thomas Bray*.”

South Staffordshire Times 21/7/1923

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire Compensation Authority was held at Stafford on Tuesday.....

In regard of the TOWN HALL INN, Russell Street, Wednesbury, a beer ‘on’ ante-1869 (licensee *George Thomas Bray*), formal application was made by Mr. Glover (Wednesbury).

Evidence was given by Mr. Clarke, who had been through the books, the trade at the house for the year ended March 31st, 1922 [sic], was 203 barrels of beer and 394 dozen half-pint bottles; for the year end March 31st, 1922, 147 barrels and 258 bottles; and for the year ended March 31st, 1923, 100 barrels and 134 dozen bottles.

The license was refused.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/10/1923

“We understand that the following amounts of compensation have been fixed in the case of Staffordshire licenses, the renewal of which was refused under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910.....

TOWN HALL INN, Wednesbury, beer ‘on’ ante ’69, £1,250.”

[The compensation was paid on 22nd December 1923.]

Closed

T O W N H A L L I N N ,
RUSSELL STREET, WEDNESBURY.
PY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE—To be DIS-
POSED OF by PRIVATE CONTRACT, the LICENSES,
GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above-named INN, now
doing a good business, the present Proprietor having engagements at
a distance, which compels him to leave the town.—Apply on the
premises or to Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, &c., Turk's Head,
Wednesbury.

TRAVELLERS REST

The Mount, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Hollier [1870] – [1870]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1870

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

Applications for new spirit licenses.....

Mr. Slater applied on behalf of *George Hollier*, TRAVELLERS REST, The Mount, Wednesbury. No opposition.
Refused.”

TURKS HEAD

25, (Lower) High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

John Russell [1832]

Samuel Woodhall Ltd. (leased from from 29th September, 1887, until 29th September 1894)

W. J. Maclean, Walsall (acquired in November 1895)

John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (acquired c.1901 for £4,250 with a shop and stables) [1903]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1921], [1961]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Elizabeth Negus [1772]

William Smallwood [1776] – [1786]

Thomas Negus [1786] – [1812]

Samuel Marsh [1809]

John Russell [1813] – [1842]

Charles Bill **(1844 – [1850])**

Nichols [1852]

Joseph Whitehouse [1853] – **1869**);

William Elcock **(1869 – [1872])**

Alfred Beardsmore **(1872 – 1873)**

Mrs. Sarah Ann Beardsmore **(1873 – [])**

Samuel Renshaw [1881] manager

Alfred Bird [1891] manager

Samuel Woodhall [1891] – **1895**);

Joseph Higo **(1895)** manager

John Rae McLean [1900] – [1901]

Enoch Partridge [1904]

A R Harding [1908]

William Cook [1911] – [1912]

Harry Beddow [1916]

Harry Fisher [1921] – [1921]

Mrs. Annie Marguerite Andrews [1932]

W S McGill [1934]

Angus Roy Macduff [1939] – [1940]

Raymond William Brookes [1943] – [1944]

Sidney Harper [1961] – **1963**);

Alfred Joseph Clarke **(1963 – [1966])**

Mrs. Mary A Mullett [1976] – [1983]

Bill Bowers []

Kevin McMahon [1994]

Anthony Melia [2022] – [2023]



NOTES

TURK [1791]

TURKS HEAD COMMERCIAL HOTEL [1845]

TURKS HEAD COMMERCIAL INN [1849], [1850]

TURKS HEAD COMMERCIAL AND POSTING HOUSE [1868], [1870]

Coaching inn. [1818]

The RED LION replaced it as the leading coaching inn c.1826.

Excise Office. [1828], [1830], [1845], [1849]

Auctions were frequently held here.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/4/1766 - Advert

"To be Sold to the best Bidder, in the following Lots, on Friday the 16th Day of May, 1766.....

20. Two Houses, situate near the TURKS HEAD, in Wednesbury aforesaid....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/3/1772 - Advert

"To be Sold to the best Bidder, at the Dwelling House of Mrs. *Eliz. Negus*, Widow, known by the Sign of the TURKS HEAD, situate in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Wednesday the eighth Day of April next
A large commodious modern well-built Freehold Dwelling House, situate in Wednesbury aforesaid....."

Elizabeth Negus (nee Shale) was the widow of John Negus.

Bett Negus (39), widow, married *William Smallwood* (27), bachelor, gun maker, on 20th February 1774.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/1/1776 - Advert

"Stolen from *William Smallwood's*, at the TURKS HEAD INN in Wednesbury, on Sunday the 24th of December, 1775, a large Silver Tankard.

As there is great Reason to suppose that several were concerned, if any one will discover his Accomplice or Accomplices, so that he or they may be brought to Justice and convicted thereof, shall receive a Reward of Five Guineas from the Association of Wednesbury, and a further Reward of Five Guineas from *William Smallwood*, and Endeavours used to obtain a free Pardon. The Money to be paid upon Conviction of the Offenders.

NB. If the above should be offered to be Pawned or Sold, it is desired that it may be stopped, with the Person who offers it; and the Person who shall stop either, so that it may lead to a Discovery, shall be entitled, upon Conviction, to the same Reward."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/3/1777 - Advert

"To be Sold to the best Bidder, on Tuesday the 1st of April next, at the House of *William Smallwood*, the TURKS HEAD in Wednesbury Four Freehold Messuages....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1781 - Advert

"Wednesbury Races, 1781 To be shewn, for the First Day's Plate, at the House of John Whitehouse, the sign of SIR JOHN FALSTAFF, on Wednesday, the Day of Running, at Ten in the Morning; and for the Second Day's Plate, at the House of *William Smallwood*, the TURKS HEAD, on Thursday Morning, the Day of Running....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/2/1786 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction by John Heeley, on the Premises of Mr. *William Smallwood*, the TURKS HEAD, situate in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd Days of March next, 1786.

All the elegant and useful Household Goods, and Furniture, consisting of Feather Beds, Four-post Bedsteads, with crimson, green, blue, moreen, and plaid Furniture, Table and Bed Linen, Blankets, Bed Quilts, China, Plate and Kitchen Furniture, together with two large Copper Furnaces, Fire Grates, Smoak Jacks, great Variety of Barrels, Tubs, and a large Quantity of Glass Bottles, &c.

The Sale to begin each Day at Ten o'Clock in the Morning."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/10/1786 - Advert

"Notice to Creditors.

The Creditors of *William Smallwood*, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Innkeeper, are requested to attend at the House of *Thomas Negus*, known by the Sign of the TURKS HEAD, situate in Wednesbury aforesaid, on Monday the 6th Day of November next, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon of the same Day, in order to receive their Dividends agreed upon, in full Discharge of their respective Debts."

Thomas Negus, TURK INN, Wednesbury. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/4/1794 Advert

"Upwards of sixteen hands high, and very full of Bone, is the beautiful well-bred Chestnut Horse, and proved sure Foal getter, Hyder-Ally, the Property of Mr. Baly of Warwick, which Covers this Season, 1794, at One Guinea and Half a Crown.....

This is the seventh Season of Hyder-Ally's Covering. His Stock is of great Size, full of Bone, handsome, fleet, good Goers, and have been proved stout both in the Field and on the Road.....

He will be on Tuesday, at the DRAGON INN, Walsall, and sleep at the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/4/1796 - Advert

"Hair Powder Duty. Stamp Office, Lichfield, March 22, 1796.

"As the Certificates for wearing Hair Powder granted for the Year 1795 will expire on the 5th Day of April, 1796, Notice is hereby given, that Entries and Certificates for the Year 1796 are ready for Delivery at this Office; and all Persons who intend to take out or renew such Certificates, are requested to apply as soon as possible, Persons wearing Hair Powder being liable to the Penalties of the Act, unless taken out on or before the said 5th Day of April, 1796.....

Notice is also hereby given, that for the further Convenience of the Public, Mr. Wm. Mitton will attend at the TURKS HEAD, in Wednesbury, on the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of April on which Days Persons requiring Certificates at those Places are to apply."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/12/1796 - Advert

"Whereas a Person unknown, left a Bay Horse, of the Nag Kind, at the House of *Thomas Negus*, TURKS HEAD INN, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on the 9th Day of November last, and said 'he would be called for on the Monday following by a King's Messenger.' This is to give Notice, that unless the above Horse is fetched away on or before the First Day of January next, he will be sold to pay the Expenses attending his Keep, &c.

Thomas Negus. Wednesbury, December 9, 1796."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/1/1807 - Advert

"Wednesbury Association for Prosecuting Felons.

We, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do hereby give Notice, that we have formed ourselves into a Society for the more speedy and effectual apprehending and prosecuting, at our joint Expense, Felons of every Denomination, who shall commit Depredations upon the Persons or Properties of any of us; and in Order the better to discover, apprehend, and bring to Justice such Offenders, we do hereby offer the following Rewards to any Person or Persons who shall give such Information as will lead to a Conviction of any such Offender or Offenders, over and above the Rewards given by the Act of Parliament.

For every Burglary the Sum of £5 £5 0d

Grand Larceny £3 3s 0d

Petit Larceny £2 2s 0d

And we do hereby offer the like Rewards to any Person or Persons concerned in any such Offences, who will give Information against one or more of his Accomplices, so that he, she, or they may be brought to Justice; such Rewards to be paid on the Conviction of such Offender or Offenders by the Treasurer of the Society.....

Thomas Rolinson, George Watkins, Edward Taylor, Thomas Hawe, Henry Tibbatts, Joseph Adams, Thomas Tibbitts, Simeon Constable, *Thomas Negus*, Samuel Addison, Isaiah Danks, Thomas Danks, Benjamin Willetts, Joseph Hatley, John Crowther, John Duce, Stephen Falknor Crowther, Edward Wright, John Bagnall, Humphrey Foster. Edward Crowther, Solicitor and Treasurer."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/2/1808 - Advert

"Joseph Greenhill's Creditors.

The Creditors of Joseph Greenhill, late of Wednesbury in the County of Stafford, Victualler, who have executed, or shall execute the Assignment made by him, may receive a first Dividend of ten Shillings in the Pound by applying to Mr. *Negus*, TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Friday the 26th Day of February instant, at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, or by applying to Mr. White, Great Charles Street, near Friday Street, Birmingham, on Monday the 29th Day of February instant, at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon. Previously to the 26th instant, the Assignment will remain with Messrs. Crowther, Attornies, Wednesbury, to whom the Creditors are desired to apply to execute the same. Wednesbury, 20th February, 1808."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/5/1809 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction, by Randle Walker, at the TURKS HEAD, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Friday the 19th Day of May instant, precisely at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon.....

Lot I. All that old established Public House, with the Brewhouse, Garden, Pigsty, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate and being in Wednesbury aforesaid, and now in the Occupation of *Samuel Marsh*.

Lot II. All that commodious Malthouse and Maltkiln, adjoining Lot I, now in the Occupation of Mr. *Negus*.

Lot III. All that Barn and Stable, situate at the Back of and near adjoining the above Lots, now in the Occupation of the said *Samuel Marsh*."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/11/1809 - Advert

"Stolen or Strayed, out of a Close of Land, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, in the Evening of the 28th day of October last, a Dark Brinded Cow with long Horns, grey Face, and some white about her Legs. If stolen, any Person giving Information of the Offender or Offenders, shall on Conviction, receive a Reward of Five Guineas from Mr. *Negus*, TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, over and above the Reward allowed by the Wednesbury Association for prosecuting Felons; and if strayed, any Person bringing back the Cow, or giving Information where she may be had again, shall be rewarded for their Trouble, and have their reasonable Expenses paid by the said Mr. *Negus*."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/10/1811 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the House of *Thomas Negus*, the TURKS HEAD INN, in Wednesbury, on Monday the 21st Day of October inst at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon precisely.

Joseph Fernyhough, Clerk to the said Trustees.

West Bromwich, October 10, 1811."

Mary Negus married *John Russell* on 18th November 1811, in the presence of *Thomas Negus* and Elizabeth Negus.

Thomas Negus died on 28th March 1812.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/4/1812 - Died

"Saturday se'nnight, much regretted by his family and friends, Mr. *Negus*, of the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/4/1812 - Advert

"To the Debtors and Creditors of the late Mr. *Thomas Negus*.

All Persons who have any Claim or Demand against the Estate of the late Mr. *Thomas Negus*, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Victualler and Maltster, deceased, are desired to send Particulars of their respective Accounts, immediately, to Mr. Addison and Mr. Crowther, both of Wednesbury, the Executors of the Deceased; and all Persons who stand indebted to the said Estate are requested forthwith to pay their respective Debts to the said Executors. Wednesbury, April 13, 1812."

To the Debtors and Creditors of the late Mr. Thomas Negus.
ALL Persons who have any Claim or Demand against the Estate of the late Mr. THOMAS NEGUS, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Victualler and Maltster, deceased, are desired to send the Particulars of their respective Accounts, immediately, to Mr. Addison and Mr. Crowther, both of Wednesbury, the Executors of the Deceased; and all Persons who stand indebted to the said Estate are requested forthwith to pay their respective Debts to the said Executors.
Wednesbury, April 13, 1812.

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/1/1814 - Advert

"To the Debtors and Creditors of the late Mr. *Thomas Negus*.

All Persons who remain indebted to the Estate of the late Mr. *Thomas Negus*, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Victualler and Maltster, deceased, are required to pay their respective Debts to Messrs. Crowther, Attorneys, Wednesbury (who are authorised by the Executors to receive the same) on or before the 3rd Day of February next, or in Default thereof they will be sued without other Notice or Delay. If there are any unsatisfied Demands against the said Estate, the Particulars thereof are requested to be delivered to Messrs. Crowther immediately.

Wednesbury, January 19, 1814."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/6/1813 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the Tolls arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the Counties of Warwick and Stafford, will be Let by Auction to the best Bidder, at the House of *John Russell*, situate at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, and known by the Sign of the TURKS HEAD, on the 12th Day of July next, between the Hours of Two and Five, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Third, 'for regulating the Turnpike Roads;' which Tolls produced the last Year, at the respective Gates hereafter mentioned, the following Sums above the Expenses of collecting them.

Birmingham and Hockley Side Bar, £530

Great Bridge and Hill Top, £310

Gospel Oak Gates, £124

Three Mile Oak and Machine, £201

Holloway Bank and Kings Hill Field, £302

Burnt Tree, £200

and will be put up at those respective Sums. Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must at the same Time give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

E. and S. Crowther, Clerks to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads.

Wednesbury, June 4, 1813."

Caledonian Mercury 30/8/1817

"Staffordshire Assizes.

On the trial of Thomas Ellis, for highway robbery, and stealing a hat, the property of Thomas Rumbald, the prosecutor being asked by the Judge what he was, and desired to give an account of the transaction, said, 'I am a bookbinder, my Lord; and I consider that, on the night in question, having been at work late in the evening on some religious books, which, the evening being on a Saturday, would be wanted for the next morning, I went into the TURKS HEAD, in Wednesbury, for some refreshment – that is, to take a little ale, my Lord; and I consider it was then about ten minutes after ten o'clock. I sat about two hours; I consider it to have been nearly that time, because they never draw ale after 12 o'clock. I consider that I drank three cups of ale, and I consider myself as being sober; there are three steps at the door, and not considering that there were so many, I precipitated myself rather quickly into the middle of the street, into the carriage-way, my Lord; the prisoner followed me close out of the house, and immediately precipitated his hand into my breeches pocket without ceremony or speaking (the Judge said that was indeed precipitate and unceremonious); there was no money in that pocket, and I consider therefore that he could take none out; he then put his hand to the back of my head, and either by a blow or a violent push, he precipitated my head to the ground, took off my hat, and ran away. I called watch, none answered, and I returned to the TURKS HEAD, and inquired the name of the man who sat near me and followed me out. They told me it was 'Ellis.'

The prosecutor then described the constable going with him, and their 'lying in ambush' for prisoner; that he got into his house 'imperceptibly' to them; that when they went he was in bed, and came down stairs 'in disguise, having nothing on but his shirt;' which made witness 'to pause and consider,' but having 'demanded a candle, which was positively refused him in that house, although there was a fire,' he obtained one from another, and then he 'ascertained the countenance, and pointedly assigned that he was the man;' he considered the prisoner as having said that he was innocent, and not the man; he himself, when he first saw him, said he was not the man; (this expression seemed to have dropped unawares from the prosecutor, who hesitated a good deal when asked by the Judge as to that expression;

he first denied having used it, then attempted to explain it away, and appeared a good deal confused in the evidence of what passed at the prisoner's house). The hat was brought to him next morning; prisoner was in custody that night.

The constable confirmed prosecutor as to his going to prisoner's house, and said that at first he had said prisoner was not the man.

Mr. Darlaston found the hat next morning 'in the bed-chamber of a pigstye!'

The Judge said that if the books which the prosecutor bound contained as great oddities as himself, they must be odd books; the stranger certainly would not have precipitated his hand into the breeches pocket if he had expected to find it empty; in general, too, the assault was before the attempt at robbery; here the attempt was said to precede the assault; and he must say, he did not like the manner in which the prosecutor had first said the prisoner was not the man, then hastily retracted the expression, and told the Court positively, who had all heard what he said, that he had never said so. Every circumstance ought to be weighed where there was a doubt; and the Jury would recollect there was a large reward in cases of a conviction of a highway robbery; there was a great deal of oddity about the prosecutor, but that was no ground for disbelief. There were two things to consider – one, his at first denying him to be the man, and the other the reward. They had certainly had a great many odd expressions, much consideration, some precipitation, and a little hesitation; they had been duly conducted to the pig's bed-room. It was for the Jury to determine on the guilt or innocence of the prisoner.

Verdict, Not Guilty."

John Russell was also a maltster, gaspipe and gunbarrel maker. [1818]

He ran a forge at Church Hill.

Parson and Bradshaw General & Commercial Directory 1818

"Coaches from the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury.

Mail to London every day at half-past one at noon; to Holyhead every day at half-past twelve at noon.

Old Mail to London every day at twelve at noon; to Shrewsbury every afternoon at two o'clock.

New Prince to London every day at one at noon; to Shrewsbury every day at half-past twelve at noon.

Old Prince to London every day at four o'clock; to Shrewsbury every day at twelve o'clock.

The Bang-Up to Liverpool at seven in the morning; to Birmingham every evening at half-past seven.

Prince of Orange to Chester every morning except Monday, at half-past seven; to Birmingham at six in the evening.

The Eclipse to Manchester at eight in the morning; to Birmingham at six in the evening.

The Union to Shrewsbury every forenoon at eleven; to London every forenoon at half-past eleven.

The Retaliator to London every day at twelve o'clock; to Shrewsbury every forenoon at eleven o'clock.

Day Coach to Birmingham every morning at nine, returns at half-past six in the evening."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/2/1818 - Advert

"Wanted a good plain Cook, who will be required to take an active Part in the Household Work; also a Girl, in the Capacity of Waiter.

Apply to Mrs. *Russell*, TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury."

WANTED a good plain Cook, who will be required to take an active Part in the Household Work; also a Girl, in the Capacity of Waiter.— Apply to Mrs. *RUSSELL*, Turk's Head, Wednesbury.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/10/1818 - Advert

"Lease of Lea Brook Forge and Mill, near Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction by Henry Jacob, at the House of Mr. *Russell*, the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Friday the 6th of November, 1818, between the Hours of Three and Four o'Clock in the Afternoon.....

The Premises comprise a Forge, with two Tilt Hammers, Puddling Furnace, Grinding and Boring Mill, two excellent and powerful Steam Engines, Warehouse, Counting House, and Tenement, with spacious Yard, walled round.

The Whole of the Premises are held by Lease, of which 23 Years were unexpired at Lady Day last, at the Rent of £200....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/3/1819 - Advert

"At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town and Parish of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, held on the first Day of March, 1819, at the TURKS HEAD INN, in Wednesbury aforesaid, Samuel Addison, Esq, in the Chair, Resolved.

1. That this Meeting has heard, with the utmost Concern, that Petitions have been presented to Parliament, praying that a Tax may be imposed on Inland Coal.
2. That the populous and manufacturing District, of which this Town and Parish are a Part, has very recently suffered great Distress, by Reason of that unexampled Depression in the Coal and Iron Trades, from which they are now progressively reviving; and that any Tax on Inland Coal must necessarily operate to check the Revival of Trade.....
4. That all lawful Means should be used to prevent the Measure of a Tax upon Inland Coals from being carried into Effect; and it is therefore expedient that a Petition from this Town and Parish be presented to the Honourable the House of Commons against such a Tax....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/3/1824 - Advert

"Dancing and Deportment.

Mr. Taylor, Dancing Master, Sandon, near Stafford, most respectfully announces to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Wolverhampton and Wednesbury, that he has taken those elegant Rooms at the Auction Mart, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, and that spacious Room belonging to Mr. *Russell*, TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, where every department of Dancing, as now prevalent in the fashionable world, will be taught.

Mr. T. flatters himself that his moderate terms, together with his superior method of instruction, will not fail giving general satisfaction to all who may patronize him.

Mr. T. purposes opening the Academy at Wolverhampton on Tuesday, March 16, and at Wednesbury on Wednesday the 17th. Attendance one day per week.

NB. Families and Schools attended on the usual terms.

The Academies at Stafford, Stone, Albrighton, and Penkridge, are open as usual.

Sandon, February 23, 1824."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/9/1825 - Advert

"Sale at the BEAR INN, Smethwick, near Birmingham.

Comprising Ricks of Wheat, Barley, and Oats, eighty Tons of Hay, valuable Dairy of twelve Cows, quantity of Sheep, Pigs, and Poultry, six useful Waggon Horses and a Hackney, Waggon, Carts, Ploughs, Harrows, Gearing, &c, five Acres of growing Potatoes, the Licenses, Good-will, and Possession of the BEAR INN, the whole of the excellent Household Furniture and Fixtures, capital Brewing Vessels, &c, &c.....

Catalogues will be ready a week prior to the sale, and may be had at TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/12/1825

"Cook and Waiter.

Wanted a good plain Cook, also a steady active young Woman as Waiter.

Apply to Mrs. *Russell*, TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury."

COOK AND WAITER.
WANTED a good plain Cook, also a steady active young Woman as Waiter.—Apply to Mrs. RUSSELL, Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/10/1826 - Advert

"The Annual General Meeting of the West Bromwich and Wednesbury Auxiliary Bible Society, which had been postponed from unavoidable circumstances, will be held at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Tuesday the 31st of October instant.

The Chair to be taken at eleven o'clock."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/12/1826 - Advert

"Wanted a good Cook.

Apply to Mrs. *Russell*, TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury."

WANTED a good Cook.—Apply to Mrs. RUSSELL, Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/12/1826 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Tuesday the sixteenth day of January next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon; at which meeting fresh Trustees will be elected in place of those who are dead, or by bankruptcy, insolvency, or otherwise are become disqualified to act.

Stephan F. Crowther, Clerk to the Trustees.

Wednesbury, December 18, 1826."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/7/1830 - Advert

"Wednesbury Musical Festival.

The New Organ, built by Mr. Bishop for the Parish Church of Wednesbury, will be Opened on Monday the 26th of July instant, with a Performance of Sacred Music.....

Books of the Performance, price 6d, may be had at Mr. *Russell's*, TURKS HEAD INN."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/3/1831 - Advert

"TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury.

To be Let, and may be entered upon at Lady Day next, the old established and well known Commercial Inn, situate in the High Street, near the Market Place, Wednesbury, known by the sign of the TURKS HEAD, with good garden, convenient stabling, cow-house, brewhouse, and all other necessary outbuildings, and with or without four acres of adjoining land.

The Stock, Furniture, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation, which furniture, with the wines, may be reduced to meet the wishes of the purchaser.

There is also attached a good wholesale and retail wine and spirit trade, which may be considerably extended.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. *John Russell*, on the premises, or to Mr. Hunt, Solicitor, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/2/1832 - Advert

"TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, an old established and well-known Commercial Inn, situated in the High Street, near the Market Place, in full business, brewing 60 bushels of malt weekly; has been in the family upwards of a century, and from which the Proprietor is desirous of retiring solely in consequence of other engagements.

To be Let, the above very desirable Premises, with immediate possession, comprising a good Garden, convenient Stabling, Coach-house, Cow-house, Brew-house, and all necessary Outbuildings; together with or without four Acres of Land adjoining.

The Stock and Furniture, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation, and, to an approved tenant, part of the purchase money may remain on security.

There is also attached, a good Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Trade, which may be considerably extended.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. *John Russell*, owner and occupier, on the premises, or to Mr. Charles Hunt, Solicitor, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/12/1835 - Advert

"TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury. To Innkeepers and Others.

To be Let, with immediate possession, or in three or six months from Christmas next.

The above very desirable old-established Commercial Inn and Excise Office, with large garden, extensive and convenient stabling, coach-house, brewery, cow-house, and other requisite outbuildings, situate in High Street, near the Market Place, Wednesbury. The rent and other payments moderate.

The House is in full business, brewing forty bushel of malt weekly, with a good wholesale and retail wine and spirit trade attached. The present proprietor is leaving entirely on account of other engagements.

The stock of ale, brewing vessels, iron-bound casks, and other articles used in the innkeeping business, with or without the whole or part of the household furniture, wines, and spirits, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply, if by letter post paid, to Mr. *John Russell*, on the premises; or to D. Taylor, Auctioneer, Appraiser, &c, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/4/1839 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to Wednesbury and to Great Bridge, and from thence to Portway adjoining the Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Road, and to Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the counties Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford, will be held at the house of *John Russell*, known by the name of the TURKS HEAD, in Wednesbury, on Wednesday the 17th day of April inst, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

Clement Ingleby, Clerk to the Trustees.

Birmingham, April 1, 1839."

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/11/1839 - Advert

"Lost, a bay filly Pony, about 12 hands high, with long tail, seven years old. She has four black legs and a broken knee. Whoever will bring her to Mr. *Russell*, TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, shall be handsomely rewarded for their trouble."

LOST, a bay filly PONY, about 12 hands high, with long tail, seven years old. She has four black legs and a broken knee. Whoever will bring her to Mr. *RUSSELL*, Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, shall be handsomely rewarded for their trouble.

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/9/1841 - Advert

"TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury.

To be Let, and may be immediately entered upon.

All that old-established and well-frequented Inn, with the Wine and Spirit Vaults attached thereto, called the TURKS HEAD, situated in High Street, Wednesbury.

The House, which is well designed, comprises eight sleeping rooms, bar, kitchen, tap room, parlours, large dining and club rooms, retail wine and spirit shop, excellent range of cellars, good brewhouse and out-offices. There is also a productive Garden, Stabling for ten horses, and all necessary appurtenances.

The House is situated in the best part of the town, nearly adjoining to the Market Place; is doing a steady business both in Ale and Spirits, and has an excellent and respectable connection. Several thriving clubs are established and attend there. The Magistrates hold their weekly meetings in the house; and it is the Excise Office for the town and neighbourhood.

The Stock to be taken at a fair valuation. The Furniture will be removed by the present proprietor, or it may be valued to an in-coming tenant.

There is also an excellent Malthouse, which may be had with the house, if required.

To view the house, apply upon the premises; and further particulars may be known upon application to Messrs. Walker and Page, Appraisers, &c, Cleveland Street, Wolverhampton."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/12/1841 - Advert

"Freehold Buildings and Building and Accommodation Land, fronting to the main Street through the Town of Wednesbury, and near to the Market Place.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins and Co, on Friday the 24th day of December inst, at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, at three o'clock in the afternoon, either together or in lots, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All those Stables called the Turk Stables, and other Buildings, occupied by Mr. *Russell*, and three Dwelling Houses, Yards, and Appurtenances, in the occupation of Jonathan Spittle, Jacob Martin, and Thomas Burns, having a great frontage to the main street in Wednesbury, opposite the TURKS HEAD INN, suitable for a range of valuable Retail Shops; together with the Pleasure and Kitchen Gardens of the said Inn, and a valuable piece of old Turf and Accommodation Land, occupied by Samuel Addison Esq.

The Property by an old survey contains 2A 1R 2P; it has a very extensive frontage, and adjoins the premises of the Bank and some of the best Shops in the centre of the town.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Samuel Lloyd jun, Wednesbury, or the Auctioneers, New Street, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/12/1843 - Advert

"To Innkeepers and Others.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the old-established Commercial Inn known as the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury. The coming-in will be made to suit a respectable and permanent tenant. Rent low.

Apply to Mr. Hunt, Solicitor, Wednesbury. None but principals will be treated with."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/3/1844 - Advert

"Tithe Commission Notice. Parish of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

The Tithe Commissioners for England and Wales hereby give Notice, that on the twentieth day of March next, they will proceed, either by themselves or by an Assistant Commissioner, to ascertain and award the Total Sum to be paid by way of Rent Charge instead of Tithes of the Parish of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, according to the provisions of the Act for the Commutation of Tithes in England and Wales; and that the first meeting for this purpose will be holden at the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, in the said parish, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the day above mentioned, when all persons interested are desired to attend.

Dated this twentieth day of February, 1844.

By order of the Board, J. E. Hovenden, Secretary, Tithe Commission Office."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/3/1844 - Advert

"To Innkeepers and Others.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the old-established Inn and Commercial Hotel, known as the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury. This house is well frequented by commercial travellers. The magistrates meetings for a wide and populous district are held here weekly. It is the Excise Office, and has two large clubs and several rent-days held at it; has requisite stabling, coach-house, garden, &c, adjoining. Rent only £50 per annum, and the coming in can be reduced to about £600.

The present proprietor is anxious to leave solely on account of other engagements.

Apply on the premises."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/5/1844 - Advert

"To Coal-Masters, Farmers, and Others.

Sale at Dunkirk New Colliery, near the SWAN INN, West Bromwich.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Fallows, on the premises as above, on Monday the 3rd day of June next, in consequence of Mr. *Bill* having given up the Works.

A compact eight-horse high-pressure Engine, nearly new, from 80,000 to 100,000 well-burnt Bricks, three Ricks of Straw, Rick of Oats and Vetches, new six-inch Waggon, iron arms, equal to a great weight, one four-inch and three six-inch Carts, with iron arms, Iron Ploughs, Wood and Iron Harrows, Horse Tackle, an excellent Whitechapel Spring Cart, with moveable head, quantity of Thick and Brooch Coal, Skips and Rings, several hundred gallons of Oil used for engines and railway purposes, quantity of empty Oil Casks, Blacksmith's Bellows, Anvil, Tools, Taps and Plates, a variety of Implements, Tools, &c, used for husbandry and mining purposes; together with the genteel Household Furniture and other effects, which are being sold in consequence of Mr. *Bill* having taken to the TURKS HEAD Commercial Inn, Wednesbury, which is amply furnished.

The sale will commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues will be prepared, and may be had at the offices of the Auctioneer, Temple Row, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/8/1844 - Advert

"Freehold Property, Hill Top, West Bromwich.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Fallows, at the house of Mr. *C. Bill*, the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Tuesday the 27th day of August inst, at four o'clock in the afternoon....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/1/1845 - Advert

"TURKS HEAD COMMERCIAL INN, High Street, Wednesbury.

Charles Bill begs to inform his Friends and the Public, that his House Warming Dinner is fixed to take place on Friday the 31st of January inst, when the honour of their company upon the occasion will be esteemed a favour.

Dinner upon the table at Four o'clock precisely.

Tickets, 12s 6d, include dinner, bottle of wine, and dessert, and may had at the Bar of the Inn; of Mr. John Fallows, Temple Row, Birmingham; or Mr. John Cholditch, Market Place, Wolverhampton."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/3/1845

"Health of Towns Commission.....

Wednesbury consists of one long street, along the turnpike road, with many lateral ones branching into courts and alleys, inhabited by the working classes. There is no drainage worth the name, no scavengers or system of cleansing, and the supply of water very scarce and indifferent. There are no pipes (though there is, it is said, a good supply near it, at a high level above the town), few pumps, and the wells are often bad. The people complain much, and have to carry water near a mile, or to buy at a halfpenny for three cans. The workhouse for the town has very bad water in the well, and they are obliged to fetch it for washing or drinking several times a day. The courts, alleys, and small streets are unpaved, or ill-paved, full of stagnant puddles, privies with open vaults, pigsties, &c; there is in fact no care taken on these points, and the greatest neglect appears. There is a dreadful stinking tank or ditch at the back of the TURKS HEAD, where the magistrates always meet, and the public enter by this filthy place."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/10/1845 - Advert

"Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Stour Valley Railway, and Trent Valley Midlands Junction Railway.

The Friends and Supporters of these Railways are requested to attend a Meeting, to be held at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL, West Bromwich, on Tuesday next, the 21st inst, at twelve o'clock precisely; and also another Meeting, to be held at the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury, on the same day, at three o'clock in the afternoon, when Deputations from the Provisional Committees will attend to explain the Plans of the proposed Railways, and give such information as may be desired.

By order of the Committee. Office, 28, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, October 17, 1845."

Shipping and Mercantile Gazette 22/10/1845

"Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Stour Valley Railway, and Trent Valley Midland Junction Railway.....

A most respectable meeting of iron and coal masters, and other gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, also met at the TURKS HEAD Wednesbury, for the purpose of hearing a deputation from the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Stour Valley. At three o'clock the Rev. J. Clarkson was voted to the chair, and that gentlemen said that as he was unacquainted with the proposed line, he would leave the business in the hands of other gentlemen who better understood the intentions of the company. He should only advise them to weigh the matter well, and take it into their consideration, and if they found the projected railway beneficial to them he should support it. A resolution was ultimately put and carried, expressive of the determination of that meeting to support the project."

Birmingham Journal 7/11/1846

"On Tuesday John Leigh, Esq, the newly appointed Stipendiary Magistrate, opened his first Court at Wednesbury, at the TURKS HEAD, where he will sit every alternate week, until the new police office is completed."

A coach to Birmingham left from here every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at half past 10 in the morning. [1849]

Charles Bill was also a wine and spirit merchant. [1849], [1850]

Birmingham Journal 9/11/1850 - Advert

"DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL INN, and Inland Revenue Office, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

Charles Bill, in returning thanks for the very liberal encouragement he has received during the last six years at the TURKS HEAD INN, begs respectfully to inform his numerous Friends, and Commercial Gentlemen in particular, that for their greater convenience and comfort he has taken and newly furnished the above Inn, where he trusts the great improvements he has made in its internal arrangements, combined with his usual moderate charges, will ensure for him their future patronage and support.

The above Inn is situated on the main road from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, is within three minutes' walk of the Station of the South Staffordshire Railway, and the Market Place, or business part of the town.

Trains to and from Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, &c, twenty-four times a day, and Omnibuses to and from Wolverhampton, Bilston, &c, every hour.

Cars, &c, on reasonable terms, and at the shortest notice."

It was used as a magistrates Court. [1852]

Birmingham Journal 13/3/1852 - Advert

“Staffordshire. To Publicans, Spirit Merchants, and Others.

Sale at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, on the Premises, on Monday and Tuesday Next, March 15 and 16.

All the Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, a neat-built Phaeton, set of Pony Harness, well-seasoned Casks, Spirit Counter, 14 feet long, with metal top, and a twelve-tap Fountain complete, Spirit Casks, valuable Shop Fixtures, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Charles Bill*, TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, who is leaving on account of the expiration of his lease.

The Sale to commence each morning at half-past Ten o'clock, with the usual conditions.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/5/1852

“An inquest was held by George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, at Mr. *Nichol's*, the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Friday last, on the body of Simeon Godsmark, aged 25 years, who was killed the preceding evening, about ten o'clock, by being crushed between the buffers of two loaded trucks on the South Staffordshire Railway. There did not appear to be any blame attached to any one, and verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/6/1852

“An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of David Griffiths, aged 33. It appeared that on the previous Saturday night the deceased retired to bed about ten o'clock, having partaken of a hearty supper of liver and bacon. Some time after, his wife was awoke by the deceased groaning very much, when she got up and went down stairs for a little water; on her return she found him out of bed and lying on the floor. Mr. Hobbins, surgeon, was sent for, but before his arrival life was extinct. That gentleman made a post mortem examination of the body. The heart of the deceased was quite soft, and on examining the head, the brain was found to be much congested, and an effusion of blood upon the base to the amount of two ounces, which would produce pressure upon the brain and instant death. The supper taken would be likely to cause apoplexy. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/7/1852

“Mr. *Nichols*, of the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, was summoned by Sergeant Pardoe, of the 1st Royal Dragoons, under the following circumstances. The sergeant, in company with six privates, had been billeted upon the TURKS HEAD in the usual manner, a few days previously. On their dinner being served up, objection was made to both the quality and quantity of the food, which was afterwards weighed in the presence of one of the officers, who also objected, and requested Mr. *Nichols* to prepare a proper dinner, which he refused to do. The information was then laid, and the magistrates considering the case fully proved, inflicted a mitigated fine of 40s and costs.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/9/1853 - Advert

“The Friends of a respectable Youth, 16 years of age, are desirous to have him apprenticed as an In-Door Apprentice with a respectable Builder and Surveyor. A liberal premium given.

Application by letter, to Mr. *Joseph Whitehouse*, TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Journal 6/5/1854 - Advert

“Wanted. Mr. *J. Whitehouse*, of the TURKS HEAD COMMERCIAL INN, Wednesbury, wants Four Carpenters and Joiners, immediately; also an experienced Ostler and Brewer, and an active Young Man, to assist, and make himself generally useful.”

WANTED.—Mr. J. WHITEHOUSE, of the Turk's Head Commercial Inn, Wednesbury, wants Four CARPENTERS and JOINERS, immediately; also an experienced OSTLER and BREWER, and an active Young MAN, to assist, and make himself generally useful.—Apply as above.

Birmingham Journal 27/5/1854 - Advert

“TURKS HEAD COMMERCIAL INN, Wednesbury.

Mr. *Joseph Whitehouse*, in expressing his acknowledgements to Commercial Gentlemen and the Public generally for the support he has hitherto received, begs to inform them, that having completed the alterations of his Premises, his House will be found to present every comfort and accommodation, the Wines, Spirits, &c, having been selected with much care.

Conveyances and Post Horses can be had on the shortest notice and the most reasonable terms.

Card.

Joseph Whitehouse, Auctioneer, Appraiser, General Agent, and Surveyor.

Offices: TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Wednesbury, and LYTTTELTON HOTEL, Hales Owen.”

Birmingham Journal 23/9/1854 - Advert

“Wednesbury. Valuable Freehold Business Premises, Commercial Inn, Shops, Family Residences, Cottages, and Building Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Henry Farrington (by the direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. *John Russell*, Esq), at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on Friday, the 6th day of October, 1854.....

Lot 3. All that very desirable Freehold Inn, known as the TURKS HEAD, admirably well situated in High Street as a Commercial House, and close to the Market Place, with the spacious Wine and Spirit Vaults adjoining, all in the occupation of Mr. *Whitehouse*.”

[There were 31 lots at this sale.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1854

“A meeting of the road trustees was held on Wednesday, at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, to let the tolls for the Birmingham and Dudley district. The contract was taken by Messrs. Poplow and Co. for the sum of £4,560. The commissioners dined at the TURKS HEAD, where the repast was served up in a style to surpass even the former achievements of the host and hostess.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/12/1854

“*Joseph Whitehouse*, licensed victualler, was summoned on an information charging him with having his house open for the sale of liquors at a quarter to twelve on the night of Sunday last. It was given in evidence for the prosecution that at the time in question three gentlemen were drinking in the house. In defence it was urged that the gentlemen were waiting for a railway train. Inspector Blayney said that one of the gentlemen had since called upon him, and assured him that such was the fact. The Magistrate nevertheless inflicted a fine of 50s and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 6/1/1855

“On Saturday evening, Messrs. Thomas and Charles Russell gave a splendid dinner to upwards of two hundred of their employees, at Mr. *Joseph Whitehouse*’s, the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury. Mr. Charles Russell filled the chair, and the conviviality of the meeting was kept up till a late hour.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1855

“On Tuesday evening, the 26th ult, about fifty of the members of the OLD TURKS HEAD Benevolent Club, Wednesbury, partook of an excellent Christmas dinner at that house. This club is remarkable for its age, having existed for nearly 200 years.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/1/1855

“The dinner, a most excellent one, of the OLD TURKS HEAD Benevolent Club, which has been established for nearly two hundred years, was served up at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 2nd instant. The most convincing proof of the capital catering on the occasion was that the viands speedily disappeared. A very happy evening was passed.”

Birmingham Journal 18/8/1855

“On Friday (yesterday), the prisoners John Gwynne, boots, and Edwin George Yardley, ostler at the TURKS HEAD INN, were brought up for reexamination before Thomas Walker, Esq. The evidence of Mr. and Mrs. *Whitehouse*, and of several other witnesses, was taken.

About five weeks since, Mr. *Whitehouse* found his cellar broken open, but from the extent of his stock could not ascertain whether he had been robbed. On Monday last he was from home, and during his absence Mrs. *Whitehouse* discovered, stowed away in the manger of the stable, thirteen bottles and a jar, containing champagne, old port, liquors, and spirits. She sent for the police, and both prisoners were taken into custody, Gwynne at the time being intoxicated.

Yesterday, when before the Magistrate, Yardley made a clean breast of it, and said that other parties in the house were in the mess. The other prisoner said this statement was true, and both were fully committed for trial at the adjourned Sessions. In answer to an application by his friends, Mr. Walker said he would accept good bail for Yardley.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/9/1855

“Staffordshire Adjourned Quarter Sessions.....

The following prisoners pleaded guilty, and were sentenced as follows.....

Edwin George Yardley, and John Gwynn, for stealing a quart of gin, half a pint of champagne, a quart of port wine, and other articles, the property of *Joseph Whitehouse*, at Wednesbury, each six calendar months' imprisonment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/9/1855

“It had been intended to celebrate the capture of Sebastopol in Wednesbury yesterday week, but the Market Place being occupied on account of the wakes, the committee appointed to get up a demonstration deemed it advisable to defer it until Monday last. On that day Wednesbury certainly made a grand show. The streets were lined with the colours of our native land and her allies, and from the railway the town assumed a most gay aspect. The sight on entering the town was most striking. At the lowest computation not less than five hundred colours were displayed, and there was scarcely an inn or a shop, however small, that did not exhibit this mark of rejoicing.....

Barrels of ale were given away by Mr. *Whitehouse*, of the TURKS HEAD.

At night the town was illuminated, and there was scarcely a shop, even where only a little fruit or pastry was sold, that did not exhibit an ornamental display of at least a bouquet of flowers Mr. *Whitehouse*, of the TURKS HEAD, drove a break round the town, drawn by two handsome greys, containing the Brunswick Works band.”

AND

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

Barrels of ale were given by Mr. *Joseph Whitehouse*, TURKS HEAD INN.

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *Whitehouse*, TURKS HEAD INN, High Street.

At night the town was brilliantly illuminated. Some of the devices were admirable, among which we particularly noticed those at the TURKS HEAD INN.”

Birmingham Journal 27/10/1855

“The letting of the tolls of the Birmingham and Wednesbury turnpike roads took place on Tuesday at Wednesbury. Mr. Walsh obtained the contract for £4,320, which is £10 more than they were let for to the same gentleman last year. The trustees and the gentlemen in attendance afterwards partook of a very excellent dinner, provided by Mr. and Mrs. *Whitehouse*, at the TURKS HEAD INN, and at which B. Round, Esq, occupied the chair.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/10/1855

“The annual court leet for the manor of Wednesbury was held on Wednesday at Mr. *Whitehouse*'s, the TURKS HEAD INN. R. Jesson, Esq, of Walsall, attended as steward for Sir Francis Scott, and Barnaby, Esq, as steward for Lady Emily Foley. Mr. Dawes was appointed chief constable, Mr. G. C. Whitehouse and Mr. Richard Tibbetts head boroughs, and Mr. James Richards and Mr. G. C. Whitehouse flesh conners. Other offices were filled up, the duties of which it would be a puzzle to those appointed to them to describe. A splendid dinner was furnished by Mrs. *Whitehouse*, comprising every delicacy of fish, flesh, fowl, game, pastry, &c, which could be obtained, Mr. R. Ashmore, foreman of the jury, occupying the chair.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 1/11/1856

“The bi-monthly meeting of Wednesbury Local Board of Health was held on Monday evening.....

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Charles Bill, of the DARTMOUTH INN, offering to supply offices to the board at a rent of £20 per annum, rates and taxes free. The Clerk said that Mr. *Whitehouse* of the TURKS HEAD, had requested his premises adjoining the Town Hall to be inspected for the purpose. Mr. *Whitehouse* would find a person to keep the rooms clean, and a store-room, &c, for £25 a year; or, if the board considered the rent too high, for a less sum. Some discussion ensued respecting land that had been purchased by the board at Church Hill, with the intention of building offices, washhouses, &c; but it was eventually arranged that a committee of the whole board should meet Messrs. Bill and *Whitehouse* on Friday next.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/11/1856

“Wednesbury Local Board of Health.....

Applications from Mr. Bill, of the DARTMOUTH ARMS, and Mr. *Whitehouse*, of the TURKS HEAD, were made to let the Board offices on the termination of their present tenancy, and a committee of the whole Board was appointed to examine the rooms offered.”

Birmingham Journal 22/11/1856

“On Tuesday, before the Magistrates at Pelsall, Thomas Mason, a butcher at Walsall, was charged with having, whilst passenger in a third-class carriage, on the South Staffordshire Railway, between Birmingham and Walsall, used insolent and abusive language, to the annoyance of other passengers. Mr. G. P. Neele, secretary to the company, appeared in support of the information.

Mrs. *Whitehouse*, landlady of the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury, proved the case. The Magistrates said that drunkenness was no excuse for an offence such as he had committed, and fined him in the full penalty of 40s and costs, at the same time observing that had they the power they would have increased that sum to £5, as passengers must be protected. It was intimated that although amongst the number, some twenty persons, who were seated in the carriage at the time, there were several men, not one of them would interfere to prevent the disgraceful behaviour of the defendant. The Magistrates said they considered public gratitude was due to Mrs. *Whitehouse* for having brought the case forward.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 23/5/1857

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

Sarah Wakeman was indicted for stealing money, the property of her master, *Joseph Whitehouse*, landlord of the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury.

Mrs. *Whitehouse* stated that on the 10th of May, about 11 o'clock in the forenoon, she placed three half sovereigns and some silver, amounting in all to about £4 15s, in a drawer in her bedroom. Soon after she saw the prisoner going upstairs, and subsequently missed half a sovereign from the money. The prisoner was eventually taken into custody by police-constable Samuel Woolley at her lodgings, when she remarked that Mrs. *Whitehouse* was in a great hurry for her money, and gave witness half a sovereign and nearly two pounds worth of silver. The constable found a piece of paper-hanging at her lodgings, which the prosecutor identified as his property.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and she was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/7/1857

“The annual dinner of the Church Club took place on Monday, at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, the Rev. Mr. Walsh was in the chair.....

An excellent dinner was provided by Mr. and Mrs. *Whitehouse*, the host and hostess.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/10/1857

“On Wednesday last the tolls of the Birmingham and Wednesbury roads were let to Messrs. Walsh and Co. for £4,590. After the letting of the tolls the trustees sat down to a very choice dinner, provided by Mr. and Mrs. *Whitehouse*, of the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury. Phillip Williams, Esq, occupied the chair, and the guests complimented the host and hostess, on the excellent provision made for their entertainment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/2/1858

“Mr. Peter Harcourt, landlord of a public house in Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, came to a shocking death on Tuesday last. He was at the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury, being related to the landlord, Mr. *Whitehouse*, for the purpose of superintending the brewing operations, Mr. *Whitehouse* being unwell.

About five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon Mr. *Whitehouse*'s cook, being in her bedroom, heard some groans in an adjoining apartment. On going thither she saw Mr. Harcourt stretched on the bed, and a cloud of steam was rising from his body. In reply to her inquiry as to what was wrong, the poor fellow, evidently suffering the most horrible agony, said that he had fallen into the brewing boiler. She at once divested him of his clothes as far as she could do so, and wrapped him in a sheet; but the dreadful state he was in rendered this relief of little service, though it doubtless prolonged his life a few hours.

Mr. and Mrs. *Whitehouse*, who were out, happened to return home a minute or two afterwards; and surgical aid was promptly obtained, two medical men, Mr. Woodhall and Mr. Proctor, being, singularly enough, opposite the TURKS HEAD door at the time. They at once pronounced recovery impossible, poor Harcourt being scalded from head to

foot in so dreadful a manner that the skin and flesh came off his body wherever he was touched. He died at four o'clock the next morning. From what he said to Mr. *Whitehouse* it would seem that he must have fallen asleep while sitting on the edge of the copper waiting for the water to boil which had to be put over the grains for the last time. He fell in backwards, and was of course completely immersed in the scalding liquid. It seems extraordinary how he could have got out of the copper unaided, which is five feet deep, in the state he then was, and have reached his bedroom without giving any alarm. Mr. Harcourt has left a wife and a numerous family."

[This was reported nationally.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/7/1858 - Notice

"Notice is hereby given, that William Tullett, the Inspector of Weights and Measures for District C, or South Staffordshire, 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 TURKS HEAD INN, at Wednesbury, on Fridays, July 23rd, August 20th, and September 17th, 1858, at ten o'clock am."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1859 - Advert

"Joseph Cotterell, Cab and Car proprietor, TURKS HEAD, High Street, Wednesbury.
Elegant Carriages for Weddings, with Gray Horses, and Postillions in Scarlet or Blue Liveries."

Birmingham Journal 30/4/1859 - Advert

"To be Let, with immediate possession, or Sold by Private Contract, the Blades Foundry and Grinding Mill, situated at Lea Brook, in the parish of Tipton. The Plant includes a 15-horse power Engine, three Grinding Stones, Shafting and Pulleys, Blowing Fan, &c; upper and lower Shopping, Foundry and Fitting Shops, one boat's length of Wharfage Land, and entire Yard, conveniently situated near to the Great Western Goods Station and Turnpike Road.

For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to *Joseph Whitehouse*, Auctioneer, TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/7/1859

"At the Walsall County Court, on Wednesday, an action, in which Messrs. Allcock, merchants, were plaintiffs, and Mr. *Whitehouse*, of the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, was defendant, was tried. Mr. Proudman, traveller of the plaintiffs, on the 11th June sent a number of parcels from the Great Western Railway Station at Wednesbury to the defendant's house, where they were duly delivered, he proceeding to Wolverhampton. On his reaching Wednesbury he missed one of the parcels, and £11 was claimed as the cost of the patterns in it. His Honour directed a nonsuit on the ground that Mr. Proudman not being a guest in the house the landlord was not responsible for the custody of his luggage. Mr. Ebsworth was for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Sheldon for the defendant."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/9/1859

"At Wednesbury Magistrates Court, on Tuesday, a respectably dressed young man named Benjamin Whitehouse, was charged by James Tower, with having obtained the sum of 5s 6d, by means of false and fraudulent pretences. Mr. Sheldon defended.

Complainant stated that on Monday night week he was at the TURKS HEAD INN, where he was assaulted, and defendant being by he offered his services to conduct a summons for the said assault. He then represented that he was clerk to Mr. Thursfield, and said that he must have 5s 6d for expenses in procuring a summons and getting it served.

At the request of Mr. Sheldon the further hearing of the case was adjourned for a week."

Joseph Whitehouse was also an auctioneer. [1860], [1861], [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1860 - Advert

"Hooper for Coroner.

The Committees for conducting Mr. Hooper's Election sit daily at the following Places.....

Wednesbury, at the TURKS HEAD.....

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.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/2/1861

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the TURKS HEAD public house, Wednesbury, on the body of a child named Sarah Lloyd, aged two years. Deceased was in the kitchen with her grand-mother on the 18th of January last, and by some means upset a tea-pot which was standing on the hob filled with boiling tea. The grand-mother heard a scream, and upon turning round discovered that the deceased had upset the tea over her head and shoulders. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased had been subject to fits from her birth, but more so since the accident. The jury returned a verdict that deceased died from Natural Causes, accelerated by the scalds.”

1861 Census

High Street

- [1] Joseph Whitehouse (40), auctioneer and victualler, born Northfield, Worcestershire;
- [2] Sarah Whitehouse (40), wife, born Upton Warren, Worcestershire;
- [3] Sarah Williams (22), niece, barmaid, born Stourbridge;
- [4] Eliza Williams (18), niece, barmaid, born Stourbridge;
- [5] Elizabeth Wittingham (20), niece, general servant, born West Bromwich;
- [6] George Lyons (25), general servant, born Bloxwich;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/3/1863

“The Royal Marriage. District Festivities.....

In Wednesbury the streets were, in almost every direction, decorated with flags and banners; bands of music patrolled the town, and the illuminations were on a grand scale.....

The TURKS HEAD HOTEL was an object of peculiar attention, the illumination from every part of the edifice giving a prominent character to the numerous flags and banners in the High Street.”

[This was the marriage of Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/11/1863

“The adjourned inquest into the circumstance attending the death of Hannah Summers, a female child, aged one month, was held yesterday by Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the house of Mr. J. Whitehouse, TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury. The child died suddenly, and at the opening of the inquest on the body on Monday the mother of the deceased gave her evidence in such an unsatisfactory manner as to induce the Coroner to adjourn the inquiry, in order that a post mortem examination of the body might be made.

The facts of the case, as appeared from the evidence adduced at the former inquest, were very simple. Mary Ann Higgins, a neighbour of Mrs. Summers, the mother of deceased, heard a knocking at her chamber wall on Thursday morning last, at six am. She went into her neighbour's house and found the deceased was dead. This witness also saw a purple mark at the bottom of the throat. The body was quite cold, and the witness was of opinion that the child must have been dead some hours, although the mother stated that the child had not been dead five minutes.

At the adjourned inquiry, yesterday, Mr. H. E. Proctor, surgeon, said he had made a post mortem examination of the body. He had examined the head and brain; the brain was pale, but not unusually so. The brain was healthy, and there was no congestion whatever. All the membranes of the brain were healthy. The lungs were a little congested at the posterior part. The heart was also healthy, and contained about two teaspoonfuls of blood, equally divided on either side of the head. The stomach contained a small quantity of milk, partially digested. The liver was large and healthy, and the intestines contained a good deal of flatus. Witness made a careful external examination of the body, but found no marks of violence whatever. He examined the throat, which was healthy, and there were no marks of violence corresponding with the evidence given by the witness Wiggins, and she must have been mistaken or the marks would have been perceptible. In witness's opinion the immediate cause of death might be ascribed to convulsions, produced no doubt from flatulency.

In reply to a juror witness relied he did not think the child could have been smothered.

Police-constable Birch and several of the jurors said that the mother bore an excellent character, and was exceedingly fond of her children, but her mind was rather unsettled, and she might almost be considered as non compos mentis. The jury deliberated for a few minutes, and returned a verdict of died of convulsions, produced by Natural Causes”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/11/1863

“George Fletcher, late in the employ of Mr. *Whitehouse*, of the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, was charged with sealing liquors from his employer. It appeared that the defendant was leaving his place on the previous Saturday night, and he volunteered to stay till Sunday morning and instruct his successor. On the Sunday morning the gin tap was found running in the shop, and about four gallons of spirit appeared to have run off, and the accused was found drunk in the yard. The case was not pressed, and the defendant was let off on payment of costs.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1864

“On the completion of the new railways stations, and opening of the branch lines, when Mr. Prayer, the station-master, left the passenger department to confine his attention to the increasing business of the goods department, it was proposed to present him with a testimonial. The necessary funds having been collected, the presentation took place at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday evening. Mr. J. J. Bowater, of Hill Top, in the presence of many friends, handed to Mr. Prayer a purse of 30 guineas and an elegant silver snuff box, accompanying the gift with a few suitable remarks. Mr. G. Whitehouse, honorary secretary, also spoke in flattering terms of Mr. Prayer’s urbanity and courtesy. Mr. Prayer feelingly reciprocated the kindness of his friends. We understand that he has been connected with the London and North-Western Railway Company in this district upwards of eighteen years, and on leaving Coseley a high compliment was paid to him by the leading inhabitants.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/12/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, a young Man, as General Servant, to live in the house. None need apply who cannot produce a good character.”

WANTED, at the Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury, a young Man, as General SERVANT, to live in the house. None need apply who cannot produce a good character.

Birmingham Journal 24/3/1866 - Advert

“Billiard Table. To be Sold by Private Treaty, a full-sized Slate-bottom Billiard Table, in good condition, with Balls and Cues, complete.

Apply at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

BILLIARD TABLE.—To be SOLD by PRIVATE TREATY, a full-sized Slate-bottom BILLIARD TABLE, in good condition, with Balls and Cues, complete.—Apply at the Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/3/1866 - Notice

“Notice is hereby given, the William Tullett, the Inspector of Weights and Measures for District C, or South Staffordshire 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.....

TURKS HEAD INN, at Wednesbury, on Mondays, April 16th, May 14th, and June 11th, 1866, at ten o'clock am.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/11/1866

“Distribution of Prizes to the 34th Staffordshire Rifle Volunteers, Wednesbury.

On Monday prizes won by members of the above company, were distributed to the winners by Captain Stubbs, in St. John’s Schoolroom, Russell Street, Wednesbury.....

At the conclusion of the distribution the Volunteers adjourned to the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, where they partook of an excellent supper, served by Mr. *Whitehouse*, the proprietor, and given by the Honorary Assistant-Surgeon to the battalion, Mr. Proctor. After the cloth had been removed, Captain Stubbs occupied the chair, and the vice-chairs were taken by Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Gutteridge, and the usual loyal toasts were given, and several of the members enlivened the evening with songs &c.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/8/1867 - Advert

“Wanted, at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, a middle-aged Woman, as General Servant. Must be able to Cook well and Wash. An Under Servant is kept.”

WANTED, at the Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury, a middle-aged Woman, as GENERAL SERVANT. Must be able to Cook well and Wash. An Under Servant is kept.—Apply as above.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/1/1868 - Advert

“Wanted, at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, a Young Man as Groom and General Servant. None but those with good character need apply.”

WANTED, at the Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury, a Young Man as GROOM and GENERAL SERVANT. None but those with good character need apply.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/6/1868 - Advert

"Wednesbury. To Let, with immediate possession, the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, known as the best commercial and posting house in the town. Rent and valuation very moderate. Satisfactory reasons given for disposing of the same. For particulars, to treat, &c, apply to Messrs. Roderick and Son, Auctioneers, &c, Birmingham; or the proprietor, *Joseph Whitehouse*, on the premises."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/7/1868 - Advert

"Wednesbury. To Let, with immediate possession, the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, being the best Commercial and Posting House in the town, with good Private and Out-door Trade. The Premises are very compact, with Billiard Room, Liquor Vault, and every Convenience, and have not changed hands for 16 years. The present Proprietor retiring from the Public Business. Rent and coming-in low.

For particulars and to treat, apply to Messrs. Roderick and Sons, Auctioneers, &c, Birmingham; or to the Proprietor, *Joseph Whitehouse*, on the Premises."

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/7/1868

"Walker for Wednesbury.

At a meeting of the supporters of Mr. Thomas Eades Walker.....

The following gentlemen have consented to act as a committee for securing the return of Mr. Thomas E. Walker as Member of Parliament for the Borough.....

Mr. *Joseph Whitehouse*, TURKS HEAD HOTEL."

[Thomas Eades Walker stood as a Conservative candidate but was unsuccessful.]

Joseph Whitehouse was listed as a wholesale and retail brewer, auctioneer and surveyor. [1868], [1869]

Birmingham Daily Post 21/1/1869 - Births

"On the 15th inst, the wife of *William Elcock*, of Blue Bell Villa, Great Barr, of a son."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1871 - Advert

"Blue Bell Villa, near the Scott Arms, Perry Barr, between Walsall and Birmingham, to Let, with immediate possession, desirably situated upon a dry and healthy site, within a mile of Hamstead Station. Comprises Entrance Hall, Dining and Drawing Rooms, Kitchen, two China Pantries, three Cellars, three Chambers, two Attics, &c; good Stabling, Coach-house, and Piggeries, hard and soft Water. A large and productive Garden, well planted with Fruit Trees.

For particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. *William Elcock*, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury."

1871 Census

25, Lower High Street – TURKS HEAD

[1] *William Elcock* (47), innkeeper, born Handsworth;

[2] *Mary Elcock* (39), wife, born United States;

[3] *Mary Ann Elcock* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Frederick Elcock* (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Hannah Fellows* (66), domestic servant, born Bradely;

[6] *Harry Keech* (20), boarder, born Wednesbury;

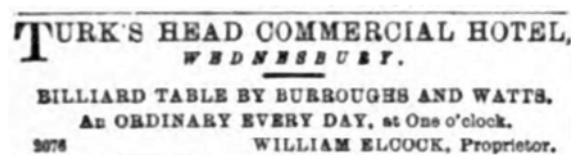
Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/8/1871 - Advert

"TURKS HEAD COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Wednesbury.

Billiard Table By Burroughs and Watts.

An Ordinary Every Day, at One o'clock.

William Elcock, Proprietor."



Staffordshire Advertiser 16/8/1873

“On Monday morning, a little before seven o’clock, Mr. A. *Beardsmore*, landlord of the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, was found suspended by a halter to the bedpost, evidently having committed suicide. Dr. Kerr was called immediately, but pronounced life to have been extinct some hours. The deceased had not undressed himself, and the bed had not been touched. It is supposed that he hanged himself on retiring to his room shortly after midnight. The reason assigned for the act is that Mr. *Beardsmore*, while at Wolverhampton, received some insult from the company he was in, and under the excitement he drank very freely of brandy. He quarrelled with his wife on returning home, and she refused to sleep in the same room with him. Deceased had been some years in the liquor trade, having formerly kept a public house at Walsall. At the inquest held on Wednesday it transpired that seven years ago he met with an accident that resulted in concussion of the brain, and since that time he had been very ‘strange.’ Especially when under the influence of drink. The night before he committed suicide he was in a fearful state of excitement, and struck his wife on her remonstrating with him for using foul language. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide while of Unsound Mind.”

Dudley Herald 16/8/1873

“A sad case of suicide by hanging took place early on Monday morning at Wednesbury, the unfortunate person being Mr. *Alfred Beardsmore* landlord of the TURKS HEAD for about 15 months.”

Midland Examiner 26/12/1874 - Advert

“W. Thomson, Caledonia Stores (late TURKS HEAD).....
Wine and Spirit Merchant, 25, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.
Private Office up the Entrance. Single Bottles at Wholesale Prices.”
[Adverts for this business first appeared in October 1874.]

Midland Examiner 5/5/1877 - Advert

“W. Thomson, Caledonia Stores.
List of Spirits.....
Stouts and Ales.....
Wine and Spirit Merchant, 25, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.”

1881 Census

25, Lower High Street – TURKS HEAD HOTEL
[1] *Samuel Renshaw* (29), manager of hotel, born Handsworth, Yorkshire;
[2] *Rachel Renshaw* (28), wife, born Dudley;
[3] *Catherine A. Renshaw* (4), daughter, born Wednesbury;
[4] *William H. Joseph Renshaw* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
[5] *Elizabeth Whitehouse* (18), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Evening Star 8/3/1882

“On Thursday, Mr. Hooper, held an inquest at the TURKS HEAD INN, Wednesbury, on the body of *Lovell Charles Handley*, pianist, whose wife, on Friday morning, found him dead in bed by her side. He had been suffering from a sore throat for a few days, and his wife, having no money to pay for a doctor’s services, went on Thursday night to the house of Mr. Allen, relieving officer, to ask a note for the parish doctor. She saw Mrs. Allen, whom she informed that her husband was very ill, and was told to call at ten the next morning. The inquest was adjourned for the attendance of Mrs. Allen.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 15/3/1882

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, the district coroner, resumed the enquiry yesterday evening at the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street, Wednesbury, respecting the death of *Lowell Charles Handley* (21), a pianist, lately residing at No.1, Addison Street. The coroner said the enquiry was adjourned for the purpose of enabling Mr. Mark Allen, the relieving officer, to explain the reason why he did not give the wife of the deceased a parish note when applied for. Mr. Allen said he was absent from home when the wife of the deceased called at his house, and on his return his wife told him that a woman had applied for a parish note for a man who was suffering from a sore throat, but nothing was said about his suffering from delirium tremens. As he expected the woman would apply for a note on the following morning he did not trouble to visit the case; in fact, he did not know the address.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes, adding that they considered the relieving officer guilty of neglect in not taking steps to investigate the case when informed of it by his wife. The coroner said he trusted Mr. Allen would in future attend such cases. Mr. Ward, who represented the Guardians, said it was the desire of the Guardians that their officers should do their duty. Mr. Allen: And I have endeavoured to do mine."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1882

"Board of Guardians.....

A letter was read from the Local Government Board with respect to the enquiry recently held concerning the conduct of Mr. Mark Allen, relieving officer for the district of Wednesbury, in the case of the late Lowell Charles Handley, stating that they had arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Allen must be acquitted of any charge of neglect of duty in the matter."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/1/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, age about 18; also a respectable Boy, about 15; good characters required.

Apply, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a good General Servant, age about 18; also a respectable Boy, about 15; good characters required. — Apply, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/11/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, a General Servant, age about 16; good character.

Apply, TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a General Servant, age about 16; good character. — Apply, Turks Head, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Mail 25/1/1888

"Today, Mr. Hooper held an inquest at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, on the body of John Brassington, saddler, who on Monday went into a cellar, stood over his yeomanry rifle, and apparently moving the trigger with an iron bar, blew away the greater part of his head. He had been in a desponding state through business reverses, and had threatened to destroy himself. Last week his wife surprised him with a razor in his hand. A verdict of Suicide during Temporary Insanity was returned."

Lichfield Mercury 4/10/1889 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, Brewers Shops, and Business Premises, situate at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

Messrs. Watkins and Powell have received instructions to Offer for Sale by Public Auction, at the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury, on Monday, the 14th day of October, 1889, at Six o'clock in the evening.....

All that Old-Licensed Public House, known as the TURKS HEAD, situate in High Street, Wednesbury, and near the Market Place there, now under lease to Mr. Woodhall for a term of 7 years from 29th September, 1887, at the yearly rental £85. This house is replete with all modern conveniences, well fitted Smoke Room, Vaults and Concert Hall; also good Stabling, lock-up Coach-house and Yard at the rear, approached by gate-way entrance from Russell Street."

1891 Census

Lower High Street – TURKS HEAD

[1] Alfred Bird (38), public house manager, born West Bromwich;

[2] Mary Ann Bird (37), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] Florence Bird (11), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[4] Fanny Bird (9), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[5] Ethel Bird (5), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[6] Alfred Bird (3), son, deaf, born West Bromwich;

[7] Thomas Bird (11 months), son, born West Bromwich;

[8] Annie Hibbs (13), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

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.....

Samuel Woodhall, TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Advertiser 23/3/1895

“Highly Important Sale of a very valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Public House, the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, together with Two Retail Shops, a Brewery, and other Premises, situate in the very heart of Wednesbury. Walter Hughes is instructed to offer for Sale by Auction, upon the Premises at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, the 3rd April, 1895.....

Lot 1. A valuable Full-licensed Freehold Public House, known as the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, situate in and having an important frontage to High Street, and close to the Market Place, until 29th September last held under lease by Mr. *Woodhall*, brewer, of West Bromwich, at a rental of £85 a year.

The House, which is one of the best known and oldest-established houses in Wednesbury or district, has always done a good trade, is very capacious, and both inside and out is in capital order.

It contains 6 Bedrooms and 3 useful Closets and Attics, Clubroom 31feet 6in by 15ft, Vaults, and Concert Hall 60ft by 13ft 6in, with stage and back entrance, Smoke Room, Kitchens, and very extensive Cellarage, with an excellent Yard at rear containing brick built Stabling for 6 horses, lock-up Coach House, and covered Sheds with gateway approach from Russell Street.

Possession may be had on completion.

To Brewers not represented in the district this is an excellent opportunity of securing a good House in a prominent part of a busy town, with sufficient cellarage and accommodation to practically form a stores or depot.”

Wednesbury Herald 30/11/1895

“Yesterday (Friday) morning *Joseph Higo*, manager of the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Lower High Street, committed suicide in a most determined manner. He rose about 7.30am, opened the premises, and half an hour later he was seen talking to two or three men at the front door. He then went upstairs again. At a quarter past eight o’clock Mrs. *Higo* called her husband to come down to breakfast. Receiving no answer she went upstairs and entering his bedroom, the door of which was ajar, she was shocked to find him lying across the bed with a revolver in his mouth. He showed no signs of life. Running downstairs she called Mr. J. Griffiths, grocer, whose place of business is exactly opposite the TURKS HEAD, and the police and the doctor were at once sent for. PC Rowbotham was quickly on the scene, followed by Sergeant Tiller and PC Woolley. They pronounced *Higo* to be dead and Dr. Coleman, who arrived shortly afterwards, confirmed the statement. The bullet or bullets had apparently gone into the stomach. The revolver was a five chambered one and it contained three used and one unused cartridges. Deceased was only thirty-one years of age. He leaves a widow and three young children. Mrs. *Higo* states that her husband has been drinking heavily of late and had been in bed most of the time since last Monday, when they entered into possession of the house. Previously he was employed for several years by Mr. H. Millner as barman at the GEORGE HOTEL, Five Ways. The TURKS HEAD was purchased a few days ago by Mr. W. J. Maclean, of Walsall, and this gentleman appeared at the Borough Police Court yesterday morning to obtain a transfer of the license from Mr. *S. Woodhall*, of West Bromwich, the former licensee. *Higo* had been engaged by Mr. Maclean to manage the house.”

John Rae McLean was the son of John and Agnes Janet McLean of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Rushall, Walsall.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1900

“At Wednesbury, yesterday, James McLean (20), no fixed abode, was charged with burglariously entering the premises of *John McLean*, of the TURKS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, in the course of the previous night. Prosecutor is a cousin of the prisoner, and having had his house broken into twice recently he communicated with the police, who kept the house under close supervision. At 1.30am a window was found to have been forced open, and Police-sergeant Sims captured prisoner in the kitchen, and it was alleged that he had the proceeds of other burglaries on him. A remand was granted.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 4/8/1900

“At Wednesbury, yesterday, James McLean (20), no fixed abode, was charged on remand with burglariously entering the premises of his cousin, *John McLean*, landlord of the TURKS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, on three occasions.

Prosecutor's house was broken into on the nights of July 26 and 27, and he accordingly communicated with the police, who kept watch, and on the morning of the 31st ult found that a kitchen window had been forced open. Police-sergeant Sims entered the house and arrested prisoner, who was in the kitchen, and had the proceeds of the previous burglaries in his possession.

Prisoner, who had nothing to say, was committed to the quarter sessions for trial.”

1901 Census

25, Lower High Street – TURKS HEAD HOTEL

[1] *John Rae McLean* (27), licensed victualler, born Northampton;

[2] *Henrietta Minnie McLean* (27), wife, born Bloxwich;

[3] *Agnes Adeline McLean* (4 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *James McLean* (21), cousin, pot man, born Scotland;

[5] *Alice Walker* (17), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

John Rae McLean – see also ROVERS REST, Bloxwich, and TRAVELLERS REST, Walsall Wood.

Wednesbury Leader 27/4/1901

“On Thursday morning, at the TURKS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquiry into the death of *Sidney Hemmings* (15), of 24, Lower High Street, employed by Messrs. Southern and Son, whose death occurred suddenly on Tuesday morning.

Mrs. *Clara Hemmings*, wife of *James Hemmings*, a fitter, said on the 12th she was away from home, and returned late at night. Her daughter told her the lad had come home in the afternoon sick, and had gone to bed. She saw the lad in the morning, and he then told her he had a sore throat. She left him to make a cup of coffee, and returned at 8-45. He was partly unconscious, and she tried unsuccessfully to rouse him. She tried to force him to drink brandy, but could not open his teeth. She sent for Dr. Garman, but he arrived ten minutes after the lad died, which occurred at 9-30am.

Bertha Hemmings, sister of the deceased, said that her brother came home at 2-45pm on Monday. He complained of pains in the stomach, so she gave him hot milk, and turpentine for outward application. At 5-30 she administered a seidlitz powder. He slept all night, and at 8-45 on the following morning she saw him again. He was then nearly unconscious, so she ran for Dr. Garman.

Mr. *George Macduff*, 3, Russell Street, foreman at the printing works of Messrs. Southern and Son, said the lad had been employed at the printing works for two years. On Monday witness had occasion to go into the machine room between 2-30 and 3pm, and there saw the lad, who was engaged in light work. He was crying. The lad said he had a pain across his ribs, so witness sent him home.

Mrs. *Patience Rose*, a neighbour to Mrs. Hemmings, gave evidence of being with the boy at 9-30am on Tuesday, when he died.

Dr. W. C. Garman was sworn, and said that on Tuesday morning at about 8-45 he was called to see the deceased boy, and saw him at 9-15. He was then dead, and already there was a degree of post mortem staining of the body. From this he concluded that death had taken place some time, in fact, he was of opinion that the boy was dead when they sent for the doctor. When he saw the body the boy's friends were under the impression that he was still alive, and they did not know when death occurred. He took the temperature of the body, which was hotter than is ordinary in the case of a living person. After death the temperature generally fell, but in this case it was 105 degrees. He took another temperature reading, and found the abdomen temperature was 106 degrees.

In reply to the Coroner, one could live at that temperature for a little time. He did not believe that a post mortem internal examination would reveal anything further so far as the cause of death was concerned. Death was due to a very sudden development of internal poison, which would not show itself by a post mortem appearance. The disease was an infectious disease, and he suggested it was influenza, because it was prevalent, and some of the cases under treatment had presented to his knowledge very peculiar symptoms. The pains in the ribs, the very rapid course of the disease, and the post mortem temperature, made it plain that there was a very acute burning process at work in the system.

A juryman asked the doctor if he had known a similar case.

The doctor replied that he had, and added that if a chemical poison had been at work there would not have been that rise of temperature, for the rise in temperature denoted a rapid multiplication of poison.

A verdict that death resulted from Influenza was returned.

Mr. Macduff expressed the sympathy of the firm with the members of the family on the sudden termination to a promising career.

The Coroner replied that it was a very sad and sudden death, and he was sure the relatives of the deceased would appreciate his words."

Wednesbury Leader 13/7/1901

"At a special Court at Wednesbury on Monday, before Colonel Smith and Mr. J. Handley, James McLean (20), no fixed abode, was charged with stealing a pair of trousers, value 8s 11d, from the shop of Hiam Cohen, clothier, Market Place, on June 21st.

Evidence was given that the trousers were missed from the doorway of the shop.

On Saturday, PC Trusswell and Bowler went to the TURKS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, where prisoner had been living, and in a bedroom which prisoner was said to have occupied, they found the trousers, while in the cellar there was property relating to another charge. They met prisoner in the street a short time afterwards and arrested him. They took him into the GEORGE INN to explain matters, and when told he had to go to the station prisoner became extremely violent, knocking Trusswell's head against a partition, and whilst being handcuffed took one of Trusswell's fingers between his teeth, and the constable afterwards found it to be broken at the end. PC Bowler had to strike him on the jaw to make him loose. Prisoner continued to struggle desperately, and knocked Trusswell through a plate-glass window. He was not secured for 25 minutes. On the way to the police station he kicked Bowler on the legs, Trusswell in the ribs, and also bunted PC Wallis in the mouth. Trusswell was so badly injured that he had since been under treatment by Dr. Garman.

A remand until Friday was granted, and again yesterday for a further seven days."

Walsall Observer 21/3/1903

"Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Lawrence applied for the renewal of the license of the TURKS HEAD INN, Lower High Street, but the police objected, on the grounds that the license was not required, that the house was of a disorderly character, that the house was frequented by persons of bad character, and also that the premises were dilapidated and unsanitary. Evidence in support of these objections was given by Police-sergeant Sims and Police-constables Trusswell and Wallis, and it was stated that there were no fewer than fifteen licensed houses within an area of 300 yards.

Mr. Lawrence admitted the dilapidated nature of the premises, but said Messrs. Rollinsons, the owners, had contemplated making extensive alterations and improvements for the last twelve months, and before the police objections were received plans with this object in view had been prepared. It was also proposed to utilise the concert room at the rear of the premises for domestic purposes; and he promised that under the new management nothing that would tend to disorderly behaviour would in future be tolerated. So far there had been no conviction against the house, and it was pointed out that in connection with the improvements it was now proposed to make an outlay of £300 would be involved.

License renewed."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/4/1903

"At the quarterly Licensing Session held at Wednesbury yesterday.....

The magistrates approved of plans for the re-erection of the TURKS HEAD INN, High Street."

Walsall Advertiser 13/3/1909

"A successful social gathering was held last Thursday evening at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, when a large party were entertained to supper by Mr. Calcutt, of Rolason's Brewery Company. An interesting billiard match between a team of Wednesbury players, consisting of Messrs. W. Taylor, A. J. Millard, A. Woodward, R. Forest, and F. Cook, met a team from Netherton, and the former won by three games to two."

1911 Census

25, Lower High Street – TURKS HEAD INN

- [1] William Cook (40), public house manager, born Walsall;
- [2] Charlotte Cook (40), wife, married 20 years, assisting in business, born Walsall;
- [3] Rose May Cook (17), daughter, helps in business, born Walsall;
- [4] Arthur Cook (15), son, errand boy, tobacco trade, born Walsall;
- [5] Francis Cook (14), son, errand boy, drapery trade, born Walsall;
- [6] Minnie Cook (9), daughter, school, born Walsall;
- [7] Samuel Cook (6), son, school, born Walsall;
- [8] Charlotte Cook (2), daughter, born Walsall;
- [9] Gladys Cook (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/6/1919 - Advert

“Half-Legged Mares, two, 16 hands, 6-8 years; can be seen at work; suitable haulier, mowing machine; £30 upwards, £35; cause sale death.

Stables, TURKS HEAD, Russell Street, Wednesbury.”

HALF-LEGGED Mares, two, 16 hands, 6-8 years; can be seen at work; suitable haulier, mowing machine; £30 upwards, £35; cause sale death.— Stables, 'Turks Head, Russell-street, Wednesbury.

1921 Census

Lower High Street – TURKS HEAD

- [1] Harry Fisher (37), mill furnaceman, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Fisher (35), wife, public business, born Birmingham;
- [3] Madge Gwendoline Fisher (12), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Lola Malvina Fisher (6), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Jeanett Fisher (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

South Staffordshire Times 6/8/1921

“John William Houlston (23), Richard Street South, West Bromwich, a private in the L&Y, was charged at Tipton Police Court last week, with being on the enclosed premises of the PRINCE REGENT INN, Horseley Heath, with intent to commit felony.

Houlston was also charged with stealing £32 in Treasury notes, the property of *Harry Fisher*, and also with stealing a silver brooch, the property of Florence Proverbs.

With regard to the Treasury notes, *Harry Fisher*, TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, gave evidence that on 13th June he placed the notes in a bedroom, the door of which was unfastened. A little later he found the notes had disappeared. Mrs. *Fisher* said the prisoner came in, had half a pint and moved towards the stairs. Then she found he had gone and gave a description to the police.

PC Davidson (Wednesbury) said that on the 14th July he spoke to prisoner about robberies. Prisoner replied, ‘I know what you want. I had it. Give me a piece of paper.’ Prisoner then wrote out a confession. In reply to Mr. Sharpe, the witness said prisoner told him he had been gassed and when he had any beer he was in a sort of trance. Prisoner also said he went into the bedroom at the GREEN DRAGON, Wednesbury, went upstairs, saw the brooch, took it, and hid it. That, said Mr. Sharpe, is the cause of these actions.

Prisoner pleaded guilty to all the charges, and Mr. Sharpe said prisoner admitted another case at Smethwick, and one at Dudley. He asked that all these should be taken into consideration in the sentence. The prisoner was 23, joined the army at 15, and had been on active service ever since. He suffered in several battles, including the battle of Paschendale Ridge. When he got well he re-enlisted for another four years. He was now a semi-infirm invalid, and at times was not in his right mind. Prisoner was a deserter, and would have to go back into the army after serving any sentence passed.

Mr. Barrows said the magistrates thought prisoner should be sent to the sessions. They would be lenient, take all the other charges into consideration, and prisoner would have to go to hard labour for six months.

Prisoner: Are all the other charges cleared up?

Mr. Barrows: As far as you have told us. It is clear you ought not to touch drink.”

Evening Despatch 3/11/1937

“The new dog show at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, proved an unqualified success. The dogs were all well handled. The best dog in the show was a Dalmatian owned by Mr. Barker....”

1939 Register

Lower High Street – TURKS HEAD

[1] Angus R. Mac-Duff, date of birth 5/5/1915, licensed victualler, manager, married;

[2] Ethel Mac-Duff, dob 3/8/1914, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 7/3/1940

“Penny-A-Week way to put Comforts Fund on a permanent basis.

Nearly £500 has been added to the lists of the funds in the West Midland and *Express and Star* federation since the last list, indicating the enthusiasm of people is still on the increase.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged £380 18s 9½d.

Proceeds of boxes.....

TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, 6s 11d.”

Rugeley Times 11/5/1940

“At their weekly meeting held on Wednesday at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury Rhythm Club had as recitalist Mr. F. Magress, a member of the Wolverhampton club, who gave a gramophone lecture on ‘The development of jazz.’ In the ‘jam’ session which followed the following artistes took part: Messrs. B. Cartwright (piano), R. MacDuff (drums), and Buddy Salt (saxophone and clarinet). Mr. Ray Brookes (chairman) presided over the meeting, and among the visitors present were several members of the Wolverhampton club, including Messrs. J. Holl (secretary) and D. Waite (assistant secretary).”

Rugeley Times 8/2/1941

“The monthly report of the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, just issued, shows that the patients report for the month of December was in-patients admitted, 55; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 284; to the casualty department, 905; attendance in all departments, 3,485.

Donations acknowledged for the month of December, 1940, were.....

TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury, 1s 6d.”

DACHSHUND Puppies for Sale 8 wks. old
pedigree includes 20 champions 8 to
10 gns.—Turk's Head Hotel Lower High St.
Wednesbury

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1943 - Advert

“Dachshund Puppies for Sale, 8wks old, pedigree includes 20 champions, 8 to 10gns.

TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.”

Walsall Observer 30/10/1943

“Lily Brookes, wife of the licensee of the TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury, was fined 35s with 5s special costs on each of two summonses for failing to perform firewatch duties.”

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.....

Mr. *Raymond William Brookes*, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, was elected a member of the society.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division One. [1946]

Birmingham Daily Post 2/9/1961

“It was becoming prevalent for customer and licensees to think they could go on after permitted hours, Mr. F. Cooper, prosecuting, said at Wednesbury yesterday. The Chief Constable wanted it to be known by all licensees in the town, he said, that he intended to see that permitted hours were strictly adhered to.

Ronald Murphy (28), of Berkshire Crescent, Woods Estate, Wednesbury, admitted drinking beer after permitted hours at the TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, and was fined £3 and ordered to pay 3gns costs. A charge of aiding and abetting against the licensee, *Sidney Harper* (35), was dismissed.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1962], [1963]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1978]

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/12/1978 - Advert

“Mrs. *Mullett* of TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, would like to wish all her many customers and friends a Very Happy New Year.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/11/1981

“New customers calling at the TURKS HEAD in Wednesbury are often surprised to find they can enjoy a pint in historic surroundings. For the pub, in Lower High Street, was built in 1604 and is the oldest in Wednesbury town centre

Many of the regular customers regale newcomers with tales of its history and its connection with royalty. For in the 1700s there was an extensive stable attached to it, and royalty travelling back to London used to change horses there. Older customers can still remember the time, around 50 years ago, when the pub was the centre for boxing in the area. The boxing matches were held in a large room on the first floor and attracted customers from miles around. Today the stables are long since gone and the upstairs rooms where the boxing was held is now part of the living quarters of licensee Mrs. *Mary Mullett*.

Seventy-two-year-old Mrs. *Mullett* has kept the TURKS HEAD for 16 years and wouldn't want to move anywhere else. ‘We get a great crowd in here and we are always full,’ she said. On Saturdays and Sundays the customers enjoy a sing-song and there's dancing to the music of the juke box.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/12/1981

“A lavish Christmas meal was laid on for pensioners at a Wednesbury pub last night. More than 60 pensioners packed the TURKS HEAD pub in Lower High Street for their annual free feast. Landlady Mrs. *Mary Mullett* said, “Everyone really enjoyed it. We had half of them in the bar, and the other half in the snug. It was paid for by competitions we held recently and the rest came out of my pocket. It was well worth it to see the pensioners enjoying themselves.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/12/1981 - Advert

“A Merry Christmas and a great big Thank You to you all for all your custom throughout 1981 from the TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.
God Bless you all from Mary and Jack.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1982

“Fourteen Wednesbury pubs have failed in a bid to cash in on the Bank Holiday beer trade by applying for license extensions. West Bromwich magistrates refused to allow an extra hour's drinking time on August Bank Holiday The 14 pubs which have been denied the extra hour's drinking are.....
TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/12/1984 - Advert

“A Merry Christmas and a great big Thank You to you for all your custom throughout 1984 from the TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.
God Bless you all from Jack, Sheila and Mary.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Motor Services Domino and Crib Leagues. [1986]

A team from here took part in the Black Country Alliance Football League. [1992]

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/11/1994

“Down Your Local. TURKS HEAD, Lower High Street, Wednesbury.

It's a pub trivia quiz question with a difference – who can solve the mystery of the boxing gloves? A pair of battered old gloves have been displayed in a mounted wall cabinet in the public bar of this town centre pub for the past four years. But not a single customer knows anything about them. Not even Ken Pickstone, a regular for more than 30 years. ‘The only thing that anyone knows about them is that they were put there by a former landlord,’ he said A clue is that an upstairs room at the pub was once used as a gymnasium for a local boxing club.

This is one of the few pubs in the region which opens at 10am, supposedly to cater for the many market traders who used to throng the area. ‘The market is nowhere near as busy as it used to be and we don't get the same number of traders,’ said landlord *Kevin McMahon*, aged 40. ‘But the morning period remains possibly our busiest time of the

day. You'd be surprised how many folk like a tipple at 10 o'clock in the morning.' *Kevin*, who comes from Wolverhampton, worked as an engineer for 20 years before he decided he wanted a change. Wife Veronica, aged 32, looks after the catering side and the couple have two children, Lisa, aged 20, and five-year-old Jade.

The pub is an old coaching house and, about seven years ago, doubled in size when the adjacent tailor's shop was acquired and converted to a games room and toilet block. It is a three-roomed pub comprising bar, lounge and snug. Entertainment is provided on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.....

Price of a Pint: Banks's mild £1.09, Banks's bitter £1.14, Harp lager £1.36, Strongbow cider £1.45.

Food: Sausage, egg and chips £1.80, selection of various pies with chips £1.80."

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/2/1996

"Eleven people were arrested during a drugs raid on a Wednesbury pub, Sandwell's top police officer has revealed. The arrests were made during a police swoop of the NAVIGATION INN at Friar Park where drugs were allegedly being sold, said Chief Supt. George Dunwoody. All were questioned about drug-related offences and the pub's owners removed the licensee. The raid was highlighted by Mr. Dunwoody during his annual report to the West Bromwich licensing justices. He said that another pub, the TURKS HEAD at Wednesbury, was prosecuted twice within a month and the licensee dismissed after being reported for selling alcohol after hours. In another crackdown, the owners of nine off-licenses were cautioned for selling alcoholic drinks to juveniles. The operations were carried out during a generally-successful 1995 for police in the West Bromwich area in the war against alcohol abuse."

[2012]

It was renamed THE TAVERN. [2014]

[2019]

It was renamed SEVEN. [2020]

Express & Star 16/7/2021

"A man has been charged with four counts of attempted murder after a car was driven at a group of people outside a Black Country pub. McBright Nyazuma, aged 19, is accused of ploughing into two women in a patio area outside the TURKS HEAD pub, in Lower High Street, Wednesbury, at around 1.45am on Sunday, July 11. One woman, aged 20, suffered multiple fractures and facial injuries. She still remains in hospital. A 19-year-old woman has since been discharged from hospital. During the incident two men jumped for cover to avoid the vehicle and narrowly escaped injury. Nyazuma, of Wainwright Close, Bilston, went to a police station on Thursday and was later charged with four counts of attempted murder. He was due to appear at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court on Friday morning."

Express & Star 12/5/2023

"A once trouble-plagued Sandwell bar is set to reopen after its landlord won a long-running licensing battle. SEVEN bar, in Wednesbury, was considered one of the region's most dangerous pubs after police attended 26 violent incidents in a year, including bar room brawls, stabbings, robbery, glassings and hammer attacks. The Lower High Street venue was shut down 11 months ago and stripped of its license on police advice. However, it has now been granted permission to open up after landlord *Anthony Melia*, who took over the running of the bar after its closure, won an appeal against Sandwell Council's decision at Dudley Magistrates Court. The bar, which is set to revert to its original name the TURKS HEAD, is in line to reopen in June and will feature daytime karaoke, pool, live music and Sky Sports.

Mr. *Melia* told the *Star*, 'This is great news and my message to people now is, come and give us a try. They will see a completely different atmosphere from anything that has gone on in the past. The judge picked up on the fact that most of the incidents that got us shut down happened after midnight. People were leaving other pubs that were closing and coming down here and causing trouble because it was the only place left to go. That will no longer be happening as we will only be opening 10am-10pm. We'll have live singers on in the afternoons and karaoke on until 6 or 7pm a couple of days a week, and we'll also have the Sky on, as well as a pool table and a jukebox.'

Mr. *Melia* said he hopes to reopen the venue on June 1 once work on the beer cellar has been completed. He also wants to restore the pub's original frontage. West Midlands Police have continued to raise objections over the venue reopening. At a licensing hearing in October the force highlighted a series of violent incidents, including one where drinks continued to be served while a bleeding man was slumped over the bar having been knifed. Another incident saw a man jailed after a car was driven into people outside the pub.

Mr. *Melia* had his appeal against Sandwell Council's decision granted on two conditions. He must be present as landlord every Friday and Saturday night from 7pm until closing, and the license cannot be transferred to any other person for 12 months. The pub last opened on Christmas Eve under a temporary events notice."

It was renamed TURKS HEAD. [2024]

[2025]

STOLEN from William Smallwood's, at the Turk's Head Inn in Wednesbury, on Sunday the 24th of December, 1775. A large SILVER TANKARD.—As there is great Reason to suppose that several were concerned, if any one will discover his Accomplice or Accomplices, so that he or they may be brought to Justice and convicted thereof, shall receive a Reward of FIVE GUINEAS from the Association of Wednesbury, and a further Reward of FIVE GUINEAS from William Smallwood, and Endeavours used to obtain a free Pardon.—The Money to be paid upon Conviction of the Offenders.

N. B. If the above should be offer'd to be Pawn'd or Sold, it is desired that it may be stopp'd, with the Person who offers it: And the Person who shall stop either, so that it may lead to a Discovery, shall be entitled, upon Conviction, to the same Reward.

1776

TO be SOLD by AUCTION by JOHN HEELEY, on the Premises of Mr. WILLIAM SMALLWOOD, the Turk's Head, situate in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2d Days of March next, 1786, All the elegant and useful Household Goods, and Furniture, consisting of Feather Beds, Four-post Bedsteads, with crimson, green, blue, moireen, and plaid Furniture, Table and Bed Linen, Blankets, Bed Quilts, China, Plate and Kitchen Furniture, together with two large Copper Furnaces, Fire Grates, Smoak Jacks, great Variety of Barrels, Tubs, and a large Quantity of Glass Bottles, &c. The Sale to begin each Day at Ten o'Clock in the Morning.

NOTICE to CREDITORS.

THE Creditors of William Smallwood, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Inn-keeper, are requested to attend at the House of Thomas Negus, known by the Sign of the Turk's-head, situate in Wednesbury aforesaid, on Monday the 6th Day of November next, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon of the same Day, in order to receive their Dividends agreed upon, in full Discharge of their respective Debts.

1786

Hair Powder Duty.

Stamp Office, Lichfield, March 22, 1796.

AS the Certificates for wearing Hair Powder granted for the Year 1795, will expire on the 5th Day of April, 1796, Notice is hereby given, that Entries and Certificates for the Year 1796 are ready for Delivery at this Office; and all Persons who intend to take out or renew such Certificates, are requested to apply as soon as possible, Persons wearing Hair Powder being liable to the Penalties of the Act, unless taken out on or before the said 5th Day of April, 1796.

Certificates may also be had from the under-mentioned Persons, viz.

Mr. Thomas Mitton,	Wolverhampton
Miss Baylies,	Walsall
Mr. Charles Dodsworth,	Burton-on-Trent
Mr. John Moxon,	Rugeley.

Notice is also hereby given, that for the further Convenience of the Public, Mr. Wm. Mitton will attend at the Turk's Head, in Wednesbury, on the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th of April; and also at the Green Dragon, in Kinver, on the 9th, 16th, 23d, and 30th of April; and Mr. John Moxon will attend at the King's Arms, in Penkridge, on the 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th of April; on which Days Persons requiring Certificates at those Places are to apply.

FRANCIS COBB, Head Distributor.

* * Persons residing at Handsworth, or other Places within the County of Stafford, near to Birmingham, may be supplied with Certificates by applying to Mr. John Lowe, at the Stamp Office, Cherry Street, Birmingham; and Persons residing in Staffordshire in the Vicinity of Dudley, may have them by applying to Mr. Geo. Dalton, Distributor of Stamps there.

WHEREAS a Person unknown, left a Bay Horse, of the Nag Kind, at the House of Thomas Negus, the Turk's Head Inn, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on the 9th Day of November last, and said "he would be called for on the Monday following by a King's Messenger." This is to give Notice, that unless the above Horse is fetched away on or before the First Day of January next, he will be sold to pay the Expences attending his Keep, &c.

THOMAS NEGUS.

Wednesbury, December 9, 1796.

1796

**WEDNESBURY ASSOCIATION,
FOR PROSECUTING FELONS.**

WE, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do hereby give Notice, that we have formed ourselves into a Society for the more speedy and effectual apprehending and prosecuting, at our joint Expence, Felons of every Denomination, who shall commit Depredations upon the Persons or Properties of any of us; and in Order the better to discover, apprehend, and bring to Justice such Offenders, we do hereby offer the following Rewards to any Person or Persons who shall give such Information as will lead to a Conviction of any such Offender or Offenders, over and above the Rewards given by Act of Parliament, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
For every Burglary the Sum of	-	-	5 5 0
Grand Larceny	-	-	3 3 0
Petit Larceny	-	-	2 2 0

And we do hereby offer the like Rewards to any Person or Persons concerned in any such Offences, who will give Information against one or more of his Accomplices, so that he, she, or they may be brought to Justice; such Rewards to be paid on the Conviction of such Offender or Offenders by the Treasurer to the Society.

Thomas Rolinson	Simon Constable	John Crowther
George Watkins	Thomas Negus	John Duce
Edward Taylor	Samuel Addison	Stephen Falknor
Thomas Hawe	Isaiah Danks	Crowther
Henry Tibbatts	Thomas Danks	Edward Wright
Joseph Adams	Benjamin Willetts	John Bagnall
Thomas Tibbitts	Joseph Harely	Humphrey Foster

EDWARD CROWTHER, Solicitor and Treasurer.

1897

JOSEPH GREENHILL'S CREDITORS.

THE Creditors of **JOSEPH GREENHILL**, late of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Victualler, who have executed, or shall execute the Assignment made by him, may receive a first Dividend of ten Shillings in the Pound by applying to Mr. Negus, Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, on Friday the 26th Day of February instant, at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, or by applying to Mr. White, Great Charles-street, near Friday-street, Birmingham, on Monday the 29th Day of February instant, at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon. Previously to the 26th instant, the Assignment will remain with Messrs. Crowther, Attornies, Wednesbury, to whom the Creditors are desired to apply to execute the same.

Wednesbury, 20th February, 1808.

1808

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by **RANDLE WALKER**, at the Turk's Head, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, on Friday the 19th Day of May instant, precisely at Four o'Clock in the Afternoon, in the following or such other Lots as shall be agreed upon at the Time of Sale, and subject to such Conditions as will be then produced:—

LOT I. All that old established Public House, with the Brew-house, Garden, Pigsty, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate and being in Wednesbury aforesaid, and now in the Occupation of Samuel Marth.

LOT II. All that commodious Malthouse and Malthill, adjoining Lot I, now in the Occupation of Mr. Negus.

LOT III. All that Barn and Stable, situate at the Back of and near adjoining the above Lots, now in the Occupation of the said Samuel Marth.

STOLEN or **STRAYED**, out of a Close of Land, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, in the Evening of the 28th Day of October last, a **DARK BRINDED COW** with long Horns, grey Face, and some white about her Legs. If stolen, any Person giving Information of the Offender or Offenders, shall, on Conviction, receive a Reward of **FIVE GUINEAS** from Mr. Negus, Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, over and above the Reward allowed by the Wednesbury Association for prosecuting Felons; and if strayed, any Person bringing back the Cow, or giving Information where the may be had again, shall be rewarded for their Trouble, and have their reasonable Expences paid by the said Mr. Negus.

1809

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the House of Thomas Negus, the Turk's Head Inn, in Wednesbury, on Monday the 21st Day of October inst. at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon precisely.

JOSEPH FERNYHOUGH,

Clerk to the said Trustees.

West Bromwich, October 10, 1811.

1811

NOTICE is hereby given, that the **TOLLS** arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the Parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the Counties of Warwick and Stafford, will be **LET** by **AUCTION** to the best Bidder, at the House of John Russell, situate at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, and known by the Sign of the Turk's Head, on the 12th of July next, between the Hours of Two and Five, in the Manner directed by the Act passed in thirteenth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, "for regulating the Turnpike Roads;" which Tolls produced the last Year, at the respective Gates hereafter mentioned, the following Sums above the Expences of collecting them, viz.

Birmingham and	}	...	...	£550
Hockley Side Bar				
Great Bridge	}	...	...	310
Hill Top				
Gospel Oak Gates	}	...	...	124
Three Mile Oak and				
Machine	}	...	...	201
Holloway Bank				
King's Hill Field	}	...	...	302
Burnt Tree				
...	...	...	...	20

and will be put up at those respective Sums. Whoever happens to be the best Bidder, must at the same Time give Security, with sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for Payment of the Rent agreed for, and at such Times as they shall direct.

E. and S. CROWTHER,

Clerks to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads.
Wednesbury, June 4, 1813.

1813

To the Debtors and Creditors of the late Mr. Thomas Negus.

ALL Persons who remain indebted to the Estate of the late Mr. **THOMAS NEGUS**, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Victualler and Maltster, deceased, are required to pay their respective Debts to Messrs. Crowther, Attornies, Wednesbury (who are authorised by the Executors to receive the same) on or before the 3d Day of February next, or in Default thereof they will be sued without other Notice or Delay. If there are any unsatisfied Demands against the said Estate, the Particulars thereof are requested to be delivered to Messrs. Crowther immediately.

Wednesbury, Jan. 19, 1814.

1814

DANCING AND DEPARTMENT.

MR. TAYLOR, Dancing Master, Sandon, near Stafford, most respectfully announces to the Ladies and Gentlemen of WOLVERHAMPTON and WEDNESBURY, that he taken those elegant Rooms at the Auction Mart, Queen-street, Wolverhampton, and that spacious Room belonging to Mr. Russell, Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, where every department of Dancing, as now prevalent in the fashionable world, will be taught.

Mr. T. flatters himself that his moderate terms, together with his superior method of instruction, will not fail giving general satisfaction to all who may patronize him.

Mr. T. purposes opening the Academy at Wolverhampton on Tuesday, March 16, and at Wednesbury on Wednesday the 17th. Attendance one day per week.

N. B. Families and Schools attended on the usual terms.

The Academies at Stafford, Stone, Albrighton, and Penkridge, are open as usual.

Sandon, Feb. 23, 1824.

1824

SALE AT THE BEAR INN, SMETHWICK, NEAR BIRMINGHAM,

Comprising Ricks of Wheat, Barley, and Oats, eighty Tons of Hay, valuable Dairy of twelve Cows, quantity of Sheep, Pigs, and Poultry, six useful Waggon Horses and a Hackney, Waggon, Carts, Ploughs, Harrows, Gearing, &c. five Acres of growing Potatoes, the Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the BEAR INN, the whole of the excellent Household Furniture and Fixtures, capital Brewing Vessels, &c. &c.

TO be SOLD by Auction, by J. HARRISON, (by order of the Executors of the late Mr. Clift) on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 20th and 21st days of September, 1825, upon the premises of the Bear Inn, Smethwick, situate a short distance out of the Hagley turnpike road, three miles from Birmingham;—the whole of the valuable live and dead Farming Stock, growing Crops, excellent Household Furniture, Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, &c. together with the Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the above very desirably situated and well accustomed Inn and very convenient Premises.

Catalogues will be ready a week prior to the sale, and may be had at the place of sale; at Betty Taylor's, Hales Owen; the Hagley Tap-house; the Vine Inn, Stourbridge; Bush, Dudley; Peacock, Wolverhampton; King's Arms, Bilston; Turk's Head, Wednesbury; Swan, and Bull's Head, West Bromwich; Bull's Head, Oldbury; and of James Harrison, Surveyor, Auctioneer, and Appraiser, New-street, Birmingham.

1825

THE Annual General Meeting of the West Bromwich and Wednesbury AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY, which had been postponed from unavoidable circumstances, will be held at the Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, on Tuesday the 31st of October instant.

The Chair to be taken at eleven o'clock.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the end of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, will be held at the Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, on Tuesday the sixteenth day of January next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon; at which meeting fresh Trustees will be elected in place of those who are dead, or by bankruptcy, insolvency, or otherwise are become disqualified to act.

STEPHEN F. CROWTHER,
Clerk to the Trustees.

Wednesbury, Dec. 18, 1826.

1826

TURK'S HEAD INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon at Lady-day next, the old established and well known Commercial Inn, situate in the High-street, near the Market-place, Wednesbury, known by the sign of the Turk's Head, with good garden, convenient stabling, cow-house, brew-house, and all other necessary outbuildings, and with or without four acres of adjoining land.

The Stock, Furniture, &c. to be taken to at a fair valuation, which furniture, with the wines, may be reduced to meet the wishes of the purchaser.

There is also attached a good wholesale and retail wine and spirit trade, which may be considerably extended.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. John Russell, on the premises, or to Mr. Hunt, Solicitor, Wednesbury.

1831

TURK'S HEAD INN, WEDNESBURY.

An old established and well known COMMERCIAL INN, situated in the High-street, near the Market-place, in full business, brewing 60 bushels of malt weekly; has been in the family upwards of a century, and from which the Proprietor is desirous of retiring solely in consequence of other engagements.

TO be LET, the above very desirable Premises, with immediate possession, comprising a good Garden, convenient Stabling, Coach-house, Cow-house, Brew-house, and all necessary Outbuildings; together with or without four Acres of Land adjoining.

The Stock and Furniture, &c. to be taken to at a fair valuation, and, to an approved tenant, part of the purchase money may remain on security.

There is also attached a good Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Trade, which may be considerably extended.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. John Russell, owner and occupier, on the premises, or to Mr. Charles Hunt, Solicitor, Wednesbury.

1832

TURK'S HEAD INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO INNKEEPERS AND OTHERS.

TO BE LET,

With immediate possession, or in three or six months from Christmas next.

THE above very desirable old-established COMMERCIAL INN and EXCISE OFFICE, with large garden, extensive and convenient stabling, coach-house, brewery, cow-house, and other requisite outbuildings, situate in High-street, near the Market-place, Wednesbury. The rent and other payments moderate.

The House is in full business, brewing forty bushels of malt weekly, with a good wholesale and retail wine and spirit trade attached. The present proprietor is leaving entirely on account of other engagements.

The stock of ale, brewing vessels, iron-bound casks, and other articles used in the innkeeping business, with or without the whole or part of the household furniture, wines, and spirits, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply, if by letter post paid, to Mr. JOHN RUSSELL, on the premises; or to D. TAYLOR, Auctioneer, Appraiser, &c. Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

1835

NOTICE is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to Wednesbury and to Great Bridge, and from thence to the Portway adjoining the Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Road, and to Nether Trindle, near Dudley, and from Trowse-lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the counties Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford, will be held at the house of John Russell, known by the name of the Turk's Head, in Wednesbury, on Wednesday the 17th day of April inst. at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

CLEMENT INGLEY,
Clerk to the Trustees.

Birmingham, April 1, 1839.

1839

TURK'S HEAD INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO BE LET,
And may be immediately entered upon,

ALL that old-established and well-frequented INN, with the WINE and SPIRIT VAULTS attached thereto, called "THE TURK'S HEAD," situated in High-street, Wednesbury.

The House, which is well designed, comprises eight sleeping rooms, bar, kitchen, tap room, parlours, large dining and club rooms, retail wine and spirit shop, excellent range of cellars, good brewhouse and out-offices. There is also a productive Garden, Stabling for ten horses, and all necessary appurtenances.

The House is situated in the best part of the town, nearly adjoining to the Market-place; is doing a steady business both in Ale and Spirits, and has an excellent and respectable connection. Several thriving clubs are established and attend there. The Magistrates hold their weekly meetings in the house; and it is the Excise Office for the town and neighbourhood.

The Stock to be taken at a fair valuation. The Furniture will be removed by the present proprietor, or it may be valued to an in-coming tenant.

There is also an excellent MALTHOUSE, which may be had with the house, if required.

To view the house, apply upon the premises; and further particulars may be known upon application to Messrs. WALKER and PAGE, Appraisers, &c., Cleveland-street, Wolverhampton.

FREEHOLD BUILDINGS

BUILDING AND ACCOMMODATION LAND,
Fronting to the main Street through the Town of WEDNESBURY, and near to the Market-place.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by E. and C. ROBINS and Co. on Friday next the 24th day of December, at the Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, at three o'clock in the afternoon, either together or in lots, and subject to conditions then to be produced—all those STABLES called the TURK STABLES, and other Buildings, occupied by Mr. Russell, and three DWELLING HOUSES, Yards, and Appurtenances, in the occupation of Jonathan Spittle, Jacob Martin, and Thomas Burns, having a great frontage to the main street in Wednesbury, opposite the Turk's Head Inn, suitable for a range of valuable Retail Shops; together with the Pleasure and Kitchen Gardens of the said Inn, and a valuable piece of old Turf and Accommodation Land, occupied by Samuel Addison, Esq.

The Property by an old survey contains 2A. 1R. 2P.; it has a very extensive frontage, and adjoins the premises of the Bank and some of the best Shops in the centre of the town.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Samuel Lloyd, jun. Wednesbury, or the Auctioneers, New-street, Birmingham.

1841

TO INNKEEPERS AND OTHERS.

TO be LET, with immediate possession, the old-established Commercial Inn known as the TURK'S HEAD, Wednesbury. The coming-in will be made to suit a respectable and permanent tenant.—Rent low.

Apply to Mr. Hunt, Solicitor, Wednesbury. None but principals will be treated with.

1843

TITHE COMMISSION NOTICE.

Parish of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

THE Tithe Commissioners for England and Wales hereby give Notice, that on the twentieth day of March next, they will proceed, either by themselves or by an Assistant Commissioner, to ascertain and award the Total Sum to be paid by way of Rent-charge instead of the Tithes of the Parish of WEDNESBURY, in the county of Stafford, according to the provisions of the Act for the Commutation of Tithes in England and Wales; and that the first meeting for this purpose will be holden at the Turk's Head Inn, High-street, in the said parish, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the day above mentioned, when all persons interested are desired to attend.

Dated this twentieth day of February, 1844.

By order of the Board,

J. E. HOVENDEN,

Tithe Commission Office.

Secretary.

TO INNKEEPERS AND OTHERS.

TO BE LET,
With immediate possession,

THE old-established INN and COMMERCIAL HOTEL, known as the Turk's Head, Wednesbury. This house is well frequented by commercial travellers. The magistrates meetings for a wide and populous district are held here weekly. It is the Excise office, and has two large clubs and several rent-days held at it; has requisite stabling, coach-house, garden, &c., adjoining. Rent only £50. per annum, and the coming in can be reduced to about £600.

The present proprietor is anxious to leave solely on account of other engagements.

Apply on the premises.

TO COAL-MASTERS, FARMERS, AND OTHERS.

SALE AT DUNKIRK NEW COLLIERY,

Near the Swan Inn, West Bromwich.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by JOHN FALLOWS, on the premises as above, on Monday the 3d day of June next, in consequence of Mr. Bill having given up the Works—a compact eight-horse high-pressure Engine, nearly new, from 80,000 to 100,000 well-burnt Bricks, three Ricks of Straw, Rick of Oats and Vetches, new six-inch Waggon, iron arms, equal to a great weight, one four-inch and three six-inch Carts, with iron arms, Iron Ploughs, Wood and Iron Harrows, Horse Tackle, an excellent Whitechapel Spring Cart, with moveable head, quantity of Thick and Brooch Coal, Skips and Rings, several hundred gallons of Oil used for engines and railway purposes, quantity of empty Oil Casks, Blacksmith's Bellows, Anvil, Tools, Taps and Plates, a variety of Implements, Tools, &c. used for husbandry and mining purposes; together with the genteel Household Furniture and other effects, which are being sold in consequence of Mr. Bill having taken to the Turk's Head Commercial Inn, Wednesbury, which is amply furnished.

The sale will commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues will be prepared and may be had at the offices of the Auctioneer, Temple-row, Birmingham.

1844

TURK'S HEAD COMMERCIAL INN,
High-street, Wednesbury.

CHARLES BILL begs to inform his Friends and the Public, that his HOUSE-WARMING DINNER is fixed to take place on FRIDAY the 31st of January inst., when the honour of their company upon the occasion will be esteemed a favour.

Dinner upon the table at Four o'clock precisely.

Tickets, 12s. 6d., include dinner, bottle of wine, and dessert. and may be had at the Bar of the Inn; of Mr. John Fallows, Temple-row, Birmingham; or Mr. John Cholditch, Market-place, Wolverhampton.

**BIRMINGHAM, WOLVERHAMPTON, & STOUR VALLEY RAILWAY,
AND TRENT VALLEY MIDLANDS JUNCTION RAILWAY.**

THE Friends and Supporters of these Railways are requested to attend a Meeting, to be held at the Dartmouth Hotel, West Bromwich, on Tuesday next, the 21st inst. at twelve o'clock precisely; and also another Meeting, to be held at the Turk's Head, Wednesbury, on the same day, at three o'clock in the afternoon, when Deputations from the Provisional Committees will attend to explain the Plans of the proposed Railways, and give such information as may be desired.

By order of the Committee.

Office, 28, Waterloo Street, Birmingham,
Oct. 17, 1845.

1845

**DARTMOUTH ARMS COMMERCIAL INN, AND
INLAND REVENUE OFFICE,**
HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

CHARLES BILL, in returning thanks for the very liberal encouragement he has received during the last six years at the Turk's Head Inn, begs respectfully to inform his numerous Friends, and Commercial Gentlemen in particular, that for their greater convenience and comfort he has taken and newly furnished the above Inn, where he trusts the great improvements he has made in its internal arrangements, combined with his usual moderate charges, will ensure for him their future patronage and support.

The above Inn is situated on the main road from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, is within three minutes' walk of the Station of the South Staffordshire Railway, and the Market Place, or business part of the town.

Trains to and from Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, &c., twenty-four times a day, and Omnibuses to and from Wolverhampton, Bilston, &c., every hour.

CARS, &c., on reasonable terms, and at the shortest notice.

7175

1850

STAFFORDSHIRE.

**TO PUBLICANS, SPIRIT MERCHANTS, AND OTHERS.
SALE AT THE TURK'S HEAD INN,**
WEDNESBURY.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY JOSEPH DAWES, on the Premises, on MONDAY and TUESDAY NEXT, March 15 and 16—all the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Brewing Utensils, a neat-built Phaeton, set of Pony Harness, well-seasoned Casks, Spirit Counter, 14 feet long, with metal top, and a twelve-tap Fountain complete, Spirit Casks, valuable Shop Fixtures, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. Charles Bill, Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, who is leaving on account of the expiration of his lease.

The Sale to commence each morning at half-past Ten o'clock, with the usual conditions.

1852

THE Friends of a respectable Youth, 16 years of age, are desirous to have him apprenticed as an IN-DOOR APPRENTICE with a respectable Builder and Surveyor. A liberal premium given.—Application by letter, to Mr. JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury.

1853

TURK'S HEAD COMMERCIAL INN,
WEDNESBURY.

MR. JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, in expressing his acknowledgements to Commercial Gentlemen and the Public generally for the support he has hitherto received, begs to inform them, that having completed the alterations of his Premises, his House will be found to present every comfort and accommodation, the WINES, SPIRITS, &c., having been selected with much care. CONVEYANCES and POST HORSES can be had on the shortest notice and the most reasonable terms.

CARD.

JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE,
AUCTIONEER, APPRAISER,
GENERAL AGENT, AND SURVEYOR.

OFFICES:

**TURK'S HEAD INN, HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY, AND
LYTTTELTON HOTEL, HALES OWEN.**

WEDNESBURY.

**VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUSINESS PREMISES,
COMMERCIAL INN,
SHOPS, FAMILY RESIDENCES, COTTAGES, AND
BUILDING LAND.**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. HENRY FARRINGTON, (by the direction of the Trustees of the late John Russell, Esq.) at the Turk's Head Inn, Wednesbury, on FRIDAY, the 6th day of October, 1854, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as shall be declared at the time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced:—

Lot 1.—The RETAIL SHOP, HOUSE, and PREMISES, situate at the corner of High Street and Russell Street, Wednesbury, with an extensive frontage to Russell Street, occupied by Mr. Lees, Baker and Confectioner.

Lot 2.—The RETAIL SHOP, HOUSE, and PREMISES, adjoining Lot 1, occupied by Messrs. Smith, Grocers, and as the Wednesbury Post Office.

Lot 3.—All that very desirable FREEHOLD INN, known as "THE TURK'S HEAD," admirably well situated in High Street as a Commercial House, and close to the Market Place, with the spacious Wine and Spirit Vaults adjoining, all in the occupation of Mr. Whitehouse.

1854

TOLLS TO BE LET.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the TOLLS

arising at the several Toll Gates upon the Turnpike Roads leading from Birmingham to Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and from thence to the Portway, adjoining the Bilston and Wednesbury Turnpike Road, and to Nether Trundle, near Dudley, and from Trowse Lane, in the parish of Wednesbury, to Darlaston, in the counties of Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford, will be LET by AUCTION, to the best bidder, at the house of Mr. Joseph Whitehouse, situated at Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, and known by the name of the Turk's Head Inn, on the 17th day of October next, between the hours of Twelve at noon and Two in the afternoon, in the manner directed by the Acts passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, "For regulating Turnpike Roads," which Tolls produced the last year, at the Gates hereafter mentioned, namely, Soho Hill and Three-Mile Oak, Great Bridge, Gospel Oak and Fire Holes, Holloway Bank and King's Hill Field, Burnt Tree, the sum of £4,520 above the expense of collecting, and will be put up at that sum.

Whoever happens to be the best bidder must at the same time pay one month's rent in advance, and give security with two sufficient sureties to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads, for payment of the rent agreed for, and at such times as they shall direct.

CLEMENT INGLEY.

Clerk to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Roads,
Birmingham, September 17, 1856.

1856

JOSEPH COTTERELL,
CAB AND CAR PROPRIETOR,
TURK'S HEAD, HIGH STREET,
WEDNESBURY.

**ELEGANT CARRIAGES FOR WEDDINGS,
WITH GRAY HORSES, AND POSTILIONS IN SCARLET OR BLUE
LIVERIES.**

1859

HOOPER FOR CORONER.

THE COMMITTEES for conducting Mr. HOOPER'S ELECTION sit daily at the following Places:—

WEST BROMWICH:
At the Dartmouth Hotel.
WEDNESBURY:
At the Turk's Head.
DARLASTON:
At the Castle Inn,
TIPTON:
At the Navigation Inn.
WALSALL:
At the George Hotel.
ROWLEY:
At the Ward's Arms.
TAMWORTH:
At the Peel Arms Hotel.
SMETHWICK:
At the Blue Gates Inn.
HANDSWORTH:
At the New Inns.
PERRY BARR:
At the Boar's Head.
GREAT BARR:
At the Scott Arms.
HARBORNE:
At the King's Arms Inn.
SHENSTONE:
At the Bull's Head Inn.

By order, HODGSON and ALLEN,
G. S. WATSON,
Agents for Mr. Hooper.

14th August, 1860.

1860

WEDNESBURY.—To Let, with immediate possession, the **TURK'S HEAD HOTEL**, known as the best commercial and posting house in the town. Rent and valuation very moderate. Satisfactory reasons given for disposing of the same.—For particulars, to treat, &c., apply to Messrs. Roderick and Son, Auctioneers, &c., Birmingham; or the proprietor, Joseph Whitehouse, on the premises.

WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, with immediate possession, the "**TURK'S HEAD**" HOTEL, being the best Commercial and Posting House in the town, with good Private and Out-door Trade. The Premises are very compact, with Billiard Room, Liquor Vault, and every Convenience, and have not changed hands for 16 years. The present Proprietor retiring from the Public Business. Rent and coming in low.

*For particulars and to treat, apply to Messrs. Roderick and Sons, Auctioneers, &c., Birmingham; or to the Proprietor, Joseph Whitehouse, on the Premises.

1868

"BLUE BELL VILLA," near the Scott Arms, Perry Barr, between Walsall and Birmingham, to LET, with immediate possession, desirably situated upon a dry and healthy site, within a mile of Hamstead Station. Comprises Entrance Hall, Dining and Drawing Rooms, Kitchen, two China Pantries, three Cellars, three Chambers, two Attics, &c.; good Stabling, Coach-house, and Piggeries, hard and soft Water. A large and productive Garden, well planted with Fruit Trees.—For particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. William Elcock, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

1871

W. T. H O M S O N ,

CALEDONIA STORES (LATE TURK'S HEAD), 25, LOWER HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY.

SPIRITS.					STOUT AND ALES.			
Gal.	Qrt.	Bbl.	Pt.	1-Pt.	Qrt.	Pt.	1-Pt.	"
Brandy, Martell's					Guinness and Co.'s			
Old Cognac,					Extra Stout	5s. 0d.	3s. 0d.	2s. 0d. per doz.
Pale or Brown	26s.	6s. 6d.	4s. 6d.	3s. 3d.	Base and Co.'s, or			
Whiskey, Finest					Allsopp and Co.'s			
Old Irish	18s.	4s. 6d.	3s. 0d.	2s. 3d.	Pale Ale	6s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	2. 4d. "
Ditto, Scotch	18s.	4s. 6d.	3s. 0d.	2s. 3d.	Edinburgh Ale	6s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	"
Highland Malt	18s.	4s. 6d.	3s. 0d.	2s. 3d.	Guinness and Co.'s			
Ram, Best Old					Extra Stout			26s. 0d. per kild.
Jamaica	18s.	4s. 6d.	3s. 0d.	2s. 3d.	Base and Co.'s or			
Gin, Best					Allsopp and Co.'s			
London	13s. 6d.	3s. 6d.	2s. 3d.	1s. 8d.	Pale Ale			31s. 0d. "
British Brandy	15s.	3s. 6d.	2s. 6d.	2s. 0d.	Base and Co.'s or			
Martell's Brandy					Allsopp and Co.'s			
in Cases		Brandy * 54s.		** 60s. 0d.	Burton Ale 14s. 0d., 19s. 0d., 22s. 0d., 25s. 0d. 28s. 0d.			

W. T. H O M S O N ,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT, 25, LOWER HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY,
Private Office up the Entrance. Single Bottles at Wholesale Prices.

1874

SELLING OFF! SELLING OFF!!

GREAT REDUCTION

IN THE PRICE OF

WINES, SPIRITS, BOTTLED ALE, AND STOUT

OWING TO THE
EXPIRATION OF THE LEASE
OF THE

CALEDONIAN STORES,

W. T. begs to inform the inhabitants of Wednesbury that he is SELLING OFF at

GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

1881

VALUABLE FREEHOLD.

OLD - LICENSED PUBLIC - HOUSE,
BREWERS' SHOPS,
AND
BUSINESS PREMISES,
SITUATE AT

WEDNESBURY, in the COUNTY of STAFFORD

MESSRS WATKINS AND POWELL have received instructions to OFFER for SALE by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the **TURK'S HEAD, WEDNESBURY**, on MONDAY, the 14th day of October, 1889, at Six o'clock in the evening (subject to conditions to be then produced, which will embody the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society), the following PROPERTIES:—

All that **OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE** known as the "**Turk's Head**," situate in High Street Wednesbury, and near the Market Place there, now under lease to Mr Woodhall for a term of 7 years from 29th September, 1887, at the yearly rental £85. This house is replete with all modern conveniences, well fitted Smoke-room, Vaults and Concert Hall; also good Stabling, lock-up Coach-house and Yard at the rear, approached by gate-way entrance from Russell Street.

1889

COOPER'S DIVIDEND.

THE Creditors of Edward Cooper, of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford, Baker, who have already executed the Deed of Assignment made by him (which now lies at the Office of Messrs. Crowther, Attornies, in Wednesbury aforesaid) or who shall execute the same on or before the under-mentioned Time, may receive a Dividend on their respective Debts by applying to Mr. Wagstaff and Mr. Jones, the Assignees, at the Turk's Head Inn, in Wednesbury aforesaid, on Tuesday the second Day of March next, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon; and such of the Creditors as shall not have executed the said Deed of Assignment at that Time, will be excluded the Benefit thereof.

Wednesbury, February 12, 1892.

1892

WEDNESBURY.

**HIGHLY IMPORTANT SALE OF A VERY
VALUABLE FREEHOLD
FULL-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE,
THE TURK'S HEAD HOTEL,
WEDNESBURY.**

Together with TWO RETAIL SHOPS, A BREWERY,
and other PREMISES, situate in the very heart
of Wednesbury.

WALTER HUGHES is instructed to offer
for Sale by Auction upon the Premises AT
THE TURK'S HEAD HOTEL, WEDNESBURY,
on WEDNESDAY, the 3rd April, 1895, at Six for Seven
o'clock in the evening precisely (subject to conditions
embodying the common form conditions of the Bir-
mingham Law Society).

LOT 1.

A valuable Full-licensed FREEHOLD PUBLIC-
HOUSE, known as the Turk's Head Hotel, situate
in and having an important frontage to High Street,
and close to the Market Place, until 29th September
last, held under lease by Mr. Woodhall, brewer,
of West Bromwich, at a rental of £85 a year.

The House, which is one of the best known and
oldest-established houses in Wednesbury or district,
has always done a good trade, is very capacious, and
both inside and out is in capital order.

It contains 6 Bedrooms and 3 useful Closets and
Attics, Clubroom 31 feet 6 in. by 15 ft., Vaults and
Concert Hall 60 ft. by 13 ft. 6 in., with stage and
back entrance; Smoke Room, Kitchens, and very
extensive Cellarage, with an excellent Yard at rear
containing brick built Stabling for 6 horses, lock-up
Coach House, and covered Sheds, with gateway
approach from Russell Street.

Possession may be had on completion.

To Brewers not represented in the district this is
an excellent opportunity of securing a good House in
a prominent part of a busy town, with sufficient
cellarage and accommodation to practically form a
stores or depôt.

LOT 2.

A Double-fronted SHOP and DWELLING-HOUSE,
adjoining Lot 1 and being No. 26, High Street, now
and for many years in the occupation of Mrs. Lillis,
draper, at a yearly rental of £40. This Property has
a frontage of 16 feet to High Street.

LOT 3.

The BRICK-BUILT BUILDING of one storey
(adjoining Lot 2), being No. 82, Russell Street, ad-
joining the gateway of the Turk's Head Hotel.

The Building consists of an Auction Room 40 ft.
by 13 ft., with an office at the rear. It was formerly
in the occupation of Mr. Whitehouse, auctioneer,
and is now occupied by Mr. Renshaw, auctioneer and
house agent;

TOGETHER WITH

The BRICK BUILDING of 2 storeys fitted up as
a four quarter brewery, with vaulted cellaring under,
and front and back entrance, together with the
Brewing Plant and Utensils.

The auction room and office is let at a yearly rental
of £10. The brewery is now void.

This Lot is easily convertible into two good houses
or shops.

1895

MRS. MULLETT

of

**TURKS
HEAD**

**LOWER HIGH STREET
WEDNESBURY**

would like to wish all her
many customers and friends a
Very Happy New Year.

1978

*A Merry Christmas and
a great big Thank You
to you all for all your
custom throughout 1981*

From

THE TURKS HEAD

**LOWER HIGH STREET
WEDNESBURY**

Telephone: 021-556 2628

*God Bless you all from
Mary and Jack*

1981

A MERRY
CHRISTMAS



and a great
big THANK
YOU to you

all for all your custom
throughout 1984
from

THE TURKS HEAD

Lower High Street,
Wednesbury

God Bless you all
from Jack, Sheila
and Mary

TWO FURNACES

Darlaston Road, Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Butler [1834] – [1841]

John Butler [1851]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

John Butler, beer retailer, Kings Hill Field. [1841]

1841 Census

Darlaston Road

[1] *John Butler* (50), miner, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Butler* (50), born Staffordshire;

[3] *John Butler* (20), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Sarah Butler* (25), born Staffordshire;

[5] *David Butler* (8), born Staffordshire;

[6] *Sarah Butler* (6), born Staffordshire;

[7] *John Butler* (5), born Staffordshire;

[8] *Benjamin Butler* (3), born Staffordshire;

[9] *Henry Reynolds* (25), m.s., born Staffordshire;

[10] *John Page* (15), ap., born Staffordshire;

[11] *Maria Sheldon* (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 30/6/1849

“On Monday last an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *John Butler*, the TWO FURNACES, Kings Hill Fields, Wednesbury, on the body of *John Best*, forty-eight years of age, a labourer employed at the works of the Messrs. Lloyds. From the evidence it appeared that on Friday last the deceased was assisting to lift an iron bridge girder, when the tension rod of the crane snapped in two, and he fell to the ground, a distance of eighteen or twenty feet. On being taken up it was found that he was insensible, and he had received some internal injury, which caused his death in two hours afterwards. The tension rod had been purchased in Wales, and was found to be made of weaker material than was supposed, although it had previously raised heavy weights. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/7/1850

“Examinations of Insolvents July 13.....

John Butler, Kings Hill Field, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, late a retail brewer and butty collier, but now out of business, County Court, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 24/8/1850

“At the sitting of the Oldbury County Court on Saturday last, before Mr. Serjeant Clarke, the following insolvency cases were heard.....

John Butler, butty miner, of Wednesbury, applied for his final order, supported by Mr. George Edmonds; opposed by Mr. Thursfield, of Wednesbury, on the ground of having vexatiously opposed an action. He was allowed to pass.”

1851 Census

Darlaston Road

[1] *John Butler* (32), unmarried, brewer, born Darlaston;

[2] *John Butler* (63), father, coal miner, born Darlaston;

[3] *Sarah Butler* (65), mother, born Tipton;

[4] *David Butler* (18), grand-son, turner, born Wednesbury;

[5] *John Butler* (15), grand-son, turner, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Benjamin Butler* (13), grand-son, turner, born Wednesbury:

UNION

Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Belcher [1834] – [1855]
Job Edwards [1857]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

John Belcher, beer retailer, Bridge Street. [1835], [1841]

1841 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] *John Belcher* (55), coal miner, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ann Belcher* (55), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Harriet Belcher* (20), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Thomas Belcher* (55), carpenter, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Mary Leak* (14), f.s., born Staffordshire;

John Belcher, retailer of beer, Bridge Street. [1842]

He was described as a beer retailer and shopkeeper, Bridge Street. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] *John Belcher* (69), widower, provision dealer, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Jane Wheatley* (22), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. J. Belcher, UNION INN, Bridge Street.”

Birmingham Journal 19/12/1857 - Advert

“Valuable Opportunity.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the old-established House, known by the sign of the UNION INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. The present Proprietor is brewing ten bushels a week regularly. There is also a Trade Club, with ninety members, and a Loan Society attached to the House. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation. The present Proprietor is declining the business solely on account of having other engagements.

For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to *Mr. Job Edwards*, upon the Premises.”

VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY.
TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, the old-established HOUSE, known by the sign of “THE UNION INN,” Bridge Street, Wednesbury. The present Proprietor is brewing ten bushels a week regularly. There is also a Trade Club, with ninety members, and a Loan Society attached to the House. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation. The present Proprietor is declining the business solely on account of having other engagements. — For particulars, and to treat for the same, apply to *Mr. Job Edwards*, upon the Premises.

1857

UNION

87, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mr. F. Smith, Lichfield Road, Aston [1891]

LICENSEES

Job Edwards [1860] – [1861]
James Whitehouse [1866] – **1875**;
Martin Murray **(1875 – [1876])**
Francis Lloyd [1880] – [1885] manager
Henry Hardman [1881]
Edward Bishton [1882]
Rowland Darby [1890] – [1891]
William Bourne [1893]
Thomas Edward Wright []
Joseph Stackhouse [1911]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 16/6/1860 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, near the Portway Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Whitehouse, at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Friday, June 29th instant, at Six for Seven o'clock pm precisely, the following valuable Freehold Property.

Lot 1. A Messuage, used as a Beerhouse, and known as the UNION INN, now in the occupation of Mr. *Job Edwards*, and fronting Portway Road, Wednesbury; also another Messuage, at the back, fronting to Portway Row, occupied by John Chellingworth, together with the spacious Yard, extensive Stabling, Shops, and other Out-buildings at the back of the said Messuages.

Lot 2. Four Houses in Portway Lane.....”

1861 Census

Portway Road

- [1] *Job Edwards* (34), blacksmith and publican, born Tanworth, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Mary Edwards* (29), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Job Edwards* (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Mary Edwards* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Hannah Smith* (22), sister-in-law, unmarried, servant, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Journal 14/9/1861 - Advert

“Wednesbury.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, a capital Beerhouse, known as the UNION INN, and in the occupation of Mr. *Job Edwards*. It has an excellent In and Out-door Trade, and surrounded by Ironworks. The Premises are very convenient, with large Yard, Stabling, &c. Rent low. Coming-in about £150.

For particulars, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
NEAR THE PORTWAY ROAD, WEDNESBURY.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, at the Turk's
Head Hotel, Wednesbury, on FRIDAY, June 29th instant, at
Six for Seven o'clock p.m. precisely—the following valuable FREE-
HOLD PROPERTY:—
Lot 1.—A MESSUAGE, used as a BEER HOUSE, and known as
the “UNION INN,” now in the occupation of Mr. Job Edwards, and
fronting Portway Road, Wednesbury; also another MESSUAGE, at
the back, fronting to Portway Row, occupied by John Chellingworth,
together with the spacious Yard, extensive Stabling, Shops, and other
Out-buildings at the back of the said Messuages.
The Land contains a frontage to the Portway Road of 33yds. 1ft.;
and to the Portway Row of 33 yds.; in the whole 1.044 yards.
The Property is substantially built, and in good repair; and from
its situation and frontage, and the quantity of spare Land, is capable
of great and most profitable improvement.
This lot will be sold subject to the payment of an annuity of £26.
a year, during the life of Miss Sarah Hill, who is forty-two years
of age.
Lot 2.—Four HOUSES in Portway Lane, leading out of Portway
Road, Wednesbury, occupied by Patrick Swift, John Mannion,
Thomas Rogers, and James Fenney, at rents amounting to £27. 6s.
a year; together with the Yard and Out-building belonging.
The Land contains 234 square yards. From its vicinity to numerous
Works, and to the new Branch of the South Staffordshire Railway,
this Property may be relied upon as a certain profitable investment.
For plans and further information, apply to the Auctioneer; or to
Messrs. Duignan and Elsworth, Solicitors, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1866 - Advert

“Capital Investment.

Freehold Property, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

Joseph Whitehouse has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday Next, October 1, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. All that substantially-built and well-situated Corner House and Premises, known as the UNION INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, now in the occupation of Mr. *James Whitehouse*.

Also, Four other Messuages or Tenements adjoining and fronting the Portway Road, and in the several occupations of John Conolly, Michael Flinn, Thomas Ashmore, and Mary Geynerd, producing, at low rentals, £68 10s 8d per annum.

This lot will be sold subject to the payment of an annuity of £26 per annum during the life of Miss Sarah Hill, who is forty-eight years of age.

Lot 2. All that excellent Piece of Building Land, fronting the Portway Road, and adjoining lot 1, with a large Stable and Buildings thereon....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/9/1869 - Advert

“Freehold Public House and Four Dwelling Houses, in Portway Road, in the borough of Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Powell and Son, at Mr. William Sheldon's, the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, the 6th day of October next, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that Freehold Retail Public House, the UNION INN, and also Four Dwelling Houses, with the Outbuildings and Yards adjoining thereto, situate in the Portway Road, now in the occupation of *James Whitehouse*, Patrick Butler, Samuel Whitehouse, and others, at rents amounting to £68 7s per annum.

The Property is well situated, being near the extensive Works of Messrs. Walker and others, and will be sold subject to an annuity of 10s per week during the life of a woman now of the age of 52 years.

Further information may be obtained at the Offices of W. R. Wills, Esq, Solicitor, and Mr. Richard Wright, Estate Agent, both of Ann Street, Birmingham; or the Auctioneers, High Street, Tipton.”

1871 Census

87, Portway Road

[1] *James Whitehouse* (55), labourer and publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Mary Whitehouse* (53), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Rose Whitehouse* (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Jane Whitehouse* (16), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Louis Whitehouse* (15), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Midland Examiner 5/6/1875

“An Irishwoman, named Susan Varley, was summoned for assaulting Mary Fallen, Ann Murray, and *Martin Murray*, on Saturday night last.

Mary Fallen, servant in the employ of Mr. *Murray*, who keeps the UNION INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, said that the defendant came into the house on Saturday, after her husband had been ejected, and after swearing at witness, struck her twice on the back of the head. She also struck Mr. *Murray* in the eye. Mr. *Murray* sent for the police, and whilst the messenger was gone, the defendant struck Mrs. *Murray* in the eye and blackened it, and also knocked one of her teeth out. The defendant subsequently pitched a quart jug at Mr. *Murray*, and also picked up a brick to throw at the window.

Corroborative testimony having been given, defendant was for each assault fined 10s and costs, with the alternative of 14 days' imprisonment.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/6/1876

“*Martin Murray*, of the UNION INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, appeared to two summonses, one charging him with having permitted drunkenness in his house, and the other with having permitted disorderly conduct. The two cases were heard together.

Police-sergeant Curtis deposed that at about a quarter to eleven o'clock on the night of the 22nd ult, hearing a great disturbance in the defendant's house, he went in with Police-constable Steele, and in the taproom found two men,

named Heskin and Joyce, stripped and fighting, the defendant and several other persons standing by as spectators, and not interfering. When he entered, some men took Heskin into the back room, and there kept him away from the other combatant by force.

Police-constable Steele gave corroborative evidence.

The magistrate imposed a fine of £5 and costs, and ordered the license to be endorsed.

Heskin and Joyce were fined 10s 6d each, and costs, for being drunk on the premises.”

Dudley Herald 2/9/1876

“On Wednesday the Annual Licensing Sessions for the parishes of West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton, &c, was held at the Public Office, West Bromwich.....

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston presented the following ‘black’ list of offences against publicans and beersellers which had been committed during the year ending 30th August last.....

Martin Murray, UNION INN, beerhouse, Portway Road, Wednesbury, disorderly conduct, £5 and costs and license endorsed The offending publicans were ordered to appear at the adjourned licensing meeting before their licenses could be renewed.”

AND

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“West Bromwich Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The magistrates granted the renewal of the licenses of ten public houses and twenty beerhouses that had been adjourned from the general licensing day in consequence of the non-appearance of the applicants, or from convictions.”

Wednesbury Herald 15/2/1879 - Advert

“Sale at the UNION INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury.

To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Joseph Whitehouse, on Monday, February 17th 1879 (unless disposed of by Private Contract), the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above named Tavern, at 11.30am, after which the Brewing Plant, &c, will be sold, consisting of a 30-Bushel Mash Tub, Ale Cooler, Large and Small Iron Boilers, Tubs, also a quantity of Household Furniture, Beer Machine and Piping, Jugs, Cups, Glasses, Tables, Chairs, ___ Pier Glass, ___ and Other Effects.....”

Birmingham Gazette 7/1/1880

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday afternoon, Timothy Burke (20), labourer, Portway Road, was charged with having been drunk and disorderly, and also with unlawfully wounding *Francis Lloyd*, the manager of the UNION INN, Portway Road, on the night of the 3rd inst.

The prosecutor, whose face was shockingly wounded, said that on Saturday night the prisoner and a number of other young men came into the UNION INN in a drunken state and demanded ale. Witness refused to supply them, and they left the house. Shortly afterwards the prisoner and his companions re-entered the house and demanded ale. He refused to supply it and ordered the prisoner to leave, and as he refused to do so witness attempted to eject him, when prisoner struck him a violent blow in the face. A struggle followed, and both men fell to the ground. Prisoner afterwards seized a quart jug containing ale and threw it violently at his face.

Emma Lloyd, the wife of the prosecutor, said the prisoner came into the house and created a disturbance, after which he threw a quart jug at her husband’s face. The jug was broken into about twenty pieces, and the prosecutor’s face was shockingly lacerated, and he lost about a quart of blood. Dr. Blackwood afterwards attended the prosecutor and stopped the bleeding.

Superintendent Holland said the prisoner was a most violent character, and had been frequently in trouble.

The Bench decided to deal with the case as one of assault, and sentenced the accused to two months’ imprisonment with hard labour. The prisoner was also fined 20s and costs, or, in default, one month’s imprisonment, for being drunk.”

1881 Census

87, Portway Road

[1] *Henry Hardman* (23), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Ellen Hardman* (22), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Mary Jennings* (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Evening Star 8/7/1882

“At the Wolverhampton Police Court on Friday before the Stipendiary (Mr. W. F. F. Boughey), *Edward Bishton*, landlord of the UNION INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, was charged with being drunk on his own premises; also with assaulting Police-sergeant Curtis, and Police-constables Stainer and Noble. Mr. E. Thorne appeared to defend. Police-sergeant Curtis said that on Saturday last he went to Portway Road, where a great number of people were collected before the defendant’s house. He went into the UNION INN to arrest a man and a woman who had been taking part in an Irish row previously and had broken a man’s leg. He was accompanied by Police-constables Nobel and Stanier. He found defendant standing by the taproom door drunk. Police-constable Stanier told him that the defendant had assaulted him. The witness then said to the defendant that he must not assault the police, whereupon the defendant gave him a push. He saw the man whom he wanted to arrest in the taproom. Police-constable Noble went in and seized him, when the defendant said they should not take any person out of his house without a warrant. There were about 50 persons in the room at the time. The witness laid hold of him again, and requested him to be quiet. The constables took the man out, and the defendant followed, cursing fearfully.

Police-constable Noble stated that the defendant struck him on the breast which made him stagger, and had it not been for the assistance of another officer who held him up he would have fallen. The defendant then struck him again.

Cross-examined: He was an Irishman, and the mob outside chiefly consisted of low Irish people. He did not get irritated although he was an Irishman. (Laughter.)

Two other constables corroborated the above evidence.

For the defence Mr. Thorne urged that the defendant thought that he was perfectly justified in ordering the constables out of his house, being ignorant of the law. He was not drunk, but only excited by seeing the mob outside and the policemen entering his house, as he then thought they had no business to do, without a warrant.

The learned Stipendiary said that there were ten convictions against the defendant when living at Walsall, and two since he had been in Wednesbury, a period of seven months. For being drunk on his own premises he should impose a penalty of 10s and the costs or fourteen days; for the assault on the sergeant £5 and costs, or three months imprisonment; and for the assault on the other two officers, 1s and costs or seven days – the fines &c, amounting altogether to £7 2s 6d.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/8/1882

“Annual general licensing meeting for the division of West Bromwich.....

Mr. Holland, superintendent of the Wednesbury division, reported that there had been 14 beerhouse keepers proceeded against during the past year.....

Edward Bishton, of the UNION INN beerhouse, Portway Road, Wednesbury, who, although he had not been summoned for an offence against the tenour of his license, was on the 7th July convicted of three separate cases of assault upon the police. He had now absconded to evade the execution of a warrant against him for refusing to quit, besides several other cases of being drunk, &c, at Walsall.”

[License renewal was deferred until the adjourned Licensing Session, when, after being admonished by the Bench, the license was renewed.]

The Commercial Gazette 6/11/1884

“Bills of Sale.....

Francis Lloyd, UNION INN, 87 Portway Road, Wednesbury, beerhouse keeper and iron worker.

In favour of *Job Edwards*, dated 28 October 1884, for £30.”

The Commercial Gazette 3/9/1885

“Extracts from the Register of County Courts Judgements.....

Defendant, *Francis Lloyd*, UNION INN, Wednesbury, publican, August 6, £10 10s 4d.”

Rowland Darby = Roland Darby

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1890

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Michael O’Connell (13), was charged with refusing to quit the UNION INN, Portway Road, and assaulting the landlord, *Roland Darby*. It seemed that on the 20th ult the boy went to the prosecutor’s house, and being known as a disorderly, was told to leave. He refused, and the landlord put him down the steps, the lad struggling violently all the while, and biting him in the arm. At a later hour he returned, and hurled

a brick at the landlord, which struck him between the shoulders, and caused him to fall. The lad, on being asked if he had anything to say, declared first that the complainant's arm had been bad for weeks, and that he had not injured it; and then went on to tell how he had been in the complainant's house in the afternoon drinking and playing 'tip it' with two other boys and the complainant himself, and how he had been thrown out of the house because he complained of the complainant serving them with the droppings from the tap instead of with freshly-drawn beer. The defendant's mother, who was called as a witness, said the complainant was continually encouraging lads, some of them being not more than twelve years of age, to assemble at his house and gamble. The Bench imposed a fine of 2s 6d and costs in each case, or seven days' imprisonment."

1891 Census

87, Portway Road

[1] Rowland Darby (32), born Birmingham;

[2] Emma Darby (28), wife, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1891

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Rowland Darby*, the UNION beerhouse, Portway Road, was summoned for being drunk on licensed premises, and for having his house open during prohibited hours. Mr. G. Coulton, junior, Birmingham, appeared on his behalf.

Police-constables Patten and Even visited the house two or three times one night, and found the accused so much the worse for liquor that he was unable to stand without support. The house was also open at five minutes past eleven.

The Stipendiary dismissed the charge of being open during prohibited hours, and imposed a fine of 10s and costs for being drunk."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/9/1891

"The adjourned licensing meeting for the Wednesbury petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

Rowland Darby, the UNION INN beerhouse, Portway Road, Wednesbury, applied for the renewal of his license. Opposed, applicant having been drunk on the licensed premises. Mr. G. Coulton, junior, Birmingham, said the owner of the premises (Mr. F. Smith, Lichfield Road, Aston) had arranged for the transfer of the license to another person Granted, subject to transfer to Mr. F. Smith."

Midland Sun 15/4/1893

"Timothy Burke (34), a fine looking fellow from the Portway Road, Wednesbury, who the Bench said had led a reckless life for seventeen years, and that was his 21st appearance at the court, was fined 5s and costs, for being drunk in the Portway Road, and 5s and costs for being drunk on the premises of the UNION INN, Portway Road. The alternative was seven days' imprisonment with hard labour, in each case. Defendant went below."

Birmingham Daily Post 9/8/1893

"Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, *William Bourne* (who did not appear), of the UNION INN, Portway Road, was, on the evidence of Police-constables Wallace and Eden, fined 40s and costs for permitting drunkenness in his house on the 22nd ult; and James Welsh and Michael Contre were fined 5s each and costs for being drunk on the premises."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1893

"The first sitting of the Borough Bench for licensing purposes for the parish of Wednesbury took place yesterday.... Notice of opposition to renewal had been served upon the occupier of each of the premises where there had been a conviction for offence against license, except in the case of William Bird, of the BLUE BALL, Earps Lane, who was fined at the last court day for permitting gaming.

The renewals to be opposed were....

William Bourne, the UNION INN, Portway Road.

The Mayor commented with regret upon the increase in the numbers of offences and convictions shown by the returns; and the contentious business was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day, the 29th inst."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1893

"The adjourned licensing session for Wednesbury borough took place yesterday.....

There were ten adjourned cases, the police objecting to the renewals on the grounds of convictions; but all the licenses were renewed, with suitable admonitions and cautions."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/11/1894

"From last night's *London Gazette*.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890. Receiving Orders.....

Thomas Edward Wright, late UNION INN, Portway Road, Wednesbury, now Wellington Street, Pleck, Walsall, late beerhouse keeper, now ironworker."

1911 Census

Portway Road

- [1] *Joseph Stackhouse* (38), publican, born Brownhills, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Ruth Stackhouse* (40), wife, married 13 years, born Walsall;
- [3] *Daniel Stackhouse* (10), son, born Walsall;
- [4] *Doris Stackhouse* (4), daughter, born Walsall;
- [5] *Elsie Jasper* (14), servant, born Walsall;

WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, a capital BEER HOUSE, known as "THE UNION INN," and in the occupation of Mr. Job Edwards. It has an excellent In and Out-door Trade, and surrounded by Ironworks. The Premises are very convenient, with large Yard, Stabling, &c. Rent low. Coming in about £150.—For particulars, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

1861

CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

FREEHOLD — PROPERTY, PORTWAY ROAD, WEDNESBURY.

JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE has received instructions to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury, on MONDAY NEXT, October 1, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

LOT 1.—All that substantially-built and well-situated Corner HOUSE and PREMISES, known as the "UNION INN" Portway Road, W^{ednesbury}, now in the occupation of Mr. James Whitehouse. Also, For other MESSUAGES or TENEMENTS, adjoining and fronting the Portway Road, and in the several occupations of John Conlly, Michael Flinn, Thomas Ashmore, and Mary Geynerd, producing, at low rentals, £68. 10s. 8d. per annum.

This lot will be sold subject to the payment of an annuity of £26. per annum during the life of Miss Sarah Hill, who is forty-eight years of age.

LOT 2.—All that excellent Piece of BUILDING LAND, fronting the Portway Road, and adjoining lot one, with a large Stable and buildings thereon, having a frontage of 43 feet and 3 inches, and containing, by admeasurement, 490½ square yards, or thereabouts, producing at present about £10. per annum.

For further information, apply to W. R. Wills, Esq., Solicitor, 11, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; or to the Auctioneer, Wednesbury.

1866

FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE AND FOUR DWELLING HOUSES,

In PORTWAY ROAD, in the borough of Wednesbury.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY Messrs. POWELL and SON, at Mr. William Sheldon's, the Great Western Hotel, Wednesbury, on WEDNESDAY, the 6th day of October next, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read—all that FREEHOLD RETAIL PUBLIC HOUSE, the "UNION INN," and also Four DWELLING HOUSES, with the Outbuildings and Yards adjoining thereto, situate in the Portway Road, now in the occupation of James Whitehouse, Patrick Butler, Samuel Whitehouse, and others, at rents amounting to £68. 7s. per annum.

The Property is well situated, being near the extensive Works of Messrs. Walker and others, and will be sold subject to an annuity of 16s. per week during the life of a woman now of the age of 52 years.

Further information may be obtained at the Offices of W. R. Wills, Esq., Solicitor, and Mr. Richard Wright, Estate Agent, both of Ann Street, Birmingham; or the Auctioneers, High Street, Tipton.

1869

UNION

63+64, (64), (63), Union Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Tonks [1927]
Twists Brewery Ltd. [1941]

LICENSEES

James S Whitehouse [1870] – **1871**);
Titus Hampson (**1871** – [1872]
James Read [1881] – [1889]
Albert Gorton [1891]
James Dursley [1895] – [1896]
Mrs. Sarah Pritchard [1901]
Mrs. Clara Duffy [1903]
Thomas Holberry [1904]
John Thomas Howley [1904]
John William Knowles [1911] – [1912] – 9 years
Dicky Lee []
Mrs. Mary Ann Lee [c.1940]

NOTES

63, Union Street [1871], [1881], [1889], [1912]
64, Union Street [1911]
63+64, Union Street [1928]

It was situated on the east side of Union Street.

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1866

“On Wednesday last the ‘Sporting Sweep’ of Wednesbury undertook, for a wager of a sovereign, to carry on his shoulders, without shifting or resting, a bag of soot weighing 100lbs from the UNION INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, to the Bull Ring, Birmingham, in two hours. The distance is eight miles and a quarter; and on the same day on which the wager was laid he accomplished the distance in 2 hours and 55 minutes. The bag of soot, on being weighed at Birmingham, was found to weigh 104lbs.”

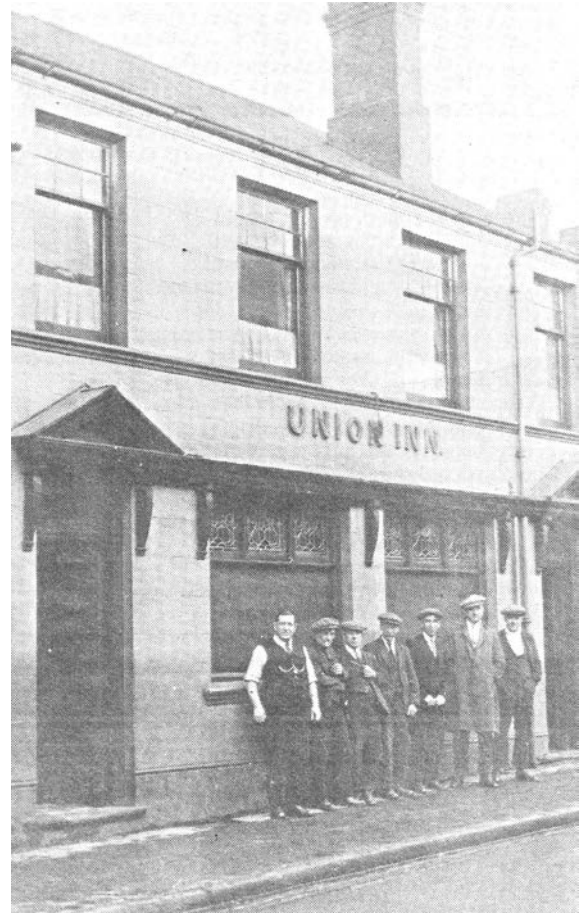
Staffordshire Advertiser 22/10/1870

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Baker, 26, was charged with putting off a counterfeit florin at Wednesbury.

The prosecutor, *James Whitehouse*, occupant of the UNION TAVERN, Wednesbury, deposed that the prisoner came to his house on the 20th of August, and called for a glass of ale, for which he paid with a bad florin. The prosecutor immediately told him that the coin was counterfeit, upon which the prisoner stated that he must have received it in wages from his master to whom he should return it. The prisoner then left, and was followed to the GEORGE INN by the prosecutor, who saw him order some refreshment there and receive some change, upon which he communicated with the police, by whom he was apprehended.

Mr. Motteram, for the prosecution, called witnesses to prove that the prisoner had uttered more than one counterfeit coin.



Dicky Lee

Eliza Nicholls, occupying a public house in Victoria Road, Wednesbury, said that the prisoner came to her house a few days previous to his apprehension and demanded a glass of beer, to pay for which he offered a false florin. Witness's husband inquired whether he was aware that the florin was a bad one, and the prisoner replied, 'Oh, is it?' and produced another, which was also found to be a bad one; and he then stated that he had received them from his master, at the same time paying for the beer with a good half-crown. He was found guilty, and having been several times previously convicted, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment."

1871 Census

63, Union Street

[1] *James Whitehouse* (30), wheel turner and beerhouse keeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah Whitehouse* (27), wife, attends to beerhouse, born Willenhall;

[3] *Eliza Jackson* (8), visitor, born Willenhall;

[4] *Sarah J. Edwards* (14), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Titus Hampson, beer retailer, 63, Union Street. [1872]

James Read = *James Reade* = *James Reed*

1881 Census

63, Union Street – UNION TAVERN public house

[1] *James Read* (36), publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Maria Read* (32), wife, born Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill;

[3] *David Read* (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Ellen Read* (9), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *James Read* (7), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Ernest Read* (2), son, born Wednesbury;

[7] *Mary Jones* (18), general servant, born Wednesbury;

[8] *Amelia Pheasant* (13), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1884

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *James Reade*, landlord of the UNION INN beerhouse, Union Street, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 25th August; also with permitting gambling on the same date. Mr. E. B. Thorneycroft appeared to prosecute on behalf of the police, and Mr. J. E. Sheldon defended.

On the 25th ult, the date of the miners' demonstration, two officers visited the defendant's house and found one man named Richardson drunk in the kitchen and four others were playing at 'push penny' for pints of ale. For the defence Mr. Sheldon urged that his client did not see either any drunkenness or gaming. The magistrates held that both cases were proved, and fined defendant £1 and costs for permitting drunkenness, and 10s and costs for allowing gambling."

Darlaston Weekly Times 2/10/1886

"Mark Holland, of Fallings Heath, was charged with begging and doing wilful damage to a window at the UNION INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, belonging to *James Reed*. Defendant went to the house begging, and when ordered out struck the waiter and broke two panes of glass. There were a number of previous convictions, but not of recent date, as defendant had been for a soldier. Fined 9s, and damages 3s."

Commercial Gazette 2/10/1889

"Extracts from the Registry of Deeds of Arrangement.....

Debtor, *James Read*, UNION TAVERN, 63 Union Street, Wednesbury, beerhouse keeper. Assignment. Trustee, *James J. Wood*, 42 Lower High Street, Wednesbury, valuer, &c.

Liabilities, secured and partly secured £267, unsecured £373 17s 4d. Property after deducting secured claims £175."

1891 Census

63, Union Street

[1] Albert Gorton (23), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;

[2] Ellen Gorton (51), mother, widow, born Shropshire;

[3] Frederick Gorton (14), son, groom, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/8/1894 - Advert

“Beerhouse (Good); Proprietor brews his own. Apply on Premises; incoming £120.

UNION TAVERN, Union Street, Wednesbury.”

BEEERHOUSE(Good); Proprietor brews his own. Apply on Premises; incoming £120.—Union Tavern, Union Street, Wednesbury.

James Dursley = *James Dursbey*

Wednesbury Herald 17/8/1895 - Advert

“Sale at UNION TAVERN, Union Street, Wednesbury. Wednesday Next, 21st August, 1895.

Belcher and Son are instructed by Mr. *James Dursley*, who is removing, to Sell by Auction, on the above premises and date, the Household Furniture and Effects, comprising Cottage Pianoforte, in Walnut Case, Mahogany Cheffionere, Mahogany Framed Sofa, Gents Easy Chair, Mahogany Centre Table, Pier and Toilet Glasses, Feather Bed, Brass-mounted Steads, Toilet Stands, Cane-seated Chairs, Chests of Drawers, Writing Desk, Knives and Prongs, Cruet, part Dinner Service, Fenders, Toast Stand, Pictures, and other Effects.

Sale at Eleven o'clock precisely.

No Catalogues. Conditions as usual.

Auctioneers offices, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury; and Darlaston.”

James Dursbey, beer retailer, 63, Union Street. [1896]

James Dursley – see also BULLS HEAD, West Bromwich Road.

1901 Census

Union Street – UNION INN

[1] Sarah Pritchard (57), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;

[2] Gertrude Farmer (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;

Walsall Observer 27/6/1903

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday week, the magistrates were engaged for the greater part of their sitting in hearing a case in which *Clara Duff*, licensee of the UNION TAVERN, Union Street, was sued for keeping her premises open for the sale of intoxicants during prohibited hours on the 3rd inst. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted, and Mr. R. A. Willcock defended.

The evidence for the police was that at 1.15am Police-constable Savory had his attention drawn to a light in a room at the rear of defendant's house, and he and Police-sergeant Sim subsequently demanded admission. A scuffle was heard, but they were admitted after some delay. They then found drink on the table, and that the defendant had with her a young man named Lavender and a young woman named Horton, but, upon making a search, another young man, named O'Connell, was discovered on the stairs. The explanation given by the defendant was that O'Connell was courting her, and that Lavender was courting Miss Horton, who was her cousin.

In cross-examination, Police-sergeant Sims said he was not aware that the defendant and O'Connell were engaged. Mr. Willcock: I do not suppose they notified the fact to the police (laughter).

The defence was that the statement made by the defendant to the police was correct, and that the men and young woman were the guests of the landlady. Mr. Willcock said there was nothing to prevent a widow who kept a public house entertaining a man to whom she was engaged, though it was evident difficulties might occur when the police did not know of the relationship which existed. He suggested that in future it would be well to register similar engagements at the nearest police station, so as to prevent any misunderstandings (laughter).

Defendant and her companions were all called in support of the explanation as to the circumstances which existed. O'Connell stated that he was a coal agent, and had done business with the defendant both as regarded trade and matrimony (laughter). It was true there was an engagement between them.

Mr. Willcock: For business or matrimonial purposes? Are you going to marry her?

Witness: Well, that is a hard question to answer (laughter).

Further pressed, witness said the engagement was for the purposes of being married.

Mr. Willcock: If it takes as much to drag you to the altar as to the engagement stage, there will be a lot of trouble with you. If I were the woman I should throw you up (laughter).

Cross-examined, witness said he was not occupying the position of the landlady's lover for the purpose of that case.

Mr. Sharp: Do you go to drink, or do you go to court the landlady?

Witness: Well, I have a drink as well (laughter).

Mr. Sharp: And when the police appear you go behind the back stair door. Why do you do that?

Witness: Being very excitable, I did not know what to do at the time (laughter).

The Bench, after retiring, decided to dismiss the charge, but stated that they considered the police did quite right in bringing the case forward."

Thomas Holberry, beer retailer, 63, Union Street. [1904]

Walsall Advertiser 18/6/1904

"Walsall Police Court.....

John Thomas Howley, UNION INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, was summoned by his wife, Mary Elizabeth Howley, 28, Kingsley Street, Pleck, for neglecting to provide her and her child with proper maintenance.

Mr. Loxton said he had received a letter from defendant's solicitor, Mr. Darby, asking for the case to be adjourned, as he was unable to attend.

Complainant said her husband had never found her a home since she was married to him in September last, but up to a week or so ago he had given her 10s a week.

Defendant now paid over 10s for the current week, and the case was adjourned to the following Monday."

1911 Census

64, Union Street

[1] *John W. Knowles (33), manager beerhouse, born Wednesbury;*

[2] *Edith Knowles (32), wife, married 6 years, born Wednesbury;*

[3] *Arthur Alfred Knowles (6), son, born Pleck, Walsall;*

[4] *Harold Ernest Knowles (6), son, born Pleck, Walsall;*

[5] *William Knowles (79), boarder, widower, born Wednesbury:*

John W. Knowles, beer retailer, 63, Union Street. [1912]

Walsall Observer 24/8/1912

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday week, two summonses were preferred against Elizabeth Dunn, of Church Street, Wednesbury, but they were eventually dismissed. The woman was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of the UNION INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, and with doing damage to the extent of 4s to the window of a door.

The woman summoned *John Knowles*, the licensee, for assault. This case was also dismissed.

From the evidence it appeared that the woman went to the public house to fetch her husband. She was drunk, and had to be put outside. The Bench considered the husband ought to have gone out to his wife."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/11/1928 - Advert

"Re Samuel Tonks, Deceased.

Wednesbury. Sale of Two Valuable Freehold Licensed Houses, &c.

Lot 1. The Free, Seven Days, Ante '69, On Beerhouse, known as the UNION INN, situate and being Nos.63 and 64 in Union Street, in the Borough of Wednesbury.

These Premises have a frontage of 22ft 6in to a main business thoroughfare and occupy what is undoubtedly one of the most Valuable Trading Positions in the heart of the Principal Shopping Centre of the important industrial Borough of Wednesbury, being very near to the convergence of the main roads and transport services from Walsall, West Bromwich, Dudley and Darlaston.

Vacant Possession will be given on completion.

Lot 2. The Free, Seven Days, Ante '69, On Beerhouse, known as the MUSEUM INN, situate and being No.28 in Elwell Street, New Town, Wednesbury, aforesaid, together with Two Dwelling Houses and Premises adjoining, being Nos.29 and 30 in Elwell Street.

This Lot occupies a prominent corner site in a populous neighbourhood, with several large works in the near vicinity. The Licensed House has a frontage of 34 feet to Elwell Street, and a return frontage of 99 feet to Sampson Street. Vacant Possession of the MUSEUM INN will be given on completion.

The Licensed Houses, which are both under management, have been in the ownership of the late Mr. Samuel Tonks for many years, and a lucrative trade has been effected with Beers brewed at the MUSEUM INN.

In addition to the purchase price, the respective buyers will have to pay for the Fixtures, Fittings, and Effects at the Licensed Houses (also the Brewing Plant in the case of the MUSEUM INN) at amounts stated in the particulars of sale. The Consumable Stocks, Brewing Materials, Jugs, Glassware, Apportionments of Excise License Duties, Rates, and other usual outgoings shall also be taken over at valuation in the usual way.

Belcher & Son have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. Samuel Tonks to submit the above for Sale by Public Auction, at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Monday November 12, 1928, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read."

Walsall Observer 2/3/1929

"Adjourned Brewster Sessions at Wednesbury yesterday.....

When Mr. A. J. Glover applied on behalf of Mr. Frederick Stanley, Wolverhampton Road, Walsall, for the approval of alterations to the UNION TAVERN, Union Street, the Mayor pointed out that it was proposed to take away the licensee's sitting-room and substitute a smoke room. The Bench felt that there must be decent living accommodation. Mr. Glover pointed out that the present living room was very small and it was proposed to give the licensee a room upstairs which would be lighter and better. The club-room was to be converted into two bedrooms and there would then be no drinking upstairs.

Alderman Joynson said that if the licensee were upstairs he could not have the same supervision. The Bench sanctioned the plans, Alderman Joynson remarking that there did not seem to be any other way out of it."

Walsall Observer 13/4/1929

"Wednesbury Town Council meeting Plans approved include.....

Alterations and additions to the UNION INN, Union Street, for Mr. F. S. Stanley."

Tipton Herald 16/1/1937

"Wednesbury lost a well-known townsman, when on Monday Mr. *John W. Knowles* passed away after a short illness. A native of the town, he was 59 years of age.

Mr. *Knowles* was best known to hundreds, even thousands, of Wednesbury and Midland people as a sportsman and licensed victualler. In his younger days he was a professional footballer, and the clubs with which he was connected included Cannock Town, Wednesbury Old Athletic, Darlaston, Dudley Town, and West Bromwich Albion. He was known as a nippy inside-forward, and occupied each of the three positions in the centre of the attack.

He became a licensee when he took over the UNION INN, Union Street, Wednesbury, and he remained there for a period of nine years, before moving to the OLD BUSH INN, Great Bridge. He returned to Wednesbury to take over the license of the BLUE BALL INN, Earps Lane, which he retained for five years, and during the past four years he has held the position of steward at the Charlemont Social Club and Institute, Stone Cross, where he took a keen interest in all sports, and was extremely popular with the whole of the membership. He was previously a member of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association, and when he was at the BLUE BALL INN he was prominently associated with the Wednesbury Harriers, being a vice-president. His son was a member of the Harriers.

Mr. *Knowles* leaves a widow and two sons....."

Dicky Lee was married to Mary Ann.

Walsall Observer 12/4/1941 - Advert

"Malt for Strength and Energy. Hops for The Appetite. Yeast for The Blood.
Twists The Best Beer for You.

You can Drink and Enjoy Twists Ales at any the of the following Licensed Houses.....

UNION INN, Wednesbury.....

And All The Best Clubs.

Proprietary Whiskies, Foreign Wines and Spirits, High-Class British Sherries and Ports.

Head Office and Brewery, Wolverhampton Street, Walsall."

SALE AT UNION TAVERN, UNION STREET,
WEDNESBURY.

WEDNESDAY NEXT, 21st AUGUST. 1895.

BELCHER AND SON are instructed by Mr. Jas. Dursley, who is removing, to Sell by Auction, on the above premises and date, the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects**, comprising Cottage Pianoforte, in Walnut Case, Mahogany Cheffonere, Mahogany Framed Sofa, Gent's Easy Chair, Mahogany Centre Table, Pier and Toilet Glasses, Feather Bed, Brass-mounted Steads, Toilet Stands, Cane-seated Chairs, Chests of Drawers, Writing Desk, Knives and Prongs, Cruet, part Dinner Service, Fenders, Toast Stand, Pictures, and other Effects.

Sale at Eleven o'clock precisely.

No Catalogues. Conditions as usual.

Auctioneers' offices, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury; and Darlaston.

1895

RE SAMUEL TONKS, DECEASED.

WEDNESBURY.

SALE OF TWO VALUABLE
FREEHOLD LICENSED HOUSES, &c.

LOT 1.

THE FREE, SEVEN-DAYS, ANTE-'69, ON-BEERHOUSE,
Known as the

"UNION" INN,

Situate and being Nos. 63 and 64, in UNION STREET, in
the BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

These Premises have a frontage of 22ft. 6in. to a main business thoroughfare, and occupy what is undoubtedly one of the most Valuable Trading Positions in the heart of the Principal Shopping Centre of the important industrial Borough of Wednesbury, being very near to the convergence of the main roads and transport services from Walsall, West Bromwich, Dudley and Darlaston.

VACANT POSSESSION WILL BE GIVEN ON
COMPLETION.

LOT 2.

THE FREE, SEVEN-DAYS, ANTE-'69, ON-BEERHOUSE,
Known as the

"MUSEUM" INN,

Situate and being No. 28 in ELWELL STREET, NEW
TOWN, WEDNESBURY, aforesaid, together with TWO
DWELLING HOUSES and PREMISES adjoining, being
Nos. 29 and 30 in ELWELL STREET.

This Lot occupies a prominent corner site in a populous neighbourhood, with several large works in the near vicinity. The Licensed House has a frontage of 34 feet to Elwell Street and a return frontage of 99 feet to Sampson Street.

VACANT POSSESSION OF THE "MUSEUM" INN WILL
BE GIVEN ON COMPLETION.

The Licensed Houses, which are both under management, have been in the ownership of the late Mr. Samuel Tonks for many years, and a lucrative trade has been effected with Beers brewed at the "Museum" Inn.

In addition to the purchase price, the respective buyers will have to pay for the Fixtures, Fittings, and Effects at the Licensed Houses (also the Brewing Plant in the case of the "Museum" Inn) at amounts stated in the particulars of sale. The Consumable Stocks, Brewing Materials, Jugs, Glassware, Apportionments of Excise Licence Duties, Rates, and other usual outgoings shall also be taken over at valuation in the usual way.

BELCHER & SON have received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. Samuel Tonks to submit the above for Sale by Public Auction, at the White Horse Hotel, Wednesbury, on MONDAY November 12, 1928, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read.

Detailed particulars, further information and cards to view may be obtained from the Auctioneers, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury, and Darlaston (Tel.: 151, two lines); or from the Vendors' Solicitors, Messrs. Thursfield, Messiter and Shirlaw, Wednesbury (Tel.: 45).

1928

MALT

for STRENGTH & ENERGY.

HOPS

for THE APPETITE.

YEAST

for THE BLOOD.



TWISTS

The **BEST BEER**
for YOU.

YOU CAN DRINK AND ENJOY TWISTS ALES

AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LICENSED HOUSES.

WHITE HORSE INN

WOLVERHAMPTON STREET.

ROYAL EXCHANGE

STAFFORD STREET.

BRITISH OAK

LICHFIELD STREET.

SPUR MAKER'S ARMS

TANTARRA STREET.

KING EDWARD

ABLEWELL STREET.

NAVIGATION INN

TAME BRIDGE.

CHETWYND ARMS

BROXTON, STAFFORD.

UNION INN

WEDNESBURY.

VICTORIA INN

DARLASTON.

FOX INN

HALESOWEN.

SHELTON INN

BELLE VALE, HALESOWEN.

SALTBRICK INN

HAYES LANE, LYE.

COTTAGE SPRING

BRIDGNORTH RD., WOLLASTON.

AND ALL THE BEST CLUBS.

**PROPRIETARY WHISKIES, FOREIGN WINES AND SPIRITS,
HIGH-CLASS BRITISH SHERRIES AND PORTS.**

HEAD OFFICE & BREWERY—

WOLVERHAMPTON ST., WALSALL

Phone 4348.

1941

J. LACEY,
Wine and Spirit
Merchant.

FAMILIES SUPPLIED
with SMALL CASKS of
PURE

Home-brewed Ales

"OLD HOUSE AT HOME,"
"CROSS GUNS," "SMITH'S ARMS,"
and "UNION INN,"
WEDNESBURY.

VICTORIA

Monway Field

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Sarah Holroyd [1856]

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 29/11/1856 - Advert

“Sale of Freehold Houses, situate near to Dudley Street and Portway Road, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Dawes, at the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, December the 10th, at Six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot 1. A Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House, now used as a Beer House, with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances belonging thereto, situate in Monway Field, near Dudley Street, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mrs. *Sarah Holroyd*, and known as the VICTORIA INN. The House contains two Cellars, Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, and three Bed Rooms. The Out-buildings comprise two Brewhouses, Stable, and Privy. There is also a soft water Cistern and Pump, and a Well, with Pump, of hard water. The whole containing about 474 square yards.”

**SALE OF FREEHOLD HOUSES,
SITUATE NEAR TO DUDLEY STEET & PORTWAY ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**

BY JOSEPH DAWES, at the Red Lion Inn, Wednesbury, on WEDNESDAY, December the 10th, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale—
Lot 1.—A FREEHOLD MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, now used as a Beer House, with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances belonging thereto, situate in Monway Field, near Dudley Street, Wednesbury, in the occupation of Mrs. Sarah Holroyd, and known as the “Victoria Inn.” The House contains two Cellars, Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, and three Bed Rooms. The Out-buildings comprise two Brew-houses, Stable, and Privy. There is also a soft water Cistern and Pump, and a Well, with Pump, of hard water. The whole containing about 474 square yards.

Lot 2.—Four FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES, with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in a newly-made Street leading out of Portway Road, Wednesbury, and near to the Patent Shaft Works; in the occupations of Lewis Johnson, Done, Thomas Hughes, and Thomas Bruerton; containing, with the site of the Buildings, about 622 square yards, and producing an annual rental of £30. 16s.

To view, apply on the Premises; and for further particulars, to Mr. J. H. Thursfield, Solicitor, or to the Auctioneer, both of Wednesbury.

VILLAGE

27, Alma Street / Elwell Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Wearing
Samuel Woodhall Ltd. [1921]
Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1983]

LICENSEES

Thomas Wearing [1857] – [1873]
Mrs. Jane Wearing [1875]
Joseph Wearing [1879] – [1881]
Lewin Ellis [1891] – [1892]
William Lawrence **(1893 – [1895]**
Edwin Egginton [1896] – [1904]
Henry Bates [1908] – [1909]
Ernest Thomas Morgan [1911] – [1912]
Mrs. Mary Gorton [1916]
Thomas Henry Towe [1921] – [1932]
Frank Howell [1939] – [1940]
Wilfred Thomas Jinks [1961] – **1964**);
Raymond Duckers **(1964 – 1965)**;
Kenneth Montague Cole **(1965 – 1967)**;
Norman Griffin **(1967 – 1968)**;
Albert Smith **(1968 – 1972)**;
Thomas John Jamieson **(1972 – 1973)**;
Geoffrey Dyson **(1973 – 1974)**;
Brian Thomas Morgan **(1974 – 1975)**;
Robert David Williams **(1975 – 1976)**;
Gerald Fordham Grosvenor **(1976 – 1979)**;
Stuart John Colley **(1979 – 1981)**;
Robert John Currie **(1981 – 1983)**;
Geoffrey Alfred Wesson **(1983 – 1984)**;
Anthony John 'Tony' Long **(1984)**;
Trevor Edward Smith **(1984)**;
Keith Vincent Joyce **(1984 – [1988]**
Bill Bladon **(1990 – [1994]**
Carl Adams [2015]



NOTES

Thomas Wearing = Thomas Waring = Thomas Wareing

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 Wearing, Misty Croft, Wednesbury."

[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.....

Thomas Wearing, VILLAGE INN, Mesty Croft, was supported by Mr. Duignan, and the magistrates granted the application.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1859 - Advert

“To Small Capitalists.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Building Land, situate at Mesty Croft, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Thomas, on Friday Next, September 9, 1859, at the house of Mr. *T. Wareing*, VILLAGE INN, Mesty Croft, at Six o'clock in the Evening.....”

1861 Census

Mesty Croft

- [1] *Thomas Wearing* (38), brass caster, born Bilston;
- [2] *Jane Wearing* (40), wife, born Atherstone, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Joseph Wearing* (17), son, brass caster, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Thomas Wearing* (15), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *William Wearing* (13), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Jane Wearing* (10), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Arthur Wearing* (5), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [8] *George Wearing* (3), son, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 5/10/1861

“On Tuesday afternoon, William Steadman, the doggy at the Friar Park Colliery, was ascending a pit shaft, when by some means the rope gave way from the drum or barrel, and upset the skip, throwing Steadman out, who fell to the bottom, a distance of about fifty yards, and was killed upon the spot. His neck and both legs were broken. E. Hooper, Esq. Coroner, opened an inquest at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, Wednesbury, kept by Mr. *Thomas Wearing*, yesterday, but it was adjourned to the 14th instant, for the attendance of the chief engineer, Mr. W. Dutton, of Oldbury. The colliery belongs to W. H. Dawes, Esq. the proprietor of the Bromford Ironworks, West Bromwich.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1861

“At Wolverhampton Petty Sessions, on Wednesday, Mr. Dawes, proprietor of the [Friar Park](#) Colliery, at West Bromwich, was charged with not having flanges or horns of sufficient length or diameter attached to the drum of the machine used for the lowering or raising persons at his ironstone pit, on the 1st October last. Mr. Bolton, magistrates' clerk, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Duignan, of Walsall, for the defence.

On the day referred to a man was coming up the pit, when, in consequence of the ‘band’ slipping off he was thrown out of the skip and killed.

Mr. Duignan maintained that the pit did not come within the meaning of the Act, inasmuch as it was not an ironstone pit in the coal measures as required by the Act. He admitted that coal had been passed through, but maintained that it was not saleable. The flanges were deep enough before the drum was enlarged, a short time before the accident. After a number of witnesses had been heard, the Magistrate said that the Act under which the offence now came was passed to meet an objection such as the one set up by the defendant's attorney, and that if the case had been laid under the former Act, the defence would have been a good one. He had no doubt but that the case came within the meaning of the 23rd and 24th Victoria, under which the charge was laid, and though one of the witnesses for the defence described the coal now got out of the pit for the engine as merely slack, and did not pay for the working, it might do so tomorrow. The question was whether the pit having measures of coal and ironstone, was being worked as described. There could be no doubt that it was, and he should fine the defendant in the mitigated penalty of £10 and costs, which was thus low because Mr. Baker, the Government Inspector, said that with this and another exception, which he was about to introduce, the defendant carried out the Act. Mr. Dawes was then fined 10s and costs for not having an adequate break affixed to his engine on the 9th instant.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/1/1863

“An inquest was held on Thursday, at the VILLAGE TAVERN, New Town, Wednesbury, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a child two years and eight months old, named William James Russell. The evidence went to show that on the morning of the 28th of December the child’s clothes caught fire from a candle, which was standing on the floor, and that he received very severe injuries, from the effects of which he died on the 25th inst. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1863

“Yesterday morning a lad about ten years of age, name Isaiah Perks, the son of a collier residing at Hill Top, met with his death under very painful circumstances, at the Victoria Tube Works of Messrs. Griffiths and Billingsby, at New Town, Wednesbury. About seven o’clock the poor little fellow, who was a general favourite in the works, was engaged in drawing a length of tubing on to the straightening plates, when an iron dab which covers a portion of the machinery beneath the floor having been taken up, and the machinery incautiously or carelessly left exposed, he, in walking backwards, stepped into the hole and placed his foot upon a revolving cog-wheel. He was instantaneously thrown down and drawn amongst the machinery, his cries being harrowing in the extreme. His employer, Joseph Painter, who was near him at the moment, also shouted out, and the engine was stopped as speedily as possible, but before this could be done the unfortunate lad’s body was divided into two parts by the machinery, the upper portion falling apart from the lower. One arm and one leg also were severed from the trunk, which, as well as the head, was still further mutilated in a very shocking manner. Death must have been almost instantaneous. The mangled remains of the deceased were at once removed to the house of Mr. *Thomas Waring*, the VILLAGE INN, where they were subsequently inspected by Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon, and where they now lie awaiting a Coroner’s inquest.”

[A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, coupled with a censure upon the two engineers at the works, for not having seen to the machinery being in proper order before the day-hands commenced work. The Coroner also blamed the proprietors for having allowed the engineers to perform other duties than those pertaining to the office.]

Derbyshire Advertiser 4/12/1863

“On Saturday, Edward Jukes, a milkman, was passing beneath the London and North-Western Railway bridge over Hydes Lane, Newtown, near Wednesbury, with a horse and cart, when one of the girders of the bridge gave way and fell, carrying with it one of the iron parapet walls. The mass of metal, weighing altogether probably about three tons, fell upon the man and his horse, and crushed them in a frightful manner, killing them instantaneously. Two children, who were in the cart at the time, escaped without serious injury, although they were thrown out of the vehicle some distance along the road.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1863

“The inquest on the body of Edward Jukes was resumed yesterday, at the house of Mr. *Waring*, the VILLAGE INN, Mestycroft, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner.....

The following verdict was announced. The deceased, Edward Jukes, met his death in passing under a bridge crossing Crankhall Lane, belonging to the London and North-Western Railway Company, such bridge having for some time past been in a state dangerous to the public safety from mining operations in the immediate neighbourhood, and that proper precautions have not been taken by the railway authorities to secure the said bridge from accident.”

[Mrs. Jukes sued the London and North-Western Railway Company and was awarded compensation of £150 for herself and £100 each for two sons.]

Thomas Wearing was also a brass and iron founder. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1872]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/7/1866

“Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held by Mr. Edwin Hooper at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, Wednesbury, respecting the death of a boy, fifteen years of age, named Richard Garbett, who resided in Piercy Street. The deceased, who was employed at the Tube Works of Messrs. Griffiths and Billingsley, was on Tuesday last engaged in putting a strap on to a shaft whilst the engine was going. In so doing he lowered his hand, and was caught in the shaft and thrown to the ground. Assistance was at once procured, but the deceased died in about four or five minutes after he was caught in the shaft.

The Coroner asked one of the witnesses if it was a custom to put a strap on to the shaft whilst the engine was in motion, and received a reply in the affirmative, on which the Coroner said he considered that it would be far safer to stop the engine when straps were put on the shaft.

Several of the jurors expressed a wish to see the spot where the accident happened, and accordingly, with the consent of the Coroner, they went to the above works, where their wishes were complied with. Upon their return some conversation ensued between the jurymen, but ultimately they returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Griffiths was present to represent the firm, and promised on their part that every precaution should be taken to avoid a similar occurrence in the future."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/1/1867

"The enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Elizabeth Garbett, a child of six months old, who had resided at New Town, Wednesbury, and who was found dead in bed on the morning of the 7th inst, was resumed yesterday, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, at the VILLAGE INN, Wednesbury.....

The jury were of opinion that the child died by suffocation, caused by its mother 'overlying' it."

[During the evidence it transpired that the father, Thomas Garbett, was the brother of Richard Garbett, whose inquest was held here in 1866.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/5/1870

"On Friday afternoon, Elizabeth Reece, aged 49, of High Bullen, committed suicide, at the house of her son, in Piercy Street, Newtown, Wednesbury, by drowning herself in a soft-water cistern. The deceased had for some time been in a depressed state of mind, and when last seen alive she was reading her Bible. The cistern contained about four feet of water, and was very difficult to access."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/5/1870

"On Monday evening an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, at the VILLAGE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury, on the body of Elizabeth Reece, aged 49, of High Bullen, who committed suicide on Friday night last by drowning herself in a cistern at the house of her son, in Piercy Street, as previously reported in our columns. The jury returned a verdict of committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity."

1871 Census

27, Alma Street – VILLAGE INN

[1] *Thomas Wearing* (50), brass founder and licensed victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Jane Wearing* (49), wife, born Atherstone, Warwickshire;

[3] *Arthur Wearing* (15), son, brass caster, born Wednesbury;

[4] *George Wearing* (13), son, brass caster, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/4/1871

"On Monday an inquest was held by Mr. E. Hooper, at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, Wednesbury, on the body of Absalom Hobley, who was employed at a stone pit at Friar Park, West Bromwich. On the 29th ult the deceased was at work in the pit when a piece of stone fell upon him, and crushed him with such severity that death ensued very soon afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/7/1873

"Yesterday, at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, Wednesbury, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, resumed the enquiry into the circumstances of the death of William Wright (25), boiler-plate roller, who is alleged to have lost his life from the effects of injuries inflicted by two companions named Fred. Longmore and Wm. Brookes. Mr. Ebsworth watched the proceedings on behalf of the friends of the deceased; and Mr. Sheldon for the accused men. Superintendent Holland was present on behalf of the police authorities.

Henry Humphreys, labourer, Paul Street, father-in-law of the deceased, was recalled, and said that on Wednesday, June 18, at about half-past nine at night, he went to the house of William Wright, and saw Wright and his brother Thomas there. William's lips were much swollen, and his eyes blood-shot; and there was a lump on his left temple. His nose had been bleeding. He said that young Brookes and Fred. Longmore had nearly killed him, and complained of severe pains on the left side of his head and up his left side. On Thursday, the 19th, he went to Longmore's house, and Longmore said they went to the house of William Brookes's father, who sent for a pack of cards, and they played, but not for ale or money. A quarrel arose, and he struck Wright with his open hand, and Wright sprang upon him

and threw him on to the floor. He then called for William Brookes to assist him. After that, witness took Longmore to see Wright, and on seeing him, Longmore said he was very sorry to find that Wright was hurt worse than he had thought. Longmore, Brookes, and Brookes's father afterwards agreed to pay deceased his wages as long as he continued ill from the effects of the quarrel. Wright died on July 2, shortly after a warrant had been taken out against Longmore and Brookes.

Wm. Brookes, shearer, King Street, Wednesbury, father of one of the accused, said he, his son, Longmore, and the deceased, met at the RAILWAY INN, Dudley Street, at about twelve o'clock, and had nine quarts of ale there between them. They left at twenty minutes past three, and went to the PORTWAY INN, where they had six quarts more. There they stopped till half-past six, and then went to witness's house, and had some bread and cheese, witness sending for a gallon of ale. Then they agreed to have a game at cards, while they 'finished the sup of beer.' While the first game was being played, a dispute arose between Wright and Longmore.....

Mr. Philip S. Collins, surgeon deposed He attended the deceased some time ago for serious injury to the right ear, caused by hot cinders getting into it, but that had nothing to do with the condition of the brain, except that it predisposed it to morbid action. If the deceased had not received the injuries he exhibited, there was no reason, in witness's opinion, why he should not have lived. He attributed the death of deceased to violence of some kind.

The Coroner, in stating the case to the Jury, pointed out the discrepancies in the evidence, and directed them to rely principally upon the medical testimony.

The Jury, after a few minutes deliberation in private, returned a verdict of Manslaughter, and Longmore and Brookes were committed for trial on the Coroner's warrant."

AND

Birmingham Mail 26/7/1873

"Frederick Longmore and William Brooks, on bail, were indicted at the Stafford Assizes, yesterday, for killing and slaying William Wright, on the 18th June, 1873, at the parish of Wednesbury. On the day named, the whole of the parties were drinking at the house of Mr. Brooks, father to one of the prisoners. They were also card playing; and a dispute arising, an affray took place between Longmore and the deceased, in the course of which Longmore was thrown to the ground, when he called Brooks to pull Wright off him. Brooks did so, and Wright struck him, after which Brooks the elder separated the combatants. In falling to the ground Wright's head came in contact with a piece of furniture. On the 2nd of July Wright died, and a post mortem examination showed that an abscess had formed on the brain. It appeared, however, that the deceased had been under surgical treatment prior to the quarrel, having received an injury to one of his ears.

The learned Judge ruled that there was no evidence against Brooks, and the Jury acquitted Longmore."

Midland Examiner 17/10/1874

"Mr. E. Hooper, the coroner of the district, resumed the adjourned inquiry at the VILLAGE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury, on Saturday, into the death of Isabella Block, aged eight years, daughter of Herbert William Block, engineer, Newtown, who died on the Tuesday week previous. At the former enquiry one of the jurymen expressed himself as convinced that the child had not had sufficient food, and had been kicked by her father's housekeeper. Mr. Wilson Moore, surgeon, now stated that he had made a post mortem examination and found that death had resulted from natural causes. A verdict to this effect was returned."

Thomas Wearing died in the 3rd quarter of 1874.

Jane Wearing = Jane Waring = Jane Wareing

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/7/1875

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

William Dyson, 25, boatman, was indicted for uttering three pieces of counterfeit coin at Wednesbury, on the 10th of April, and several other pieces of counterfeit coin at Wolverhampton, on the 15th of April, well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. Mr. Young appeared for the prosecution and expressed his belief that he should be able to satisfy the jury that the prisoner was one of those persons who went about the country for the purpose of passing bad money.

The evidence adduced showed that on the 10th of April the prisoner went to the VILLAGE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury, kept by Mrs. *Waring*, and paid for a glass of ale with a florin which was afterwards discovered to be counterfeit. The same evening he passed a bad florin at another public house, the RISING SUN, and also at a provision shop kept by Mr. David Roberts. After that Wednesbury knew him no more, so far as was known, but on

the 15th of April, five days afterwards, he appeared at Wolverhampton races, and during the day he frequently patronised the refreshment tent of a Mrs. Foley. About four o'clock in the afternoon he paid for a glass of ale with half-a-sovereign which Mrs. Foley noticed was a bad one, and on examining her cash she discovered that she had taken no fewer than five bad half-sovereigns during the day. Upon that the prisoner was given into custody, and another counterfeit half-sovereign was found in his possession.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sent to gaol for 18 months."

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/8/1876

"*Jane Wareing*, of the VILLAGE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury, was summoned for permitting drunkenness. Early on the morning of the 26th ult Police-constable Worsly found a drunken man in the defendant's house. She was fined £3 and costs; and the intoxicated man, George Taylor, was fined £1."

Mrs. Jane Wearing died in the 1st quarter of 1878.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/6/1878

"Yesterday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the VILLAGE INN, Wednesbury, on the body of Benjamin Thomas Milner. It was stated in evidence that the deceased had been addicted to drinking for some time, and that he had not been sober four days together since December last. In the early part of the present month he became ill, and when Dr. Collins was called in on the 9th he was in a state of stupor, caused by alcoholic excesses. After a time he came to himself again, and vomited, but stupor once more supervened, and on the 14th he died, death being caused, in the opinion of the medical attendant, by excessive drinking. The jury found accordingly."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/8/1878 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, the VILLAGE INN, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. E. B. Scholefield, at the Property Mart, Church Street, Wednesbury (by order of the Trustees of the Estate of the late Mr. *Thomas Wareing*, Deceased), Tomorrow (Tuesday), August 13, at 6 for 7 o'clock precisely, subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, and be produced at the time of sale.

The Important Corner Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, known by the sign of the VILLAGE INN, situate at the corner of Elwell Street, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury, comprising three Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Bar-parlour, Kitchen, large dry Cellar, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable with loft over, Cart Shed, Brass-casting Shops, Yard with draw in gateway, and Out-buildings thereto, now in the occupation of the Vendors.

Possession of the Property will be given up on completion of the purchase.

Further particulars may be obtained from Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, Williams, and Elliott, Solicitors, Walsall; from the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury; or from Mr. Joseph Smith, Solicitor, 9, Walsall Street, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/9/1878 - Advert

"Unreserved Sale, at the VILLAGE INN, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury.

Mr. E. B. Scholefield has received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. *Thomas Wearing* to Sell by Auction, This Day (Monday), September 2, at 11 o'clock.

The Modern Furniture, comprising iron Bedsteads, Palliasses, Chairs, oak Desk, mahogany Cupboard, mahogany-frame Sofas, mahogany Tables, 8-day English Clocks, Timepiece, Benches, 4-pull stop-tap Ale Machine, Ale and Liquor Measures, Jugs, Glasses, Oil Paintings, iron Safe, &c, &c. The Sale includes a capital 12-bushel Mash Tub, Ale Coolers, a useful brown Cob, 14 hands high; Harness, Cart Tackle, Spring Trap, Heavy Cart, Chaff Machine, patent Malt Crusher, wood Patterns, brass and iron Patterns, Core Boxes, Moulding Boxes, Tongs, Casting Pots, Fire Bricks, and numerous other Effects."

Joseph Wearing = Joseph Waring

Wednesbury Herald 20/9/1879

"Henry Cartwright, a labourer, was charged with refusing to quit the VILLAGE INN, New Town, when requested to do so by the landlord, *Joseph Waring*.

The defendant went into the house drunk, and on being requested to leave he refused to do so.

Fined 5s and costs, or in default seven days."

1881 Census

27, Alma Street

- [1] Joseph Wearing (37), moulder, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Sarah Jane Wearing (36), wife, born Small Heath, Birmingham;
- [3] Jane Wearing (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Mary M. Wearing (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Ada Wearing (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Emma Wearing (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Joseph Wearing (11 months), son, born Wednesbury;

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/10/1881 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong country Girl, for public house; good character. Apply, VILLAGE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a strong country Girl, for public house; good character.—Apply, Village Inn, Newtown, Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 26/11/1881

“On Monday Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, Wednesbury, touching the death of William Jones (49), coachsmith, who had died from the effects of injuries received at North Woolwich.

The evidence of the father of the deceased showed that about five months ago the deceased went to Rotherhithe, London, in search of work, and succeeded in gaining employment at the Isle of Dogs. Deceased had informed him that when engaged in constructing a roof in a factory on the 14th ult – the day of the severe gale – a sudden gust of wind blew him and two other men off the scaffolding. The two men fell against two or three girders and were instantaneously killed. The deceased fell a distance of twenty-one feet into the docks, and the tide being out, he fell into the mud, and received some very serious injuries. He was removed to an infirmary at North Woolwich, and afterwards to the Rotherhithe infirmary, and upon a slight improvement taking place he was removed to his home at Wednesbury, on the 14th inst, and died on the 18th inst.

In reply to the Coroner the father stated that he was fully convinced that the deceased sustained his injuries through an accident and not through the negligence of the workmen engaged.

The Coroner remarked that if the friends of the deceased or the jury thought it desirable, he would send to London for some witnesses who saw the accident take place.

The foreman of the jury said the jury did not think it necessary for any further witnesses to be called and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/1/1882 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong country Girl, good washer, for public house. Apply, VILLAGE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury.”

WANTED, a strong country Girl, good washer, for public house.—Apply, Village Inn, Newtown, Wednesbury

Darlaston Weekly Times 17/3/1883

“On Monday, Mr. Hooper, district coroner, held an enquiry at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, Wednesbury, on the body of Elizabeth Ann Davis, aged 9 weeks, daughter of parents living in the same locality. The child was found dead in bed on the morning of the 8th inst. Considerable doubt existed as to whether the child had been overlain, or had died from convulsions, but ultimately a verdict of Found Dead was returned.”

Wednesbury Herald 19/1/1884

“On Tuesday, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, touching the death of a baby named Mary Bradley, aged 15 days, who had been found dead in bed.

The child was said to be very healthy from her birth. On Saturday morning she was found dead in bed, and from her appearance it was evident that she had been suffocated. It transpired that three persons slept in the bed in which the baby was found dead.

The jury returned an open verdict.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/5/1884

“Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest on Wednesday, at the VILLAGE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury, on the body of Henry Cartwright (48), a puddler, residing in Samson Street, Wednesbury, whose death took place under peculiar circumstances.

Emma Cartwright, the wife of the deceased, stated that her husband came home very drunk on Saturday night last, about nine o'clock. He attempted to strike her with some of the things in the house, and being afraid for her life, she removed the whole of the household goods, took with her the three youngest children, and went to a neighbour's for the night, leaving the deceased lying on the floor, and the house door partly open. She left him no light, but she sent one of the children about eleven o'clock to see whether he was 'all right,' and the reply was that he was lying on the floor in exactly the same position he had been left in. She heard no more of the deceased until about five o'clock the next morning, when one of her sons, eighteen years of age, came and told her that his father was dead. William Cartwright, son of the deceased, deposed to finding his father, about five o'clock on Sunday morning, sitting up against the wall in the kitchen, with only his shirt on. He caught hold of him and spoke to him, but received no reply, and on shaking him found that he was dead. The body was warm, and just beneath where it lay there was one small spot of blood. Witness found some portion of deceased's clothes on the stairs, and the remainder in a back bed room, but not where deceased was in the habit of sleeping.

The Coroner, in summing up, said, according to information given to him, this man had been leading a very sad life with his family, and had threatened the life of his wife several times.

An open verdict was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/6/1888

“Soon after midday yesterday, Selina Price (12), daughter of parents living in Elwell Street, Wednesbury, met with her death under peculiarly painful and distressing circumstances. She and several companions were merrily trooping along the footpath in the Walsall Road, near Oakeswell End, on their way home from school, three or four of them being abreast and going along with joined hands, when the deceased, who was on the kerb, slipped, and in slipping disengaged her hand from her next companion's and overbalanced herself through the companion loosing her hand, and fell into the road with her head immediately in front of one of the hind wheels of a loaded railway wagon which was passing at the time. To the horror of the spectators the wheel was upon her and over her neck before she had the slightest chance of helping herself or anyone else of helping her, and the poor little creature – who but a moment or two before was so full of life and joy – lay a disfigured corpse before her schoolmates, death being apparently instantaneous. The body was temporarily removed to Dr. Collins's surgery.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1888

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, Wednesbury, on the body of Selina Price, Elwell Street, who on Tuesday was killed in the Walsall Road.....

Some of the jurors considered the thoroughfare very dangerous at the part where the child was killed, the footpath being so narrow that when a loaded wagon drew close to the kerb there was scarcely room to stand between the load and the old cottages abutting on the footpath. Others also said that the footpath itself was in a bad condition.

The Coroner said no doubt the Corporation would be perfectly willing to make any improvement in the locality if the ratepayers would find the money. Ultimately he undertook to write to the Corporation on the subject, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wednesbury Herald 3/1/1891

“Edwin Hooper (county Coroner) held an inquest on Saturday, at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, respecting the death of Sarah Sibley (54), wife of Charles Sibley, miner, Elwell Street, who had been found dead.

The deceased had for some time, complained of being unwell, but refused to have medical advice. On Wednesday morning Mr. Sibley went to work as usual and left his wife in bed. Upon returning home at night he found the back door fastened. He gained admittance, and upon going upstairs found his wife dead in bed. In reply to the Coroner the husband said his wife had frequently remained in bed for a whole day without food, and had refused to allow a neighbour to wait upon her. She was very reserved, and at times eccentric. He had always provided plenty of food. The Coroner: As she was very eccentric it was your duty to see that she was nursed, and also to have medical attention.

Witness: Dr. Crew attended her six months ago. She has lately, however, refused to see a surgeon.

The Coroner informed the jury he had received a letter from Dr. Crew, in which he stated that the deceased had suffered from cancer, and a woman suffering from such a disease should have been attended to every hour.

Mrs. Griffiths, a neighbour, stated the husband had always been very kind to deceased.
Several jurymen considered that the husband, under the circumstances, should have obtained the requisite assistance for his wife.
A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

Lewin Ellis = Llewellyn Ellis

1891 Census

27, Alma Street – VILLAGE INN

- [1] *Lewin Ellis* (40), public house manager, born Stourport, Worcestershire;
- [2] Emma Ellis (28), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Adelaide Smallman (32), visitor, born Bilston;
- [4] Alice Garman (17), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Advertiser 20/5/1893

“Aaron Stevenson, of New Town, Wednesbury, sued Llewellyn Ellis, of NEW VILLAGE INN, New Town, Wednesbury, for £8 damages sustained by him in consequence of defendant’s cat killing a number of his pigeons. Mr. Enoch Evans appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. H. H. Jackson for defendant.

Plaintiff’s case was that on February 27 he found a cat in his pen, where it had killed thirteen birds, some of which were valuable homing ones. With the assistance of Police-constable Parton, who found the cat sitting on four dead birds and who tied a tablet round its neck to identify it, and then set watchers to follow it, the cat was traced to defendant’s home.

For the defence it was contended that the plaintiff had been guilty of contributory negligence.

His Honour held that defendant, if he wished to keep a cat, must keep it under proper control, and gave a verdict for plaintiff for the full amount claimed.”

Lewin Ellis – see also RED LION, Parkfield Road, Bilston, and ROYAL OAK, Salop Street, Bilston.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/3/1895

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *William Lawrence*, of the VILLAGE INN, New Town, Wednesbury, licensed victualler.

The public examination of this debtor took place at the Walsall Bankruptcy Court yesterday – before Mr. Registrar Clark – Mr. A. J. Glover attending on the debtor’s behalf.

The statement of affairs showed liabilities £214 3s 10d, inclusive of preferential payments to the amount of £186 13s 9d.

The bankrupt held a situation as a weighing-machine clerk and timekeeper until May, 1893, when he took the VILLAGE INN, and began business as a licensed victualler. Being pressed, he consulted his solicitor in January, and endeavours to arrange for the payment of his debts by instalments failing, he filed his petition in February.

The examination was adjourned until the 3rd April.”

1901 Census

27, Alma Street

- [1] Edwin Egginton (44), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Mary Egginton (44), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Harry Egginton (19), son, fitter’s latheman, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Agnes Egginton (17), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Annie Egginton (13), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Mary Egginton (11), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [7] Edith Egginton (8), daughter, born West Bromwich:

Walsall Observer 23/1/1909

“At Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Henry Bates*, licensee of the VILLAGE INN, Alma Street, Newtown, Wednesbury, was summoned under the Child Messenger Act with supplying a girl, aged 10 years, of Piercey Street, Newtown, with half-a-quartern of whisky in a bottle unsealed, on October 22nd ult.

Police-constable Walkenden saw the girl leaving the house with the whisky. When he took her back the defendant's wife said she did not know the Act applied to liquors as well as beer.

Defendant expressed his regret for the offence, and he was fined 10s and costs, in all £1 4s 7d.”

1911 Census

Alma Street – VILLAGE INN

[1] *Ernest Morgan* (31), licensed victualler, born Rugby;

[2] *Jane Morgan* (34), wife, married 7 years, assisting in the business, born Rugby;

[3] *Richard Morgan* (6), son, born Rugby;

[4] *Sarah Wormsley* (21), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Wednesbury Herald 27/7/1911

“On Monday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the VILLAGE INN, New Town, touching the death of Leonard Wheeler, aged 11, who lived with his grandparents at 41, Piercey Street, New Town.

The evidence went to show that the deceased was bathing in Elwell's Pool at about 5.30 on Sunday afternoon, when he got beyond his depth, and being unable to swim he sank to the bottom at a spot supposed to be about six feet deep, and John William Hughes, aged 12, tried to rescue his companion from his perilous position, but he failed to bring him out of the water. Twenty five minutes later a young man named Frank Cox, of 24, Friar Street, came upon the scene, stripped himself, and succeeded in bringing the boy out. PC Parton, William Price, and other members of the St. John Ambulance Class tried artificial respiration for an hour and a quarter until the arrival of Dr. Garman, who pronounced life to be extinct.

A verdict of Accidental Death by Drowning was returned. The Coroner said he considered that Police constable Parton and the others were very highly to be commended for their earnest and energetic efforts to restore respiration.”

1921 Census

27, Alma Street

[1] *Thomas Henry Towe* (38), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Jane Towe* (49), wife, born Cradley;

[3] *Muriel Taylor* (4), adopted daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Isaiah Hall* (33), boarder, general labourer, tram depot, born Wednesbury:

South Staffordshire Times 29/12/1923

“The members of the VILLAGE INN Homing Pigeon Society, Wednesbury, held their first annual show of racers, on Saturday last, at headquarters. As usual at this time of year, most of the birds were winners at previous shows. Consequently the judges had no easy task in selecting the winners in each class.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/11/1925

“Today's Cross-Country Runs.....

Wednesbury Harriers visit Small Heath Harriers today for an inter-club race. They will travel by char-a-banc, starting from headquarters, VILLAGE INN, New Town, not later than 2.15pm.”

Bilston & Willenhall Times 12/12/1925

“The third annual open pigeon show to be held in connection with the Wednesbury VILLAGE INN Homing Society took place at headquarters, Newtown, on Saturday afternoon, when there was a fine collection of birds. Over 120 entries were received, and the birds of such a high quality that the judge, Mr. E. J. Spare, the well-known fancier, of Wednesbury, was presented with a difficult task.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/3/1927

“Wednesbury Harriers are finishing their cross-country season with a club medal handicap from headquarters, VILLAGE INN, New Town, at 3.15pm.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/12/1929

"Mr. and Mrs. Henry Towe, of Newtown, Wednesbury, who celebrated their golden wedding on Wednesday, were married at Hednesford on Christmas Day 50 years ago. They are in good health, and reside with Mr. and Mrs. George Holden, their son-in-law and daughter, at 120, Piercy Street.....

In celebration of the golden wedding a Christmas Day party, attended by between 70 and 80 relatives and friends, was held at the VILLAGE INN, Newtown, of which the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Towe is the landlord."

Evening Despatch 5/2/1937

"Four licenses were objected to by Supt. J. H. Hall at the annual Licensing Sessions at Wednesbury today. In his report, Supt. Hall said that the town contained 106 licensed premises, one to every 297 of the inhabitants.....

Objection was taken to the renewal of the licenses of VILLAGE INN, Newtown.

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the four objected to, which were put back for consideration at the adjourned meeting."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1937

"The licenses of houses referred to the adjourned licensing sessions were renewed at Wednesbury yesterday.

They were VILLAGE INN, Alma Street, Newtown."

Walsall Observer 26/6/1937

"At Wednesbury special licensing sessions, yesterday week, approval was given to plans for alterations to..... VILLAGE INN, Alma Street, Newtown."

1939 Register

27, Alma Street (2 of 4)

[1] *Frank Howell*, date of birth 27/7/1904, licensed victualler, married

[2] *Kathleen (Howell) Clay*, dob 31/7/1913, unpaid home duties, assist in bar, married;

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League in 1948.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/6/1966

"Twenty-two candidates in the Wolverhampton district were successful in the licensed trade diploma examinations in April. The examination was held under the auspices of the National Trade Development Association and covered all aspects of modern innkeeping.....

K. M. Cole, VILLAGE INN, Alma Street, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/6/1974 - Advert

"Bar Staff required, full time or part time.

Apply VILLAGE INN, Alma Street, Wednesbury."

BAR STAFF required, full time or part time.

Apply Village Inn, Alma Street, Wednesbury.

Telephone 021 556 3941.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/2/1978

"Mr. Kevin McCabe had quite a shock after buying a bite to eat at a Wednesbury pub. When he tucked into his steak and kidney pie he found two pieces of red plastic mixed in with the meat. And the discovery led to a Dudley firm being fined £40. Grangeway Meat Products Distributors of Himley Road admitted allowing a pie to be sold which was not of the substance demanded. West Bromwich magistrates ordered the firm to pay £12 costs.

Mr. Stephen Alexander, prosecuting on behalf of Sandwell Council, said Mr. *G. F. Grosvenor*, landlord of the VILLAGE INN, Alma Street, sold the pie to Mr. McCabe. The authority was satisfied that Mr. *Grosvenor* was in no way to blame.

The plastic was part of a scraper used to scrape meat slurry from trays. The company no longer intended to use this method."

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/8/1978

“Richard Grosvenor is a new breed of soccer manager. At the tender age of 11 he is masterminding the destiny of Thrashers United. A pupil at Wodensborough High School, Richard, who lives at the VILLAGE INN, Alma Street, Wednesbury, has already savoured the sweets of success. In their first game Thrashers, a team of schoolboys, walloped another Wednesbury outfit, named Coalen, 17-6.

Richard is a backroom boy. He does not play, being more actively interested in swimming, snooker, table tennis and table football, but he already knows the traumas of management. He has wasted no time getting into the deep end in the transfer market. ‘I bought one player for 5p, but the record outlay for the club is 20p for a striker,’ he said. ‘I got 5p back for the transfer of one of my players.’

Thrashers next match is scheduled for August 10, and spectators had better have their cash ready. When the onlookers turned up for the Coalen game, they had to pay 2p for the privilege; and even the players had to cough up the same amount. ‘Well,’ said manager Grosvenor, ‘we have to raise funds. Unfortunately, what we gained from that match soon went. One of my players complained that another player had lost a ball belonging to him. I had to pay him the gate money as compensation. I sacked the player who lost the ball.’ But the fund raising was put into overdrive this week when Richard started the first of a series of raffles. ‘That brought the handsome sum of £1.35 into the club coffers. That is going towards a strip. I am an Aston Villa fan, but turning a team out in Villa colours in Wednesbury could be a bit dicey, so I think we might decide on green and blue. At least we will be seen.’

This young soccer tycoon is not only preparing the Thrashers programmes, but is also writing by hand a sports paper with the exotic title of Argentine Express. With a little more hard work at home he hopes to have the first edition on the streets sometime next week.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/11/1983

“One of Wednesbury’s oldest public houses is to be demolished and replaced. The VILLAGE INN in Alma Street, will be pulled down to make way for a new public house under plans drawn up by Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries. Under a scheme to go before a future meeting of Sandwell land and town planning committee, the brewery wants to replace the two-roomed pub with a larger building and improved car parking facilities.

Mr. *Tony Long*, the pub’s manager for the past eight weeks, said, ‘The place is going to be pulled down and a new building provided on land at the side which the brewery has bought. The pub is getting on a bit and with only a bar and smoke room, it is not big enough for the trade that is available.’”

Closed

The license removal was made final on 16th May 1985.

The new building opened next door to the original house in June 1985.

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/5/1986

“A cot death charity has presented its first baby monitor and announced that another two monitors have been ordered and are on the way. The Cot Death Appeal was formed by regulars at the VILLAGE INN, Alma Street, Wednesbury, just a few weeks ago. Already they have raised the money for three of the monitors through a packed programme of sponsored events and charity evenings.....”

Sports Argus 3/9/1988

“Angling Croft Open (Burton-on-Trent).

Junior angler Dave Evans feeder and stick float finished at peg 41 to take a winning 8-6-0 mixed to beat another young angler Paul Keeling at peg 1 with 5-12-0 while third place was filled by Ken [sic] *Joyce* mine host of the VILLAGE INN at Wednesbury who had 4-15-0.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1993

“West Bromwich Albion footballer Wayne Fereday will knock over a 2ft high £400 stack of coins on the bar of the VILLAGE INN, Wednesbury, tonight. The money, piled by customers over nine months, will go towards talking books for the blind.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/1/1994

“Down Your Local. VILLAGE INN, Wednesbury.

There’s nothing like keeping the regulars happy, as licensee *Bill Bladon* well knows. Keep a regular cheerful and he’ll do his bit to help the others. Take Sam, for instance. Sam is a two-year-old pony belonging to Chris Martin, an unemployed maintenance fitter. He provides one horse power for Chris’s two-seat trap. And most Sunday dinner times, and on the odd evening, you’ll find him hoofing it down to the VILLAGE INN at Mesty Croft, particularly in the summer. Sam is given his reward, a pint of Hansons mild from his own glass. And naturally his digestive system soon gets to work. That often means an exodus from the bar by some of the regulars who are keen gardeners, and prize nothing more than fresh horse manure. Two other regulars, Harry Timmins and Brian Sadler, also have horses, and are known to contribute to the growth of prize onions and leeks in the area.

The VILLAGE, a modern pub on an estate, was built in 1985 to replace a much older building and is often heaving with sportsmen, drinkers, raconteurs and those who just like a rattle with their mates. Darlaston-born *Bill* took over the pub with his wife Kathleen nearly four years ago after a spell at the BELL in Bloxwich. He had worked as a part-time barman, found that he might be facing the ogre of redundancy, and picked up the towel full-time.

What with four darts teams, two dominos teams and one crib team, as well as countless customers to keep happy, *Bill* often finds his customers give more than a hand. Take Billy Connop, a 52-year-old former press operator, for example. For 12 years now, in the old and present pubs, Billy has taken it upon himself to go around with collecting jars, cajoling customers to contribute to charity. Due to Billy’s efforts and the customers pockets, they’ve raised something like £3,000 for Father Hudsons Homes as well as providing a fully-trained guide dog for a blind person. On top of that, they raised nearly £377 last year for the Royal National Institute for the Blind and are currently erecting a pile of pennies for a worthy cause.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/8/2002

“A fundraising event to get cash for a young Black Country football team will take place on Bank Holiday Monday. Wednesbury Town Boys need money for new strips, transport and other club facilities. On Monday they will host a fun day at VILLAGE INN, in Alma Road, Wednesbury, from 11am. Attractions will include a teddy tombola, bouncy castle, weigh the cake, and soak the coach competitions.....”

Carl Adams was born c.1975.

[2025]



2008



2025

Valuable FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, "THE VILLAGE INN," Mesty Croft, Wednesbury.—To be Sold by Auction.

By Mr. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD, at the Property Mart, Church Street, Wednesbury (by order of the Trustees of the Estate of the late Mr. Thomas Waring, Deceased). TO-MORROW (Tuesday), August 13, at 6 for 7 o'clock precisely, subject to conditions which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, and be produced at the time of sale—the important Corner FREEHOLD OLD-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known by the sign of "THE VILLAGE INN," situate at the corner of Elwell Street, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury, comprising three Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Bar-parlour, Kitchen, large dry Cellar, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable with loft over, Cart Shed, Brass-casting Shops, Yard with draw in gateway, and Out-buildings thereto, now in the occupation of the Vendors.

Possession of the Property will be given up on completion of the purchase.

Further particulars may be obtained from Messrs. Duignan, Lewis, Williams, and Elliott, Solicitors, Walsall; from the Auctioneer, Church Street, Wednesbury; or from Mr. Joseph Smith, Solicitor, 9, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

Unreserved Sale, at the Village Inn, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury.

MR. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD has received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. Thomas Waring to Sell by Auction, THIS DAY (Monday), September 2, at 11 o'clock—the Modern FURNITURE, comprising iron Bedsteads, Palliasses, Chairs, oak Desk, mahogany Cupboard, mahogany-frame Sofas, mahogany Tables, 8-day English Clocks, Timepiece, Benches, 4-pull stop-tap Ale Machine, Ale and Liquor Measures, Jugs, Glasses, Oil Paintings, iron Safe, &c., &c. The Sale includes a capital 12-bushel Mash Tub, Ale Coolers, a useful brown Cob, 14 hands high; Harness, Cart Tackle, Spring Trap, Heavy Cart, Chaff Machine, patent Malt Crusher, wood Patterns, brass and iron Patterns, Core Boxes, Moulding Boxes, Tongs, Casting Pots, Fire Bricks, and numerous other Effects.

VINE

34, Alma Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1961]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Danks [1866] – [1871]
Mrs. Maria Danks [1881]
John Hall [1891] – [1894]
William Edwards [1901]
James Boynton [1911] – [1923]
John Freeman [1929] – [1940]
William Henry Hornby [1957] – **1963**;
George John Pearson (**1963**):



1957

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/8/1866

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions yesterday (Tuesday), before Mr. Spooner, the Stipendiary, *Benjamin Danks*, of New Town, was charged with keeping open his house for the sale of beer at twenty-five minutes past three on Sunday, the 19th instant.

Police-constable Walton said he went to defendant’s house and saw a man coming out of the house at twenty minutes past three in the afternoon with a jug of ale, and saw a number of persons in the garden drinking.

Mr. Sheldon, who appeared for the accused, called a number of witnesses, who stated that no beer was fetched after three o’clock.

The evidence was very conflicting, and the Stipendiary said he considered the case proved out of the mouths of the defendant’s witnesses, and that a gross fraud had been attempted to be perpetrated on the Court. If it had only been an ordinary case he should have inflicted a small fine, but under the circumstances he should fine the defendant £1 and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/9/1868

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Benjamin Danks* was summoned for keeping open his house for the sale of liquors during prohibited hours. Police-constables Richards and Hume proved having visited the defendant’s house at twenty minutes past eleven o’clock on Saturday night, and found three men inside, and a fine of 40s and costs was inflicted.”

1871 Census

34, Alma Street

- [1] *Benjamin Danks* (62), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Maria Danks* (58), born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Martha Millner* (32), daughter, widow, domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Benjamin Millner* (13), grand-son, scholar, born Wednesbury:

Benjamin Danks died in the 4th quarter of 1877.

1881 Census

34, Alma Street

[1] *Maria Danks* (68), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Droitwich;

[2] *Elizabeth Busby* (15), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Maria Danks died in the 3rd quarter of 1889.

1891 Census

34, Alma Street – VINE INN

[1] *John Hall* (60), widower, beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;

[2] *Harriett Witton* (60), widow, housekeeper, born Hadley, Shropshire;

[3] *Mary A. Southall* (16), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/5/1892

“*Edwin James Millward*, 55, clerk, Kings Hill, was charged with embezzling £1 3s, the moneys of his employers, the Patent Shaft and Axletree Company, with falsifying the cash-book of which he had charge, and, in conjunction with *George Fletcher*, Hobbs Hole brickyard, with conspiracy. Mr. G. Rose appeared for the company and Mr. W. S. Smith for the defence.

The charge of embezzlement alone was gone into, and evidence was adduced showing that about the 25th of March the accused, who had charge of Blackham Brickyard, Kings Hill, sold 8,000 bricks to Mr. *John Hall*, of the VINE INN, Wednesbury, but entered only 7,000 in the book and appropriated the difference, £1 3s.

In cross-examination, Mr. Davis, general colliery manager, said the defendant had been in the employ of the company six or seven years, his wages being 23s per week. He was a widower with three children. It could not be said that he had always been straightforward.

Mr. Smith pleaded for merciful consideration for his client, who was, he said, for many years in the service of Messrs. Addenbrooke, Smith, and Pidcock. When that firm was dissolved Millward entered the service of Muntz Metal Company for a time, and then he became a servant of the Patent Shaft Company. Misfortunes had followed him, however, and at the time when he yielded to temptation the bailiffs were in his house, and he was threatened with the break-up of his home, and the misery of seeing his children turned out of doors.

The Bench fined the accused £5 and costs, with the option of two months' imprisonment. The other charges were withdrawn.”

Birmingham Mail 18/12/1894

“Birmingham Autumn Assizes.....

An action was brought by *Mary Sheldon*, of the Oaklands, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, against *John Hall* the elder, of the VINE INN, Alma Street, Wednesbury, to recover £127, money lent and interest thereon. Mr. Disturnal and Mr. Slater (instructed by Mr. Wilkes, Wednesbury) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. A. R. Jelf, QC, and Mr. Plumtre (instructed by Thursfield and Messiter) for the defendant.

From the pleadings it appeared that in October 1880, and April 1881, the defendant's late wife borrowed sums of money from the plaintiff, amounting in all to £55. She died on August 22nd 1881, and in July 1882 the defendant agreed to pay the £55 in consideration of the plaintiff releasing the estate of his late wife, in which defendant was interested, from the claim of £55 owing to the plaintiff. This amount was now claimed for together with the agreed interest of £12 10s per annum from October 1888 to August 1894, amounting to £72 18s 4d, and raising the total claim to £127 18s 4d.

The defendant denied any agreement with the plaintiff, and contended that his wife never owed the £55, or any sum, except for a debt of £300 secured by a mortgage of certain freeholds, and which was paid off in or about January 1890. Mr. Jelf contended that it was preposterous to suppose a man in the position of his client would agree to pay 23½ per cent on this debt.

The Judge thought it a great hardship on defendant to bring this action after so many years. He asked if plaintiff would accept 5 per cent. An affirmative reply was given, and his Lordship said he would give that rate of interest. He gave judgement for plaintiff for £72 with costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1899 - Advert

“General Wanted, good Servant.

Apply, VINE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury.”

GENERAL Wanted, good Servant. Apply, Vine Inn, Newtown, Wednesbury

1901 Census

34, Alma Street – VINE INN

- [1] William Edwards (45), brewer, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mary Edwards (50), wife, born Langley;
- [3] Lily Edwards (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Arthur Skidmore (8), visitor, born Yorkshire;
- [5] Susan Edwards (35), sister, born Oldbury;

Walsall Observer 21/1/1905

“John Iliffe, two years and eight months old, of Piercey Street, Newtown, Wednesbury, has died under pathetic circumstances. On Tuesday the mother, whose husband had left her, and who was in poor circumstances, went out to try and earn a few coppers by clearing away the snow. She left deceased in charge of an elder child, but during the mother’s absence deceased got to the fire and ignited his clothing. The flames were extinguished by a man named John Saunders, and the child was attended by Dr. Garman, but death ensued the same night.

On Thursday Mr. A. A. Betham held an inquest on deceased at the VINE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury.

Evidence was given that the mother was the wife of a cycle-maker, who left her five months ago, and whose present whereabouts were unknown. His wife had since maintained herself, deceased, and another child by going out cleaning and selling firewood and other articles, their home consisting of a single room. On Tuesday, as she had neither food nor money in the house, she went out, thinking of earning a trifle by being set on to clear snow away. She obtained employment, and about an hour afterwards heard that deceased, who had been left with his brother, aged four, had been burned. A girl who was accustomed to looking after the children during the mother’s absence went to see if they were all right, and found deceased standing in front of the fire with his clothes burning. A man named John Saunders wrapped his coat around the child and extinguished the flames, afterwards taking deceased to the surgery of Dr. Garman. The child was, however, burned beyond recognition, and died later in the day.

Saunders stated that when he arrived on the scene there were a number of people about, but they were too shocked to try and remove the burning clothing. There was no fireguard in the house, and the mother explained that she had formerly possessed one, but had been compelled to sell it.

The Deputy Coroner said the mother appeared to have done her best for the children’s welfare under adverse circumstances, but she had certainly been negligent in leaving two children alone with an unprotected fire. Parents must know that children would play with fire if they had the opportunity.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and stated that under the circumstances they exonerated the mother from blame.”

1911 Census

Alma Street – VINE INN

- [1] James Boynton (33), publican, born Normanton, Yorkshire;
- [2] Edith Elizabeth Boynton (32), wife, married 9 years, assisting in business, born Walsall;
- [3] Bernard Boynton (8), son, born Great Barr;
- [4] James Boynton (6), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Harry Boynton (3), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Elizabeth Boynton (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Laura Boynton (2 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/8/1912

“Inquiries are being made by the Wednesbury police respecting the singular disappearance of a boy named Bernard Boynton, the ten-year-old son of Mr. *James Boynton*, of the VINE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury. The boy had been staying with his grandfather at Newton Road, near West Bromwich, and when last seen near to Newton Road railway station, on Tuesday afternoon, was accompanied by a middle-aged man whose identity is not known.

The lad was wearing a cricket shirt, green mixture trousers, blue washing jacket, light fawn cap, lace-up boots, and black stockings. A brook near the railway station has been searched for the boy, but he has not been found.”

Walsall Observer 17/8/1912

“The circumstances surrounding the recovery from the River Tame at Newton Road of the body of a ten-year-old boy were investigated by the County Coroner, Mr. Gerald C. Lewis, yesterday week.

The deceased, Bernard Boynton, is the son of the licensee of the VINE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury, and was on a visit to his grandmother, who last saw him alive on Tuesday midday. On the evening of that day a railway employee saw the lad walking along a footpath adjoining the railway line.

A miner named Bagnell, of West Bromwich, spoke to recovering the body from the river, which had been previously dragged. According to the police evidence there were no marks of violence on the body.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.’

1921 Census

Alma Street – VINE INN

[1] James Boynton (43), beerhouse keeper, born Normanton, Yorkshire;

[2] Elizabeth Boynton (42), wife, home duties, born Walsall;

[3] James Boynton (16), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] Harry Boynton (14), son, school, born Wednesbury;

[5] Elizabeth Boynton (11), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

[6] Ethel Boynton (6), daughter, school, born Wednesbury;

[7] Dorothy Boynton (1), daughter, born Wednesbury;

Sporting Chronicle 29/10/1921

“Rabbit Coursing.....

Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

Monday next, October 31, £16 Sweep for 16 dogs at £1 per dog. Weigh 1 o’clock; commence 2 o’clock prompt. All rabbits and referee free. Entries to *Boynton*, VINE INN, Wednesbury.”

South Staffordshire Times 1/9/1923

“Mesty Croft Peace Celebration. Mr. L. Norton presided over a meeting held at the VINE INN, Newtown, on Thursday night, when Mr. *J. Boynton* entertained the committee to supper.

The balance sheet was presented by Mr. F. Wilson, hon. secretary, which showed receipts £55 7s 1½d, expenditure £36 15s 1½d, leaving a balance of £18 12s.

During the evening Mr. *Boynton* on behalf of the committee, presented Mr. Wilson, secretary with an oak writing cabinet in recognition of his work. Mr. Wilson replied, and vote of thanks were passed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/8/1929

“As the result of a collision yesterday between a motor-cyclist with a pillion passenger and a five ton brewers lorry, near the traffic signal at the junction of the new Birmingham-Wolverhampton road and Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton, Jack Freeman, aged 18, of the VINE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury, was taken to the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, in a grave condition, suffering from a fractured skull. The pillion rider, Ruby Silk, aged 20, of Ray Villa, William Road, Wednesbury, escaped with cuts and bruises.”

Rugeley Times 23/7/1938

“Wednesbury Darts News.....

In the semi-final of the darts competition for the Rubin Cup, in aid of the funds of the Mesty Croft Carnival and Children’s Peace Treat, the MAZEPPA INN defeated the BRUNSWICK INN by six games to four. There was a large attendance present at the match, which was played at the MAZEPPA and the home side gained an early lead, BRUNSWICK being unable to get on level terms with them. The winners now meet VINE INN in the final match.”

Evening Despatch 31/5/1939

“These dogs were prize-winners.....

A well supported show was held at the VINE INN, Wednesbury, where bull terriers were the chief exhibits. Best dog was a Staffordshire bull terrier.....”

1939 Register

34, Alma Street

[1] John Freeman, date of birth 6/8/1873, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Sarah F. Freeman, dob 8/9/1874, household duties and assists in bar, married;

[3] John K. Wilkinson, dob 29/11/1921, motor body builder, single:

Birmingham Mail 20/8/1941 - Advert

"Standard Little 9 '33 overhauled resprayed splendid appearance Singer 14 '34 clutches change perfect running order offers after 6.30pm room wtd.

VINE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1948], [1962]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/1/1950 - Advert

"Wednesbury Victory Darts League.

A General Meeting to be held at VINE INN, Alma Street, Wednesbury, at 8pm, Tomorrow (Thursday) January 19, 1950. Business: Resignation and Nominations accepted. New Clubs welcomed."

Walsall Observer 8/12/1951 - Advert

"8 Yards Staircarpet, 2 large Sets Curtains, cheap.

VINE, Newtown, Wednesbury."

8 YARDS Staircarpet, 2 large Sets Curtains, cheap.—Vine, Newtown, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 9/2/1952 - Advert

"Modern Bedroom Suite, complete, good condition. Best offer. Room wanted.

VINE INN, Alma Street, Newtown, Wednesbury."

MODERN Bedroom Suite, complete, good condition. Best offer. Room wanted.—Vine Inn, Alma Street, Newtown, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 4/10/1952 - Advert

"10 Young Goslings, cheap; Laying Hens from 16/- Couple.

VINE, Newtown, Wednesbury."

10 YOUNG Goslings, cheap; Laying Hens from 16/- Couple.—Vine, Newtown, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 6/2/1953 - Advert

"Ten Score Hogs, Pigs; Battery Cages, sale, cheap.

VINE INN, Newtown, Wednesbury."

TEN Score Hogs, Pigs; Battery Cages, sale, cheap.—Vine Inn, Newtown, Wednesbury.

Walsall Observer 6/9/1957

"Mr. Berry Woollaston, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Woollaston, of 73, Spouthouse Lane, Great Barr, was married on Monday to Miss Brenda Marina Hornby, a teacher at Lichfield, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *W. H. Hornby*, of the VINE INN, Wednesbury. The service at St. Paul's, Wood Green, Wednesbury, was conducted by the Rev. W. Sidwell.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a ballerina-length dress of French lace, a Princess Ira Hat, and carried a bouquet of peach tea roses. She was attended by her sister, Mrs. Alberta Joan Burton, in a dress of peach nylon, and her cousin, Miss Rosemary Humphries, in white nylon. Mr. D. M. Hornby (bride's brother) was best man."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/11/1957

"Who owns a pigeon with the number NURP 52 WBB 55? Mr. *William Hornby*, licensee of the VINE INN, Alma Street, Mesty Croft, Wednesbury, and his wife, Nellie, would like to know. Mrs. *Hornby* found it in the bathroom about six months ago and the number was on a ring on its leg. She fed it, and after that it did not seem as if it wanted to go. Occasionally it went off, but she used to leave the bedroom window partly open and it would return and sleep on top of the wardrobe or on her pillow. Now the pigeon has got used to wandering about the house with Mr. and Mrs. *Hornby*'s pet dog and cat. Mrs. *Hornby* said, 'We have no idea where it could have come from. We do not even know whether it is a he or a she. I wish someone would claim it because it seems such a shame.'"

William Henry Hornby – see also PRINCE REGENT

It closed at 10.30pm on 15th November 1963.

VINE

7, Portway Road, (7, Portway Lane), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Francis Adams [1860] – [1864]
Francis Adams [1871] – [1896]
Mrs. Ann Adams [1900] – [1904]

NOTES

7, Portway Lane [1864], [1868], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1891], [1896]
7, Portway Road [1881], [1900], [1904]

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Portway Lane

- [1] Francis Adams (54), publican, born Oakengates, Shropshire;
- [2] Maria Adams (53), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Charlotte Westley (28), daughter, married, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Francis Adams (23), son, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Paul Adams (21), son, labourer in iron works, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Martha Adams (14), daughter, house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Mary Ann Adams (12), grand-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Maria Adams (10), grand-daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Alice Wright (19), niece, house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Moses Westley (4), grand-son, scholar, born Wednesbury;

Francis Adams married Ann Powell on 13th April 1862.

Francis Adams beer retailer, 7, Portway Lane [1864]

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/11/1864

“Charles Loxton, of Wednesbury, formerly agent for the Burton Brewery Company, was charged with having, at the County Court of Staffordshire held at Walsall, on the 2nd instant, committed wilful and corrupt perjury. It appeared that on the day in question defendant was sued for non-payment of an account, £7 6s 6d, due to a Mr. Adams, and, upon being sworn and examined upon oath, denied having in the month of July 1860 borrowed £3 from Adams, and the Judge ordered the defendant to be prosecuted for perjury, and adjourned the case till the 23rd instant. Mr. Glover prosecuted; and Mr. Sheldon, of Wednesbury, defended.

Adams, Mrs. Harriet Diggett, with whom Adams cohabited at the time he lent the money, and her mother, Mrs. Deely, were called to prove that the money was lent. Adams, in his cross-examination, admitted that he had caused to be sent to defendant an account in September 1861 in which the item of £3 was not entered. He also admitted that he kept no books and had made no memorandum of the transaction. He, however, remembered it was July 1860 and on the morning after defendant had given a supper at Adams's house. He could not remember which day of the week the money was lent; it was lent in the bar parlour. At the time he lent the money he owed the Burton Brewery Company about £34, but did not give the £3 in part payment of that account. Diggett, who, since Adams had returned

to his wife at the VINE, Wednesbury, had got married to a man named Collins, by whom she had been deserted, and her mother, Mrs. Deely, both corroborated *Adams's* evidence as to the lending of the £3 in the taproom on the morning after the supper given by defendant.

The Bench, after hearing the evidence, dismissed the case."

AND

"*Adams v Loxton*. This was an action brought by *Francis Adams*, of Wednesbury, formerly of the Pleck, to recover from Charles Loxton the sum of £7 6s 6d. On the former hearing of the case, on the 2nd instant, his Honour expressed an opinion that perjury had been committed. A charge of perjury was consequently brought against Loxton, but was dismissed, as stated in our police report. Today his Honour, after hearing the evidence, gave a verdict for the plaintiff, less the £3 which Loxton swore he had never borrowed from the plaintiff, who said he had lent it to defendant in the month of July 1860."

Francis Adams – see also ROSE HILL TAVERN.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1865 - Advert

"Lost, on the 12th of August, a Liver-coloured and White Spaniel Dog, Short Tail. Answers to the name of 'Ben.' Any one bringing him to *Francis Adams*, Portway Lane, VINE INN, Wednesbury, will be Rewarded. If detained after this notice, will be prosecuted."

LOST, on the 12th of August, a Liver-coloured and White SPANIEL DOG. Short Tail. Answers to the name of "Ben."—Any one bringing him to Francis Adams, Portway Lane, Vine Inn, Wednesbury, will be Rewarded. If detained after this notice, will be prosecuted.

Francis Adams beer retailer, Portway Lane [1868]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/6/1868

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before the Stipendiary, the following persons were summoned.....

Francis Adams, Portway Lane, house open during improper hours on the 10th inst, fined 1s and costs."

Francis Adams beer retailer, 7, Portway Lane [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

7, Portway Lane

- [1] *Francis Adams* (65), retired publican, born Shropshire;
- [2] *Maria Adams* (63), wife, born Wednesbury, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Francis Adams* (32), son, publican, born Bilston;
- [4] *Ann Adams* (28), daughter-in-law, publican, born Bilston;
- [5] *Joseph Adams* (8), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Eliza Adams* (6), grand-daughter, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Samuel Adams* (4), grand-son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [8] *Francis Adams* (2), grand-son, born Bilston;
- [9] *Mosely Westly* (15), grand-son, assistant ironworker, born Bilston;
- [10] *Mary Ann Davis* (17), adopted child, general servant, born Bilston:

1881 Census

Portway Lane – VINE INN

- [1] *Francis Adams* (43), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann Adams* (37), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Joseph Adams* (18), son, ironworker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Eliza Adams* (15), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Samuel Adams* (13), son, labourer in forge, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Francis Adams* (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Edward Adams* (8), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *William Adams* (5), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Frederick Adams* (2), son, born Wednesbury;
- [10] *Clara Adams* (4 months), daughter, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 28/2/1882

“*Francis Adams*, landlord of the VINE INN, Portway Road, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house, on the 7th inst.

The evidence for the prosecution was to the effect that the defendant’s daughter supplied two men named Burke and Rowlands with four or five pints of ale, the result being that Burke got very drunk, and upon going home, died, death being attributed to excessive drinking.

Defendant said he was not at home at the time the alleged offence was committed, and further stated that Burke obtained drink at several houses.

The Stipendiary dismissed the case, but remarked that it was a proper one to bring before the Court.”

1891 Census

7, Portway Lane – Public House

- [1] *Francis Adams* (53), beerhouse keeper, born Bilston;
- [2] *Ann Adams* (48), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Francis Adams* (21), son, iron worker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Edward Adams* (18), son, iron worker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *William Adams* (15), son, iron worker, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Frederick Adams* (12), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Clara Adams* (8), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [8] *Florence Adams* (5), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] *Rachel Bradshaw* (20), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Francis Adams died on 9th August 1892.

Francis Adams, beer retailer, Portway Lane. [1896]

Mrs. Ann Adams, beer retailer, 7, Portway Road. [1900], [1904]

1901 Census

Portway Lane

- [1] *Ann Adams* (57), widow, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *William Adams* (25), son, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Frederick Adams* (22), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Clara Adams* (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Florence Adams* (15), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Agnes Jones* (31), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

Closed

VOLUNTEER

Great Western Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Edward Jackson [1867] – 1869)

NOTES

William Edward Jackson = William Edwin Jackson

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/6/1869 - Advert

"Freehold Public House, Wednesbury, near the Great Western Railway Station.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Osbourn, at the GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, the 14th day of July, 1869, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions.

All that Freehold Messuage, or Public House, known by the sign of the VOLUNTEER, situate in Great Western Street, near the Great Western Railway Station, Wednesbury, and in the occupation of *William Edwin Jackson*.

The House comprises Tap Room, Parlour, Sitting Room, four Bed Rooms, and two excellent Cellars; and also the large Brew-house, Drying Ground, Blacksmith's Shop, Pigstyes, Cisterns, and Outbuildings to the said Public House belonging.

The Premises, which cover an area of 412 square yards, are in a very good state of repair, and offer an excellent opportunity to an enterprising tradesman.

A large portion of the purchase money may remain on mortgage of the Property.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Wilkinson and Gillespie, Solicitors, Walsall."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/4/1870 - Advert

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley.

In the Matter of *William Edward Jackson*, for upwards of one year and nine months, and until the month of June last past, residing in Great Western Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, carrying on the business of a Beerhouse Keeper, at a house known by the sign of the VOLUNTEER INN, and for six months last past residing in lodgings at Mrs. Phoebe Griffiths, No.19, Woodsetton, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Poulterer and Butter Dealer, adjudged Bankrupt on the 10th day of December, 1869. 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 9th day of April, 1870. T. B. COPE, High Bailiff."

FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE,
WEDNESBURY, near the Great Western Railway Station.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY Mr. JOHN OSBOURN, at the Great Western Hotel, Wednesbury, on WEDNESDAY, the 14th day of July, 1869, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions —All that FREEHOLD MESSUAGE, or PUBLIC HOUSE, known by the sign of "THE VOLUNTEER," situate in Great Western Street, near the Great Western Railway Station, Wednesbury, and in the occupation of William Edwin Jackson.

The House comprises Tap Room, Parlour, Sitting Room, four Bed Rooms, and two excellent Cellars; and also the large Brew-house, Drying Ground, Blacksmith's Shop, Pigstyes, Cisterns, and Outbuildings to the said Public House belonging.

The Premises, which cover an area of 412 square yards, are in a very good state of repair, and offer an excellent opportunity to an enterprising tradesman.

A large portion of the purchase money may remain on mortgage of the Property.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Wilkinson and Gillespie, Solicitors, Walsall.

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF WORCESTERSHIRE,
HOLDEN AT DUDLEY.
IN the Matter of WILLIAM EDWARD JACKSON, for upwards of one year and nine months, and until the month of June last past, residing in Great Western Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, carrying on the business of a Beerhouse Keeper, at a house known by the sign of the "Volunteer Inn," and for six months last past residing in lodgings at Mrs. Phoebe Griffiths, No. 19, Woodsetton, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, Poulterer and Butter Dealer, adjudged Bankrupt on the 10th day of December, 1869. 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 judgment of the Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.—Dated this 9th day of April, 1870.
T. B. COPE, High Bailiff.

WAGGON AND HORSES

High Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Susannah Disturnal [1834] – [1842]

John Disturnal [1849] – [1851]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Susannah Disturnal, beer retailer, High Street. [1835], [1841]

1841 Census

High Street

[1] *Susanna Disturnal* (70), shopkeeper and publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *John Disturnal* (30), hay dealer &c, born Staffordshire;

[3] *Susanna Rock* (20), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Emma Jeavons* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Susannah Disturnal, retailer of beer, High Street. [1842]

Susannah Disturnal died in the 2nd quarter of 1846.

John Disturnal, corn, flour, provision dealer and retail brewer, High Street. [1849]

1851 Census

High Street East

[1] *John Disturnal* (43), corn dealer and beer seller, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah Disturnal* (28), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *John Disturnal* (2), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Sarah Callear* (20), house servant, born Tipton;

[5] *Elizabeth Powell* (16), house servant, born Wednesbury:

WESTPORT

Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Ward [1863] – [1864]
Faithful Wright [1864]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1863

“At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, *John Ward*, landlord of the WESTPORT TAVERN, Holyhead Road, applied for sureties of the peace against Anthony Keneally. The defendant, who was proved to have visited the complainant’s house several times during the past three weeks, and to have made use of threats towards him, was ordered to be bound over to keep the peace for six months.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/10/1863

“On Saturday, at the West Bromwich Police Court, Mary Connor, a young woman, about two-and-twenty years of age, was brought before Mr. W. Sharp and Mr. T. Kenrick charged with stealing a quantity of wearing apparel, the property of *John Ward*, beerhouse keeper, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury. The prosecutor stated that the prisoner had been in his employment in the capacity of servant. On the 3rd of October, at about three o’clock in the morning, she absconded, taking with her two shawls, stockings, &c, produced, value about 16s. One of the shawls had been lent her by Mrs. *Ward* the night before while she went on an errand.

Police-sergeant Gasson stated that the prisoner had been taken into custody at Wolverhampton and brought before the Stipendiary on Wednesday last, but as there was little business at the Police Court that day, and the prosecutor was late, the case was dismissed. When the prosecutor came Police-sergeant Gasson re-apprehended the prisoner. She was wearing one of the shawls, and the remainder of the stolen property was found in her possession.

The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sent to gaol for one month with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/5/1864

“Yesterday morning, Richard Careless, aged thirty-nine, a scrap dealer, of King Street, Wednesbury, died from the results, as there is some reason to believe, of injuries received in the course of a public house fight, on the 2nd instant. It seems that the deceased was at the house of Mr. Jeavons, the THREE SWANS INN, Holyhead Road, when a discussion arose as to the relative merits of the Pope and Garibaldi, and eventually the dispute rose so high that the deceased and a man named *John Ward*, the keeper of the WESTPORT ARMS beerhouse, Holyhead Road, got up to fight. *Ward*, it is stated, gave the first blow and knocked down the deceased, who in falling struck his face against one of the seats, and cut his cheek severely. The violence of the blow, or the force of the fall, or both, rendered him insensible, and he remained in the house in an unconscious state for several hours, when he was removed to his father’s residence in Foster Street.

Mr. J. C. Garman, surgeon, was called in, and on the following day, in consequence of a communication made by him to the police, *Ward* was apprehended and taken before the Stipendiary, who, upon learning that Careless was still in an unconscious state, made arrangements for having the sufferer’s depositions taken, and the prisoner liberated on bail, as circumstances might require. Careless, however, got better, and *Ward* was allowed to go at large. On Monday last, it appears, the deceased had so far recovered as to be able to go to his solicitors, and give instructions for the prosecution of his assailant; but soon after his return home on that night he again became worse, and unconsciousness soon supervened.

On Wednesday *Ward* was again taken into custody, and on the same day Mr. J. Bagnall, with Mr. Thursfield, magistrates clerk, attended at the deceased's bed-side, for the purpose of taking his depositions, but it was found that he was utterly unable to answer any interrogations had they been put to him.

Mr. Garman was unremitting in his attention to the deceased, who never rallied, however, after his relapse, but expired early yesterday morning. The deceased, who is said to have been the worse for liquor at the time of the affray, leaves a wife and family. A Coroner's enquiry will be opened in due course."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/5/1864

"Richard Careless, aged 37, a scrap-dealer, lately residing in King Street, Wednesbury, died yesterday week from the effects, as it is alleged, of injuries received in the course of a fight at a public house, on the 2nd inst. The inquest on the body of the deceased was held on Saturday, and by adjournment on Tuesday, before Mr. Hooper, coroner.... It appeared that he had visited the THREE SWANS on several occasions since the affray took place, and each time had had three or four glasses of liquor.

Mr. Garman, who had made a post mortem examination of the deceased's body, stated that there was a bruise on the right side of the head, and ecchymosis of the scalp beneath, corresponding to the bruise. He attributed death to ingravescient apoplexy, brought about by the extravasation of the blood on the brain, and the extravasation he looked upon as decidedly caused by the fall upon the screen and the consequent injury on the right side of the head. The deceased was not a healthy subject, his liver being nearly twice its size; the walls of his heart thin, with a deposit of fat; and the right kidney enlarged, and containing an unnatural amount of fat. He believed that the deceased had taken too much drink, and that this, added to the effects of excitement and the hot weather, would have a tendency to accelerate his death.

The jury found that Richard Careless died from a fall caused by a blow given by *John Ward*, the said *Ward* having received great provocation. They are also of opinion that Careless accelerated his own death by excessive drinking after the fall. The prisoner was then committed to take his trial for manslaughter at the ensuing assizes."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/7/1864

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes Bills Ignored.

The grand jury threw out the bills against *John Ward*, on bail, charged with the manslaughter of Richard Careless, on the 20th of May, at the parish of Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/12/1864

"Yesterday, at Wednesbury Petty Sessions.....

Faithful Wright, beerhouse keeper, WESTPORT TAVERN, Holyhead Road, was fined 2s 6d and costs for having kept open her house for the sale of ale during prohibited hours on Sunday week."

WHITE HORSE HOTEL

46, Bridge Street, ((Lower) High Street), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Messrs. Millward Bros. [1900]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1911], [1928]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1983]
Enterprise Inns [1990s]

LICENSEES

James Beddow [1818] – [1835]
Joseph Beddow [1841] – [1842]
David Lees [1845] – [1847]
Timothy Smith Millward [1851] – **1852**;
William Barratt **(1852 – [1866])**;
Rebecca Barratt [] – **1867**;
James Evans **(1867 – [])**
Joseph Bullock [1868] – **1869**;
James Evans **(1869 – 1870)**;
Joseph Gutteridge **(1870 – 1872)**;
Richard Sillitoe **(1872 – [1881])**
Charles McGuigan [1891] – [1896]
Philip Millward [1900]
James 'Jimmy' Mills [1900] – **1910** manager
Miss Harrison [1900] manager
Robert Alfred Collins [1911] – [1912] manager
William Perry [1916] – **1921**;
Reuben Job Butler **(1921 – 1925)**;
Mrs. Lilian Ross 'Lily' Butler **(1925 – 1928)**;
Alfred King **(1928 – [1931])**
Field [1931]
Frank Burns [1939] – **1945**
Henry Massey [1954] – [1967]
Mrs. M. P. Massey [1963]
Douglas 'Doug' Whitehouse [1978]
Mrs. Kay Whitehouse [1979]
Mrs. Sylvia Peach and Miss Susan D 'Sue' Ceney [1980] – **1984**
Keith Parker [1988] – [1991]



c1930



NOTES

High Street [1818], [1822], [1828], [1830], [1834], [1842], [1862]
Bridge Street [1865]
46, Bridge Street [1881], [1911], [1921], [1939], [1990]

The tram terminus was outside.

James Beddow was also a maltster. [1818]

1841 Census

Bridge Street

[1] Joseph Beddow (70), born Staffordshire;

[2] Hannah Jones (25), born Staffordshire;

[3] George Jones (21);

[4] Mary Parkes (30), born Staffordshire;

[5] Sarah Wood (20), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Joseph Beddow died on 22nd April 1843.

David Lees was the executor of Joseph Beddow.

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/4/1846 - Died

"On the 30th ult, Mrs. Elizabeth Lees, wife of Mr. *David Lees*, landlord of the WHITE HORSE INN, and coach-smith, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/8/1846

"Inquests before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner.

On Saturday last, at the WHITE HORSE INN, Wednesbury, on the bodies of William Bennett and Joseph Moore, killed by a fall of coal at Westbromwich. On Thursday afternoon last, at the THREE CROWNS INN, Westbromwich, on the body of John Wheatley, also killed by a fall of coal at the same place. Verdict in each case, Accidental Death."

Birmingham Journal 17/10/1846 - Advert

"Sale of a Freehold House and Premises, and Four Lots of Eligible Building Land.....

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. Cooksey, at the house of Mr. *David Lees*, the WHITE HORSE INN, Wednesbury, on Monday, the 19th day of October instant, at half-past Six o'clock in the evening....."

Birmingham Journal 23/6/1849 - Advert

"Very Desirable and Well Situated Old Licensed Public House, Two Freehold Dwelling Houses, and Valuable Freehold Building Land, in the Parishes of Wednesbury and West Bromwich, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. Dawes, on Friday Next, the 29th day of June, 1849.....

Lot 1. All that Substantial and old-established Freehold Public House, with the Stables, Carriage-house, Club Rooms, Garden, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the name of the WHITE HORSE INN, late in the occupation of Mr. *David Lees*, situate fronting to Bridge Street, in Wednesbury aforesaid, and near to the Station of the South Staffordshire Railway."

Birmingham Journal 27/7/1850 - Advert

"Very Desirable and Well-Situated Old Licensed Public House, called the WHITE HORSE, situate in the Parish of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph Dawes, on Monday, the 5th day of August, 1850, at the RED LION INN, Wednesbury, at Five for Six o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions as will be then produced.

All that substantial and old-established Freehold Public House, with the Stables, Carriage-house, Club Rooms, Garden, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the name of the WHITE HORSE INN, late in the occupation of Mr. *David Lees*, situate fronting to Bridge Street, in Wednesbury aforesaid, and near to the Station of the South Staffordshire Railway.

Further particulars may be had of Messrs. Corser and Underhill, Solicitors, Wolverhampton; or of the Auctioneer, Wednesbury."

1851 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] *Timothy Millward* (40), victualler and roller, born Tipton;
- [2] Ann Millward (36), wife, born Dudley Port;
- [3] John Millward (16), son, roller, born Dudley Port;
- [4] Elizabeth Millward (15), daughter, born Dudley Port;
- [5] Mary Millward (13), daughter, born Dudley Port;
- [6] Ann Millward (11), daughter, scholar, born Dudley Port;
- [7] Jane Millward (8), daughter, scholar, born Round Oak;
- [8] Joseph Millward (4), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [9] James Millward (3), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [10] Sarah Millward (2), daughter, born Wednesbury:

London Gazette 5/11/1852

“Whereas a Petition of *Timothy Smith Millward*, trading, known, and sued as Timothy Millward, formerly of Oldbury, Worcestershire, then of the ROSE HILL TAVERN, Church-hill, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Innkeeper and Iron Roller, then of Darlaston-road, Wednesbury aforesaid, Iron Roller, then of the WHITE HORSE INN, Wednesbury aforesaid, Innkeeper and Iron Roller, then and now of Kates-hill, Dudley, Worcestershire, Iron Roller, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Worcestershire, at Dudley, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Timothy Smith Millward*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Timothy Smith Millward* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 18th day of November instant, at nine 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 the choice of the creditors’ assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *Timothy Smith Millward*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Thomas Walker, Clerk of the said Court, at his office, at the Court House, Priory-street, Dudley, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

London Gazette 2/10/1855

“The following Prisoners, whose Estates and Effects have been vested in the Provisional Assignee by Order of the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors, and whose Petitions and Schedules, duly filed, have been severally referred and transmitted to the County Courts hereinafter mentioned, pursuant to the Statute in that behalf, are ordered to be brought up before the Judges of the said Courts respectively, as herein set forth, to be dealt with according to Law..... Before the Judge of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Wednesday the 17th day of October, 1855, at Eleven o’Clock in the Forenoon precisely.....

Timothy Smith Millward (sued as and trading in the name of Timothy Millward) heretofore of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, and Dealer in Spirituous Liquors and Tobacco, same time following the occupation of a Merchant Iron Roller, then of Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, first carrying on the aforesaid business, and following the said occupation of a Merchant Iron Roller, then of a Merchant Iron Roller only, then of a Licensed Victualler, and Dealer in Spirituous Liquors, and Iron Roller, then of Kates-hill, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, then of Dudley Port, Tipton, in the county of Stafford, then of Tividale, in the parish of Tipton, and county aforesaid, following, at such three last mentioned places, the aforesaid occupation of a Merchant Iron Roller, and occasionally working as a Labourer, then of Tividale aforesaid, Licensed Brewer and Retailer of Ale, Beer, Porter, and Tobacco, and Merchant Iron Roller, then a Prisoner for Debt in the Gaol of Worcester, in the county of Worcester, and late of Tividale aforesaid, Licensed Brewer, and Retailer of Ale, Beer, Porter, and Tobacco, and following the said occupation of a Merchant Iron Roller, and occasionally working as a Labourer.....

NB. 1. If any Creditor intends to oppose a Prisoner’s discharge, notice of such intention must be given to the said Prisoner, in writing, which may be left at the Gaol two clear days before the day of hearing above mentioned, exclusive of Sunday, and exclusive both of the day of giving such notice and of the said day of hearing.....”

William Barratt = William Barrett

Birmingham Journal 20/1/1855 - Advert

“Taken Up, on the 28th ultimo, at Wednesbury, a Red Dog, of the Retriever Breed. The Owner may have him again by paying the expenses of this advertisement and the keep, on applying to Mr. *Barrett*, WHITE HORSE INN, Wednesbury. If not claimed by the 31st inst, he will be Sold to defray the expenses.”

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *Barratt*, WHITE HORSE INN, Bridge Street.”

Walsall Free Press 19/1/1861

“About seven o’clock on Sunday morning, a pointsman at the Wednesbury station of the South Staffordshire Railway, noticed something lying on the rails, a short distance from the Ridding Lane bridge, and upon approaching was horrified to find that it was the mutilated remains of a human being, evidently mangled by a train. The upper part of the head was cut off, and the frozen brains and blood about indicated that the body of deceased must have been there all night. The remains were speedily conveyed to the WHITE HORSE, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and circulars were issued as soon as possible, in order that the identity of the body might be ascertained.

From inquiries made on the spot it was ascertained, subsequently confirmed by the evidence before the coroner, that deceased resided at Netherton, near Dudley, that his name was John Hodgkiss, and that he was a married man, and the father of six children. It was also found that he had been employed as doggy at the Freer Park Colliery. He left a public house at Mesticroft about nine o’clock on Saturday night, saying he had only four minutes to get to the train at Wednesbury; and, as he would have had about a mile to walk had he gone the usual way, it is supposed that he crossed the embankment, and got on to the line with the intention of taking a short cut, and so met with his death by being knocked down by a passing train.

On Tuesday evening an inquest was held at the WHITE HORSE, before C. Hooper, Esq, district coroner, and a highly respectable jury. The evidence given upon that occasion showed nothing in addition to the facts we have given, except that an opinion was expressed by one witness that deceased was in company with a cousin of his when he attempted the short cut along the line.

After the summing up of the coroner, the jury immediately returned the verdict that deceased met with his death in consequence of being knocked down by a locomotive, while walking upon the South Staffordshire Railway, to the Wednesbury station.”

1861 Census

Bridge Street

- [1] *William Barratt* (60), victualler, born Forton, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Rebecca Barratt* (53), wife, born Forton, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Charles Hamberton* (22), nephew, marine tube maker, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Richard Sillitoe* (26), nephew, gas fitting maker, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Rebecca Sillitoe* (22), niece, on visit, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Elizabeth Lawton* (18), house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *James Brakwell* (69), lodger, retired, late mail cart driver, born Mamble, Worcestershire;
- [8] *David Williams* (24), lodger, tailor, born Caules, Montgomeryshire;
- [9] *Edward Tibbitts* (22), lodger, tailor, born New Town, Montgomeryshire;
- [10] *Joseph Hutchinson* (40), lodger, tailor, born Burslem. Staffordshire;

William Barratt – see also CHURCH HILL TAVERN.

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/5/1862 - Advert

"Champion, the property of W. Yeomans and Brothers, Pennymore Hay, near the Four Ashes, Wolverhampton, will serve Mares this season. He was bred by Mr. Charles Groom, Snape Abbey, Suffolk. At £3 3s each Mare, and 5s the Groom, the Groom's fee to be paid at the time of serving, and the remainder at Midsummer next.

Champion as a trotter stands unrivalled in England, and for colour, temper, symmetry, constitution, and actions, is not to be surpassed. He is a splendid and well-bred horse; stands 16 hands high; colour, a rich bay; perfectly sound; he has proved himself sure, and his colts are universally popular.....

On Tuesday Champion will be at the COACH AND HORSES, Stourbridge, from nine till ten; the CASTLE INN, Dudley, from one till three; BRITANNIA INN, Tipton, at four; WHITE HORSE, High Street, Wednesbury, all night....."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1863

"On Thursday morning the dead body of a man with his head frightfully mutilated, apparently by a passing train, was found on the London and North-Western Railway at Greens Bridge, near Wednesbury. The body was taken up and removed to the WHITE HORSE INN, where it was visited by several hundred persons, and was eventually identified as that of George Baylis, a single man, fifty years of age, living with his father at Spring Head, Wednesbury, and employed in a gas tube manufactory. He left his home it seems on Saturday week to draw his pension, he having formerly belonged to a cavalry regiment. Since that time he has been seen drinking at various public houses in the neighbourhood. No money was found in the pockets of the deceased."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/8/1863

"Last Tuesday afternoon the inquest on the body of George Bayliss, which has twice been adjourned, was held at the WHITE HORSE INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, by the Coroner.

Police-constable Whetton gave additional testimony respecting the body, and the mode of life which the deceased lived. He had been locked up at the station for vagrancy once or twice. Thomas Willcox, the engine-driver, who was the first to discover the body, having also given every information in his power, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, coupled with the suggestion that better fencing should be constructed on the railway."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/5/1866 - Deaths

"On the 9th instant, aged 65 years, Mr. *William Barratt*, of the WHITE HORSE INN, Wednesbury."

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].....

William Stevenson, builder, applied for a license for a new house in Stafford Street, Wednesbury.....

Mr. Ebsworth also opposed the application on behalf of *James Evans*, the occupier of the WHITE HORSE INN. He urged that this license was quite unnecessary. Granted."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1867 - Advert

"WHITE HORSE INN, Wednesbury. By E. B. Scholefield.

To be Sold, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above excellent, well-frequented Business House and Premises, with Liquor Shop, Yard, and Stabling. The Premises have only changed hands four times during the last 45 years.

Auctioneer's Office, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/1/1870

"At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, before Mr. Spooner, a young woman named Catherine Carney, domestic servant to *Joseph Gutteridge*, of the WHITE HORSE, in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was charged with assaulting the landlady of the house and breaking a jar.

Mr. *Gutteridge*, in stating the case, said that the prisoner had been provided with too good a place at his house; and a few days ago she got possession of some vermin powder, and said she would destroy herself. He believed her to be as good and honest a girl as ever walked; but on the previous night she threatened to break the windows in the house, and he wanted protection.

Mr. Spooner ordered that the prisoner should be kept in charge, and examined by a surgeon as to her saneness. If she proved to be affected mentally she would be removed to the Union."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1870

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, *Joseph Gutteridge*, of the WHITE HORSE INN, Bridge Street, was fined 5s and costs for permitting drunkenness in his house on Wednesday, after midnight.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1870 - Advert

“To be Let (a first-class opportunity to a party wishing for a small concern), Shopping, with Steam Engine, Boiler, Lathes, Tools, Vices, &c.

Apply, WHITE HORSE INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

TO be LET (a first-class opportunity to a party wishing for a small concern), SHOPPING, with Steam Engine, Boiler, Lathes, Tools, Vices, &c.—Apply, White Horse Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

Bridge Street – WHITE HORSE

[1] *Joseph Gutteridge* (44), manager of gas tube works and innkeeper, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Eliza Gutteridge* (38), wife, born Grindon, Herefordshire;

[3] *John Gutteridge* (13), son, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Jane Gutteridge* (11), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Eliza Gutteridge* (10), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;

[6] *Annie Gutteridge* (6), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[7] *Ada Gutteridge* (2), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[8] *Eliza Williams* (15), servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1871 - Advert

“To be Let, the WHITE HORSE INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, together with extensive Shopping, fitted-up with an excellent three-horse Steam Engine and Boiler, in good working condition; also, a 7-inch Centre Slide and Screw-cutting Lathe, and various other Lathes, Vices, and Tools. An extensive Yard, Stabling, Garden, &c. Satisfactory reasons given by the present Proprietor for disposing of the Business.

Apply on the Premises.”

Joseph Gutteridge – see also TOWN HALL, Wednesbury, and THREE FURNACES, West Bromwich..

It was the starting point for the Wednesbury Strollers FC annual handicap steeplechase. [1870s]

Richard Sillitoe was also a manufacturer of wrought iron gas fittings.

County Express 15/4/1876

“On Monday afternoon the half-yearly meeting of delegates of the Greets Green and Wednesbury district of Foresters was held at the WHITE HORSE INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. The district comprises thirty-four courts, located at West Bromwich, Hill Top, Wednesbury, Darlaston, Bilston, Willenhall, Tividale, Great Bridge, Wolverhampton, Moxley, Ettingshall, Brierley Hill, and Deepfields, and the number of members is 2, 409.....

The report of the district accounts was read by Bro. Cattell, DGA. The last report showed 15 deaths, causing an outlay of £110, but during the past six months there has been 24 deaths, absorbing £185. We cannot attribute those deaths to any epidemic such as cholera or small-pox, but the diseases have been of a general character.....

The funeral fund showed that the amount received as entrances and levies was £165 12s 8d, while the payments have been £201 16s, causing a withdrawal from the bank to meet the deficiency.....

The distress gift fund has paid out £2 relief to one of our own members, and a payment of £5 0s 5d to the High Court Fund for general distribution.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1880

“WHITE HORSE INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. To Brewers, Publicans, Coopers, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. E. B. Scholefield has received instructions from Mr. *Richard Sillitoe* (who is relinquishing the Brewing part of his Business), to Sell By Auction, on Monday Next, at 11 o'clock.

The whole of the excellent Brewing Vessels, comprising a 200-gallon copper Boiler, a 200-gallon wrought-iron Boiler, a 20-bushel Mash Tub, an excellent Coil Refrigerator, nearly new; Ale Coolers, English oak Ale Casks, Working Tub, oval Coolers, round Tub, Tables, Chairs, &c, &c. The Sale includes a very handsome grey Cob, brown Pony, 13 hands high; silver-plated Harness, well-built Dogcarts, Gig, Wagonette, strong Cart, and numerous other valuable Effects.”

Wednesbury Herald 10/2/1881

“The general meeting of Wednesbury Cricket Club was held at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday, February 8th, when the following officers were duly elected.

President, R. Williams Esq; Vice presidents, J. Slater Esq, C. W. Graham Esq, Wailes, Esq; captain (1st team), W. Ansell; captain (2nd team), B. Whitley; hon. treasurer, E. Powell; hon. secretary, Samuel Tranter; committee, R. Middleton, Jackson, T. Edwards, P. Millward, G. Millward, T. Price, J. Collett, J. Fellows, and B. J. Davies.”

1881 Census

46, Bridge Street – WHITE HORSE INN

- [1] *Richard Sillitoe* (46), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Maria Sillitoe* (40), wife, born, West Bromwich;
- [3] *Jane Sillitoe* (13), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Jane Hughes* (22), general servant, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Lizzie Cooper* (17), general servant, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *William Beebee* (20), brewer, born Smockington, Leicestershire:

1891 Census

Bridge Street – WHITE HORSE

- [1] *Charles McGuigan* (59), licensed victualler, born Chelsea, Middlesex;
- [2] *Hannah McGuigan* (60), wife, born Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire;
- [3] *Caroline McGuigan* (24), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Alberta McGuigan* (16), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Matilda Cornfield* (20), domestic servant, born Tipton;
- [6] *Arthur Lockwood* (16), billiard marker, born Stoke Ash, Norfolk:

Charles McGuigan – see also PLOUGH AND HARROW, Wednesbury, and SWAN, Swan Village, West Bromwich.

Messrs. Millward Bros., brewers and maltsters, WHITE HORSE. [1900]

Walsall Observer 21/7/1900

“At the Wednesbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before the Stipendiary (Mr. N. C. A. Neville), Messrs. Millward Brothers, brewers and maltsters, of Dudley Street, Wednesbury, were summoned for permitting drunkenness on their licensed premises, the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on 6th June. Mr. A. Turton appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Willcock defended.

Mr. Turton explained that Messrs. Millward were the holders of the license of the house. About 2.30 in the afternoon of the 6th of June a man named Richard Rogers went into the house with a friend, named Richard Adams. They had a half pint of drink, which was supplied by one of the two barmaids who were left in charge, the manageress Miss *Harrison*, being away at the time. After that the men went for a walk, but they returned at eight o’clock in the evening, and were then joined by another man named Roberts. They were supplied with a pint of drink. When Rogers went in at eight o’clock he was sober. More drink was consumed by the men. An individual of the name of Forrester paid for half a pint of whisky, which was divided between the four. Another half pint of whisky was drunk, and at eleven o’clock the man Rogers was so very drunk that he had to be carried home. When taken home by Police-constable Bowler and Police-constable Maddox he was too drunk to sit in a chair, and did not recollect anything until the following morning.

Sergeant O’Leary subsequently saw the manageress regarding the affair, and she stated that she had been away from the house during the day, and did not return until after closing time. In reply to a question by the manageress, one of the barmaids, in the presence of Sergeant O’Leary, said Rogers was sober when he came into the house, but not when he went out.

Several witnesses were called, and bore out Mr. Turton’s statements.

The man Richard Rogers, who is a bad cripple, stated that when he was inside the house he felt sober. When he got outside, however, the change in the atmosphere affected his afflicted leg, and he found he could not walk. Witness, being a cripple, a very little drink got over him.

For the defence, Mr. Willcock stated that Messrs. Millward Brothers had held the license of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL for about ten years, and during that time no complaint had to their knowledge been made against the house. They had altogether some twenty houses, and that was the first prosecution they had had for twenty-three years. He

(Mr. Willcock) argued that the man Rogers did not exhibit any signs of drunkenness whilst in the house, and he asked the Stipendiary to say that, whilst the case was a proper one for investigation, those in charge were not aware of the man's condition.

Elizabeth Phipps gave evidence, and said Rogers was sober when in the house.

The Stipendiary said he believed the man Rogers was drunk, and also that Miss Phipps knew of his condition. Bearing in mind the previous good character of the house, he would only inflict a small penalty of £1 and costs, in all £4 5s 6d."

Philip Millward was also a maltster, Booth Street. [1900]

1901 Census

Bridge Street – WHITE HORSE HOTEL

- [1] *James Mills* (56), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *Annie Mills* (49), wife, born Handsworth;
- [3] *Blanche Mills* (24), daughter, barmaid, born Handsworth;
- [4] *Percy Mills* (22), son, billiard marker, born Handsworth;
- [5] *Alice Mills* (19), daughter, barmaid, born Handsworth;
- [6] *Gordon Mills* (15), son, commercial clerk, born Birmingham;
- [7] *Victoria Mills* (13), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [8] *Emma Goodman* (32), cook, born Stafford:

Walsall Observer 8/3/1902

"The eighteen Wednesbury Volunteers who are about to leave for South Africa with the new service company, together with a number of leading inhabitants of the town, were entertained on Monday night by the Mayor (Councillor A. E. Pritchard) at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL.

The Mayor gave 'Success to the Wednesbury Volunteers,' and observed that the town was proud of the gallant men who in a few days were to embark for the seat of war in South Africa.....

Councillor Knowles also supported the toast, which was heartily drunk, and afterwards each of the eighteen men was presented with a purse of gold, pipes, tobacco, &c."

Tipton Herald 4/4/1903

"The second annual supper in connection with the fitting shop of the Kings Hill Foundry, Wednesbury, was held at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday, when 50 sat down Great praise is due to Mr. *Mills* for the way in which he catered....."

WHITE HORSE HOTEL (*James Mills*, manager), Bridge Street. [1904]

James Mills – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON, Lower High Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1904 - Correspondence

"To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, The other day I was in a stationer's shop, next door was a dealer in fruit. A purchaser threw down on the pavement a banana skin. A passer-by trod on it, and fell as if shot. The back of his head just missed the step; an inch or two saved him from the probability of death. A week ago a gentleman was about to take the electric car at the WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury. His right leg shot from under him, and he was down in a confused heap. He had trodden on a banana skin, and was unable to rise, though mercifully he sustained no injury beyond the shake.

May I ask your readers to refrain from throwing skins on the pavement.....

A Traveller. September 24."

Railway News 15/6/1907

"South Staffordshire Tramways. Report for 1906.....

The old electric tramway from the WHITE HORSE INN, Wednesbury, to the Walsall boundary has been reconstructed, and was opened for service on the 20th March last....."

Trams to Handsworth also ran from here. [1909]

Walsall Advertiser 13/2/1909

"The first annual dinner in connection with the Staffordshire Metallurgical Old Boys Association was held at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening....."

Walsall Advertiser 11/9/1909 - Advert

"Youth, smart, respectable, for windows, yard, billiards, with good references; immediately.
Parke, WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury."

YOUTH, smart, respectable, for windows,
yard, billiards, with good references;
immediately.—Parke, White Horse Hotel,
Wednesbury.

Wednesbury Herald 11/3/1911

"The third annual dinner in connection with the Staffordshire Old Boys' Metallurgical Association was held at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening. At the meeting preceding the dinner the secretary gave a report of the winter work, four meetings having been held at which most interesting and instructive papers had been given....."

1911 Census

46, Bridge Street

- [1] Robert Alfred Collins (37), hotel manager, born Hinckley, Leicestershire;
- [2] Blanche Collins (37), wife, married 10 years, hotel manageress, born Stafford;
- [3] Emily Anne Stevenson (66), widow, hotel cook, born Lugwardine, Herefordshire;
- [4] Edith Sally Collins (8), daughter, school, born Warwick;
- [5] Michael Alfred Carr Collins (6), son, school, born Warwick;
- [6] Minnie Maria Hill (23), hotel waitress, born Lye;
- [7] Eliza Dawes (20), housemaid, born West Bromwich:

Robert Alfred Collins – see also DUN COW, Walsall.

It was headquarters of the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire, and North Worcestershire Minimum Wage Council. [1913]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 12/9/1918 - Advert

"Wanted, good Bar-General; references required.
Apply, W. Perry, WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, good Bar-General; references re-
quired.—Apply, W. Perry, White Horse
Hotel, Wednesbury.

South Staffordshire Times 18/10/1919

"On Tuesday evening, after a short illness, Mrs. Teresa Perry, wife of Mr. William Perry, lessee of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, passed away at the age of 62 years. Mr. Perry has received many expressions of condolence for his loss."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/6/1921

"The death has occurred of Mr. William Perry, a well known licensed victualler at Wednesbury, who until recently was licensee of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL."

1921 Census

46, Bridge Street – WHITE HORSE

- [1] Reuben Job Butler (50), hotel manager, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Lily Butler (42), wife, home duties, born Walsall;
- [3] Mary Butler (10), daughter, school, born West Bromwich;
- [4] John Butler (8), son, school, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Gordon Butler (6), son, school, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Susan Merrick (23), domestic servant, born Great Bridge;
- [7] Martha Merrick (16), domestic servant, born Great Bridge:

Dudley Chronicle 10/4/1924

"The through service of Birmingham Municipal tramcars from Colmore Row to West Bromwich, Wednesbury (WHITE HORSE HOTEL), and Dudley (Railway Bridge), was satisfactorily inaugurated on April 1st. The boon of travelling between the city and the places mentioned in top-covered cars, without a change, was evidently appreciated. The through running has been made possible by an arrangement between the Birmingham City Tramways Department, the West Bromwich Town Council, and the South Staffordshire Tramways Company....."

South Staffordshire Times 21/6/1924

"Wednesbury Police Court.....

John Webb (47), 37 Clarendon Street, Bloxwich, was summoned for obstructing the highway with a motor car on June 18th.

PS Waldron stated that he saw a car standing outside the WHITE HORSE at the bottom of Lower High Street at 12.53pm on June 18th. It was unattended, and at 1pm the defendant came out of the taproom of the WHITE HORSE. He spoke to defendant about the offence, but it was not until nine minutes afterwards he moved away. The officer added that the spot was the termini of the Birmingham, Walsall and Darlaston cars, and any vehicle standing between the Birmingham and Walsall trams and the footpath completely obstructed the roadway, and vehicles would have to divert on to their wrong side of the road at risk of meeting traffic coming the other way.

Mr. William E. Brown (for the defendant): Did you ask him whether he knew there was a place he could park the car? – No.

Giving evidence, the defendant said he knew nothing about Wednesbury, and was not aware that he had pulled up in a dangerous spot.

The Chairman said the Bench agreed that defendant did not realize the seriousness of the offence, and in the circumstances he would have to pay 6s 6d costs."

South Staffordshire Times 19/7/1924

"There was a large gathering of the Grand Surrey Banner of the R.A.O.B., at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Tuesday evening....."

Bilston & Willenhall Times 31/1/1925

"Many hundreds of people assembled at the WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury, on Saturday evening, to see the illuminated tram car, which, attended by tramwaymen in uniform, was making an appeal on behalf of the West Bromwich and District Hospital. The crowd began to assemble for a long time before the vehicle arrived, and police officers were kept busy arranging a clear passage for traffic. When the car was seen it caused ejaculations of wonderment and praise, inasmuch as it was prettily decorated with hundreds of small lights. In fact it was covered with them from the end of the trolley pole to the wheels. Selections were played by a band, and collectors had a busy time. Several articles which had been given on route were sold and re-sold, and we are informed that the institution will benefit considerably as a result of the effort."

1926 Probate

"*Reuben Job Butler* of WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, died 23 December 1925. Administration Lichfield 31 May to *Lilian Ross Butler*, widow. Effects £70."

Dudley Chronicle 8/4/1926

"There were no fewer than eleven cases before the magistrates at Wednesbury Court last week, in respect of chimneys being on fire.....

Lilian Rose Butler, WHITE HORSE HOTEL, was fined 7s 6d."

Rugeley Times 11/11/1927

"Today (Saturday) members of Wednesbury Harriers are requested to meet at the WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury, at 2-30pm for New Inns, Handsworth, for league race. Included in this race will be a sealed handicap for members of this club, when five splendid prizes will be competed for."

Bilston and Willenhall Times 20/10/1928

"A distressing discovery was made at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Lower High Street, Wednesbury, on Sunday morning when the licensee Mrs. *Lilian Ross Butler*, a widow, was found in the cellar with a tube, which had been affixed to a gas jet, in her mouth. Medical aid was summoned, and the police resorted to artificial respiration but it was of no avail.

Mrs. *Butler* was well known in Wednesbury, and held in the highest esteem by everyone, and her death came as a great shock to all who knew her. She had been licensee of the WHITE HORSE since the death of her husband nearly three years ago, and had carried on the business in an admirable manner. She leaves three children.

At a meeting of the Wednesbury Chamber of Trade on Monday evening, the Chairman (Mr. H. S. Goostry) said that before commencing the business he could not refrain from referring to the death of Mrs. *Butler*. She had been at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL all the time the Chamber of Trade had held the meetings there, and her death would be a great loss to the Chamber. He moved that a letter of condolence be sent to the family, and this was carried in silence. Mr. Frank Cooper (Coroner) held the inquest on Monday evening, sitting with a jury, the foreman being Mr. Charles Collins.

Miss Mary Butler said that at 2 o'clock on Sunday morning she went to bed with her mother, who on the way upstairs said she did not think she would sleep, and that she would be a nuisance to her. She had been unwell of late, suffering from her nerves chiefly, and Dr. Morris had attended her. She had said things on occasions, and once remarked, 'I am fed up with this. I will go and drown myself.' or something like that, but witness did not take any serious notice of this statement and treated it as a joke. When witness woke at 8 o'clock on Sunday morning her mother was not in bed, but there was nothing unusual in that, as she generally got up first. Later, Miss Biddulph, who lived in the house, brought up a cup of tea, and asked where her mother was. She replied that she did not know, and then a search was made, the body being discovered in the cellar.

Answering the Coroner, witness said that somehow she was not at all surprised, as her mother had been so ill of late, but she did not think she would do that.

Miss Daisy Biddulph spoke to noticing the cellar door open in the bar, and said there was a strong smell of gas. On going into the cellar she saw deceased lying on the floor with her head on the settle resting on two cushions. Witness shook her, and thought she was dead. Deceased had never said anything which would lead her to think she would do anything serious. Her nerves had been bad, and deceased had said she felt tired. So far as the business was concerned, Mrs. *Butler* had nothing to worry about. Witness found an envelope, which contained a large sum of money, in one of deceased's bags and on the back of the envelope was written, 'For my dear children.'

PC Benton spoke to being called, and said that deceased was holding the tubing loosely in her hands, and it was touching her lower lip.

Dr. Morris said when called he administered a hypodermic stimulant, but he was of the opinion that Mrs. *Butler* was dead before he arrived. He attended her last June for neurasthenia, but there was no organic disease, although she complained of indefinite (imaginary) pains. He thought she was worrying about the business, but Mrs. *Butler* said she was not, and the Brewery Company had been very kind to her.

The Coroner summed up, and the jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.

Mr. A. J. Glover (solicitor) appeared on behalf of the Brewery Company (Messrs. W. Butler & Co Ltd.) and expressed sympathy with the family and relatives. He said that a report had got about that there was some idea on the part of the Company to move Mrs. *Butler* to another house. He was authorised to say that there was not the slightest foundation for such a statement. They had no idea of removing her, nor had she of leaving. The accounts in every way – money and stock – were in order. He thought it was only fair that this should be made public. Only that morning the stock had again been taken, and, as a matter of fact, there was some money due to Mrs. *Butler*.

The Coroner said he wished to associate himself with the expressions of sympathy, as he had known Mrs. *Butler* for a long time, probably longer than anyone in that room, for they were children together. He was sure that the real and genuine sympathy of everyone who knew her would go out to the children.

Mr. Collins said the jury also associated themselves with the expression which had been made."

[Details of the funeral follow this article.]

Rugeley Times 26/10/1928 - Acknowledgements

"The Family of the late Mrs. *Butler*, WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, desire to Thank all Friends and Neighbours for their sincere expressions of sympathy and for the many beautiful floral tributes sent during their sudden and sad bereavement."

Walsall Observer 27/10/1928

"A temporary transfer of the license of the WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury, to *Alfred King*, of Birmingham, was granted by the magistrates yesterday."

Wednesbury Chamber of Trade met here. [1929]

Dudley Chronicle 27/6/1929

"Serious charges were preferred at Wednesbury Police Court on Friday against George Anderson, 67, Well Lane, North Walsall. They were (1) being in possession of counterfeit coin with intent to utter the same, (2) uttering a counterfeit two shilling piece, and (3) having in custody and possession moulds for the manufacture of counterfeit coins.

Mr. B. G. Saywell (of London) appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions, and outlined the facts of the cases. On June 4th, at 1.30pm, accused went to the ANCHOR HOTEL, Wednesbury, and tendered half-a-crown for half a pint of ale. In consequence of something said by the customers, the landlord spoke to prisoner, who made some excuse, and asked for the coin back, then leaving the bar. The next heard of him was on June 11th, when he went to the WHITE HORSE and tendered a two shilling piece, receiving change. Something was said to the daughter of the licensee. She looked at the coin again, and subsequently handed it to the police. Prisoner the same day went to the BELL INN and the MIDLAND VAULTS, where he tendered two shilling pieces, and afterwards went to the GRAPES INN, where he was spoken to by PC Taylor. He asked him to go to the Police Station, and this the prisoner willingly did. When there he handed PS Nixon four counterfeit coins, also giving him a key, and telling him he would find all he wanted in a drawer at his home. A search was made and moulds and other articles necessary for the making of counterfeit coins were found.....

Joseph Glaze, jeweller and silversmith, High Bullen, Wednesbury, said he was shown the coins produced by PS Nixon and tested them with aqua fortis. He also weighted them and found them deficient. The whole of the coins were counterfeit.

Miss Edna King, daughter of the licensee of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, said that on June 11th, she served a man with half a pint of mild and bitter, for which he tendered a two shilling piece (produced). She could not recognise the man. After he left something was said to her by another customer, and she looked in the till. She took out the two shilling piece, and testing it with another coin found that the edge rubbed soft.

Mrs. Higgins, wife of the licensee of the MIDLAND VAULTS, said she remembered prisoner calling for half a pint of ale on June 11th, for which he tendered a two shilling piece. She picked accused out the following day at an identification parade at the Police Station.

Archibald Cross, licensee of the BELL INN, Walsall Street, also stated that he served prisoner with beer and cigarettes, which he paid for with a two shilling piece. Subsequently, from something which was said to him, he took it out of the till, and upon testing it found it to be a bad one.

Douglas George Young, licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Holyhead Road, identified two half-crowns (produced), one dated 1923, and the other 1924, which were found in his takings on May 20th and June 4th respectively. He knew prisoner and saw him in the bar on both the dates mentioned Joseph Glaze said that the two half-crowns which Mr. Young found in his takings were counterfeit and light in weight.....

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Staffordshire Assizes. He intimated that it was his intention to plead guilty."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/7/1929

"Pleading guilty to uttering counterfeit coins at Wednesbury, and to having in his possession moulds for making counterfeit coins, George Anderson, aged 38, a french polisher, committed from Wednesbury, was sentenced to three years penal servitude at the Staffordshire Assizes yesterday.

It was stated for the prosecution that prisoner also admitted charges relating to embezzlement and the uttering of counterfeit coins five years ago."

Rugeley Times 9/8/1930

"A large circle were interested in a wedding which was solemnised at St. John's Church, Wednesbury, on Saturday last. The contracting parties were Miss Ivy Elizabeth King, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *Alfred King*, of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, and Mr. Samuel Swinglehurst, only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Swinglehurst, of Leicester. The bride and her parents are well known and popular in the town, and the ceremony attracted a large congregation. The Rev. W. B. Houldey, of St. James', Hill Top, officiated. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by four bridesmaids, Misses Edna King, sister; Nora Clements, cousin; and two charming little girls, Mary Winter, cousin, and Jean Harris, friend.

The bride was attired in a dress of ivory crepe and tulle. She wore a veil of embroidered tulle with a head-dress of orange blossom, and carried a shower bouquet of pink roses. The dresses of the bride and her bridesmaids were of ankle length. The bridesmaids wore pale blue crepe gowns with capes to match, black picture hats, and carried bouquets of pink carnations; Mary and Jean were in pale pink crepe gowns, with 'old world' poke bonnets to match. Mr. Dennis King, brother, was best man. The Bride's mother wore a dress of black ring velvet embroidered with red carnations with black Bangkok hat to match, and her bouquet was of red carnations. The mother of the bridegroom wore a dress of grey and mauve crepe de chine, with grey hat to match, and carried a bouquet of sweet peas.

There were many handsome wedding gifts. The bridegroom's gift to his bride was a Morocco handbag, with gold fittings; and to the bridesmaids, Edna and Nora, oriental basket brooches, and to Mary and Jean, he gave gold bangles. The bride's gift to the bridegroom was a gold wristlet watch.

After a reception at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Mr. and Mrs. Swinglehurst left for North Wales for the honeymoon. The bride travelled in a tweed costume, light felt hat, beige shoes and stockings, and sable furs."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/1/1931

".....The marriage at St. Augustine's Church, Birmingham, on Saturday, of Mr. D. King, son of Mr. and Mrs. *King*, of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, and Miss Norah Gibbons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons, of 89, Rookery Road, Handsworth, Birmingham."

Walsall Observer 25/7/1931

"Retiring after 47 years' service with the L. M. & S. Railway Company, Mr. Arthur Louch, at a happy meeting of his railway colleagues at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Saturday, was the recipient of a handsome oak Westminster chimes clock.....

Taking part in the ceremony, over which Mr. B. Brown, the goods agent at Wednesbury, presided, was another retiring railwayman, foreman Byard, who received from his colleagues a comfortable easy chair which he is taking with him to Much Marcle, in Gloucestershire, where he is going to live in the house in which he was born. Mr. Byard has to his credit 22 years' service with the company.

Mr. Louch had spent the greater part of his service at Walsall, said Mr. Brown, and the staffs of the Wednesbury and Walsall stations had contributed towards the presentation.....

The host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Field*, served the refreshments."

Walsall Observer 21/11/1931

"New Buffalo Knight. A large gathering of R.A.O.B. members attended the Duke of York Lodge, Wednesbury, on Tuesday, at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, for the elevation of Mr. G. L. Price to the third Degree (KOM)....."

Evening Despatch 13/9/1935

"..... traffic island at the WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury....."

Evening Despatch 10/1/1936

"Many roads in the Midlands were blocked today by trees blown down in last night's gale.....

Several people had narrow escapes when a chimney fell into the yard of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury."

Rugeley Times 2/1/1937

"An enjoyable Christmas party was arranged by the staff and employees of Messrs. Geoffrey Hughes Limited, of Mounts Road, Wednesbury, at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday. A company of over 50 were present, Mr. L. Hughes presiding. A musical programme was contributed by Mr. J. Stanley (ventriloquist and songs) and Mr. J. Stanley, junior (piano-accordion). Mr. A. Dent was at the piano. Mr. W. Spare was in charge of the arrangements."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/12/1937

“West Bromwich held a ‘consent’ from the Traffic Commissioners for the operation of buses from Colmore Row, Birmingham, to Dudley, and to the WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury, via the tramway routes, and Birmingham held a ‘consent’ for buses from the Hawthorns to Great Bridge and the WHITE HORSE.....”

1939 Register

46, Bridge Street

- [1] *Frank Burns*, date of birth 18/2/1885, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Florence Burns*, dob 10/9/1885, assistant victualler, married;
- [3] *Ethel M. Burns*, dob 16/7/1912, barmaid, single;
- [4] *Frank Burns*, dob 19/7/1914, book-keeper, air raid warden, single;
- [5] *William J. H. Hedges*, dob 19/9/1914, aircraft engineer, auxiliary fire service, single:

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/2/1940

“Comforts Fund for men at the front.....

Wednesbury. Previously acknowledged, £297 11s 4½d.

Proceeds of boxes.....

Mr. Burns, WHITE HORSE HOTEL, 15s 3½d.”

Evening Despatch 22/1/1945

“One of Wednesbury’s best-known licensees, *Mr. Frank Burns*, of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Bridge Street, has died after a short illness, aged 60. One of his two brothers, *Mr. Jack Burns*, died only ten days ago.”

Rugeley Times 13/3/1948

“.....Wednesbury Trades Council dinner at the WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury, on Saturday, at which *Mr. S. Evans*, MP, was the guest of honour and principal speaker.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 2/3/1963

“A Wednesbury coalman was calling on a number of old people in and around the town today, with deliveries of free coal. For the old folk were benefitting from the kindly action of anonymous customers at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, who decided that they would find really needy old folk worthy of assistance. It was decided that they would supply three sets of old people with 10cwt of coal each. When someone else left a £5 note with the licensee it was decided to use this money in a similar manner. That gift has resulted in five lots of old people each getting 2cwt of coal.

The licensee, *Mrs. M. P. Massey*, said today that so many applications were received for assistance from old people that the names had to be put in a hat.

If any money was left over after the coal bills had been paid it would be put towards a fund to help other old people in the town.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1963], [1965]

A team from here won the Wednesbury Social League Dominoes, East Section, in 1966.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 27/2/1967 - Advert

“Trustworthy Cleaner required.

Massey, WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

TRUSTWORTHY Cleaner required —
Massey, White Horse Hotel, Bridge-
street, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/1/1969

“The domino and cribbage section of the Wednesbury Social League will hold a general meeting at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Wednesbury, next Friday evening. Old and new clubs wishing to join are asked to attend.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

It had a boxing gymnasium. [1970s], [1980s], [1990s]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/4/1978

“A Wednesbury licensee today rapped thieves who stole £800 collected at his pub for charity. The cash was in a giant whisky bottle on the counter of the WHITE HORSE, Bridge Street. Raiders smashed a window to get in. ‘It was a five gallon bottle, nearly full with 50p pieces and coppers,’ said Mr. *Douglas Whitehouse*. ‘The regulars in the pub were looking after it, but now it has gone it means that nearly three years of hard work for charity has been done for nothing. I think whoever did it was the lowest of the low.’ Police are investigating the break-in which was on Tuesday night.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/8/1978

“Two Wednesbury men, charged with breaking into a pub and stealing liquor and cash worth £1,000, were committed to Dudley Crown Court for trial by West Bromwich magistrates. John Burton, of Lansbury Avenue, and Alan Read, of Dangerfield Lane, both aged 20, are accused of breaking into the WHITE HORSE INN, Wednesbury, and stealing a Stromness whisky bottle worth £100 and £900 cash belonging to licensee Mr. *Doug Whitehouse*.

Read is further accused of breaking into Tandy’s in Wednesbury and stealing audio equipment worth £1,069.

Magistrates granted both men bail and ordered that they report daily to police.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/10/1978

“Two Darlaston men broke into a public house and stole a 100-years-old five gallon whisky bottle containing more than £200 which had been raised for charity, Dudley Crown Court was told. John Leslie Burton, of Lansbury Avenue, and Alan John Read, of Dangerfield Lane, both aged 20, admitted entering as trespassers the WHITE HORSE pub in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and stealing the bottle, a bottle of rum and some cigarettes.

Read also admitted entering Tandy’s premises in Bilston Road, Wednesbury, and stealing two cassette decks, an amplifier, two music centres and a record player, worth a total of £1,069. Read asked for three other offences to be considered.

Burton was ordered to carry out 120 hours of community service, and Read was jailed for 18 months.

Mr. Ronald Newbold, prosecuting, said the antique whisky bottle was valued at £200. He said, ‘It had been on the bar for three years and was used to collect money for charity. It was believed there was about £800 in it. The bottle was found broken outside the public house after the raid.’

Mr. Michael Morse, for Read and Burton, said, ‘The money from the bottle was counted by Read, and he says it came to only £205.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/4/1979

“A ‘forgotten dustbin’ is how the Mayor of Sandwell Coun. Cyril Farmer has described Wednesbury. For months he has been complaining that his home town has been allowed to deteriorate while other parts of Sandwell have been improved.....

Mrs. *Kay Whitehouse*, licensee of the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, said she had seen a big change in the town in recent years. ‘It used to be a lovely place but both the council and some property owners are neglecting the town,’ she said.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/2/1980

“.....No longer is the ground behind the bar at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL in Wednesbury solely a man’s domain, with the arrival of *Susan Ceeney* and *Sylvia Peach*. The two Sandwell lassies, whose fathers both ran bars, have fulfilled a life-long ambition to manage a pub of their own. *Susan*, aged 29, and *Sylvia*, aged 39, who have known each other for ten years, have built up a regular custom at the pub.....”

Walsall Observer 24/12/1980

“In a room above a Wednesbury pub there is a hive of activity that one day could lead to a local boxer winning British, if not World, title recognition. Between five and seven in the evening during the week, and at lunchtimes at the weekends, the local aspirants to the top class dedicatedly train under the eagle eye of Fred Osbourne in a gymnasium set up mainly by the well-known promoter manager Ron Gray. The pub is the WHITE HORSE in Bridge Street.....

Licensee at the WHITE HORSE is Miss *Sue Ceney*, whose business partner is Mrs. *Sylvia Peach*.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/11/1981

“Fund raising was a pushover for 21 Sandwell pubs who topped the ‘pole’ in the borough’s pile of pennies competition. Regulars built up pillars in the contest to raise money for the Royal National Institute for the Blind..... Among the pubs visited was the WHITE HORSE in Wednesbury, which raised £300 and could be among the four trophy winners.....

More than 140 pubs entered the competition and the final count-up, which is expected to top £6,000, will take place later this week.”

[WHITE HORSE finished third, and received the Albion Trophy. A total of £6,400 was raised.]

A team from here won the Sandwell Sunday Football League, Division Three. [1981/82]

They were runners-up in the Sandwell Sunday League’s District Three Cup in 1982.

A team from here took part in the Sandwell Sunday Football League, Division Two. [1982/83]

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1982

“Fourteen Wednesbury pubs have failed in a bid to cash in on the Bank Holiday beer trade by applying for license extensions. West Bromwich magistrates refused to allow an extra hour’s drinking time on August Bank Holiday

The 14 pubs which have been denied the extra hour’s drinking are.....

WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/12/1982 - Advert

“WHITE HORSE, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Parties of up to 25 can be accommodated.

Book Now for your Christmas Lunch. £5 (VAT incl.) per head.”

Sylvia Peach was president of Wednesbury and Darlaston Licensed Victuallers Association. [1983]

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/12/1983

“Barefaced cheek was the key to success in this year’s Pile of Pennies competition between Black Country pubs. Over the past ten weeks more than 100 locals and their customers have been working to build money mountains in a contest organised by West Bromwich Building Society. And the winners, the WHITE HORSE in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, staged a cheeky stunt to get the ball rolling. A mystery masked bachelor streaked through the pub wearing nothing but a plastic smile, raising £50. With raffles, barbecues and a Halloween fancy dress, licensee Mrs. *Sylvia Peach* and her regular customers were first in the contest with £660. They won the West Bromwich Building Society Cup, for raising the most money.

The Sandwell Evening Mail Cup went to the WELLINGTON INN, Park Lane East, Tipton, which was second with £605. The WELLINGTON regulars raised their pile of pennies with a swear box, raffles, and a donation from the pub’s football team, Green Wellington.

In third place came the SCOTT ARMS, Kings Hill, Darlaston, who raised £451.

The whole contest produced £4,650, which will go to help the Midland Societies for the Blind.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/1/1984

“The Wednesbury 18 Plus Group is to celebrate its change of venue with a Grand Reopening Disco on February 2. The Group, which will also be marking its fourth anniversary, will welcome Beacon Radio’s Pat Foley as guest DJ at their first party in their new home at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Twenty-five young people, aged mainly about 21, attend the group’s weekly meetings. In the coming months a variety of activities, including camping weekends and a trip to Ostend as well as an Australian Christmas Party and a roasting night, are planned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/7/1984

“Wednesbury 18-plus group is looking for success in outside competitions. Members were disappointed in two inter-group events when they lost to Warley in the music quiz final and to Dudley in the darts semi-final. They are now making preparations for an inter-club sedan chair race in September.

Plans in the pipeline include a trip to the Continent for a long weekend and a sponsored cyclathon for charity. They have now arranged a full programme of events for the next three months, and meet on Thursday evenings at the WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/12/1984

“Joint Wednesbury licensees *Sylvia Peach* and *Sue Ceney*, moving this week from the WHITE HORSE in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, will leave behind the Sandwell Evening Mail Cup after the pub finished runners-up in the annual Pile of Pennies competition in aid of the Midland Societies for the Blind. Regulars raised £600 in just ten weeks of collecting and made it about £1,600 provided in the four years the duo have been at the pub, with cups previously won for third place, special effort and first place respectively. *Sylvia*, who is moving to a new appointment at Walsall, said, ‘They are fabulous customers, really generous, wonderful people. We are hoping they carry on the good tradition and do as well next year.’”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/5/1985 - Advert

“The WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Announce the opening of their New Upstairs Dining Room, catering for Sunday lunches.

Menu.

Starters: Soup, Grilled Grapefruit or Fruit Juice.

Main Course: Pork, Beef, or half a Roast Chicken, served with two veg, Roast Potatoes and Creamed Potatoes.

Sweets: Gateaux, Apple Pie and Cream, or Ice Cream.

Coffee.

Free glass of wine served with every meal.

Price, £4.50. Children’s meal half price.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/4/1988 - Advert

“The WHITE HORSE, Wednesbury, now re-opened.

Yvonne and *Keith Parker* welcome old and new customers.

Car park at rear. Bar snacks available any time.

This Sunday, Disco, 8pm till 10.30pm.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 3/5/1990 - Advert

“Bric-a-Brac/Jumble Sale.

Saturday, May 5, 1pm, at the WHITE HORSE pub, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/9/1995 - Advert

“Pub Tenancy Opportunities. Enterprise Inns.

Fancy running your own local in the Black Country.

As one of the country’s leading independent pub companies, we are currently looking for business partners to join us in the following business opportunities. Comprehensive training will be provided along with full ongoing support.....

WHITE HORSE, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Situated on the main West Bromwich to Wednesbury Road, close to the town centre. A house with great character offering a function room and Boxing Training Club. This house has the potential to offer food.

All the above houses are due external decoration, to include new signs and lighting.

If you have between £6,000 and £15,000 to invest and are interested in these or other exciting business opportunities, telephone.....”

Closed [2002]

It was converted into a warehouse. [2006]

Demolished [2012]



BRIC-A-BRAC/JUMBLE SALE.
Saturday, May 5, 1 pm at the
White Horse Pub, Bridge
Street, Wednesbury.

VERY DESIRABLE AND WELL SITUATED OLD LICENSED
PUBLIC HOUSE,
TWO FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES,
AND
VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUILDING LAND,
In the Parishes of WEDNESBURY and WEST BROMWICH,
in the County of Stafford.

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. J. DAWES,
on FRIDAY NEXT, the 29th day of June, 1849, at
the Red Lion Inn, Wednesbury, at Five o'clock in the afternoon,
subject to such conditions as will be then produced—

Lot 1.—All that substantial and old-established FREEHOLD
PUBLIC HOUSE, with the Stables, Carriage house, Club Rooms,
Garden, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, known by the
name of the "WHITE HORSE INN," late in the occupation of Mr.
David Lees, situate fronting to Bridge Street, in Wednesbury
aforesaid, and near to the Station of the South Staffordshire
Railway.

1849

VERY DESIRABLE AND WELL-SITUATED
OLD LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE,
CALLED "THE WHITE HORSE,"

Situate in the Parish of Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY MR. JOSEPH DAWES, on MONDAY, the
5th day of August, 1850, at the Red Lion Inn, Wed-
nesbury, at Five for Six o'clock in the afternoon, subject to con-
ditions as will be then produced—all that substantial and old-
established FREEHOLD PUBLIC HOUSE, with the Stables,
Carriage-house, Club Rooms, Garden, and Appurtenances thereto
belonging, known by the name of the "WHITE HORSE INN,"
late in the occupation of Mr. David Lees, situate fronting to
Bridge Street, in Wednesbury aforesaid, and near to the Station
of the South Staffordshire Railway.

Further particulars may be had of Messrs. Corser and Under-
hill, Solicitors, Wolverhampton; or of the Auctioneer, Wednes-
bury.

A genteel and pleasantly situated DWELLING HOUSE to be
LET, apply to Mr. Joseph Dawes, Walsall Street, Wednesbury.

1850

TAKEN UP, on the 28th ultimo, at Wednesbury,
a RED DOG, of the Retriever Breed. The Owner may have
him again by paying the expenses of this advertisement and the keep,
on applying to Mr. Barrett, White Horse Inn, Wednesbury. If not
claimed by the 31st inst., he will be SOLD to defray the expense.

1855

WHITE HORSE INN, WEDNESBURY.

BY E. B. SCHOLEFIELD.—To be SOLD, the
LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION of the above
excellent, well-frequented BUSINESS HOUSE and Premises, with
LIQUOR SHOP, Yard, and Stabling. The Premises have only
changed hands four times during the last 45 years.

Auctioneer's Office, 28, Church Street, Wednesbury.

1867


TO be LET, the WHITE HORSE INN, Bridge Street, Wednes-
bury, together with extensive Shopping, fitted-up with an excel-
lent three-horse Steam Engine and Boiler, in good working con-
dition; also, a 7-inch Centre Slide and Screw-cutting Laths, and
various other Lathes, Vices, and Tools. An extensive Yard,
Stabling, Garden, &c. Satisfactory reasons given by the present
Proprietor for disposing of the Business. — Apply on the Premises

1871

White Horse Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.—To Brewers, Pub-
licans, Coopers, Brokers, and Others.

MR. E. B. SCHOLEFIELD has received instructions
from Mr. Richard Sillitoe (who is relinquishing the Brewing
part of his Business), to Sell by Auction, on MONDAY NEXT, at
11 o'clock—the whole of the excellent BREWING VESSELS, com-
prising a 200-gallon copper Boiler, a 200-gallon wrought-iron Boiler,
a capital well-made 20-bushel Mash Tub, an excellent Coil Re-
frigerator, nearly new; Ale Coolers, English oak Ale Casks, Work-
in-Tub, oval Coolers, round Tub, Tables, Chairs, &c., &c. The
Sale includes a very handsome grey Cob, brown Pony, 13 hands
high; silver-plated Harness, well-built Dogcarts, Gig, Wagonette,
strong Cart, and numerous other valuable Effects.

1880

<p>Welcome to THE WHITE HORSE</p>  <p>WEDNESBURY</p> <p>46, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. Telephone: 556 0092</p>	<p>Hot meals and snacks available between 12.00 to 2.00 Monday - Friday</p>	<p>FEATURING SPECIAL "MEALS OF THE DAY"</p> 
	<p>Su and Sylv on good beer relaxing</p>	<p>pride themselves served in a atmosphere</p>
<p>HIGHGATE MILDALE</p>		<p>Bass ▲ SPRINGFIELD BITTER</p>

<p>Su and Sylv</p>	<p>Hot meals and snacks available between 12.00 to 2.00 Monday - Friday</p>
<p>Welcome to THE WHITE HORSE</p>  <p>WEDNESBURY</p> <p>46, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. Telephone: 556 0092</p>	<p>FEATURING SPECIAL "MEALS OF THE DAY"</p> 
<p>SPRINGFIELD BITTER</p>	<p>Bass ▲ HIGHGATE MILDALE</p>

WHITE HORSE

BRIDGE STREET,

WEDNESBURY

021-556 0092

**Parties of up to 25 can be
accommodated.**

**Book NOW for your
Christmas Lunch.**

£5 (VAT incl.) per head.

1982

THE WHITE HORSE HOTEL

Bridge Street, Wednesbury

**Announce the opening of their
NEW UPSTAIRS DINING ROOM,
catering for Sunday lunches.**

MENU

STARTERS

Soup

Grilled Grapefruit or Fruit Juice

MAIN COURSE

Pork

Beef

or half a Roast Chicken

served with two veg, Roast Potatoes and

Creamed Potatoes

SWEETS

Gateaux

Apple Pie and Cream, or Ice Cream

Coffee

Free glass of wine served with every meal

Price £4.50

Childrens meal half price

For reservations ring 021 556 0092

WHITE LION

41, Dale Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

James Pritchard and Son, Darlaston [1921]

LICENSEES

Richard George Eades []
George Dawes [1868] – [1872]
Charles Whitehouse [1881] – [1891]
Mrs. Emily Whitehouse [1896]
Emily Beddard [1900]
John Beddard [1901] – [1907]
Mrs. Rachel Griffiths [1908] – [1911]
William Lawrence [1912] – [1914]
Josephus Onions **(1914–[1932])**

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/7/1867 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Warwickshire, at Birmingham.
Richard George Eades (adjudged Bankrupt under the name of George Eades), late of 97, Gooch Street, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, out of business, previously of Victoria Grove, Nelson Street, Birmingham aforesaid, out of business, previously of the WHITE LION, Dale Street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, Beer Retailer, and previously of the Royal Oak, Moor Street, in Birmingham as aforesaid, Beer Retailer, adjudged Bankrupt in forma pauperis on the 20th day of April, 1867. The Registrar of the Court is the Official Assignee.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/12/1867 - Advert

“Grains. Fifty or Sixty Bushels Grains to be had weekly.
Apply, WHITE LION, Dale Street, Wednesbury.”

GRAINS.—Fifty or Sixty Bushels GRAINS to be had weekly.
—Apply, White Lion, Dale Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/1/1868 - Advert

“Grains. From 50 to 60 Bushels to be Sold weekly.
Apply, WHITE LION, Dale Street, Wednesbury.”

GRAINS.—From 50 to 60 Bushels to be SOLD weekly.—
Apply, White Lion, Dale Street, Wednesbury.

George Dawes, beer retailer, Dale Street. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/4/1868

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. T. Davis and Mr. W. Williams, *George Dawes*, of the WHITE LION beerhouse, Dale Street, was summoned for unlawfully permitting gambling in his house on the 24th ult. The case was proved by Police-constable Richards, and the officer stated that the defendant offered him 2s 6d to say nothing about it.

Mr. Williams said if the defendant had not attempted to bribe the officer he would have got off with a small fine, but as it was he would be fined 40s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/9/1868

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, John Richards, beerhouse keeper, was charged with permitting gaming in his house, on Wednesday, the 16th inst. Mr. Ebsworth appeared for the defendant. The case was proved by another beerhouse keeper, named *George Dawes*, who lost about £4 by card playing on the evening of the above day, and the full penalty of £5 and costs was imposed, Mr. Spooner remarking that nothing was more injurious to the public morals that this gambling at public houses, and he only regretted that he could not double the penalty.”

1871 Census

41, Dale Street – WHITE LION INN

- [1] *George Dawes* (54), beerhouse keeper, born Oakengates, Shropshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Dawes* (50), wife, born Kinley, Shropshire;
- [3] *Robert Dawes* (21), son, carpenter, born Admaston, Shropshire;
- [4] *Elizabeth Dawes* (23), daughter, born Horton, Shropshire;
- [5] *George Dawes* (22), son, carpenter, born Admaston, Shropshire:

George Dawes, beer retailer, 41, Dale Street. [1872]

1881 Census

41, Dale Street – WHITE LION

- [1] *Charles Whitehouse* (29), publican, born Coseley;
- [2] *Emily Whitehouse* (28), wife, born Coseley:

1891 Census

41, Dale Street – WHITE LION INN

- [1] *Charles Whitehouse* (39), beerhouse keeper, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Emily Whitehouse* (38), wife, born Sedgley:

Mrs. Emily Whitehouse, beer retailer, 41, Dale Street. [1896]

1901 Census

41, Dale Street – WHITE LION TAVERN

- [1] *John Beddard* (40), gas fitting maker, born Dudley;
- [2] *Emily Beddard* (46), wife, born Coseley;
- [3] *Eliza Beddard* (16), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Lucy Beddard* (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Edith Beddard* (10), daughter, born Wednesbury:

John Beddard, beer retailer, 41, Dale Street. [1904]

1911 Census

41, Dale Street

- [1] *Rachel Griffiths* (57), widow, beerhouse manageress, born Hill Top;
- [2] *Olive Rachel Griffiths* (17), shorthand typist clerk, born Wednesbury:

William Lawrence, beer retailer, 41, Dale Street. [1912]

1921 Census

41, Dale Street

- [1] Josephus Onions (69), manager of beerhouse, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Maryann Isabella Onions (52), wife, home duties, born Tipton;
- [3] Lilian Onions (21), daughter, nuts, out of work, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Eva Jessie Onions (16), daughter, punching steel washers, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Harriet Onions (12), daughter, excused school through ill health, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Alfred Sidney Maxfield (27), boarder, son-in-law, tube screw, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Ada Doris Maxfield (25), boarder, daughter, home duties, born Sheffield;
- [8] Doris Annie Maxfield (1), boarder, born Wednesbury;
- [9] Elsie Lilian Maxfield (4 months), boarder, born Wednesbury;

South Staffordshire Times 1/3/1924

"Opposition was offered to the renewal of three licenses on the grounds of redundancy at the Wednesbury Adjournd Brewster Sessions, yesterday.....

WHITE LION beerhouse, Dale Street.

Mr. J. Pritchard appeared for the owners.

Sergeant Thorpe gave evidence as to the house and said it was believed to have been licensed prior to 1869. The gross rental was £40, rateable value for poor law purposes £32, property tax was £30, and value for license duty £24. Amount paid to compensation fund for the year ended March, 1923, £3. It was tied to the executors of the late Mr. James Pritchard, Darlaston, and the licensee was a manager, who had been there since April, 1914. There had been no complaint about the house, and no conviction during the last five years. It was a two-storeyed building, and consisted of on the ground floor of a tap room or bar, sitting room, verandah, and a back kitchen, and upstairs three bedrooms and a box room, there was no bedroom accommodation for travellers. The structural condition of the house was fairly good. Within 500 yards there were 30 fully licensed houses, 15 beerhouses 'on' and four beerhouses 'off'.

Answering Mr. Pritchard, witness said there was only one room for customers, and if the sitting room were used it would mean the licensee and his family living in the kitchen. He contended that this would not be comfortable. The house was a small one. He agreed it was a thickly populated area.

Answering Superintendent Sault, witness said the house was one of the smallest in the town, it was only a small six roomed dwelling house.

Mr. Pritchard, in asking for a renewal of the license, remarked that he was not going to say it was a palatial house, but it was serving a useful purpose. The license had been objected to on two previous occasions, and he submitted that there were no more grounds for refusing to grant the license that day than in 1919 when it was last before the Bench. The owners were only in a small way, and although he did not say that the area where the house was situated was not a redundant one, he asked the Bench not to place too much stress on the size of the house.

After the magistrates had had a private consultation, the Mayor announced.....

The WHITE LION would be renewed."

Walsall Observer 14/2/1931

"Wednesbury Brewster Sessions yesterday.....

Plans had been approved and alterations carried out at the.....

WHITE LION, Dale Street."

It closed in the 1930s.

WHITE LION

Market Place, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Addison, Grocer, Wednesbury [1802], [1854]

LICENSEES

Stephen Harrison [1762] – [1763]
Benjamin Harrison [1765] – [1770]
Thomas Clapton [1791]
William Keay [1818] – [1830]
James Southwick [1834] – [1835]
William Jevon [1838] – [1855]

LOST on Saturday the 6th Instant, from the White Lion in Wednesbury, a young Pointer DOG, of a middling Size, with a cut Tail, who answers to the Name of *Bastoe*; he is mostly white, with liver-colour'd Head and Ears, and has a Spot on each Side, and a remarkable one on one of his Buttocks of a liver Colour; and on Monday the 8th Instant was also lost from the above Place, a yellow and white broken haired BITCH, of the Harrier Kind, with a pretty long Tail, who answers to the Name of *Tunis*, being as to Size rather low, but made very strong, having on her Back a bare Place occasioned by a Scald some Time ago: Whoever will bring one, or both of them, to Mr. Craddock, in Walsall, or to Mr. Benjamin Harrison, at the White Lion in Wednesbury, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble; and if any Person shall presume to keep them after this Notice, he must answer the same at his Peril.

1765

NOTES

Auctions were frequently held here.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/12/1762 - Advert

"To be Sold to the best Bidder, on Monday the 20th Day of December Instant, at the Dwelling House of *Stephen Harrison*, known by the Sign of the WHITE LION in Wednesbury.....

Several Freehold Closes or Parcels of Arable, Meadow, and Pasture Land....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/4/1765 - Advert

"Lost on Saturday the 6th Instant, from the WHITE LION in Wednesbury, a young Pointer Dog, of a middling Size, with a cut Tail, who answers to the Name of *Bastoe*; he is mostly white, with liver-coloured Head and Ears, and has a Spot on each Side, and a remarkable one on one of his Buttocks of a liver Colour; and on Monday the 8th Instant was also lost from the above Place, a yellow and white broken haired Bitch, of the Harrier Kind, with a pretty long Tail, who answers to the Name of *Tunis*, being as to Size rather low, but made very strong, having on her Back a bare Place occasioned by a Scald some Time ago. Whoever will bring one, or both of them, to Mr. Craddock, in Walsall, or to Mr. *Benjamin Harrison*, at the WHITE LION in Wednesbury, shall be handsomely rewarded for their Trouble; and if any Person shall presume to keep them after this Notice, he must answer the same at his Peril."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/5/1766 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that the first Meeting of the Trustees for putting in Execution an Act passed this Session of Parliament, entitled an Act for Repairing and Widening the Road leading from High Bullen, in Wednesbury, to the further End of Darlaston Lane, next the Portway; and from thence through Bilston, to the further end of Gibbet Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be held at the House of *Benjamin Harrison*, known by the Sign of the WHITE LION, in Wednesbury, upon Wednesday the 28th of this Instant May, between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve o'Clock in the Forenoon.

May 19, 1766."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/4/1770 - Advert

"To be Sold, to the best Bidder, on Friday the 27th Day of April Instant, between the Hours of Three and Five in the Evening, at the Dwelling House of Mr. *Benjamin Harrison*, known by the Sign of the WHITE LION, in Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.....

Three Freehold Messuages, pleasantly situated on an Eminence, near the Church in Wednesbury....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/7/1780 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, That the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle near Dudley, will be held at the WHITE LION INN in Wednesbury, on Friday the 11th of August next, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon.
J. Wall."

Thomas Clapton, victualler, WHITE LION, Wednesbury. [1791]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/1/1802 - Advert

"To be Let, and entered upon immediately, a Public House, known by the Sign of the WHITE LION, situate in the Market Place, Wednesbury. Apply to Mr. Addison, Grocer, Wednesbury."

William Keay was also a gun lock maker. [1818]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/11/1835 - Advert

"Freehold. Newly erected Retail Shops and Dwelling Houses, Market Place, Wednesbury.
To be Sold by Auction, by J. Gilbert, Tomorrow (Tuesday) November 3, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Southwick*, the WHITE LION INN, Wednesbury....."

William Jevon = William Jevons = William Jeavon = William Jeavons = William Jones

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/10/1838

"Committed to Stafford County Gaol.....

William Rogers, charged with stealing in the dwelling house of *William Jeavons*, at Wednesbury, a spirit measure."

[*Thomas Broadhurst* is listed, charged with a different offence.]

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/10/1838

"Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions.....

Thomas Broadhurst, for stealing a pewter measure, the property of *William Jeavon*, at Wednesbury, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment."

1841 Census

Market Place

[1] *William Jevon* (35), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Sarah Jevon* (35), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Hannah Jevon* (13), born Staffordshire;

[4] *Sarah Jevon* (8);

[5] *Hannah Rowlinson* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[6] *Elizabeth Rowlinson* (15), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/10/1842 - Died

"On the 13th instant, after a long and painful illness, borne with pious resignation, to the divine will, *Sarah*, wife of Mr. *William Jevon*, of the WHITE LION INN, Wednesbury, aged 39."

Birmingham Journal 8/11/1845

"Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway.

We, the Undersigned, Landowners, Merchants, Coal and Ironmasters, Manufacturers, Traders, Agriculturists, and other Inhabitants residing in the boroughs of Birmingham and Walsall, and the towns of Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Handsworth, and other places in those Districts, do hereby express our opinion that the projected Birmingham, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall Junction Railway is calculated to serve the important Mining, Manufacturing, Trading, and Agricultural Interests of the places and districts above mentioned, and we promise it our strenuous support.....

William Jevon, Innkeeper, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 24/10/1846

“On Tuesday, at the Wednesbury Police Court, Mr. *William Jones*, landlord of the WHITE LION, Market Place, Wednesbury, came before the Bench to prefer a charge against Mary Rollason for stealing money which belonged to him. It appeared that Mr. *Jones*’s children had been putting by in their savings box all the fourpenny pieces they could obtain, and had accumulated between 400 and 500. The prisoner was a servant in the house, and had access to the room where the money was kept. She left about a fortnight ago, and on Monday last it was discovered that 140 of the silver pieces were missing. Suspicion immediately fell upon the girl, and a policeman was sent to take her into custody, and search her mother’s house, but nothing likely to lead to a conviction was found. There being no evidence to show that she was in any way connected with the robbery, she was discharged.”

Birmingham Journal 9/10/1847

“On Monday last, the members of the Good Samaritan Lodge, M.U., celebrated their sixth anniversary by dining together, at the WHITE LION, Market Place, Wednesbury, when a most sumptuous dinner was provided by the worthy host, whose endeavour to please gave universal satisfaction.....”

Birmingham Journal 5/8/1848

“The seventh anniversary of the Good Samaritan Lodge of Odd Fellows was celebrated at the house of Host *William Jevons*, WHITE LION INN, Market Place, Wednesbury, on Monday last, The catering of the worthy host was, as usual, excellent.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/7/1850

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

John Mooney, aged 32, was charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling, knowing it to be base.

Mr. Kynnersley and Mr. Vaughan appeared for the prosecution.

It appeared that on the 29th June last, the prisoner went with two other men into the WHITE LION public house, Wednesbury, about 10 o’clock at night and called for a pint of ale, which he paid for in coppers; subsequently he called for a second pint when he tendered in payment a bad shilling. On being told that it was a bad one, he said he had received it from Miss *Jevons*, daughter of the publican, in change for half a crown and would compel her to give him a good one. Miss *Jevons* and the other parties in attendance upon the customers denied having given him change for half a crown, or that they had seen him in the house before that night. Upon being taken into custody, another bad shilling was found amongst the contents of his pocket. The prisoner, in his defence, said he worked hard for the money. He was found guilty, and sentenced to be imprisoned for six months with hard labour.”

1851 Census

Market Place East

[1] *William Jevon* (48), widower, innkeeper, employing 1 man, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Sarah Jevon* (18), daughter, housekeeper, born Birmingham;

[3] *Susannah Penn* (16), house servant, born Wednesbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/12/1852 - Marriages

“On the 14th instant, at the parish church of Wednesbury, by the Rev. Isaac Clarkson, vicar, Mr. Joshua Loxton, second son of Mr. Charles Adshead Loxton, wine and spirit merchant, of Wednesbury, to Miss. Hannah Jeavons, eldest daughter of Mr. *Jeavons*, of the WHITE LION INN, Wednesbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/6/1854 - Advert

“Particulars of Valuable Estates, situated at Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, which will be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson (by direction of the Trustees of the late Samuel Addison, Esq.), at the TURKS HEAD, in Wednesbury, on Friday, the 14th day of July next, at four o’clock in the afternoon for five precisely, in the following or such other lots as may be determined on at the time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....

Lot 6. The Banking Office of Messrs. P. and H. Williams; the House, Shop, Warehouse, Stables, and Premises adjoining thereto, in the occupation of Mr. John Wood; the WHITE LION Public House, with Stables, Yard, and Premises adjoining thereto, occupied by Mr. *William Jevon*; and also the corner Shop and Dwelling House adjoining the same, now let to Mr. James Ellis, junior.

This important property comprises the best business situation in the town of Wednesbury, and is land-tax redeemed.”

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1855

“Rejoicing at the Fall of Sebastopol. The demonstration of loyal and patriotic feeling which the news of the capture of the Russian stronghold evoked, has nowhere exceeded, if it has equalled, the popular ebullition of feeling at the town of Wednesbury on Monday last.....

Barrels of ale were given by Mr. *Jevon*, WHITE LION.

The churches, railway stations, manufactories, workshops, and most of the private houses were profusely dressed with brilliantly emblazoned flags and banners. The following were among the most striking.....

Mr. *W. Jevon*, WHITE LION, Market Place.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1862 - Advert

“WHITE LION INN, Wednesbury.

To be Let, that desirable Old-Licensed House, the WHITE LION, in the immediate vicinity of the Market Place, Wednesbury; comprising compact House, Cellars, and Stabling, and capable of commanding a steady Business. Coming-in easy.

For particulars, apply to James Taylor, Auctioneer, Russell Street, Wednesbury.”

May 19, 1766.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the first Meeting of the Trustees for putting in Execution an Act passed this Session of Parliament, entitled an Act for Repairing and Whiting the Road leading from High-Bullen, in Wednesbury, to the further End of Darlaston-Lane, next the Portway; and from thence through Bilston, to the further End of Gibbet-Lane, and several other Roads leading to and from Bilston, in the County of Stafford, will be held at the House of Benjamin Harrison, known by the Sign of the White Lion, in Wednesbury, upon Wednesday the 28th of this Instant May, between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve o’Clock in the Forenoon.

1766

Lot 6.—The BANKING OFFICE of Messrs. P. and H. Williams; the House, Shop, Warehouse, Stables, and Premises adjoining thereto, in the occupation of Mr. John Wood; the White Lion Public House, with Stables, Yard, and Premises adjoining thereto, occupied by Mr. William Jevon; and also the corner Shop and Dwelling House adjoining the same, now let to Mr. James Ellis, jun.

This important property comprises the best business situation in the town of Wednesbury, and is land-tax redeemed.

1854

NOTICE is hereby given, That the next Meeting of the Trustees for repairing the Roads leading from Birmingham to High Bullen, in the Parish of Wednesbury, and to Great Bridge, and to the End of Darlaston-Lane, and from Great Bridge to the Nether Trindle near Dudley, will be held at the White Lion Inn in Wednesbury, on Friday the 11th of August next, at Eleven o’Clock in the Forenoon. **J. WALL.**

1780

“WHITE LION INN,” WEDNESBURY.
TO be LET, that desirable OLD-LICENSED HOUSE, the “WHITE LION,” in the immediate vicinity of the Market Place, Wednesbury; comprising compact House, Cellars, and Stabling, and capable of commanding a steady Business. Coming-in easy.—For particulars, apply to James Taylor, Auctioneer, Russell Street, Wednesbury.

1862

TO be LET, and entered upon immediately, a Public House, known by the Sign of the WHITE LION, situate in the Market Place, Wednesbury. Apply to Mr. Addison, Grocer, Wednesbury.

1802

WHITE LION

Russell Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Henry Davis Howl [1858] – **1862**;
Richard Coley (**1862 – 1863**)
Thomas 'Tom' Hayes [1865] – **1866**)

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

WEDNESBURY.
UNRESERVED SALE AT THE WHITE LION INN,
RUSSELL STREET.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE, (under a distress for Rent.) on MONDAY NEXT, December 1st; comprising HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, four-post and other Bedsteads, goose-feather Beds, and Chamber Appendages, four-pull Beer Machine, Spirit Counter and Fittings, Barrels, pewter and other Measures, Glass, China, &c., twelve-bushel Mash Tub, two Coolers, two copper Furnaces, and other Brewing Requisites; also, the LICENCES of the above-named House.
Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's Office, Turk's Head, Wednesbury.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

Birmingham Journal 29/11/1856 - Advert

"Wednesbury. Unreserved Sale at the WHITE LION INN, Russell Street.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph Whitehouse (under a distress for Rent), on Monday Next, December 1st; comprising Household Furniture, four-post and other Bedsteads, goose-feather Beds, and Chamber Appendages, four-pull Beer Machine, Spirit Counter and Fittings, Barrels, pewter and other Measures, Glass, China, &c, twelve-bushel Mash Tub, two Coolers, two copper Furnaces, and other Brewing Requisites; also, the Licenses of the above-named House.

Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer's Office, TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1858

"On Whit Monday considerable stir was created in Wednesbury by the procession, with flags, banners, and other insignia, of the recently constituted but flourishing Foresters Court, No.2978, held at Mr. *Henry Davis Howl's*, the WHITE LION INN, Russell Street. Accompanied by the Wednesbury Band, the brethren, to the number of about thirty-nine, proceeded to the BOX IRON, Hill Top, and called upon the Court held there. Thence they went through Swan Village to Greets Green, where they called upon another Court held in that locality, and thence through West Bromwich and Wednesbury, to Kings Hill; returning to the Lodge Room, at the WHITE LION, which was elegantly decorated for the occasion, the members of the Lodge sat down to a substantial and well-served dinner, which did credit to Mrs. *Howl*. There was no lack of ale and liquors to wash down the solids, and the party spent a very pleasant afternoon. The chair was occupied by Mr. Hayes with much tact and urbanity, and Mr. Barker was equally at home in the vice-chair. The usual loyal and constitutional toasts were done ample justice to, as well as others connected with the lodge, the order, and of a more private character, including an acknowledgement, given with musical honours, to mine host and hostess, for the success with which they had catered to the material wants of the brethren on this their first gala."

1861 Census

Russell Street – WHITE LION INN

- [1] *Henry D. Howl* (44), bootmaker and licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ann Howl* (36), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Agnes M. A. Howl* (18), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Joseph A. Howl* (19), son, boot closer, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth White* (18), general servant, born Liverpool;
- [6] *John Martin* (26), ostler and brewer, born Liverpool;
- [7] *John Thomas Bedford* (38), lodger, widower, solicitor's clerk, born Thetford, Norfolk;

Henry Davis Howl, retailer of beer, Russell Street. [1862]

Richard Coley = Thomas Coley

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/8/1863

“Annual Licensing Day.....

Thomas Coley, landlord of the WHITE LION, Russell Street, Wednesbury, was complained against by the police, who described his house as ‘little better than a brothel.’ Mr. Thursfield, clerk to the Wednesbury Magistrates, stated that on Tuesday an affiliation case came before the Bench, and that it was alleged that *Coley* not only received a fee for the immorality practised in his house, but that female members of his family were accessories to the depravity in this case. The Bench suspended this license.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/9/1863

“The annual licensing meeting was held on Thursday.....

Thomas Coley of the WHITE LION, Russell Street, Wednesbury, asked for a renewal of his license. It was stated by Mr. Thursfield, the Clerk to the Bench, that the applicant’s house was a disreputable one. The Bench ordered this license to be suspended until the adjourned meeting.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1863

“The adjourned licensing meeting for West Bromwich, Wednesbury and Walsall, was held yesterday.....

Richard Coley, landlord of the WHITE LION, Wednesbury, whose license had been suspended in consequence of a complaint made that immoral characters were in the habit of meeting in his house, was called up, and informed that the Bench had decided to refuse the renewal of his license.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/1/1865

“J. Allen of Wednesbury will walk Bob Simmons of Nottingham seven miles level, for from £5 to £25 a side, and will allow expenses for the match to come off in Birmingham. A match can be made by sending articles to *Tom Hayes*, WHITE LION, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/3/1866

“Westley’s New Pedestrian Grounds, Hall Green, near Wednesbury.

The proprietor of the above grounds will give £10 to be run for in an All England Handicap of 125 yards on Easter Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3. Entries of 1s each to be made on or before Monday, March 26, to Mr. Westley, as above, or to *T. Hayes*, WHITE LION, Russell Street, Wednesbury; or to Mr. Rickerby, Golden Cross, Snow Hill, Birmingham.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 29/12/1866

“Yesterday, at the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, a man named James Wager was charged with stealing three beer barrels belonging to Mr. *Thomas Hayes*. The prosecutor formerly kept the WHITE LION, in Russell Street, but left there in August last. He then left several beer barrels at the house, and upon sending for them some time afterwards he found them missing. Information was then given to the police, and prisoner was apprehended with three of the tubs in his possession. He was committed to take his trial at the next Quarter Sessions.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/1/1867

“Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

James Wager, 26, barber, for stealing, on the 1st of October, at Wednesbury, two barrels, the property of *Thomas Hayes*, was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

WHITE SWAN

6, Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

William Adams [1818] – [1830]
John Teadstill [1832] – [1835]
Mary Turner [1834] – [1835]
Joseph Lissimore [1841] – [1850]
Edward Wright [1850] – **1852**;
Woodward **(1852 – [])**
William Wood [1859]
William Woodward [1860] – **1861**;
William Gleed **(1861 – 1862)**;
James Rowley **(1862 – [])**
George Davis [1864] – [1865]
Mrs. Davis [] – **1865**;
Cornelius Dunn **(1865)**;
Samuel Jones **(1865 – 1866)**;
Whitehouse **(1866 – [])**
Joseph Morris [1868] – [1870]
Luther Simmonds [1870] – [1872]
Charles Cartwright [1873] – **1901**
George Thomas Cartwright [1908] – [1911]
Samuel Sambrooke [1912]
Herbert Ashley [1916]
George Thomas Cartwright [] – **1920**;
Elizabeth Cartwright **(1920 – [])**
Sydney Horace Hampson [1921]
John Byrne [1932]
Victor A L C Fletcher [1939] – [1940]
Charles Morris [1952]

NOTES

SWAN [1818], [1828], [1830], [1834]

It had a beerhouse license.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/3/1828 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that old established Public House known by the Sign of the SWAN, situate in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, on the line of the Holyhead road.

For particulars enquire of Mr. G. W. Court, Wednesbury.”

TO PUBLICANS AND OTHERS.
TO be LET, with immediate possession, that old established Public House known by the Sign of the SWAN, situate in Bridge-street, Wednesbury, on the line of the Holyhead road.
For particulars enquire of Mr. G. W. Court, Wednesbury.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/12/1832 - Died

"On Wednesday last, Emily, infant daughter of Mr. *John Teadstill*, of the WHITE SWAN, Wednesbury."

John Teadstill – see also TALBOT, Market Place, Wednesbury, and BULL AND MOUTH, Bilston.

Mary Turner, beer retailer, Bridge Street. [1835]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/2/1835 - Advert

"WHITE SWAN INN, Wednesbury.

To be disposed of by private Treaty, with or without the Lease, the Licenses, Good-will, and Possession of the above-named well-accustomed Inn, situate on the great Holyhead Road, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

The premises are very suitably adapted for business, with excellent rooms, cellarage, brewhouse, stabling for nine horses, gig-house, outbuildings, and other conveniences.

The Stock, which is very limited, with part of the household furniture, brewing utensils, barrels, fixtures, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/4/1835 - Advert

"WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

To be disposed of by private Treaty, the Lease, Licenses, Good-will, Possession, Stock, Fixtures, &c, of the above-named Inn, which comprises tap-room, bar, and liquor-shop, smoke-room, dining-room, cooking-kitchen, five sleeping-rooms, excellent cellarage, brewhouse, stabling for nine horses, gig-house, and other conveniences.

The house is in good business, and situate on the Holyhead road. Sixteen years of the lease are yet unexpired, and at the very low rent of £25 per annum. Coming-in about £500.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/4/1835 - Advert

"WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

To be disposed of by private Treaty, the Licenses, Good-will, and Possession, Stock, Fixtures, and part of the Household Furniture, of the above-named Inn, which comprises tap-room, bar and liquor-shop, smoke-room, dining-room, cooking-kitchen, five sleeping-rooms, excellent cellarage, brewhouse, stabling for nine horses, and other conveniences, the whole in good and substantial repair. The House is in good business, and situate on the Holyhead Road. Rent and payments low. Coming-in about £300. A Lease on the premises may be had if required.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Journal 2/11/1850 - Advert

"To Builders, Cabinet Makers, Timber Dealers, and Others. To be Sold by Auction.....

The Oak Timber is now lying near the Monway Arm of the Birmingham Canal, and by the side of the Portway Road, leading from Wednesbury to Wolverhampton.

To view the same, apply to Mr. *E. Wright*, WHITE SWAN, Wednesbury Bridge; or to Mrs. Evans, PORTWAY HOUSE, Portway Road, Wednesbury."

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/12/1850

"At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday last, *Edward Wright*, of the WHITE SWAN INN, was fined 10s and costs, for having his house open on Sunday morning before the specified hour."

1851 Census

Bridge Street

[1] *Edward Wright* (31), innkeeper, born Dudley;

[2] *Elizabeth Wright* (24), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Betsy Wright* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Samuel Wright* (8 months), son, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Harriet Fieldhouse* (19), house 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.....

Edward Wright, Wednesbury, 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.”

AND

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 Daily Post 3/1/1859

“Wednesbury Petty Sessions, on Friday.....

Thomas Hill, the driver of a horse at a pit on the Walsall Road, near to one belonging to Mr. *William Wood*, landlord of the WHITE SWAN INN, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a whip belonging to Mr. *Wood*, and valued at 2d, on which charge he had been given into custody by the owner of the whip. On Friday, however, Mr. *Wood* declined to prosecute, and the prisoner was discharged.”

1861 Census

Bridge Street

[1] *William Gleed* (46), victualler, born Buckinghamshire;

[2] *Mary Gleed* (46), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Francis Gleed* (7), son, scholar, born Bombay, India:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/7/1861 - Advert

“Capital Licensed Inn.

To be Sold, the Licenses and Possession of that well-known and excellent Inn, the WHITE SWAN, situate on the Holyhead Road, near the Bridge, at Wednesbury, Staffordshire. The House is very convenient, with excellent Brewery, large Yard, and Stabling. The Tenant is leaving in consequence of having a desire to return to India. Rent is low. Coming-in about £200.

Apply to W. Ashcroft and Son, Auctioneers, 38, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton, or on the premises.”

CAPITAL LICENSED INN.
TO BE SOLD, the LICENSES & POSSESSION
of that well-known and excellent INN, the WHITE SWAN, situate on the Holyhead Road, near the Bridge, at Wednesbury, Staffordshire. The House is very convenient, with excellent Brewery, large Yard, and Stabling. The Tenant is leaving in consequence of having a desire to return to India. Rent is low. Coming-in about £200.
Apply to W. ASHCROFT and SON, Auctioneers, 38, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton, or on the premises.

Birmingham Journal 14/9/1861 - Advert

“Important Sale at the WHITE SWAN INN, Wednesbury.

Joseph Whitehouse has received instructions from Mr. *Gleed* to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, the 16th day of September.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, of the above-named Inn (unless previously disposed of); also, the Neat and Clean Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Stock of Ales, Wines, Spirits, &c, well-seasoned Ale Casks, Patent Malt Crusher, Six Tumps of Hops, Spring Trap, Harness, &c, according to catalogues, which may be obtained at the Auctioneer’s, TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/12/1861

“Richard Bayley of Hill Top will fight any of the following men at 8st, for £25 a side: Peter Morris of Birmingham, Mick the Grecian, Jack Fox, or David Blount of Handsworth; Morris preferred. Man and money ready any time at G. Rowley’s, WHITE SWAN, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/4/1862

“G. Rowley of Wednesbury will fight J. Wassell of Greet Green, at catch weight, for £50 or £100 a side. If a deposit is sent to *Bells Life* and articles to Rowley, WHITE SWAN, Wednesbury, a match can be on.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/4/1862

“In consequence of the tie in the late match, J. Dicken of Hill Top will make a fresh match with Mr. Duffield of Darlaston, to shoot at 25 birds, for £25 a side, to find and trap against each other; to come off in a month from Monday, April 14. A match can be made at G. Rowley’s, WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, any night during the week.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/9/1864

“An inquest was held on Saturday, by Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, at the HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, concerning the death of *George Davis*, aged 32, who on the 26th ult was injured by a fall of coal at the Wednesbury Old Field Colliery, and who died on Wednesday last of the injuries he had received. Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, attended the inquiry, and the colliery proprietors were also represented by the foreman of the works.

Thomas Moore, pikeman, and nephew to the deceased, said that the latter at the time of his death was part proprietor in the firm with Mr. Allen, and they purchased the colliery of Mr. Jones, the banker. Deceased was also the landlord of the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street. On the 26th ult witness was acting as loader, and at about half-past twelve o’clock in the morning deceased was working in a stall about ten yards from the bottom. It was four feet high and about five yards wide. The stall was timbered with three trees, and one of them was placed about six feet from the side. Deceased was holeing a piece near the side, as he worked occasionally for his own amusement. He was not much more than a yard from the tree. Witness whilst loading hit the coal above him, and exclaimed, ‘Look, uncle *George*, this coal is dropping.’ Deceased was working directly under the block of coal indicated, and he replied that witness was to load another barrow or two, and kept on working, when the coal, about a ton of it, fell upon both of them, but the greater part of it on deceased. Assistance was immediately forthcoming, and the deceased was extricated from beneath the coal and conveyed to his own home. He did not complain of being badly hurt, and said he should soon get over it. Messrs. Garman, surgeons, were instantly sent for and speedily attended, and they had paid him every attention up to his death. Mr. Baker reprimanded the witness for not desisting from work when he found the place unsafe, instead of rushing on to death the way he had done, and from which he had miraculously escaped. The deceased was holeing near the side, and got into a slip which released the coal from above. He had been part owner in the colliery about a month. It was about twenty of thirty yards from the old colliery where the accident took place. The pit had been worked before, and witness did not know that notice had been given that it was not to be worked. *Elijah Davis* had examined the pit the day of the accident.

Ann White proved the death and said that deceased was injured badly on the lower part of the body as well as the right foot and the left thigh. His medical attendant had expressed an opinion that death had resulted as much from asthma as from the injuries he had sustained.

Mr. Baker said that after the catastrophe in February last year, at Sterns Meadow, or as it was better known as Wednesbury Old Field Colliery, by which several lives were lost, Mr. Tolly, the proprietor, began to work again, and he was served by a notice from the speaker, and the workings were abandoned. It appeared that very recently, about a month or so ago, the deceased and another had been working the colliery, and he (Mr. Baker) had been informed by Mr. Hatton that the terms of the agreement were that they should work the pit ‘open work,’ but they had been sinking, and begun to work the pit in the ordinary manner. He gave the deceased notice in consequence of what he had explained at the same time he gave Tolly notice, and he was very much surprised to find that deceased and his partner had been working it very near the brook, notwithstanding the notice they had received.

The Coroner also expressed his surprise at deceased’s conduct, as he had been a juror on the occasion of the fatal accident which had been alluded to, and had quite concurred in the verdict.

Mr. Baker said deceased had been working the colliery with ‘bell pits,’ and that morning, by the speaker’s orders, a summons had been served at the works, commanding them to discontinue that method of working. Mr. Baker concluded by observing that, although what he had related had nothing to do in this instance with the cause of death, he considered himself bound to inform them of it.

The Coroner summed up, and left it to the jury whether or not they would advise an adjournment for medical evidence, but this being considered unnecessary, a verdict was returned to the effect that death had resulted from Natural Causes accelerated by the injuries deceased had received from a fall of coal.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/12/1864

“At the WHITE SWAN, Wednesbury Bridge, Staffordshire (three minutes’ walk from both railway stations, Wednesbury) a fat pig, 25 score, will be shot for on Monday next, December 12, by 25 members, at 10s each, on the usual shooting conditions. The birds to be warranted on the ground. The winner can have either the pig or its value.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1865

“On Saturday the following licenses were temporarily transferred.....

WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, from the widow of *George Davis* to *Cornelius Dunn*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1866

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Simeon Broughton, an underhand puddler, appeared before the Stipendiary, charged with having cut and wounded Thomas Weston, a puddler, living at West Bromwich. Mr. Ebsworth defended. On Saturday night last the complainant and some other persons were at the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, when the defendant and a companion entered. After a time a quarrel took place between the defendant’s friend and the prosecutor, and in the end the latter took off his coat, and stood up to fight. The other persons present interfered to prevent a breach of the peace, but the complainant remained standing in the room with his fists clenched, the defendant being near him. After a short time he discovered that the back of his head had been cut, apparently with a knife, and he at once accused the defendant of having done the injury, and sent for a policeman, but before the arrival of the officer, the defendant and his friends had left the house. He was subsequently apprehended near Hill Top, and admitted to bail.

The Stipendiary said that, had it not been for the provocation the complainant had given, and the slight nature of the wound, he should have sent him for trial; as it was, he would be fined 40s and costs, with the option of one month’s imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/1/1869 - Advert

“To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Whitehouse, This Day (Wednesday), January the 27th.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury; also, the Stock of Ale, Porter, Spirits, &c, Brewing Plant, Ale Casks, part of the Household Furniture, comprising Tables, Chairs, Spirit Counter, with Metal top, 6-pull Patent Ale Machine, 5-tap Spirit Fountain, Drainers, Hot Water and Coffee Apparatus, Copper and Iron Boilers, with Fittings, 20-bushel Mash Tub, Ale Coolers, Ale Casks, Tubs, Malt Crusher, Gas Fittings, Cups, Jugs, Glass, Pewter Measures, and other Effects, belonging to *Joseph Morris*, who is declining business.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o’clock in the forenoon.

NB. The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession will be offered the first lot, unless previously disposed of.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale, or at the TURKS HEAD HOTEL, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/6/1869

“About three o’clock on Sunday morning Mr. Gibbs, station-master at the Great Western Railway Station, Wednesbury, was awoken by Edward Purser, night-watchman to the company, who informed him that he had found a man dead on the line, about half a mile from the station, and between it and the Wednesbury tunnel. On going to the place Mr. Gibbs saw the man lying across the up-line of rails, with the back of his head crushed to pieces, and his left foot cut off, though, strange to say, the features of deceased were not defaced. An officer was sent for, and police-constable Farnell was upon the scene directly afterwards; but before deceased was removed, Mr. Moore, surgeon, was sent for, and viewed the body. Deceased was then removed to the WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, and, on being examined by the policeman, nothing was found upon him but a broken pipe, an old knife, and a piece of twist tobacco. Enquiries have been made by the police, and it is understood the deceased is a person named Mark Cooper, of Potters Lane, Wednesbury, who formerly worked at Messrs. Wood and Lees. The railway officials are of opinion that the body would not have been thrown into the position in which it was found if deceased had been knocked down in an accidental manner. It is thought that deceased must have been killed by the 10-35 train from Wolverhampton, but the case will doubtless be thoroughly investigated at the inquest, which will take place today, before Mr. Hooper, at the inn above named. Deceased leaves a wife and two children.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1869

“On Monday Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, resumed the inquest on the body of Mark Cooper, which was found terribly mangled on the Great Western line early on the morning of the 30th ult. On the night before the discovery of the deceased’s body, a little girl was found on the line, and she said a man with a billy-cock hat had taken her there. The inquiry had been adjourned for the production of evidence on this point, but no fresh information was forthcoming, and after a witness had been examined who deposed to seeing a drunken man go up the embankment of the railway at about half-past ten on the night in question, an open verdict was returned.”

Luther Simmonds = Luther Simmons

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/2/1870 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant.

Apply, *L. Simmonds*, WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

WANTED, a good General SERVANT.—Apply, *L. Simmonds*, White Swan, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/5/1870 - Advert

"A Bargain. Second-hand Saddle and Bridle, 25s; Hunting Saddle and double-rein Bridle, in good condition, Two Guineas.

Apply, Mr. *L. Simmonds*, WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/5/1870 - Advert

"For Sale, a modern-built Park Phaeton, blue cloth lined, and Cushions to match, in condition nearly equal to new. Cost £45. Lowest price £20.

Apply to Mr. *L. Simmonds*, WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/8/1870 - Advert

"For Sale, a very handsome dark Bay Cob Mare, 15 hands high, four years old, warranted sound, and perfectly quiet either to ride or drive; the property of a Gentleman who can be referred to, and has no further use for her. Has been regularly driven by a Lady. Price £35.

Apply to Mr. *Simmons*, WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/8/1870 - Advert

"Wanted, 150-gallons Copper or 120-gallons Cast Iron Boiler; cheap.

Apply, *L. Simmons*, WHITE SWAN, WEDNESBURY."

WANTED, 150-gallons Copper or 120-gallons Cast Iron BOILER; cheap.—Apply, *L. Simmons*, White Swan, Wednesbury.

1871 Census

6, Bridge Street – Beerhouse

[1] *Luther Simmonds* (28), licensed victualler, born Cinderford, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Caroline Simmonds* (28), wife, born Hull;

[3] *Mary J. Simmonds* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Caroline Simmonds* (8 months), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Sabina Phibs* (15), domestic servant, born Ocker Hill;

[6] *Mary Bentley* (11), nurse, born Wednesbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 17/5/1871 - Advert

"Wanted, immediately, a respectable General Servant, to make herself generally useful.

Apply, WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

WANTED, immediately, a respectable General SERVANT, to make herself generally useful.—Apply, White Swan, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/11/1871 - Advert

"Found, a Black Retriever Bitch. If not owned in three days, will be Sold.

Apply, WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

FOUND, a Black Retriever BITCH. If not owned in three days, will be Sold.—Apply, White Swan, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/5/1872 - Advert

"This Day (Monday), May 13. To Publicans, Parties Furnishing, and Others.

Unreserved Clearing Out Sale, at the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

By *E. Cox*, as above, the whole of the Public House Fixtures, six-pull lever Ale Machine, metal-top Counter, copper Hot Water Apparatus, Barrels, Mash Tubs, copper and iron Boilers, Vats, Coolers, Crusher, Pigs, Stock of Wines and Spirits, Ale, Cider, and Perry, Two Pockets of Hops, Malt, Furniture, and Effects: Bedding and Beds, Carpets, Square Pianoforte, Sewing Machine, hair-seat and Easy Chairs, Drinking and other Tables, Gasfittings, Street Lamp, Lead Pipes, Horse Troughs, and a variety of Effects, belonging to Mr. *Simmonds*, who is compelled to give up the premises, which are about to undergo extensive alterations, and must be all cleared out at once.

Auctioneer's Office, High Street, West Bromwich."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1874 - Advert

"Nursemaid, immediately. Steady, clean, and neatly dressed. Three children. Mrs. Cartwright, WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/1/1877

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner, Stipendiary, a young man named William Hastelow was charged by Mr. *Charles Cartwright*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Bridge Street, with having assaulted him, and refused to quit his house on Christmas Day. For refusing to quit the house he was fined 20s and the costs, and the charge of assault was dismissed.

A counter charge against Mr. *Cartwright* of having assaulted Hastelow was also dismissed, and the latter was ordered to pay the costs."

1881 Census

6, Bridge Street – WHITE SWAN INN

- [1] *Charles Cartwright* (39), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Harriet Cartwright* (37), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *George Cartwright* (12), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Louise Cartwright* (6), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Henry Cartwright* (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Kate Cartwright* (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] *Mary Craddick* (20), general servant, born Walsall;
- [8] *Eliza Gregory* (22), domestic nurse, born Bloxwich;
- [9] *Charles Stokes* (45), brewer, born Wednesbury:

Wednesbury Herald 14/1/1882

"Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner), held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Bridge Street, relative to the death of Esther Alice Handley, aged two years and seven months, who died on Monday from the effects of burns.

The evidence showed that on the 24th ult, the deceased was left in the kitchen by her mother, and upon returning she found her enveloped in flames, but as her injuries were only of a slight character, she did not trouble to send for a surgeon. On Sunday, the 8th inst, the child became very ill, and appeared to suffer a great deal from a wound on the chest. Mr. Wilson Moore was sent for, and the child expired on the next day.

In reply to the Coroner, the mother stated that there was no guard before the kitchen fire, and in fact not anything to prevent the child from going near to the bars.

In reply to a further question, she stated that some time ago she buried a child a week old, as a still born.

The Coroner said he considered there had been a great deal of negligence in the present case in the mother not obtaining medical aid, in fact the child's death had been caused through medical aid not being obtained.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but believed that death had been accelerated by want of medical aid. They also directed that inquiries should be made with reference to the first child's death.

The Coroner severely censured the woman for her conduct, and stated that if she was again guilty of similar negligence she would be committed for manslaughter."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 31/1/1885 - Advert

"Desirable Freehold and Copyhold Old-Licensed House, and Other Properties, situate at Wednesbury, Darlaston, and West Bromwich.

Messrs. Sollom and Barnett are instructed to Sell by Auction, on Monday, February 16th, 1885.....

Lot 1. The valuable Old-Licensed Premises, known as the WHITE SWAN, situate in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Charles Cartwright*, and comprising liquor vaults, with a capital shop front, smoke-room, kitchen, four rooms upstairs, good cellars, with rolling way; brewhouse, with malt-room over; gig-house, with hop-room over; stable and loft over, yard with cartway, and other appurtenances.

This lot is copyhold of the Manor of Wednesbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1889 - Advert

"Man (respectable) Wanted, about 28; to live in; to assist in brewing and make himself useful. SWAN Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

MAN (respectable) Wanted, about 28; to live in; to assist in brewing and make himself useful.—Swan, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Weekly Post 30/11/1889 - Died

"On the 22nd inst, aged 46 years, Harriet, the wife of *Charles Cartwright*, WHITE SWAN, Wednesbury."

1891 Census

6, Bridge Street – WHITE SWAN

- [1] *Charles Cartwright* (49), widower, publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *George Thomas Cartwright* (22), son, barman, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Charles Cartwright* (20), son, pawnbroker's assistant, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Maria L. Cartwright* (15), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Henry A. Cartwright* (13), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Amelia M. Jones* (36), domestic servant, born Dudley;

Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1891 - Advert

"General (good) Wanted, about 35; plain cooking; washing put out; man kept.

SWAN Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

GENERAL (good) Wanted, about 35 : plain cooking : washing put out ; man kept.—Swan, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1892

"Yesterday, at West Bromwich Police Court, William Williams, alias 'Polisher,' of Holborn Hill, Aston, was charged with stealing two fowls, of the value of 5s, and nine pigeons, valued at 4d 6d, the property of Thomas Dyke, of New Street, Hill Top.

On Saturday the fowls were missed, and the police found that they had been sold to Mr. Peters, landlord of the OCEAN INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, for 3s. Three pigeons were recovered at the OCEAN INN, and four were also found to have been sold to Mr. *Cartwright*, of the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and two were sold to the landlord of the WHY NOT INN, Wednesbury.

Prisoner was sent to gaol for one month, with hard labour."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1894

"At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, Samuel Silk, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a sovereign, the property of Joseph Blunt, miner, 12, Hull Street, Woodside, Dudley.

It seemed that on the previous night the prosecutor, a man known as 'Joe the Preacher,' and two others went into the SWAN INN, Bridge Street, and there met the defendant. The latter challenged them to play a game at cards, and the prosecutor replied that he could not play, but he would back a friend of his to play for a sovereign, and at the same time he produced a coin of that value. The accused directly took a couple of half-sovereigns from his pocket, and walked across the room towards Blunt, but on the way dropped one of the coins. A fruitless search was made for it by some of those present, and its whereabouts could not be discovered. Silk accused Blunt of having got it; and on being told that the coin which the latter had in his hand was a sovereign, he replied that he would have that, and keep it until his own money was restored him. He used such violence in trying to get the sovereign that, to escape injury to the wrist, Blunt opened his hand by the advice of his friends, and allowed the coin to be taken from him. Police-constable Farrell was then fetched, but before he arrived there was something like a free fight among the men. The sovereign was not recovered.

The magistrates came to the conclusion that there was no felonious intent on the part of the accused, and discharged him."

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/12/1894

"Samuel Silk, labourer, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a sovereign belonging to Joseph Blunt, miner, Hall Street, Woodside, Dudley.....

The magistrates held that as it was illegal to gamble in a public house they could not convict the prisoner of felony, and discharged him."

Manchester Courier 18/2/1896 - Advert

"Engine (6-h.p.), with Pump, For Sale; also Boiler, Pulleys, and Shafting, and several old Lathes, Vices, &c; all in working order.

Address, *George Cartwright*, WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury."

1901 Census

6, Bridge Street

- [1] Charles Cartwright (59), widower, licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] George Thomas Cartwright (32), son, barman, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Lizzie Cartwright (26), daughter-in-law, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Louisa Cartwright (25), daughter, barmaid, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Henry Alfred Cartwright (24), son, draughtsman, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Georgina Cartwright (3), grand-daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Beatrice Mitchell (21), domestic servant, born Walsall:

Charles Cartwright died on 4th September 1901.

Charles Cartwright – see also NAGS HEAD, Church Lane, West Bromwich.

Birmingham Weekly Post 22/3/1902

“Birmingham Assizes *Cartwright v Cartwright and Others*.

In this action the plaintiffs were *George Thomas Cartwright* and Samuel Jaquiss, who sought to prove the will of *Charles Cartwright*, late of the SWAN INN, Wednesbury, and the defendants Charles Cartwright, Frederick John Cartwright, Maria Louisa Lawrence, Henry Alfred Cartwright, and Kate Mary Bratt, children of the testator, who, in their pleadings, contended that the testator was not of sound mind, memory, and understanding, and that the execution of the will was obtained by undue influence; further, that at the time of the execution the testator did not know the contents. The defendants, therefore, counter-claimed to set up a previous will, dated November 18th, 1900. Mr. Hugo Young, KC, with Mr. Parfitt (instructed by Messrs. Sharpe and Darley, West Bromwich) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Amphlett, KC, with Mr. S. Dorsett (instructed by Mr. Clulow, Brierley Hill) represented the defendants.

Mr. Hugo Young, in opening the case, said that the testator used to keep the WHITE SWAN INN at Wednesbury, and died on September 4, 1901, at the age of sixty. His family consisted of four sons – *George Thomas* (the plaintiff), Charles, Frederick, and Henry – and two daughters – Maria Louisa and Kate Mary. Charles and Frederick were engaged in a profitable business, for which the testator had advanced them a sum of £1,000.

Some years ago *George* enlisted in the army, and the testator was very grieved at this, because he wanted *George* at home to assist in the public house. In 1889 the mother died, and the testator then persuaded *George* to leave the army, and told him, if he would come home and assist him, he would eventually leave him the business. *George* left the army and came home. In 1896 he married, and, with his wife, continued to live at the WHITE SWAN. Unfortunately, the testator was rather addicted to drink. *George* did all he possibly could to prevent him drinking too much, and, in order that he should not go about the house and get himself or the house into trouble, on some occasions when the father had had too much to drink he used to get him to his room and turned the key upon him to prevent him getting out.

Things went on until November 18, 1900, up to which time the promise to provide for *George* had not been redeemed. On that date the sons Frederick and Charles came to the house with a young man named Wall. Whilst they were there *George* went out for a walk. Later on in the day, as he was walking with them to the station, the brother Charles mentioned that his father had made his will, and he then ascertained that the young man Wall was a solicitor's clerk, and that the object of the visit was to get the father to make his will. That was the will that the defendants now sought to set up. In that will Charles, Frederick, and the solicitor's clerk were appointed executors and trustees, and the property was left to them in trust to sell, and divide equally amongst all the children. *George* spoke to his father about the matter, and the father told him not to mind, and that he should still have the house. *George* said no more about the matter, but left it in the hands of his father.

On September 2 the father was taken suddenly ill, and asked that a man named Jaquiss, with whom he had been friendly for over thirty years, should be sent for. Jaquiss came next day, and the father told him that he wanted to make his will. Jaquiss went to a solicitor with the father's verbal instructions, a draft will was drawn up and submitted to the father, who approved of it, and it was subsequently executed in the presence of the solicitor, doctor, and a brother-in-law. The will was carefully explained to him, he was quite clear in his mind, and perfectly competent to make the will. By that will *George* and Jaquiss were appointed executors, and testator left to each of the five children a legacy of £250, to Henry Cartwright his shares in the Birmingham District and County Banking Company Limited, and the residue of the estate, real and personal, he gave to his son *George*, after payment of his debts, funeral and testamentary expenses.

In addressing the jury, Mr. Amphlett emphasised the point that the testator was evidently incapable of making a fresh will at the time of his last illness, and argued that the will of 1900, which was drawn up before he began to drink so heavily, was a fair one.

In summing up, his Lordship said there was no doubt that the testator was a drunkard of the worst kind. He pointed out that not a word of discredit had been thrown upon the will of 1900. As to the will it was sought to set aside, no one, looking at the signature, could doubt that the person who executed it was in a miserable condition of bodily health; it was for the jury to consider what was the state of his mind. It appeared to him that the relations properly came to the conclusion, having regard to the circumstances under which the will was executed, to have the matter investigated. He ruled there was no evidence of undue influence.

The jury found for the plaintiff, *George Cartwright*.....

[The Judge ruled that all the costs come out of the estate.]

1911 Census

6, Bridge Street – WHITE SWAN INN

[1] *George Thomas Cartwright* (42), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Elizabeth Cartwright* (37), wife, married 15 years, assisting in business, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Georgina Cartwright* (13), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Marjory Cartwright* (7), daughter, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Katherine Hughes* (19), servant, born Brierley Hill:

Walsall Observer 9/9/1911

“Mr. A. J. Glover applied for the temporary transfer of the TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Wednesbury, from Frank Jones to *George Thomas Cartwright*. He explained that if the transfer was granted *Cartwright* would be the holder of two licenses, he having for a number of years kept the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. He knew the bench did not care for one man to have two licenses at the same time, and if the justices still held this view he should ask for the temporary transfer of the license of the WHITE SWAN from Mr. *Cartwright* to his wife, who would stay there until a suitable tenant could be found. If the bench would, however, grant the transfer, and allow *Cartwright* to still be in possession of the WHITE SWAN, he gave an undertaking to find a tenant as soon as possible. The Bench granted the transfer on Mr. Glover’s undertaking to find a new tenant for the WHITE SWAN INN.”

George Thomas Cartwright died in the 3rd quarter of 1920.

South Staffordshire Times 25/9/1920

“Wednesbury Police Court.....

The WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, was temporarily transferred to Mrs. *Elizabeth Cartwright*, whose husband died recently.”

1921 Census

6, Bridge Street – WHITE SWAN

[1] *Sydney Horace Hampson* (42), licensed victualler, manager, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Emily Gwendolyn Hampson* (35), wife, assistant licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[3] *Horace Francis Hampson* (12), son, school, born Birmingham;

[4] *David Richard Hampson* (3), son, born Birmingham;

[5] *Doris Gwendolyn Hampson* (8), daughter, school, born Birmingham;

[6] *Sarah Ann Denny* (67), widow, domestic servant, born Birmingham:

1939 Register

6, Bridge Street

[1] *Victor A. L. C. Fletcher*, date of birth 14/6/1911, manager of licensed premises, married;

[2] *Julia Fletcher*, dob 13/4/1913, unpaid domestic duties, married:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League in 1948.

Evening Despatch 30/5/1952

“Children will play and take risks, but how to prevent them I don’t know,” said the Coroner, Mr. Lyon Clark, at a West Bromwich inquest today on Doreen Morris, nine-year-old daughter of the licensee of the WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury. “They have a spirit of adventure, but they have to be protected against their own youth and ignorance.”

Doreen received injuries to her chest on Wednesday evening when a 60ft long tree trunk in a pile stacked in the grounds of Graham Walsh Ltd, timber merchants, Wednesbury, and on which she and two other girls were playing, suddenly rolled out of position and trapped her. It required the combined efforts of several men to ease the tree, which weighed 1¼ tons, so that she could be extricated. She died ten minutes after being admitted to West Bromwich General Hospital.

The two other girls, Carol Richards and Janice Carr, both aged ten and living in Potters Lane, Wednesbury, said they were sitting and jumping on the thin end of the tree. When it rolled Carol jumped clear, but Janice had a leg caught and she had to be released. They both admitted having been warned by their parents not to play on the site. They had, however, done so many times and, although knowing that the logs might roll, thought they would be safe. They had never been warned off the site by any workmen, the children said.

Charles Morris, Doreen’s father, said the site had been a playground for at least seven years and he alleged the firm had not taken precautions to protect the lives of children. He realised they were trespassing and had himself frequently said that someone would get killed. None of the piles was staked at the sides to prevent any movement. Alexander F. Scott, manager of the firm for the site, agreed there was open access to the ground and it was bound to be dangerous for children to play there. The timber was stacked by men of long experience in the work, and none of it would move under normal conditions. The stack on which the girls were playing had been there for three years without anything having previously happened. They had patrol men during the weekend, but not on weekdays because employees were working on the site. He said they could put up notices, but some which had been posted with references to tippings were torn down after two days. They applied a number of years ago to fence off the ground completely but it was rejected by the Ministry of Works owing to the shortage of material and labour. He promised the firm would give full consideration as to the best means of preventing a recurrence of the happening.

The Coroner, returning a verdict of Accidental Death, said children played on the site and naturally thought that nothing would happen to them. He did not think notices or fencing would serve any useful purpose, but all reasonable precautions should be taken to safeguard life.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/5/1961

“The Property Market. By Harford Kingham and Co.....

Freehold de-licensed premises, WHITE SWAN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, £1,050.”

WHITE SWAN INN, WEDNESBURY.

TO be disposed of by private Treaty, with or without the Lease, the Licences, Good-will, and Possession of the above-named well-accustomed Inn, situate on the great Holyhead Road, Bridge-street, Wednesbury.

The premises are very suitably adapted for business, with excellent rooms, cellarage, brewhouse, stabling for nine horses, gig-house, outbuildings, and other conveniences.

The Stock, which is very limited, with part of the household furniture, brewing utensils, barrels, fixtures, &c. to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Mr. Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c. Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

WHITE SWAN INN, BRIDGE-STREET, WEDNESBURY.

TO be disposed of by private Treaty, the Lease, Licences, Good-will, Possession, Stock, Fixtures, &c. of the above-named Inn, which comprises tap-room, bar, and liquor-shop, smoke-room, dining-room, cooking-kitchen, five sleeping-rooms, excellent cellarage, brewhouse, stabling for nine horses, gig-house, and other conveniences.

The house is in good business, and situate on the Holyhead road. Sixteen years of the lease are yet unexpired, and at the very low rent of £25 per annum. Coming-in about £500.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c. Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

WHITE SWAN INN, BRIDGE-STREET, WEDNESBURY.

TO be disposed of by private Treaty, the Licences, Good-will, and Possession, Stock, Fixtures, and part of the Household Furniture of the above-named Inn, which comprises tap-room, bar and liquor-shop, smoke-room, dining-room, cooking-kitchen, five sleeping-rooms, excellent cellarage, brewhouse, stabling for nine horses, and other conveniences, the whole in good and substantial repair. The House is in good business, and situate on the Holyhead Road. Rent and payments low. Coming-in about £300. A Lease on the premises may be had if required.

For particulars apply (if by letter, post paid) to Daniel Taylor, Auctioneer, &c. Holyhead Road, Wednesbury.

**IMPORTANT SALE AT THE WHITE SWAN INN,
WEDNESBURY.**

JOSEPH WHITEHOUSE has received instructions from Mr. Glead to **SELL** by AUCTION, on **MONDAY NEXT**, the 16th day of September—the **LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION**, of the above-named INN (unless previously disposed of); also, the Neat and Clean **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, BREWING PLANT, STOCK of ALES, WINES, SPIRITS, &c.**, well seasoned Ale Casks, Patent **MALT CRUSHER**, Six Tumps of **HOPS**, **SPRING TRAP**, Harness, &c., according to catalogues, which may be obtained at the Auctioneer's, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

WEDNESBURY.

TO be LET, and may be entered upon immediately, a capital **BEER HOUSE**, known as "The UNION INN," and in the occupation of Mr. Job Edwards. It has an excellent In and Outdoor Trade, and surrounded by Ironworks. The Premises are very convenient, with large Yard, Stabling, &c. Rent low. Coming in about £150.—For particulars, apply to J. Whitehouse, Auctioneer and Valuer, Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

1861

TO PUBLICANS, BROKERS, AND OTHERS.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

BY J. WHITEHOUSE, THIS DAY (WEDNESDAY), January the 27th—the **LICENSES, GOODWILL, and POSSESSION** of the White Swan Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury; also, the **STOCK of ALE, PORTER, SPIRITS, &c.**, **BREWING PLANT, ALE CASKS**, part of the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE**, comprising Tables, Chairs, Spirit Counter, with Metal top, 6-pull Patent Ale Machine, 5-tap Spirit Fountain, Drainers, Hot Water and Coffee Apparatus, Copper and Iron Boilers, with Fittings, 20-bushel Mash Tub, Ale Coolers, Ale Casks, Tubs, Malt Crusher, Gas Fittings, Cups, Jugs, Glass, Pewter Measures, and other Effects, belonging to Joseph Morris, who is declining business.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock in the forenoon.

N.B.—The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession will be offered the first lot, unless previously disposed of.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale, or at the Turk's Head Hotel, Wednesbury.

1869

A Bargain.—Second-hand **SADDLE and BRIDLE**, 25s.; Hunting Saddle and double-rein Bridle, in good condition, Two Guineas.—Apply, Mr. L. Simmonds, White Swan Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

FOR SALE, a modern-built Park **PHAETON**, blue cloth lined, and Cushions to match, in condition nearly equal to new. Cost £45. Lowest price £20.—Apply to Mr. L. Simmonds, White Swan Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

FOR Sale, a very handsome dark Bay Cob **MARE**, 15 hands high, four years old, warranted sound, and perfectly quiet either to ride or drive; the property of a Gentleman who can be referred to, and has no further use for her. Has been regularly driven by a Lady. Price £35.—Apply to Mr. Simmonds, White Swan Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

1870

THIS DAY (Monday), May 13.—To Publicans, Parties Furnishing, and Others.—Unreserved Clearing Out **SALE**, at the White Swan Inn, Bridge Street, Wednesbury.

BY E. COX, as above, the whole of the **PUBLIC-HOUSE FIXTURES**, six-pull lever Ale Machine, metal-top Counter, copper Hot Water Apparatus, Barrels, Mash Tubs, copper and Iron Boilers, Vats, Coolers, Crusher, PUGS, Stock of **WINES and SPIRITS, ALE, CIDER**, and **PERRY**, Two Pockets of **HOPS**, and **MALT**, **FURNITURE**, and Effects; Bedding and Beds, Carpets, Square **PIANOFORTE**, Sewing Machine, hair-seat and Easy Chairs, Drinking and other Tables, Gasfittings, Street Lamp, Lead Pipes, Horse Troughs and a variety of Effects, belonging to Mr. Simmonds, who is compelled to give up the premises, which are about to undergo extensive alterations, and must be all cleared out at once.

Auctioneer's Office, High Street, West Bromwich.

1872

LOT. 1.—The valuable **OLD-LICENSED PREMISES**, known as the White Swan, situate in Bridge-street, Wednesbury, and now in the occupation of Mr. Charles Cartwright, and comprising liquor vaults, with a capital shop front, smoke-room, kitchen, four rooms upstairs, good cellars, with rolling way; brewhouse, with malt-room over; gighouse, with hoproom over; stable and loft over, yard with cartway, and other appurtenances.

This Lot is copyhold of the Manor of Wednesbury.

1885

ENGINE (6-h.p.), with Pump, **FOR SALE**; also Boiler, Pulleys, and Shafting, and several old Lathes, Vices, &c.; all in working order.—Address **GEO. CARTWRIGHT**, White Swan, Bridge-street, Wednesbury.

1896

WHY NOT

16, (17), (16+17), New Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd. [1921]

LICENSEES

Miss Ann Partridge [1868] – [1872]

Stephen Duffield [1880] – [1895]

Arthur Birch [1901] – [1904]

John Marshall [1911] – [1920]

Mrs. Martha Wood Till **(1921 – []**

Charles Henry Young [] – **1926**);

John Savage **(1926 – [1940]**

NOTES

16+17, New Street [1888], [1901], [1921], [1939]

17, New Street [1891], [1911]

16, New Street [1870], [1872], [1904], [1912], [1932], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

Miss Ann Partridge, beer retailer, New Street. [1868]

Miss Ann Partridge, beer retailer, 16, New Street. [1870], [1872]

Stephen Duffield, beer retailer, New Street. [1880]

1881 Census

New Street – WHY NOT INN

[1] *Stephen Duffield* (33), publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] Ann Duffield (43), wife, born Shrewsbury;

[3] Harriet Latham (22), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

Darlaston Weekly Times 9/2/1884

“The Excelsior Lodge, No.822, of the West Bromwich and Smethwick District of the National Order of Free Gardeners, held a meeting on Saturday at the lodge house, WHY NOT INN, New Street, Wednesbury. A report for the past six months showed contributions to the sick fund £13 15s 4d, expenditure £7 2s 7d, interest £3 15s 2d, which together with £148 19s 3d in hand in June, amounted to £159 7s 2d. The receipts for the management fund were £5 7s 6d, expenditure £7 10s 11d, showing a balance of £4 9s 5d with the amount in hand in June added. The total worth of the lodge was shown to be £163 16s 7d, of which the sum of £155 16s 2d was in the savings bank, and the other in the treasurer’s hands. Total number of members 27.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1885

“At the Oldbury County Court, yesterday, before Mr. W. D. Griffiths, judge, Joseph Powis, shingler, of Long Square, Hill Top, West Bromwich, brought an action against *Stephen Duffield*, of the WHY NOT INN, New Street, Wednesbury, to recover £3 damages for false imprisonment. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

The case for the plaintiff was that the parties, who are neighbours, were very often together. Defendant owned a dog which was very much attached to the plaintiff, and it was alleged that the defendant told the plaintiff if the dog would follow him he could have it. A trial was made, and the dog did follow the plaintiff in preference to the defendant. A few days afterwards plaintiff was arrested on a charge of stealing the dog, and was taken to Wednesbury and West Bromwich Police Stations, and at the latter place was charged before the magistrates with stealing the dog. The case was, however, dismissed, and plaintiff, feeling that he had suffered considerable loss of credit by being in custody one night, brought the present action.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, characterised it as a most trumpery case.

The Judge held that it was an utterly untenable action, and remarked that the plaintiff by his conduct gave the defendant good grounds for suspecting that he intended to steal the dog, and therefore he had no claim against the prisoner for false imprisonment. A verdict was given for the defendant.”

Stephen Duffield, beer retailer, 16+17, New Street. [1888]

1891 Census

17, New Street

[1] *Stephen Duffield* (42), publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] Ann Duffield (52), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Henry Duffield (14), nephew, ironworker, born West Bromwich;

[4] Rachael Fealley (17), general servant, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1892

“Yesterday, at West Bromwich Police Court, William Williams, alias ‘Polisher,’ of Holborn Hill, Aston, was charged with stealing two fowls, of the value of 5s, and nine pigeons, valued at 4d 6d, the property of Thomas Dyke, of New Street, Hill Top.

On Saturday the fowls were missed, and the police found that they had been sold to Mr. Peters, landlord of the OCEAN INN, Holyhead Road, Wednesbury, for 3s. Three pigeons were recovered at the OCEAN INN, and four were also found to have been sold to Mr. Cartwright, of the WHITE SWAN INN, Bridge Street, Wednesbury, and two were sold to the landlord of the WHY NOT INN, Wednesbury.

Prisoner was sent to gaol for one month, with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1894

“At Wednesbury Police Court, yesterday, *Stephen Duffield*, the WHY NOT beerhouse, New Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises.

The evidence of Detective Platt, Police-constable Eden, and Police-sergeant Minshall was to the effect that at four o’clock on the 10th inst there were ten or twelve persons in the defendant’s house who had had ‘plenty to drink,’ and that two of them were drunk. Half an hour later one of the drunken men was still there.

Mr. F. W. Topham, who appeared for the defence, called several witnesses, who swore positively that all the people in the house were sober.

A fine of 10s and costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1895

“The adjourned licensing meeting for the borough of Wednesbury took place yesterday.....

Superintendent Salt opposed the renewal of the licenses in respect of.....

WHY NOT beerhouse, New Street, kept by *Stephen Duffield*, on the grounds of lack of satisfactory evidence of good character, a conviction for permitting drunkenness, and the disorderly character of the house License renewed.”

Stephen Duffield died in the 4th quarter of 1896.

1901 Census

16+17, New Street

[1] *Arthur Birch* (26), publican, born Manchester;

[2] *Ada A. Birch* (26), wife, born Wednesbury:

Arthur Birch, beer retailer, 16, New Street. [1904]

1911 Census

17, New Street – WHY NOT INN

[1] *John Marshall* (48), licensed victualler, born Bloxwich;

[2] *Sarah Ann Marshall* (45), wife, married 26 years, born Bloxwich;

[3] *Leonard Marshall* (19), son, roller, iron works, born Short Heath;

[4] *Edward Marshall* (17), son, worker, boot and shoe trade, born Short Heath;

[5] *Richard Marshall* (15), son, labourer, iron works, born Bloxwich;

[6] *Maud Marshall* (9), daughter, school, born Bloxwich;

[7] *Albert Marshall* (6), son, school, born Bloxwich;

[8] *Lucy Ann Shilton* (22), domestic servant, born Kingsbury, Warwickshire:

Wednesbury Herald 23/9/1911

“Early on Tuesday morning a fire was discovered on the premises of the WHY NOT INN, Wednesbury. The landlord, Mr. *John Marshall*, and several other men put out the flames before the arrival of the members of the fire brigade. The damage was not considerable.”

John Marshall, beer retailer, 16, New Street. [1912]

South Staffordshire Times 6/3/1920

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions WHY NOT INN.

John Marshall applied for the renewal of the license for the above named inn, objection having been made on the ground of redundancy. It was situated at New Street. Mr. Pritchard on behalf of the defence.

Supt. Salt gave evidence, and admitted that the place was now in a fair condition, having been renovated.

Mr. Pritchard made a strong appeal for the renewal of the license, and called Mr. Tomlinson, who had made an inspection of the property, which was very satisfactory.....

The magistrates retired to consider their decision in all the forgoing cases.

The Chairman subsequently announced the case of the WHY NOT INN would be referred for compensation.”

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.....

WHY NOT, New Street, Wednesbury.”

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 licenses have not been renewed.....

WHY NOT, Wednesbury, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,100.”

It closed in 1920.

South Staffordshire Times 5/3/1921

“Wednesbury Licensing Sessions NOAHS ARK and WHY NOT.

Mr. Graham Millward (barrister) made application for the transfer of the license of the NOAHS ARK to the WHY NOT. Both were situated in New Street, Wednesbury. These houses came up last year for redundancy, and the magistrates refused the WHY NOT and retained the NOAHS ARK, but application was now made to transfer one to the other as the WHY NOT was a better structure and more suitable. There would only be one licensed house in the street, and there was a little haven of peace reigning in the neighbourhood, for there was no opposition whatever.

Mr. Ernest Brown said he was watching the interests of the present licensee of the NOAHS ARK (Mrs. *M. Till*), who was perfectly willing to go and live at the WHY NOT.

Evidence was called in support.

The magistrates granted the application.”

South Staffordshire Times 9/4/1921

“Mr. Graham Millward applied to the magistrates for the confirmation of the removal of the license of the NOAHS ARK to the WHY NOT licensed premises. The license of the WHY NOT had gone, by previous decision, and now the application was for the transfer of the NOAHS ARK license to a better place and more modern, the WHY NOT. There was no opposition, said Mr. Millward, and he trusted the application would be granted.

The Mayor said the magistrates had decided that there was no need to call all the witnesses mentioned in support, and the transfer of the license was now confirmed.”

Subsequent to the transfer of the license, the WHY NOT was renamed NOAHS ARK.

1921 Census

16+17 New Street – NOAHS ARK INN

[1] *Martha Wood Till* (73), widow, public house manageress, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Samuel Henry Till* (53), son, widower, barman, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Phoebe Barnsley* (50), daughter, married, home duties, born Wednesbury;

[4] *Felistus Ellis* (77), visitor, widow, home duties, born Glasgow:

[WHY NOT has been crossed out and replaced with NOAHS ARK.]

Walsall Observer 5/2/1927

“Objection was raised by the police at the Wednesbury annual licensing sessions yesterday to the renewal of the license of the LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, Stafford Street, and the NOAHS ARK, beerhouse, New Street. The NORTH WESTERN HOTEL, it was explained, had been ill-conducted, while it was said the NOAHS ARK was a house of a disorderly character, and on July 13 there was a conviction for supplying intoxicants during non-permitted hours. These licenses were referred to the adjourned meeting on March 4, together with those of the SMITHS ARMS, beerhouse, Cross Street, and the MAZEPPA, beerhouse, Elwell Street, which were objected to on the ground of redundancy.”

Walsall Observer 5/3/1927

“At the adjourned Wednesbury Licensing sessions yesterday, the license of the SMITHS ARMS, Cross Street, was referred for compensation, but that of the MAZEPPA, Elwell Street, which had also been objected to on the ground of redundancy, was renewed. The licenses of the L.N.W. HOTEL, Stafford Street, and the NOAHS ARK, New Street, which had been objected to on the ground of convictions, were renewed.”

John Savage, beer retailer, 16, New Street, Wednesbury. [1932]

1939 Register

16+17 New Street – NOAHS ARK

[1] *John Savage*, date of birth 16/8/1891, blacksmith, heavy work, married;

[2] *Fanny Savage*, dob 22/9/1891, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/11/1946

“A Wednesbury woman now living at Erdington, Birmingham, has just celebrated her 99th birthday and is still hale and hearty. She is Mrs. *Martha Till*, formerly licensee of the NOAHS ARK INN, New Street, Wednesbury. Her daughter, the only surviving child, is 79. There are eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/3/1947

“Mrs. *Martha Till*, of 4, Springfield, Fentham Road, Erdington, Birmingham, has died in her 100th year, after a short illness. For many years she was licensee of the NOAHS ARK INN, Wednesbury, and up to the time of her death she was able to read without the aid of glasses.”

WILLIAM IV

Trouse Lane, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Smith [1834] – [1835]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Richard Smith, beer retailer, Trowse Lane. [1835]

WINDMILL

116, Coronation Road, Woods Estate, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Craft Union Pub Company (Stonegate Group) [2023], [2025]

LICENSEES

Leslie Jepson Guest **(1959 – 1963);**
Irene Eva Guest **(1963 – [1966]**
Brian Bowkett [1979]
Wendy Ann Arnold []
Lisa Smith **(2021 – [2023]**

NOTES

It opened on 30th October 1959.
It was designed by Messrs. Scott and Clark of Wednesbury.
It was built by Messrs. R. Hadlett and Co, Manby Street, Wolverhampton.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Victory Darts League. [1962]

Leslie Jepson Guest and Irene Eva Guest – see PRIORY, Walsall.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/7/1965 - Advert

“Barman or Barmaid required, evenings and weekends.
WINDMILL, Coronation Road, Wednesbury.”

BARMAN or Barmaid required, evenings and weekends. — Windmill, Coronation-road, Wednesbury.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1965]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 30/11/1967

“Plans for phase one of a £55,000 sports and social club at Kent Road, Woods Estate, Wednesbury, have been given the go-ahead by West Bromwich planning committee.....
The scheme is being promoted by a charity tote organisation which meets in the WINDMILL public house, Coronation Road, Woods Estate.”

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 23/3/1979 - Advert

“Part Time Bar Staff required, evenings and weekends, experience preferred but trainees considered.
Apply, Manager, WINDMILL, Coronation Road, Wednesbury.”

PART TIME Bar Staff required. evenings and weekends. experienced preferred but trainees considered. Apply Manager Windmill, Coronation Road Wednesbury 0215561605



2013



2025

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/11/1979

“A Wednesbury pub landlord has been fined £50 for allowing gambling in his pub. *Brian Bowkett*, aged 46, licensee of the WINDMILL in Coronation Road, was fined after West Bromwich magistrates heard he allowed the card game Crash to be played for money.

Bowkett, who denied the charges, appeared in court with Mr. Ronald Hands, aged 42, of Manor Road, Friar Park, who denied helping him allow the games on two separate nights.

The pub landlord was fined £50 and ordered to pay £40 advocates costs. Magistrates dismissed a charge that Hands helped *Bowkett* on March 3 this year, but fined him £25 for aiding and abetting him on March 11.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/7/1980

“A tug-of-war contest at a Wednesbury fete was abandoned after it developed into a war of words. Arguments arose during a quarter-final tug between the ROBIN HOOD, Collis Street, Amblecote, and the WINDMILL, Coronation Road, Wednesbury. And after a conference between the two referees and captains from all eight teams competing it was decided to abandon the rest of the contest. ‘There were a few pointed fingers and some hard words, but no actual violence,’ said Mr. Martin Law of Wednesbury Round Table, the organisers of Saturday’s Brunswick Park fete. ‘To prevent an explosive situation developing it was felt best to abandon the lot.’

Trouble started when the ROBIN HOOD lads were accused of putting two fresh men in their team. But licensee Mr. George Wright said, ‘We could not believe our ears. We could not possibly have changed two men because it was our first pull, nor would we have. We were there for the sport. There was no bad conduct on our team’s part.’

But the man who admits to being ‘the main one’ in the argument – Mr. Keith Hemming, of 68 Barlow Road, Wednesbury, who captained a team from the COTTAGE INN, Wood Green Road – maintains there was a swop. He said the Amblecote men were too professional for the contest – a claim dismissed by Mr. Wright – and should not have been allowed to compete when other Wednesbury teams were unable to. Fete organiser Mr. Law said two teams from the Stourbridge area were accepted three weeks ago when it looked as if the contest would not have enough entrants.”

Birmingham Mail 22/3/1994 - Notice

“Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

Notice is hereby given that an application is to be made for a Public Entertainment License at the WINDMILL Public House, Coronation Road, Wednesbury.”

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.....

WINDMILL, Coronation Road, Wednesbury.”

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.”

Express & Star 7/6/2023

“A revamped pub has re-opened to public acclaim following a month-long, £232,000 makeover. The WINDMILL, on Coronation Road, Wednesbury, re-opened today after being given a new lease of life through an investment by the Craft Union Pub Company. The £232,000 refurbishment has seen new furnishings, fittings and dual rooms fitted as a space for functions. The renovated pub, which shut on May 8 for the work to be carried out, has also developed a new sports area featuring live sports from BT and Sky Sports, a pool table and a darts board. Landlady *Lisa Smith* said, ‘It’s been going so well, it is starting to get quite busy now which is nice. Everyone really loves the new makeover, they really do, we have had all the regulars back in here taking a look around and some new faces as well which is always lovely.’

The pub also sports a new transformed outdoor space, which boasts new benches and ground, just in time for the summer. Ms. *Smith* continued, ‘I really love it, it looks amazing, it’s all a bit overwhelming really, I have settled down a bit now but yea, it really looks fantastic. It spells a new future for the pub really yea, everyone is really enjoying it.’

As part of a planned launch party, June 23 will see live music held at the pub from 8pm, with a Las Vegas night also planned for June 24, before the fun is rounded off with a karaoke night on June 25 at 4pm.”

[2025]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

**Notice is hereby given
that an application is to
be made for a Public
Entertainment Licence at
the Windmill Public
House, Coronation Road,
Wednesbury.**

1994

WINDMILL

Windmill Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/8/1865 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property, at Wednesbury, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Thomas Richards (by order of the Mortgagees), on Monday Next, August 28, at the house of Charles Bill, the DARTMOUTH ARMS HOTEL, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions of sale then to be produced, in one or two Lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale, the following Valuable Freehold Properties.

All that Freehold Dwelling House and Premises, situate in Windmill Street, Wednesbury, formerly occupied as a Public House, and known by the sign of the WINDMILL INN, but now used as a Butcher's and Poulterer's Shop, with the Brewhouse (with Store Room over), Stable, Outbuildings, and Yard thereto belonging, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Blakemore; together with Two Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, situate and adjoining the lastly-mentioned Property, in Windmill Street aforesaid, with the Brewhouse, Yard, and Outbuildings thereto belonging, in the occupations of John Welch and James Eccleston, the whole occupying a site of 363 square yards, and producing an estimated annual rental of £42 18s. The Property is well supplied with water.

Further particulars may be obtained, and a plan of the Property inspected, at the Offices of Mr. C. G. Brown, Solicitor, Bilston; or the Auctioneer, 17, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton."

ON MONDAY NEXT.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY, At WEDNESBURY,

IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD. TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY Mr. THOMAS RICHARDS (by order of the Mortgagees), on MONDAY NEXT, August 28, at the house of Charles Bill, the Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednesbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions of sale then to be produced, in one or two Lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale, the following Valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTIES:—

All that FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE and PREMISES, situate in Windmill Street, Wednesbury, formerly occupied as a Public House, and known by the sign of the "Windmill Inn," but now used as a Butcher's and Poulterer's Shop, with the Brewhouse (with Store Room over), Stable, Outbuildings, and Yard thereto belonging, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Blakemore; together with Two FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSES and PREMISES, situate and adjoining the lastly-mentioned Property, in Windmill Street aforesaid, with the Brewhouse, Yard, and Outbuildings thereto belonging, in the occupations of John Welch and James Eccleston, the whole occupying a site of 363 square yards, and producing an estimated annual rental of £42. 18s. The Property is well supplied with water.

Further particulars may be obtained, and a plan of the Property inspected at the Offices of Mr. C. G. Brown, Solicitor, Bilston; or the Auctioneer, 17, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton.

WODEN

25, Church Hill (27, Church Street), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Admiral Taverns

LICENSEES

William Reeves [1901]
William Lane [1904]
Solomon H Beesley **(1904 – [1908])**
William Reeves [1911] – [1921]
Cyril George Harry Reeves [1932] – [1940]
Ernest Turley **(1943 – 1945)**
Thomas Samuel 'Tom' King [1961] – **1974**
George Harold Victor 'Vic' Saunders **(1974 – [1981])**
Jeff Stevens [1984]
Keith Steatham [1991]
Terry Burns [1993]
Gillian Margaret Burns [1995]
Margaret Stevens [1996] – [1997]



2007



2014

NOTES

27, Church Street [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1932], [1940]
25, Church Hill [1995], [2000]

It was situated near St. Bartholomew's Church.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 26/8/1898

“The annual licensing meeting for the borough of Wednesbury took place this morning at the Police Court..... Superintendent Salt, in his report, stated.....

He had received a notice from Mr. Henry Ellis, CHURCH HILL TAVERN, of his intention to apply for the removal of the license he now held in respect of these premises to a house now in the course of erection at the corner of Earps Lane and Church Hill, proposed to be known by the sign of the WODEN INN.”

1901 Census

Church Street – WODEN INN

- [1] William Reeves (37), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Maria E. Reeves (40), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Priscilla Collins (28), servant, born Tipton:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Solomon Beesley = Solomon Beasley

Walsall Observer 18/6/1904

“Yesterday, at Wednesbury Police Court, Mr. A. A. Caddick made an application for the temporary transfer of the WODEN INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, to *Solomon Beasley*, the well-known back of the Old Athletic Club. Councillor Joynson pointed out that there was a conviction against the applicant *Beasley* on the 11th November, 1898, for drunkenness. The applicant explained that this offence occurred on the 5th of November, 1898, and he was very young then, only being nineteen years of age. He had been footballing, and some of their supporters asked him to have more than he generally took, and it upset him. At that time he was not connected with the licensed trade. Mr. Caddick said this was a youthful indiscretion, and he hoped the Bench would not consider it a serious ground for objection to the transfer. The Bench ultimately granted the application.”

1911 Census

27, Church Street – WODEN INN

- [1] William Reeves (52), licensed victualler's manager, born Coseley;
- [2] Laura Reeves (46), wife, married 27 years, assisting in the business, born Birmingham;
- [3] Cyril Reeves (13), son, scholar, born Willenhall;
- [4] Alice Bickley (25), domestic servant, born Brownhills, Staffordshire:

1921 Census

Church Street – WODEN INN

- [1] Head away
- [2] Laura Reeves (55), wife, home duties, born Birmingham;
- [3] Cyril Reeves (23), son, motor mechanic, out of work, born Willenhall:

South Staffordshire Times 19/1/1924

“The Market Ward Committee of the Wednesbury Conservative and Unionist Association held a meeting at the WODEN INN, on Monday last.....”

Ernest Turley was president of Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association 1955-1968.

Ernest Turley – see also FORGE, Franchise Street, Wednesbury, KINGS HILL TAVERN, Mill Street, Wednesbury, BUSH, Leabrook Road, Tipton, and WHEATSHEAF, Wordsley, Stourbridge.

Warwick Advertiser 10/9/1938

“The funeral took place at Warwick Cemetery on Wednesday of Mr. Henry John Phillips, an old employee of the Corporation.....
Wreaths were sent by Mr. and Mrs. Reeves, WODEN, Wednesbury.”

1939 Register

Church Street – WODEN INN (3 of 4)

- [1] Cyril G. H. Reeves, date of birth 20/2/1898, public house manager, married;
- [2] Beatrice M. Reeves, dob 16/1/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Kathleen M. (Reeves) Buckley, dob 10/6/1926, school, single;

Cyril George Harry Reeves died in the 2nd quarter of 1943.

Cyril George Harry Reeves – see also MAZEPPA, Elwell Street.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/12/1962 - Advert

“Bar Help wanted, WODEN INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury.”

BAR HELP wanted, Woden Inn, Church Hill, Wednesbury.—Wednesbury 0679.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/1/1966 - Personal

"The Customers of the WODEN INN wish to thank the Host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *T. King*, for their generosity and kindness which made our visit to the pantomime a very enjoyable evening, and we wish them every success throughout the year 1966."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/12/1966 - Advert

"Best Wishes for Christmas and the Coming New Year to all our Customers, from Mr. and Mrs. *T. S. King*, the WODEN INN, Wednesbury."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/4/1967 - Engagements

"Mr. and Mrs. S. Eccleston, of Shepherd Drive, Willenhall, are happy to announce the engagement of their only daughter, Verna, to David, only son of Mr. and Mrs. *T. King*, of the WODEN INN, Wednesbury. Love, mom, dad."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/3/1970 - Advert

"Barmaid required, evenings, experience not necessary.
WODEN INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury."

BARMAID required, evenings, experience not necessary.—Woden Inn, Church Hill, Wednesbury. 556-0679.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/8/1970 - Births

"Congratulations to Jennifer and Martin Harris on the birth of your son, brother for Clive. Love mom and dad *King*, WODEN INN."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1971 - Advert

"*Tom* and Ivy, of the WODEN INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury.
Hearty Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the Coming Year."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/3/1972 - Advert

"Bar Staff wanted.
WODEN INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury."

BAR STAFF wanted, — Woden Inn, Church Hill, Wednesbury 556-0679.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/7/1974 - Advert

"Bar Staff required urgently.
The WODEN INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury."

BAR STAFF required urgently. — The Woden Inn, Church Hill, Wednesbury.

Wolverhampton Express and Star 4/9/1974 - Deaths

"*Thomas Samuel King*, of the WODEN INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, passed away Hallam Hospital, September 3. Husband of Ivy, son David, daughter Jennifer and families. Peace after pain."
AND

Wolverhampton Express and Star 6/9/1974 - Deaths

"On September 3, 1974, at Hallam Hall Hospital, *Thomas Samuel King*, aged 56 years. Funeral on Tuesday, September 10, from the WODEN INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury. Service St. Bartholomew's, 2.45pm, followed by cremation at Newton Road, West Bromwich. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu may be sent to Mrs. J. Harris, 3, Malvern Close, West Bromwich, for the British Heart Foundation."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/12/1978 - Advert

"Dick [sic] and Kath of the WODEN INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, wish all customers and friends a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/1/1981

“A police raid on a Wednesbury pub found a dozen tipplers raising their glasses after time, West Bromwich magistrates heard. The police inspector and nine officers went into the WODEN INN at Church Hill, found the pub-goers still enjoying their pints at 3.01pm. The licensee, his son, and 12 customers appeared before the magistrates and were ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £955. Landlord, *George Saunders*, 57, admitted aiding and abetting a dozen customers to drink during non-permitted hours and was fined a total of £300 and ordered to pay £30 costs. It was his first offence. His son Gary, 24, of Hinksford Park, Wall Heath, was working as a barman that afternoon. He admitted seven offences of aiding and abetting customers to drink after time and was fined £70 with £15 costs. The 12 drinkers, including one woman, all admitted drinking after hours and were each fined £40 and ordered to pay £5 costs.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/9/1981

“Staff at the WODEN INN pub in Wednesbury have found that there are a few strings attached to their job. For all the staff, including the landlord and his wife, have string puppets named after them hanging over the bar. For the last six years staff and customers of the pub, in Church Hill, have been collecting puppets which resembled the staff from all over the world. Not only are there puppet replicas of the landlord *Vic Sanders* and his wife Kath on show, but even their dog Rusty has his own double. The idea started off when 54-year-old Kath spotted a puppet looking remarkably like a barman when on a holiday in Benidorm, and hung it over the bar with a name attached. Then a customer, who is an airline steward, brought back a puppet from Mexico and decided it looked just like publican *Vic*. Since then everyone in the bar staff and even the pub cleaner has got a string double. Kath, who has been running the pub with her husband for seven years, said, ‘It’s always a talking point with our customers and we have had fun collecting the puppets. The reasons they are chosen are not just because they look exactly like us; the one resembling out cleaner Floss, for example, is in the shape of a brush, which exactly fits her job.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/6/1982

“Fourteen Wednesbury pubs have failed in a bid to cash in on the Bank Holiday beer trade by applying for license extensions. West Bromwich magistrates refused to allow an extra hour’s drinking time on August Bank Holiday The 14 pubs which have been denied the extra hour’s drinking are..... WODEN INN. Church Street, Wednesbury.”

Jeff Stevens = Geoff Stevens

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/10/1984

“Regulars from a Wednesbury pub donned fancy dress for a six-mile fun run to raise money for the Stuart Bathurst School fund. Landlord of the WODEN, Church Hill, Mr. *Jeff Stevens* and five of his customers took part in the sponsored fun run at Palfrey Community Centre. They raised more than £120 for the fund, started after the bus crash which killed four schoolboys and their teacher on September 24. Mr. *Stevens* said, ‘It is a tragedy that has hit Wednesbury very hard. As the local pub we just wanted to do anything we could to help.’”

[The teacher was driving a minibus, taking boys to play a football match, when it collided with a lorry. Eight other boys and another teacher were hospitalised.]

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/11/1984

“Fangs are definitely what they used to be, just ask fancy dress winner Mr. Brian Stevens. Slaughterhouse manager Brian dressed up as the cruel Count to take first prize out of 100 fancy dress contestants at the WODEN pub, Church Hall, Wednesbury. Wednesday Whipper, professional boxer Paul Chance judged Mr. Stevens the winner and handed over the bottle of Scotch for first prize. The pub has a fancy dress party every year for regulars and their friends and families, and they plan another in the New Year. But when it comes to fancy dress, the customers had had a dry run – last month they raised £100 in a six mile fancy dress dash through the streets of Walsall. The money will be given to a fund for the families of four schoolboy footballers from Stuart Bathurst School in Wednesbury, who were killed in a minibus smash along with one of their teachers.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/7/1985

“Licensee *Geoff Stevens* of the WODEN pub, Wednesbury, presented a cheque for £115 which regulars had raised for charity, with a football match between themselves and at the Alexander Stadium.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/8/1991

“Ian Russell is hoping to score a few pounds as well as a load of points for Cancer Research when he takes part in a sponsored 24-hour darts marathon tomorrow. Ian, of Short Street, Wednesbury, was found to have a tumor in his foot two years ago, and is still undergoing treatment. He will line up with landlord *Keith Steatham* and other regulars of the WODEN pub, aiming to go from one million to one within 24 hours.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1993

“Customers and staff fled from a Wednesbury pub after fire broke out in the family’s living quarters. Licensee Mr. *Terry Burns*’s son Simon, aged 13, was having a bath by candlelight after electrical problems cut off the power to the living quarters of the WODEN pub in Church Hill. The candle burned down and set light to the plastic toilet cistern on which it was standing and began giving off choking smoke. Simon grabbed a dressing gown and fled downstairs to raise the alarm. They and customers fled from the building and firemen quickly put out the fire. Mr. *Burns* said yesterday, ‘It was nothing really, just a small fire.’”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/10/1995

“The Insolvency Act 1986.....

In the Dudley County Court. Re *Gillian Margaret Burns*.

On 21 September 1995 the above named Court amended the title of the above proceedings to *Gillian Margaret Burns*, unemployed, 57 Basset Road, Friar Park, Wednesbury, lately carrying on business as a licensee at the WODEN, 25 Church Hill, Wednesbury. The proceedings were previously advertised on 24 July 1995 under the description *Gillian Margaret Burns Public Houses*, of the WODEN, 25 Church Hill, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/8/1996

“Support for a popular cancer victim went to the heads of 50 regulars at a Wednesbury pub, who all had their heads shaved. Thirty people at the WODEN public house have had the big snip to raise money for the Manor Hospital, Walsall, where Chad Paget, aged 20, from Walsall Road, Wednesbury, has been undergoing treatment. Among those to loose their locks was *Jeff Stevens*, husband of the WODEN’s licensee *Margaret*. She said, ‘Chad is a lovely lad, but I think he has been a bit self-conscious about losing his hair as a result of the treatment. We wanted to do something to show our support and raise some money. The response has been amazing.’ Mrs. *Stevens* said more than £1,000 in sponsor money had already been collected, with much more to come in.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/7/1997

“A Black Country raft race team literally went overboard in raising £500 for a hospital, and gave organisers an anxious moment. All ten ‘sailors’ from the WODEN public house in Wednesbury were tossed into the River Severn when their raft capsized at rapids during the annual Lions Club Ironbridge to Bridgnorth race and three had to be aided by frogmen. Licensee *Geoff Stevens* said, ‘It was a pretty hairy moment but it was all over in a matter of a minute. It took half-an-hour to get the raft sorted out but the lads completed the course in three hours 15 minutes. Mr. *Stevens* said sponsorship money was boosted by a further fundraiser in which he shaved the heads of 50 customers. A cheque will be presented to the hospital later.”

[2018]

Closed [2020]

Woden Boutique Hotel (unlicensed) [2023], [2025]

Best Wishes for Christmas and the
Coming New Year to all our
Customers, from

MR. AND MRS. T. S. KING,
THE WODEN INN,
WEDNESBURY.

1966

TOM AND IVY,
of
THE WODEN INN,
Church Hill,
Wednesbury.

Hearty Christmas Greetings
and Best Wishes for the
Coming Year.

1971

DICK AND KATH
of
THE WODEN INN
Church Hill,
Wednesbury
Wish all customers and friends
a
VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

1978

ENTERTAINMENT at
THE WODEN
25 Church Hill, Wednesbury

Telephone:
0121 556 3706

Sunday-Wednesday
BRING THIS ADVERT IN AND
RECEIVE A
FREE GLASS
OF WINE

Monday
Quiz and Play your Cards Right
CASH PRIZES

Tuesday
Open the Box Draw 9.00pm
Tickets available all week behind bar

Wednesday
POOL KNOCKOUT

Thursday
Resident Disco loads of fun
Ladies Night, Free Glass of Wine
or Free Bottle if over 3 in group

Friday
LIVE MUSIC from
TWICE NIGHTLY

Saturday
PARTY NIGHT WITH
Top Entertainer TREV-I-OKE
Fun and Games Plus Prizes
Live Music and cabaret

Sunday
Live Music Every Sunday

2000'

WOODMAN

34, Dale Street, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1921] ,[1961]

LICENSEES

Joseph Rigby [] – **1871**);
George Grange (**1871** – []
Samuel Woodhall [1881] – [1891]
Henry Johnson []
Mrs. Ellen Johnson [1900] – [1911]
Ralph David Johnson [1921]
Edward C Raybould [1939] – [1940]
William Ivan Hulse [1955] – **1963**);
Samuel Alfred Scott (**1963** – [1966]
Mrs. Janet Weaver []



c1920s

NOTES

It had a beer and wine license.

1871 Census

34, Dale Street

- [1] Joseph Rigby (39), coach smith, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Sarah Rigby (37), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Naomi Rigby (15), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Joseph Rigby (11), son, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Sarah Rigby (2), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Sophia Rigby (64), mother-in-law, widow, laundress, born Cradley;
- [7] Eliza Moore (11), niece, scholar, born Wednesbury;

1881 Census

34, Dale Street – WOODMAN INN

- [1] Samuel Woodhall (45), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Mary Woodhall (44), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Henry Woodhall (19), son, general labourer, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Mary Woodhall (17), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Walter Woodhall (5), son, born West Bromwich;

1891 Census

34, Dale Street – WOODMAN INN

- [1] Samuel Woodhall (55), beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Fanny Woodhall (62), wife, born Pelsall;
- [3] Walter Woodhall (15), son, artisan, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Alice Woodhall (12), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Louisa Orme (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury;
- [6] William Bird (62), lodger, coal miner, born Wednesbury;

1901 Census

34, Dale Street – WOODMAN TAVERN

- [1] *Ellen Johnson* (55), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Arthur E. Johnson* (21), son, fitter in engine works, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ralph D. Johnson* (19), son, barman in tavern, born Wednesbury:

Walsall Advertiser 31/7/1909

“A very interesting quoit handicap, on the ground of the WOODMAN INN, Dale Street, Wednesbury, has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. There were no fewer than 75 entries, and the prizes, given by the hostess, was won by Mr. J. Johnson, who showed consistent from throughout.”

1911 Census

34, Dale Street

- [1] *Ellen Johnson* (66), widow, publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Arthur Edward Johnson* (31), son, iron and steel turner, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Ralph David Johnson* (29), son, barman, born Wednesbury:

Ralph David Johnson married *Ethel Louise Tart* in the 1st quarter of 1916.

1921 Census

34, Dale Street

- [1] *Ralph David Johnson* (40), public house manager, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Ethel Louise Johnson* (31), wife, home duties, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *William Henry Johnson* (4), son, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Arthur Edward Johnson* (1), son, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Arthur Edward Johnson* (42), brother, barman, out of work, born Wednesbury:

Ralph David Johnson – see also OLD PARK and CORONATION.

Dudley Chronicle 13/1/1927 - Advert

“Pony, 12 hands; Governess Car and Harness, very smart turn-out, together or separate; also Heavy Horse and Cart. WOODMAN INN, Dale Street, Wednesbury.”

PONY, 12 hands; Governess Car and Harness, very smart turn-out, together or separate; also Heavy Horse and Cart.—Woodman Inn, Dale Street, Wednesbury.

Dudley Chronicle 2/6/1927 - Advert

“For Sale, smart fast Pony, 13 hands; Governess Car and Harness; also Cart-Mare, sound and best of worker. WOODMAN INN, Dale Street, Wednesbury.”

FOR Sale, smart fast Pony, 13 hands, Governess Car and Harness; also Cart-Mare, sound and best of worker.—Woodman Inn, Dale Street, Wednesbury.

1939 Register

34, Dale Street – WOODMAN

- [1] *Edward C. Raybould*, date of birth 8/3/1877, beerhouse keeper, widowed;
- [2] *Vera* (Raybould) *Griffiths*, dob 29/11/1918, unpaid domestic duties, single:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

Birmingham Mail 17/1/1955

“Damage was caused at the WOODMAN INN, Dale Street, Wednesbury, today, when a quantity of timber caught fire in the cellar. The licensee, Mr. *William Hulse*, and his wife were awakened by dense smoke and the fire brigade was called.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 28/5/1962 - Advert

“Cleaner for relief work, June 2 to 9, 1962. WOODMAN, Dale Street, Wednesbury.”

CLEANER for relief work, June 2 to 9, 1962.—Woodman, Dale-street, Wednesbury.

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1963], [1965]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Town Darts League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Social Dominoes League. [1970]

[1976]

London Gazette 22/8/1980

“*Janet Weaver* (married woman), residing and carrying on business at the QUEENS ARMS, 81 Holyhead Road, Wednesbury in the metropolitan county of West Midlands as a Tenant Publican lately residing and carrying on business at the WOODMAN, Dale Street, Wednesbury, aforesaid as a Tenant Publican.

Court - Dudley.

Date of Filing Petition - 14th August 1980.

Date of Receiving Order - 14th August 1980.

Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition – Debtor's.”

Closed



WOODMAN

Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Simkin [1834] – [1835]

William Harry Field []

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

WOODMAN

74, (62), Wood Green Road, (30, (61), Woodgreen), (61, Walsall Road), WEDNESBURY

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1921]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Courage Ltd. [1984], [1994]

LICENSEES

Mrs. Ann Turner [1834] – [1845]
James Batch [1849] – **1855**);
Mrs. Jane Batch **(1855 – 1857)**;
William Smith **(1857 – 1859)**;
Thomas Wood **(1859 – 1872)**;
Sarah Wood **(1872 – [1876]**
Samuel Wood [1879] – [1881]
Joseph Byrne **(1890 – 1895)**
E L Hammond [1895]
Jones [1898]
George Thomas Gore [] – **1901**);
James Steadman **(1901 – [1904]**
T Gorman [1908]
Charles William Garfield [1911] – [1912]
Frederick John 'Fred' Burton [1913] – [1932]
Alfred Blakemore **(1935 – 1937)**
Mrs. Mabel C Blakemore [1939] – [1940]
Henry Thomas King [1953]
Thomas Raymond Green [1961] – **1964**);
Alan Jack Martin **(1964 – [1976]**
Ivan Anslow [1982]
Alan Whitten **(1983 – 1994)**
Brian Parr **(1994 – []**



NOTES

61, Walsall Road [1871]
61, Woodgreen [1881]
62, Wood Green Road [1892], [1896], [1904]
30, Wood Green [1901]
74, Wood Green Road [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940], [1996]

WOODMAN HOTEL [1904]

It had a beerhouse license.

1841 Census

Wood Green

- [1] Ann Turner (60), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] James Batch (50), farmer, born Staffordshire;
- [3] Jane Batch (45), born Staffordshire;
- [4] James Jones (35), gun lock filer, born Staffordshire;
- [5] Eliza Thornton (9), f.s., born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Wood Green

- [1] James Batch (60), publican, born Darlaston;
- [2] Jane Batch (60), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Mary J. Woodward (16), house servant, born Wednesbury;
- [4] Martha Pakeman (70), visitor, annuitant, born Acton, Staffordshire:

James Batch died on 21st October 1854.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/1/1855

“At the Petty Sessions, West Bromwich, on Saturday last before the sitting Magistrates..... the license of the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, was transferred from the executors of the late *James Batch* to *Jane Batch*.”

Birmingham Journal 24/3/1860 - Advert

“To be Let, Furnished, a comfortable Cottage, with Garden, &c, near a Railway Station, within seven miles of Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, &c. It is well found with every requisite, and consists of two Sitting Rooms, three Bed Rooms, Store Room, and Out-houses. Terms moderate.

For further particulars, apply by letter, to J. F., WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, near Wednesbury.”

1861 Census

Woodgreen

- [1] Thomas Wood (43), innkeeper, born Bloxwich;
- [2] Sarah Wood (43), wife, born Bloxwich;
- [3] Amos Cooper (11), visitor, scholar, born Walsall:

TO be LET, Furnished, a comfortable COTTAGE, with Garden &c., near a Railway Station, within seven miles of Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, &c. It is well found with every requisite, and consists of two Sitting Rooms, three Bed Rooms, Store Room, and Out-houses. Terms moderate.—For further particulars, apply by letter, to J. F., Woodman Inn, Wood Green, near Wednesbury.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/6/1864

“S. Fletcher of Wood Green is surprised that Asson of Wednesbury should ask for three yards start in 100. If Asson means business Fletcher will be at *T. Wood*’s, the WOODMAN INN, on Monday, June 6, prepared to make a match to run level, for £5 or £10 a side, to come off in five weeks from signing articles.”

Thomas Wood, beer retailer, Wood Green. [1865], [1868]

Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1865

“Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest on Tuesday, at the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, on the body of Joseph Sheldon, sixty-three years of age. On Thursday last, the ill-fated man was engaged in loading a wagon at the Bescott Railway Station, when the horses became restive, and, taking fright, knocked down the deceased, who fell in front of the wagon, one of the wheels of which passed over his head and body, killing him on the spot. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1865

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an enquiry at the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, into the circumstances attending the death of Eliza Ann Cattell, 2 years and 9 months old, who fell into Elwell’s Pool, on Saturday last, and was drowned before she could be got out. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1866

“Mr. Edwin Hooper held an inquest at the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, respecting the death of a child, 5 years and 7 months old, named Samuel Kendrick Cattell, whose parents reside at Elwell’s Forge, Wood Green.

Sarah Ann Powell, the aunt of the deceased, said that she lived at Wood Green. She saw the deceased quite well on Wednesday evening last shortly before five o’clock playing by his father’s house. Near the dwelling there is a running stream of water. About sixteen months ago one of her sister’s children was drowned in the same stream, and there has been nothing done since to prevent similar accidents. Witness did not remember whether, at the inquest which was afterwards, there was any recommendation from the jury that a fence should be placed by the sides of the stream. Shortly after she had seen the deceased alive and well, his mother rushed into her (witness’s) house, and falling on the floor said her boy was drowned. Witness said she was not aware whether any complaint had been made to Mr. Elwell concerning the unprotected state of the stream. She would refuse to reside in the locality if she had children unless some fence was put up by the side of the stream to prevent children from falling in.

Abraham Booth, a porter, in the employ of the London and North-Western Railway Company, stated that on Wednesday last, about five o’clock in the evening, he was leaving the Bescot junction to go to Mr. Elwell’s, and having crossed the railroad he observed something floating down Elwell’s stream. At first sight he thought it was rubbish, but having got it out of the water he found it to be the dead body of a boy, which proved to be the deceased. When he saw the body it was about one hundred yards from Elwell’s Forge, and witness was of opinion that it could have floated that distance in ten minutes, or at any rate within twenty minutes.

This being the whole of the evidence, the Coroner proceeded to sum up. There was not, he said, the slightest evidence to show how the deceased got into the water. The place where he lived was in anything but a secure state, and he (the Coroner) did not think he was making a mistake in saying that at the inquest he held upon the body of the sister of the deceased, who was drowned in the same stream sixteen months past, the jury recommended that the stream should be fenced at the sides. He (Mr. Hooper) carried out that recommendation by writing to Mr. Elwell, but, strange to say, he had received no reply, so he considered the suggestion of the jury had been carried out. He was very vexed and grieved, however, when he went to the spot to find it not done. It now became his duty to see that it was performed at once. He should write to Mr. Elwell and draw his attention to it, and if he did not feel disposed to answer the letter, he (the Coroner) must take another course. He was very sorry that the recommendation of the former jury had not been carried out, and considered that the life of the deceased had been entirely thrown away for want of precaution being taken.

The jury, in returning a verdict of Found Drowned, considered Elwell’s Forge totally unsafe, and recommended that a fence should be placed at the sides of the stream.

The Coroner promised to see that the recommendation of the jury was carried out.”

Thomas Wood was fined 2s 6d and costs, for serving on a Sunday, in October 1868.

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.....

T. Wood, WOODMAN, Wood Green, Wednesbury.”

1871 Census

61, Walsall Road – WOODMAN INN

[1] *Thomas Wood* (53), innkeeper, born Bloxwich;

[2] *Sarah Wood* (54), wife, born Tamworth;

[3] *Joseph Beresford* (39), lodger, stone mason, born Ashover, Derbyshire:

Thomas Wood died in the 3rd quarter of 1872.

Dudley Herald 2/9/1876

“On Wednesday the Annual Licensing Sessions for the parishes of West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Tipton, &c, was held at the Public Office, West Bromwich.....

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston presented the following ‘black’ list of offences against publicans and beersellers which had been committed during the year ending 30th August last.....

Sarah Wood, licensed victualler, WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, prohibited hours, 20s and costs
The offending publicans were ordered to appear at the adjourned licensing meeting before their licenses could be renewed.”

AND

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“West Bromwich Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The magistrates granted the renewal of the licenses of ten public houses and twenty beerhouses that had been adjourned from the general licensing day in consequence of the non-appearance of the applicants, or from convictions.”

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.....

Samuel Wood, WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, ordered to pay 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 18/10/1879

“The monthly meeting of the Wednesbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held at Mr. *Wood’s*, WOODMAN INN, on Tuesday, October 14th. In the absence of the President, Mr. Sheldon occupied the chair.....”

1881 Census

61, Woodgreen – WOODMAN

- [1] *Samuel Wood* (50), licensed victualler, born Pelsall;
- [2] *Harriet Wood* (48), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Samuel R. Wood* (19), son, carpenter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Alice Butler* (18), domestic servant, born Smethwick:

1891 Census

Wood Green – WOODMAN INN

- [1] *Joseph Byrne* (33), tailor and publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Honor Byrne* (34), wife, born Kingswinford;
- [3] *Fanny P. Byrne* (5), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;
- [4] *Joseph L. Byrne* (3), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Thomas E. Byrne* (6 months), son, born Wednesbury;
- [6] *Emma Goodwin* (21), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Wednesbury Herald 10/8/1895

“Re *Joseph Byrne*. A bankrupt.

Sale at the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury. Tuesday Next, August the 13th, 1895.

Belcher and Son are instructed by Edwin Pritchard, Esq, Official Receiver, to Sell by Public Auction, on the above Premises and date, the Superior Brewing Plant and Effects, comprising 100 gallon Copper Boiler, 120 gallon Steel Boiler, Vats, Mash Tun, Coolers, Ale Casks, Refrigerator, Gas and Water Piping, together with a Substantial Wood Pavilion, 22ft 6in by 12ft, with Corrugated Iron Roof, nearly new; Iron Pig Trough, Stable Fittings and other Effects. Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock prompt.

Usual Conditions. No Catalogues.

Auctioneers Offices, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury; and Darlaston.”

Walsall Observer 17/8/1895

“Walsall Bankruptcy Court.....

The case of *Joseph Byrne*, of the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, licensed victualler, came on for hearing. The statement of affairs showed gross liabilities £217 8s 1d, of which £182 12s 4d was expected to rank for dividend. The assets were estimated at £118 10s, but out of that £34 15s 9d had to be paid to preferential creditors.....

In April 1890 he took to the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, and has carried on business there as a licensed victualler up to the time of filing his petition. On the 19th July last, being pressed for payment of rent, which was six months in arrear, and finding he was behind in other payments, he consulted his solicitors and asked them to file his petition, which they did on the 23rd July. A portion of the household furniture is claimed by the bankrupt's wife. She says she purchased it with her own money, which she had earned as a schoolmistress prior to her marriage, which was in 1885. The bankrupt has kept no cash book or ledgers. He accounts for his deficiency as follows. Excess of assets over liabilities on 24th July 1894, £10; income from sources outside his business as licensed victualler, £10; deficiency as per statement of affairs, £98 18s 1d; total £118 18s 1d. Net loss from carrying on business from 24th July 1894, £10 10s; bad debts, £40; household expenses of self, wife, and four children, £68 8s 1d; total, £118 18s 1d.”

On the application of the Deputy Official Receiver the examination was adjourned to the 22nd instant.”

AND

Walsall Advertiser 24/8/1895

“*Joseph Byrne*, of the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, licensed victualler, came up for his adjourned public examination in bankruptcy Debtor stated that he had been a tailor before he took over the business of the WOODMAN INN. He paid £93 9s 9d to Messrs. Millward for the stock, fixtures, and share of license and rates of the Inn. He continued the business until he filed his petition on July 23rd, 1895. He had carried on a little tailoring trade during the time he was landlord of the WOODMAN INN. Everything he possessed had been delivered up to the Official Receiver. He had no lease of the WOODMAN INN, but had been a six-months tenant. No bill of sale had been made out by him, neither had he executed any settlement of property. He attributed his insolvency to bad trade, heavy rental, and bad debts. His accounts showed £40 bad debts for beer. He had never lost money by gambling, bad speculation, or becoming surety for others. He first knew he was insolvent three years ago. He had only contracted a few debts since that period, and he had hoped to be in a position to pay them when trade revived. The examination was adjourned until September 4th.”

AND

London Gazette 28/2/1896

“*Joseph Byrne*, residing at WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, near Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Licensed Victualler. Date of Release, February 11th, 1896.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1895

“At Wednesbury Borough Police Court yesterday, Henry Wilkinson (39), commercial traveller, West Bromwich, in the employ of Mr. Woodhall, brewer, was charged on remand with stealing a box containing thirty cigars, value 5s, the property of *E. L. Hammond*, landlord of the WOODMAN INN, near Wood Green. Mr. A. J. Glover appeared for the defence.

The evidence was to the effect that on the 3rd inst the defendant called at the inn on business, and was left in the bar for a short time. The manager had some reason to suspect him, and on returning into the bar he missed a box of cigars, and found the property concealed under the accused's vest.

The defence was that the prisoner had taken little food, and was muddled by drink. A good character was given him by Mr. G. Garrett, West Bromwich.

A fine of £5 and costs was imposed.”

Dudley Herald 20/8/1898

“At an inquest held on Tuesday evening at the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, by Mr. H. A. Pearson, it was shown that a child named Elsie Mary Parnell, the daughter of Joseph Parnell, had been suffocated when in bed. The jury did not consider the parents to blame, and returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1898

“Yesterday at Darlaston Police Court, Frederick Forrester, a young married man residing in Bridge Street, Wednesbury, was charged with stealing a purse containing 9s 8d, the property of Alice Leek, residing in Bridgeman Street, Walsall.

The prosecutrix alleged that when travelling in a tramcar from Walsall to Wednesbury on Saturday afternoon the prisoner, when sitting near her, extracted her purse from her pocket, and afterwards decamped. She chased him and asked for her purse. He then attempted to strike her and also tried to throw her down. Mr. *Jones*, the landlord of the WOODMAN HOTEL, also chased the prisoner, and catching him detained him until police-constable Birchall arrived. When taken to the police station £1 18s was found in his possession.

Mr. Stockdale, who defended, denied all knowledge of the robbery, and called witnesses as to character.

The Bench fined prisoner £5 and costs or two months' hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1900

“An enquiry was yesterday held at the WOODMAN HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, into the circumstances attending the death of Isabella Francis (82), and Monica Minnie Tuthill (19), who were found dead in bed at Wood Green Vicarage on Saturday morning. The deceased ladies, who were respectively mother-in-law and daughter of the Rev. R. G. Tuthill, vicar of Wood Green, occupied the same bedroom, and the medical evidence given was to the effect that death was the result of suffocation from inhalation of coal-gas. There was a smell of gas in the room when the discovery was made, but no conclusive evidence was given as to how the escape of gas occurred. A verdict of Accidentally Suffocated was returned.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 29/3/1901

“Today, at Wednesbury Police Court, *George Thomas Gore*, landlord of the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 12th inst, and also with supplying intoxicating liquors to a drunken person. Mr. Darby appeared to prosecute, and Mr. H. Jackson (Walsall) defended.

Mr. Darby stated that on the date in question a man named John Bridgway, who up till Wednesday last was living in Wednesbury, went to the WOODMAN INN about eleven o'clock. He then commenced drinking port and brandy, and at intervals he was supplied by the landlord with glasses of the same beverage until two o'clock in the afternoon, when he left the house. Some customers, at the request of the landlord, went out of the house with Bridgway to assist him on the way home. They took the man up the Brunswick Park Road, and although it was bitterly cold weather they left him lying on the roadway, and he was subsequently found by the police in a helpless state of intoxication. The man was locked up, and it was some hours before he came round. He pointed out that Bridgway, since the defendant was served with the summons, had mysteriously disappeared.

Two witnesses named Alfred George Hanson and Charles Tomkinson were treated as hostile by Mr. Darby, as both now denied certain statements made and signed, in corroboration of the allegations brought against the landlord.

Police-constable Wallis said when he first saw the man Bridgway in the Brunswick Park Road he was in a helpless state of intoxication and was also in a semi-unconscious condition.

Police-sergeant O'Leary deposed to having had a conversation with the landlord, who admitted that Bridgway was very drunk, but said he did not think six ports and brandies would get him into such a state.

Other witnesses were called, and for the defence Mr. Jackson denied that Bridgway was drunk, but pleaded that he was attacked with a sudden illness.

Defendant was fined £5 and costs on the charge of permitting drunkenness.”

1901 Census

30, Wood Green – WOODMAN HOTEL

[1] *George Thomas Gore* (28), hotel manager, born Morcott, Rutland;

[2] *Fanny Gore* (23), wife, born Pontesbury, Shropshire;

[3] *Mary Stanton* (18), domestic servant, born Willenhall:

Wednesbury Leader 14/9/1901

“On Wednesday night the body of an old man named James Ollerenshaw (70), of Foley Street, Wednesbury, was found hanging in a shed near the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green. Deceased was found suspended from a beam; life appeared to have been extinct for some hours. He was identified on Thursday morning by his son-in-law, who states that deceased has been missing from his home since Tuesday. Of late, it appears Ollerenshaw has acted rather strangely, but he has shown no inclination to take his life.”

Wednesbury Leader 21/9/1901

“Wednesbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

James Steadman appeared to apply for the renewal of the license to him, of the WOODMAN HOTEL, Wood Green. Mr. Wright, of Wolverhampton, was the solicitor engaged in the case.

The police objected to the house on the grounds that the former licensee had permitted drunkenness on the premises. Superintendent Salt stated the conviction was on 29th March and the license was transferred on June 28th.

Mr. Wright said the owners would endeavour to conduct the house properly, as the house cost them £4,000, and they had therefore much at stake License renewed.”

Wednesbury Leader 16/11/1901

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (Coroner) held an inquest at the WOODMAN HOTEL, Wood Green, on Thursday morning, touching the death of Alfred Baldwin, aged four years, who lived with his parents at Forge House, Wood Green, and who was killed in the engine house at the works of Mr. Edward Elwell, edge tool manufacturer, the Wednesbury Forge, Wood Green, on Monday last.

Mr. J. Jackson (factory inspector), Messrs. L. Aston and C. Beesley (Mr. Elwell’s office and works managers), and Superintendent Salt, Sergeant Lee and PCs Rixson and Wallace were present.

Daniel Baldwin, the father of the deceased, said his child, who had always been fairly healthy, came to him at the works on Monday at about 4-50 in the afternoon. Witness was the engine driver, and shortly after his child came he had to go and make up the boiler fires, leaving deceased in the yard. While firing he noticed the engine suddenly increase very much in speed, and so hurried back to the engine house and shut off steam. He then observed his little son lying with his head between the spindle box and the eccentric rod of the engine, and he seemed to be dead. The head was frightfully lacerated, but witness picked up the body and ran with it to his home, afterwards sending for Dr. Crew, who pronounced life to be extinct. Witness said he had never known his son to enter the engine house before. The reason of the sudden increase in the rate of the engine was caused through a belt which connected the governors with the engine breaking. In answer to questions by jurors, witness said there was no fastener on the engine room door except a spring, though there was on an outside door. There was no one else about the engine room. He concluded his son must have entered the engine room and then stumbled over a piece of casting. In answer to Mr. Jackson, witness said he considered the machinery properly fenced.

PC Rixson, stationed at Wood Green, said that on the date named he was called to the Forge House where he saw the deceased child with three large wounds on the head. He subsequently examined the engine house, finding a large quantity of blood under the eccentric rod and on the spindle box. The measurement between the spindle box and rod was 2½ inches.

Mr. Jackson said it was very desirable such small children should be kept out of works. There was no law to prohibit them from going there, but he had noticed that in a recent enquiry held by one of the Home Office Committees a strong recommendation was inserted in their report asking managers to do what they could to prevent children going into dangerous works. They were frequently allowed to go in to take food, not knowing the risk they ran. He himself had no power to stop them going in.

Mr. Aston, the office manager at the works, said at the time the boy went into the works the gates were open for the railway wagons to fetch goods away. As a rule the gates were kept closed.

The Coroner said he agreed with the remarks of H. M. Inspector in regard to stricter measures being adopted to keep young children off works. In the present instance he thought no blame could be attached to anyone for the child’s death.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and expressed sympathy with the parents of the deceased.”

Walsall Observer 5/1/1907

“At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, Charles Bridge, driver, of Birmingham Road, Walsall, and Herbert Hunter, driver, of Portland Street, Walsall, were charged with obstruction at Wood Green on the 26th of December. On the date in question defendants were in charge of wedding coaches, and each was driving a pair of horses. They left the vehicles outside the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, where Police-constable Walkenden saw them unattended for twenty minutes. When spoken to by the officer defendants said they had had a long journey, and as it was cold they had gone into the house to have a warm.

Major Proctor, magistrate, said it was very dangerous to leave horses unattended when there were so many motor-cars running about. Defendants were each fined 1s and costs.”

The Stage 27/1/1910 - Advert

"Wanted, the Bohemians (Will and Madge), Instrumentalists and Comedy. Tremendous success. This, Theatre Royal, Wednesbury. Vacant, Monday, January 31st. Wire, WOODMAN HOTEL, Wednesbury."

WANTED, THE BOHEMIANS (Will and Madge), Instrumentalists and Comedy. Tremendous success. This, Theatre Royal, Wednesbury. Vacant, Monday, Jan. 31st.—Wire, Woodman Hotel, Wednesbury.

1911 Census

74, Wood Green Road – WOODMAN INN

- [1] Charles William Garfield (34), manager of public house, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Ann Garfield (30), wife, married 10 years, born London;
- [3] Maud Letitia Garfield (9), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Norah Garfield (2), daughter, born Moxley;
- [5] Elizabeth Ashley (18), domestic servant, born Ogley Lane, Brownhills, Staffordshire:

Boxing 4/11/1911

"Wood Green ABC, Wednesbury.

A 10 round contest for the club medal was announced to take place at the WOODMAN HOTEL, Wednesbury, on Wednesday night, between Tom Keenan and Walter Scott, but was brought to a summary conclusion by the former administering the knock-out in the second session. Bob Parsons, a most capable man, has been appointed instructor to the club."

Charles William Garfield – see also FALCON, Lichfield Road, Walsall, DUN COW, Wolverhampton Street, Walsall, WHITE HORSE, Park Street, Walsall, ROYAL OAK, Walker Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, and BUTLERS ARMS, Bloxwich Road, Bloxwich, Walsall.

Walsall Observer 19/4/1913

"At the Wednesbury Police Court yesterday, William Andrews (33), a rag and bone gatherer, of 14, George Street Terrace, Walsall, was charged with stealing a quantity of pewter and copper measures, value 27s 6d, the property of *Frederick John Burton*, licensee of the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

Evidence was given by Mrs. *Burton* to the effect that prisoner visited the public house on Thursday, and had something to drink. When he left she also went out of the bar. On returning, she noticed that a quantity of measures, which were previously on the counter, were missing.

Sergeant Harris stated that at 10.40pm on Thursday he and Detective Ayres, of the Walsall police, went to prisoner's home, and told him they were inquiring about some measures that had been stolen that day from the WOODMAN INN. Prisoner replied, 'I don't know where the WOODMAN INN is. I don't know nothing about them.' Prisoner was then told that as he answered the description of the man suspected, he would be arrested on suspicion. When on Walsall Bridge prisoner ran away, and he and Ayres gave chase. The man was eventually captured close to the Walsall Railway Station by a uniformed officer. He was then taken to the Walsall police station, where he said, 'I had some measures from the WOODMAN INN today, and mixed them with the rags and sold them to Mr. Burrows in George Street.' The articles were recovered at 1.30 yesterday morning from the marine stores in George Street. Prisoner was subsequently charged at Walsall police station, and said, 'I was drunk when I took them. I had been having a lot of beer that day. I am sorry for doing such a thing.'

Upon this evidence, Superintendent Salt asked for a remand for a week, so that further inquiries could be made, and the application was granted."

Walsall Observer 1/5/1915

"On Saturday evening an open night of Lodge 50 of the Loyal Caledonian Corks was held at the WOODMAN HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, when various lodges made their attendance in full regalia....."

Walsall Observer 27/3/1920 - Advert

"Domesticated Person Wanted, good wages and comfortable home; also good General willing to help in bar. Apply, WOODMAN, Wood Green, Wednesbury."

DOMESTICATED Person Wanted, good wages and comfortable home; also good General willing to help in bar.—Apply, Woodman, Wood Green, Wednesbury.

1921 Census

Wood Green – WOODMAN INN

- [1] *Frederick John Burton* (46), hotel manager, born Dudley;
- [2] *Louisa Jane Burton* (40), wife, hotel manageress, born Wellington, Shropshire;
- [3] *Frederick Charles Burton* (21), son, clerk, L&NW, born Bilston;
- [4] *Harry Edward Burton* (19), son, assistant ironmonger, born Bilston;
- [5] *Leslie John Burton* (17), son, engineer, out of work, born Bilston;
- [6] *Florance Emily Onions* (30), widow, servant, born Henfield, Middlesex:

South Staffordshire Times 18/6/1921

“An enquiry was held by Mr. Gerald Lewis (Coroner), on Monday morning last, touching on the death of Mr. Henry Williams, of 2 Myford Road, Wood Green, Wednesbury, the evidence was given at the WOODMAN INN.

Miss Gertrude Williams said the deceased was her uncle, and he lived with his brother, her father. He was about 50 years of age, and was blind. He was in his usual good health on June 9th, but about 2.30 o'clock he said he felt poorly and went to his room to lie down. Witness saw him once or twice a little later on and he seemed more comfortable. She last saw him at five o'clock, when her father came in, and he did not like the look of the deceased. Her uncle had not seen a doctor for some considerable time, and then he only appeared to have had a cold.

Mr. James Williams, father of previous witness, and brother of the deceased, said when he arrived home he went upstairs and found his brother in bed. He seemed to have just passed away and was lying a little on one side. Deceased was a retired butcher, and had been blind for some years. He was always able to find his way about the house and kept fairly good health.

Dr. Walter Garman said he was sent for about 5.30. He did not know the old gentleman, but he knew the family. Deceased was lying in bed, as though taking a rest. He gave witness the impression that he may have had a slight heart seizure, which would check circulation, and he died because of that and old age – heart failure.

The Coroner said he was satisfied that death was due, as the doctor had said, to Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/10/1926

“Wednesbury Harriers are holding a social run from WOODMAN INN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, tomorrow, at 3.15pm.”

Dudley Chronicle 26/9/1929 - Marriages

“On 14th September, Henry Edward, second son of Mr. and Mrs. *Fred Burton*, WOODMAN HOTEL, Wood Green, to Hilda Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bladen, JUNCTION INN, Hill Top, at St. James's Church, Hill Top.”

Evening Despatch 25/8/1937

“A well-known personality in Midland sporting circles, Mr. *Alfred Blakemore*, aged 60, licensee of the WOODMAN HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, was found dead in tragic circumstances today.

It is stated that when Mr. *Blakemore* retired to bed last night he was apparently in his usual state of health. He got up early this morning and went downstairs, where later his son discovered him lying near the gas-stove. Artificial respiration proved unsuccessful, and a doctor was summoned and pronounced life extinct.

A native of Wednesbury, Mr. *Blakemore* had been in the licensed trade practically the whole of his life. His first license was at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Ridding Lane, Wednesbury, where he succeeded his mother about 35 years ago. He later went to the BARREL INN, Kings Hill, and from there to the SWAN HOTEL, Victoria Road, Darlaston. Early in 1930 he took over the license of the Hazel Slade Hotel, near Rugeley, and about two or three years ago returned to Wednesbury to hold the license of the WOODMAN HOTEL, Wood Green. For nearly 40 years he was a member of the committee of the Wednesbury, Darlaston and District Licensed Victuallers Association, of which he succeeded Mr. J. H. Sheldon as president 10 years ago, previous to which he was for some time vice-chairman.

In April, 1929, Mr. *Blakemore* was elected a member of Darlaston Urban District Council, but did not seek re-election after three years' membership. He was for a short period a member of the Walsall Board of Guardians.

Mr. *Blakemore* had always been keenly interested in sport and had been for many years a member of the National Sporting Club, Covent Garden, London. In 1906 Peerless Jim Driscoll came to stay with him, and Mr. *Blakemore* assisted him in his training for his first great fight at the N.S.C. with Joe Bowker, which Driscoll won on points. Driscoll was a frequent visitor until his death a few years ago.

Mr. *Blakemore* was also an enthusiastic pigeon racer, and once won £240 with his famous pigeon, Bertie, in the counties combined 500 miles race. He was also a member of the Darlaston Charity Sports Committee, whose object was to assist in raising funds for the children's holiday camp. He was married twice, and leaves a widow, son and daughter."

Evening Despatch 27/8/1937

"A verdict of Suicide while of Unbalanced Mind was recorded at an inquest at Wednesbury this afternoon on *Alfred Blakemore*, aged 60, licensee of the WOODLAND [sic] HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, who was found dead with his head in a gas oven on Wednesday morning.

A theory advanced for Mr. *Blakemore's* action was that two years ago to the day his close friend, the late William Till, who was secretary of the local Licensed Victuallers Association, of which Mr. *Blakemore* was president, committed suicide in a similar manner and this had since preyed on his mind."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/8/1937

"The licensed trade was well represented at the funeral yesterday afternoon of Mr. *Alfred Blakemore*, aged 60, licensee of the WOODMAN HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, who died tragically last Wednesday morning. An impressive service at St. Paul's Church, Wood Green, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. O. Nicholls, who also officiated at the internment in Wednesbury Cemetery."

Alfred Blakemore – see also DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Ridding Lane, Wednesbury, OLD BARREL, Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, and SWAN, Victoria Road, Darlaston.

1939 Register

Wood Green Road – WOODMAN INN (4 of 5)

[1] Mabel C. *Blakemore*, date of birth 4/6/1894, licensed victualler, widowed;

[2] William *Blakemore*, dob 13/11/1913, butcher, single;

[4] Elizabeth Skidmore, dob, 18/01/1872, unpaid domestic duties, widowed;

[5] Winifred Mary (Edwards) Blackmoor, dob 7/7/1918, barmaid, single:

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League, Division Two. [1946]

Evening Despatch 16/10/1953

"*Henry Thomas King*, of the WOODMAN HOTEL, Wood Green, Wednesbury, summoned at Kidderminster today, wrote saying he could not attend as he had been summoned at the same time to give evidence as a police witness at a Shropshire court. He was fined £2 for exceeding the speed limit while driving a car at Kidderminster."

A team from here took part in the Wednesbury Central Darts League. [1965]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/6/1967 - Engagements

"The engagement has been announced between Anthony, son of Mr. and Mrs. *A. Martin*, of the WOODMAN INN, Woodgreen, to Joan, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Rigby, of 1, the Council House, Cheslyn Hay. Congratulations from both families."

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/3/1969

"What's On Tomorrow.....

Wednesbury Allotments and Gardens Association, illustrated talk on chrysanthemums propagation at headquarters, WOODMAN INN, Wood Green Road. Open meeting 7.45pm."

Alan Jack Martin was married to Madeline Joan (Madge).

Wolverhampton Express and Star 24/12/1975 - Advert

"*Alan* and Madge of the WOODMAN INN, Woodgreen Road, Wednesbury, wish all their customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

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.....

WOODMAN, Wood Green, Wednesbury.”

**JUMBLE SALE The Woodman,
Wood Green, Wednesbury
Friday March 14 at 7 pm.**

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/3/1980 - Advert

“Jumble Sale, the WOODMAN, Wood Green, Wednesbury, Friday March 14 at 7pm.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/6/1982

“Three men bought drinks after permitted hours at a Wednesbury pub, West Bromwich Magistrates Court heard. Police launched a raid after complaints that drink was being served after hours at the WOODMAN pub in Wood Green Road. Two detectives went to the pub on Friday, February 26 at 1.55pm, the court was told. At 2.45pm Detective Sergeant Alan Spillett went to the bar and bought two pints of beer. His colleague bought more drinks at 2.55, nearly half an hour after the permitted licensing hours. During that time they saw Malcolm Raybould (36) and Barry Hammond (51) of Hales Road, and Raymond Holt (36) of Merryhurst Road, Wednesbury, buying drinks. All three pleaded guilty to buying liquor after permitted hours and each was fined £20 with £10 costs. Holt and Hammond told magistrates they had been engrossed in a game of dominoes and had not realised that they were buying drinks after hours.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/7/1982

“Police who raided a Wednesbury pub pretended not to recognise a plain clothes officer who was carrying out an investigation into late drinking. Sergeant Alan Spillett was questioned along with others at the WOODMAN pub in Wednesbury as fellow police officers pretended to treat him as a suspect so as not to blow his cover. West Bromwich Magistrates heard how the officer’s job was to check pubs in the town to discover places where after hours drinking was taking place. At the WOODMAN no time was called and he stayed there, pretending to be a regular, he told magistrates.

Landlord *Ivan Anslow* (42) and his 47-year-old wife June had denied selling beer after closing time at the pub in Wood Green Road. *Anslow* also pleaded not guilty to four charges of aiding and abetting the consumption of drinks after hours.

The court heard that two plain clothes policemen had been served with two pints of beer after closing time in the afternoon. Minutes later the pub was raided by uniformed officers who found other customers still drinking. Sergeant Spillett said, ‘If I go into a public house and there is no time called I stay in. No time was called and it appeared you could drink when you wanted.’ He said he bought two pints of mild beer 15 minutes after closing time. Sergeant Spillett added that when the uniformed officers came into the pub, the six customers he was talking with had to hurriedly finish their beer.

Mrs. *Anslow* told the court that she had been ill that day and had not served at all behind the bar. Mr. *Anslow* claimed he had switched the pumps off at 2.30pm promptly and had not been able to collect all the glasses because he was busy mopping up the damage done by a burst pipe. Both he and his wife were found guilty after a six-hour hearing. Mrs. *Anslow* was fined £25 and her husband was fined £125 with £150 costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/12/1982

“CB enthusiasts in Wednesbury are putting on a disco in aid of Multiple Sclerosis at the weekend. The event, organised by the Brunswick Breakers Club, is to be held at the WOODMAN pub in Wood Green Road, on Sunday, and the proceeds, along with £125 already collected by the club, will be handed over to the charity during the evening. The event starts at 7pm and admission is 50p.”

Alan Whitten = Alan Whitton

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/3/1984

“Bobby George, darts’ Mr. Glitter, brought his own style of razzle dazzle to the Black Country when he challenged a Wednesbury pub’s top dartsmen. The popular Cockney ace, currently sponsored by Courage Brewery, beat all-comers at the WOODMAN INN, including previously undefeated Dave Chambers, of Hales Road, Wednesbury. Bobby took on the WOODMAN team as a warm-up for a challenge against 16 of the Black Country’s top marksmen from various pub teams. Licensee, Mr. *Alan Whitten*, said, ‘Some of the regulars gave Bobby a good, close game, especially Dave. The lads thought it was great. They loved every minute.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/6/1984

“Top barman *Alan Whitten* is hoping to shake-up the opposition and celebrate a resounding victory in this year’s national cocktail championships. *Alan*, the licensee of the WOODMAN in Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, has his own recipe for success, but he is not revealing the ingredients yet. The knockout blend should be on sale at the WOODMAN shortly and should make *Alan* the toast of the town. *Alan*, one of only six men to qualify for the Guild of Bartenders Masters Certificate, has devised a special blend for the aperitif section of the championship in London. He has already taken top prizes in a number of cocktail competitions and success in the national final could mean a place in an international event in Hamburg.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/2/1986

“A Wednesbury landlord said his regulars are commuting to pubs in Walsall and Wolverhampton on bank holidays to enjoy an extra hour at the bar. *Alan Whitton*, of the WOODMAN, in Wood Green Road, asked licensing magistrates in West Bromwich if he could serve drinks for an extra hour on Easter Monday but they refused....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/9/1986

“Wednesbury publican *Alan Whitten* is staging a desperate gamble as Black Country beer prices go up around him – by cutting the price of a pint at his pub. Mild and bitter at the WOODMAN in Wood Green Road will fall by 1p to 58p and 63p, and lager will go down by 2p to 72p. His move comes as Courage brewery, which supplies Mr. *Whitten* as tenant, increases the price it charges him and his wife Christine.

Mr. *Whitten*, aged 36, has kept the WOODMAN for three years, and reckons that his price cut will make it the cheapest pub for miles around. He said that trade, already hit by unemployment and factory closures, would only get worse if he passed on the brewery’s increase. Mr. *Whitten* said he was losing money at the moment, and living on savings, in the face of crippling rates bills and other overheads. He added, ‘If we are going to go bust, we will do it quickly. We are going bust slowly anyway. This is a hell of a gamble, because if we don’t increase our trade by 25 per cent, we will be bankrupt by the end of the year.’ He will make his price cut from October 1, and is hoping drinkers will back him to make it pay.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/9/1987

“The Courage brewery has applied for a reduction in the rateable value of the WOODMAN INN in Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/8/1988

“Wednesbury Leek and Onion Club will hold its annual show at the WOODMAN INN, Wood Green Road, from 1.30-2.30pm on Saturday and Sunday.”

Birmingham Mail 24/12/1988 - Advert

“The WOODMAN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.

Alan and Christine *Whitten* would like to wish their customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Complete fully stocked mobile bar service available.”

Walsall Observer 23/4/1993 - Advert

“WOODMAN Mobile Bar Service.

For Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays or any Fund Raising activities.

Fully licensed Bar includes wide selection of wines, spirits and liqueurs, soft drinks and beers, also Function Room available.

For enquiries please telephone *Alan* or Christine *Whitten* anytime on 021 556 1637.

The WOODMAN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 1/10/1994

“Down Your Local. WOODMAN, Wood Green Road, Wednesbury.

Brian Parr is planning on making his stay at the WOODMAN permanent, even though it is under threat of demolition. Not surprisingly, although *Brian* and his wife *Jennie* have been landlords for less than a fortnight, they are backing a campaign to save the 98-year-old pub. For the WOODMAN will be demolished if plans to widen Wood Green Road go ahead. ‘It’s a lovely pub and the stained glass windows at the front entrance are brilliant,’ says 39-year-old *Brian*.

Brian’s regulars have already got the fight underway and hope that, should the worst happen, it will at least be some way off. Father-of-two *Alf Kirkham*, a welder, says, ‘We have started a campaign to save the pub from demolition. It will be a great shame if it’s knocked down. I’ve been drinking here 30 years and the thing I would miss most would be the locals. They are very friendly.’

Brian, who originates from Nottingham, agrees. He’s already been very impressed with the people he’s met. It’s a tribute to the friendliness of *Brian* and *Jennie* that some customers have been people from their last pub, the WAGON AND HORSES at Tipton, three miles away. Between them, *Brian* and *Jennie*, 38, have nearly half a century of working in pubs. And it’s work they adore. ‘There’s lots of satisfaction in this job,’ says *Brian*. ‘I love it. I wouldn’t do anything else. I was a chef in the Royal Navy until 1971, but this is what I have always wanted to do. It’s a way of life. *Brian*, a grand-father of two, says, ‘I grew up in the trade; my parents have had pubs since I was in my teens.....

Gordon Thickett, a retired moulder, has been drinking at the WOODMAN since 1952 and says it hasn’t changed much. He still tells the story of the Cavalier, the pub’s resident ghost. ‘Strange things have happened without any logical explanation. The beer turning itself off, and objects in the pub have moved. We nick-named it the Cavalier because of the way it dresses.’

The pub once boasted its own gymnasium where local boxers, including *Jim ‘Fearless’ Driscoll* and *Jimmy Wild*, trained.

Pubfacts

Price of a Pint. *Hansons mild* £1.09, *Hofmeister lager* £1.34, *Courage best bitter* £1.24, *Courage Directors* £1.40, *Varied guest beer* £1.46.

Food. Basic bar snacks, including pies from 80p and rolls from 60p.

Transport. Buses from Walsall to Wednesbury.

Parking. Car park with spaces for ten cars.

Opening. 11am to 3pm and 6pm to 11pm Monday to Thursday. 11am to 11pm Friday and Saturday. Noon to 3pm and 7pm to 10.30pm Sunday.”

[1996]

Closed

It was converted into a restaurant.



Ex-pub 2007

Re JOSEPH BYRNE. A Bankrupt.
Sale at the
"WOODMAN INN," WOOD GREEN,
WEDNESBURY.

TUESDAY NEXT, AUGUST the 13th, 1895.

BELCHER AND SON are instructed by Edwin Pritchard, Esq., Official Receiver, to Sell by Public Auction, on the above Premises and date, the Superior BREWING PLANT and Effects, comprising 100 gal. Copper Boiler, 120 gal. Steel Boiler, Vats, Mash Tun, Coolers, Ale Casks, Refrigerator, Gas and Water Piping, together with a Substantial WOOD PAVILION, 22ft. 6in. by 12ft., with Corrugated Iron Roof, nearly new; Iron Pig Trough, Stable Fittings and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock prompt.

Usual Conditions. No Catalogues.

Auctioneers' Offices, Bank Chambers, Wednesbury; and Darlaston.

1895

**ALAN AND MADGE
of
THE WOODMAN INN,
Woodgreen Road,
Wednesbury**

wish all their customers a
Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year.

1975

**THE WOODMAN
WOOD GREEN ROAD,
WEDNESBURY.**

Alan and Christine Whitten,
would like to wish their customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Complete fully stocked mobile
bar service available.

Tel. 021 556 1637.

1988

A warm welcome to customers
old and new at

The Woodman

(Wood Green Road, Wednesbury)

traditional Banks's Mild
Courage Best Bitter
Courage Directors
and Ruddles County

plus one of the finest selections of
Spirits and Liqueurs in the area

Mobile Bars our speciality

Function / meeting room available

021-556-1637 Alan and Christine Whitten

1992

WOODMAN MOBILE BAR SERVICE

For Weddings, Anniversaries,
Birthdays or any Fund Raising
activities.

Fully licensed Bar includes wide
selection of wines, spirits and
liquers, soft drinks and beers,
also Function Room available.

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE
TELEPHONE ALAN OR CHRISTINE
WHITTEN ANYTIME ON

021 556 1637

THE WOODMAN WOOD GREEN
ROAD WEDNESBURY

1993



Alan Whitten



Token

THE WEDNESBURY PUBS

ACORN 52, (68), Birmingham Street, (68, Back Street), Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY
ALBERT Albert Street, WEDNESBURY
ANCHOR HOTEL 26, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
ANCIENT BRITON 6, Potters Lane, (6, Potter Street), (Portway Road), WEDNESBURY
ANGEL Bilston Road, (Old Road), Monway Field, WEDNESBURY
ANGEL Lowe's Buildings, WEDNESBURY
BACHELORS ARMS Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY
BARLEY MOW Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY
BEEHIVE Dale Street, WEDNESBURY
BEEHIVE 2, Trowse Lane, WEDNESBURY
BELL AND CASTLE 21, Union Street, WEDNESBURY
BELLWETHER 3+4, (3), Walsall Street, WEDNESBURY
BIRD IN HAND Camp Hill Lane, (Campo Lane), WEDNESBURY
BIRD IN HAND Portway Road (Lane), WEDNESBURY
BLACK BOY High Street, WEDNESBURY
BLACK HORSE 1, Old Park Road / Kings Hill Field, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
BLUE BALL 13, Earps Lane / Church Street, WEDNESBURY
BOARD High Bullen, WEDNESBURY
BOARD Market Place, (High Street), WEDNESBURY
BOAT Crankhall Lane, WEDNESBURY
BOAT 38, Lea Brook Road, (38, Dudley Street), Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY
BOILERMAKERS ARMS 31, Camp Hill Lane, WEDNESBURY
BOROUGH ARMS 114, (100), (100+101), Cobden Street, Fallings Heath, WEDNESBURY
BOROUGH ARMS 8, (Lower) Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
BRICKLAYERS ARMS Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
BRITANNIA Darlaston Road, WEDNESBURY
BRITANNIA 100, Holyhead Road / Chapel Street, WEDNESBURY
BRITANNIA 31, Trowse Lane, (Dale Street), (Bilston Road), WEDNESBURY
BRITISH QUEEN 40+41, (41), Trowse Lane, WEDNESBURY
BRITISH WORKMAN Walsall Street, WEDNESBURY
BROUGHAMS ARMS Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY
BROWN LION Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY
BRUNSWICK 301, Crankhall Lane / Woden Road East, WEDNESBURY
BRUNSWICK 49, Great Western Street, WEDNESBURY
BUILDERS ARMS Portway Lane, WEDNESBURY
BULLS HEAD 29, (28), (28+29), Camp Hill Lane, (Campo Lane), High Bullen, WEDNESBURY
BULLS HEAD West Bromwich Road, Tame Bridge, The Delves, WEDNESBURY
BUSH High Street, WEDNESBURY
BUTCHERS ARMS 34, Union Street, WEDNESBURY
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE High Street, WEDNESBURY
CASTLE 37, (31), Walsall Street (31, Walsall Road), (New Street) / Windmill Street, (31, Oakeswell End), WEDNESBURY
CESHIRE CHEESE Russell Street, WEDNESBURY
CHESTNUT TREE Axeltree Way, WEDNESBURY
CHURCH HILL TAVERN 27, Church Street, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY
COACH AND HORSES 60, (Lower) High Street, (Bridge Street), WEDNESBURY
COACHMAKERS ARMS 56, (55), Bridge Street / Mounts Road, WEDNESBURY
COMMERCIAL High Street, WEDNESBURY
CORONATION 2, Friar Park Road / Crankhall Lane, WEDNESBURY
COTTAGE 32, (33), Wood Green Road, (91, Woodgreen), (91, Walsall Road) / Hobs Road, Wood Green, WEDNESBURY
COTTAGE OF CONTENT New Street, WEDNESBURY
COTTAGE SPRING 27, (Old) Bilston Road / Darlaston Road, WEDNESBURY
COTTAGE SPRING 106, (142), (50), Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
COTTAGE SPRING Trowse Lane, WEDNESBURY
CRICKETERS ARMS Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
CROFT Hydes Road / Chestnut Road, WEDNESBURY
CROSS GUNS 34, (11), Bilston Road, (Old Bilston Road), (Old Road), Wednesbury Field, WEDNESBURY
CROSS GUNS High Bullen, WEDNESBURY
CROSS KEYS 5, Earps Lane, WEDNESBURY
CROWN 90, Albert Street, WEDNESBURY
CROWN AND CUSHION 36, (35+36), High Bullen, (Dudley Street), WEDNESBURY
CROWN TUBE WORKS 57, Dudley Street, High Bullen, WEDNESBURY
DARTMOUTH ARMS 172, Holyhead Road, (New Road) / Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
DOG AND DUCK Dudley Road, (Dudley Street), WEDNESBURY
DOG AND DUCK New Street, WEDNESBURY
DOG AND PARTRIDGE 16, (15+16), (24), Ridding Lane / Addison Street, WEDNESBURY
DOLPHIN Darlaston Road, WEDNESBURY
DRUM AND MONKEY Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
DUKE OF WELLINGTON Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY
DUKE OF WELLINGTON High Street, WEDNESBURY
DUKE OF YORK 69, (Lower) High Street, WEDNESBURY
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE (41), 42, High Bullen / Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
ERIN GO BRAGH 132, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
FALLINGS HEATH TAVERN 248, (132), Walsall Road / Cook Street, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
FITTERS ARMS (Lower) High Street, WEDNESBURY
FORESTERS ARMS 50, Oxford Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY
FORESTERS ARMS 4, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
FORGE Franchise Street / 47, Beebee Road, (58+59, Cobden Street), Fallings Heath, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
FORTUNE OF WAR 36, (35), (32), Trowse Lane / Wellcroft Street, WEDNESBURY

FOUR HOPES 38, (Sparrows) Forge Lane, Fallings Heath, WEDNESBURY
FOX Vicarage, WEDNESBURY
FOX AND DOGS 111, (110+111), Albert Street, WEDNESBURY
FOX AND DOGS Wellcroft Street, WEDNESBURY
FREEMASONS ARMS Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
FRIAR PARK 103, (1), Crankhall Lane, (Crank Lane), WEDNESBURY
GAS FITTERS ARMS Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
GATE Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY
GEORGE 1, (Upper) High Street, (1, Market Place) / Union Street, Five Ways, WEDNESBURY
GEORGE AND DRAGON 40, Lower High Street, (Market Place), WEDNESBURY
GEORGE AND DRAGON 9, Walsall Road, (9, Oakeswell End), (Walsall Street) / Pritchard Street, Oakeswell, WEDNESBURY
GLADSTONE 1, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
GOLDEN CROSS 24, Market Place, WEDNESBURY
GOLDEN CUP High Street, WEDNESBURY
GOLDEN LETTERS High Bullen, WEDNESBURY
GRAPES 38, (44), (42), (Upper) High Street, WEDNESBURY
GRAPES 21, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
GREAT WESTERN HOTEL 1, Great Western Street (Victoria Street) / Potters Lane, WEDNESBURY
GREEN DRAGON 9, Market Place, (Wednesbury Fruit Market), (High Street) / The Shambles, WEDNESBURY
GREEN MAN High Street, WEDNESBURY
GREYHOUND 23, (Lower) Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
HARE AND HOUNDS 85, Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY
HEN AND CHICKENS 47, Foster Street, WEDNESBURY
HIGHGATE ARMS Rowley View, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
HIGHLAND LADDIE Oakeswell Road / Crowther Street, Oakeswell End, WEDNESBURY
HOLLY BUSH Dudley Road, WEDNESBURY
HOPE AND ANCHOR 136, Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
HORSE AND JOCKEY Church Hill, (Church Street), (Church Lane), WEDNESBURY
HORSE AND JOCKEY 63, (68), Franchise Street, Fallings Heath, (Kings Hill), WEDNESBURY
HORSE AND JOCKEY 29, High Bullen, (Trowse Lane), WEDNESBURY
HORSE AND JOCKEY Wood Green Road, (84, Wood Green), (84, Walsall Road) / Hobs Road, Wood Green, WEDNESBURY
INKERMAN Cook Street, Fallings Heath, WEDNESBURY
ISLE OF MAN Brunswick Park Road, (Crankhall Lane), WEDNESBURY
ISLE OF MAN 18, Lower High Street, WEDNESBURY
JOINERS ARMS 14, Camp Street, WEDNESBURY
JOLLY BREWER 18, (16), Camp Street / Fletchers Court, WEDNESBURY
JOLLY COLLIER 53, (54), Meeting Street / Lloyd Street, WEDNESBURY
JOLLY COLLIER Shambles, WEDNESBURY
JUNCTION 24, (31), Trowse Lane, WEDNESBURY
KINGS ARMS 37, High Bullen, (Dudley Street), WEDNESBURY
KINGS ARMS Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
KINGS HEAD Church Road, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY
KINGS HEAD Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
KINGS HILL TAVERN 13, Darlaston Road, (13, Kings Hill), WEDNESBURY
KINGS HILL TAVERN 89, Mill Street, (89, Old Park Road), (89, Front Street), Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY
LAMB AND FLAG 22, Camp Street, WEDNESBURY
LAMP 18, (14), (Upper) High Street, WEDNESBURY
LEABROOK TAVERN 54, Lea Brook Road, (54, (Lower) Dudley Street), Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY
LION AND LAMB Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY
LIVE AND LET LIVE Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN (ROYAL) HOTEL 66, Stafford Street / Albert Street, WEDNESBURY
MALT SHOVEL 13, (12), (Upper) High Street, WEDNESBURY
MARKET HOUSE 8, (55), Church Street, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY
MARKET TAVERN 69, (Upper) Russell Street, WEDNESBURY
MAZEPPA 55, Church Street, Market Place, WEDNESBURY
MAZEPPA 41+42, (41), Elwell Street / Friar Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY
MILLFIELD Rydding Lane, WEDNESBURY
MINERS ARMS Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
MOULDERS ARMS 102, Holyhead Road / Chapel Street, WEDNESBURY
MOUNT 30, The Mount, WEDNESBURY
MUSEUM 28, Elwell Street / Sampson Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY
MYVOD 62, Park Lane / Myvod Road, Wood Green, WEDNESBURY
NAGS HEAD 5, (4+5+6), (5+6), (6), (Lower) High Street, WEDNESBURY
NELSON Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
NELSON 62, Portway Road, Leabrook, WEDNESBURY
NOAHS ARK 26, New Street, (Shentons Lane), WEDNESBURY
OAKESWELL END TAVERN 9+10, (9), Terrace Street, Oakeswell End, WEDNESBURY
OCEAN HOUSE 117+118, Holyhead Road / Meeting Street, WEDNESBURY
ODDFELLOWS ARMS 139+140, (140), Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
ODDFELLOWS ARMS Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
OLD BARREL 102, (136), Darlaston Road / Barrel Street, (136, Kings Hill), Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
OLD BARREL 115, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
OLD BEEHIVE Walsall Street, WEDNESBURY
OLD BIRD IN HAND High Street, WEDNESBURY
OLD BLUE BALL 19, Hall End, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY
OLD BULLS HEAD WEDNESBURY
OLD CHURCH Church Lane, Church Hill, WEDNESBURY
OLD CROSS KEYS 152, (153), Holyhead Road (Row), WEDNESBURY
OLD DRAGON Church Hill, WEDNESBURY
OLD LEATHERN BOTTLE 40, (19), (12), Vicarage Road, (Vicarage), (Terrace Street), Church Hill, WEDNESBURY

OLD PACK HORSE 74, (Lower) Dudley Street, (Dudley Road), Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY
OLD PARK 16, (17), (35), Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
OLD ROYAL EXCHANGE High Street, WEDNESBURY
OLD ROYAL OAK 4, Meeting Street, (Meetinghouse Lane), (Old Meeting Street), (Workhouse Lane), WEDNESBURY
PACK HORSE 13, (Lower) Dudley Street / St. James Street, WEDNESBURY
PARK 78, Walsall Street / Oakeswell Street, (55, Oakeswell End), WEDNESBURY
PARKVILLE TAVERN Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY
PLOUGH AND HARROW 58, Lea Brook Road, (58, (Lower) Dudley Street), Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY
PORTWAY 45, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
POSTBOY Market Place, WEDNESBURY
POTTERS ARMS Potters Lane, WEDNESBURY
PRINCE OF WALES 23, King Street, WEDNESBURY
PRINCE OF WALES 74, (36), Walsall Road, (Butcroft), Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
PRINCE REGENT 8, Victoria Street / Albert Street, WEDNESBURY
QUEENS ARMS 81, Holyhead Road / St. James Street, WEDNESBURY
QUEENS HEAD 102, Brunswick Park Road, (62, Crankhall Lane), (62, Woodgreen), Wood Green, WEDNESBURY
QUEENS HEAD 38, Queen Street, WEDNESBURY
RAILWAY 1, (Lower) Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
RAILWAY 4, Great Western Street, WEDNESBURY
RAILWAY 20, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
RAILWAY 164, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
RAILWAY Portway Road / Lea Brook, WEDNESBURY
RED LION 29, (39), Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY
RED SWAN Darlaston Road, WEDNESBURY
RISING SUN 114, Piercy Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY
RISING SUN 1, Trowse Lane / 81, Meeting Street, (High Bullen), WEDNESBURY
ROBIN HOOD 74, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
ROLLING MILL 36, Cross Street, WEDNESBURY
ROSE 55, Union Street, WEDNESBURY
ROSE AND CROWN 72, (146), Darlaston Road, (146, Kings Hill), Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
ROSE AND CROWN Walsall Street, WEDNESBURY
ROSE HILL TAVERN 80, (77), (28), Church Hill / Vicarage Road, (St. Marys Road), WEDNESBURY
ROSE, THISTLE, AND SHAMROCK High Bullen, WEDNESBURY
ROYAL EXCHANGE 22, Chapel Street / Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
ROYAL EXCHANGE 10, (3), (Upper) High Street, WEDNESBURY
ROYAL GEORGE 71, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
ROYAL OAK 20, King Street, WEDNESBURY
SAMSON AND LION 11, High Bullen, WEDNESBURY
SCOTT ARMS 225, (74), Darlaston Road (West), (Platt Street / Kings Hill Field), WEDNESBURY
SHAKESPEARE 36, (Upper) Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
SHIP 23, Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY
SHROPSHIRE HOUSE High Street, WEDNESBURY
SMITHS ARMS 1, Cross Street, WEDNESBURY
SPREAD EAGLE High Street, WEDNESBURY
SPREAD EAGLE 85, Portway Road, Leabrook, WEDNESBURY
STANDEFORD BAR Spring Head, WEDNESBURY
STAR 81, Wood Green Road, (23, Wood Green), WEDNESBURY
STAR AND GARTER Wood Green, WEDNESBURY
STORES 70, Holyhead Road / Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
STRUGGLER Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
TALBOT 151, (37), Darlaston Road, Kings Hill, WEDNESBURY
TALBOT 27, Market Place (High Street) / Spring Head, WEDNESBURY
TALBOT Wood Green, WEDNESBURY
THREE CROWNS Camp Hill Lane, WEDNESBURY
THREE CROWNS 160, (109), Darlaston Road, (109, Kings Hill), WEDNESBURY
THREE CROWNS 206, Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
THREE FURNACES Dudley Street, WEDNESBURY
THREE SWANS 107, Holyhead Road, (Dudley Street / Pool Street), (Dudley Road), WEDNESBURY
THREE TUNS High Bullen, WEDNESBURY
THREE TUNS 58, Union Street, WEDNESBURY
TOWN HALL 56, Russell Street, WEDNESBURY
TRAVELLERS REST The Mount, WEDNESBURY
TURKS HEAD 5, (Lower) High Street, WEDNESBURY
TWO FURNACES Darlaston Road, Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY
UNION Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY
UNION 87, Portway Road, WEDNESBURY
UNION 63+64, (64), (63), Union Street, WEDNESBURY
VICTORIA Monway Field, WEDNESBURY
VILLAGE 27, Alma Street / Elwell Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY
VINE 34, Alma Street, (New Town), Mesty Croft, WEDNESBURY
VINE 7, Portway Road, (7, Portway Lane), WEDNESBURY
VOLUNTEER Great Western Street, WEDNESBURY
WAGGON AND HORSES High Street, WEDNESBURY
WESTPORT Holyhead Road, WEDNESBURY
WHITE HORSE HOTEL 46, Bridge Street, ((Lower) High Street), WEDNESBURY
WHITE LION 41, Dale Street, WEDNESBURY
WHITE LION Market Place, WEDNESBURY
WHITE LION Russell Street, WEDNESBURY
WHITE SWAN 6, Bridge Street, WEDNESBURY
WHY NOT 16, (17), (16+17), New Street, WEDNESBURY

WILLIAM IV Trowse Lane, WEDNESBURY

WINDMILL 116, Coronation Road, Woods Estate, WEDNESBURY

WINDMILL Windmill Street, WEDNESBURY

WODEN 25, Church Hill (27, Church Street), WEDNESBURY

WOODMAN 34, Dale Street, WEDNESBURY

WOODMAN Kings Hill Field, WEDNESBURY

WOODMAN 74, (62), Wood Green Road, (30, (61), Woodgreen), (61, Walsall Road), WEDNESBURY

HOW TO USE THE INFORMATION

PUB NAME

This is generally the name by which the pub was officially known. Other names, either changes or nicknames, are to be found in the notes section.

Names marked with + are, at present, not specifically identified as being any of those listed before them, and have not been attributed yet because of the lack of data available.

Pubs are not listed necessarily under their current name.

A number of beerhouses were never given a name, and these appear at the end of the pub lists as Beerhouse – Unnamed. Only those that I am pretty sure had 'on' licences are included.

This is sometimes the case with alehouses too.

Can't find the pub you want?

It's probably had its name changed. Try using the search facility to locate the pub name, or nickname, that you know.

ADDRESS

Eg. 52, (79), Haden Street, (Haden Lane) / Cox Alley, Kates Hill, DUDLEY

Numbers and street names in brackets denote earlier addresses. These are usually detailed in the notes section. Buildings were renumbered with development and demolition, or the renaming of the street etc.

/ = on the corner with.....

Sometimes districts are also included, such as Kates Hill above. These are often historical and are now obsolete, but can be located on early maps.

OWNERS

These are listed where known.

They include companies and individuals, and occasionally the dates acquired and prices paid.

LICENSEES

Often the owner was the licensee, and even when they employed managers their names would appear in directories. Where known, names are appended with (manager, non-resident, tenant etc.).

Dates

These are differentiated by the use of brackets and/or italics.

[1862] = This was the case in 1862. Where the date appears on its own it refers to the earliest or latest reference found.

This also applies where a pub has its name changed, eg.

[2001] followed by "Its name was changed to XXXXX. [2003]"

This means that in 2001 it still had its previous name, but by 2003 its name had been changed to XXXXX.

[1862] = Information from a directory dated 1862, so may have been out of date when it was published. As much as five years in some cases!

[c. 1862] = About 1862, but exact date not known.

[1860's] = Some time in this decade.

[] = No date available, but the detail is inserted in roughly the right chronological place.

(1862 – [1863] = Started in 1862 and was still the case in 1863.

[1862] – **1863)** = It was the case in 1862 and **ended** in 1863.

(1862 – 1863) = Started in 1862 and **ended** in 1863.

(1862 – 1863); the ; signifies that the licensee was immediately followed by the next person in the list. Sometimes the licence transfer came months after a person's death, but the transfer date is the one used, if date of death is not known.

Sometimes the licensing registers contradict findings from other sources such as directories. Where this occurs the ; is still used, the anomalous name is given a question mark and is placed in a suitable chronological place, and the next person is the one that follows the ;

Eg.

Fred Smith [1916] – **1927);**

Joseph Bloggs [1921] ?

George Jones **(1927 – 1932)**

In the register George Jones follows on from Fred Smith, but Joseph Bloggs was mentioned in another source in 1921. He is left in for completeness.

When using original documents, such as licensing registers, which are sometimes damaged, it is impossible to read some material (including dates). Where this has occurred, and only the decade or century is decipherable, I have used underscoring to replace the missing digits in an effort to keep the licensees in the correct order.

Eg. Fred Smith **(188_ – 18__);**

John Jones **(18__ – 189_):**

If the date is followed with a : this signifies the last person to hold the licence.

NOTES

These start with locations, and are followed by previous names or nicknames of the pub.

These are then followed by other details, often where dates are unknown.

Historical details then follow chronologically where possible.

Some pubs listed are the same as others, but so far I have been unable to connect them. This is especially true when directories only list the pub name and licensee, and more than one pub of that name existed at the time. These are often identified by:-

Check OTHER PUB NAME.

Licensees are often associated with more than one pub, and pubs are sometimes rebuilt on different sites to their original one. These are identified by:-

See OTHER PUB NAME

Titles – only Miss and Mrs are used here (when known).

No other titles are used.

ie. Major George Cox was not a major. Major was his first name.

Often names were spelt differently in the sources used. This is identified where possible, and one spelling is used for consistency.

Where I have decided that different spellings are the same person I have identified this

eg. *Smith* = *Smithe* = *Smyth*

Where I am unsure about this I have identified it thus

* possibly the same person

* probably the same person

Where sources are quoted these appear in **colour**, followed by the quote in black in a different typeface from the remainder of the information. Sometimes I have paraphrased a quotation, and some have had additions entered by myself.

Information which has been transcribed by me from handwritten sources, such as censuses, parish records, licensing minutes etc., should be correctly spelt, but the reader is advised to check the original for themselves. In cases where I have been unable to transcribe individual names, only those letters that are clear are given.

eg, Osbal___on ? The underscore does not indicate the number of missing letters, as this is often as unclear as the name itself.

Where I am not 100% sure that I have deciphered a name correctly this is indicated by a question mark in parentheses ie. (?)

Census records are presented in a different form than the original.

[1] = position in the household.

This is followed by the name and (age).

Relationship to [1] follows, and then occupation (if any is listed).

Finally comes the place of birth. Where these places are local to the Black Country, or are larger towns and cities, no county name is given.

Where birthplaces are given in the Black Country it has to be remembered:-

(a) Harborne once included Smethwick

(b) Kingswinford once covered places such as Brierley Hill, Pensnett, Quarry Bank and Wall Heath

(c) Sedgley once included Coseley and the Gornals

(d) West Bromwich once included Great Bridge (now in the Tipton file), Great Barr and Hamstead (not considered by me as part of the Black Country).

Newspaper articles sometimes spell the same thing (eg. Surname) differently in a single report. Where the proper spelling is known this is altered by me, but when I am unsure they are left as they appear.

A gazeteer is provided to give approximate locations of place names in relation to larger towns and cities in Britain.

Where a licensee changes her name by marriage, her former surname appears in brackets

ie. Jane (maiden or previous married name) Smith.

Where names of spouses are known, they are listed in the past tense, even though many may be still husband and wife. This is merely a convention used by me for convenience.

[text] Where square brackets occur, with text in a different typeface inside, this signifies comments of my own.

Some entries, in all sections, are followed by a number of question marks (without parentheses). These show the extent of doubt that I have over that entry.

The historical nature of the contents has meant that the old currency of pounds shillings and pence is used frequently. A pound (£) was divided into 20 shillings (s) and a shilling was divided into 12 pence (d). Halfpennies and farthings (1/4d) were also in use.

This is also the case where other measures, length, weight etc., are used. See glossary for details.

GLOSSARY

A number of terms may be unfamiliar and their meanings are listed below.
Also abbreviations appear in quotations and they are translated below.

acre A measure of area equal to 4840 square yards.

affeerer someone who organises a market

alehouse An obsolete term meaning both a house licensed to sell ale, or one with a full license, as distinct to a beerhouse.

ante 1869 Licensed before 1st May 1869, and applies to beerhouses which were protected from refusal to renew the license, unless statutory rules were broken.

These were:-

- (a) That the premises were frequented by thieves, prostitutes or people of bad character.
- (b) Failure of an applicant to provide evidence of a good character.
- (c) The applicant had been disqualified due to misconduct.

A.O.F. Ancient Order of Foresters

apprentice One who was bound to a skilled worker for a specified time to learn the trade.

axle tree maker One who made axles for coaches and waggons.

bagatelle A billiards derived game in which players have to negotiate wooden pins in order to navigate balls around a table.

bagman A travelling salesman.

banksman A man in charge of the cages at a pit head.

barm yeast / fermenting liquor

barrel A barrel containing 36 gallons.

base coin Counterfeit coin

beerhouse A pub which was only licenced to sell beer.

billiard marker A person who attends on players at billiards and records the progress of the game.

bill poster One who pastes up bills, notices or placards.

billycock A hard felt hat popular in Victorian times.

black list Anyone convicted of drunkenness was placed on this list. It was an offence to serve such a person, knowingly, for three years after being listed.

black saddler Someone who made cart, gig and other saddles in black leather.

blacksmith Someone who forges and shapes red hot iron with a hammer and anvil, also one who shoes horses.

bobber Metal polisher

boots A hotel servant who cleans boots, runs errands etc.

brake A long waggonette

breeze Furnace refuse used in making building material.

bridle cutter A person who cut leather to make horses' bridles.

brown saddler A person who made riding saddles from brown leather.

buckle tongue maker A person who made the metal points that go in the holes of belts, harness etc.

bushel A measure of 8 gallons.

butty A mining term for one who takes a contract for work in a coal mine.

c. circa

cabman One who drove a cab.

C.A.M.R.A. Campaign for Real Ale

carter A carrier, usually with a cart or waggon.

cavil To make empty, trifling objections, to use false arguments.

chartermaster A middleman who negotiated mining contracts and supplied the labour.

charwoman A cleaner.

cheap Jack A travelling hawker, who professes to give great bargain.

cobbler One who mended shoes.

commercial When applied to an inn or hotel it meant that commercial travellers were catered for, often at a reasonable price.

common brewer A brewer whose beer is brewed for the public, generally, not just for a pub.

Compensation Authority A body set up to decide the amount of compensation to be paid to the owner, when a licensing authority proposes to refuse a license renewal on grounds other than the statutory ones relating to the character or the conduct of the house.

Compensation was paid by the Inland Revenue from moneys collected from a levy on licenses.

compositor Someone who set type for printing.

cordwainer shoemaker (not a boot maker)

core A device used in casting and moulding processes to produce internal cavities.

Cork Club A charitable organisation in which the members had to carry a cork on their person at all times. They were challenged by other members of the club to produce their cork, and if they could not, they had to pay a 'fine' into the charity fund.

corn factor A middleman in corn deals.

C.R. Chief Ranger – an office within the Ancient Order of Foresters.

crepitant crackling

currier Horse groom / leather trade finisher who greases the dry leather to make it flexible.

cwt hundredweight, 112 pounds (approximately 51 kilograms)

d (old) pence

DCM Distinguished Conduct Medal

D.C.R. District Chief Ranger – an office within the Ancient Order of Foresters.

D.D.M. Deputy District Master – an office within the Ancient Order of Foresters.

die sinker Someone who engraves dies for stamping or embossing, or cutting screw threads on metal.

D.M. District Master – an office within the Ancient Order of Foresters, and Free Gardeners.

doggy An overlooker of a certain number of men and boys in a pit.

doxology A hymn ascribing glory to God.

draper A dealer in cloth, cloth goods, and sewing needs.

dray A low strong cart for heavy goods.

dropsy A morbid accumulation of watery fluid on any part of the body.

edge tool maker A person who made knives and agricultural tools such as scythes.

enceinte pregnant

epithet A term or expression.

f. founded

factor's clerk A clerk to a manufacturer.

farrier A horse doctor, or blacksmith who shoes horses.

felo-de-se Suicide Literally felon of himself.

filling A Victorian term meaning to serve beer / alcohol.

firkin A barrel containing 9 gallons.

florin A coin of the value 2s (10p).

fob A small watch pocket.

four foot The space between the rails on a standard gauge railway.

footpad A highwayman on foot.

freehold Legal ownership and control of a building or a piece of land for an unlimited time.

French polisher Someone who polished quality furniture using French polish, wax or lacquer.

fs when on 1841 census, probably means female servant

fuddle To stupefy, as with drink; to confuse

fuller A scourer of cloth, or a finisher.

gaming The playing of games of chance for winnings.

gawn A small round tub with a handle, used for carrying the wort.

General Annual Licensing Meeting This was the principal licensing meeting, and was sometimes called the Brewster Sessions. They were usually held during the first fortnight of February every year.

gilt a young cow (or other domestic animal)

grains of paradise Aframomum melegueta. A form of ginger native to the swamps of West Africa. The seeds (grains) were used in brewing to give the impression of strength. Its use became illegal in Britain in 1816.

grist ground malt used in brewing

guinea An amount of £1 1s 0d.

haberdasher A dealer in small wares, as ribbons, tapes etc.

half crown A coin of the value 2s 6d.

hame One of the two curved bars of a draught horse's collar.

harbouring the police Allowing police officers to be on the licensed premises when they should be on duty. The exceptions being when they have permission of a senior officer, or are engaged in preventing / detecting a breach of the licensing laws, or keeping order.

higgler or **higler** pedlar, usually with a horse and cart

hogshead A barrel containing 52½ gallons.

hoof prints / marks During the winter of 1855 there was a spate of people reporting these marks being visible in the snow on their roofs.

hostler see ostler

indict to officially charge with a crime

indigent in need, especially of sustenance

inst. / instant (during) the current month

intoxicating liquor spirits, beer, cider, wine and British wine

jalap the purgative root of an Ipomea or Exogonium, first brought from Jalapa, in Mexico.

japanner A person who made 'japanned' object using the Japanese lacquer techniques.

journeyman Fully qualified tradesman who had served an apprenticeship.

kilderkin A barrel holding 18 gallons.

liquor water (brewing)

L.M.S. London, Midland and Scottish (railway)

L.N.E.R. London and North Eastern Railway

long pull This was a practice in which more beer was served than the quantity ordered. It was originally encouraged by brewers to improve trade, but around 1900 they began to object to it, to improve takings! It is no longer illegal.

m. married

M. U. Manchester Unity (of Oddfellows)

milliner A dealer in Milan goods, or more commonly a maker / seller of women's hats, trimmings etc.

Minorca a breed of laying poultry

moiety one of two parts or divisions

mulct a fine

nonsuit the stopping of a suit (in Court)

NUOFG National United Order of Free Gardeners

oliverman An operator of a forge hammer worked by foot

on tramp travelling

Order of Discharge An order by a court of law saying that a person or company that is bankrupt is no longer responsible for paying back its debts.

ordinary A meal provided at a fixed cost.

Ordinary Removal A method of attaching a license of any description to premises previously unlicensed by the removal of a license of the same description from other premises.

ostler Someone who attends to horses at an inn.

paviour One who does paving work.

PCR Past Chief Ranger (Order of Foresters)

Penny dreadful A cheap sensational serial or tale.

perch A measure of area equal to 30¼ square yards (25.3 square metres).

plaister An obsolete form of plaster.

platelayer One who laid and maintained railway tracks.

posting house (post house) A place where horses were kept as replacements to pull stage coaches, which arrived there. (A staging post is an alternative name.)

potboy / potman Someone who worked in public houses, collecting and washing dirty pots or glasses.

Preceptoress Female preceptor (teacher).

provisional renewal When the Justices refer a license to the Compensation Authority this is granted. It enables the pub to continue until a decision is made. If the license is extinguished this renewal expires 7 days after compensation is paid, if not then it becomes unconditional.

publican's license This license authorizes the sale of any intoxicating liquor for consumption on or off the premises.

puddler (pudler) Wrought iron worker, he would stir molten pig iron to form wrought iron.

puncheon An Imperial measure of 72 gallons.

Q.M.S. Quartermaster-sergeant.

quart An Imperial measure of liquid equal to two pints.

quarter A measure of eight bushels; equivalent to 8 barrels of beer.

quartern A quarter of a pint.

R. A. O. B. Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

rat killing ledger A blood sport in which dogs kill as many rats, in a given time; the one killing most being the winner. Gambling took place – hence the ledger (book in which bets were recorded).

RFA Royal Field Artillery

rim lock A locking device that attaches to the surface of a door or window.

rood A measure of area of about a quarter of an acre.

s shillings

sennight A week (ago).

shafter a horse harnessed between shafts

shingler Manipulator of puddled balls of iron to remove impurities.

Sick and Dividend Society A society in which annual / monthly / weekly contributions were made by its members in order to provide "insurance" payouts when work preventing sickness, or death, occurred to its members. A dividend was paid (usually in December) from the remaining investment.

sine die without a day (appointed), indefinitely.

sinker Well or shaft digger.

6 day license Pubs with this type of license were not allowed to open on Sundays.

smoking concert A concert where those attending were allowed (or even encouraged!) to smoke.

sovereign A coin of the value of £1.

spragging Mining term for propping.

stallman Keeper of stable underground (mining).

stirk a yearling or young ox or cow

syncope a fainting fit caused by a sudden fall in blood pressure in the brain.

temperance hotel (house) A building run along the same lines as pubs / hotels, but without alcohol.

thripples a type of cart ladder to extend the capacity.

tuyere (or twyer or tweer) a nozzle for a blast of air.

ult / ultimo (during) the previous month.

union fermentation system A system of fermentation, developed in the 19th century, in which fermenting beer is kept in rows of large barrels (unions) interconnected by pipes and troughs, which allows the yeast to continually circulate through the beer. It is often referred to as the Burton Union system.

utter to put money into circulation, to try to pass off as genuine.

VS veterinary surgeon

W. B. A. West Bromwich Albion

whitesmith A metal worker in tin, or light metals.

WM masonic term for Worshipful Master.

wobble (or whobble) shop an illegal drinking den.

wobbling supplying drink without a license.

wood turner Someone who turns wood on a lathe.

wort The malt solution that results from the main brewing operation.

£ pound

THE ACTS

Below is a list of some of the Acts of Parliament relating to licensing, and some of their effects. By no means is all legislation here.

Alehouse Act, 1828

Laid down, for the first time, a uniform code of procedure for annual licensing and transfer sessions. Premises licensed under this Act were enabled to sell not only 'Ale' but other intoxicating drinks.

Beerhouse Act, 1830

A reforming Act intended to discourage the consumption of spirits (especially gin). Excise licenses could be taken out without having to go through the justices, and this resulted in the growth of beerhouses nationwide.

Refreshment Houses Act, 1860

Effectively put the sale of wine on an even footing with beer, as it enabled a refreshment house keeper to sell wine without obtaining a justice's license.

Wine and Beerhouse Act, 1869

Gave the licensing justices control over all premises where intoxicating liquor was sold for consumption on the premises. No new licenses could be obtained without applying to them, but existing beer and wine licenses were protected (see ante 1869, above).

This inhibited the continuing growth of beerhouses resulting from the 1830 Act.

Licensing Act, 1872

This established a procedure whereby a new license was only valid after a second, Confirmation procedure had taken place.

Licensing Act, 1902

This granted justices the same rights over off licenses as they had over on licenses, since 1869.

Licensing Act, 1904

This set up the compensation procedure for the extinguishing of unnecessary licenses, or those of unsound premises, but did not affect ante 1869 beerhouses.

SOURCES

Over the years a wide range of sources have been consulted. These are listed below.

CENSUSES

1841 (7/6)
1851 (30/3)
1861 (7/4)
1871 (2/4)
1881 (4/4)
1891 (5/4)
1901 (31/3)
1911 (2/4)
1921 (19/6)

PARISH REGISTERS

St. Edmund's, Dudley
St. Giles', Rowley Regis
St. Thomas', Dudley

LICENSING REGISTERS

Bilston and Sedgley
Darlston
Dudley
Kingswinford
Oldbury
Smethwick
Stourbridge
Tipton
Walsall and Bloxwich
Wednesbury
West Bromwich

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

The on-line British Newspaper Archive

Ales and Tales, the newsletter published by Dudley & South Staffordshire, and Stourbridge & Halesowen Branches of CAMRA.

Beerwolf, the newsletter published by Wolverhampton Branch CAMRA

Black Country Bugle, published by the Black Country Bugle, 41 High Street, Cradley Heath. B64 5HL
e-mail editor@blackcountrybugle.co.uk

The Blackcountryman, published by the Black Country Society.
e-mail editor@blackcountryociety.co.uk

The Brewers' Journal

Brewery History Society Journals

The Brewing Trade Review

Deer's Leap, The. The house magazine of Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Kils and Kins, the newsletter published by Walsall Branch CAMRA

London Gazette

The New Imbiber / Independent Imbiber

Smethwick Heritage Telephone. The magazine of the Smethwick Heritage Centre Trust
e-mail editor@smethwick-heritage.co.uk

DIRECTORIES

Ace's Directory of Darlaston (1953/54)
Aubrey's Staffordshire Directory (1931)
Bennett's Business Directory for Warwickshire, Worcestershire and South Staffordshire (1911–12)
Bentley's History & Guide & Directory of Worcestershire (1841)
Blocksidge's Dudley Almanack (1881–1888), (1900-1914), (1925–1930)
Bridgen's Directory of Wolverhampton (1833)
Cassey & Co.'s Worcestershire Directory (1860)
Cope's Directory of Staffordshire (1908)
Corporation Directory for Birmingham & its environs (1863)
Crocker's Post Office Wolverhampton & District Directory (1884)
Dixon & Co. General and Commercial Directory of the Borough of Birmingham..... (1858)
Elton & Brown's Tipton & District Almanack (1901)
Ford's Household Almanack (1881)
Harrison & Harrod's Directory & Gazetteer of Staffordshire with Dudley (1861)
Herald Yearbook and Directory (1899–1902)
Holden's Directory (1816–17)
Hulley's Directory of the Hardware District (1889–90)
Hulley's Directory of Wolverhampton (1874)
Jones' Mercantile Directory of the Iron District of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire (1865)
Kelly's Directory of Birmingham (1879), (1883), (1888), (1890), (1892), (1896), (1897), (1900), (1904), (1907), (1909), (1912), (1914), (1921), (1926), (1928)
Kelly's Directory for Birmingham (with its suburbs) and Smethwick (1930), (1933), (1934), (1942), (1943), (1944), (1945), (1946), (1949), (1951), (1955–1959), (1962), (1965), (1967/68)
Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, Staffordshire and Worcestershire (1850)
Kelly's Directory for Staffordshire (1888), (1892), (1900), (1904), (1908), (1911), (1912), (1916), (1921), (1924), (1928), (1932), (1936), (1940)
Kelly's Directory for Staffordshire, Warwickshire & Worcestershire (1870), (1921)
Kelly's Directory for Warwickshire & Worcestershire (1916)
Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire (1884), (1888), (1892), (1896), (1912), (1921), (1924), (1928), (1932), (1936)

Kelly's Post Office Directory for Birmingham & District (1845)
 Lewis' Worcestershire General and Commercial Directory (1820)
 Littlebury's Worcestershire Directory (1873)
 Mark & Moody's Directory for Stourbridge and District (1900)
 Melville's Directory of Wolverhampton & District (1851)
 Parson's Directory of Staffordshire and General (1818)
 Pigot's Directory of Birmingham (1834), (1841), (1842)
 Pigot & Co. Directory of Staffordshire (1822), (1828), (1830), (1842)
 Pigot & Co. Directory of Worcestershire (1835)
 Post Office Directory for Birmingham (1879)
 Post Office Directory for Birmingham and its suburbs (1878)
 Post Office Directory of London, Birmingham and District (1845)
 Post Office Directory for Staffordshire (1849), (1860), (1868), (1872)
 Post Office Directory for Worcestershire (1872)
 Robson's London and Birmingham Directory (1839)
 Ryder's Annual for Wednesbury (1889)
 Ryder's Annual Wednesbury Red Book & Directory (1901)
 Slater's Directory of Staffordshire (1850)
 Slater's Directory of Worcestershire (1862)
 Smethwick Annual and Year Book (1903)
 Stevens' Directory of Wolverhampton and 6 miles Round (1879–1880)
 Stourbridge Almanack & Directory (1914)
 White's Directory of Birmingham (1873)
 White's General and Commercial Directory of Birmingham (1855)
 White's History, Gazeteer & Directory: Staffordshire (1834)
 White's Directory for Staffordshire (1834), (1851), (1855), (1873)
 Willenhall Red Book (1929)
 Wolverhampton Directory (1879)
 Wolverhampton Red Book (1900), (1928), (1938–1939)

BOOKS

Alton Douglas Presents series (published by Brewin Books Ltd.)

'Memories of West Bromwich' (1999)

'Amblecote Directory 1905 to 1915' compiled by Nick Baker (2001)

'An ABC of the Licensing Laws' by the Solicitor to the London Central Board (c. 1960)

'Any Road Up. Memories of life in Tipton' collected by Heather Wastie (1998)

The Archive Photographs series (published by Chalford Publishing Co.)

'Wolverhampton' compiled by Mary Mills and Tracey Williams (1996)

'Around Tettenhall and Codsall in Old Photographs' collected by Mary Mills (1990)

'The Best of Times: The Best of Places' compiled and edited by Dave Reeves (1997)

'Bilston in Old Photographs' collected by Elizabeth A. Rees (1988)

'Black Country Breweries' by Joseph McKenna (2005)

'The Black Country Good Beer Guide' compiled by the Black Country Branches of CAMRA (1994)

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'A Black Country Pub Crawl of West Bromwich' compiled by Peter Hill (1992)

'The Black Country as seen through Antique Maps' by Eric Richardson (2000)

'The Black Country At Play' by Alton Douglas, Dennis Moore etc. (1994)

'Black Country Pubs in Old Photographs' compiled by Robin Pearson and Jean Wade (1991)

'The Black Country Remembered' by Alton Douglas, Dennis Moore etc. (1996)

'The Book of the Black Country' by Jon Raven (1988)

'The Brewing of Good Honest Beer'. Issued by Mitchells & Butlers Ltd. (1929)

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'Blackheath' by Anthony H. Page (2000)

'Brierley Hill' by Stan Hill (1995)

'Brierley Hill' by Ned Williams and the Mount Pleasant Local History Group (2011)

'Cradley Heath, Old Hill & District' by Ron Moss & Bob Clarke (1998)

'Cradley Heath, Old Hill and District: A Second Selection' by Ron Moss (2004)

'Darlaston, Moxley & Bentley' by Ian M. Bott (2000)

'Dudley' by H. Atkins, D. Matthews & S. Robins (1998)

'Great Bridge & District' by Terry Price (2000)

'Great Bridge Memories' by Terry Price (2004)

'Great Bridge Revisited' by Terry Price (2002)

'Halesowen' by David L. Eades (1998)

'Halesowen. A Second Selection' by David L. Eades (2000)

'Lye & Wollescote' by Denys Brooks & Pat Dunn (1997)

'Netherton' by Ned Williams (2006)

'Oldbury, Langley & Warley' by Terry Daniels (2002)

'Quarry Bank' by Ned Williams etc. (1998)

'Quarry Bank and the Delph' by Ned Williams and the Mount Pleasant Local History Group (2009)

'Rowley' by Anthony H. Page (2001)

'Sedgley & District' by Trevor Genge (1995)

'Sedgley & District. A Second Selection' by Trevor Genge (1997)

'Sedgley & District. A Third Selection' by Trevor Genge (1999)

'Sedgley & District. A Fifth Selection' by Trevor Genge (2004)

'Sedgley, Coseley & The Gornals' by Trevor Genge (2001)

'Stourbridge, Wollaston & Amblecote' by Bob Clarke & Michael Reuter (1997)

'Stourbridge, Wollaston & Amblecote. A Second Selection' by Bob Clarke & Michael Reuter (2000)

'Tipton' by John Brimble and Keith Hodgkins (1995)

'Tipton. A Second Selection' by John Brimble and Keith Hodgkins (1997)

'Tipton. A Third Selection' by Keith Hodgkins and John Brimble (2001)

'Walsall Past and Present' by David F. Vodden (1999)

'Walsall Revisited' by David F. Vodden (1997)

'Wednesbury in Old Photographs' by Ian M. Bott (1994)

'Wednesbury Memories' by Ian M. Bott (2004)

'Wednesbury Revisited' by Ian M. Bott (1998)

'Wednesfield and Heath Town' by Elizabeth A. Rees & Mary Mills (1992)

'West Bromwich Revisited' by David F. Vodden (1999)

'West Bromwich Memories' by Terry Price (2006)

'Britain's Lost Breweries and Beers' by Chris Arnot (2012)

'The Burton Ale Guild of Master Cellarmen, Pub Guide' (1993)

'Bygone Days In Wall Heath, Moss Grove and Kingswinford' by Terry Church (2020)

'By Road & Rail To Tettenhall' by Ned Williams (1980)

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'The Caring Community' by John R. Stenson (1994)

'A Century of the Black Country' by Ned Williams (1999)

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 'The Curiosities of Dudley and the Black Country 1800–1860' by C. F. G. Clark (1881)
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 'Down The Dip' by John R. Stenson (1998)
 'Do You Remember?' by John R. Stenson (2000)
 'Dudley As It Was' by David Radmore (1977)
 'Freeman's Black Country Folk' published by the Black Country Society (1970)
 'Further Around Kingswinford and Wall Heath in Old Photographs' compiled by Ray James & Ron Julian (2000)
 'Gone But Not Forgotten' by John R. Stenson (1999)
 'Haden Hill House and Its Environs' by Jackie Kendall and John Billingham (1999)
 'The Highgate Brewery' by Keith J. Lloyd (1980's)
 'A History of Cape Hill Brewery' by T. W. Hartland and K. Davies (2002)
 'A History of Holden's' by John Richards (1986)
 'A History of Lower Gornal' by Andrew Barnett (1975)
 'A History of Simpkins Breweries' by John Richards (1984)
 'A History of West Bromwich' edited by MW Greenslade (1976)
 'History Around Us. Halesowen' by John Billingham (1996)
 'The History of Batham's' by John Richards (1993)
 '101 Real Ale Pubs in the Black Country' compiled by Peter Hill (1994)

Images of England series (published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.)

'Bilston, Tettenhall and Wednesfield' compiled by Mary Mills and Tracey Williams (1998)
 'Bushbury and Featherstone' compiled by Alec Brew (1999)
 'Heath Town and Fallings Park' compiled by Alec Brew (1999)
 'Penn and Blakenhall' compiled by Alec Brew (1998)
 'Smethwick' by Andrew Maxam and David Harvey (2007)
 'Whitmore Reans' compiled by Anthony Rose (2000)
 'Wolverhampton. A Century of Change' by Alec Brew (2000)
 'Wolverhampton Pubs' by Alec Brew (2004)

'The Incorporated Brewers' Guild Directory' compiled by Miss J. A. Simpson (1990)
 'Innkeeping' edited by Brian Spiller (1964)
 'Inns, Ales, and Drinking Customs of Old England' by Frederick W. Hackwood (1909)
 'Inns and Inn Signs of Dudley' by Mark H. Washington Fletcher (1953)
 'I Remember Rushall' by Walsall Local History Centre (2002)
 'Jack Judge. The Tipperary Man' by Verna Hale Gibbons (1998)
 'Journey Down The Golden Mile, West Bromwich' by M. M. Meanders (1991)
 'Just Beyond The Hill' by John R. Stenson (1995)
 'Langley & Round About' compiled and edited by Suzie Drew & Diane Callow (1997)
 'The Law of the Six-Day Licences' by James Grayston (1901)
 'Making and Moving in Langley' edited by Terry Daniels (1999)
 'Mary Parton Remembers' by Patrick Quirke & Bill Lowe (2009)
 'Memories of Dudley' by Alton Douglas, Dennis Moore etc. (1989)
 'Memories of Stourbridge' published by True North Books Ltd. (2000)
 'Memories of Walsall' by Alton Douglas, Dennis Moore etc. (1989)
 'Memories of Wolverhampton' by Alton Douglas, Dennis Moore etc. (1988)
 'Molineux House. A History' by Patrick Quirke
 'Molineux Memories' by Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies (2009)
 'More Memories of Old Warley' – Warley Local History Society (2004)
 '1991 things you wanted to know about Wolverhampton' published by Broadside (1991)
 'Nostalgic Dudley' by Margaret Wakefield (1998)

'Oak House, West Bromwich' (3rd edition)
'Oldbury and Rowley Regis in Old Photographs' collected by John Maddison (1991)
'Old Memories of Old Warley' collected by Old Warley History Society (2002)
'Old Time Oldbury' collated by Terry Daniels (2000)

Ottaker's Local History series (published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.)

'Walsall' compiled by Pippa Bradley (2002)

'Oldbury. The Town of the Four Moons' edited by Dave Reeves (1994)
'Our Lost Village' by Lillian M Jewkes (date unknown)
'Past & Present Wolverhampton' by Ned Williams (2002)
'Playing and Performing in Langley' edited by Terry Daniels (2004)
'The Publican's Manual' by Herbert Jeffries (1894)
'Public House Checks of Birmingham and Smethwick' by R. N. P. Hawkins (1978)
'The Pubs and Breweries of the Old Dudley Borough' by John Richards (1989)
'Red Plush and Greasepaint' by Clarkson Rose.
'Remnants of Old Wolverhampton' by John Fullwood (1880)
'Staffordshire Tavern Checks' by Neil B. Todd, Malcolm C. Eden and Andrew Cunningham (2006)
'Stories of Darlaston' edited by Tony Highfield
'Stourbridge and District. A Portrait in Old Picture Postcards' by Michael Reuter (1989)
'Stourbridge Living Memories' by Dorothy Nicolle (2002)
'The Supply of Beer in Dudley' a report for the Economic Development Committee (1991)
'Tettenhall' by Jon Raven (undated)
'Tipton Through Time' by Keith Hodgkins (2011)
'The Tipton Slasher. His Life and Times' by Tom Langley (date unknown)
'A Tour of Kingswinford and Wall Heath in Old Photographs' compiled by Ray James and Ron Julian (1998)
'Twenty Five Years of New British Breweries' by Ian Mackey (1998)
'The Village Atlas' published by The Village Press (1989)
'Wall Heath Captured on Camera' by Terry Church (2001)
'Wall Heath Village Memories' by Terry Church (2001)
'Walsall, Aldridge, Bloxwich and District' by Eric Woolley (1989)
'Walsall in Old Photographs' collected by Douglas W. Gilbert and Marilyn Lewis (1988)
'Walsall Pubs: A History' by John Cockayne (1984)
'The' was onny one an' the' wo' be another' edited by Dave Reeves (1990)
'West Bromwich Albion. The First Hundred Years' by G. A. Willmore
'West Bromwich in Old Photographs' compiled by Robin Pearson (1989)
'Where Have All The Breweries Gone' compiled by Norman Barber (1980)
'Where Three Shires Met' compiled and edited by Dave Reeves (1998)
'Willenhall's Pubs Past and Present' by Irene M. Bowen & Robert W. Williams (2011)
'William Fowler's Kingswinford' by Eric Richardson (1999)
'Wolverhampton As It Was. Vol.I' by John Roper (1974)
'Wolverhampton As It Was. Vol.II' by John Roper (1975)
'Wolverhampton As It Was. Vol.III' by John Roper (1976)
'Wolverhampton Local History Pamphlet No.3' by John Roper (1969)

Yesterday's Staffordshire series (published by Reflections of a Bygone Age)

'Bearwood and Warley' by Andrew Maxam (2000)
'Bilston' by Eric Woolley (1993)
'Brownhills and Walsall Wood' by Jan Farrow (1992)
'Smethwick on old picture postcards' by Andrew Maxam (2001)
'Wednesbury' by Eric Woolley (1991)
'West Bromwich In Old Picture Postcards' by Robin Pearson (1993)
'Willenhall' by Eric Woolley (1991)

'Origins of Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd.' by David Radmore
Chief Constable's Reports to General Annual Licensing Meetings, 1948-1957.
Confirming Authority Minute Book, Dudley, 1946-50
Compensation Authority Minute Book, Dudley 1909-36

GAZETTEER

The following places appear in the main text. Below is their location in reference to bigger towns or cities.
Distances and directions are approximate.
Not all places in the text are mentioned below.

ABBERLEY, Worcestershire - 5 miles SW of Stourport on Severn

ABBOTS BROMLEY, Staffordshire - 7 miles S of Uttoxeter

ABERCARN, Monmouthshire - 10 miles NW of Newport

ABERGAVENNY, Monmouthshire - 15 miles W of Monmouth

ACKLETON, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Bridgnorth

ACTON TRUSSELL, Staffordshire - 4 miles SE of Stafford

ADDERBURY, Oxfordshire - 3 miles S of Banbury

ADMASTON, Shropshire is part of Telford

ALBRIGHTON, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Wolverhampton

ALDBOURNE, Wiltshire - 6 miles NE of Marlborough

ALDERMINSTER, Warwickshire - 4 miles SSE of Stratford upon Avon

ALDINGTON, Worcestershire - 3 miles E of Evesham

ALDRIDGE, Staffordshire - 4 miles ENE of Walsall

ALLENSMORE, Herefordshire - 4 miles SW of Hereford

ALLESLEY, Warwickshire - 3 miles W of Coventry

ALREWAS, Staffordshire - 7 miles SW of Burton upon Trent

ALSTON, Cumberland - 29 miles SE of Carlisle

ALTON, Hampshire - 9 miles SE of Basingstoke

ALTON, Staffordshire - 5 miles ENE of Uttoxeter

ALVECHURCH, Warwickshire - 4 miles NW of Redditch

ALVEDISTON, Wiltshire - 8 miles E of Shaftesbury

ALVELEY, Shropshire - 6 miles SE of Bridgnorth

AMESBURY, Gloucestershire - 7 miles N of Salisbury

ANSTEY, Leicestershire - 4 miles NW of Leicester

ARLEY KINGS - 10 miles N of Worcester

ARLINGTON, Wiltshire is part of Trowbridge

ARMITAGE, Staffordshire - 4 miles NNW of Lichfield

ASHBY CUM FENBY, Lincolnshire - 5 miles S of Grimsby

ASHOVER, Derbyshire - 4 miles NE of Matlock

ASTERLEY, Shropshire - 8 miles ESE of Shrewsbury

ASTLEY, Lancashire - a suburb of Chorley

ASTLEY ABBOTTS, Shropshire - 2 miles N of Bridgnorth

ASTON, Warwickshire is probably the part of Birmingham

ASTON CANTLOW, Warwickshire - 5 miles NW of Stratford

ATTLEBOROUGH, Norfolk - 14 miles NE of Thetford

ATTLEBOROUGH, Warwickshire – about 1 mile SE of Nuneaton

AUDLEY, Staffordshire - 4 miles NW of Newcastle under Lyne

AUSTREY, Warwickshire - 5 miles ENE of Tamworth

BADDESLEY ENSOR, Warwickshire - 3 miles W of Atherstone

BADGER, Shropshire is just to the N of Ackleton (see above)

BADSEY, Worcestershire - 2 miles E of Evesham

BALSALL HEATH, Worcestershire is part of Birmingham

BALSCOTT, Oxfordshire - 4 miles W of Banbury

BARFORD, Norfolk - 6 miles W of Norwich

BARNACLE, Warwickshire – 2 miles NE of Coventry

BARNBY DUN, Yorkshire is part of Doncaster

BARROW UPON SOAR, Leicestershire - 2 miles SE of Loughborough

BARSTON, Warwickshire - 9 miles W of Coventry

BARTON, Lancashire - 6 miles N of Preston

BARTON, Oxfordshire is a suburb of Oxford

BARTON, Yorkshire - 6 miles SW of Darlington

BARTON UNDER NEEDWOOD, Staffordshire - 4 miles SW of Burton upon Trent

BASCHURCH, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Shrewsbury

BAVERSTOCK, Wiltshire - 7 miles W of Salisbury

BAYSTON HILL, Shropshire - 3 miles S of Shrewsbury

BEARLEY, Warwickshire - 5 miles N of Stratford on Avon

BEDDINGTON, Surrey is part of the London Borough of Sutton

BEDSTONE, Shropshire - 5 miles ENE of Knighton

BEDWORTH, Warwickshire - 3 miles S of Nuneaton

BELTON, Rutlandshire - 6 miles SW of Oakham

BENNINGHOLME, Yorkshire - 6 miles N of Hull

BENTLEY, Warwickshire - 6 miles NW of Nuneaton

BEOLEY, Worcestershire - 2 miles N of Redditch

BERKELEY, Gloucestershire - 11 miles SSW of Stroud

BERRINGTON, Shropshire - 4 miles SSE of Shrewsbury

BICKENHILL, Warwickshire - 3 miles NE of Solihull

BIDFORD on AVON, Warwickshire - 4 miles S of Alcester

BILLINGSLEY, Shropshire - 6 miles S of Bridgnorth

BILSTONE, Leicestershire - 3 miles NW of Market Bosworth

BINFIELD, Berkshire - 8 miles SE of Reading

BIRSTALL, Leicestershire - 3 miles N of Leicester

BISHAMPTON, Worcestershire - 9 miles SE of Worcester

BISHOPS STONE, Herefordshire - 6 miles W of Hereford

BISHOP WILTON, Yorkshire - 12 miles ENE of York

BITTERLEY, Shropshire - 4 miles E of Ludlow

BLABY, Leicestershire - 5 miles S of Leicester

BLACKLEY, Lancashire is part of Manchester

BLACKWATER, Berkshire - 1 mile W of Camberley

BLEWBURY, Berkshire - 14 miles S of Oxford

BLOCKLEY, Worcestershire - 10 miles SE of Evesham

BLYMILL, Staffordshire - 10 miles SW of Stafford

BLYTHEFIELD, Staffordshire is part of Burton on Trent

BOBBINGTON, Staffordshire - 8 miles E of Bridgnorth

BOLAS MAGNA, Shropshire - 8 miles N of Telford

BONEHILL, Staffordshire is part of Tamworth

BONSALL, Derbyshire - 2 miles SW of Matlock

BOTTESFORD, Leicestershire - 16 miles N of Melton Mowbray

BOURNHEATH, Worcestershire - 3 miles N of Bromsgrove

BOURTON ON THE WATER, Gloucestershire - 4 miles SSW of Stow on the Wold

BRACKENFIELD, Derbyshire - 4 miles ESE of Matlock

BRADFORD ON AVON, Wiltshire - 8 miles SE of Bath

BRAILES, Upper and Lower, Worcestershire - 4 miles ESE of Shipston on Stour

BRAMFIELD, Suffolk - 10 miles NE of Framlingham

BRAMPTON, Derbyshire is part of Chesterfield

BRAMPTON, Huntingdonshire - 2 miles SW of Huntingdon

BRAMPTON BRYAN, Herefordshire - 5 miles E of Knighton

BRANSTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles S of Burton on Trent

BRAUNSTON, Northamptonshire - 3 miles NNE of Daventry

BRERETON, Staffordshire - 1 mile S of Rugeley

BREWOOD, Staffordshire - 6 miles W of Cannock

BRICKLEHAMPTON, Worcestershire - 3 miles SE of Pershore

BRIDSTOW, Herefordshire - 1 mile W of Ross on Wye

BRINDLE, Lancashire - 5 miles SE of Preston

BROADWAY, Worcestershire - 6 miles SE of Evesham

BROCTON, Staffordshire - 4 miles SE of Stafford

BROMLEY, Middlesex is part of London

BROOM, Worcestershire - 6 miles NNE of Evesham

BROOME, Worcestershire - 5 miles ENE of Kidderminster

BROSELEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

BROUGHTON GIFFORD, Wiltshire - 1.5 miles W of Melksham

BRYMBO, North Wales is part of Wrexham

BURGHILL, Herefordshire - 3 miles NNW of Hereford

BURLTON, Shropshire - 8 miles NNW of Shrewsbury

BURNHILL GREEN, Shropshire - 6 miles NE of Bridgnorth

BURNTWOOD, Staffordshire - 4 miles W of Lichfield

BURTON IN LONSDALE, Lancashire / Yorkshire - 9 miles E of Carnforth

BURWARTON, Shropshire - 10 miles NE of Ludlow

BYFIELD, Northamptonshire - 6 miles SSE of Daventry

CALNE, Wiltshire - 6 miles E of Chippenham

CANNING TOWN, Essex is part of London

CARLTON, Leicestershire - 12 miles W of Leicester

CARSINGTON, Derbyshire - 2 miles WSW of Wirksworth

CASTLE DONINGTON, Leicestershire - 12 miles SW of Nottingham

CASTLE FROME, Herefordshire - 10 miles ENE of Hereford

CASTLE MORTON, Worcestershire - 5 miles E of Ledbury

CASTOR, Northamptonshire - 4 miles W of Peterborough

CAVERSWALL, Staffordshire - 5 miles ESE of Stoke on Trent

CAYNHAM, Shropshire - 3 miles SE of Ludlow

CHADDESLEY CORBETT, Worcestershire - 4 miles ESE of Kidderminster

CHALFORD, Gloucestershire - 4 miles SE of Stroud

CHARMINSTER, Dorset 1 mile N of Dorchester

CHEADLE, Staffordshire - 7 miles NW of Uttoxeter

CHEDDLETON, Staffordshire - 3 miles S of Leek

CHELMARSH, Shropshire - 4 miles S of Bridgnorth

CHERRINGTON, Shropshire - 6 miles N of Telford

CHESLYN HAY, Staffordshire - 2 miles S of Cannock

CHESWARDINE, Shropshire - 4 miles SE of Market Drayton

CHETTON, Shropshire - 4 miles WSW of Bridgnorth

CHILLINGTON, Staffordshire - 4 miles NW of Wolverhampton

CHILVERS COTON, Warwickshire - 1 mile SW of Nuneaton

CHINNOR, Oxfordshire - 4 miles SE of Thame

CHIRBURY, Shropshire - 3 miles E of Montgomery

CHOLESBURY, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles E of Wendover

CHORLEY, Staffordshire - 3 miles WSW of Lichfield

CHORLTON UPON MEDLOCK, Lancashire is part of Manchester

CHULMLEIGH, Devonshire - 13 miles NW of Crediton

CHURCH HILL, Worcestershire is part of Redditch

CHURCH LAWTON, Cheshire - 6 miles WSW of Congleton

CLAINES, Worcestershire - 2 miles N of Worcester

CLAYHANGER, Staffordshire is just W of Brownhills

CLEETON, Shropshire - 3 miles NE of Ludlow

CLIFTON, Bedfordshire - 9 miles SE of Bedford

CLIFTON, Derbyshire - 1 mile SW of Ashbourne

CLIFTON UPON DUNSMORE, Warwickshire - 2 miles E of Rugby

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE, Staffordshire - 10 miles E of Lichfield

CLIFTON ON TEME, Worcestershire - 10 miles NW of Worcester

CLOWS TOP, Worcestershire - 5 miles W of Stourport

CLUN, Shropshire - 5 miles N of Knighton

CLUNGUNFORD, Shropshire - 8 miles WNW of Ludlow

CLUTTON, Somerset - 8 miles WSW of Bath

CLYDACH, Breconshire - 4 miles SW of Abergavenny

CLYRO, Radnorshire - 1 mile NW of Hay on Wye

COALBROOKDALE, Shropshire is part of Telford

COALPIT BANK, Shropshire is part of Telford

COALPORT, Shropshire is part of Telford

COBRIDGE, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

CODDINGTON, Nottinghamshire - 3 miles E of Newark

CODNOR, Derbyshire - 2 miles N of Heanor

COFTON HACKETT, Worcestershire 16 miles NE of Worcester

COGGESHALL, Essex - 6 miles E of Braintree

COLD HATTON, Shropshire is part of Telford

COLLINGTON, Herefordshire - 4 miles N of Bromyard

COLTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles N of Rugeley

COLWICH, Staffordshire - 3 miles NW of Rugeley

COMBERFORD, Staffordshire - 2 miles NE of Tamworth

COMBERTON, Herefordshire - 4 miles WSW of Ludlow

CONDOVER, Shropshire - 5 miles S of Shrewsbury

CONGRESBURY, Somerset - 7 miles E of Weston-super-Mare

COOKLEY, Worcestershire - 2 miles N of Kidderminster

CORBIT, Worcestershire is possibly another name for Chaddesley Corbett

CORELEY, Shropshire - 5 miles NE of Tenbury Wells

COTE, Oxfordshire - 4 miles S of Witney

COTHERIDGE, Worcestershire - 4 miles W of Worcester

COTON, Warwickshire - check Chilvers Coton

COTON IN THE ELMS, Staffordshire - 5 miles S of Burton on Trent

COUNTTESTHORPE, Leicestershire - 6 miles S of Leicester

COVEN, Staffordshire - 5 miles N of Wolverhampton

COWBRIDGE, Glamorganshire - 7 miles W of Cardiff

CRADLEY, Herefordshire - 3 miles W of Great Malvern

CROOK, County Durham - 10 miles SW of Durham

CROPREDY, Worcestershire - 4 miles N of Banbury

CROWELL, Oxfordshire - 4 miles SE of Thame

CROWLE, Worcestershire - 2 miles E of Worcester

CRUDGINGTON, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Telford

CUBBINGTON, Warwickshire is on the NE outskirts of Leamington Spa

CUBLEY, Derbyshire - 6 miles S of Ashbourne

CULLINGWORTH, Yorkshire - 4 miles S of Keighley

CURDWORTH, Warwickshire - 11 miles E of Birmingham

CUTNALL GREEN, Worcestershire - 3 miles N of Droitwich

DALLINGTON, Northamptonshire - 2 miles NW of Northampton

DARRINGTON, Yorkshire - 3 miles ESE of Pontefract

DAVENHAM, Cheshire - 2 miles S of Northwich

DAWLEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

DEDDINGTON, Oxfordshire - 6 miles S of Banbury

DEFFORD, Worcestershire - 2 miles SW of Pershore

DESFORD, Leicestershire - 7 miles W of Leicester

DEUXHILL, Shropshire - 4 miles SWS of Bridgnorth

DIDDLEBURY, Shropshire - 6 miles N of Ludlow

DILWYN, Herefordshire - 6 miles SW of Leominster

DITTON PRIORS, Shropshire - 7 miles WSW of Bridgnorth

DODDINGTON, Cambridgeshire - 4 miles S of March

DODLESTON, Cheshire - 5 miles SW of Chester

DONHEAD ST. ANDREW, Wiltshire - 4 miles E of Shaftesbury

DONNINGTON, Shropshire - 6 miles ESE of Shrewsbury

DORDON, Warwickshire - 3 miles NW of Atherstone

DOVERDALE, Worcestershire - 2 miles NW of Droitwich

DRAYCOTT IN THE CLAY, Staffordshire - 4 miles SE of Uttoxeter

DRIGHLINGTON, Yorkshire - 6 miles SW of Leeds

DUDDINGTON, Northamptonshire - 6 miles SW of Stamford

DUFFIELD, Derbyshire - 3 miles S of Belper

DUKENFIELD, Cheshire is part of Greater Manchester

DYMCHURCH, Kent - 10 miles SE of Ashford

DYMOCK, Gloucestershire - 4 miles S of Ledbury

EARL SHILTON, Leicestershire - 10 miles SW of Leicester

EARLS BARTON, Northamptonshire - 7 miles E of Northampton

EAST HARLING, Norfolk - 8 miles E of Thetford

EASTLEIGH, Hampshire - 5 miles NE of Southampton

EASTNOR, Herefordshire - 3 miles E of Ledbury

EAST STOKE, Dorsetshire - 3 miles W of Wareham

EBRINGTON, Gloucestershire - 2 miles E of Chipping Campden

ECCLESFIELD, Yorkshire - 4 miles N of Sheffield

ECCLESHALL, Staffordshire - 6 miles W of Stone

ECKINGTON, Derbyshire - 7 miles NE of Chesterfield

EDENBRIDGE, Kent - 10 miles W of Tonbridge

EDGTON, Shropshire - 5 miles SE of Bishops Castle

EDWINSTOWE, Nottinghamshire - 6 miles ENE of Mansfield

EDGERTON, Shropshire - near Ludlow (OS SO605812), now abandoned

ELFORD, Staffordshire - 5 miles E of Lichfield

ELMBRIDGE, Worcestershire - 3 miles N of Droitwich

ELMLEY LOVETT, Worcestershire - 5 miles NW of Droitwich

ENDERBY, Leicestershire - 8 miles NNE of Hinckley

EPPING, Essex - 5 miles S of Harlow

EPSTONE, Staffordshire is probably a former spelling of Ipstones

ERDINGTON, Warwickshire is part of Birmingham

ESSINGTON, Staffordshire - 4 miles NE of Wolverhampton

ETTINGTON, Warwickshire - 5.5 miles SE of Stratford on Avon

EXHALL, Warwickshire - 4 miles NE of Coventry

EYNSHAM, Oxfordshire - 5 miles NW of Oxford

FALLING SANDS, Worcestershire is part of Kidderminster

FARRINGDON, Berkshire - 10 miles NW of Wantage

FEATHERSTONE, Staffordshire - 5 miles NNE of Wolverhampton

FECKENHAM, Worcestershire - 4 miles SW of Redditch

FENNY COMPTON, Warwickshire - 8 miles N of Banbury

FENNY STRATFORD, Buckinghamshire is part of Milton Keynes

FENSTANTON, Huntingdonshire - 2 miles S of St. Ives

FENTON, Lincolnshire - 5 miles ESE of Newark on Trent

FENTON, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

FEWCOTT, Oxfordshire - 4 miles NW of Bicester

FILLONGLEY, Warwickshire - 7 miles NW of Coventry

FLOCKTON, Yorkshire - 7 miles E of Huddersfield

FOLESHILL, Warwickshire is part of Coventry

FRADLEY, Staffordshire - 5 miles NE of Lichfield

FRAMLINGHAM, Suffolk - 9 miles N of Woodbridge

FRANKLEY, Worcestershire is part of Birmingham

FRESHFORD, Somersetshire - 6 miles SE of Bath

FRODINGHAM, Lincolnshire - 1 mile N of Scunthorpe

FULLBROOK, Oxfordshire - 6 miles WNW of Witney

GAILEY, Staffordshire - 4 miles W of Cannock

GILLINGHAM, Dorset - 4 miles NW of Shaftesbury

GLASBURY, Radnorshire - 4 miles SW of Hay on Wye

GNOSSALL, Staffordshire - 6 miles ENE of Stafford

GOOSNARGH, Lancashire - 5 miles NE of Preston

GOSCOTE is part of Walsall

GREAT ALNE, Warwickshire - 6 miles SE of Redditch

GREAT BARR, Staffordshire is part of Birmingham

GREAT BOWDEN, Leicestershire - 1 mile N of Market Harborough

GREAT CHEVERELL, Wiltshire - 4 miles S of Devizes

GREAT DALBY, Leicestershire - 3 miles S of Melton Mowbray

GREAT HAYWOOD, Staffordshire - 4 miles NE of Rugeley

GREAT MARLOW, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles SSW of High Wycombe

GREAT SHELSLEY, Worcestershire is the former name of Shelsley Beauchamp

GREENS MORTON, Northamptonshire - 1 mile NW of Towcester

GRENDON, Warwickshire - 5 miles SE of Tamworth

GRESSINGHAM, Lancashire - 5 miles E of Carnforth

GRIMLEY, Worcestershire - 3 miles N of Worcester

GRIMSCOTE, Northamptonshire - 5 miles NW of Towcester

GUILSFIELD, Montgomeryshire - 3 miles N of Welshpool

HADLEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

HAGBOURNE, Berkshire - 1 mile S of Didcot

HAGLEY, Worcestershire - 2 miles S of Stourbridge

HALSALL, Lancashire - 3 miles NW of Ormskirk

HAMPTON LUCY, Warwickshire - 4 miles NE of Stratford on Avon

HAMSTALL RIDWARE, Staffordshire - 4 miles ENE of Rugeley

HANBURY, Worcestershire - 4 miles E of Droitwich

HANDSACRE, Staffordshire - 5 miles N of Lichfield; 3 miles S of Rugeley

HANDSWORTH, Staffordshire is part of Birmingham

HANLEY, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

HANLEY CASTLE, Worcestershire - 8 miles S of Worcester

HARBURY, Warwickshire - 6 miles SE of Warwick

HARLEY, Warwickshire - 10 miles SE of Shrewsbury

HARPOLE, Northamptonshire - 4 miles W of Northampton

HARTINGTON, Derbyshire - 9 miles NNW of Ashbourne

HARTLEBURY, Worcestershire - 4 miles S of Kidderminster

HARVINGTON, Worcestershire - 2 miles ESE of Kidderminster

HARWELL, Berkshire / Oxfordshire - 2 miles W of Didcot

HASELOR, Warwickshire - 1 mile E of Alcester

HATHERTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles W of Cannock

HAWARDEN, Flintshire - 6 miles W of Chester

HAYFIELD, Derbyshire - 10 miles N of Buxton

HAZLETON, Gloucestershire - 10 miles E of Cheltenham

HEDNESFORD, Staffordshire - 2 miles NE of Cannock

HENTOR, Oxfordshire - 3 miles W of Princes Risborough

HIGHAM, Derbyshire - 8 miles S of Chesterfield

HIGH HAM, Somerset - 8 miles SE of Bridgwater

HIGHBRIDGE, Somerset - 7 miles N of Bridgwater

HIGHLEY, Shropshire - 7 miles S of Bridgnorth

HIGHWORTH, Wiltshire - 6 miles NE of Swindon

HILDERSTONE, Staffordshire - 9 miles N of Stafford

HIMBLETON, Worcestershire - 6 miles SE of Droitwich

HINDLIP, Worcestershire - 4 miles NE of Worcester

HINTS, Staffordshire - 3 miles W of Tamworth

HIXON, Staffordshire - 5 miles ENE of Stafford

HOLDGATE, Shropshire - 7 miles SE of Church Stretton

HOLLINGTON, Derbyshire - 5 miles ESE of Ashbourne

HOLMES CHAPEL, Cheshire - 8 miles N of Crewe

HOLT FLEET, Worcestershire - 5 miles N of Worcester

HONEYBOURNE, Worcestershire - 3 miles E of Evesham

HOOK NORTON, Oxfordshire - 4.5 miles NE of Chipping Norton

HOPTON HEATH, Shropshire - 8 miles W of Ludlow

HOPWOOD, Worcestershire is in South Birmingham

HORSEHAY, Shropshire is part of Telford

HORSLEY, Gloucestershire - 4 miles S of Stroud

HUGGLESCOTE, Leicestershire - 1 mile S of Coalville

HUNTINGTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles N of Cannock

HURLEY, Warwickshire - 8 miles E of Sutton Coldfield

HYDE, Cheshire is part of Greater Manchester

ILMINGTON, Warwickshire - 8 miles S of Stratford

INGESTRE, Staffordshire - 3 miles ENE of Stafford

INGLETON, Yorkshire - 10 miles NW of Settle

INKBERROW, Worcestershire - 6 miles SSW of Redditch

IPSTONES, Staffordshire - 5 miles SE of Leek

IRONBRIDGE, Shropshire is part of Telford

IRONVILLE, Derbyshire - 3 miles N of Heanor

IVINGHOE, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles N of Tring

KEMPSEY, Worcestershire - 4 miles S of Worcester

KEMPTON, Shropshire - 11 miles NW of Ludlow

KIDSGROVE, Staffordshire is part of Newcastle under Lyne

KILSBY, Northamptonshire - 5 miles SE of Rugby

KINGS ARLEY, Worcestershire - see Arley Kings

KINGS BROMLEY, Staffordshire - 4 miles N of Lichfield

KINGSBURY, Warwickshire - 6 miles S of Tamworth

KINGSLAND, Herefordshire - 4 miles WNW of Leominster

KINGS LANGLEY, Hertfordshire - 2 miles S of Hemel Hempstead

KINGTON, Worcestershire - 7 miles E of Worcester

KINLET, Shropshire - 8 miles S of Bridgnorth

KINVER, Staffordshire - 4 miles W of Stourbridge

KIRK LANGLEY, Derbyshire - 4 miles NW of Derby

KIRKTON, Dumfriesshire - 4 miles N of Dumfries

KNUTSFORD, Cheshire - 11 miles NW of Macclesfield

LAMPORT, Northamptonshire - 8 miles WSW of Kettering

LAPLEY, Staffordshire - 7 miles WNW of Cannock

LEAGRAVE, Bedfordshire is part of Luton

LEA MARSTON, Warwickshire - 7 miles SW of Atherstone

LEEK WOOTTON, Warwickshire - 3 miles N of Warwick

LEIGH SINTON, Worcestershire - 5 miles SW of Worcester

LEINTWARDINE, Herefordshire - 8 miles W of Ludlow

LENTON, Nottinghamshire is part of Nottingham

LEYLAND, Lancashire - 6 miles S of Preston

LILleshALL, Shropshire - 3 miles NE of Telford

LINDRIDGE, Worcestershire - 8 miles W of Stourport

LINGEN, Herefordshire - 11 miles SW of Ludlow

LINTON, Herefordshire - 3 miles E of Ross on Wye

LISKEARD, Cornwall - 12 miles E of Bodmin

LITTLE ASTON, Staffordshire - 5 miles E of Walsall

LITTLE BRICKHILL, Berkshire - 5 miles N of Leighton Buzzard

LITTLE BUDWORTH, Cheshire - 4 miles W of Winsford

LITTLE COMPTON, Gloucestershire - 4 miles NW of Chipping Norton

LITTLE HORWOOD, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles ESE of Buckingham

LITTLE HAYWOOD, Staffordshire - 5 miles E of Stafford

LLANDWSILL, Montgomeryshire - 2 miles from Montgomery

LLANDYFRIOG, Cardiganshire - 16 miles SW of Lampeter

LLANFAIR WATERDINE, Shropshire - 4 miles NW of Knighton

LOCKINGTON, Leicestershire - 7 miles NW of Loughborough

LONG BENNINGTON, Lincolnshire - 7 miles N of Grantham

LongBOROUGH, Gloucestershire - 2.5 miles N of Stow on the Wold

LONG BUCKBY, Northamptonshire - 5 miles NE of Daventry

LONG COMPTON, Warwickshire - 12 miles SW of Banbury

LONG ITCHINGTON, Warwickshire - 6 miles E of Leamington Spa

LONGDON, Staffordshire - 2 miles NNW of Lichfield

LONG LAWFORD, Warwickshire - 2 miles NW of Rugby

LONG MELFORD - 14 miles S of Bury St. Edmunds

LONG SUTTON, Lincolnshire - 13 miles E of Spalding

LONGTON, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

LOWER BODDINGTON, Northamptonshire - 5 miles NE of Banbury

LOWER HEYFORD, Northamptonshire - 6 miles W of Bicester

LOWESMORE, Worcestershire is part of Worcester

LOXLEY, Warwickshire - 3 miles ESE of Stratford on Avon

LOYSWEEDON, Northamptonshire - see Weedon Lois

LUDGEBRIDGE BROOK, Worcestershire - Lye

LUGWARDINE, Herefordshire - 1 mile NE of Hereford

LULLINGTON, Derbyshire - 6 miles S of Burton on Trent

LYNTON, Devon - 16 miles W of Minehead

MADLEY, Herefordshire - 6 miles W of Hereford

MADELEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

MANGOTSFIELD, Gloucestershire - 3 miles NE of Bristol

MANTON, Wiltshire - 1 mile WSW of Marlborough

MARCHINGTON, Staffordshire - 4 miles SE of Uttoxeter

MARCHWOOD, Hampshire - 2 miles SW of Southampton

MARGAM, Glamorganshire - 3 miles SE of Port Talbot

MARSTON GREEN, Warwickshire - 4 miles NNE of Solihull

MARTLEY, Herefordshire - 7 miles NW of Worcester

MARTON, Shropshire - 6 miles SE of Welshpool

MEASHAM, Derbyshire - 4 miles SSW of Ashby de la Zouch

MASBROUGH, Yorkshire is part of Rotherham

MEIFOD, Montgomeryshire - 7 miles NW of Welshpool

MELFORD, Suffolk (see Long Melford)

MELVERLEY, Shropshire - 10 miles WNW of Shrewsbury

MEOLE BRACE, Shropshire - 2 miles S of Shrewsbury

MERTON, Surrey became a London borough

The MIDDLE, Shropshire - 8 miles NW of Shrewsbury

MIDDLETON, Warwickshire - 3 miles ENE of Sutton Coldfield

MIDDLETON CHENEY, Northamptonshire - 2 miles E of Banbury

MILFORD, Staffordshire - 3 miles ESE of Stafford

MILSON, Worcestershire - 10 miles W of Stourport. It is now in Herefordshire.

MINETY, Wiltshire - 8 miles WNW of Swindon

MOIRA, Leicestershire - 3 miles WSW of Ashby de la Zouch

MONKHOPTON, Shropshire - 5 miles W of Bridgnorth

MONK BRETTON, Yorkshire - 2 miles NE of Barnsley

MONMORE GREEN is between Wolverhampton and Bilston

MORETON IN MARSH, Gloucestershire - 8 miles WNW of Chipping Norton

MORETON MORRELL, Warwickshire - 6 miles E of Stratford upon Avon

MOULTON, Cheshire - 3 miles S of Northwich

MUCH WENLOCK, Shropshire - 7 miles NW of Bridgnorth

MURSTON, Leicestershire - 5 miles W of Grantham

NAILSEA, Somerset - 10 miles WSW of Bristol

NAILSTONE, Leicestershire - 3 miles NE of Market Bosworth

NAPTON ON THE HILL, Warwickshire - 10 miles ESE of Warwick

NEEN SAVAGE, Herefordshire - 11 miles E of Ludlow

NEEN SOLARS, Shropshire - 3 miles S of Cleobury Mortimer

NESSCLIFFE, Shropshire - 8 miles NW of Shrewsbury

NESTON, Cheshire - 10 miles NW of Chester

NEWBALD, Yorkshire - 13 miles NW of Hull

NEWBOLD ON AVON, Warwickshire - 1.5 miles NW of Rugby

NEWBOLD VERDON, Leicestershire - 9 miles W of Leicester

NEWDALe, Shropshire is part of Telford

NEWENT, Gloucestershire - 8 miles NW of Gloucester

NEWHALL, Derbyshire - 3 miles SE of Burton upon Trent

NEW INVENTION is part of Willenhall

NEW MILLS, Derbyshire - 8 miles SE of Stockport

NEWNHAM, Worcestershire - 8 miles ESE of Ludlow

NEWPORT, Shropshire - 15 miles ENE of Shrewsbury

NEWSTEAD, Nottinghamshire - 9 miles WNW of Nottingham

NEWTON SOLNEY, Derbyshire - 3 miles NE of Burton on Trent

NORLEY, Cheshire - 6 miles W of Northwich

NORMANTON, Derbyshire is part of Derby

NORTHENDEN, Cheshire - 5 miles S of Manchester city centre

NORTHFIELD, Worcestershire is a part of Birmingham

NORTH NIBLEY, Gloucestershire - 2 miles NW of Wotton under Edge

NORTHWICH, Cheshire - 18 miles E of Chester

NORTON CANES, Staffordshire - 2 miles ESE of Cannock

OAKAMOOD, Staffordshire - 10 miles E of Stoke on Trent

OAKENGATES, Shropshire is part of Telford

OCKER HILL is part of Tipton

OLD PARK, Shropshire is part of Telford

OMBURY, Shropshire - 5 miles NW of Ludlow

OPENSHAW, Lancashire - 2 miles E of Manchester city centre

ORTON ON THE HILL, Leicestershire - 6 miles E of Tamworth

OSGATHORPE, Leicestershire - 7 miles W of Loughborough

OVERTON, Hampshire - 8 miles WSW of Basingstoke

OVING, Buckinghamshire - 3.5 miles NE of Waddesdon

PACKINGTON, Leicestershire - 1 mile S of Ashby de la Zouch

PADBURY, Buckinghamshire - 2 miles SE of Buckingham

PARKGATE, Yorkshire is part of Rawmarsh, 2 miles N of Rotherham

PATTINGHAM, Staffordshire - 7 miles W of Wolverhampton

PAXFORD, Worcestershire - 11 miles ESE of Evesham

PEASENALL, Suffolk - 4 miles N of Saxmundham

PEMBERTON, Lancashire is a district of Wigan

PEMBRIDGE, Herefordshire - 7 miles W of Leominster

PENDLEBURY, Lancashire - 4 miles NW of Manchester city centre

PENDLETON, Lancashire - 7 miles NW of Burnley

PENKRIDGE, Staffordshire - 6 miles S of Stafford

PENSAX, Worcestershire - 6 miles WSW of Stourport

PEOPLETON, Worcestershire - 7 miles SE of Worcester

PERSHORE, Worcestershire - 8 miles SE of Worcester

PILTON, Somerset - 3 miles SW of Shepton Mallet

PIPE RIDWARE, Staffordshire - 6 miles N of Lichfield

PITCHCOTT, Buckinghamshire - 3 miles NE of Waddesdon

POCKLINGTON, Yorkshire - 13 miles E of York

POLESWORTH, Warwickshire - 4 miles E of Tamworth

PONTESBURY, Shropshire - 8 miles SW of Shrewsbury

PORTLAND TOWN, Middlesex was part of Marylebone, London

PORTOBELLO is part of Willenhall

PRESTBURY, Cheshire - 1.5 miles N of Macclesfield

PRESTEIGNE, Radnorshire - 5 miles N of Kington

QUATFORD, Shropshire - 2 miles SE of Bridgnorth

RADBOURNE, Derbyshire - 4 miles W of Derby

RADFORD SEMELE, Warwickshire - 2 miles ESE of Leamington Spa

RADCLIFF ON TRENT, Nottinghamshire - 5 miles E of Nottingham

RAMSEY, Huntingdonshire - 10 miles SE of Peterborough

RATLEY, Warwickshire - 6 miles NW of Banbury

RAVENSTONE, Leicestershire is to the W of Coalville

REPTON, Derbyshire - 5 miles NE of Burton upon Trent

RETFORD, Nottinghamshire - 23 miles W of Lincoln

RIPPLE, Gloucestershire is part of Tewkesbury

RODINGTON, Shropshire - 6 miles E of Shrewsbury

ROMSLEY, Worcestershire - 4 miles S of Halesowen

ROTHLEY, Leicestershire - 5 miles N of Leicester

ROTHWELL, Northamptonshire - 4 miles WNW of Kettering

ROWINGTON, Warwickshire - 5 miles NW of Warwick

RUARDEAN, Monmouthshire - 3 miles NW of Cinderford

RUGELEY, Staffordshire - 6 miles NWN of Lichfield

RUSHOCK, Worcestershire - 4 miles N of Droitwich

RUSHTON, Shropshire is part of Telford

SADDINGTON, Leicestershire - 9 miles SE of Leicester

ST. MARTINS, Herefordshire is part of Hereford

SALTCOATS, Ayrshire - 12 miles WNW of Kilmarnock

SAMBOURNE, Warwickshire - 12 miles NNW of Stratford on Avon

SAMBROOK, Shropshire - 6 miles SSE of Market Drayton

SANDFORD ON THAMES, Oxfordshire - just S of Oxford

SANDON, Staffordshire - 5 miles NE of Stafford

SAWLEY, Yorkshire - 4 miles W of Ripon

SAWTREY, Huntingdonshire - 10 miles S of Peterborough

ST. JULIANS, Shropshire is part of Shrewsbury

SCALEBY, Cumberland - 6 miles NNE of Carlisle

SCRUTON, Yorkshire - 5 miles W of Northallerton

SECKINGTON, Warwickshire - 4 miles NE of Tamworth

SEISDON, Staffordshire - 6 miles W of Wolverhampton

SELWORTHY, Somerset 3 miles W of Minehead

SEVERN STOKE, Warwickshire - 7 miles S of Worcester

SHARESHILL, Staffordshire - 3 miles SW of Cannock

SHEEN, Staffordshire - 8 miles SSE of Buxton

SHELSLEY WALSH, Worcestershire - 9 miles NW of Worcester

SHENSTONE, Staffordshire - 4 miles E of Brownhills

SHEPSHED, Leicestershire - 4 miles W of Loughborough

SHIFNAL, Shropshire - 10 miles NNE of Bridgnorth

SHILTON, Leicestershire – check Earl Shilton

SHIPTON ON CHERWELL, Oxfordshire - 2 miles N of Kidlington

SHIRLAND, Derbyshire - 2 miles NNW of Alfreton

SHORT HEATH, Staffordshire is between Bloxwich and Willenhall

SHREWLEY, Warwickshire - 5 miles NW of Warwick

SHUSTOKE, Warwickshire - 10 miles ENE of Birmingham

SIBFORD GOWER, Gloucestershire - 6.5 miles W of Banbury

SIBSON, Leicestershire - 9 miles ESE of Tamworth

SILSOE, Bedfordshire - 9 miles S of Bedford

SILVERDALE, Staffordshire is part of Newcastle under Lyme

SILVERSTONE, Northamptonshire - 4 miles SSW of Towcester

SNARESTONE, Leicestershire - 9 miles ENE of Tamworth

SNITTERFIELD, Warwickshire - 3 miles NNE of Stratford on Avon

SNOWSHILL, Gloucestershire - 6 miles SSE of Evesham

SOMERTON, Oxfordshire - 6 miles NW of Bicester

SOPWORTH, Wiltshire - 6 miles W of Malmesbury

SOUTHAM, Warwickshire - 7 miles E of Leamington

SOUTH KILWORTH, Leicestershire - 7 miles NE of Rugby

SOUTH LITTLETON, Worcestershire - 2 miles NE of Evesham

SOUTH MUSKHAM, Nottinghamshire - 2 miles N of Newark on Trent

SOUTHWICK, Northamptonshire - 8 miles E of Corby

STANFORD ON TEME, Worcestershire - 6 miles ESE of Stourport

STANFORD BISHOP, Herefordshire - 4 miles SSE of Bromyard

STANTON, Derbyshire - 3 miles SE of Burton upon Trent

STANTON, Staffordshire - 18 miles E of Stoke on Trent

STANWAY, Gloucestershire is part of Tewkesbury

STAPENHILL, Derbyshire is part of Burton on Trent

STAPLETON, Shropshire - 6 miles SW of Shrewsbury

STATHERN, Leicestershire - 10 miles N of Melton Mowbray

STAVELEY, Derbyshire is part of Chesterfield

STEEPLE ASTON, Oxfordshire - 7 miles WNW of Bicester

STIRCHLEY, Shropshire is part of Telford

STOCKINGFORD, Warwickshire - 2 miles W of Nuneaton

STOCKLAND, Dorsetshire / Devonshire - 6 miles NE of Honiton

STOCKTON, Herefordshire - 2 miles NE of Leominster

STOCKTON, Shropshire - 4 miles N of Bridgnorth

STOCKTON, Warwickshire - 8 miles SW of Rugby

STOKE LYNE, Oxfordshire - 4 miles N of Bicester

STOKE PRIOR, Worcestershire - 2 miles S of Bromsgrove

STOKESAY, Shropshire - 6 miles NW of Ludlow

STON EASTON, Somersetshire - 14 miles SW of Bath

STONNALL, Staffordshire - 2 miles E of Brownhills

STRETTON ON DUNSMORE, Warwickshire - 6 miles ESE of Rugby

STUDLEY, Warwickshire - 4 miles SE of Redditch

SUCKLEY, Herefordshire - 8 miles WSW of Worcester

SULGRAVE, Northamptonshire - 6 miles ENE of Banbury

SUTTON, Shropshire - 2 miles SE of Shrewsbury

SUTTON BASSETT, Northamptonshire - 14 miles NW of Kettering

SWARKESTONE, Derbyshire - 6 miles S of Derby

SWINBROOK, Oxfordshire - 4 miles ENE of Witney

SWINDON, Staffordshire - 5 miles W of Dudley

SWINFEN, Staffordshire - 2 miles S of Lichfield

SWINESHEAD, Lincolnshire - 7 miles W of Boston

TADMARTON, Oxfordshire - 4 miles W of Banbury

TANWORTH IN ARDEN, Warwickshire - 4 miles NE of Redditch

TARDEBIGGE, Worcestershire - 2 miles SE of Bromsgrove

TAYNTON, Oxfordshire - 1.5 miles NW of Burford

TEMPLE BALSALL, Warwickshire is part of Solihull

TETBURY, Gloucestershire - 10 miles SW of Cirencester

THAME, Oxfordshire - 13 miles E of Oxford

THENFORD, Northamptonshire - 2 miles E of Banbury

THORNBURY, Herefordshire - 6 miles N of Bromyard

THORNHILL, Derbyshire - 8 miles ENE of Chapel en le Frith

THORPE, Derbyshire - 4 miles NW of Ashbourne

THRUPP, Gloucestershire - 2 miles S of Stroud

THURMASTON, Leicestershire - 4 miles N of Leicester

TIBBERTON, Worcestershire - 5 miles NNE of Worcester

TICKHILL, Yorkshire - 8 miles S of Doncaster

TICKNALL, Derbyshire - 8 miles S of Derby

TIDESWELL, Derbyshire - 6 miles E of Buxton

TILSTOCK, Shropshire - 2 miles S of Whitchurch

TIMSBURY, Somersetshire - 8 miles SW of Bath

TINGEWICK, Buckinghamshire - 3 miles W of Buckingham

TIRLEY, Gloucestershire - 4 miles SW of Tewkesbury

TODDINGTON, Gloucestershire - 7 miles S of Evesham

TODMORDEN, Lancashire / Yorkshire - 8 miles SE of Burnley

TONG, Shropshire - 9 miles NW of Wolverhampton

TREDUNNOCK, Monmouthshire - 4 miles S of Usk

TREFEGLWYS, Montgomeryshire - 10 miles W of Newtown

TRELLECH, Monmouthshire - 6 miles S of Monmouth

TRENTHAM, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

TREVETHIN, Monmouthshire - 1 mile N of Pontypool

TRING, Hertfordshire - 30 miles NW of London

TROWAY, Derbyshire - 2 miles E of Coal Aston

TRYSULL, Staffordshire - 6 miles WNW of Dudley

TUNSTALL, Staffordshire is part of Stoke on Trent

TUTBURY, Staffordshire - 4 miles NNW of Burton on Trent

TYBURN, Worcestershire is part of Birmingham

TYSOE, Warwickshire - 9 miles NW of Banbury

ULEY, Gloucestershire - 6 miles SW of Stroud

UPPER ARLEY, Worcestershire - 5 miles NW of Kidderminster

UPPER TEAN, Staffordshire - 9 miles SE of Stoke on Trent

UPPINGTON, Shropshire - 6 miles E of Shrewsbury

UPTON BISHOP, Herefordshire - 3.5 miles NE of Ross

UPTON CRESSETT, Shropshire - 3 miles W of Bridgnorth

UPTON ON SEVERN, Worcestershire - 9 miles S of Worcester

UPTON GREY, Hampshire - 5 miles ESE of Basingstoke

UPTON SNODSBURY, Worcestershire - 5 miles E of Worcester

UPTON WARREN, Worcestershire - 3 miles SW of Bromsgrove

UPWELL, Norfolk - 6 miles W of Downham Market

WAGBEACH, Shropshire - 10 miles SW of Shrewsbury

WAINFLEET, Lincolnshire - 5 miles SW of Skegness

WALCOT, Shropshire - 6 miles E of Shrewsbury

WALL, Staffordshire - 2 miles WSW of Lichfield

WALTON, Derbyshire is a suburb of Chesterfield

WALTON, Radnorshire - 8 miles SSE of Knighton

WALTON, Staffordshire - 1 mile SW of Stone

WALTON UPON TRENT, Derbyshire - 4 miles SSW of Burton upon Trent

WAPLEY, Gloucestershire - 6 miles NE of Bristol

WARBOYS, Huntingdonshire - 5 miles N of St. Ives

WARDINGTON, Oxfordshire - 4 miles NNE of Banbury

WARMINGTON, Northamptonshire - 8 miles SW of Peterborough

WARTON, Warwickshire - 5 miles E of Tamworth

WATERHOUSE, Staffordshire - 6 miles NW of Ashbourne

WATER ORTON, Warwickshire - 6 miles NNE of Birmingham

WATH UPON DEARNE, Yorkshire - 5 miles N of Rotherham

WEEDON LOIS, Northamptonshire - 10 miles S of Daventry

WEEFORD, Staffordshire - 5 miles W of Tamworth

WELFORD ON AVON, Warwickshire - 4 miles WSW of Stratford upon Avon

WELLESBOURNE, Warwickshire - 7 miles S of Warwick

WELLINGTON, Shropshire is part of Telford

WELSHAMPTON, Shropshire - 8 miles ESE of Whitchurch

WELTON, Northamptonshire - 3 miles N of Daventry

WENTNOR, Shropshire - 5 miles NE of Bishops Castle

WERRINGTON, Cornwall - 2 miles N of Launceston

WESCOTT BARTON, Oxfordshire - 7 miles E of Chipping Norton

WESTBURY, Shropshire - 8 miles W of Shrewsbury

WEST DERBY, Lancashire is part of Liverpool

WEST FARNDON, Northamptonshire - 8 miles NE of Banbury

WEST MELTON, Yorkshire - 5 miles N of Rotherham

WESTLEY WATERLESS, Cambridgeshire - 5 miles SW of Newmarket

WESTON LONGVILLE, Norfolk - 8 miles NW of Norwich

WESTON ON TRENT, Staffordshire - 6 miles SSE of Derby

WHALEY BRIDGE, Derbyshire - 7 miles N of Buxton

WHAPLODE, Lincolnshire - 6 miles E of Spalding

WHARTON, Cheshire - 4 miles S of Northwich

WHEATON ASTON, Staffordshire - 7 miles W of Cannock

WHISTON, Staffordshire - 7 miles SE of Leek

WHITBOURNE, Herefordshire - 5 miles E of Bromyard

WHITCHURCH, Buckinghamshire - 4 miles N of Aylesbury

WHITTINGTON, Derbyshire - 2 miles N of Chesterfield

WHITTINGTON, Staffordshire - 3 miles SE of Lichfield

WHITTINGTON, Shropshire - 3 miles NE of Oswestry

WHITTON, Radnorshire - 3 miles S of Knighton

WHITWICK, Leicestershire - 2 miles NW of Coalville

WICK, Worcestershire - 9 miles SE of Worcester

WIGGINTON, Staffordshire - 2 miles N of Tamworth

WIGMORE, Hertfordshire is part of Luton

WILLEY, Shropshire - 5 miles NW of Bridgnorth

WILNECOTE, Staffordshire - 2 miles SE of Tamworth

WIMBLEBURY, Staffordshire - 2 miles E of Cannock

WINCHCOMBE, Gloucestershire - 6 miles NE of Cheltenham

WINKFIELD, Berkshire - 3 miles NE of Bracknell

WINSHILL, Derbyshire - 2 miles E of Burton on Trent

WISTANSTOW, Shropshire - 9 miles NW of Ludlow

WITBOURNE, Worcestershire - 8 miles W of Worcester

WITHINGTON, Herefordshire - 5 miles NE of Hereford

WITHINGTON, Staffordshire - 3 miles W of Uttoxeter

WOLVERLEY, Worcestershire - 2 Miles N of Kidderminster

WOLVERTON, Buckinghamshire is part of Milton Keynes

WOMBOURNE, Staffordshire - 5 miles WNW of Dudley

WOODCHESTER, Gloucestershire - 2 miles S of Stroud

WOOD END, (Staffordshire) is part of Wednesfield

WOODVILLE, Leicestershire - 3 miles WNW of Ashby de la Zouch

WOOTTON WAWEN, Warwickshire - 2 miles S of Henley in Arden

WORTHEN, Shropshire - 12 miles WSW of Shrewsbury

WRIBBENHALL, Worcestershire - 3 miles WSW of Kidderminster

WROCKWARDINE, Shropshire is part of Telford

WROTTESELEY, Staffordshire - 4.5 miles WNW of Wolverhampton

WROXETER, Shropshire - 5 miles SE of Shrewsbury

WROXTON, Oxfordshire - 3 miles W of Banbury

WYRLEY, Staffordshire could be Little Wyrley or Great Wyrley, between Cannock and Brownhills

WYSALL, Nottinghamshire - 11 miles S of Nottingham

YANWORTH, Gloucestershire - 14 miles SE of Cheltenham

YARKHILL, Herefordshire - 6 miles NNE of Hereford

YATTON, Somerset - 11 miles SW of Bristol

YORTON, Shropshire - 7 miles N of Shrewsbury

YOXFORD, Suffolk - 8 miles SW of Southwold

SOURCES

Over the years a wide range of sources have been consulted. These are listed below.

CENSUSES

1841 (7/6)
1851 (30/3)
1861 (7/4)
1871 (2/4)
1881 (4/4)
1891 (5/4)
1901 (31/3)
1911 (2/4)
1921 (19/6)

PARISH REGISTERS

St. Edmund's, Dudley
St. Giles', Rowley Regis
St. Thomas', Dudley

LICENSING REGISTERS

Bilston and Sedgley
Darlaston
Dudley
Kingswinford
Oldbury
Smethwick
Stourbridge
Tipton
Walsall and Bloxwich
Wednesbury
West Bromwich

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

The on-line British Newspaper Archive

Ales and Tales, the newsletter published by Dudley & South Staffordshire, and Stourbridge & Halesowen Branches of CAMRA.

Beerwolf, the newsletter published by Wolverhampton Branch CAMRA

Black Country Bugle, published by the Black Country Bugle, 41 High Street, Cradley Heath. B64 5HL
e-mail editor@blackcountrybugle.co.uk

The Blackcountryman, published by the Black Country Society.
e-mail editor@blackcountryandsociety.co.uk

The Brewers' Journal

Brewery History Society Journals

The Brewing Trade Review

Deer's Leap, The. The house magazine of Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Kils and Kins, the newsletter published by Walsall Branch CAMRA

London Gazette

The New Imbiber / Independent Imbiber

Smethwick Heritage Telephone. The magazine of the Smethwick Heritage Centre Trust
e-mail editor@smethwick-heritage.co.uk

DIRECTORIES

Ace's Directory of Darlaston (1953/54)
Aubrey's Staffordshire Directory (1931)
Bennett's Business Directory for Warwickshire, Worcestershire and South Staffordshire (1911–12)
Bentley's History & Guide & Directory of Worcestershire (1841)
Blocksidge's Dudley Almanack (1881–1888), (1900–1914), (1925–1930)
Bridgen's Directory of Wolverhampton (1833)
Cassey & Co.'s Worcestershire Directory (1860)
Cope's Directory of Staffordshire (1908)
Corporation Directory for Birmingham & its environs (1863)
Crocker's Post Office Wolverhampton & District Directory (1884)
Dixon & Co. General and Commercial Directory of the Borough of Birmingham..... (1858)
Elton & Brown's Tipton & District Almanack (1901)
Ford's Household Almanack (1881)
Harrison & Harrod's Directory & Gazetteer of Staffordshire with Dudley (1861)
Herald Yearbook and Directory (1899–1902)
Holden's Directory (1816–17)
Hulley's Directory of the Hardware District (1889–90)
Hulley's Directory of Wolverhampton (1874)
Jones' Mercantile Directory of the Iron District of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire (1865)
Kelly's Directory of Birmingham (1879), (1883), (1888), (1890), (1892), (1896), (1897), (1900), (1904), (1907), (1909), (1912), (1914), (1921), (1926), (1928)
Kelly's Directory for Birmingham (with its suburbs) and Smethwick (1930), (1933), (1934), (1942), (1943), (1944), (1945), (1946), (1949), (1951), (1955–1959), (1962), (1965), (1967/68)
Kelly's Directory of Birmingham, Staffordshire and Worcestershire (1850)
Kelly's Directory for Staffordshire (1888), (1892), (1900), (1904), (1908), (1911), (1912), (1916), (1921), (1924), (1928), (1932), (1936), (1940)
Kelly's Directory for Staffordshire, Warwickshire & Worcestershire (1870), (1921)
Kelly's Directory for Warwickshire & Worcestershire (1916)
Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire (1884), (1888), (1892), (1896), (1912), (1921), (1924), (1928), (1932), (1936)

Kelly's Post Office Directory for Birmingham & District (1845)
 Lewis' Worcestershire General and Commercial Directory (1820)
 Littlebury's Worcestershire Directory (1873)
 Mark & Moody's Directory for Stourbridge and District (1900)
 Melville's Directory of Wolverhampton & District (1851)
 Parson's Directory of Staffordshire and General (1818)
 Pigot's Directory of Birmingham (1834), (1841), (1842)
 Pigot & Co. Directory of Staffordshire (1822), (1828), (1830), (1842)
 Pigot & Co. Directory of Worcestershire (1835)
 Post Office Directory for Birmingham (1879)
 Post Office Directory for Birmingham and its suburbs (1878)
 Post Office Directory of London, Birmingham and District (1845)
 Post Office Directory for Staffordshire (1849), (1860), (1868), (1872)
 Post Office Directory for Worcestershire (1872)
 Robson's London and Birmingham Directory (1839)
 Ryder's Annual for Wednesbury (1889)
 Ryder's Annual Wednesbury Red Book & Directory (1901)
 Slater's Directory of Staffordshire (1850)
 Slater's Directory of Worcestershire (1862)
 Smethwick Annual and Year Book (1903)
 Stevens' Directory of Wolverhampton and 6 miles Round (1879–1880)
 Stourbridge Almanack & Directory (1914)
 White's Directory of Birmingham (1873)
 White's General and Commercial Directory of Birmingham (1855)
 White's History, Gazetteer & Directory: Staffordshire (1834)
 White's Directory for Staffordshire (1834), (1851), (1855), (1873)
 Willenhall Red Book (1929)
 Wolverhampton Directory (1879)
 Wolverhampton Red Book (1900), (1928), (1938–1939)

BOOKS

Alton Douglas Presents series (published by Brewin Books Ltd.)

'Memories of West Bromwich' (1999)

 'Amblecote Directory 1905 to 1915' compiled by Nick Baker (2001)
 'An ABC of the Licensing Laws' by the Solicitor to the London Central Board (c. 1960)
 'Any Road Up. Memories of life in Tipton' collected by Heather Wastie (1998)

The Archive Photographs series (published by Chalford Publishing Co.)

'Wolverhampton' compiled by Mary Mills and Tracey Williams (1996)

 'Around Tettenhall and Codsall in Old Photographs' collected by Mary Mills (1990)
 'The Best of Times: The Best of Places' compiled and edited by Dave Reeves (1997)
 'Bilston in Old Photographs' collected by Elizabeth A. Rees (1988)
 'Black Country Breweries' by Joseph McKenna (2005)
 'The Black Country Good Beer Guide' compiled by the Black Country Branches of CAMRA (1994)
 'The Black Country Good Beer Guide' compiled by the Black Country Branches of CAMRA (2006)
 'A Black Country Pub Crawl of West Bromwich' compiled by Peter Hill (1992)
 'The Black Country as seen through Antique Maps' by Eric Richardson (2000)
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Black Country Traditional Inns

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Brewery History Society

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Oakparkrunnersblog

Willenhall History Society

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St. Giles', Rowley Regis
St. Thomas', Dudley

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Darlaston
Dudley
Kingswinford
Oldbury
Smethwick
Stourbridge
Tipton
Walsall and Bloxwich
Wednesbury
West Bromwich

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

The on-line British Newspaper Archive

Ales and Tales, the newsletter published by Dudley & South Staffordshire, and Stourbridge & Halesowen Branches of CAMRA.

Beerwolf, the newsletter published by Wolverhampton Branch CAMRA

Black Country Bugle, published by the Black Country Bugle, 41 High Street, Cradley Heath. B64 5HL
e-mail editor@blackcountrybugle.co.uk

The Blackcountryman, published by the Black Country Society.
e-mail editor@blackcountryandsociety.co.uk

The Brewers' Journal

Brewery History Society Journals

The Brewing Trade Review

Deer's Leap, The. The house magazine of Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Kils and Kins, the newsletter published by Walsall Branch CAMRA

London Gazette

The New Imbiber / Independent Imbiber

Smethwick Heritage Telephone. The magazine of the Smethwick Heritage Centre Trust
e-mail editor@smethwick-heritage.co.uk

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'Where Three Shires Met' compiled and edited by Dave Reeves (1998)
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Over the years a wide range of sources have been consulted. These are listed below.

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PARISH REGISTERS

St. Edmund's, Dudley
St. Giles', Rowley Regis
St. Thomas', Dudley

LICENSING REGISTERS

Bilston and Sedgley
Darlston
Dudley
Kingswinford
Oldbury
Smethwick
Stourbridge
Tipton
Walsall and Bloxwich
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